

A full-length portrait of a man in formal Masonic regalia. He is wearing a black top hat, a black tuxedo jacket over a white waistcoat and a striped tie. He has a purple sash with gold embroidery draped over his left shoulder. He is also wearing a purple and gold stole. He is standing in front of a wood-paneled wall with a blue upholstered chair to the right.

The Empire State Mason

SPRING 2024

MW Edward G. Gilbert
PAST GRAND MASTER
B. SEPTEMBER 9, 1935 – D. DECEMBER 24, 2023

FROM THE GRAND EAST



MW RICHARD J. KESSLER
GRAND MASTER
716/873-0207
grandmaster@nymasons.org

My dear Brothers as we close the final chapter of 2023, may we reflect on all that has transpired that has had a consequential impact upon us. As always, every year is filled with happy and sad occasions. The Grand Lodge of the State of New York (GLNY) is no different from any of us and is recipient of many of the ebbs and flows we experience as individuals. The reason that we hurt and feel sad is because that is part of the price of loving someone. But, I feel blessed at the same time because my belief in a greater power also brings joy because those who have left this terrestrial existence have not died, they went from life to life. May your heart be filled with loving memories of anyone you may have lost. Be glad because they are now without pain and are always in our hearts. To Anne Haslam, Michelle Kania, RW Douglas Harrison, RW Robert Baus and MW Edward G. Gilbert: May you forever be in God's Loving Embrace and may your family and friends find comfort in knowing you are still with them.

The year 2023 marked some great strides within our jurisdiction. We have continued to grow our Leadership and Education (L&E) Programs. Hiram is here and after a much longer journey than expected, we have a new state-of-the-art website which allows us to serve all of our members and still be a valuable asset in our quest to afford the outside world a peek into the greatness of Freemasonry. Take it out for a spin, recommend it to your friends and do not be afraid to kick the tires. Our aim is to make all of your interactions as stress free as possible. Hats off to all who made it possible, especially RW DiNatale, W Kenneth Stuczynski and RW Richard Schulz and the Grand Secretary's office personnel.

We continue to use John Maxwell's leadership philosophy as our training north star. The latest training session for our District officers was based on one of John's books. It is called *Everyone Communicates but Few Connect*. These training materials and seminars are now available to every Brother because our success is based on building from the bottom up. Only then can we achieve our goals and collectively raise the bar on New York Freemasonry. Following these teaching methods and concepts will also allow us to realize our untapped potential. As we take our leadership programs into the Lodge we will find our future leaders and help them step into new roles. To realize this untapped potential also requires an understanding of our roles as administrators to provide training, motivation and skills for our future growth.

As the L&E Committee evolves they will create a culture of unlocking this potential throughout the jurisdiction and help identify those capable of propelling our GLNY successfully through the 21st Century and beyond. This will also allow us to identify brethren with traits needed for success. Peter Honey, "Teams and Teamwork," describes four major personality traits essential to build and maintain a successful organization:

- Doers - give the team drive and ensure the job gets done.

They are willing to help others by getting involved in their work. Doers also hate wasting time and want to see continual progress on a project.

- Carers - keep the team together by promoting harmony and easing tensions. They are also sensitive to the relationships between team members and want everyone to fit in.
- Thinkers - like to find solutions to problems. They are typically good at getting good ideas and bad ones.
- Achievers - want their projects to succeed and they strive to achieve good results. Like Doers, they become impatient with delays.

Recognizing these types will help us determine the best methods for helping each prospective team member feel comfortable and be appreciated enough to spread his wings. It will allow us to develop not only a strong Grand Officer core, but also improve our District teams.

We need to attract and retain our most talented individuals. This goal is often challenging for us because many of our skilled Brothers are in like positions in their professions and/or competing non-profit organizations. Finding the right Brother goes beyond simply matching needed skills with past experience. It also includes identifying candidates whom we imagine working as part of the team. This is where the importance of retention comes into play. Since we are a volunteer organization we need to impress upon our future leaders that there is something more important than monetary reward. We ask them to remember why they joined our Craft and to realize that in order to keep this Craft focused on our Principles, Tenets and Goodwill to mankind, we need to be structurally, administratively and financially strong.

You may not realize it but you do have an influence on those you work with. What you do or do not do becomes part of the environment your team operates in. You always have a choice to become a positive or negative influence. The ideal choice is obvious: share your best practices for building commitment and positive attitude that helps others build theirs as well.

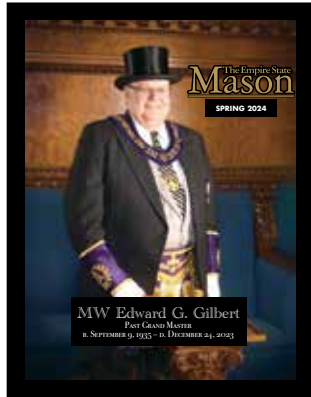
We all must share in the responsibility for a positive and productive environment. That is the key to our success and provides the impetus for moving forward. The dividends of this learning culture result in a better, more enthusiastic and productive environment. This will also produce long-lasting friendship based on respect and brotherly love.

Whether you are currently a team leader or a manager or striving to be one, you probably know that leadership can be a challenging task. It is difficult to get all the work done and to do it with other people. Few things are more frustrating than having to deal with those with bad attitudes and who do not live up to their commitment. As a leader, you must

Continues to page 4 – From the Grand East

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 73 • Number 1 • Spring 2024



Front Cover:
MW Edward G Gilbert
Past Grand Master
Obituary on page 14-16



TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND ASYLUM FUND Publisher

The Empire State Mason is an Official Publication of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund. Edited by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York for the members of the Masonic Fraternity and their families.

CONSULTANTS

RICHARD J. KESSLER
Grand Master - Editor in Chief

JOAN C. BOWER
Assistant Editor

LORRAINE DIBLEY
Graphic Designer

STEVEN ADAM RUBIN
Deputy Grand Master

ROBERT L. HOGAN
Senior Grand Warden

PETER C. STEIN
Junior Grand Warden

JOSEPH J. SAGLIMBENE
Grand Treasurer

RICHARD T. SCHULZ
Grand Secretary

POSTMASTER:
Please send address changes to:
The Empire State Mason
Circulation Department
71 West 23rd Street
NY NY 10010-4149
Periodicals Class Publication 56874
1-(800) 362-7664
Website at www.nymasons.org

ARTICLES:

From the Grand East	2-4
Deputy Grand Master.	5-6
Senior Grand Warden	7
Junior Grand Warden	8
Grand Treasurer	9
Grand Secretary	10
Declared Candidates	11
Eulogy for MW Edward Gilbert	14-16
Masonic War Veterans	17
Masonic Care Community	18-21
Acacia Village	22
From the Webmaster	23
Awards Committee	24-26
Grand Lodge Educational Assistant Program	27
Concordant Bodies Page	28
Cryptic Masons	29
Masonic Youth Committee.	30
Master Builder Stanley Orr.	31-34
Masonic Brotherhood Fund	35
International Order of the Rainbow Girls of NY	36
Masonic Medical Research Institute	38-40
Years of Service	42-44
Prince Hall Strengthens Ties with Community Leaders.	44
Grand Lecturer	46
Camp Turk	48

Subscription \$6.00 Domestic \$15.00 Foreign per year. Subscription free to all members of constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. State of New York. Copyright ©2024 by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund. All rights reserved. Reproduction by recognized Masonic organizations is permitted with credit. All others must obtain written permission. Published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter months by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund 71 West 23rd Street, NY, NY 10010-4149.

THE EMPIRE STATE MASON (ISSN 0013-6794 Published at 71 West 23rd Street NY NY 10010-4149).
Periodicals postage paid at New York NY and additional mailing offices.

avoid lashing out, but strive to be an inspirational leader and build trust and commitment. You must encourage change in negative attitudes by pointing out the goals and benefits of the task. You must also remind others of what is at stake and determine whether they want to be part of the solution or problem.

The ten reasons leaders should model fulfilling commitments and positive attitudes:

- * It improves trust and respect at all levels.
- * It protects leadership's reputation.
- * It increases team members' willingness to make and keep commitments.
- * It eliminates inconsistencies that become obstacles to good attitudes.
- * It increase team members' cooperation with leadership.
- * It fosters a positive work culture.
- * It enhances timeliness of deliverables.
- * It increases pride, professionalism and productivity.

- * It enhances the ability to attract and retain a quality and diverse team.
- * It helps ensure the short- and long-term success of the project(s).

There is no guarantee that you will always be successful at work or in life. There is no assurance that you will always be happy. These desirable outcomes are dependent upon the commitments you make and the positive attitudes you possess and display. Like it or not, it is up to you to make good choices about who and what you will be and how you intend to get there. It is also dependent on how you relate to the rest of the world while attempting to accomplish your goals. You will need strong values, self-discipline and effective methods. Good luck on your journey.

The World Needs Freemasonry More Than Ever

Let's Be Humanity's Saving Grace,

Masons Make A Difference

Tri-Valley Salutes Button

With great pleasure Tri-Valley Lodge 148, Oneida, NY presented Brother Jim Button with his seventy-five-year apron and service award. Brother Jim also celebrated his 97th birthday in January.



West Star Lodge Courtesy of Steve Moultrup

VARYSBURG — West Star Lodge conducted its annual fall dinner on Monday. The Lodge presented a Community Service donation to the Varysburg Rescue Squad as part of the evening.

The Lodge hosts a picnic for members and families at the Varysburg Town Park each summer and all proceeds are donated to a community service organization. Over the past three years the Masonic Lodge has donated to the Charlotte House/Gateway Home, the Varysburg Fire Department and Varysburg Rescue Squad.

Those interested in Freemasonry may Google West Star Lodge 413 or NYS Grand Lodge. Shown at the West Star Lodge's fall dinner are, from left, Andrew Vickers, Brian Mastin, Jessica Graham, Neil Parmerter and Henry Robinson



As featured in the Daily News at:

https://www.thedailynewsonline.com/west-star-lodge-conducts-fall-dinner/article_a8fe1ca4-62b8-11ee-8899-2b2b329e5f92.html.



RW STEVEN ADAM RUBIN
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
917/584-3427
deputygrandmaster@nymasons.org

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

My Brothers, I write this article on January 1 for the spring edition of the *Empire State Mason*. Its publication will represent the conclusion of another Masonic Year. Before I proceed I want to comment upon the passing of MW Edward Gilbert. I had the honor to serve for and with Grand Master Gilbert from 2008-2010 as Proctor of our Grand Lodge. From the moment one met MW Gilbert, it was abundantly clear that he did not serve for ego, gold or glory. He served because he cared about each and every Brother and he cared about the Craft. Yes, pomp and circumstance, and Masonic etiquette have their place but we must never forget why we serve and who we serve. He promoted these valuable lessons that drive me through this day. Well done, good and faithful Servant, well done.

I want to reflect a moment on observations gleaned from my travels. I am mindful of the challenges facing our Lodges and our Craft. That is why we must continue to ensure that Grand Lodge will always be a real resource for you and your Lodges. Yet, regardless of the challenges, I remain as optimistic today as I did on the first day I was Raised. I continue to witness that generous spirit of Brotherhood that I witnessed that first day: Brother helping Brother and in service to all. We should take pride in all that we do. While a profane would look upon these actions as extraordinary, to a Master Mason they are merely the fulfillment of our Obligations. This is who we are, this is what we do.

While assisting our Grand Master in the governance of our Grand Lodge and planning for the future is truly a full-time job, I am remarkably grateful for the Brothers from around our state who volunteer their time and talent to serve their Lodges and Districts, our Boards and Foundations, and of course, our Grand Lodge. Without you and your efforts, Masonry is merely a name. I am also grateful to the army of Brothers from around the state working with me on so many new and exciting programs. These include enhanced and supplemental educational programming; Masonic and Lodge history projects; a program to identify the health of our Lodges, celebrate successes, but offer real aid and real assistance to those in need; programs to provide financial and technical assistance to our Lodge building owners; celebrating Lafayette and Finland 2024; the Camp Turk Ritual Renaissance Retreat and Masonic Con at Masonic Hall.

The opportunity to travel our state, to be with you and our Brothers remains my true reward. I must thank you for the brotherly love demonstrated when I—and the Brothers of the Grand Van East—visited your Lodges and Districts. My heart and my home have always been in New York and I will never stop working to support you and your Lodges. As such, the Grand Van East continues to crisscross our state, celebrating New York Masonry and supporting our Lodges and Districts. Enjoy the pictures below, which represent just a fraction of the



stops this past quarter.

