



The Empire State Mason

WINTER 2023



70th Gathering of St. Albans



FROM THE GRAND EAST

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For centuries, Freemasonry has been a venerated fraternal organization boasting a membership of millions across the globe. Its members are dedicated to supporting one another, as well as those in need, through acts of charity and community service. This is based on the belief that the brotherhood of mankind is a universal truth and that all individuals are interconnected by a shared humanity.

Aside from its philanthropic pursuits, Freemasonry is also devoted to the personal growth and self-betterment of its members. Members are encouraged to cultivate their moral character, intellectual abilities and leadership skills through the study of moral, ethical and spiritual teachings. This emphasis on values is reflected in the organization's symbols, traditions and ceremonies, all of which aim to foster spiritual growth and self-awareness.

Freemasonry has faced several challenges in recent years. One significant issue is the decline in membership, a trend that can be attributed to various factors, including Americans joining clubs and fraternities less frequently than in the past. This decline is impacting not only the strength of the organization's network but also its ability to perpetuate its influence and values. Another challenge is the struggle to adapt to changes in the modern world while maintaining the tradition and values that have defined us for centuries. We must find a balance between remaining true to our roots and embracing change without succumbing to external pressures from the evolving societal landscape.

Freemasonry is not immune to the broader changes in societal values that have led to shifts in the priorities of individuals. The organization has faced challenges in adapting to these new expectations and needs. As new generations join, Freemasonry must find ways to keep its core principles relevant to an ever-evolving society.

Another of the challenges facing Freemasonry today is the perception of secrecy surrounding the organization. This perception has led to widespread misconceptions, suspicion and distrust fueled by conspiracy theories. Freemasonry must continue to work on fostering transparency and educating the

public to dispel these misconceptions and build trust in its humanitarian pursuits and commitment to personal growth.

As Freemasonry faces the challenges of the 21st century, one of the key factors shaping its evolution is the influence of modern society. The once-secretive and influential organization has experienced a shift in perception, as many of its traditions are now easily accessible with a simple Google search. This has led to a change in the way society views and interacts with Masonic organizations.

As societal values and expectations evolve, so too must the teachings and practices of Freemasonry. The organization's commitment to morals, ethics and personal development remains central to its identity; however, the increased emphasis on diversity and inclusivity in modern society has brought about notable changes in membership demographics. Despite the changes in its practices and demographics, the core philosophical purpose of Freemasonry remains the same: The pursuit of personal development, moral growth and the promotion of ethical values.

The integration of technology into the Masonic Lodge is essential for modernizing operational procedures. With the increasing reliance on digital tools in daily life, it is imperative for Lodges to adapt and optimize their processes, leaning on technology for communication, organization and even ritualistic practices. Utilizing digital tools can enhance efficiency and streamline processes, allowing Lodges to better adapt to the changing environment and maintain their significance in the 21st century.

Clear and efficient communication plays a critical role in the leadership and stability of any organization, including Freemasonry. Today's technologically advanced and globalized world presents new challenges and opportunities in this regard. It is essential for the organization to understand and adapt to modern communication tools and techniques in order to effectively convey its messages and values.

Finally, we must continue to develop strong leaders with

Continues on page 4 – From the Grand East

In this article as submitted there are several links to online sources to substantiate various arguments. Readers are invited to search these sites. They include:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/11/28/937228086/freemasons-say-theyre-needed-now-more-than-ever-so-why-are-their-ranks-dwindling>;

<https://masonicfind.com/principles-of-freemasonry>;

<https://masonicfind.com/masonic-conspiracy-theories-busted>;

<https://masonicfind.com/the-modern-freemasons>;

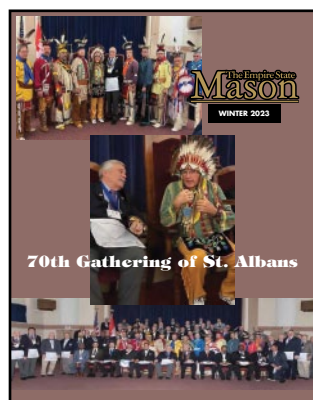
<https://masonicfind.com/customs-and-traditions-of-freemasonry>;

<https://masonicfind.com/how-do-freemasons-contribute-to-society>;

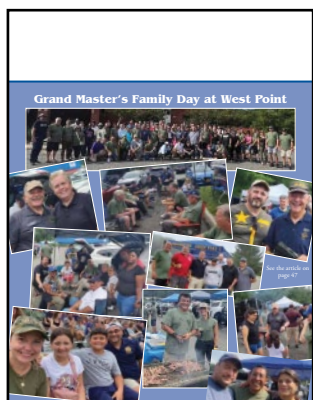
<https://masonicfind.com/profane-masonic-insults>.

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high moral character. As society continues to evolve, Master Masons must ensure that their leaders are well-prepared to guide the organization through these changes. This can be achieved through continuous education, mentorship and fostering a culture of personal growth within the membership. Developing leaders with strong character, integrity and vision will contribute significantly to the stability and future success of Freemasonry within an increasingly profane world. By embracing the challenges posed by modern society, the organization has the potential not only to survive but also to thrive in the 21st century.

I am proud to say that your Grand Lodge has fully engaged in fulfilling our duty to our membership and the community by embracing these concepts. By stressing leadership and education we can ensure that our jurisdiction will continue to strive. Many of you have heard me proclaim that Freemasonry is just the medicine this fractured world needs. Our principles

and tenets stress the importance of brotherhood and admonish us to treat all on a level playing field and not only to accept, but also to embrace diversity.

Our ritual also teaches the art of compromise, which fosters a win-win society as opposed to a win-lose society. Live every segment of your life according to our teachings and you will attract such men as we need to continue our mission of benevolence and goodwill.

In all your actions, embrace the concept of endurance. Do not quit. Stay with it. Commit to enduring, even when the glitz and glamor fades. People who endure—in their organizations, marriages, families and friendships—are on the road to greatness. Endurance is the key. Let us endure together.

The world needs Freemasonry more than ever.

Let us be humanity's saving grace.

Masons Make a Difference

Potunk Seizes Gavel

At Peconic Lodge's Installation of Officers, several of the visiting brethren attended with nefarious purpose as they competed for the honor of stealing the Suffolk Masonic District's Traveling Gavel. Brothers from Riverhead, Babylon,

Potunk and Connetquot Lodges were all in the hunt but in the end, Potunk Lodge 1071 had the most Brothers and absconded with the coveted Gavel. Potunk has the Gavel for now, but it will be ripe for theft in September.



Fellowship Club Hosts Chess Tournament



The Fellowship Club of Connetquot Lodge 838 kicked off the first of many upcoming evenings of fun, board games and recreation on Wednesday, May 24. This inaugural event consisted of a round-robin chess tournament for brethren and guests, with a portion of the proceeds earmarked for the Lodge's Widows' Fund. RW District Deputy Jeffrey Santorello made a valiant run at the Championship, which was ultimately won by one of Connetquot's newest Brothers, Kevin Kong.



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DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Those on social media already know that the Grand Van East has continued to crisscross our Grand Jurisdiction celebrating and supporting our Brothers, Lodges, Districts, our Sisters and Youth Groups. It has been our honor and pleasure to do so.

I would like to highlight two events: On September 30 the Grand Line descended upon the Southern Tier Masonic District to rededicate the George Washington Masonic Monument in Vestal, New York. This was made possible by the vision of RW Scott Kinne, Past District Deputy Grand Master; the continued leadership of RW Mark Laughran, District Deputy Grand Master; and RW Tim Hill, Staff Officer. I note the generosity of the Trustees of the Hall and Home and countless Brothers, demonstrating what we can accomplish when we act together, in harmony and for the good of the Craft. It was my honor to be present when the project was first announced some two years ago and to return to the Southern Tier as Deputy Grand Master and celebrate the unveiling of this shining beacon of virtue, wisdom and gratitude.



My duties as Deputy Grand Master are not merely social. Along with our Grand Master, I attend each and every Board meeting of the Trustees of the Hall and Home, Masonic Medical Research Institute and Robert R Livingston Library. I chair two Grand Lodge Committees and attend nearly every other Grand Lodge Committee to ensure that our committees and our entire Grand Lodge infrastructure are a resource for our Brothers, Lodges and Districts.

Towards that end, working with the Grand Lodge Buildings and Lodges Committee, I am pleased to announce the near completion of the “Lodge Treasurers’ and Trustees’ Manual.” It is clear that while many Brothers are familiar with the many nuanced requirements of running a Lodge and building—from simple accounting and bookkeeping practices, to the voucher system, to the Benevolent Orders Law, to required tax filings, to the type of insurance a Lodge should consider having—many are not. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to ensure that those who hold such important offices within our Lodges and Districts understand the many requirements established by Grand Lodge as well as local, State and Federal laws.

As we ensure that our Lodges, Districts and our Grand Lodge are prepared for the requirements of an ever complex world, we must never forget our roots, our history—from whence we came. I am also pleased to be working with the Leadership and Education Committee, former members of the committee and our current District Deputies and Staff Officers to re-tool the training our newly selected District Deputies and Staff Officers will receive. It is such a pleasure to be able to work with so many Brothers who work so hard, not for gold or glory, but simply their love for the Craft and the desire to make Masonry better than we found it. I have no doubt that our new District Leaders will be provided the tools that they need and deserve.

I am also pleased to be partnering with our Grand Historian, RW Gary Heinmiller, and RW Walter Cook, Trustee of

Continues on page 6 – Deputy Grand Master



On Saturday, October 21 at Masonic Hall nearly 150 Brothers gathered for the First Annual Metropolitan Region Festive Board. What started as a small seed planted by good Brothers during last year’s St. John’s Weekend grew to be a celebration of our Craft. The Brothers’ attendance demonstrated that as Master Masons, it should never be about rank, title or privilege but simply the Brotherhood that we have forged.

Since the publication of the last *ESM*, it has been my honor to celebrate the 150-year anniversaries of Knickerbocker Lodge 182 and Allemania Lodge 740 and the 160th anniversary of Gramercy Lodge 537. That their Masonic Light continues to burn demonstrates to the entire jurisdiction and world that these Lodges have endured, have shined a beacon of Freedom and Brotherhood for the benefit of our Craft and for all mankind.

Continued from page 5 – Deputy Grand Mason

the Livingston Library, on the Lodge History Project. This purpose is to ensure that our Lodges' history, aprons, artifacts and documents are protected and preserved for generations to come. All Lodge Historians were invited to a Zoom call on November 19 to announce this program and to solicit help and support from all interested Brothers.

We are so blessed to be citizens of a state and members of a Grand Jurisdiction where history is to be found around every street and byway. I am pleased to announce another initiative to further celebrate our Masonic History: the New York Masonic Walking and Driving Tours. Partnering with such outstanding Brothers as Lee Justo, RW Ivan Boluarte, W Juan Blanco, RW William DeLima, W Lorenzo Cesare, RW Miguel Angel Ballena, W Asly Raymond and RW Daniel DiNatale, we have begun the process of identifying Masonic sites around New York City and New York State. The object is the publication of Masonic Walking and Driving Tours. I share the first installment: "Masonic Walking Tour of Central Park."

While the QR codes are not yet operational, and this remains a working copy, with your help we can move this project to the next phase—identifying and celebrating additional Masonic sites within our great state. We will prepare similar brochures to ensure that our history is not merely remembered but also celebrated. Enjoy the first brochure, below. For any errors or corrections, or for those Brothers wishing to work on this

project, please email Brother Justo at: LeeJusto@mail.com.


As many of you know, our Grand Master was elected co-Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and I was elected to serve on the Planning Committee. I have been asked to speak at the conference on the issue of Reciprocity: the recognition and enforcement of Masonic decisions by sister Grand Jurisdictions. I would like to thank RW Marshal Shitman, RW Nathan Shoff, W Brother Adam Bernstein and W Brother Davin Goldman, fellow Attorneys who have assisted me on this presentation.

Since I first became a Grand Line officer in 2006 I have had the opportunity to travel our glorious state. Besides our shared history, we are united by a philosophy that resonates from upstate to downstate, from East to West. I have met so many wonderful men and Masons and their families. I have observed firsthand, Masonry in action—in Lodge, at countless charity events, the soup kitchens you serve, the firehouses in which you volunteer, the fundraisers where you contribute and in the faces of the hospitalized veterans whom you visit. I have seen how you work within your Lodges, Districts and our Grand Lodge, our Boards and Committees. I continue to be amazed by all that you do. While I am honored to be your Deputy Grand Master, the real privilege has always been to be your Brother.

I wish you a Blessed Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas. And hope for a new year filled with Love and Light.

MASONIC WALKING TOUR OF CENTRAL PARK

- **Bro. Friedrich von Schiller**
Location: West Side at 77th
German poet, philosopher, historian and playwright. Member of Prussian Lodges in Berlin. His statue was the first erected in Central Park.
- **Bro. Daniel Webster**
Location: West Side at 72nd
A leading American orator from Massachusetts during the period leading up to the Civil War. He first rose to regional prominence through his defense of New England shipping interests. Daniel Webster Lodge is an active and dynamic Lodge within the 88th Masonic District, located 17 miles north of 91st Street and 25 miles south of Boston. Instituted June 9, 1964.
- **Bro. Giuseppe Mazzini**
Location: West Side at 67th
Italian politician, journalist and activist for the unification of Italy. He often helped bring about an independent and unified Italy in place of several separate states, many dominated by foreign powers. He also helped define the modern European movement for popular democracy in a republican state. He was the first Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy.




Cleopatra's Needle – Location: East Side at 84th

The obelisk, nicknamed Cleopatra's Needle, is the oldest man-made object in Central Park, and the oldest outdoor monument in NYC. It was made in 1460 BC by an Egyptian pharaoh to celebrate his 30 year reign. One of the obelisks was moved to London in 1878. Two years later, the second one was offered by the British in exchange for funds to modernize his country and erected in Central Park. The ambitious and difficult task of transferring the 660-ton granite monument from Egypt to NY was successful thanks to the generosity of Mr. Vanderbilt. When moving the obelisk, the workers discovered inside a small altar, a perfect altar, a square made of granite, in place, a tower, a circular platform, a platform, a square, with the signs of the master and a thoroughly meaning "temple".

Need more history?
Follow the code to more
New York Masonic history

Want to learn more about
what a Mason is?
DISCOVERYMASONRY.COM



New York Masons
www.ny-masons.org
NYMASONSONLINE.ORG

Central Park New York City

- First U.S. public park. State Legislature authorized the purchase of 300 acres to build the park.
- Approximately 1600 residents were moved out of the construction site.
- Stemming from concerns over political control, a special commission was created for the park administration.
- The planning was one of the largest construction projects of the 1800s. It required 20,000 workers, including stone workers, gardeners, engineers, etc.
- More dynamite was used to break the stone than in the Battle of Gettysburg.
- The main designers were Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.
- The park was opened the winter of 1859 for public use; in 1865 had more than 7 million visitors.
- The Zoo was built in 1871.
- Brother Fiorenzo Latuardia commissioned Robert Moses to build playgrounds in the park in spite of the Depression in 1934.