As this will be the last publication before the Grand Lodge Session, let me make some final observations and make a request of each Worshipful Master, Warden or Proxy. The question is always asked, Who is Grand Lodge? Too often our Brothers think it is merely the Grand Master and the rest of the

Continues on page 6 – Deputy Grand Master



elected and appointed Line. Wrong. It is you. Yes, the elected and appointed Grand Line but also each District Deputy, Staff Officer, Permanent, Committee and Board Member and every Lodge represented. You comprise that powerful body.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to speak before a Lodge shortly before Grand Lodge Session. I was disappointed to learn that since the Secretary did not read/summarize the Call Letter to the Lodge, and the Worshipful Master did not seek discussion on its contents, both the Worshipful Master and the Brothers from this Lodge were ill informed of the significant decisions that were required to be made at Grand Lodge. What an opportunity lost! The Call Letter does not merely advise who are the Candidates for Office, or the contents of any proposed Constitutional Amendment or any Promulgated Decision—important information in their own right—but it also provides the opportunity, and the time limit, for any Brother—any Brother—to propose an item for the Grand Lodge agenda. While it is still the Grand Master's agenda and not every proposal may be called, this is nevertheless your right and opportunity to request. So take the time to read and understand the contents of the Call Letter. Take the time to address its contents in Lodge. Make sure that whoever attends Grand Lodge will understand the significance



your decisions will have for the direction and future of our Craft. That is your duty.

I have been blessed with many honors during the twenty-five years I have been a Master Mason and during the nearly eighteen years I have served in our Grand Line. I served three times as Worshipful Master; I was appointed and reappointed as Proctor and Judge Advocate by six Grand Masters over the span of twelve years; I was elected Grand Treasurer in 2018. But next to my son's Raising, my service to you as Deputy Grand Master has been the highlight. It has truly been my honor to serve you. I thank you for your friendship and brotherly love.



RW ROBERT L. HOGAN JR.
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
 845/485-6436
Sr.GrandWarden@nymasons.org

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

Greetings from the Grand West, my Brothers. I want you to meet Breckin, my office manager.



He is a sixteen-year-old cocker spaniel and the last remaining four-legged furry out of our four-cat, two-dog family. He is usually at my feet while I am working at my desk but he abandoned ship when he saw a fire in the woodstove. I got up to see where he had gone, then grabbed my phone and took this picture. I looked at Breckin; I looked back into my office at my desk; I looked at Breckin again.

I went in and grabbed a pillow off a chair in the living room and laid down next to him. I did not get too much work done...but I think I have the best office manager in the world.

It is times like this, in a nice comfortable atmosphere, when I get a chance to reflect on the past as well as where I am. I am happy with the way my life is going. I have been able to fully embrace the things in life that I love, and right now I mostly have Breckin, my wife Dina, my family and my travels in Masonry that occupy my days and nights. I can think of nothing more satisfying than that. I have traveled around this big, beautiful state of ours and met many of you, making many more friends than I could have hoped to, and I still have more travels ahead. Thank you, my Brothers, for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Senior Grand Warden.

As is the norm, it has been a busy few months. Early October saw a wonderful reception up in Albany for our retiring Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Peter J. Samiec. The following weekend, again in Albany, was a reception for the incoming Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York, SK R. Conrad Johnson. Towards the end of the next week, I was out in Sandusky, Ohio at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. I enjoy seeing how different Grand Lodges conduct their Grand Lodge Sessions. Attending these sessions also gives me the opportunity to speak with Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries and Wardens from other Jurisdictions to see how they are dealing with various subjects like recruitment, retention, struggling Lodges, etc. It is not just here in New York, my Brothers; this is happening everywhere.

The following weekend was the First Westchester-Putnam Charity Ball. That is always a first-class operation. The first weekend in November had me up in Rochester for the reception of Most Illustrious Don Kunego, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York. Don and I are not just Brother Masons, we share a State Police connection as well. We both worked at a rather unique barracks in Troop "K" nick-named "SP Dog-Patch." We will just leave it at that.

The following weekend was a surprise 85th birthday celebration for a great Brother, Bob Stein, down in Bay Shore, Long Island. It was fun going back to my hometown. On November 16 the Norsemen Lodge honored me at their "Feast of the Great Harvest," which was held down at Masonic Hall on 23rd Street. Two days later it was the Masonic Toys-for-Tots Foundation's Gala/Ball at Russo's on the Bay. RW George Filippidis and his committee have set the bar high for fundraising. We need to keep that going.

The following week was Thanksgiving week, and I was able to stay fairly local. Then came giving Tuesday. Throughout the year I made some donations to some Scottish Rite Charities, so I got an invitation to Lexington, MA to attend the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction's Annual "Giving Tuesday Telethon." My Valley of the Hudson also donates heartily so while I was there I was able to make a donation on behalf of our Valley. This was a fun night, to say the least.

In early December I was able to stay relatively local. By local I mean I do not have to stay in a hotel. On the 16th I went down to Masonic Hall on 23rd Street to a reception being held for RW Robert Moran, the Junior Grand Warden of the Philippines. What a special Brother! He, his wife and two daughters came to New York City to celebrate his wife's birthday. The day after Christmas I headed to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania's Annual Communication.

Let me close once again with this thought, my Brothers. The secret of Masonry cannot really be explained or told to someone. It can only be felt and understood by those who seek it and live its principles. Like a morning sunrise, Masonry can only be experienced. It is a life to be lived, dedicated to service, charity and meeting on the level and in harmony with our Brothers.



Articles due for *ESM* Summer magazine – April 1, 2024

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN



RW PETER C. STEIN
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
716/432-7751
JrGrandwarden@nymasons.org

Starting to write this article I am staring at my family's Christmas tree wondering what topic to write about. I keep thinking back to two Brothers we lost last week, so this article will be a little personal. Last week Grand Master Most Worshipful Edward Gilbert and Right Worshipful Douglas Harrison, PDDGM, laid down their working tools and passed to the Celestial Lodge above.

I met GM Gilbert back in the 1990s when he was the Moderator of the Erie Districts School of Instruction and I was the Assistant Grand Lecturer for the Niagara-Orleans District. I would travel down to Lackawanna and attend the school with a few Brothers from my District. He always had great programs for the school. In later years I was invited to what we called "The Table of Knowledge." Every Tuesday about twelve Brothers would meet for lunch in Lackawanna, NY. Grand Master Gilbert would sit at the head of the table, to his left Grand Master Smith and at his right DGM, now-GM, Kessler. We used to joke that they were holding court. MW Gilbert had the quickest wit that I have ever seen, he would have us laughing throughout lunch.

Grand Master Gilbert got sick and was a resident of Father Baker's Nursing Home. We still tried to have lunch with him on occasion but during COVID it was a challenge. After COVID the Brothers would rent a wheelchair van to bring him to lunch when he felt well enough, or we would go to the Nursing Home for lunch. I was privileged to have lunch with him and twenty other Brothers a couple of weeks ago. He was in good spirits and smiling. I will sorely miss him as a friend, a Brother and a mentor.

The other Brother we lost was RW Harrison. I met him through the Valley of Buffalo AARS. I had dinner with him many times and we became friends. The funny part of this story is that back in the late 70s I used to hang around with a girl named Colleen Harrison, but it never clicked.

At one Christmas party at the Valley I took some pictures and one was of RW Harrison and myself. Of course I posted them on Facebook and the next morning I got an IM message from Colleen. We have been Facebook friends for years. She thanked me for posting the picture of her father and me. I remember thinking "Oh, Hell."

Mr. Harrison and his family lived about a block and a half from where I grew up. We were not—how would you say—model teenagers back then. Right across a street from his house we used to hang around Public School 78. He used to get so mad at us for making so much noise and as he stated many times, "corrupting his daughter."

So, after Colleen's IM message I was apprehensive of seeing him again at the Valley of Buffalo. At the next stated communication I arrived and walked in the door and guess what, there stood RW Doug Harrison waiting for me. He

looked at me and said, "I know who you are." He gave me a hug and said that I grew up quite well and we laughed about the whole thing. We spent many times remembering and laughing about those days.

RW Doug was not able to drive at night anymore and his health was not going well so we hardly got to see him at our meetings in the last year or so. Back in the late spring or early summer of last year, as the Second Lieutenant of the Valley, I was privileged to be able to present Brother Doug his twenty-five-year certificate of membership in the Scottish Rite. RW John Haslam accompanied me and we presented the certificate at his house and spent hours with his wife and one of his daughters. We took some pictures and I got to send them to Colleen, who now lives out of the area.

I will miss both great Masons, Brothers, friends and mentors. Thinking about both, I am reminded how great our Fraternity is. I would never have met them or become close friends with these two great Brothers if it were not for Freemasonry. Always love your Brothers because they all do make a difference in our lives.

TRIBUTE TO A MASON

Why wear the apron? the young mason said,
As the mourners so silently bowed every head.

The prayer was perfection, -ceremony profound,
Not one single person uttered a sound.
The minister spoke, all telling with love,
That our brother had passed to the lodge up above.
That his life here below was not easy for sure
And many the sorrow he'd had to endure.

This man dedicated to helping his race,
Unconscious of background or color of face.
With a life dedicated to sharing of time
While supporting a friend with a comforting rhyme.
Who brought out in others the best of the best,
Without criticizing, or putting to test.
That the life he had lived, as a mason and friend,
Was a lifetime of sharing, right up to the end.

The lambskin was placed with all loving care
A release from the labour on earth he did bear
The evergreen sprig shows the faith we all hold
That the Soul is immortal and none can control
Its reign over the grave, so that death has no power
For ever and ever or even this hour.

We commit to the ground, these earthly remains
And cherish the memory, suffer the pains.
While we trust his spirit to God who did give it
This was his life and the way he did live it.

Continues on page 9 – Junior Grand Warden

Masons Make a Difference

SPRING 2024



RW JOSEPH J. SAGLIMBENE
GRAND TREASURER
347/307-3867
iron1057@aol.com

Freemasonry and the Battle for Texas

In 1834 Santa Anna abolishes the Mexican Constitution, igniting revolt in Texas. In 1835 the Mexican Army fortifies the old Spanish Mission known as the Alamo. In December 1835, Texas rebels capture the Alamo by defeating the Mexican Army at the Battle of Bexar. January 1836, Sam Houston sends Colonel Jim Bowie to San Antonio to evaluate the situation at the Alamo. In February Colonel William Travis and Davy Crockett arrive in San Antonio with reinforcements. February 23, the siege of the Alamo begins.

The names of many of those at the Alamo were well known throughout the country. Col. Travis was a dignified, high-ranking, socially involved man. He was a lawyer and soldier. At the age of 26 he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Texas Army. Col. Jim Bowie has become known for the special knife his brother fashioned for him. He was an American pioneer who led troops in many historical battles.

General Sam Houston was an American soldier and politician. His victory at the Battle of San Jacinto secured the independence of Texas from Mexico. Lt. Col. Dickerson was an Alamo defender. Davy Crockett, an American frontiersman, was a folk hero, politician and soldier. He was popularized in a 1950s Disney movie as "King of the Wild Frontier." James Bonham was a messenger at the Battle of the Alamo. He was cousin to Col. Travis.

The Battle of the Alamo is the most famous battle in Texas' fight for independence. Located in the capital city of San Antonio, the fort was viewed by many as key to defeating the Mexican Army and the defenders chose to stay and fight despite certain death.

General Antonio López de Santa Anna besieged the fortress

with an army of between 1,800 and 6,000 men. On the eighth day of the siege, thirty-two men from Gonzalez, Texas came to the Alamo's aid, bringing the total number of troops in the garrison to 200. Shortly thereafter, Santa Anna received another 1,100 reinforcements and he began to plan his final assault.

At the time of the siege, one of the commanders of the fort, Colonel Jim Bowie, was seriously ill. The task of leading the troops fell to Lt. Colonel William Travis, who had sent for reinforcements when he became aware of Santa Anna's men circling the fort on February 23. According to legend, on March 5 Travis gathered his men for the last time. He drew a line in the sand and asked any man who wanted to leave the fort to cross it. One man, Moses Rose, left. The next day, March 6, after a thirteen-day fight, Santa Anna's men breached the fort and killed all the remaining defenders, including James Bowie and David Crockett.

Though technically a defeat, the Battle of the Alamo highlighted the tenacity of the Texan forces and served as an inspiration for their ultimately successful drive for independence. On April 21, 1836 Texas militia under Sam Houston launched a surprise attack against the forces of General Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, near present-day Houston. The Texans, shouting "remember the Alamo," thoroughly routed the Mexicans. Hundreds, including Santa Anna, were taken prisoner. In exchange for his freedom, Santa Anna signed a treaty recognizing Texas' independence. The citizens of the "Lone Star Republic" elected Sam Houston as president and endorsed the entrance of Texas into the United States.

RW Peter Stokke as Grand Lodge Staff Officer

On Monday, November 6 WM Robert Florio of Old Town Lodge 908 was joined by Suffolk Masonic District officers and Grand Lodge dignitaries to present RW Peter Stokke his official portrait for his term as Grand Lodge Staff Officer.

Left to right are RW Al Cortizo, Junior Grand Warden; RW Jeffrey Santorello, District Deputy; RW Peter Stokke; RW Steven Rubin, Deputy Grand Master; W Robert Florio, Master of Old Town Lodge; and RW Robert Licata, Grand Sword Bearer.



Continued from page 8 – Junior Grand Warden

And so we account for our time here on earth

That our tasks ever after may be of Thy worth.

Now go with the Father in his gracious keeping,

And leave him to be, our brother-just sleeping.

So you see there's a reason that all men are born
That's the reason I guess that the apron is worn.

Taken from <http://www.themasonictrowel.com>.

GRAND SECRETARY

RW RICHARD T. SCHULZ
GRAND SECRETARY
Masonic Hall
71 West 23rd Street
New York NY 10010
212/337-6644

grandsecretary@NYMasons.org



Where has the time gone? We are approaching our 242nd Annual Communication as a Grand Lodge. We will have Committee Reports, Elections and the Installation of new Grand Line Officers. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard J. Kessler, will turn over the position to a new Grand Master. He has done an excellent job as Grand Master, proving that **Masons Make A Difference**. We wish the new Grand Master and incoming Grand Line well throughout the next two years.

The year thus far, leading up to the Annual Communication, has been eventful. In January our Grand Lodge hosted another round of Florida Sojourners Luncheons. We were in Sarasota, Tampa, The Villages and West Palm Beach. We saw many old friends and presented Masonic Service Certificates at each venue; we presented more than thirty Service Awards in total.

We also held 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 and the Grand Lodges of Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey exemplified the Lodge Opening, the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees (including the Hiramic Drama). We hosted more than 650 people at this event, which included breakfast and lunch.



(l - r) RW Stewart C. McCloud II and RW Richard T. Schulz attended Unity Day.

The Degree teams performed spectacularly and were inspirational for all who attended. RW Stewart C. McCloud II, with assistance from Grand Lecturer RW Richard Friedman, put it all together. It was not an easy feat and required assistance from many Brothers. Stew and I are members of the same Lodge and became fast friends thirty-plus years ago. I was so happy that the Grand Master presented him with the George Peter Medal at the conclusion of the event. The George Peter Medal is given by our Grand Lodge to a Brother who promotes and encourages Masonic Education, and Unity

Day epitomizes the meaning of that award.

We held the Metropolitan Dedication Service and Breakfast on Sunday morning March 3, 2024 at Marina del Rey in the Bronx, NY. Once again we owe a debt of gratitude to the Grand Lodge Convention Committee, chaired by RW Donald Mattson, for all the planning.

The Grand Secretary's Office has been preparing for the Annual Communication, to be held Monday and Tuesday, May 6 and 7. By the time you receive the magazine this quarter, you will have received the Call Letter, with any constitutional proposals, as well as the list of declared candidates for elected Grand Line Officer positions. In this magazine you will also find information and a QR code that will allow you to reference more information online about each of the candidates. Check it out. The password is Candidates2024.

I have held several Grand Secretary's nights so far this year. The purpose is to help educate Lodge officers, and primarily Lodge Secretaries, on the duties of the Lodge Secretary.

As mentioned in previous magazines, the Grand Lodge of Finland will hold year-long events in 2024 celebrating 100 years of Finnish Freemasonry. 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. As the Grand Representative to Finland, I am very excited to attend and to be a part of this celebration. We will have a large contingent of Masons from the Grand Lodge of New York at these events as our Grand Lodge, under MW Arthur S. Tompkins, chartered their Grand Lodge in 1924. If you would like to attend with our Grand Lodge, please contact me and I will provide you the latest information. Please bear in mind that given the number of brethren and ladies interested in attending as part of our contingent, you should confirm your attendance by early June to secure a reservation at the Gala Dinner.

In closing my article this quarter, I am reminded of the friendships I have made in my thirty-seven years as a Master Mason. From the first day I was Initiated into the Order of DeMolay, my love for DeMolay and Masonry grew. The love and respect that I have for many of you—my friends and Brothers—is with me every day. God has given us such a wonderful brotherhood that allows us the opportunity to do charitable and beneficent work that helps all human beings, regardless of race, theology, ethnicity, nationality or gender. Our obligation as men and Masons is to offer our best works to everyone. My hope is that this brotherly love and goodwill reach outward to make this world a better place.

DECLARED CANDIDATES 2024

If you scan the QR Code at the right, enter the password Candidates2024.
You will see Resumes and Videos on the declared candidates for 2024.



Grand Master



Steven Rubin



Charles Catapano

Deputy Grand Master



E. Oscar Alleyne



Robert Hogan Jr.



Peter Stein

Senior Grand Warden

No Declared Candidates

Junior Grand Warden



John Haslam Sr.

Grand Treasurer



Al Cortizo



Donald Mattson



James Martin



James Reichman



Mark Suckle



Scott Peat



Yves Etienne

Grand Secretary



Richard Schulz



Finland Centenary Jubilee Week

by Bro. Les Joynes



We have Grand Lodge of Finland Centenary Jubilee's momentum! A big thank-you goes to our esteemed brethren in New York who have expressed excitement at this historical event. And a special thank-you goes to our Grand Master, MW Richard J. Kessler; Deputy Grand Master, RW Steven Adam Rubin; RW Richard Schulz, our Grand Secretary; and the esteemed brethren of the Grand Lodge of Finland for their initiative, inspiration and leadership.

In the centennial event this September 2024, brethren will witness what international collaboration can accomplish and participate in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We will meet in fellowship in Finland's historical and beautiful capital Helsinki—known as the “Gem of the North.” The “land of a thousand lakes,” Finland boasts a population of 5.5 million and since the chartering of the Grand Lodge a century ago, is now home to no fewer than 180 Lodges and 7,300 Freemasons.

In the 13th century, following the Northern Crusades, Finland was part of the Swedish Empire; in 1809 she was ruled by the Russian Empire. Following the Russian Revolution of 1917, Finland declared its full independence as an autonomous state. Finnish-American Masons in the United States, in particular Brother J.E. Tuokkola and his Brother and lawyer Toivo H. Nekto, labored together to establish the first Finnish Masonic Lodge, Suomi Lodge 1.

The Grand Lodge of New York (founded in 1782) played a vital role in fostering the development of the Craft overseas. In 1922 the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, the MW Arthur S. Tompkins, traveled to Helsinki where he consecrated Suomi Lodge 1 on August 18, 1922. Twenty-seven candidates were Initiated into Finland's first Lodge. This was followed in the evening by a special piano concert given by the celebrated Finnish composer Brother Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). Soon after, there followed the consecration of Finnish Lodges in the cities of Tampere and Turku and the chartering of the Grand Lodge of Finland (known as Suomen Suurloosi) in 1924.

The activities of this historical event this September in Helsinki include a special centennial dinner, Freemasons buffets, where brethren from Finland, New York and other nations will meet in fellowship. There will be optional trips to visit the home of composer Jean Sibelius, a tour of the Suomenlinna Fortress, a visit to the Freemasons Hall and Masonic Museum in Helsinki and optional Masonic tours to Tallinn, Estonia and Stockholm.

More news of these programs will follow. Brethren interested in learning about the events can scan the QR code above and find more about the Grand Lodge of Finland Centennial Event in September 2024.

50-Year DeMolays Honored at Ridgewood Lodge

As part of its annual awards night on November 5, 2023, Union Chapter, Order of DeMolay, from Westfield, NJ presented Fifty-Year Senior DeMolay membership certificates and pins to two members of Ridgewood Lodge 710, 2nd Kings District. Brother Andrew Murad is from Rockville Center, NY and RW Ronald Murad is PDDGM-NJ 10th District, of Fanwood, NJ.

Andy and Ron were Initiated into Crusader Chapter 1905 in Mineola, NY on October 16, 1973. At the time, Crusader Chapter was co-sponsored by Mineola Lodge 985 and the Williston Park Masonic Square Club. The brothers acknowledge it is hard to believe it has been 50 years.

Membership in the Order of DeMolay is not as large as it had once been. Union Chapter in Westfield, of which Ron is an advisor, is proud to find and honor Senior DeMolays—whose Chapters no longer exist—on their gold token anniversaries.



Civil War Memorial and Masonic Service

By RW Ronald Murad

History was made on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at Hillside Cemetery in North Adams, Massachusetts. More than fifty people made up of representatives of three Grand Lodges and local community groups participated in a Civil War Memorial Dedication and Masonic Funeral Service for Scotch Plains, NJ native and NY Masonic Brother and Colonel Thomas Ward Osborn.



The new Civil War Memorial Gravestone for Bro. and Col. Thomas W. Osborn.

Thomas Osborn was a seventh-generation member of the Osborn family of Scotch Plains, NJ, born in 1833. When he was 9 his family moved to upstate New York after purchasing an apple orchard in North Wilna, NY. He eventually attended Madison University, now Colgate University. At the start of the Civil War he was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in charge of raising a light artillery brigade, which became the 10th New York Light Artillery.

By the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, now-Major (Brevet Colonel) Osborn was in charge of the Union's 11th Corps Artillery. His units held off further advances of the Confederate Army by late afternoon of the first day of the battle on July 1, 1863, successfully establishing his artillery on the north end of Cemetery Ridge, Cemetery Hill and Culps Hill. From this position he protected the Union northern flank on day two of the Battle and successfully protected the north end of Cemetery Ridge on day three during the Confederates' famous failed Pickett's Charge. Through the remainder of the war he remained in charge of Union Artillery for Generals Oliver Howard and William Tecumseh Sherman.

After the Civil War, Thomas Osborn became the Assistant Commissioner for the Freedman's Bureau in Florida during Reconstruction. He followed this with positions as Florida State Senator, U.S. Senator from Florida and Commissioner of the Centennial Celebration and World's Fair in Philadelphia. After serving one term in the U.S. Senate, he returned to New York City where he resumed his law practice and joined Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge 610 in the 5th Manhattan District of the Grand Lodge of NY.

Upon his death, his remains were taken to North Adams, MA. His brother, the Reverend Dr. Abraham Osborn, had been Baptist minister there several years earlier and Abraham maintained a family funeral plot there in Hillside Cemetery.

Participating in the ceremonies on October 22nd were the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and their reenactment group, the Sons of Veteran Reserves; the Williamstown American Legion Post 152 of Williamstown, MA; the Historical Societies of North Adams, MA and Scotch Plains-Fanwood, NJ; Mayor Jennifer Macksey of North Adams, MA; and representatives of the Grand Lodges of New Jersey, New

York and Massachusetts. Tom Osborn—a native of NJ, a Freemason from NY and resting in Eternal Peace in MA.



Opening Ceremonies: (left to right) MW William M. Sardone (PGM NY), RW Ronald A. Murad (PDDGM NJ), RW J. Eugene Margroff (SGW NJ), and RW John Kelley (SGW MA).

The event was planned and hosted by RW Ronald A. Murad (PDDGM-NJ 10th District) of Ridgewood Lodge 710 (2nd Kings District), Atlas Pythagoras Lodge 10 (GLNJ), and American Lodge of Research (GLNY); and Brother Lt. Col. Christopher Sands, U.S. Army (retired) of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge 10 (GLNJ) and National Sojourners Garden State Chapter 438 (NJ). The event was the culmination of a research project on Brother Osborn begun by RW Murad a few years ago. Assisting in the day's event were members of Lafayette-Greylock Lodge from North Adams, MA: Worshipful Master Nelson Ogert and RW Travis Sawyer, DDGM-MA 30th District.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Representatives from the Grand Lodge of New York were MW William Sardone, PGM; RW James Spaulding, DDGM Old 17th District ; and RW Martin Kanter, PDDGM-1st Manhattan District. From the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts were RW John Kelley, SGW and acting Grand Master for the event; RW Travis Sawyer; and RW Nicholas Mantello, S Grand Lecturer. Grand Lodge of New Jersey representatives were RW J. Eugene Margroff, then SGW, now DGM; RW Michael Firkser, PDDGM-NJ 2nd District; and RW Ronald A. Murad, PDDGM-NJ 10th District and Grand Lodge Trustee.

Eulogy for MW Edward G. Gilbert



Past Grand Master

b. September 9, 1935 – d. December 24, 2023

by Richard W. Bateman

On the morning of the Eve of Christmas, December 24, 2023, the Fraternity of Freemasons lost a strong, vigilant, stalwart and imposing friend, who remained gentle, considerate, generous and caring to the very end. As the year 2023 slowly ebbed to a close, MW Edward G. Gilbert laid down the working tools of life after a very long battle against a multitude of health issues at the age of 88 years.

Next to Freemasonry, the U.S. Marine Corps and the Episcopal Church, the importance of family was always paramount in MW Ed Gilbert's world. Family meant his beloved wife Helen, whom he affectionately called "Babe," his daughter Donna, sons Michael, Mark and Matthew and his treasured grandsons Nicholas and Matthew.

Ed, together with Headquarters Command, his Babe, would provide hours of quality time with family, especially Nicholas and Matthew, lovingly helping to referee little squabbles between the boys while developing character and imparting priceless lessons of life and much love. Both Ed and Babe were always the go-to team modeling a good example for their children and grandchildren to follow.

Ed drew most of his repertoire of character building from two core belief sources, the United States Marine Corps and Freemasonry, coupled with his religious convictions. Beginning with the U.S. Marine Corps' motto "*Semper Fidelis*" meaning "Always Faithful" and "*Ductus Exemplo*" meaning "Lead by Example," MW Ed Gilbert always exemplified the Marine Corps' hallowed code to "never lie, never cheat or steal; abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; respect human dignity and respect others..."

Similarly, the Masonic Fraternity instilled in him the three basic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Throughout MW Ed Gilbert's life, even before becoming a Mason, he embraced with personal vigor each of these integral qualities.

Always being fair-minded, demonstrating brotherly love,

tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behaving with kindness and understanding, MW Ed Gilbert was first in line to extend charity, relief and concern to the downtrodden, not only to fellow Masons but also toward his fellow Americans as a whole. Charitable Work and Volunteering were part and parcel to MW Ed Gilbert's middle name.