MASONIC WALKING TOUR OF CENTRAL PARK

- **Bro. Walter Scott**
Location: Mid Park at 65th
Poetic writer during the British Romantic period, specialized in historical novels. He also was a well known poet and an author in France. In his time he was the only writer to enjoy an international career. Member of St. David No. 36 Lodge of Edinburgh.
- **Bro. Jose Martí**
Location: Mid Park at 99th
The apostle of Cuban independence. He was initiated in the Knight Templar Lodge No. 62, Madrid, Spain in either 1871 or '73. He was a member of El Gran Oriente Español and obtained the degree of Substantive Prince of the Order of the 33rd degree of our philosophical degrees. Other masons who fought for the independence of Cuba were Antonio Maceo, Máximo Gómez and Carlos Manuel.
- **The Mall and Literary Walk**
Location: Mid Park at 66th
Where the park was designed 160 years ago, the Mall was the place for visitors to show off their best clothing, jewelry, etc. Visitors today wear jeans and sneakers, but this is still the place to be seen. The Mall is the only straight line in the park and its main attraction is the cross which forms a "cathedral" canopy.
- **Bro. Robert Burns**
Location: Mid Park at 65th
Considered one of the greatest Scottish poets. Initiated at St. David Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh on July 4, 1791 at 22 years old. The statue was a present from Scots-Americans.
- **Bro. Jose de San Martín**
Location: Mid Park at 99th
This monument is a copy of the original erected in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was a present from the City of Buenos Aires to NYC. He was initiated in Spain and knew Bro. Francisco de Miranda who introduced him to Masonry and became a member of Lauro Lodge. He left behind a bright military career for his dedication to the revolution was in Latin America.
- **Bro. Simon Bolívar**
Location: Mid Park at 99th
He was initiated in Lauro Lodge in Cadix, Spain in 1803, was passed by Bro. Antonio de Escalada Lodge in Paris and raised in Lauro Lodge in America in 1805 in London. Bro. Francisco Miranda was the founder and Master of the Lodge. He received his Scottish Rite, 32nd degree and his apron and collar are on permanent exhibition at Livingston Lodge in our Grand Lodge. It is believed that he received his 33rd degree in York Rite in Caracas, Venezuela authorized by the Supreme Council of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Grand Master's Years of Service

Grand Master Kessler received his 30 years of service award to the Craft and his son, RW Christopher received his 20 year award.





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SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

As always, my Brothers, fraternal greetings from the West! I am going to do something a bit different this quarter. I recently had the opportunity to obtain a small paperback book entitled *The Washington Masonic Shrine at Tappan, N.Y.*, which was written in 1932 at the time of the dedication of our beautiful historic gem.

Then-General Washington visited this site twice in 1780 and again in 1783. While staying there in the fall of 1780 Washington signed the death warrant of British Major John Andre, who had conspired with Benedict Arnold to hand over West Point to the enemy. In 1783 he hosted British General Sir Guy Carleton to negotiate his vanquished army's departure from New York City.

Having just recently celebrated Grand Master's Day at Tappan on this very property, it is a perfect opportunity to share what I think was a wonderful dedication by PGM Charles H. Johnson. As I read this the hair stood up on the back of my neck. It made me proud, not only to be an American, but also to be a Freemason in one of the oldest Jurisdictions on Earth.

DEDICATION

May 1, 1932

By CHARLES H. JOHNSON

It is my privilege as Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York to dedicate the Dewindt House to use and enjoyment by the American people so long as human ingenuity and fostering care can preserve that priceless relic. The house is now owned by the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of New York, which comprises more than 1,000 constituent lodges. It will be faithfully guarded and carefully managed by that Body; but the general public, whether in any way connected with the Masonic Fraternity or not, will always be welcome to visit it; and the fraternity itself, as owner and custodian, will always deem itself the trustee for a possession that in the largest sense belongs to the American Nation.

If any reader chances to wonder why the Freemasonry of New York, rather than some patriotic society, or the State itself, came to purchase this Shrine, the matter can be best explained by an account of the incidents which led me, as Grand Master, to make to the Craft my recommendation for its purchase. Subsequently to Bro. George Washington's last visit to it in 1783, and after the Dewint descendants themselves no longer used it, the house passed through many hands, but always in the form of private ownership and for private use. During this century and a half patriotic societies have now and again contemplated its purchase, but always have been prevented for one reason or another. From 1879 to 1931 the New York State Assembly entertained Bills to take possession but in each instance

the project, so wise and so right, was smothered in the convolutions of politics. And various wealthy and patriotic individuals who at times have considered its purchase have for various reasons been prevented.

Such abortive attempts to preserve in perpetuity a property belonging to the same class of Revolutionary monuments as Mount Vernon itself might have continued indefinitely had not recent developments brought the matter to a crisis and given to the preservation of the house a "now-or-never" urgency. When in 1931 a new highway was begun between the great new George Washington Bridge and Nyack, to pass near the house, it became common knowledge in Rockland County that certain private interests were planning to purchase the house for use as a "tea shoppe" or even as a roadhouse.

The last-mentioned possibility sent a shudder through every sincere American citizen. The mere thought that the oldest still-standing authentic Washington headquarters might someday be padlocked led myself and my colleagues in the Grand Lodge to declare that "this will never be."

We took prompt action. A check was sent as a binder on the property and on November 21 the purchase contract was signed. There was not time to call an emergent Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge to consider the matter, nor did I believe that any such step was needed, for I was confident in my Brethren's instant and whole-hearted support for such a project the moment it was brought to their attention.

The Annual Communication of Grand Lodge to be held in May, 1932, will mark the end of a year during which the chief feature of special Craft activity has been the celebration throughout our Lodges of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. This was done in response to an appeal made by the National Government, but even if no such appeal had been received our fraternity would have held their celebrations on its own initiative because it feels a ceaseless interest in Washington as a Mason and every November commemorates the anniversary of his invitation. During these months hundreds of celebrations and countless speeches have been made, either to eulogize Washington as a man and Mason, or to point to him as a model of that citizenship to which Freemasonry has ever been devoted. All the familiar hymns of our patriotism have been sung again and again; moving pictures have been shown of Washington's career; Worshipful Masters have read the Constitution of The United States to their Lodges or mailed printed copies to all their members; and by way of climax the whole Brotherhood has in its various communities celebrated the

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dedication of the Washington Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia, one of the noblest monuments the human race has ever erected to one of its heroes.

All this was in every possible way admirable and valuable – how valuable only time itself can compute, but the season called for an even more signal mark of the Craft's devotion to its land and to the father of that land, something more lasting than words, more durable than music, more concrete than pictures, calling for actual deed and for a measure of that willingness to make sacrifices which is always the final test of the sincerity of professions of faith.

The opportunity for the purchase of the Dewint House came as by an act of Providence to offer just such an occasion by which we might seal our own profession of faith in the leadership of Washington himself and of the national ideal he left us. Now that it has been obtained, and provisions made for its maintenance and perpetual use, the Brotherhood can feel that its patriotism is more than of the lips only.

If the general public accepts this house as a token of the genuineness of the Masonic Fraternity's Americanism and patriotism it will not err. Freemasonry never participates in politics, local or national; it stands aloof from all sectional, sectarian, or racial controversies; it never seeks to influence government, and acts as a representative for man rather than of men, a spokesman for that which all the people value in common.

For such reasons we do not wish the DeWint House to stand as a monument to what "Masons did to win the Revolution" or what Masons did "to make America." No Lodge or Grand Lodge took any official action whatever, one way or another, concerning the Revolution. Indeed, after the war was won, and the States had achieved their independence, many Masonic leaders were so imbued with the proper Masonic spirit that they could not see in the successful Revolution any good reason why American

Provincial Grand Lodges should sever their old-time ties with the Grand Lodge of Britain. There had been Lodges and Masons on both sides. In our capacity as Masons we can ever wish the DeWint House to be a reminder to us of the British Brethren and their many Lodges of that period, military and otherwise. The war came and went, mankind remained the same. It is with man as man that Freemasonry concerns itself.

It is therefore out of this Masonic faith, and in the name of all my Brethren, that I can sincerely and wholeheartedly dedicate the DeWint House to all the people for their use and enjoyment. Let no person upon entering that historic structure feel himself an intruder, as if he had wandered into a region to which he is not entitled. All are welcome, women and children as well as men, those of all faiths or none, from any race, from any land or any section of this land. Nothing is asked of them except that they may remain long enough within the rooms where Washington lived for weeks at a time to recapture the sense of his presence, to feel the mood in which he lived and fought for this nation, and mayhap to dedicate themselves anew to those mighty hopes which make us Americans.

In the name of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of New York, and as its Grand Master for the present year, I herewith dedicate to the American people the use of the DeWint House, in the expectation that so long as it stands it will serve at once as a shrine of patriotism, an altar of citizenship, and a memorial to him who was the first, as he still remains the chief, American.

May 1, 1932.

Masonic Hall, New York, N.Y.

I copied the text exactly as it was written by PGM Johnson. My computer asked me to correct spelling and grammar a few times, but I refused. I hope you enjoyed reading this inspirational message as much as I did; but more importantly, I hope it inspires you to visit this historic site.



Second Kings executes District Third

The Masonic Lodges of the Second Kings District collaborated to confer a District-Wide Third Degree, including the Hiram Drama. Twenty-five committed Brothers, including many new to the task, invested themselves

wholeheartedly in learning and performing the ritual. Their unwavering work ethic and exemplary conduct beautifully showcased the fundamental principles and teachings that lie at the heart of our esteemed Craft.





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JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

Greetings, my Brothers. I write this article at our Grand Lodge Building in NYC, having just spent an awesome weekend at our Grand Master's Day at West Point and Tappan. My subject is the Lodge's Investigating Committee. I found this article on the www.masonicworld.com website very interesting.

GUIDELINES FOR INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES

"Those who are charged with the duty of investigating the character and other qualifications of applicants for the privileges of Masonry hold positions of distinction and trust. Of all the committees appointed by the Worshipful Master, none is more important to the preservation of this great Fraternal Order Way of Life than this committee, whose duty is to determine the fitness of a candidate prior to balloting on his petition.

"They are, of necessity, the inspectors to examine the material wherewith to add wisdom, strength, and beauty to the Universal Masonic Temple. Carelessness, indifference or negligence in the discharge of this responsible duty are of the nature of misdemeanors.

"Every member in the Lodge is part of the Investigating Committee, especially the voucher of the petitioner. The member who vouches for a profane should be certain of his fitness for membership. Also, it is the duty of every Master Mason who is aware of something which would cause a profane to be unfit for membership, to inform a brother of that Lodge or the Investigating Committee, so these things can be Verified or clarified. For it is the responsibility of every member to exercise scrupulous care in guarding the door of Masonry from gaining access and introducing Godless ideology. It is our duty as Masons, to jealously examine a profane's fitness for membership, for on this examination rests the honor, glory, and reputation of our institution.

"Every member and the Investigating Committee is urged to constantly bear in mind that membership in the craft is much too priceless to be shared without due consideration. So think and act for the good of Masonry at all times.

"1. When visiting a candidate at his home, the committee should first determine the family's attitude toward his desire to join the Masonic Order. If there is serious opposition to him joining which cannot be overcome by the committee and there is every likelihood that his membership in the Lodge would cause internal family problems, the petition should be returned or rejected.

"2. Ascertain whether the petitioner's home surroundings are such as to permit him financially to continue his membership without depriving his family of the essentials of life. While a man's financial circumstances or his educational background ought not bar him from participating in Masonic privileges or

render him unwelcome in the Craft, his standard of living may be so different from those of the other members as to make her uncomfortable in their presence.

"3. The applicant should be given the understanding that his character is subjected to the closest scrutiny, and that friendship, personal consideration, or favoritism, must not control or bias Masonic action. He is informed that he must pass the scrutiny of the investigation and the ordeal of the ballot, as all have done who has gone this way before him. If there be a doubt in regard to his fitness to become a Mason, let the lodge have the benefit of the doubt. Remember that the dignity, honor, and reputation of the institution are in your hands.

"4. The committee should determine how long the petitioner has been acquainted with his proposer. If the acquaintanceship has been but a brief one, it is all the more reason why the committee should make a thorough search of the petitioner's background. References should be carefully checked, as well as business affiliations. This of course should be handled in a discreet manner, especially if questions are directed to non-Masons who may not be favorably disposed towards the Institution.

"5. Ascertain the petitioner's motive for wanting to become a Mason and what is his conception of the Fraternity. Of course, one who is new to the Order may not be expected to offer a considered opinion, but he should have at least some idea of the type organization he is expecting to join.

"6. Is the petitioner charitable by nature? Does he contribute to needy causes as his finances permit? Also, is he charitable in thought and actions towards his fellowmen? Is he bigoted or prejudiced? All these questions, discreetly put, will help bring out the true character of the man.

"7. Is he prompt in meeting his financial obligations and honorable in his business dealing with others? Can he afford to become a Mason? The answers to the first two questions can be obtained by investigating his references, both business and personal. As to whether he can afford to become a Mason, this can be determined by pointing out that no man should join the Masonic Order, if he must deprive his family of the necessities of life. Naturally, no Lodge wishes to cause hardship for others, nor handicap itself by adding to its rolls members who are apt to become financial liabilities.

"8. Does the petitioner realize that membership in a Lodge calls for payment of dues and these are to be met promptly? Along with this question, the committee might also ascertain what, if any, provisions he has made for his family, money wise etc. should something happen to him.

"9. Does his occupation permit him to attend meetings
Continues on page 10 – Junior Grand Warden

Continued from page 9 – Junior Grand Warden
regularly?

“10. Does the petitioner believe in a Supreme Being? Does he attend a church? Masonry does not require a man to adhere to any particular creed or religion, he must believe in God and in the immortality of the soul.

“11. The Worshipful Master should be kept honestly and fully informed. A complete report of the investigation committee should be presented at the regular lodge meeting.

“12. A fearless discharge of this duty may, for a time, subject the committee to the frowns of the rejected and his friends,

but faithfulness and courage will, in the end, command the plaudits of every lover of the Fraternity.

“13. Don’t overlook any references, the last one may be the one needed. Reports on the petitioner should be obtained from courts, police department, credit bureaus, and other places necessary.

“14. The investigation should be so conducted that, even if rejected, the applicant gains a higher respect for the Fraternity.”

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

What Is the Attraction to the Masonic Community?

What is the attraction to the Masonic Community? By community we mean the sharing of something in common with each other. Are we defined by our geography, demographics, village, town, upstate or downstate, or by a specific place or building, or shared interests such as benevolence, brotherhood, wholesome values or credibility? Perhaps it is just a little bit of each of these items that brings us all together as a widely diverse group that shares a common bond with strong core beliefs in our individual religious faith, country and family.

Tangible evidence of the coalescence of the Masonic Community was on full display on Saturday evening, September 23. The officers and brethren of Tompkins Lodge 471 of the Richmond District launched from the Brooklyn Army Pier a large gathering of fellow Masons, their wives and friends onboard the *Empire Cruise Boat* to partake of an evening of friendship, brotherhood, fine dining, dancing and raffles.



Master of Richmond, RW Joseph Maniscalco.

Speeches were very short and few in between as the main focus was on one-to-one Brotherhood and Fellowship. We thank, applaud and congratulate W Aleksey Olovyanikov, the Worshipful Master, and W John Lentine, Secretary of Tompkins Lodge 471 for an outstanding job in cementing an evening of pure joy and Brotherhood. Special mention goes to W Christopher R. Deats, the Treasurer and behind-the-scenes guy, who made the idea become a reality. This Lodge is onto something good.



The weather forecast predicted a gloomy, windy and wet night. Yet the ambiance of the crowd ignited a fun-packed evening with plenty of laughter, good conversation, great Spanish-style cuisine, hip-hop music and dancing and plenty of hand-rolled cigars.

It was an opportune time to relax, let your hair down, dress casually and truly enjoy the company of Masons and family members from all around the region and from all walks of life. Our Deputy Grand Master, RW Steven Rubin, and Deputy Grand Marshal, RW Peter Unfried, were present. So were RW George Filippidis, Assistant Treasurer of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall & Home, and the District Deputy Grand





RW JOSEPH J. SAGLIMBENE
GRAND TREASURER
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Season's Greetings. From my family to all of you and your family, I wish you a healthy and happy holiday season.

I have been asked why I never write in my *ESM* column about my travels or my accomplishments as Grand Treasurer. I feel an educational or inspirational story is more enjoyable to our readers.

I was browsing through my office and found this *Short Talk Bulletin* written by RW David R. Ritchie, Past Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

Politics and Freemasonry

"As Masons, we all know that two things are prohibited from being talked about in Lodge. Religion and Politics. The problem is, 'What defines politics.' Sadly, these days we are divided along so many lines that it is difficult even to agree upon a definition of what constitutes politics. If someone would have told me 20 years ago that the NFL would be a politically charged topic, I would have laughed. But today, if a man talks about the strange weather we are having, is he making a political statement?

"This is where I call on you to be gentlemen. First,

please, understand a person may not consider a topic political, like the weather, and is just making conversation.

"Consider what would happen if that person were admonished, especially in public, because you or another considered the topic too controversial. It is easy to see how emotions and tensions would escalate. So, please give the other person the benefit of the doubt.

"Confrontation is only going to make matters worse. Have you ever made a statement and, expecting a reply, hear only crickets? Sometimes silence can be the strongest admonishment. If you feel a person's statements need to be addressed, do so respecting the harmony and brotherly love expected in Lodge. Outside the Lodge, you are the greatest symbol of Freemasonry that your friends and neighbors know. And what you have been taught. Remember who you represent in the eyes of society. Speak your mind, enter into civil debate, challenge the statements of others, but always as a gentleman and a Mason."

St. Patrick's Lodge 4

On September 21 St. Patrick's Lodge 4 was honored to welcome DeMolay members. The St. Andrew's Chapter of DeMolay bestowed the Cross of Honor on one of our own, Brother Tomás Fernández (aka Dad Fernandez). This award is the highest award given to an Advisor.

We also presented DeMolay a check for their assistance with parking at Fonda Fair. On August 31 St. Andrew's Chapter (DeMolay) joined with St. Patrick's Lodge, Unity Lodge 79 and Hiram Union Chapter 53, RAM. These groups participated in a community outreach project and parked cars at the Fonda Fair in Fonda, NY.



GRAND SECRETARY

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Brethren, fall has turned to winter and the holiday season is here. Throughout the fall many Lodges held Table Lodge functions, interesting lectures and Degrees. In November our Grand Lodge promoted a Weekend of Service to celebrate our communities. Our Lodges and Districts throughout the state participated in veterans events, food giveaways and other community service projects to show how Masons Make a Difference.



In January our Grand Lodge will host another round of Florida Sojourners Luncheons. The dates are:
Wednesday, January 17 – Sarasota Sahib Shrine Center;
Thursday, January 18 – Tampa Egypt Shrine Center;
Friday, January 19 – The Villages at the Waterfront Inn; and
Saturday, January 20 – Palm Beach Gardens at Embassy Suites Palm Beach Gardens.

Many of our Florida members (as well as snowbirds) have already made reservations. The reservation form appeared in the last *Empire State Mason* magazine (Fall 2023).

We have planned a Unity Day of ritual on Saturday, January 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Masonic Hall 23rd Street. Our Grand Lodge, along with the Grand Lodges of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, will exemplify the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees (including the Hiramic Drama). This event will be open to all Master Masons. Cost is \$50 per person, which includes breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and lunch at 12:00 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to see the various Degrees under different rituals as performed by the out-of-state Degree teams. Tickets are available at events.nymasons.org.

Our Metropolitan Dedication Service is planned for Sunday morning, March 3 at Marina del Rey in the Bronx, NY. See the flyer in this magazine for more details. Tickets are \$45 online at events.nymasons.org.

The Grand Secretary's Office has been very busy these last few months. I attended several District and Lodge meetings where I made presentations about the Duties of the Lodge Secretary. In September we hired a full-time membership analyst who will be dedicated to increasing our membership. In November we sent our Per Capita Invoices.

We prepared and distributed each Lodge's Annual Return Package in early December. We prepared separate mailings for the Lodge Secretary and the Lodge Master, which should help in receiving timely responses. I have learned that many Masters (and Wardens) do not know what is sent to the Lodge Secretary with the Annual Return Package. Going forward, we will be sending the information to the Master, as well.

Work has begun for our Annual Communication (Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7). Look for the Call Letter and details to be distributed in March.

As mentioned in the fall magazine, the Grand Lodge of Finland will hold year-long events in 2024 celebrating 100 years of Finnish Freemasonry. The celebration begins with the opening in February 2024 of an Exhibition at the Finnish National Archives in Helsinki, Finland, detailing the History of the Craft in Finland. The Grand Lodge of Finland will hold a Centenary Jubilee Week from September 3 to 10, 2024 in Helsinki. It will be highlighted by a special 100-Year Communication and a Gala Dinner. Plans are underway for our Grand Lodge to attend. We are arranging several optional, short, pre- and post-tours to Stockholm, Sweden; and Tallinn, Estonia; and a bus trip to the Lake District in Finland.

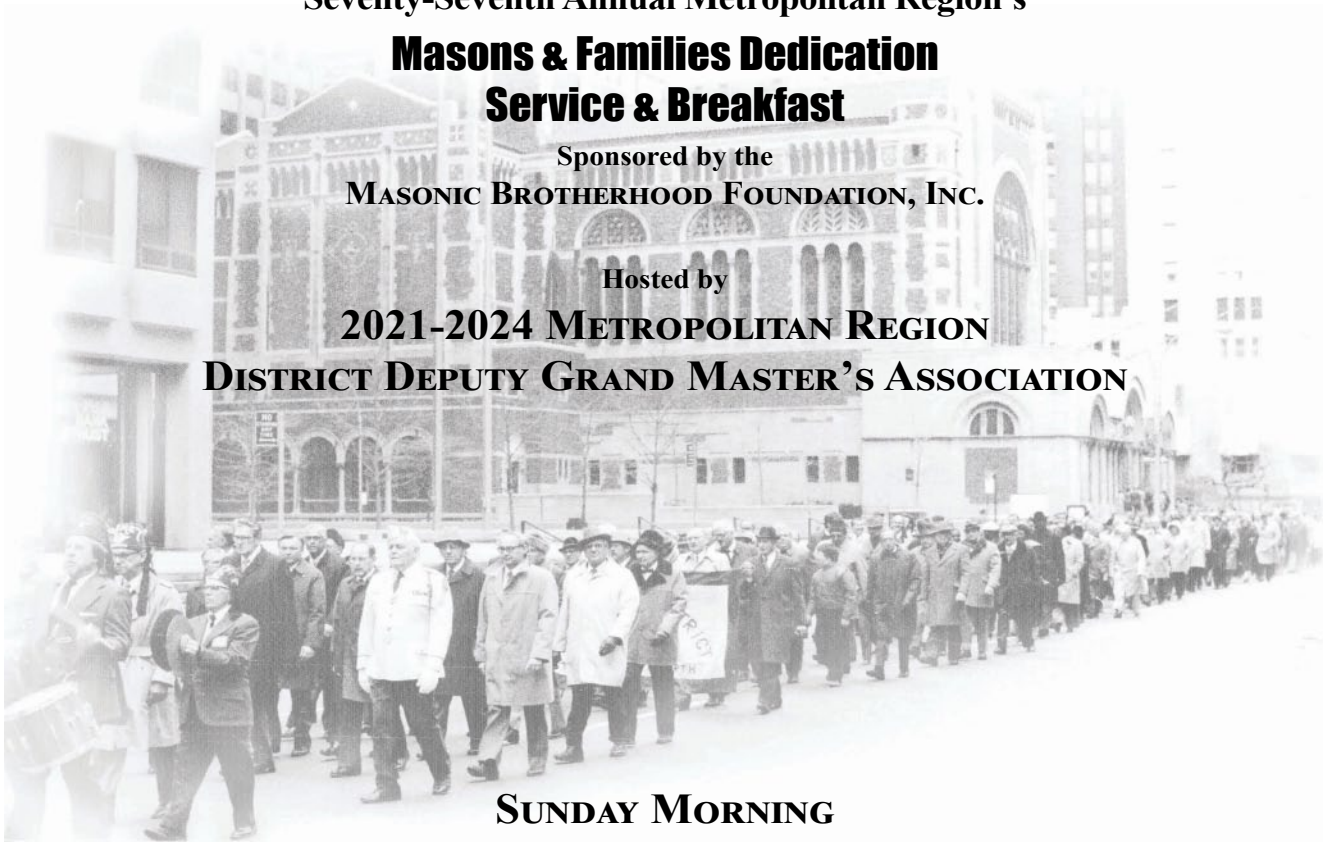
We have had a lot of members express interest in joining the Grand Line on this trip. If you would like further information about the trip, please feel free to contact me and I will send you the latest information and plans.

I like to close my article each quarter with a thought to impart to you. More than once you have heard me say (or write) that God loves us all. I believe He created all of us so that He Himself could be with us. By loving God, we love each other. By loving our fellow man, we love God. Please exemplify this love daily in our manner, our thoughts and in our actions, most especially with family, Brothers, friends and colleagues, but also to all our fellow human beings who inhabit this world with us.

**Announcing the
Seventy-Seventh Annual Metropolitan Region's
Masons & Families Dedication
Service & Breakfast**

Sponsored by the
MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FOUNDATION, INC.

Hosted by
**2021-2024 METROPOLITAN REGION
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ASSOCIATION**



SUNDAY MORNING

MARCH 3, 2024

at

MARINA DEL REY

One Marina Drive

Throgs Neck, Bronx, NY 10465

GUEST SPEAKER:

R.:W.:Stephen S. King

President of the Trustees
of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library

Seating will begin promptly in the morning at 8:30 AM

The site offers easy access from major highways and VALET PARKING. The Service of Ecumenical Worship will be led by our Grand Chaplains at 9:00 AM, and immediately be followed by the Breakfast Program.

Individual & Group Tickets are available for purchase ON or BEFORE February 10th for \$45.00 per person online at:

events.nymasons.org

AFTER February 10th and up to and including February 25th, Individual & Group Tickets are available for purchase for \$50.00 per person online.

**ALL TICKETS (Individual or Group) MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE ON-LINE
at events.nymasons.org**

The LAST DAY for TICKET SALES is February 25, 2024.

NO TICKETS will be sold at the door. Seating is Limited.

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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70th Gathering of St. Albans

On Saturday, September 22 our Grand Master Richard J. Kessler and Grand Marshal John J. Haslam traveled to Rockville Center, NY to be with over 100 Brothers of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York and other jurisdictions. The visit was to St. Albans Lodge 56, which hosted the 70th International Gathering of Lodges named for St. Alban. These Lodges from around the world have taken their name from the first Christian martyr of Britain. VW Charles Scheu was the Chairman of this year's event; W Eugene Towba is Master of St. Albans Lodge.



From a summary by VW Brother Scheu: During the second century AD, the Romans treated Christianity as a threat to their Empire because Christians did not regard the Emperor as divine. For this reason Christians were persecuted. At about this time, Alban, thought to be an affluent Roman citizen and perhaps even an officer in the Roman army, gave sanctuary to a Christian called Amphibalus. This was discovered by the authorities and Amphibalus was forced to flee and Alban was arrested.

Amphibalus was soon captured and executed but because of his high rank, Alban was tried under the jurisdiction of Ceta Caesar, the youngest son of the Emperor Septimus Severus. Being found guilty and refusing to change his faith, Alban was beheaded, that being the method of execution appropriate to his rank. It is thought that the place of execution was the site of the present cathedral.



In 1962 RW Robert Savage of St. Albans Lodge proposed the idea of annual meetings of international Lodges named after St. Alban, for the purpose of goodwill and fellowship. After contacting several St. Albans Lodges, the first meeting was held on October 9, 1962 on Long Island.

To make this September day more memorable, the Oklahoma Indian Masonic Degree Team performed the Master Mason Degree. They used one exemplar and Raised several Grand Lodge of New York Brothers.

The Oklahoma Masonic Degree Team was first organized and began conferring Degrees in 1962. The team was made up of Native American Master Masons from Oklahoma and a few non-native members who were adopted by the team. The team always wore native regalia and put their own cultural spin on the Oklahoma Master Mason Degree ritual. Because of who they are and their uniqueness, the Grand Master of Oklahoma grants an annual dispensation permitting these slight variations to continue and Grand Lodge recognizes the Degrees.



The regalia on display is the same dance clothes worn at "pow-wows" in Oklahoma. Most of the team members frequent pow-wows throughout the year. Since its inception, the team has conferred Degrees all across the United States and in England several times. The team is a Standing Committee within the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and in 2013 was declared the official Degree team of Oklahoma. To date, the current count of Master Mason Degrees conferred by the team is over 1,100.

All agreed that the program from start to finish was outstanding. No detail was overlooked and organizer Scheu even sent everyone home with a goody bag.

Sample Retention Letter for Use by Lodges

One of the paramount dilemmas facing most Lodges today is how to bolster and retain the members we already have within our Masonic family. A quick review of the current roster of members surely will reveal a bank of members who no longer attend Lodge due to a host of reasons—distance, illness, advanced age, change in work schedule, financial or family problems, etc. But we would not know the reason

unless we take concerted steps to reach out to our members. Too often we lose contact with these Brothers and they in turn lose interest and contact with us. Perhaps one small and simple step that can be taken to help close that gap and foster a renewed interest and positive relationship between the absent Brother and the Lodge is to break the ice with a heartfelt letter such as this:

My Dear Brother _____;

First and foremost, we bring you warm fraternal greetings from the Worshipful Master, Wor. _____, and from all of your fellow brethren. We trust that this letter finds you and your family in good spirits and good health. As our Masonic ritual teaches, if you or someone close to you experiences any distress or adversity, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Lodge and Brothers for help and guidance. We are merely a phone call or email away and can quickly respond to your situation. As the Good Book implores each of us, "Are we not our brother's keeper?"

We know that in the recent past you have been prevented, through no fault of your own, from breaking bread with your fellow Brothers and have not enjoyed the fellowship that you experienced upon being Raised. We would love to restore that camaraderie again by calling you at home; and if within a reasonable distance we would like to visit you at home, or possibly conduct a friendly Zoom session using modern computer technology.

The point being that we love and miss you, my Brother. You are an integral part of our Masonic family and we want to be there for you.

Both the Worshipful Master and I are available to speak with you at any convenient time. Just give us a ring at the following cell numbers:

_____ or _____

In closing, let me leave you with this thought: Albert Einstein once said, "The ideas which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty, and truth."

God bless and be well, my Brother.

With a kind fraternal hug and embrace,

(Signed) Secretary of the Lodge

Rosenthal Marks 80

RW Louis Rosenthal celebrated his 80th birthday with a party for family and friends at Marco Polo Restaurant in Brooklyn in early September. He was also roasted at a special meeting of Cornerstone Lodge 178 a couple of nights later. Several members of the Grand Line attended both events.