During his Grand Mastership, MW Ed Gilbert emphasized and reinstituted the partnership between the Fireman's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) and the Grand Lodge's New York Masonic Safety Identification Program (formerly the Child ID Program or CHIP), demonstrating the shared interests between our two organizations for the safety of our communities and our children. Further, in a concerted effort with the brethren of New York State and the Grand Lodge under the auspices of MW Ed Gilbert, the Masonic Fraternity continued to reach out to neighboring communities in providing free assistance towards training teams of school teachers to be better equipped to recognize troubled children and students at risk of suicide, drug and alcohol abuse and bullying. The program was known as MSAT, the Masonic Student Assistance Training Program.

Like a big Teddy Bear, who is always a welcome sight to all children, MW Ed Gilbert made it his business to visit the Masonic Youth Camp at Camp Turk in the Adirondack Mountains. When visiting the Camp, which he frequently did, MW Ed Gilbert would intermingle with the campers and the Staff, generously sharing time and conversation with all.

Reading remarks made in 2008 by several Staff members from Camp Turk, you quickly realize what a genuine and personable man MW Ed Gilbert truly was: Laura Newnes, Camp Counselor writes, "*When the Grand Master came to visit, I felt honored that a man in his position would come to see how the counselors were doing. I also found his visit to be educational, as I learned more about the Masons and their contributions to charity.*"

RW David F. Stoy, then-Committee Chair writes, *"We would like to personally thank Grand Master Gilbert for all he has done. We are forever grateful for his compassion and interest in Camp Turk. MW Gilbert not only took time out of his vacation to spend time with the Staff, but he frequently calls to see how we are all doing. Words cannot express our gratitude. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you."*

Lastly, Daniel Gil, Camp Counselor writes *"Getting to meet the Grand Master was a great experience. He came during our training week, which was really inspiring. He spoke to us and answered many questions. When he was asked what his favorite thing about the Camp was, he quickly and graciously responded, 'Just look outside!' Then MW Ed Gilbert left us with this thought, 'Enjoy yourselves and treat these kids coming in as if they were part of your family!'"*

MW Ed Gilbert always harbored a soft spot for our troops, especially those serving overseas, witnessed by his devoted support in sending care packages with the help of West Point Lodge 877 to the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces then stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. These care packages were carefully packed full of items for personal hygiene, stationary, free call-home cards and American Flags.

MW Ed Gilbert also engaged the support of the Grand Lodge, various Lodges and the Shriners toward the humanitarian efforts in 2008 of the Masonic Care Community in supplying hundreds of pounds of clothing and school supplies to two orphanages located near Kabul, Afghanistan. This was a noble mission endorsed by MW Ed Gilbert and spearheaded by Chief Warrant Officer and Brother Dan Clark, his wife Diane and RW Stuart Card.

In pursuit of Truth, MW Ed Gilbert underscored throughout his tenure the concepts of getting *"Back to Basics"* and *"Lead with your Heart"* by championing high moral standards within the Fraternity and within the community at large. MW Ed Gilbert truly believed in his heart of hearts that by being true to our tenets, the Masonic Fraternity would continue to be that shining example in the town square that will attract the youth of today and tomorrow.

One of the significant changes that MW Ed Gilbert enacted during his Grand Mastership was to ease some of the sensitivity related to the Widows Program and the involvement of those Brothers who have lost a spouse or partner. Making this change, MW Ed Gilbert created the Surviving Spouse and Loved-Ones Committee, headed by his dear friend and late Brother RW William C. Jones. Together they crafted their sincere theme for this committee, saying in part to the surviving spouse, *"...we invite you to continue your association with us as we pursue our labors of Friendship, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. You are not alone."*

In a brief synopsis, MW Ed Gilbert retired as a Supervisor of Plant Security at General Motors in Buffalo, NY. He became a Freemason in Medina Lodge 336, Medina, NY and served the Craft as a member in good standing for fifty-nine years, having been Initiated on January 24, 1964, Passed on February 28, 1964 and Raised on March 13, 1964. He had affiliations with Buffalo-Lakeland Lodge 846, Western Star Lodge 1185, Erie Parish United Lodge 161 and Hiram Lodge 105. Plus,

he was elected unanimously to Honorary Memberships in many Lodges throughout the Jurisdiction, both upstate and downstate.

MW Ed Gilbert was elected and served as an installed Worshipful Master in Buffalo-Lakeland Lodge 846 in 1990. MW Ed Gilbert was appointed an Assistant Grand Lecturer in 1995 and from 1999 to 2006 he served with distinction as Grand Lecturer. In 2006, MW Ed Gilbert was nominated, elected and installed the Deputy Grand Master. Culminating his ascent to the Oriental Chair, MW Edward G. Gilbert was elected and installed by acclamation to the esteemed office of Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, an office he humbly held from 2008 to 2010.

It has been alluded in various statements written about our dear departed Grand Master, that he was indeed a gentle spirit with a quick and wry sense of humor. In a word, our Grand Secretary, RW Richard T. Schulz characterized the late MW Ed Gilbert as being "genuine," the real deal, a Man and Mason. All who had the pleasure and privilege of making his acquaintance would spontaneously come away liking and enjoying his company.

One tidbit of humor concerning MW Ed Gilbert involved his infatuation with peanut butter. It was a well-known rule at the Masonic Hall amongst the housekeeping staff that a full jar of peanut butter should always be stocked in the Grand Master's apartment and office. And the staff was most accommodating and made sure there was plenty of peanut butter in the cabinet.

A new restaurant opened in the SoHo section of New York City, aptly named "The Peanut Butter Factory," which featured a special sandwich coined "The Elvis." The Elvis, to those uninitiated, is a sandwich consisting of peanut butter, slices of banana and bacon, which is toasted to perfection. Upon learning of this business, MW Ed Gilbert could not resist the temptation to check out the new establishment.

While patiently awaiting his prized sandwich, MW Ed Gilbert noticed that people who had entered the restaurant after him were already being served and enjoying their meal. Being a man of great patience, MW Ed Gilbert bided his time, but when the cook came out to sit down and eat, Ed had to make due inquiry about the status of his sandwich. Approaching the timid waiter, Ed in his usual wry manner asked, "Did Elvis leave the building?" The waiter, almost tripping over himself, apologized for the oversight and handed MW Ed Gilbert a free peanut butter cookie with the promise that the Elvis would arrive momentarily.

On a more serious note, it is sad to say that due to illness, MW Ed Gilbert was confined to either a hospital bed or a rehabilitation center for most of his second year as Grand Master. During that time, the then-Deputy Grand Master, MW Vincent Libone, and then-Grand Secretary, RW Gilbert Savitzky, attended to many of the duties of the Grand Master. However, both MW Vincent Libone and RW Gilbert Savitzky kept in constant contact on a daily basis with MW Ed Gilbert and Babe. Babe and the Gilbert family have to this day only words of praise and gratitude for the moral support and kind sentiments and prayers that they received from hundreds of



Brothers around the State and especially for the unsurpassed care that they received from the Masonic Care Community during MW Ed Gilbert's confinement while he was ill.

In my humble opinion the very best epitaph expressing the memory of such a fine man who has touched so many people in a kind, sweet-tempered and positive way can be encapsulated in the heartfelt words of one such person. One of MW Ed Gilbert's Assistant Grand Lecturers, VW Robert Gengerke, wrote the following eulogy titled "Memory of a Man":

This is not a tribute—the honor of bestowing a tribute belongs to those who have risen far higher on the ladder than I. Rather, this is simply a memory of a man I knew, respected and even loved. Other Brothers—more illustrious—knew him longer, or better; but we all have our own memories of MW Ed Gilbert. This is mine.

I first met Ed Gilbert when I was relatively new to Masonry. I was serving as Senior Deacon in our Lodge, and he seemed to be nothing more than an older guy who sat on the level with the other Brethren—never in the East as a guest of the Master. So, when this bystander corrected me about some minor errors in my work, I instantly attempted to argue for my point of view.

He took no offense. He simply, clearly and gently explained my errors. His explanation was so logical and concise that I had to concede that I'd been wrong. I had no idea who he was, but his patience and kindness taught me more about how to be a Mason than the actual corrections needed in my work.

Sometime later—long after I'd learned who he was—I nominated him to be an honorary member of Scotia Lodge 634; the following year, this was accomplished by unanimous acclamation. After a few more years, he graciously traveled to New York City—at no small risk to his health—to participate in Scotia's re-dedication.

As gentle and kind as his instruction was, Ed was also unyielding in his support for the pillars of the Craft. It didn't matter if adherence was inconvenient or even personally painful for him; he remained adamant that we never lower ourselves or compromise our integrity. I'm certain that Shakespeare would have said of our Brother, Ed Gilbert:

*"Nature might stand up and say
to all the world: this was a man."*

Following the lead shared with us on numerous occasions by our dear departed friend and brother, MW Edward G. Gilbert, let us now close with the lyrics composed and written in 1918 and revised in 1938 by Brother Irving Berlin:

*"While the storm clouds gather
Far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance
To a land that's free.
Let us all be grateful
For a land so fair,
As we raise our voices*

*In a solemn prayer:
God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.*

*From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home."*

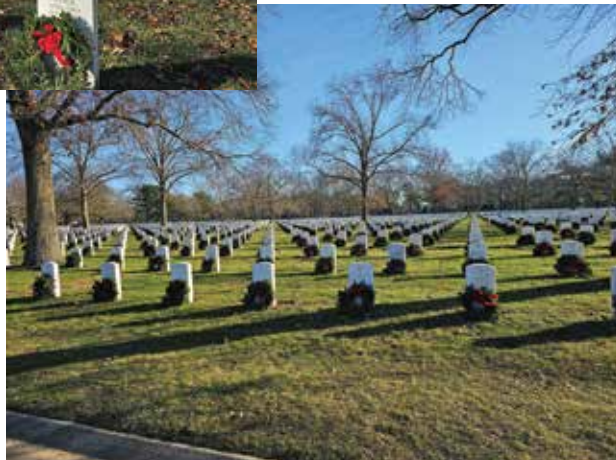
"Well done, thou good and faithful servant... Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21 KJV Amen. So, mote it be.



LI Masons Lay Wreaths

On Saturday, December 16 Brothers of the Nassau and Suffolk Masonic Districts gathered at Long Island National Cemetery and Calverton National Cemetery to participate in the National Wreaths Across America Day. This marks the third consecutive year that the Brothers have volunteered for this inspiring event.

"Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom." This is the mission of Wreaths Across America. During the year this organization sells holiday wreaths through its website and via sponsoring organizations. On National Wreaths Across America Day in December, volunteers place a wreath on the grave of our veterans at National Cemeteries throughout the country.



MWVs Post Honor Guard for Fallen Hero

On October 10 members of the Masonic War Veterans Grand Post and Suffolk Post 23 attended funeral services for Sergeant Bernard J. Sweeney Jr., aged 22. Sgt. Sweeney was reported missing on December 16, 1944 near Strass Germany during the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. Efforts to recover and identify any remains following the war proved fruitless—until 2019. Then, a researcher speculated that remains from a minefield near Kleinhau, Germany might be those of Sweeney. Recovered in 1946, they had been interred at Ardennes American Cemetery in 1950 and were recorded as one of the missing.



Those remains were disinterred in April 2019. Through historical research and comprehensive laboratory analysis the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency confirmed that the remains indeed belong to Sergeant Bernard J. Sweeney Jr., US Army service number 32645733. Scientists were able to use dental and anthropological analysis as well as mitochondrial and Y chromosome analysis to establish their positive identification.

Sergeant Sweeney, who had no immediate family or next of kin remaining, was laid to rest with full military honors at Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY—the nearest National Cemetery to his hometown of Waterbury, CT. Veterans, Fire Departments, Police Departments, U.S. Federal, State and local government officials and community members lined the street to pay their respects to Sergeant Sweeney.

The Army provided pall bearers. There were full military honors, including Masonic War Veterans Honor Guard,



Taps, folding and presentation of the United States Flag, Gun Salute, Cannon Salute and Army and Police Helicopter Fly Over. There were hundreds of people in attendance to honor and remember the service and sacrifice of Sergeant Bernard J. Sweeney Jr. They paid their respects to a hero who, after all these years, finally received the recognition he deserved.

The Grand Lodge of New York and the Masonic War Veterans were well represented by a Masonic Honor Guard led by Grand Post Donald Kuhner, 2nd Lt. Commander General; Vincent Scandole, 3rd Lt. Commander General; and ten members of Suffolk Post 23.



MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



RW G. MICHAEL MORRIS,
PRESIDENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND HOME
585/734-4012 (C)

MMorris@NYTrustees.org



Veterans Memorial Garden at MCC

The dedication of the new Veterans Memorial Garden on the Masonic Care Community campus was held on June 24, 2023 during the St. John's Day celebrations. The garden is prominently located on the main lawn in front of Wiley Hall and serves as a focal point for MCC residents and for everyone who visits the MCC campus.