Lou, a fifty-two-year member of the Fraternity, is a Commissioner of Appeals of the Grand Lodge of New York and a Trustee Emeritus of the Masonic Care Community. He also is the current Lodge Secretary for Cornerstone Lodge 178.



(l to r) RW Richard Schulz, Grayce Schulz, RW Alex Dudelson, RW Louis Rosenthal



(l to r) Grand Master MW Richard J. Kessler with RW Louis Rosenthal and family.

Bruce Testut Night

On Monday, October 16 Freeport-Long Island Chapter 302 RAM held a night to honor and celebrate ME Bruce Testut. The event was held in the Spartan Lodge Temple in Baldwin, NY. ME Bruce was Grand High Priest in 2017-2018 for Grand Chapter RAM New York. A number of Royal Arch officers attended the celebration for Bruce and his wife Debbie.

Bruce was also Chairman of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund for several years, a member of the Grand Lodge Convention Committee and District Deputy Grand Master from 1998-2000. The Testuts relocated to Delaware in October.



(l to r) RW Stewart C. McCloud, Debbie Seda-Testut, ME Bruce Testut, Debbie McCloud.



(l to r) RW Richard Schulz, Debbie Seda-Testut, ME Bruce Testut, Grayce Schulz.



(l to r) Members of Grand Chapter RAM NY with officers of Freeport Long Island Chapter 302.

Battle Within Benches

Grand Master Richard J. Kessler, the Grand Line and Representatives of all of the Lodges in the Southern Tier gathered together at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, September 2 to dedicate a Battle Within bench at Lafayette Park in Oxford. Led by W Roy Pfoh, Brothers from Oxford Lodge 175 and Eastern Light Lodge 126 raised the funds to place a "Let's Call" bench in village squares in Oxford, Greene, Sherburne and Norwich.

The Battle Within Project, a cause spearheaded by the

Grand Master, seeks to draw attention to the issue of veteran suicide—a plague that takes the lives of twenty-two veterans every day in this country. Through the project, funds are raised for a variety of causes, including research initiatives at MMRI and the placement of benches in town squares.

The plaque on these benches provides veterans—and others—with a toll-free number to call. This number is manned 24/7 by mental health professionals who can provide help, aid and assistance to those in need.



Oh, Honey!—750 Pounds Worth

Remember those twelve bee hives that were donated to the Masonic Care Community in Utica, NY? Well, under the leadership of Grand Beekeeper RW Pat Imbimbo, a team consisting of individuals from Acacia Village, MCC retirees, DeMolay and moms, local Masons and more descended on the Horticultural Center for two days. Results? Honey amounting to 750 pounds. It is an assembly line

process but take a look at the pictures and you will get an idea of who worked together.

There is interest in adding hives at the City Island Temple, Brooklyn. Even Grand Lodge may host some at 23rd Street.

We do this harvest around September of each year. When we have the 2024 date we will “buzz” you.



Riverhead Snatches Gavel

On Thursday, September 21 W Robert Abel and the Brothers of Riverhead Lodge 645 arrived at Potunk Lodge 1071 to capture the Suffolk Masonic District’s Traveling Gavel. This marks the first “steal” of the new Masonic year and kicks off the annual competition between the Lodges.

The Lodge that obtains the Gavel the most times throughout the year is awarded a plaque by the District Deputy Grand Master at the Long Island Past Masters Association’s Summer Soiree dinner. Let us see who steals it next.



MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



RW G. MICHAEL MORRIS,
PRESIDENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND HOME
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Acacia Village Renovations and Expansion

The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village on the MCC Utica campus provides Independent Senior Living accommodations and consists of 135 single- and two-bedroom apartments, separate townhomes and cottages. Last year the Trustees focused on major renovations of the Acacia Village dining and recreation facilities, which has been well received by the residents. In fact, the occupancy rate for the 135 apartments in the main buildings is currently running between 97% to 99%. In addition, eight waterside cottages and eight one- and two-bedroom garden townhomes were constructed, which are all fully occupied.



The Bistro at Acacia Village

Due to the popularity and demand for the cottages and garden homes, last summer the Trustees authorized the construction of five additional cottages and eight additional garden townhomes. The five new cottages are on schedule to be completed in December 2023. Rental agreements for each of the new cottages are already in place. Construction of the eight new garden townhomes is scheduled to be completed by June 2024, with three rental agreements for the townhomes already in hand.



Renovated Main Lobby



Master Plan for the Neighborhoods at Acacia Village

Independent living services and amenities at Acacia Village (included in the monthly service fee) include:

- Bi-weekly light housekeeping
- Comprehensive maintenance of apartment home, community buildings and grounds
- Utilities, including telephone and cable
- 24-hour security
- Emergency response system throughout Acacia Village
- Fitness Center, heated indoor pool, spa and sauna
- A variety of fitness classes
- Billiards, cards and arts and crafts rooms
- Library with internet access, daily newspapers, current periodicals and over 4000 books
- Woodworking shop
- Eighteen-seat movie theatre
- Nature trails, ponds and resident gardens
- Scheduled transportation for shopping and activities
- Wi-Fi throughout the Community Center and apartment buildings
- Notary Public onsite
- Copying, faxing machines



Waterside Cottages at Acacia Village

Other services available for an additional fee include:

- Acacia Village Café for breakfast, lunch and select grocery needs
- Covered parking garages
- Accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Multiple spaces available for private parties and functions
- Catering
- Unisex beauty salon
- Additional cleaning services
- Seamstress routinely scheduled
- Dry cleaning pick-up and drop-off
- Package mailing and postage stamps

For additional information or to schedule a tour of the Neighborhoods at Acacia Village, please see Acacia Village's website: <https://www.acaciavillageny.org>.



New Cottages Under Construction

Delaware Holds Annual Communication



Candid shot from the Costume Party Dinner at the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

Left to Right: RW Richard Schulz, VW Kent Dorney, Grayce Schulz, Connie Dorney, MW Richard J. Kessler.

The Grand Master, MW Richard J. Kessler, and the Grand Secretary, RW Richard T. Schulz, travelled to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in October 2023 for the Delaware Grand Lodge Annual Communication. The Annual Communication was held at the Sands Hotel and Conference Center, directly on the Boardwalk. The event was well attended by members of the Northeast Grand Jurisdictions and included a Gala Banquet and a Costume Party Dinner.

This Annual Communication celebrated the service of outgoing Grand Master, MW Stephen M. Tucker. The Grand Master-elect, RW Ronald Ferraro, is a long-time friend of VW Kent Dorney of Kent-Ton Lodge 1186 of the Grand Lodge of New York. Brother Kent and his wife Connie made the trip to celebrate with Ron and wife Sheila.

Does NorthStar Work?

Well, yes it does. A recent review of the database showed several potential candidates who had not yet been contacted. So we did. They were invited to an a la carte dinner and the results are pictured here.

None was handed a petition. We will be having a few more dinners and events that they can attend, and then we will talk about taking that journey with us.

NorthStar is just one tool in your portfolio to obtain quality members. The conversation with a coworker, your neighbor, etc. is still a viable alternative. But NorthStar has a proven track record, a track record some Lodges are taking advantage of.

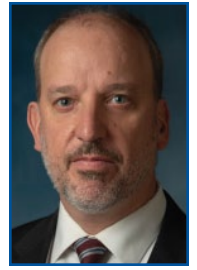
It is 2023. Do you know where your NorthStar Chairman is?



MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



RW ROB RAFFLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY OF NEW YORK
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Impact Happens Here

I often share that the resident activities at the Masonic Care Community are second to none and that is because our facilities, grounds and the MCC team are second to none. What makes MCC so special? That begins with our 440-acre campus that has beautiful landscaping, walking paths, a pond, an apple orchard, the Horticultural Center, a bee apiary, a stunning Chapel and our own onsite Child Care Center.



That means that on any given day residents are out fishing, going on bike rides, walks, or wheel strolls, enjoying outdoor picnics under our gazebo, picking apples from the orchard, going on a wagon ride or engaging in fun activities at the Horticultural Center. There are also numerous campus benches with the backdrop of beautiful flowers and landscaping, including our new Veterans Memorial Garden, to enjoy time with loved ones.



None of this would be possible without the best Community Life team in senior care, led by Jay Snow. Jay and his staff help make all of these activities possible. And they do not stop there. This past year, the Community Life team led field trips to the local St. Patrick's Day parade, Round Lake, shopping,



and a fantastic day at Munson, a regional fine arts center that has been open since 1919.

Yes, residents enjoy Bingo, musical events, spiritual services, Happy Hour and the pitch league. But our residents also can participate in our high-quality art therapy program; this year three of our residents won awards for their artwork at the Herkimer County Fair.

Another campus highlight is when June arrives and Brother Masons receive their Masonic aprons and enjoy the St. John's Day activities. In October the residents love it when the kids from our Child Care Center put on their Halloween costumes





MARA MULLIGAN
 DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC MARKETING AND PHILANTHROPY
 315/798-4703
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MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



New Year, New Way of Giving

As we look back on the year past and enter into 2024, it is often a time for reflection and resolutions. For annual donors to the Masonic Care Community, we also ask that you consider a new way of donating to our organization. It is a way that ultimately helps save time and money, resulting in your donation having an even greater impact on our mission and the people we serve.

I am referring to a monthly recurring donation. Before online giving came onto the scene, accepting monthly recurring donations from supporters was often a difficult exercise. Nonprofits had to get donors to commit to making regular financial contributions (usually by phone or direct mail), and then had to ensure they followed through. Today, with online fundraising systems, that is no longer the case. In fact, building a strong recurring giving program is now a necessary fundraising strategy to help nonprofits' revenue streams and scale their organizations.

Another reason why reoccurring donations are so important? About 33% of donations are typically made during the holiday season. Building a steady stream of recurring donations helps provide philanthropic support during slower months for our organization. It may also make you feel less pressured to give during the end of the year when many organizations are asking for donations.

While all gifts are greatly appreciated by the Masonic Care Community at any time, monthly donations help our organization rely on a higher level of consistency when it comes to individual contributions. It also means MCC will not have to spend as much time pursuing new donors and foundations each year, again reducing administrative expenses



and saving MCC much-needed funds for our work.

As we enter into the new year, please join us in this new way of giving by setting up your recurring donation to the Masonic Care Community today. Just visit masonichomeny.org/giving/give/ and for the payment type select "monthly." You will be glad you did, and so will we, as we continue to provide trusted senior care for those in need.

for a special parade around our grounds and buildings for all to see and enjoy.

Our residents are also extraordinary. They continue to give back and support the local community. Recently they came together to conduct a school supply drive to benefit the children in the Utica City School District.

That is why when you make a gift to the Masonic Care Community and designate it for resident activities you know your donation will be put to great use. It will also have a significant impact. If you have not yet donated to MCC this

year, I encourage you to do so, and I especially encourage you to designate that gift to our resident activities program to support the wide range of activities we provide for the people and Brother Masons in our care. As we close our 130-anniversary year, let us continue to honor the promise made to the seniors and children in our care at the Masonic Care Community, now and into the future.



Southern Tier Masons Rededicate Memorial

Brothers of the Southern Tier, along with MW William M. Sardone, came together on September 11 to begin the process of giving Brother George Washington's pedestal a complete facelift. The statue, erected in 1938 in Vestal Hills Memorial Park, stands over eight feet tall and is made entirely of bronze. Due to the effects of age and weather, the twelve foot base—made up of 3, 5 and 7 steps, had deteriorated badly.

RW Scott G. Kinne, then-District Deputy Grand Master for the Southern Tier, conceived the project and enlisted the enthusiastic support of the local brethren and Grand Lodge. MW Sardone, through the Trustees, generously provided the seed money that got the project off the ground. Fundraising efforts included individual and group donations, generous gifts from local businesses and the sale of specially minted coins emblazoned with the likeness of Washington the Mason on one side and a quote from the monument's plaque on the other.

Due to supply chain issues and the lingering effects of COVID, the re-dedication ceremony was delayed. Enthusiasm for the project, however, remained high and on September 30 Brother George was unveiled atop his beautiful new platform. Deputy Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin presided over the rededication ceremony, which was attended by a large crowd that included members of the Grand Line, MW William M. Sardone, Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home, brethren from across the state and local business and civic leaders.

As an added touch, operative mason Paul Shuba hollowed out a chamber for a time capsule. That capsule, containing mementos from all of the local Lodges and Grand Lodge, was duly placed by the Deputy Grand Master and Brothers from the Southern Tier and will serve not only as a remembrance of what was going on in local Masonry in September of 2023, but also as a testament to the hard work and dedication of so many who came together to make the project such a success.



Original Construction 1937-1938



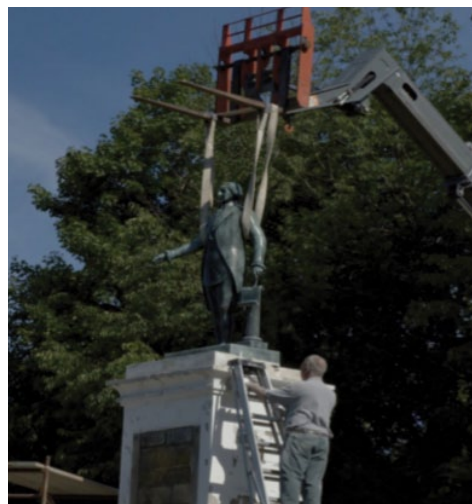
Completion – 1938



Remembrance Kick-Off – Sept. 11, 2021



Prepping for Demolition – July 2022



Careful with him!!



Coming down after 85 years.



Operative Masonry at Work – 2023



Stones laid with such nicety.



Awaiting Bro. Washington



Again, careful with him!



Final pieces coming together.



Welcome Home – September 2023



Rededication Day! September 30, 2023



Placing of the Time Capsule

GRAND MASTER'S



DAY AT TAPPAN



Letter of Appeal

Dear Brethren, with the permission of the Grand Master, please see two formal letters addressing the horrendous situation unfolding in Israel. One letter is from the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel thanking us for our support and one letter is an appeal on behalf of our sister Grand Lodge from our Grand Lodge of New York.

We pray for Peace, we pray for the safe return of the hostages,

we pray for the healing of those injured and we mourn for those who have perished. May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over our fellow brethren and their loved ones. Amen.

Below is brief correspondence between our Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel:



R.:W.:RICHARD T. SCHULZ
Grand Secretary

GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Grand Lodge, N.Y.
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NEW YORK, NY 10010-4149
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TEL. CEL.: (917) 648-9859
FAX: (212) 727-2875
EMAIL: GrandSecretary@NYMasons.org

October 8, 2023

Dear Brethren and Friends,

We at the Grand Lodge of New York are trying to do our part towards answering the call of the distressed in providing a source of much needed help to those adversely affected by these unprovoked acts of violence and war against our Ally, the good citizens of the State of Israel. These unprecedented assaults, hostage taking and aggression by Hamas and other bad actors are especially traumatic and harrowing to the population of children and the elderly residing in both the cities and countryside of Gaza and Southern Region of Israel.

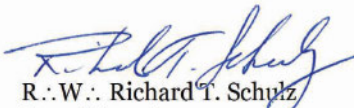
Your Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard J. Kessler, and the Grand Lodge of New York, in a strong showing of solidarity with our fellow brethren of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, we look to the members of our noble Craft to demonstrate their heartfelt compassion and empathy for our fellow human beings during this their hour of darkness. Together, we will emerge from this tragic and dispirited experience united with a renewed zeal for bringing back peace, harmony and brotherhood throughout the world. The essence of True Masonic Brotherhood will be a beacon of hope for all to see and emulate.

In the name of this charitable and humanitarian effort in support of our brothers and their families within the State of Israel, we are grateful to receive your contributions, both large and small, as checks payable to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund earmarked for the Grand Lodge Emergency Relief Fund. Please mail your checks directly to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4149. We will ensure that all funds collected will be given to the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel to be used to help our fellow Israeli Brothers and their families to become whole once again.

In anticipation of your most generous support, please accept the warmest fraternal thanks on behalf of the Grand Master, the officers and members of the Grand Lodge for your kind-spirited gift to the Grand Lodge Emergency Relief Fund. The noted humanitarian and physician, Dr. Albert Schweitzer said it best, **"There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."** In memory of the many victims who are injured, maimed or have perished during this calamity, and in cohesion with their families and fellow countrymen, we gratefully bear witness to your genuine and unselfish expression of charity.

Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity for our fellow human beings during these trying times.

With kindest fraternal regards, I am sincerely,


R.:W.: Richard T. Schulz
Grand Secretary

cc: Grand Lodge of the State of Israel



הלשכה הגדולה למדינת ישראל

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Dear Brothers of all the world,

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the letters and phone calls from all over the world of fraternal support and solidarity during these challenging times in the State of Israel. It is truly moving to receive so many expressions of identification with the Grand Lodge of Israel, its Dear Brethren, and the entire populace in Israel.

We find solace in being part of this worldwide movement where fraternal unity among Dear Brothers transcends all forms of hatred. Our Grand Lodge serves as an exemplary illustration of this, as we have Dear Brothers from all faiths, races, languages, and countries living together in harmony with genuine brotherly love.

We have received unwavering support from our Dear Brothers living in the North, who stand in solidarity with the Dear Brothers and families residing in the South. Our building is soon to be opened and made available to those in need, and we are voluntarily bringing our Lodge of Magicians to entertain the children. This is how a fraternal society is built, and we are the ones who must lead the way.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely and fraternally,

M.W.Bro Ilan Segev

R.W.Bro Jose Cohen

Grand Master

Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of the State of Israel

Grand Lodge of the State of Israel

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טלפון: 03-6954218
פקס: 03-6960271

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GRAND LODGE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



RW CHRISTOPHER J. HOUGH
CHAIRMAN
hough441@roadrunner.com



Greetings, from the Educational Assistance Committee! We hope your holiday festivities are well under way and that the Grand Architect continues to smile upon you.

The EAP committee is gearing up for the next round of education assistance grants and we look forward to hearing from all of the scholars out there. Last year Grand Lodge, funded by the Trustees of the Hall and Home, gave out \$1000 grants to 409 applicants to help the children and grandchildren of Masons fund their education.

Please also remember that if you are a Master Mason in good standing and are working on your education you are eligible to

apply for a grant, as well. Applications for the fall 2024 grants will go live on January 1, 2024 and will be open until March 31, 2024.

Applications can be found on the Grand Lodge website, www.nymasons.org. Scroll down to the list of Other Resources and select Educational Assistance. Then click on the Register Here button.

All scholars are eligible to receive a grant up to four times. If you have any issues or questions along the way, help can be found at www.education@masonichallnyc.org. Best wishes for a warm and loving holiday season!

Working Tools for Students

For the second year in a row the Brothers of Advance Service Mizpah Lodge 586, part of the Queens District, held a school supply drive benefiting P.S. 2Q elementary school in Astoria. The drive raised approximately \$1,500 worth of supplies which were presented September 6, just in time for the start of the school year. These school supplies will help students achieve the most from their education while easing the financial burden on their families.

In a letter thanking the Brothers of his District, W Antonio "Pon" DeCaro stated: "It is heartwarming to witness the power of unity and compassion within our Masonic brotherhood and the wider community."

The Brothers of Advance Service Mizpah Lodge 586 are already planning for the third year. We look forward to growing this school supply drive into an annual Lodge tradition.





BROTHER KENNETH JP STUCZYNSKI
WEBMASTER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
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FROM THE WEBMASTER

Artificial Intelligence is creeping into every aspect of our lives. But this is nothing new. Planes could land themselves for years. We have used spell-check with grammar suggestions for decades. We have programs that do the work of an entire accounting staff or save thousands of hours on engineering design and testing. Robots make our cars. But this feels different.

We often outsource our muscles to machines. Every leap in automation removes the need for humans in an economy based on human labor. It is not all bad news, though. We are more than beasts of burden. Machines free up pursuits of science and art. But then computers take care of much of the brain power behind our world now. This frees us up for more nuanced tasks. But what if technology catches up with everything else we do? Will surgeons and novelists go the way of the elevator operator? My sister decorates her dining room walls with pictures made with AI. Our grandchildren will probably not drive their own cars. And we will turn out insane amounts of writing and other media—but that is a whole other concern.

What aspect of us cannot be simulated and improved? Neuroscience and AI are playing off each other. The brain may serve as a model, or maybe creating such code is forcing us to ask how our brains work. But is not consciousness more than brains? Can there be an artificial soul? This is all a speculative discussion railroading toward an operative reality.

We are worried that AI will take our jobs; but can it replace us as a person? Tools, beasts, machines, computers, robots, AI—is this the march of ever-increasing displacement? Or is it a ladder reaching toward a better future for mankind? What do we have to change in society and ourselves to find our place in this brave new world? What makes us more than beasts of burden, number crunchers in an office, or an imitator of other people's art? Perhaps we can find an answer in Freemasonry.

Could AI do Masonic ritual? Of course, if it is just words we are looking for. Can AI approximate emotion and fool the mind into thinking it is human? Yup, that Rubicon has been crossed. So what is it we bring to the table as fellow human beings? What is it you can learn from someone flesh-and-blood that cannot be learned from books or experienced in virtual reality?

If the goal of ritual is perfection of speech and precise execution of movement, we may as well pack it in after we plug it in. Can we replace friendships with phone app characters? Some people are already content with such things. But so many of us are hungry for more than the “ambient intimacy” of social media. New generations are petitioning our Lodges for something not made with artificial hands.

It is not enough to imitate. We must truly connect—on a human, spiritual level. Perhaps that is the real, irreplaceable Work of Freemasonry.

To Infinity and the Lodge

by MW William Sardone

While in Utica RW Scott Peat and I made sure we paid a visit to the Infinity Lodge 00 that meets at the Masonic Care Community. It was a great evening, where we heard a lecture on the Constitution and then “someone” spoke about Model Trains. They even welcomed three new members.

This Lodge has a plan to link with other Lodges for Degrees and activities. It is very progressive thinking. Special thanks go to RW Rob Raffle and the MCC team who arrange for transportation for all to attend.



MASONIC YOUTH COMMITTEE

W ED DRAVES
CHAIRMAN
716/208-3346
eddraves@gmail.com

Brothers, your Masonic Youth Committee serves the future of the Fraternity. Primarily, we serve our three Masonic Youth Groups: DeMolay, Rainbow and Triangle. We also provide Scouting Troops with awards, administer the Totten Essay Contest, help youth leaders, produce and distribute the Grand Lodge of New York Educational Funding Resource Guide and do a few other tasks for our youth.

Your committee is made up of Master Masons with a strong youth background and training. We have Youth Group advisors, Sr. DeMolays, educators, and school administrators on the committee. A couple of years ago we noticed that Rainbow and Triangle were underrepresented on the committee. I am proud that we have recently added several members with strong backgrounds in our young ladies' groups. We always invite Mrs. Gould from Rainbow and the Triangle State Director (until recently Mrs. Turri and now Mrs. Groff) to our meetings. My Brothers, I tell you the ladies' groups are as vital to the future of our Fraternity as DeMolay.

I would encourage next year's Lodge Masters, as you create your Trestleboards, to consider a Masonic Youth night. You could invite local DeMolays, Triangles and Rainbows and some advisors. Or, as our committee is made up of Brothers from all over the state, a member of the Grand Lodge Masonic

Youth Committee could come and speak. We are certain that once engaged, your Lodge Brothers will become tremendous supporters of our youth.

Last year we were tasked with creating a handsome pin for the Youth Activities Award. The Youth Activities Award has rarely been given. It is "In recognition of dedicated action in youth activities in the community whereby the values and strengths of character which our Fraternity teaches and holds so dear are emulated in the application of programs for our youth."

We asked Brother and Committee Member Ken Samara to create a pin for us and we feel he knocked it out of the park. The pin is pictured, check it out. It would look tremendous on your lapel. Our thanks go to Brother Ken.



NC Communication Draws Visitors

The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in late September. New York Grand Master, MW Richard J. Kessler, and the Grand Secretary, RW Richard T. Schulz (and his wife Grayce Schulz) attended the Annual Communication

and the events of the weekend. This Annual Communication was well attended by members of the Northeast and neighboring Grand Jurisdictions. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"



The Grand Secretary of New York, RW Richard T. Schulz, and the Grand Secretary of North Carolina, RW Jonathan A. Underwood.



(l to r) RW Richard T. Schulz, Grand Secretary of New York; MW Annas F. Kamara, Grand Master of the District of Columbia; Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Karl V. Hopkins; MW Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master of New York.



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DeMolay Builds Youth and Tables

Every NY DeMolay State Event features a service-learning event for the young men and young women attending. This past summer then-State Master Councilor Jorge Hernandez, working with his state officers, decided to do something to

benefit the Masonic Home Camp. The group elected to build picnic tables. This provided the young men and women an opportunity to learn how to use power tools, safely use wood and partner together for teamwork.



NY DeMolays at International Conference

DeMolays Joseph Ferraro, Ethan Desrochers, Hunter Christiano, Thomas Tatu, Raven Santos and Tristan Schulbaum represented New York DeMolay at the annual DeMolay KeyMan Conference. Hosted in Elizabethtown, PA, this conference focuses on experiential learning and life skills.

During the course of the week the Brothers participated in seminars focusing on event planning, public speaking, problem solving and many other skills. Outside speakers included presentations on teenage mental health, how to respond to

emergencies, creative thinking and problem solving.

Conference participants also enjoyed social events including a Monte Carlo night; a Drive-in Movie with *Jaws*; basketball, Alaskan kickball and many other fun activities. Since 1922 DeMolay has hosted weeklong leadership conferences that help hone the leadership skills of young people. The DeMolay KeyMan conference has long been regarded as the premier leadership conference in DeMolay International.



DeMolay Chooses Leaders

New York DeMolay hosted their 56th annual convention at the Masonic Home Camp from August 17 to 20. Our largest convention in years, DeMolays, Sweethearts, Triangle and Rainbow members arrived from all corners of the state for a weekend of business, fun and fellowship. DeMolays enjoyed bonfires, swimming in the crystal clear lake of the Masonic Home Camp, boating, learning to fish, rides on the famous *Lady of the Lake*, miniature golf, a full day in Water Safari Water Park and making memories to last a lifetime.

During the business session the following Brothers were elected and installed in office. Brother Gavin Johnson is State Master Councilor; Brother Joseph Newton, Deputy State Master Councilor; Brother Joseph Ferraro is Lakes Region Master Councilor and Brother Nathaniel Spencer, Rivers Region Master Councilor. Brother Tristan Schulbaum was chosen Metro Region Master Councilor and Brother James Hess, State Scribe.

The DeMolays then elected Rainbow Sister Tabitha Ramos as the NY DeMolay State Sweetheart for the upcoming year. A big thank-you goes to the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home for allowing DeMolay to use one of the crown jewels of our Fraternity, the Masonic Home Camp.



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](https://www.facebook.com/NYRainbow)

Since we checked in for the last edition of the *ESM*, the members of NY Rainbow have been like Energizer bunnies. They keep going, and going and going.

The summer months have been busy with numerous Masonic visits and outdoor Assembly activities as well as visits to several other jurisdictions. Our Grand Worthy Advisor Alyssa and several of the Grand Representatives traveled extensively, making stops at the out-of-state Grand Assemblies in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Indiana, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont and New Jersey. It has been a great way to meet Rainbow Sisters and develop friendships with counterparts to start on a road of lifelong connections. They have also been able to experience the similarities and differences between their Rainbow and our own, get some new ideas and appreciate what is unique and special about the organization they have here at home.



They are currently working with the girls from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont on the Northeast Exchange. This is a weekend of fun, relaxation, team building and some community service scheduled for the end of October in New Hampshire.

With the onset of fall, it was back to school and back to regular meetings and business. So far, several Assemblies have held their installation of new officers, with more on the



schedule. We also held our first Grand Officer's Day of the Rainbow year in the Northern area on September 30. The day kicked off with a walk-a-thon for our state charity project, Ronald McDonald House Charities. We made over \$3700 in sponsors for the walk. A big thanks goes to Tigris Shrine who donated the shirts for the walk.



Then it was back to the Lodge where the girls learned the proper care and maintenance of their dragons and then the Grand Officers had to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities to earn their Viking shields to prove themselves worthy of their stations before we all enjoyed a wonderful dinner and lots of laughs. We also had several girls in there from Cortland, where we are in the process of opening an Assembly, so stay tuned for more information to come on that. The only thing that would have made it an even better day would have been having more of our Masonic family in attendance.



We all talk about the youth being our future. But what are we doing to ensure that they will want to become members of the adult organizations in the future? It is so important to support all of our NY Masonic youth groups in their meetings, fundraisers and other activities, and include them in what our groups are doing, to show them we care about them and want them to succeed. And bringing along your children, grandchildren and other youth in your life will certainly benefit everyone. Let us take the challenge issued by our Grand Master and really show them how Masons Make a Difference. The rewards will be felt by all of us.

ORGANIZATION OF TRIANGLE, INC.



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Better Around the Campfire

Fidelity Triangle 4, located in Rochester, is the oldest active Triangle in New York State. They have proved their ninety-six years of staying power through innovation, hard work, creativity and by keeping their members excited and engaged with consistent opportunities to create their own adventures.

On August 4 the intrepid Fidelity ladies, never ones to back away from a challenge, packed their hiking boots and bug spray for a weekend of camping and team-building fun at Lakeside State Park near Hamlin Beach. They worked together to choose the best campsite locations to pitch their tents and set to work exploring all the area had to offer. Members ventured into the lake and hiked along the shore, then headed to the park's Rec Hall for games and bonding. There was also time set aside to work on potential talent show skits for our organization's upcoming State Convention.



In the evening, the ladies and supervisors gathered around the campfire for hot dogs and s'mores as well as the necessary campfire songs and stories. The singing, giggles and fun lasted late into the evening before dousing the fire, as everyone finally retired to tents and sleeping bags.

In the morning Beloved Queen and future Top Chef Eliza treated the campers to a breakfast of eggs and sausages before packing up and cleaning the campsite to head home.



The ladies had an incredible time together and have since decided to make this an annual tradition for the Triangle. They are already working on plans to choose the campground for next year and nearby Triangles are excited to travel and join them for their next adventure.

Causewave Mission Touches Triangles

On June 10 the Senior and Junior Advisory Council of the Organization of Triangles, Inc. worked alongside Causewave Community Partners to strengthen and reframe the essence of our Organization. In order for a group to grow and prosper, we have to constantly re-evaluate our "why." What is it that we are hoping to provide the future of tomorrow? And what message do we want to spread throughout New York State and beyond?



This nonprofit's mission is to "make communities stronger by bringing voice to diverse public issues and needs and building capacity within nonprofit organizations." For eight consecutive hours their team navigated us through thorough questioning and guided discussion. We discovered a beautiful agreement on providing Leadership, Friendship, Service, Growth. The gratitude we have is incomprehensible.