The garden was designed as a tribute to honor all United States Military Veterans who have bravely served and continue to serve our country. But it is particularly dedicated to our Masonic Military Veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice during times of war and the 20+ veterans who die each day due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The garden serves as an inspirational destination for personal reflection, serenity, healing and remembrance.

The design of the garden was created by Anthony Battaglia, landscape architect from Battaglia Landscaping and Supply. With dimensions of approximately 45 feet by 67 feet, the garden features a large bronze "Eagle Taking Flight" statue from the Randolph Rose Collection. There is also a personalized, diamond-patterned bench in remembrance of Ms. Joanne Kessler, First Lady 2021-2024 and her passion for "The Battle Within." And there is a symbolic "Empty Chair." Plantings include tree lilacs, junipers, hydrangeas, Rose of Sharon, roses, lavender and more.



The initial funding for the Veterans Memorial Garden was provided by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home. It is the hope of the Trustees, however, to continue the enhancement and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Garden through additional support from our New York Masonic Lodges, individuals and other organizations.

In the spirit of leading by example, my Lady Ruth and I decided to provide the funding for a custom gazebo for the Veterans Memorial Garden. The gazebo will serve to unify the areas of the garden from an architectural perspective, while also providing shelter from sun, rain and snow for visitors.



In addition to the gazebo, there are several other naming opportunities for the Veterans Memorial Garden. These include: two additional benches; four planter boxes; branch of service dedication areas (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard); "Empty Chair" dedication; and personalized legacy brick dedications.



The Trustees invite you to help us complete the design of the Veterans Memorial Garden in time for St. John's Day in June 2024. My Brethren, the time is now. A brochure listing the various naming opportunities for the Veterans Memorial Garden is available on the Masonic Care Community website: <https://masonichomeny.org/giving/veterans-memorial-gardens/>. We thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Masonic Care Community VETERANS MEMORIAL LEGACY BRICK

Yes, we'd like to reserve a permanent brick. Please engrave the brick as follows:

Any symbol is considered one space (period, etc.)

All text is centered unless otherwise noted.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY AND IN ALL-CAPS

\$200.00 • 4x8 brick • Max 15 characters per line • Max 3 lines

Please either return this form with your check payable to The Masonic Care Community
or fill out the credit card info below and save the form to email as an attachment.

Send to: mulliganm@mccny.com

Questions, call Mara Mulligan at 315/798-4703

Mailing address: Care of Mara Mulligan
Masonic Care Community of New York
2150 Bleecker Street, Utica, NY 13501

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ AMOUNT PAID: _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____ CVC CODE: _____ EXP DATE: _____

Please note that brick engraving orders will be placed when the minimum order level required
by the engraving manufacturer has been reached.

MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY



Year in Review

RW ROB RAFFLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY OF NEW YORK
315/798-4882
raffler@mccny.com



As we begin the new year, I want to thank my Brother Masons and your Lodges who have remained dedicated partners in all that we do. We appreciate your ongoing support for the Masonic Care Community. It has been unwavering. As we celebrated our 130th anniversary in 2023, I hope that you celebrated with us. Together we have continued what was started by caring Masons of the Fraternity so many years ago.

Our successes this past year are your successes—and those of the hundreds of donors who donated to the Masonic Care Community. Here are just a few of the highlights you made possible in 2023:

The Veterans Memorial Garden – Made possible through the support of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund, we created the Veterans Memorial Garden outside of Wiley Hall on the MCC campus. The garden honors the legacy of American military veterans. Thanks go to all Brothers who have secured a dedication brick. We are continuing to accept brick dedication and other dedication donations to fully complete the garden. Please call MCC's Philanthropy Office at 315/798-4768 today for more information on making a donation in support of the Veterans Memorial Garden or participating in the brick donation program.

An Amazing St. John's Day – Food, music, friends and family all coming together made it another incredible St. John's Day celebration at MCC. This is an annual Masonic event not to be missed. Mark your calendars for June 21-23 for St. John's Day 2024.

Our Holiday Benefit Concert - The Fenimore Chamber Orchestra returned to the beautiful Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel to present an amazing night of music. The Chapel was close to capacity as nearly 200 people attended this event to benefit the mission of the Masonic Care Community and our residents. Having many of our residents there made it a truly special night—one which they greatly enjoyed. We anticipate the return of the Fenimore Chamber Orchestra again in December of 2024 and hope that you can join us.

The Best Activities for our Residents – At MCC we believe that our Community Life team and the variety of activities we offer are the very best. Where else can residents spend the day at a private lake in the Adirondacks, as our residents do at Round Lake? Where else to fish or pick apples in an orchard or spend time planting seeds and watching them grow in an onsite Horticultural Center? From our art therapy program to our gardening clubs, our bike program to Bingo, MCC has a full array of activities that residents love.



As we look forward to 2024, we continue our mission to provide compassionate care for seniors. We remain dedicated to supporting, nurturing and educating those whose lives we touch by providing them with the care and services they deserve, guided by the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, truth and integrity. These were the promises that were made when the Masonic Home opened in 1893 and these are the promises we will keep, with your continued help and support. Thank you for all that you do for the Masonic Care Community.





MARA MULLIGAN
 DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC MARKETING AND
 PHILANTHROPY
 315/798-4703
mulliganm@mccny.com

MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY

Happiness is Found in Helping Others



There is a saying that goes: “If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.” For centuries, the greatest thinkers have suggested the same thing: Happiness is found in helping others.

As Brother Masons, you already know this to be true. It is intrinsic in the promises you make in service to others.

The secret to happiness has never truly been a secret. Helping others may just be the way to living a life that is not only happier, but also healthier, wealthier, more productive, and meaningful.

As I reflect on 2023, there is not enough space here to recognize all of our MCC “helpers.” I want to recognize many of the key members of the MCC giving community:

- Our Veterans Memorial Garden donors. What a beautiful space they are helping us to create and maintain to honor those we have loved and others that we have lost!
- Our Masonic Lodge donors
- Brother Masons and their family members
- Our Holiday Concert sponsors
- Our 1893 Society donors
- Our planned giving supporters
- Our resident family members
- Our grant funders, and
- All of our donors to MCC, regardless of dollar amount. Even a small gift leads to great things. When your donation is added to that of other donors, together your support has a significant impact on our mission and our work.
- And Lou Rossi from the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services/New York State. Since 2020, Lou has provided endless support helping the MCC team to secure more than \$2.1 million in FEMA grant funding. His help has been instrumental in securing this important support to MCC.

All of these individuals not only know the secret, but they

are also living it. Happiness is found in helping others. With full hearts, we at MCC thank all of you who chose to donate to us in 2023 and thank you for your commitment to our cause and to our elderly residents.

“There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.”—Khalil Gibran



ACACIA VILLAGE



Justice and Carla Cheney moved to The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village just over nine months ago from their home in nearby Vernon, New York. Justice says that when they drive onto our Masonic Care Community campus, he instantly feels a sense of calm come over him. Since moving in they both say that they are sleeping much more soundly; there is no street noise and their Acacia Village neighbors are very quiet. The Cheneyes feel very safe here, and it gives their entire family peace of mind to know they are living in such a carefree environment.



Justice and Carla decided the one bedroom with a den Lodge Suite apartment in building B was a perfect fit. Using the den as an office/TV room gives Carla a space to watch her favorite movies while Justice watches his sports in the living room. They appreciate our cable package with over 200 channels that is included in their monthly rent.

Once they decided that they were going to make the move, they managed to discard and give away much of what they no longer needed. They say that they feel unencumbered now that they are free from all that stuff. Carla is happy she decided to keep her sewing machine because she finds she has more time to sew now than ever before. In his spare time Justice enjoys reading and doing research online.

While the Cheneyes sometimes miss their home, they have discovered so many advantages to living at The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village. A real plus is having a washer and dryer in their apartment and no longer having to lug the laundry up and down stairs. They also do not have to worry about what is for dinner. They can look ahead and see what specials are offered in either of the two dining facilities at Acacia Village, The Hearth and Timbers. If it appeals to them they can eat out and if not, they can whip up something in their apartment.

LINDA RAE AVOLIO
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY RELATIONS
ACACIA VILLAGE
585/798-4775
avoliol@acaciavillageny.org



Thursday nights, they like to make reservations at Timbers for a nice filet mignon, lobster tail or both. They say the food is fabulous. It is the perfect spot for celebrating birthdays and holidays with the family, too.



Health and wellness are very important to Justice and Carla. Just about every morning they get a jump on the day by exercising in the pool, followed by a relaxing soak in the hot tub. They have found the pool to be very therapeutic, saying, "It is wonderful for both the mind and body." Most afternoons they participate in activities, and they rarely miss Happy Hour on Thursdays. Every Sunday they meet up with other residents for a lively card game of Hand and Foot. They mentioned that they both consider themselves somewhat independent, so it has been important for them to strike the right balance between being social and maintaining their privacy.

Justice is a member of Infinity Lodge here on the campus. He and the other Masons enjoy the convenience of having Chris Hoffman, our Activities Coordinator, drive them to their meetings. Justice is impressed with his Brother Masons and their devotion to their Craft.

We are pleased to welcome Justice and Carla to The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village. If you are interested in learning more about living at The Neighborhoods of Acacia Village, please call or visit our website at www.acaciavillageny.org.



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

FROM THE WEBMASTER

As children we are taught legends and myths to impart values and truths. School gives us more knowledge and helps develop our mental picture of the world and our place in it. Most of us stop there. Once we are given an idea, it becomes opinion, then truth and we reject anything new or contradictory. We build our world around things we never truly examined or understood deeply, yet acquire deep convictions.

Initiatory experiences are meant to take you from the darkness of a single, limited perspective into the light of broader views. When we become Masons, we ought to develop a new, fresh way to see ourselves, the world and our relationship to all. This is not dissimilar to our operative brethren who traveled and worked in foreign lands. They brought what they knew, but then they had to unlearn or relearn many things. The materials and tools available were sometimes different and unfamiliar. And they had to best work and agree among workmen who spoke different languages and had different customs.

Freemasonry exposes us to diverse, even conflicting knowledge, opinions and customs. This is why the fraternal aspect of the Craft is so important. Most of us avoid talk of politics and religion but we may feel—based on the knowledge we brought into the room—that others have lost their mind. This is not just polarization, but their values and beliefs are simply foreign to us.

This is especially true generationally and it has a lot to do with not growing up with the Internet. Younger people have always been exposed to opinions and facts my generation was never taught or had access to. Widespread literacy improved

people's ability to know and decide but was mostly limited to textbooks and newspapers. Even today, magazines covers are different in America than overseas, based on what their respective audience expects and can tolerate. Some knowledge was practically forbidden, now at our fingertips. Had we known certain historical facts we never would have formed certain opinions, yet remain immovable and inviolable, nonetheless.

New generations were not inculcated with our prejudices and will not blindly accept our rhetoric defending them. We often cannot comprehend how they could be for or against this or that and they wonder the same; though some realize it is just the way we were brought up. May our grandchildren forgive us.

The Masonic virtue of Tolerance—rather than avoidance—is paramount to solving this within ourselves and in the world. Right or wrong or matter of opinion, dissent and rejection of old worldviews cannot be buried. Conflicting histories and ideologies are no longer banned as radical or hidden in unused library books. People know there is more than what they were taught, more than one way to see and navigate the world. We ultimately may agree or disagree but it is too easy to underestimate our ignorance and overestimate our moral authority. We may have to rethink our life.

Tolerance will allow us to listen to and learn from, rather than dictate to, younger generations with their unique advantages. Besides, the world—and the Fraternity—will be theirs well after it stops being ours.

‘Tis the Season to be Jolly



The holidays at the end of the year are a wonderful season to spread joy, laughter and good will amongst family, friends and Brothers. Archimede-Roma Lodge 854 of the Tenth Manhattan District took that sentiment to heart.

A sizeable group of fellow Masons, their wives and children gathered together for a delicious Natale feast and warm fellowship at Fabio's on the Water in Merrick, Long Island. Worshipful Master Giuseppe Palmeri and his Lady Nicoletta welcomed everyone to the festive table. The ambiance was friendly, warm and well received.

A daughter of one of the members entertained and charmed the group, playing several Christmas pieces on her violin, to much applause. Kudos to the Senior Deacon are well deserved. Brother Jack Nastasi made the arrangements for a wonderful evening.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Committee Ratifies 59 DSAs

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



The Awards Committee received a total of seventy-eight recommendations for the Dedicated Service Award for the year of 2024. Twenty-eight were received from the Metro Region, fourteen were received from the Hudson-Champlain Region, fourteen from Mid-State and twenty-three were received from the Western Region. Fifty-nine were ratified, of which twenty-two are Past Masters. Twelve were held over until next year due to District allotment requirements. Seven were rejected for various reasons.

All awardees and their Lodge Secretary were notified in January by the Grand Secretary. The DDGMs were notified of the honorees in their District by the committee. The Lodge Secretaries were also notified of those who were held over by the committee.

The committee will be accepting 2025 DSA Recommendation Forms in September 2024. Letters and 2025 forms will be sent out to Lodge Secretaries in late August 2024.