Some readers may remember receiving an email from our Organization containing a survey of questions. To those who did take the time to honestly answer, thank you. You were a great asset to the session and you should be proud of yourselves. This is only the beginning of the branding process and we look forward to helping shape confident, brave and wonderful leaders for generations to come.



Rosebuds: Next Generation of Triangles

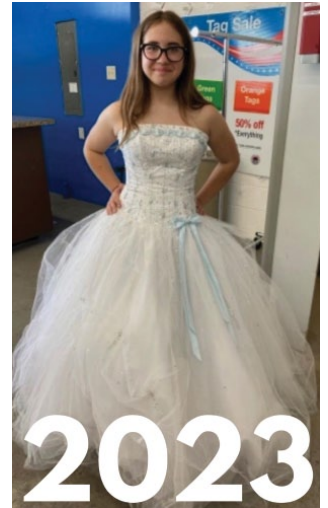
Our organization was founded in the early 1920s after members of the Order of the Eastern Star communicated how much their own daughters enjoyed “playing Eastern Star.” The leadership at the time, including our founder Mrs. Rose E. Scherer, agreed that those girls deserved a club of their own, and thus our organization was born.

Decades later many of our families and advisors noticed a similar trend, but this time it was the younger sisters of



following in the footsteps of the older girls whom they looked up to and emulated for years.

In spring of 2023 our Organization agreed that, due to its established record of success, the Rosebud Program is here to stay. We now have an official application process and brochure with official guidelines. Every Triangle in the state currently has its own group of Rosebuds or is in the process of starting a group. A testament to the program’s success and longevity: Alana R., one of the earliest original, official Rosebuds, is currently Junior Lady of Truth Triangle and will be installed as Beloved Queen in April.



current members who were excited to attend events and “play Triangle” like their older siblings. Conversations quietly began about what to do with these eager future members and how to keep them engaged.

The first proposed official version of an organized junior program for young girls between the ages of 5 and 9 was brought to the Advisory Council to discuss in 2012 by the Junior Deputy of Truth Triangle 31, Mrs. Debbie Schulbaum.

The idea was discussed at the

State level, but was not fully accepted and permitted for trial until March of 2018. Truth Triangle in Huntington was given permission to begin testing the necessity and effectiveness of having a junior program, named “The Rosebuds” as a loving reference to our own organization’s founder.

Truth Triangle found immediate success with their Rosebuds, inviting them to participate alongside regular members in parades, at meetings and at fundraisers. Every single Rosebud eventually went on to be officially initiated into Triangle when she reached the age for membership. Since then, Triangles across the state have also adopted Rosebud programs, all based on the original guidelines put forth in the original proposal. Each Triangle also found creative ways to mold the group’s activities based on the interests and abilities of their own members. Each Triangle has found the same result Truth Triangle did: every single Rosebud has gone on to become a member, directly

Today our Rosebuds are invited to participate in fundraisers, perform community service, attend meetings and events and even at times travel to events outside of their own home Triangle. There are Rosebud-specific events planned, such as the Rosebud Tea Party co-hosted by Cassiopeia and Lockport Triangles. They attend leadership trainings, participate in confidence building and public speaking workshops, and take part in fun activities of their choosing, all while building a strong foundation of confidence, creativity and teamwork.

Our current Rosebuds are the future of our organization and a bright example of what is to come for our Organization. We love our fierce future leaders. For more information, please contact your local Triangle or contact us through social media.

Flip Inside for a Petition today!

The Organization of Triangles, Inc., is a young women’s leadership and service organization that was founded in 1927 by Mrs. Rose E. Scherer. Mrs. Scherer is the inspiration behind our “Rosebuds” junior program!

For nearly 100 years, thousands of young women across New York State have formed lifelong friendships, gained leadership skills, impacted their communities and empowered one another to find success in their personal and professional lives, all while having fun and making memories.

Now is the perfect time to start your journey!

Contact Information

Reach out to your local Triangle or message us on Facebook and Instagram!

Triangle Rosebuds

LET YOUR DREAMS BLOSSOM!

Now more than ever we must strive to teach our girls just how powerful they can be!

As a Rosebud, your girl will:

- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- GAIN CONFIDENCE
- SUPPORT HER COMMUNITY
- GROW HER FAITH
- LEARN LIFE SKILLS
- DISCOVER HER VOICE
- HAVE FUN!

The Organization of Rosebud Program Triangles, Inc.

Building Leaders Ages 5-9!

LET'S GO GIRLS

Affiliate of the Organization of Triangles, Inc.



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

MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FUND

Masonic Brotherhood Fund






nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org

The Masonic Brotherhood Fund 2023-2024 Campaign Year has begun. By now you should have received the Grand Master's appeal letter and donation card. The Masonic Brotherhood Fund is the charity arm of our Fraternity. The Fund provides a much-needed vehicle for raising and collecting funds that sustain our various Masonic projects and entities, such as the Masonic Care Community, the Masonic Medical Research Institute, the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library, Camp Turk, Disaster Relief and the Joanne Kessler Children's Dyslexia Center, to name a few. But of paramount importance, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund provides much-needed funds for our distressed Brothers, their families and widows and orphans through the Masonic Benevolence.

These are institutions and projects that show how your generous contributions allow the Masonic Brotherhood Fund to make an impact. We are proud of the fine support of the

Masonic Brotherhood Fund to Grand Lodge Charities. Year after year, the generosity of the Masonic Family has helped sustain many important institutions and community projects in our jurisdiction. When someone asks, "What do Masons do?" show them or tell them who we are, what we do and how "We Make a Difference."

On behalf of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation for your consideration in making a donation. Your donation will make it possible for us to continue our mission and provide vital resources to our community. There are great thank-you gifts as a commemoration of your generous donation. Please visit nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org to make a donation or call the Masonic Brotherhood Fund Office at 212/337-6652. If you would like to mail a check, please mail it to Masonic Brotherhood Fund, PO Box 2497, Hicksville, NY 11802-2497.

\$50.00 Donation Grocery Tote and Magnet 	\$50.00 Donation Military Bear 	\$75.00 Donation Baseball Cap and Magnet 
\$100.00 Donation Computer Bag and Magnet 		"Bonus Thank You Gift" while supplies last  <p>For a limited time only and while supplies last, every \$100.00 order will receive a Bonus Thank You gift of a pair of Masonic Socks</p>
\$100.00 Donation Umbrella and Magnet 		"Bonus Thank You Gift" while supplies last  <p>For a limited time only and while supplies last, every \$100.00 order will receive a Bonus Thank You gift of a pair of Masonic Socks</p>

\$250.00 Donation - All Gifts- Grocery Bag, Magnet, Baseball Cap, Computer Bag and Umbrella 						
						Bonus while supplies last 

MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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



As we are beginning to prepare for the holidays and a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to review the major events of the past year which have affected your Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI). The year 2023 was a challenging one for all of us but many good things came from it.

Financially, MMRI weathered the perfect storm of poor returns on our investments due to the fluctuating state of the stock market, the slow economic recovery and staggering inflation. The Board of Directors made bold but calculated decisions to reduce some of our long-term debt. Our for-profit quality assurance testing center is up and running and hopefully will assure a steady return on our investment. Dr. Kontaridis and her scientific staff are continually applying for scientific grants from the National Institute of Health (NIH), federal and state agencies and various other sources. We are confident that all these efforts will stabilize our financial future.

Scientifically, several new primary scientific investigators have been hired. These highly talented researchers will continue to give MMRI a competitive advantage in the scientific world and move us forward to solving the pathological processes of multiple diseases. Our scientists have applied for several patents this year. We are hopeful that these patents will bear fruit both scientifically and financially. Over twenty-five scientific articles have been published in highly esteemed scientific journals by our scientists this year, alone. I applaud our scientists, technicians and our leadership team for their great success in 2023.

Our administrative staff grew as well. We have been able to attract and hire several talented people in areas of marketing, branding and development. We are encouraged that they will bring fresh and effective new ideas to these programs. These specialty areas are the lifeblood of our organization, without which we would perish. I am also happy to announce that our administrative staff is also currently working on a patent.

Other areas of success in 2023 include our first annual MMRI charity golf tournament. Nearly 100 golfers from all over the state supported our effort. The Utica community came out big time with major sponsor support and participation. This was due to the involvement of our Community Advisory Committee. Our entire staff did an outstanding job to make this event a huge success. The year 2023 also brought many

new members to our 1958 club. This is a pain-free way to support MMRI with a monthly donation of \$19.58. If you have not joined yet, I encourage you to consider it. Visit MMRI.edu/1958-club to join.

In 2023 we reinforced our partnership with the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association (LADA). We were given a donation of \$200,000 to continue our research efforts on this dreaded disease. This is a valuable collaboration and we are very grateful.

In January we participated in the annual Sojourners Luncheon in Florida. We proudly supplied the 50-year and 55-year aprons which were presented to our Brothers who now reside in Florida. We also had the opportunity to enlighten them about our current efforts at MMRI.

At the Council of Grand Masters annual meeting in Alexandria, VA, Dr. Kontaridis and I were honored to address the assembled Grand Masters from around the world and present our report on the current research projects at MMRI. Many collaborations were made and support was garnered from Grand Jurisdictions across the country.

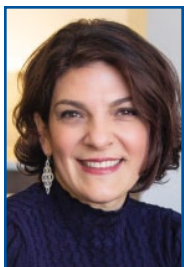
At our Grand Lodge session in May, Dr. Kontaridis and I were able to address the assembled members of the New York Grand Lodge. We reported on the multiple successes and challenges of your MMRI. We were also touched and shocked when the Rainbow girls presented us with a check for \$13,000 to continue our autism research. We are very grateful to these outstanding young ladies for their generosity.

These are just a few highlights of a successful and challenging year. Listing our financial successes is a double-edged sword. It shows that we are recognized and embraced by many prestigious groups but may also give one the impression that we are doing so well we do not need their support. I assure you that is not the case. Despite all of our grants and donations, we still run a deficit every year. Research is expensive. We count on everyone's participation to keep the doors open, to continue to do outstanding research and to make every New York Mason proud.

We expect 2024 to be an even better year. Thank you for your continued support. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Institute and the entire staff, I wish you and your family happy holidays and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Find us on:





MARIA I. KONTARIDIS, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

315/624-7496

mkontaridis@mmri.edu

MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



This year marks a historical milestone as we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) in Utica, New York. In 1958 MMRI was founded by the New York State Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons after they helped raise funds to eradicate rheumatic disease. Today, MMRI focuses on propelling medical science and empowering scientists to take risks, share ideas and build an inclusive community. Importantly, we remain the only research institution founded by, governed by and supported by you, Masons.

The core research areas for our current endeavors have grown to focus on understanding mechanisms of cardiovascular, autoimmune and neurocognitive diseases. In this regard, and as many of you can appreciate, finding new strategies to treat disease can be costly and research is expensive. Our scientists do their best to bring in federal and foundational research grants to support their projects; however, a gap still exists. This is where you come in and have helped make the difference. We hope you continue your support, as only together we can find the cures to treat life's worst ailments.

To this end, in just the last few months, our world-renowned faculty have brought in another \$4M in new, highly competitive federal and foundational research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association (LADA) and American Heart Association (AHA). Our 65th anniversary year has also brought us great success in philanthropy, with generous gifts from both Masons and non-Masons alike. We are grateful to each and every one of you for these gifts. During St. John's weekend this past June, Grand Master Kessler, Deputy Grand Master Rubin, members of the Grand Line and Board of Trustees, as well as our MMRI Board, faculty and staff had the pleasure of recognizing the incredible generosity of four of our incredible donors here in Utica:

Louis Rosenthal, who has graciously donated near \$500K in support of MMRI's research efforts in honor of his late wife, Theresa Rosenthal. A plaque was unveiled in the chemistry laboratory suite in her honor.

Cecelia and Ronald Gouse of New Hartford, NY, were recognized with a Vine of Life statue and leaf in recognition of their continued philanthropic support of more than \$13K.



The Masons of Mariner's Lodge 67 of Manhattan presented MMRI with a donation of \$1,250. This donation was organized by Lodge Brother Michael Sachs.



Sheldon Richman, Esq., MMRI Board member, was honored for his donations, which now surpass \$25K. A Vine of Life statue and leaf were presented during the commemoration.



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Continued from page 39 – MMRI

More recently, we received a generous \$1,500 donation from the members and families of La Fraternidad Lodge 387, and specifically, from the Comite de Damas (ladies committee), who raised funds to support MMRI's efforts in autism. This donation is just the latest of a series of philanthropic gifts made by the group and we thank them for all their support.

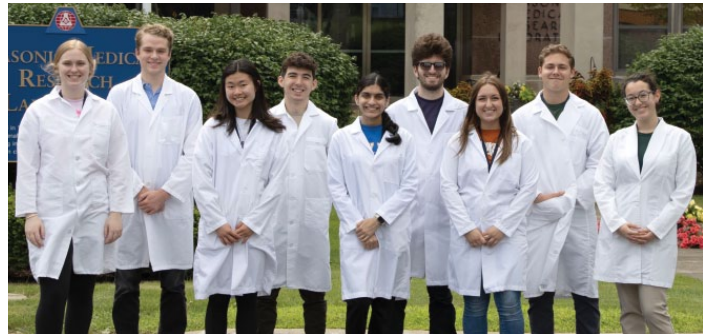


This summer, too, we welcomed our 2023 class of Summer Fellows, each of whom participated in a ten-week program for undergraduate, graduate and medical students interested in research under the guidance of our faculty. The nine summer fellows were Joseph Detraglia, Dasomie Kim, Ryan Klapmeyer,

Find us on:



Meghan Lynskey, Joshua Macera, Alexander Mandia, Adelina Rivera, Nikita Shah and Caitlin Snyder.



Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to announce our first 1958 Gala! The black-tie event is for everyone but will include a special gift for our "1958 Club" members. Stay tuned, and no, it is not too late to join. The event is scheduled to take place in March of 2024. Additional details will be released soon at mmri.edu.

To inquire about our research, arrange for a tour of MMRI or support us with a gift, please contact me at mkontaridis@mmri.edu and 315/624-7496. You can reach our Development Director, Stephen F. Izzo at stephenizzo@mmri.edu and 908/477-7966.

Travels With the Grand Secretary

The Grand Secretary, RW Richard Schulz, recently attended the Order of Eastern Star Grand Reception for the incoming Grand Matron, RW Deirdre McCauley, and Grand Patron, RW Edward Mosso in Binghamton, NY. Several other members of the Grand Line, including our Deputy Grand Master, RW Steven A. Rubin, attended.

The Grand Commander's Reception was held in Albany, NY. The reception was in celebration of the incoming Grand Commander KT, R. Conrad Johnson. It was hosted by Morton Commandery 4, KT. The photo shows three Past Commanders of Morton Commandery.

A recent Publicity Lodge 1000 meeting was the site where three Past District Deputy Grand Masters from 1996 to 1998 reunited. They served under the late MW Earle J. Hino.



(l to r) RW Richard Schulz, Grayce Schulz, Right Worthy Grand Matron Deirdre McCauley, Right Worthy Grand Patron Edward Mosso.



(l to r) RW Richard Schulz; RW Christopher Allen; RW R. Conrad Johnson, Grand Commander KT.



(l to r) RW Richard Schulz, RW Ronald Sabloskey, RW George Avgerakis.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS



**Meritorious Service Award Recipients
at NY Council of Deliberation June 2023**



**New York State
Council of Deliberation**

The Scottish Rite, often referred to as 32° Freemasonry, is an appendant body of Freemasonry a Master Mason may join to journey deeper into the teachings of the Craft. Our Vision Statement focuses us: *"We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members."* Our Mission is to enhance a Freemason's journey toward wisdom and enlightenment, by providing Inspirational, Convenient, and Enjoyable experiences for our members and families, expanding upon the fundamental principles of Freemasonry through our 29 degrees, exploring Masonic teachings more deeply. It reveals a wealth of knowledge about Masonry not found in the other degrees, and challenges men by advancing the philosophy of Freemasonry and providing an environment of personal and spiritual growth through their journey.

The Scottish Rite in New York State is alive and prospering. At our June NY Council of Deliberation, twelve 32° Masons were awarded the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) for their service to the Rite in their respective Valleys. Also, 8 Valleys in the State were awarded the Valley of Excellence for 2022-2023 by the Supreme Council. The Valleys of Rockville Centre, Utica, Rochester, Syracuse, New York City, Troy, the Hudson, and Schenectady were recognized at the Supreme Council

AASR-NMJ session in Louisville, KY this past August. Finally, 32 Scottish Rite Masons from New York were coroneted 33° Honorary Members of Supreme Council at this session, the largest class in sometime. We applaud these Masons on this accomplishment.

Speaking of Supreme Council, New York has been honored that the Sovereign Grand Commander for the past two years has been Ill Peter J. Samiec, 33°, from the Valley of Schenectady. His term has ended and a new Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill Walter F. Wheeler 33°, of Michigan has been elected. We wish the new SGC well as he leads the Rite into the future. We celebrated Ill Samiec's tenure at his homecoming on October 7, 2023.

Scottish Rite Masons have a long history of service to Freemasonry. If you are not a 32° Scottish Rite Mason and would like to be, or would like to learn more about the Rite, visit the Supreme Council website (www.scottishritenmj.org), or Council of Deliberation website (www.nyscottishritemasons.org) which have a wealth of information as well as an online application process.

29 Degrees + 6 Core Values = An Extraordinary Life!



The newest 33° Honorary Members of Supreme Council from New York



**CRYPTIC
MASONS**



**KNIGHTS
TEMPLAR**



**ROYAL ARCH
MASONS**

YEARS OF SERVICE

80 YEARS

0589 NAURASHANK
Ernest V. Rodgers

78 YEARS

0154 ERAC
Alvin E. Boss
0168 CORNING PAINTED POST
Wayne C. Temppler
0463 LAMOKA
Lauren Wood
0806 MATINECOCK
Robert W. Whaley

77 YEARS

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Frederick W. Fecher
0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR
Joseph Walter Watson
0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Leonard Tauber
0981 AMHERST
Harold C. Bechmann

76 YEARS

0136 HIRAM
Robert W. Harter
0673 AVOCA
Christopher P. McAllister
0822 LYNBROOK-MASSAPEQUA
William R. Lockwood
0956 SPARTAN
Sidney Packer
1066 HARRY S TRUMAN
Gerald S. Wank

75 YEARS

0010 KINGSTON
Lester E. Frost
0020 MOUNT MORIAH
Ira Kass
0134 LOWVILLE
Charles J. Reeder II
0145 MOUNT MORIAH
William L. Wright
0148 TRI-VALLEY
Lloyd James Button
0782 TRIUNE-OBED
Robert W. Bahret
0793 BABYLON
Bernard Bernstein

74 YEARS

0155 FRATERNAL
Winston R. Norcross
0250 WILLARD SYLVAN GROVE
Levon Margosian
0449 MANHATTAN
Abraham Avedissian
0458 SHEKOMEKO
John E. Kading
0463 LAMOKA
Robert E. Canfield
0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE
Glendon A. Raymond
0797 SENECA
Donald Blair Scrivens
0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Gerald Hundert

73 YEARS

0008 HOLLAND
Francis D. Everett Jr
0063 WANTAGH MORTON
Thomas F. McTigue
0154 ERAC
Leland G. Comstock
0417 WADSWORTH
William R. Colclough
0875 HENDRICK HUDSON
Ralph M. Douglas
0892 QUEENSBORO
George D. Blasch
0977 AMITYVILLE
Herbert W. Steel

72 YEARS

0006 ST. GEORGE'S
Lyle W. Hall
Ralph P. Richter
0073 CHARLOTTEVILLE
Lloyd Williams
0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN
Walter T. Ersly
0126 EASTERN LIGHT
Harold G. Maider
0127 LAKE CITY
David M. Russell IV
0132 NIAGARA LA SALLE
Harold W. Cooper
0168 CORNING PAINTED POST
Charles H. Chase
0178 CORNERSTONE
Sidney C. Greenfield

0250 WILLARD SYLVAN GROVE
Andrew Torigian

0284 AMERICA
Ernest C. Schlottmann

0435 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL
Leslie H. Wilmarth

0494 JEPHTHA
Alfred Q. Kuntz

0516 PARK
James W. McDonald

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Harold Sobel

0699 HARMONIE
Robert Clayton Heron

0714 WIELAND
John Arnold Eymor

0782 TRIUNE-OBED
Justus Edward McCarty

0847 RAQUETTE RIVER LODGE
Bazil S. Burns

0877 WEST POINT
Robert H. Johnston

71 YEARS

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Maynard H. Brown Jr

0087 VAN RENSSELAER
David E. Knight Jr

0309 HUDSON RIVER
George R. Kohler

0439 DELAWARE RIVER
Donald Lee Haight

0486
GOLDENRULE CLERMONT MCKINLEY
Harry Colter

0521 SULLIVAN
Marvin Blumenfeld

0524 MORNING STAR
Gilbert Herbert Lovell Jr

0649 ROBINSON
James D. Heckman

0751 LA UNIVERSAL
Justo Yglesias

0819 COMPOSITE
Milton J. Bornstein

0843 STAR OF THE EAST
Bruce Collins

0981 AMHERST
James D. Collins

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN
Neil Sznitken

70 YEARS

0082 PHOEBUS
Donald A. Shimer

0175 OXFORD
Robert A. Levin

0230 UNIVERSITY
John G. Giopulos

0246 ARCANA
Paul Adolph Adams
Marvin Kerr

0297 ALEXANDRIA
Clarence F. Giles Jr

0393 WADDINGTON
Gerald W. Crump

0524 MORNING STAR
Ralph Edward Douglas

0575 OLIVE
Fred Elbert Porter

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR
Robert R. Benson

0649 ROBINSON
Seymour D. Heckman

0822 LYNBROOK-MASSAPEQUA
Ralph Gaeta

0843 STAR OF THE EAST
David A. Griffiths

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Mark Levy

0956 SPARTAN
John C. Lemmin Jr

65 YEARS

0006 ST. GEORGE'S
Henry F. Bottieri

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Daniel Edwin Fleming

0084 AMSTERDAM
Charles V. Pettengill

0096 MOUNT HOPE-PHOENIX
Paul F. Brown

0103 RISING SUN
John Henry Dowen Sr

0105 HIRAM
Howard Freel Walters

0132 NIAGARA LA SALLE
Charles R. Dunn

0138 OTSEGO
Robert J. Clark

0149 AU SABLE RIVER
David Wesley Kellas

0153 VALLEY
William J. Bucholtz

0167 TRI-TOWN
George R. Silvernell

0177 BINGHAMTON
Edward J. Tinklepaugh

0193 ULSTER
Roger E. Myer

0201 GENESIS
William J. Henderson

0287 CONTINENTAL
Michael Masanovich

0297 ALEXANDRIA
James Thompson Wallace

0358 ANCIENT LANDMARKS
Richard T. Crandall

0433 FORT PLAIN
Owen Christman

0434 PLEASANTVILLE HIAWATHA
Francis J. McRobie

0472 TRITOWN
Frank Irving Satterly

0479 UNITY
Charles D. Cork
Orlo Leroy Noxon

0522 SKANEATELES
William G. Reckmeyer

0533 ROUND HILL
Terence T. McCormick

0581 WINFIELD
Duane Aney Jr

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Richard A. Primiano

0589 NAURASHANK
George E. De Jong

0627 WALKILL
Robert L. Lehn

0699 HARMONIE
George William Clever

0782 TRIUNE-OBED
Douglas H. Casement
Harold E. Veeder Jr

0789 WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN
Don O. Smith

0793 BABYLON
William John Hughes
Robert C. Sturm

0806 MATINECOCK
Hans H. Pedersen

0820 ON DA WA
Harold W. Horning

0863 DUNWOODIE
Albert R. Goldner

0877 WEST POINT
Hans B. Wessels

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Melvin J. Lipetz

0970 JOHNSON CITY UNITY
T. Ange Vahamikos

1016 FLORAL PARK
Henry George Heidtmann Jr

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN
Benjamin P. Schindler

1097 ALLIANCE
Edward F. Clair

1127 SMITHTOWN
Peter G. Dounias

1175 FELLOWSHIP
Wm Arnold Prudden

1178 GREAT VALLEY
Howard M. Peterson

1188 RENAISSANCE
Charles E. Fisher

60 YEARS

0039 OLIVE BRANCH
William Einar Gall

0056 ST. ALBANS
Frederick Joseph Lloyd

0063 WANTAGH MORTON
Dale W. Lambert
David Stevely Jr

0083 NEWARK
James A. Fagner

0085 BETHLEHEM
Herman Ungerman

0087 VAN RENSSELAER
Charles J. Wilson

0105 HIRAM
Douglas H. Burdick

0109 INSPIRATION
Jay D. Rodgers

0124 AUBURN
Robert E. Coleman

0128 OGDENSBURGH-ACACIAN
Kenneth S. Masters Jr

0136 HIRAM
Ronald L. Ives

0154 ERAC
William W. Mason

0155 FRATERNAL
R Lee Kingsbury
Wayne Ernest Miller

0166 FOREST
Donald F. Ellington

0177 BINGHAMTON
William D. Ferris

0195 FRANKLIN
Ronald J. Starkes

0196 SOLOMON'S
Robert B. Davis

0217 GOUVERNEUR
David L. Spilman Sr.

0230 UNIVERSITY
Douglas Vanness Richmond

0241 HARMONY
Philip Grant Moore
Gary V. Muckian
Kenneth D. Pollack

0283 BEACON
Stanley L. Grossman

0294 CANANDAIGUA
Milton V. Munson

0306 CUBA-FRIENDSHIP
Edward E. Blodgett
Jack S. Shaw

0358 ANCIENT LANDMARKS
John David Bidwell

0381 HUGUENOT
Robert A. Baker

0383 NORTHERN AURORA
Darrel Joseph Hoadley
John Eric Safford

0396 DEPOSIT
Keith Scott III

0404 CONSTELLATION
C Roger Chapin

0416 WAYNE
Richard Chapple

0417 WADSWORTH
James L. Fuller

0476 FAIRPORT-FLOWER CITY
Lawrence E. Hood

0481 CAMBRIDGE VALLEY
Robert H. Endee Jr

0494 JEPHTHA
Robert J. Weinacht

0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE
Jeffrey W. Morey

0508 HERSCHEL-ARGYLE
George A. Kilmer

0522 SKANEATELES
Walter L. McKeown

0545 COPERNICUS
Erwin Ruecksties

0557 JAMES M. AUSTIN
Norman E. Sutton

0568 ST. CECILE
Ging Gee Tom

0573 DE PEYSTER
Norman Allen Bice
Robert Carlton Todd

0579 PORTVILLE
John William Steiger

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Douglas C S Walker

0616 CAZENOVIA
David H. Brown Jr

0619 EAGLE
Robert D. Helling

0649 ROBINSON
James L. Parker

0671 WAPPINGERS
Hendrik Van Veenendaal

0695 ALCYONE
Peter G. Panarites

0712 PELHAM
Joseph Hoffer

0729 ANCHOR-ASTORIA
Richard J. Folz

0735 UHLAND
Karl M. Ahrens

0739 MAIMONIDES-MARSHALL
Arnold Koenig
Henry Schnapper

0740 ALLEMANIA
Egon H. Gooss

0772 RESCUE
William W. Wright

0779 CLIO
Kenneth R. Mullen

0819 COMPOSITE
Barry Weintrob

0821 BETHANY
David R. Davidson

0838 CONNETQUOT
Arthur E. Volkmann

0839 ATHELSTANE
Charles H. Seifert Jr

0877 WEST POINT
Charles Wood Tonneson

0879 CHARLES W. CUSHMAN
Allen E. Maull

0890 JOSHUA
Morris D. Franco

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Gerald Wolkoff

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Howard Elakman

0998 NORTrip
Roger W. Neville
Allen R. Vansanford

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
George J. Burton Jr
Raymond W. Ross

1185 WESTERN STAR
Bradley H. Hafner
Bert A. Larson
Carlton M. Neal Jr
Robert L. Stewart

1186 KEN-TON
Winslow William Hunt

55 YEARS

0007
MONUMENTAL HUDSON WIDOW'S SON
Malcolm Geo Smalley Jr

0013 APOLLO-KING SOLOMON'S
William F. Winslow

0020 MOUNT MORIAH
Joel D. Epstein

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Harold H. Riddell

0046 HUGUENOT
Douglas K. Vogel

0063 WANTAGH MORTON
Roy K. Dahlen

0066 STATEN ISLAND
George A. Bleimann

0082 PHOEBUS
Donald Arthur Lloyd II

0083 NEWARK
James C. Hartnagel

0084 AMSTERDAM
Bruce Van Genderen

0085 BETHLEHEM
Melvin Sovitsky

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN
Glenn A. Craig

0109 INSPIRATION
Robert L. Anderson II
George H Gray

0112 STEUBEN
A David Ferris
A John Ferris

0126 EASTERN LIGHT
R Irving Crumb

0132 NIAGARA LASALLE
Richard D. McNally

0136 HIRAM
Paul Kenneth Edwards

0154 ERAC
Donald D. Wesgate Jr

0155 FRATERNAL
Charles M. Sullivan

0168 CORNING PAINTED POST
James D. Green

0195 FRANKLIN
Robert Frederic Rau

0205 PHOENIX
Sherman Cammeyer

0230 UNIVERSITY
Gerald F. Cartledge
Lyle R. Slingerland

0241 HARMONY
David G. Miller

0305 FAYETTEVILLE CENTRAL CITY
David Wayne Kamp

0306 CUBA-FRIENDSHIP
Larry D. Tucker

0313 STONY POINT WAWAYANDA
Henry C. Serry

0349 PECONIC
Alvah B. Goldsmith

0358 ANCIENT LANDMARKS
Zorobabel E. Caro
Gordon H. Winstanley II

0368 CROTON
John A. Olofsson Jr

0383 NORTHERN AURORA
Charles Wm Owens

0392 SODUS
William J. Shaver

0393 WADDINGTON
James A. Wright

0399 MAINE
Michael D. Derry

0435 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL
Phillip Allen Hartley
James Edward O'Brien
Gary George Ravert