The DSA Chest Medallion will continue to be included in the DSA Package, to be purchased through Lodge Services. The DSA Chest Medallion is also available to 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. These recommendations will be processed as they are received. This year eight DeWitt

Clinton Awards, five Jacob Morton Awards and five Grand Lodge Certificates were approved by the committee. The Lodge Secretary and DDGM will be notified within a short period if the nominee has been approved to receive one of these awards.

The Jacob Morton Award Chest Medallion should be awarded to recipients with their certificate. This may be purchased at a cost of \$20 by the Lodge Secretary from Lodge Services. It is also available to past recipients of the award. It also may be purchased at a cost of \$20 by the Lodge Secretary from Lodge Services.

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 continue to thank the Awards Committee team for the time and efforts they put into examining all of the recommendations and fairly determining who will receive the awards.

Awards Committee: The Metropolitan Region is represented by RW Gregory Noulas and RW Walter Fingerle; the Mid-State Region: RW Daniel G. Lort and W Alfred W. Ferguson; Hudson-Champlain: RW Charles E. Knapp Jr. and RW Robert L. Hogan Jr. For the Western Region we are served by RW William H. Greene and RW Douglas D. Air.

2024 Dedicated Service Awards Recipients

Metro Region		21 Approved
District	Brother	Lodge
Bronx	Lenworth Andrew Leopold Simms	Pelham 712
Second Kings	George A. O'Connor	Ridgewood 710
First Manhattan	Irwin George Freyberg	Holland 08
Fourth Manhattan	Liberato A. Lavarino	Jose Rizal 10977
Fourth Manhattan	John J. DeSocio	Heritage 371
Fourth Manhattan	Diogracias Camungol	Gramercy 537
Fifth Manhattan	William Morales Jr.	True Craftsman's 651
Seventh Manhattan	Karl F. Schwarzenegger	Columbia 1190
Ninth Manhattan	Jonathan D. Berrios	Herder 698
Tenth Manhattan	Marcos Fabio Costa	Brazilian 1182
Tenth Manhattan	Luis Salas	La Fraternidad 387
Nassau	Lawrence H. Rice	Wantagh-Morton 60
Nassau	Adam T. Bernstein	Paumanok-Port Washington 855

Queens	Ernest G. Mendler	Francis Lewis 273
Queens	Marco Sorisio	Cornucopia 563
Richmond	Robert D. Birstler	Great Kills 912
Suffolk	Harold H. Bernstein	Connetquot 838
Suffolk	Daniel Dunbar	Riverhead 645
Suffolk	Patrick Alan McErlean	Wamponamon 437
First Westchester-Putnam	Stephen Thomas	Solomon's 196
Second Westchester-Putnam	Glen Butler	Pleasantville-Hiawatha 434
Hudson-Champlain Region		10 Approved
District	Brother	Lodge
Central Leatherstocking	Mark E. MacLeod	Otsego 138
Central Leatherstocking	James O. Forbes	Oneonta 466
Fulton-Montgomery	Terry A. Bieniek	Amsterdam 84
Mid-Hudson	James S. Waterhouse	Unity 9
Mid-Hudson	Bradley G. Keil	Hendrick Hudson 875
Old 17th	Daniel Adam Peltier	Beukendaal 915
Old 17th	Paul Russell Posson	Schenectady 1174
Old 17th	Robert Hollner	Guttenberg 737
Saratoga-Warren-Washington	Malcolm L. Ogden Jr.	Cambridge Valley 481
Saratoga-Warren-Washington	Patrick H. Morton	Queensbury 121
Mid-State Region		10 Approved
District	Brother	Lodge
Cortland-Madison	William E. Baird	Tri-Valley 148
Cortland-Madison	Gregory Joseph Wright	Cazenovia 616
Franklin-Hamilton	Jeffery L. Gillette	Frontier 517
Jefferson-Lewis	Dale Stephen Porter	Alexandria 297
Oneida	Elliot Friedman	Roman-Hatheway 223
Onondaga	Walter Belonsoff III	Memorial 648
Onondaga	William Jay Simmons	Morning Star 524
Onondaga	Gale T. Mitchell	Jordan 386
St. Lawrence	Robert N. Saidel	Gouverneur 217
Southern Tier	Anthony C. Villecco	Binghamton 177
Western Region		18 Approved
District	Brother	Lodge
Allegany	Lyle R. Slingerland	University 230
Cattaraugus	William C. Swain	Portville 579
Chautauqua	David D. Joy	Mount Moriah 145
Chautauqua	Charles William Pierce Sr.	Forest 166
Erie	Edward J. Draves	Western Star 1185
Erie	Robert E. Yates Jr.	West Seneca 1111
Erie	Andrew J. Bienias	Renaissance 1188
Erie	Edward N. White	Living Stone 255
Herkimer	Scott Kerber	Olive Branch 40
Letchworth	James S. Tygart	Olive Branch 39

Continues on Page 26 – Awards Committee

Letchworth	Kenneth E. Buckley	Nunda Station 682
Letchworth	Maurice Lyle Edwards	Constellation 404
Monroe	Robert Songin	Unity 479
Monroe	Donald George Gress	Fairport-Flower City 476
Monroe	James T. Clancy	Webster 538
Ontario-Seneca-Yates	Timothy Culver	Milo 108
Ontario-Seneca-Yates	Roger R. Roome	Eagle 619
Wayne	Glen Cone	Wayne 416

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

Grand Lodge Community Service Awards

This year eight DeWitt Clinton Awards, five Jacob Morton Awards and five Grand Lodge Certificates of Excellence in Service to the Community were approved by the committee.

2024 Community Service Award Recipients

DeWitt Clinton Award	8	Date	Submitted by:
Bergen Volunteer Fire Department	1/28/23		Hesperus Lodge 837
Kathy Juckett	2/21/23		Granville Lodge 55
James Edward Lanfear	2/21/23		Granville Lodge 55
Joseph Kirsch	3/16/23		Mount Vernon Lodge 263
Dave Kirsch	3/16/23		Mount Vernon Lodge 263
Kimberly Talbot	4/2/23		Beukendaal Lodge 915
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	4/2/23		Hiram Lodge 105
Douglas Jamel	9/19/23		Grand Master Approval
Jacob Morton Award		5	
Angelo Di Gangi	1/24/23		Mazzini Lodge 824
Victor Han	2/9/23		Queensboro Lodge 892
Herman Picalomino	3/21/23		Wieland Lodge 714
Theodore C. Feurer	4/2/23		Beukendaal Lodge 915
Calixto J. Bulnes	10/9/23		Warwick Lodge 544
GL Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence in Service to the Community		5	
Lawrence E. Church	4/2/23		Beukendaal Lodge 915
Jamie Casucci	3/10/23		West Seneca Lodge 1111
Jeremy Hudson	3/10/23		West Seneca Lodge 1111
Jesse Fodero	3/10/23		West Seneca Lodge 1111
Gary Crewson	3/10/23		West Seneca Lodge 1111



RW CHRISTOPHER J. HOUGH
CHAIRMAN
hough441@roadrunner.com

GRAND LODGE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



EAP Applications Ready to Go

Attention, Student Scholars: The 2024 Grand Lodge Educational Assistance Program grants applications are now available. In 2023 a total of 409 grants were approved. We think we can do better this year.

The necessary qualifications are proof of enrollment in an approved institution of higher learning, a GPA of at least 2.75 or high school equivalent, and completion of an essay. Applicants must be the child or grandchild of a New York State Mason (living or deceased) and able to achieve a signoff from the Master or Secretary of that Mason's Lodge. This year's essay topic: "Artificial Intelligence is impacting many aspects

of our lives. How is AI affecting you now and how may it into the future?"

Applications for educational grants for 2024 went live on January 1. Please go to www.nymasons.org and scroll down the Member Center drop down menu to Educational Assistance. This will re-route you to the 2024 Application website. The application process closes on March 31, 2024. All eligible students may receive up to four awards during their student career. During the application period any questions can be addressed by emailing education@masonichallnyc.org.

3 Kings Visits Brooklyn VA

by Joseph J. Burke

It has been my honor to serve as the Veterans Chairman for the Mighty 3rd Kings District for the past eighteen years. During this journey I have had the honor of working alongside many Brothers of our beloved Fraternity. We have sponsored Wounded Warrior families, sent care packages to front-line special forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, clothed and fed homeless men and women veterans here in NY State. Through COVID our District supplied masks for both our Veterans Hospitals and our Utica Masonic Care Campus. Year-round for almost two decades, we have supplied our veterans tokens of appreciation for their service to our Country.

During this past Grand Master's Service weekend the Mighty 3rd Kings District conducted a bed to bed visitation at the Brooklyn VA Hospital. Staff Officer R W Walter Leong, W William Neel and Brother Jason Short from Aurora Grata Day Star Lodge 647 joined Brothers Anthony Cardinez, Ismael Gangoo and Lord Malakili Stone. We met and greeted each veteran, Doctor, Nurse and Military Police personnel member.

It is with great pride that we serve our community and contribute to the betterment of our society and our Fraternity.

On behalf of our DDGM Antonio Giannattasio, our elected, appointed officers and the Brothers of our District, we wish all veterans our very best always.

We enclose some photos of the good works the members of our Fraternity have done during this past holiday season. There is no I in Team. To God be the Glory.



CONCORDANT BODIES PAGE



32° SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASONRY

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

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

YORK RITE BODIES: ROYAL ARCH



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

Why would I want to be a Royal Arch Mason?

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



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

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



CRYPTIC MASONS

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

Why Join the Cryptic Council?

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

Website: NYCryptic.org

Contact the Grand Recorder's Office:

GrandRecorder@NYCryptic.org



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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

Benefits of membership as a Knight Templar:

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

To find out more regarding our Chivalric Order:

Website: www.grandcommanderyktny.org

Email: syrknightstemplar@gmail.com



CRYPTIC MASONS

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York

Website: NYCryptic.org

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



What is the Cryptic Council?

The Cryptic Council is the second part of a three-part Masonic Body, the center body in the York Rite of Freemasonry. It completes the story of the Hiram Legend or Masonic Allegory of Freemasonry. The Cryptic Council contains the most beautiful and well written Degrees in all of Freemasonry. There are three Degrees in the Council. However, only the Royal Master Degree and the Select Master Degree are required in New York. The Super Excellent Degree is optional. Here are the details of those Degrees.

The Royal Master Degree

This is the first Degree of the Cryptic Rite as conferred in the United States of America. Candidates who receive the Degree are impressed with its dignified ritual and relevant teachings. It contains one section which is generally regarded as an outstanding display of symbolism and content of philosophy. The ritualistic presentations in the Degree explain the articles contained in the Holy of Holies of King Solomon's Temple, including the Ark of the Covenant. This knowledge is essential to those who would fully understand the preceding Degrees. The principal characters in the Degree are Solomon and his royal assistant.

The Select Master Degree

The Degree of Select Master has not always been associated with that of Royal Master. Jeremy Cross, a traveling Masonic lecturer, author and educator of the early 1800's, is given credit by most writers for having combined the two Degrees into one rite. There is strong evidence to support the theory that the Degree came from a similar Degree in the Scottish Rite called Intimate Secretary or Grand Tyler of King Solomon. Regardless of its origin, the legend of this Degree is old. The scene of this Degree is laid in the underground vault of King Solomon's Temple. The events which characterize the Degree are stirring enough to make it one of intense interest. The ritualistic presentations contain the story to "complete the Circle of Perfection" in Ancient Craft Masonry.

The Super Excellent Master Degree

As we have stated, the Degree of Super Excellent Master is not a Degree of the Crypt but it relates events that led to the recovery of the Lost Word. This Degree beautifully tells of a period in history in which all Freemasons are interested, that period following the destruction of the first Temple. The essence of the Degree is foretold in the presentation by the

Principal Sojourner in the Royal Arch Degree when he makes reference, "Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem, and he did which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God," etc.

The Degree of Super Excellent Master is one of the best devised, most impressive and beautiful Degrees. It is most enlightening and relevant to one's daily life. In a display of exciting events, Biblical characters come to life exemplifying the historical drama of the Holy Bible. Here Nebuchadnezzar rules again; Zedekiah proves the results of his wicked life; Ezekiel and Jeremiah prophesy the promises of Almighty God.

What is the work of Cryptic Masons? Freemasonry seeks to improve the community by improving the individual. Therefore, Councils of Cryptic Masons are found working with Lodges, Chapters and Commanderies giving more opportunities to improve one's skills in leadership, public speaking, interpersonal relationships and administration. This empowers Masons to become better leaders in their career, church and community. Councils also work with these and other Masonic groups in community service projects to demonstrate Masonic teachings as a way of life.

The General Grand Council established the Cryptic Medical Research Foundation to give Cryptic Masons an opportunity to turn Masonic philosophy into a living practice. Currently, the Foundation is working with medical researchers to find agents to prevent atherosclerosis, more commonly known as hardening of the arteries. This work places thousands of dollars annually into the needed research to stop our nation's largest killer, atherosclerosis and heart disease.

Our current charity is the Parkinson's Foundation. The Grand Charity Corporation tracks those funds and distributes them to those in need.

At present in New York, we have approximately 1000 members throughout the state. If you are a Royal Arch Mason in good standing and would like to join this elite group of Masons, please refer to the following websites:

NYCryptic.org

[Cryptic Masons International – The official web presence of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International.](#)

Recently, the leadership of your Grand Lodge Masonic Youth Committee and leaders of your three Masonic Youth Groups (DeMolay, Rainbow and Triangle) had a meeting to discuss what support we may need in the future. One need that repeatedly came up in the meeting was for adult volunteers and mentors. In talking to friends in Scouting, youth sports and those active in Church youth groups, that need is common in all organizations looking to benefit our next generation. I can also tell you that there is even a shortage of teachers in New York State.

One story Jimmy Carter was fond of telling is that more than eighty years ago Miss Judy Coleman,

President Carter's High School teacher, told him "Accommodate changing times but cling to unchanging principles." It is important to recognize that adults have an impact that goes far beyond their official roles. Miss Judy Coleman influenced a man who steered the Nation as President, and then went on to do his best work later in life.

One local Mason, a DeMolay Dad named RW Edwin Ardenski, mentored several young men and DeMolay Sweethearts. Many went on to become prominent Masons and Masonic Youth group volunteers. A mentor of mine, from forty years ago when I worked for a record store, is Brother Bill Everett, a Mason at Tyrian Lodge in WNY. It was great to meet him later in life on the Level and know he exemplified "Making a Difference" before either of us was a Mason.

As Masons, what can we do to help, teach and influence the next generation? How can we grow the future of our Fraternity? If you have a son or daughter, you can join them in getting involved in one of our three Masonic Youth Groups. You will get to meet and know Brothers from all over your Masonic District and your child will get to know the sons and daughters of your Brothers. If there is no opportunity in your District for a Masonic Youth Group, you still have plenty of options to be an adult volunteer. Discuss sponsoring

a DeMolay Chapter, Triangle, or Rainbow Assembly with the Master and officers of your Lodge. Make sure they know that investing in our youth is the best way to keep a Lodge active and attract young, family-aged men to your ranks.

If the timing is not right for a Masonic Youth group, you will find many Masons involved in Scouting. Scouts exemplify many of the same ideals we hold dear as a Fraternity. Becoming involved in Scouting and being a Scout leader is also a great way to attract good men to your Lodge. Your Masonic Youth Committee has a Scouting sub-committee Chairman, Brother Ken Samarra, who can answer any questions on Masonic Scouting. He is always interested in connecting Brothers to local Scouting troops. You can reach Brother Ken at Scouting@nymasons.org.

If your House of Worship has a youth group, that is another way for you as a Mason to Make a Difference. My predecessor as Chairman of the Grand Lodge Masonic Youth Committee, RW Cary Cohn, has mentored and influenced dozens (more accurately, probably hundreds) of young people by being involved in baseball. Other Brothers are football, hockey or other sports coaches, also influencing hundreds of youth who may one day ask them about the Square and Compasses on their ring. Be sure to let your Lodge Brothers know what you are doing so they can offer their help and support. You never know: after you and your Brothers get involved, the young people you influence may want to form a Rainbow, Triangle or DeMolay.

My dear Brothers, because you receive the *Empire State Mason*, I know you are men who have something to offer. Please use this time as you improve yourself in Masonry to work on improving the next generation. Rainbow, Triangle and DeMolay would love to have you as an adult volunteer. You have lots to offer other groups, too. The world must see us involved with our youth as part of any plan to grow.



Coming to Round Hill Lodge

You all know the Masonic Model Railroad Club at Masonic Care New Rochelle is making tracks. We not only have the building of the layouts but also an education focus. And, we are expanding. A meeting with Round Hill Lodge resulted in their desire to also have model trains. We can help them.

We surveyed the space: this will work. We have a donated layout we can give to them as well as the trains. They will handle the assembly and care. Your donations of trains, track, etc. are still gratefully accepted and greatly appreciated.



Master Builder Stanley Orr, Hiram Abif of Manhattan

by Stephen L. Zabriskie

Assembling resources is first step in preparing a serious telling of a person's life and times. Often, this part of the process is so daunting and unrewarding that the project gets shelved and the compiler throws up his hands in frustration. Census rolls, naturalization papers, marriage and death certificates are fairly reliable sources. There are also church records of marriage and baptism. But a simple Google search does not always produce a useful record.

An eye-opening essay on the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society website is titled, "Researching the Irish-Born of New York City." Its author is B-Ann Moorhouse, who describes a long list of difficulties the prospector may encounter when looking for specifics of Irish immigration, and particular immigrants, in the 18th and 19th centuries. Much of the confusion has to do with Irish customs such as the frequent practice of naming children for other family members. Much of it has to do with local enumerators in New York who recorded the names of the immigrants, endeavoring to translate the brogue of Irish surnames to their phonetic English equivalent. And sometimes members of the same family spelled their name differently due to personal quirks—or illiteracy.

The attempt to link migrations of members of one family is complicated by the fact that they often practiced chain migration. That is, one or two members would come over at a time, maybe from Ireland or maybe from Liverpool, and maybe to New York or to Canada. As they earned a few dollars in this country they would send home funds to enable other family or sweethearts to join them. And, Moorhouse notes, for many reasons including prejudice, the Irish were very clannish and tended to live together in neighborhoods.

This article is about the career of William J. Stanley Orr, who in his 95 years left his mark on the construction of an impressive portfolio of high-rise properties in New York City, New Jersey and elsewhere around the country and world. Stan was born in 1928 to James Orr and his wife Martha Fenton Orr, then living at West 18th Street in Manhattan. They were described as an older couple. In 1928 they would have been respectively 41 and 43 years old.

There is no accounting for luck and sometimes it intervenes. Looking for information on Stan Orr's parents was exasperating. As a last recourse I looked up "death of James Orr in Tehran." This gave me the hit I needed and also provided a 1950 Census record, according to which James was born in 1887 and in 1950 was 63 years old. He resided at W. 18th St. in the city, he was a bus operator and, yes, he was a US citizen. His spouse was Martha Fenton aged 65, with a birthdate around 1885. Both came from Northern Ireland. Her occupation at that time was listed as "Shipping Cabling." A further link to an Irish census of 1901 showed that she was one of eight children, including a sister Mary who was older by five years. Martha's Naturalization Record showed she came in from Montreal about 1920. The date of petition for citizenship was 1927. The Federal Census also recorded a son,

William J. Stanley Orr, who was 21 in early 1950, living at home and at that time unemployed. He could probably have been identified as a student.

We still do not know when James arrived from Ireland but we do know that he was a member of a Masonic Lodge in the Old Country. His 1950 occupation as bus operator is said to have begun with the horse-drawn cars popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The last horse-drawn transit line ceased operation in 1917 and was replaced by automobiles, and for public transportation, the overhead electric trolley. James moved on to trolley operation and when that mode was retired in 1936 he became a bus driver, running the 23rd Street route. It is of curious note that in forty-four years of employment in the Transit Authority he never obtained a driver's license. In fact, during his school years Stan acquired a beater of a car. He offered James the chance to drive through the city, warning him about the cardboard covering the holes in the floor. A police officer pulled James over for making a wide turn—as he would with his bus—and the two Orrs were embarrassed that dad could not produce a license.

Not much is known of Stan's youth. He may have been lightly touched by the years of the Great Depression but would have been about 5 when the country began to recover. For a while his mom seems to have prepared meals and washed for a number of itinerant workmen, while James ran his bus. Often Stan would hop the 23rd St. bus to check on his dad and keep him company. For some years he was active in Scouting and earned his Eagle Scout status. It is easy to speculate that this organization, along with his father's Lodge experience, predisposed him to Freemasonry.

Stanley likely pursued several typical jobs growing up an ambitious kid in a big city. Before and after school he could be found on the docks, with which the New York waterfront was abundantly blessed. He would hang with others on the piers and wait to be called to on- and offload cargo. Before his involvement in the war he worked at Con Edison. His responsibility there was to locate and pull site blueprints and distribute them to workers in the field.



Service Photo—one-half step from the yearbook photo.

Stan did see service at the end of World War II but, as with other areas of his life, the record is cloudy. At some point a fire destroyed archives of military enlistment records; they were eventually reconstructed but with some apparent discrepancies. Stan's son-in-law Worshipful Brother Roger McKay, of Stony Point Lodge 313 in Rockland, is the primary source of information for this history. Brother Roger has a copy of Stan's DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. This

Continues on page 32 – Master Builder

instrument shows that Orr enlisted in 1945 at the age of 17. A friend's mother signed the paperwork allowing him to enroll. He thus served in the latter part of the war, in Trieste, Italy and his role was as a cook. Germany surrendered in May 1945; we do not know how long he remained with the victorious forces in country.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt having signed the GI Bill in June of 1944, Stanley Orr was one of countless returning veterans who took advantage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. Stipulating at least 90 days of active duty to qualify, the bill was supported by FDR as a jobs-

creation stimulus program but most of the veterans chose to apply the benefits to education. Orr studied at Farmingdale for two years—where he was the first captain of the Farmingdale basketball team—and earned an Associate's Degree in construction. He then moved on to Columbia and completed schooling in Civil Engineering.



Leader on the court—team captain at Farmingdale.

At about this time he got construction employment in Ohio for a few years. But he also joined Normal Lodge 523 in the Fourth Manhattan in May of 1950. At 22 years old, he is listed as a student and the 1249th

man to be Initiated in the Lodge. He received his Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees in November that year. When he did get to Ohio one of his builder associates gave him a Masonic ring—and a pair of cowboy boots. The Masonry and its connections evidently made an impression on Brother Stan. The demands of his profession kept him from an active role in the Fraternity, and prevented the assumption of leadership duties, but all of his work in the construction business and all of his dealings with the different and frequently at-odds trades were steeped in principles of respect and integrity. He maintained his membership through 72 years and he laid down his tools in March of 2023.

An inhouse newsletter of Morse Diesel printed in 1992, under a column headed "The Life of Leisure," congratulated Stan Orr on his May 28 retirement from the construction company. Stan, a Senior Vice President, put up "...an impressive 40-year career in the construction industry. Stan spent half of that time at Morse Diesel; he most recently returned to the firm in 1988 after an eight-year hiatus."

Tracking his movements through the construction landscape is an exercise. In his career Brother Orr had allegiance to Morse Diesel Construction Managers/Morse Diesel International, HRH Construction and Starrett Housing Corporation and the companies interacted and overlapped. Through the years he was engaged with and respected by important figures in these businesses.

The business approach of Morse Diesel was perfected in the 1930s by its principal Carl Morse. In a 1979 *NY Times* article, Chairman Morse was said to "orchestrate construction projects from design to ribbon cutting." This practice from step-one conception to completion was embraced by Master Builder Orr.

Richard Ravitch, born July 1933, inherited HRH Construction in the 1960s with his cousins. They built the Manhattan Plaza in the 1970s and Waterside Plaza in '74.

Arthur "Artie" Nusbaum was a former President of HRH who died in 2018 at 92 years. He joined HRH in 1975 and left in 1988. He was also a superintendent and project manager-consultant with Morse Diesel. At MDI he supervised thirty projects at a time. The HRH Citicorp Center project of 1977 was fairly typical: there were 3000 people working on various elements of the build, with 565 workers on site. During the course of this project the Starrett Housing Corp. acquired HRH Construction.

The Starrett Corporation was founded in 1922 upon acquisition of the capital stock of Starrett Brothers Building Company. The two Starrett brothers became the Chairman of the Board and the President. In 1970 the new President renamed the company Starrett Housing Corp. In 1977 this entity purchased HRH Construction, which became a subsidiary.

John Cavanagh served as President and CEO of Morse Diesel International. He was Vice-Chair in 1995 when the company sold to AMEC Construction Management Inc., a UK-based company. Cavanagh retired from AMEC in 2004 when it sold off its US assets. He passed away in 2012. Cavanagh noted ironically that as a young engineer he was petrified to climb high-rises under development; but that did not keep him from reaching the Executive Office level of MDI.

In Stan Orr's career he interacted most positively with each of these leaders. He seemed especially connected to Cavanagh. Orr, described as a "spunky little Irishman" standing five feet, six inches, was quite the companion to the 6'6" Cavanagh. The universal references to this Mutt-and-Jeff team were spot-on. In his position with MDI, John Cavanagh was quoted saying, "I'd give anything if he was back with us." Stan did subsequently rejoin Morse in 1988—perhaps in conjunction with Artie Nusbaum.

In 1984 John Cavanagh was one of the founders of CAGNY, the Contractors Association of Greater New York, Morse Diesel being the prime mover. Other representative firms were Turner Construction Company, Lehrer McGovern Bovis Inc. and Crow Construction Company. The impetus was to establish an association specific to the interests of the city's high-rise managers. They developed a professional structure for dealing and negotiating with the six trade groups. The aim was to improve conditions and opportunities for both high-rise builders and the workers, all to the benefit of the construction industry.

Stan Orr served on the Board of Directors of CAGNY and was on the Board of Governors of the Building Trades Employers Association of New York. According to Morse Diesel's column referenced earlier, Stan "lectured frequently on building construction and took an active role in labor negotiations with building trades." He must have been a

welcome presence at the deliberation table. It was often said he would do anything for anybody. He respected everyone and tried to make things good for all, including obstinate owners. He was also widely recognized, in the digital age, as the last guy in the trades to use a calculator.