0438 MARATHON
David C. Eaton

0458 SHEKOMEKO
Robert H. Bergfels

0468 RIP VAN WINKLE
John B. Baker Jr

0473 WHITE PLAINS
Robert K. Stevenson

0484 COLUMBIAN
Donald Bavuso

0511 KINGS COUNTY
Robert E. Meadows

0521 SULLIVAN
Arthur R. Burgess

0561 DELAWARE
Bruce F. Grund
Reginald R. Hillriegel

0575 OLIVE
Douglas Arthur Neal

0581 WINFIELD
Michael A. Louvet

0582 WAWARSING
Howard C. Weiner

0584 ASHLAR
Richard G. Brownell

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Robert Irwin Berger
Mark A. Garbus
Richard C. Schaffer Sr.
Allen Scherl

0589 NAURASHANK
Charles R. Medlicott

0608 LESSING
Jakob Stockel

0627 WALLKILL

Robert James Decker
Drew A. Dorner

0645 RIVERHEAD

Alan H. Covey

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR

Peter J. Anchundia
Robert Harold Nixon

0653 JOHN JAY

John R. Coulter

0664 AMICABLE

Spencer Wm Roberts

0694 BLAZING STAR

Kenneth G. Bartoo
Vernon E. Frost

0708 KISCO

John T. Mcwaters

0740 ALLEMANIA

Klaus J. Bornemann

0779 CLIO

Stuart Brickman

0793 BABYLON

Rainer Stenberg Jr

0796 DOLGEVILLE

Edward R. Johnson
Ronald R. Williams

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL

Thomas G. Warner

0824 MAZZINI

Biagio Valenti III

0849 NORTH WOODS

Sherrill B. Burdick
Edward M. Wilcox

0872 COLUMBUS-DAVINCI-GALILEI

Eugene H. Vanhaaren

0875 HENDRICK HUDSON

Frederick W. Grieve

0890 JOSHUA

Kenneth I. Barth

0892 QUEENSBORO

Albert J. Fuge Jr
William H. Meyer
William H. Otto

0916 PHILADELPHIA

Robert P. Moore

1016 FLORAL PARK

Henry S. Kanellos

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

Howard E. Bonsaing
Niels N. Schmidt

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN

Steven P. Karp

1097 ALLIANCE

Richard W. Engelbrecht

1172 JOSE RIZAL

Danilo F. Faraon

1174 SCHENECTADY

Anthony Dimascio

50 YEARS

0005 MASTERS

John Carter Brownrigg
Sinukuan Canete
Mariano

0009 UNITY

Kenneth Phesay

0019 MIDWOOD FORTITUDE

Gerard F. Dixon

0063 WANTAGH MORTON

William H. Adams

0065 MORNING STAR

David Michael Wallace

0075 EVENING STAR

John M. Ferra

0084 AMSTERDAM

Robert L. Brumley

0085 BETHLEHEM

Kenneth M. Shapiro

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN

Jack Edwin Christian

0108 MILO

Robert J. Scott
Ronald Spike

0109 INSPIRATION

James R. Holzwarth
Terry Lee Ramsey
Glenn A Stahl

0137 ANGLO-SAXON

Raymond Gniewek

0149 AU SABLE RIVER

Richard Joseph Klages

0150 SAUQUOIT

Richard Webster Abbott

0155 FRATERNAL

Lawrence D. Houston

0166 FOREST

Charles R. Erbsmehl

0172 CHAUMONT

Frank G. Youd

0201 GENESIS

Jerald B. Hershman

0224 ORIENTAL-FANTON

Rodney L. St Clair

0232 KING SOLOMON-BEETHOVEN

Robert A. Wellins

0287 CONTINENTAL

Harry Allen Marshall

0309 HUDSON RIVER

Alfred R. Tragis

0320 UNION STAR

Dennis O. Coons
Charles B. Grimm

0349 PECONIC

Thomas A. Taggart
Arthur J. Wilks III

0352 HOMER

Daniel J. Funk

0375 NIAGARA

Paul C. Vergils Jr

0393 WADDINGTON

Byron R. Rutherford

0433 FORT PLAIN

Raymond L. Garrett Jr

0435 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL

William Wynn Bittner

0439 DELAWARE RIVER

Joseph A. Laine Jr

0445 CASSIA

Stephen Ira Kramer

0458 SHEKOMEKO

Donald Barlow

0472 TRITOWN

David Paul Rose

0476 FAIRPORT-FLORER CITY

Hyman Ralph Graver

0479 UNITY

Thomas A. Friedo

0483 ZEREDATHA

Norman Morton Bakal
Joseph Potasnik

0506 RISING LIGHT

John J. Whitney

0511 KINGS COUNTY

George H. Bethel Jr

0542 GARIBALDI

Vincent Libone
Andre Pagoto
Michael Spagnuolo

0551 RANSOMVILLE

H Lee Menard

0553 FARMERS

Arleigh W. Fikes

0555

YORKTOWN-DIAMOND-THISTLE

David W. Dudley

0634 SCOTIA

John D. Thomson Jr

0671 WAPPINGERS

Dorrance Wesley Seaman

0681 CAROLINE

William George Harrower

0740 ALLEMANIA

Richard Von Bargaen

0776 RELIANCE

Frederick W. Stein

0782 TRIUNE-OBED

Robert G. Utter

0785 NIAGARA RIVER LODGE

Lysle J. Newberry

0789 WHITEFACE MOUNTAIN

Clifford R. Donaldson Jr

0793 BABYLON

Frederick John Kinder

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL

Bruce Colin Davis

0822 LYNBROOK-MASSAPEQUA

Erich A. Lorenz

0826 SUTHERLAND

Merle N. Schreckengost
George R. Slack

0837 HESPERUS

James R MacConnell

0839 ATHELSTANE

Harry Edward Kramer
Gerald B. Rickard

0855

PAUMANOK-PORT WASHINGTON

Robert A. Nakushian

0878 NORSEMEN

Clifford S. Hille

0890 JOSHUA

Manfred Konrad

0892 QUEENSBORO

John E. Chillelo
Raymond V. Pfeiffer

0915 BEUKENDAAL

George Wayne Hunsinger

0948 SWEET HOME

Donald C. Hamman

0950 KONOSIONI

Joseph A M Stevens

1016 FLORAL PARK

Irving H. Schwab
Carl F. Wright

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

Lester Henry Albers Jr
Ronald C. Donati

1111 WEST SENECA

Gary R. Dobstaff
Joseph A. Palmeri III
Gary I. Schreiner

1116 ABRAVANEL

Herbert Franco

1166 BRITANNIA

Bryan Colin Wilson-rich

1188 RENAISSANCE

Dennis J. Januchowski



AWARDS COMMITTEE



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

DSA Applications In the Books



As this Masonic year heads into the holiday season, the cutoff date for Dedicated Service Award recommendations has passed. The committee is now determining which recommendations will be approved and rejected. District Deputy Grand Masters, the DSA recipients and their Lodges will be notified early in February 2024. An Order

Form for the 2024 DSA Package will be sent to the Lodge Secretary with the notification letter.

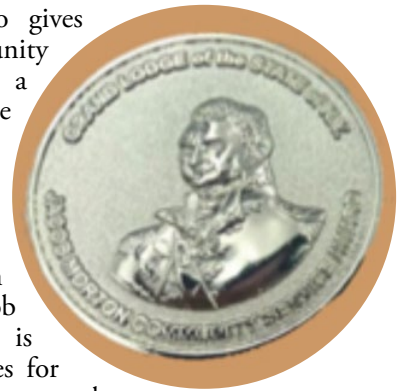
The DSA Chest Medallion is part of the DSA Package that is purchased through Lodge Services. The DSA Chest Medallion is available for Past DSA recipients for the purchase price of \$20, plus tax and shipping. The medallion must be ordered through the Lodge Secretary.

The Community Service Awards (DeWitt Clinton, Jacob Morton and Grand Lodge Certificate of Excellence in Service to the Community) have no cutoff date and will be processed as applications are received. The Lodge Secretary and DDGM will be notified within a short period of time if the nominee has been awarded one of the Community Service Awards.

The Community Service Awards offer a Lodge an opportunity to bring Masonry and its tenets to the forefront of the public's view within the community. The Grand Lodge provides a distinct and decorative certificate to be displayed

by the recipient. It also gives the Lodge an opportunity to invite the public into a Masonic Temple for the presentation. Do not waste an opportunity to put a positive face on our Craft.

Grand Lodge has also approved a chest medallion which can be worn by Jacob Morton recipients. It is available at Lodge Services for a purchase price of \$20, tax and shipping. It is also available for purchase by previous Jacob Morton recipients through their Lodge Secretary.



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

I would like to publicly thank the Awards Committee team for the time and efforts they have put into examining all of the recommendations and fairly determining awardees. Members in the Metropolitan Region are RW Gregory Noulas, Vice Chairman, and RW Walter Fingerle; for the Mid-State Region: RW Thomas L. Jenison and W Alfred W. Ferguson; in Hudson-Champlain Region are RW Charles E. Knapp Jr. and RW Robert L. Hogan Jr. The Western Region boasts RW William H. Greene and RW Douglas Airth.



Old Town Lights Up Grill

On Sunday, September 17 W Robert Florio and the brethren of Old Town Lodge 9058 hosted their annual barbecue at the Corwin Summer Cottage. Brothers from around the Suffolk Masonic District enjoyed a beautiful day of fellowship.

Attending were members of the Suffolk District Team: RW District Deputy Jeffrey Santorello, RW Grand Sword Bearer Robert Licata and VW Assistant Grand Lecturer William DeBenedetto. Thanks go to Old Town for a wonderful day.

Oswego Celebrates 175 Years

Endurance,” opined VW Patrick Fasulo, Worshipful Master of Lake City Lodge 127, Oswego, on June 17, 2023, “is what has kept the Craft in this city for 175 continuous years.” Addressing an overflow crowd of Masons and guests from all parts of the state, Fasulo stressed that during good times and bad Freemasonry had endured: “Why? Because it teaches timeless lessons, such as faith, hope and charity. It emphasizes brotherly love, relief and truth, integrity, leadership and much more. How could it not last 175 years in Oswego?”

Lake City Lodge moved to its present site on East Seneca Street, Oswego, in 2005, at which time the Lodge room was dedicated. Employing an impressive ritual, MW Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master of New York Masons, and a staff of Grand Officers rededicated the room. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Brothers of Lake City Lodge made MW Kessler an honorary member.

Dr. Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary of Lake City Victoria Chapter 205 Order of the Eastern Star, delivered a history of Freemasonry in Oswego. Her research on the earliest efforts of Masons to establish the Craft in the tiny village of Oswego on the shore of Lake Ontario echoed WM Fasulo’s theme of endurance. The initial effort to establish a Lodge in 1817 was foiled when the messenger absconded with the fee and destroyed the petition. Undaunted, determined men such as Matthew McNair, Elias Trowbridge, Peter Hugunin and Nathan Sage reapplied the following year, which resulted in the chartering of Oswego Lodge 326 on January 26, 1820. That Lodge was subsequently destroyed by the Anti-Masonic backlash to the Morgan Affair.

Rather than abandon their desire to have a Lodge in Oswego, however, these men stubbornly determined to try a third

time, petitioning Grand Lodge for a new charter in 1847. On February 8, 1848 Oswego Lodge 127 was constituted and its first officers installed. A second Lodge, Frontier City 422, was chartered in 1857 and a third, Aeonian Lodge 679, in 1868. It has been estimated that several thousand men either were Raised in or affiliated with these three Lodges. In 1961 the Lodges merged into Lake City 127 which, as Fasulo pointed out, endures to this day.

Although COVID temporarily curtailed Lodge activities, the Brothers managed to keep interest alive through Zoom meetings, columns in the local Masonic newspaper, *the word*, and personal communication. The Lodge continues to add younger men to the roll, members who, in Fasulo’s words, bring “enthusiasm, ambition, motivation, a thirst for knowledge and respect for tradition. Freemasonry endures.”

Highlights of the afternoon included the reading of several proclamations. Mayor William Barlow declared June 17 Freemasonry Day in Oswego. The Oswego County Legislature issued a proclamation congratulating the Masons on attaining 175 years of continuous presence in and around Oswego. Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, on behalf of the Assembly, also issued a proclamation offering congratulations on Freemasonry’s longevity in and service to the Port City. William Toth, representing the Scottish Rite Valley of Onondaga, presented the Lodge with the Benjamin Franklin Award of Distinction for achieving its 175th anniversary.

Following the program guests enjoyed steak dinner catered by Lake City Victoria Chapter 205 Order of the Eastern Star under the direction of RW Cynthia J. Sanders, Worthy Matron. The Oswego Valley Snowbelters Chorus provided entertainment.



Very Worshipful Patrick Fasulo, Worshipful Master of Lake City Lodge 127 holds the proclamation from Mayor William Barlow pronouncing June 17, 2023 Freemasonry Day in Oswego.



VW Patrick Fasulo, Worshipful Master, presented MW Richard J. Kessler an honorary membership in Lake City Lodge 127.

Articles due date for the **SPRING** Edition of the
Empire State Mason magazine is
January 1, 2024



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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Family Day at West Point

On Saturday, September 9 Grand Master Richard Kessler, Deputy Grand Master Steven Rubin and all of 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 for Grand Master's Family Day at West Point. Brothers and their families traveled from Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Syracuse to show their love and support for the Grand Master and to spend the day with their Grand Line and Masonic family and friends.

RW Matty Frank, W Frankie Mercado and RW Gil Agosto, representing the Beautiful Bronx District, arrived with their team before 8 a.m. to secure their space and begin setup. Brothers Frank and Mercado made "BEC" breakfast sandwiches well past the planned 10 a.m. cutoff.

RW Stu Singer, RW Stew McCloud and W Victor Han led the largest group of Brothers and families, with more than fifty game attendees and tailgaters from the Queens District. Norsemen Lodge, led by W Tom Stanten and RW Anthony Giannattasio, chartered a bus for a fun roundtrip ride from Brooklyn to the West Point Campus for the Third Kings District and anyone in need of transportation.

In years past this event sold an average of eighty to ninety tickets, so it was amazing when all previous attendance records were broken with a stunning 300 tickets 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. We joined together as one big happy family in Lot H, and then sat together in Michie Stadium for the game.

The tailgate offerings 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, plus, he generously donated the souvlakia for everyone's enjoyment.

The Sixth Manhattan District Association and Chairman of the Board, RW Mark Suckle, generously sponsored Grand Master's Day at West Point. Through everyone's participation, more than \$3,000 was raised for the benefit of our Masonic Brotherhood Fund.

Please save the date for next year's Grand Master's Family Day at West Point. It is Saturday, September 24, 2024, when the West Point Army Black Knights are scheduled to take on Dartmouth's Big Green. 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 again benefit Masonic Charities. Check www.GLSNYevents.com for pictures and ticket information. Thank you for your support; we look forward to seeing you next year.

Submission guidelines for publication in the ESM

FILE PREPARATION

- Your name and phone number as the beginning of the file.
- Save text copy as **.txt .rtf** or **.doc**. Please do not save as PDF.
- Save photographs as **.jpg .tif** or **.bmp** format. Graphics save as **.eps**.
- (Do not transmit photos and copy in the same email or file. Transmit photos as individual attachments not embedded as part of email. Files saved as **.pub** will **NOT** be accepted.
- If submitting pdf format be sure that pictures are originally in CYMK color and type are set in black not registration color.

When saving the file into a pdf format colors are set to "Do not color conversion" "Do not downsample" and "embed your fonts".

TRANSMITTING:

To: jcfbower@aol.com
Subject: ESM Submission

VIA MAIL

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

Mrs. Joan C. Bower
37 Oliver Street
Lockport NY 14094-4615

Grand Master's Family Day at West Point



See the article on
page 47