Roger McKay met Stan Orr in 1972 after meeting a young woman named Susan. After a few dates she took Roger home to meet her mom JoAnn, who was seeing a divorcee named Stan. In due time Stan married JoAnn, gained three step-daughters and Roger married Susan.

McKay was a young Viet Nam veteran with two tours of duty with the Seabees, the engineering and construction outfit of the service. He hoped he might find work with Stan but he had only a high school education. The young man was advised by the professional, "Roger, you gotta get a college degree." McKay studied and took courses at night for ten years to get a degree, and then Stan got him into the electrical trade. Roger subsequently worked on electrical upgrades and improvements at the Grand Lodge building in the late '80s. With not a trace of bias, Roger says Stan was "the most talented construction man ever to be part of the industry."

The Master Builder attracted interesting people, too. While he was supervising the work at 17 State Street in the late '80s, a man met him every day on the street. A stock trader by profession, this fellow whispered tips and Stan made modest investments. He later claimed that two years' worth of returns were comparable to his professional compensation for this project.

He also dealt effectively with unusual demands. As the 77 Water Street project was nearing its end in 1969, the owner approached Stan with a strange request. He wanted to mount a replica 1916 British Sopwith Camel airplane on the roof, and he therefore needed the rooftop to look like an airfield. Stan took charge of the bizarre plan and made it happen. The model of the plane was constructed on the street; the owner, in WWI airman helmet and goggles, intended to ride it to the rooftop but Stan firmly refused. A crane raised the replica the twenty-six stories to its position on the airstrip.



Sopwith Camel at 77 Water Street—
beginning ascent to rooftop airbase.

Often plans changed mid-stream. For the Trump Tower, for example, Stan made trips to Italy to inspect and select the right marble. The owners' approval was withheld over multiple whimsical changes to color and texture. Eventually,

the stone had to be flown in rather than shipped because of the tightening construction schedule. Stan Orr took it in stride.

In the early days in Ohio Stan was overseeing a large concrete-platform job. Every day there was a troubling abundance of left-over concrete. Unbeknownst to Stan, the concrete crew was disposing of it in a nearby sewer drain. Concrete behaving as it does, after a little time it backed up the sewer. The municipality became a trifle agitated and authorities arrested Stan as the principal on the job. They handcuffed him to a radiator for twenty-four hours, until they became convinced he had no knowledge or control over the incident.

After this unconventional baptism, Stan amassed a long list of high-recognition and distinguished architectural projects in New York City and elsewhere. In the 1970s these were opened or completed: 77 Water Street; 1 State Street; Salomon Brothers, 1 NY Plaza; the Mt. Sinai Annenberg Pavilion. The Citicorp Center was 1977 and ATT Headquarters in 1978, opened in 1983. Trump Tower was the same timeframe, 1979 to 1980, and the Grand Hyatt in 1980. He worked on Bloomingdales at King of Prussia, PA in 1981. The property at 667 Madison was 1985; 17 State Street was 1988 and so were the ABC building on W. 66th and Worldwide Plaza. Stanley did the Westchester Correctional Facility in 1990 and 565 Fifth Avenue in 1991. The project at 101 Hudson Street in Jersey City, across the river from Manhattan, was to house Merrill Lynch in 1992 and was the tallest building in the state for some time. After his official retirement, Stan continued to consult in the industry, including the Portofino Tower in Miami Beach in 1997; 5 Times Square from 1999 to 2002; and the Miami Heat Arena, which opened in 1999.

In the mid-70s Stan was sent to Tehran to help with the development visions of the Shah Reza Pahlavi. The ruler was determined in his desire to westernize and modernize his country and was successful in many economic achievements. A couple of examples: in 1972 a residential property was built by an Israeli firm. A housing complex begun in 1976 was supervised by an Iranian architect who was a partner with Starrett. The venerable Carl Morse came to Tehran to inspect the projects, under the capable guidance of Stanley Orr.



Master Builder Stan Orr—on assignment in Iran.

Socially and culturally, however, the Shah's steps were not universally popular. In fact, most of his efforts had the usual result of benefiting the wealthy and further depressing the desperate populace. There was also the large divide between those who favored the capitalist approach (encouraged, of course by the US and other western countries) and those convicted by the traditions of history and religion. At the end
Continues on page 34 – Master Builder

Continued from page 33— Master Builder

of the decade the cleric-led revolution occurred. Stan and his wife were fortunate to escape under heavy escort.

In those days, though, there were personal highs and lows for Stan. He married second wife JoAnn around 1975 and took her with him to Iran. Their group included Stan's father James because he was in his late 80s and in poor health. In March of 1975 James passed from complications of prostate cancer.

Stan Orr reported that it was difficult to get things done in that country. Supply chain issues and product quality and possibly labor and trade problems disrupted. Case in point, when James died there was no lumber to build a casket. A couple of workers fashioned a sort of box from some pallets. As they were letting the makeshift coffin down into the grave it disintegrated, dumping the body to the bottom of the hole. The workers vanished and Stan had to lift his dad's body out and start over.

As further evidence of the Master Builder's reach, Roger tells of a job interview he had with a company called Structure Tone. The President complained to McKay that they had just made inroads into Florida but "were getting killed." Roger convinced him to secure Stan's services as a consultant; and he got the job done. This success induced Orr to return to MDI again as consultant.

When the Miami Heat Arena was under contemplation its design called for the longest span of a single beam in any building. Stan and Roger visited a steel plant in Titusville, FL that had bid to provide the column. In Roger's estimation there was nothing about that workshop that inspired confidence in its ability to produce anything of value, including sewer covers. But Stan inspected the place and talked with the fabricator and following the interview, expressed total faith in him. "I'm convinced he can do it." Sure enough, the product was true, Stan and Roger secured it and shipped it to Miami.

In later years Roger personally cared for his father-in-law and it was good companionship. He recalls how the WWII

veteran would wear his cap into restaurants in the South and whisper, "Watch this. I'm a cheap Northern guy." Invariably, the proprietor would comp him a hamburger with a sincere "Thank you for your service!"



World War II veteran—waiting for that burger.

Stan took one of the early Honor Flights to Washington, DC to visit the World War II Memorial. On that trip he was fortunate to meet Senator Bob Dole, a fellow veteran who had been badly wounded in Italy in 1945. Dole made a determined recovery after multiple operations. He was decorated with two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with V for valor. The Senator was the national chairman for the World War II Memorial Campaign and brought it to successful completion in 2004.

Last words of tribute belong to Stan's friend John Cavanagh. It is worth quoting his entire statement in the Morse Diesel newsletter of 1992.

"There are few people in the industry that I respect more than Stan Orr. His honesty, his drive, and his knowledge of engineering and construction are admirable. He has a unique ability to get along well with all kinds of people—from owners to contractors, and internal personnel—and he has very high expectations for the projects he works on and the people he works with. Stan has managed many successful projects over the years, which brought him a great sense of pride and also reflected positively on his employers. I know that I will miss Stan, as a colleague and a friend..."

Antiquity Hosts School

On Thursday, November 9 WM John Calpakis and the Brothers of Lodge of Antiquity 11 hosted Suffolk Masonic District Assistant Grand Lecturers VW William DeBenedetto and VW Gil Kruse for a School of Instruction.





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

MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FUND



The Masonic Brotherhood Fund 2023-2024 Campaign Year is past the halfway mark. The donations received from our Brothers have allowed us to continue to support and sustain many of the Masonic projects and entities. Thanks go to all the Brothers who have contributed to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund. We are proud of the fine support of the Masonic Brotherhood Fund to Grand Lodge Charities year after year.

If you have not yet contributed to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, please consider making a donation. One of our main tenets of Freemasonry is Charity and we are grateful for

any amount you donate. Every little bit helps. Be a part of something good, do good and feel good. Please donate and help us “Make A Difference.”

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 to commemorate 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 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
		
\$100.00 Donation Umbrella and Magnet		"Bonus Thank You Gift" while supplies last 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
		
\$250.00 Donation - All Gifts- Grocery Bag, Magnet, Baseball Cap, Computer Bag and Umbrella		
	  	   Bonus while supplies last

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://facebook.com@NYRainbow)

by Alyssa DiBartolo
Grand Worthy Advisor in NY

This year New York Rainbow is learning about the importance of friendship in our everyday and Masonic lives under our theme “One Friendship Can Change the World.” Friendship can include a large diversity of meanings, depending on the person. It could denote someone who has been in your life for a long time or someone you just met. It could be someone you work with, someone who lives next door or even someone that you go to school with. These are the people we feel the most comfortable around, the people who would teach us things about ourselves and the world that we might never know if we did not have them as friends. They are the ones who make us smile or laugh when we are together and who are there for us when we just need to cry or yell or need a helping hand. These connections to our friends help make us the best versions of ourselves. To me, friendships are like puzzle pieces with each piece being very unique and different. Without each individual piece it would not be possible to connect all of them together to create the amazing image that makes up the fabric of our lives.

At our activities and events we gravitate to the people we know or to good friends to catch up and make sure each other is doing okay. This is our comfort zone. Then we may each see some other friends we know, bringing them over for introductions. It is like fitting the pieces together when everyone starts to talk to each other about any and every thing, becoming more familiar with each other, expanding our comfort zones and allowing those friendships to blossom and grow. Then at the next event, everyone just seems to be drawn together, thus strengthening that connection.

And so it is that we make friends in our Masonic lives. We

gather together for a common event or goal and as we continue to attend, we see each other again and these connections continue to grow, evolve and become more important. These people become our circle of close friends who soon become our family. That is why coming out and supporting one another is not only important to our respective groups, but it is even more important to our own mental health to be around people we care about and who in turn care about us.

In my travels as Grand Worthy Advisor, I am thrilled that I have become very close to other Masonic youth leaders and that we look forward to seeing each other so we can talk about whatever comes to mind. It gives us the opportunity to bond in ways that we do not with others who are not a part of our organization or who have no understanding of our unique Masonic ties, such as getting nervous about speaking to a large group of people even though we may have done it multiple times before. And the support of the adults as our mentors and examples has been such an added bonus that I had not imagined before traveling to events across the state and country. It is a special added layer of friendship and love.

In our world we need more of these connections. We need our youth and adults to find common ground and interests and be willing to support each other in all that we do. Reach out to your youth groups and show them you care by attending their events, supporting their fundraisers and serving as advisors. You might just meet a new friend for life. Through our Masonic family, we can and will be the change to a better future.



Auburn and Spectrum Assemblies making centerpieces for Watertown nursing home.



Bellmore and Suwassett Assemblies volunteering at Angela's house.

Calling on a Brother

by Peter Brusoe



Ryan Brown, International Master Councilor, and RW Peter Brusoe paid a visit to Brother Dennis Daugherty at the Masonic Care Community. He has moved from Wiley Hall (Adult Residential Care) to the Health Pavilion (Skilled Nursing).

Brother Dennis shared some great stories about “Dad” Land and his experiences with DeMolay. As he spoke about “Dad” Land’s death he became very emotional.

Brother Ryan described the DeMolay Congress and presented Dennis a polo shirt, which he greatly enjoyed. Outside his room hangs a picture that MW Sardone presented him, commemorating his trip to Grand Lodge. Brother Dennis kept marveling at how nice Grand Master Sardone was to him.

Children’s Christmas

Dolgeville Lodge 796 recently had its annual Children’s Christmas party. It was a huge success, as always. It is great when Masons and their families can help others in their community.



More pictures from National Order of the Rainbow for Girls in New York



Southern Area Grand Officers Day circus.



Participants in Northeast Rainbow exchange in New Hampshire with attendees from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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



Thankfully, we have weathered another winter and are now emerging into spring. We are energized and reinvigorated by the improving weather, longer days and hopes for the future. While the world around us seems to be in persistent turmoil, I am glad to say that the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) is in an ever-improving and evolving place.

In January, our development and leadership teams participated in the annual Florida sojourners' luncheons. The MMRI proudly provided the fifty- and fifty-five-year aprons to our New York Brothers currently residing in Florida. We also presented a program outlining the many areas of research we are currently pursuing. Before and after the luncheons, we were able to meet with potential donors at multiple locations in Florida. We have high expectations that these meetings will bring Florida residents back into the fold and re-establish their support.

While our Executive Director, Dr. Maria Kontaridis, Ph.D., and her scientific staff have been busy making discoveries and contributing to understanding the causes and potential treatments of multiple diseases, the Board of Directors has been busy working with other Grand Jurisdictions. In February I was honored to be the keynote speaker at the Grand Wardens luncheon at the conference of Grand Masters in Seattle, Washington. I also chaired a breakout session where I proposed that MMRI should be the National Masonic Charity. Dr. Kontaridis and I addressed the general session of the Grand Masters just prior to MMRI hosting the extremely popular Ladies Luncheon. As we all know, that is where the real power lies.

In March, Chairman of the Board Alvaro Quiroga and Dr. Kontaridis were hosted in several cities in Columbia, exposing our South American Brothers to the research we are known for. This is evidence of our successful international collaboration program.

On March 23, 2024 MMRI held its inaugural gala at the

Fort Schuyler Club in Utica, NY. It was a wonderful black-tie affair and we are pleased to say that many of the local political and business champions were able to join us and show their continuing support.

While all of this was going on, we were still able to hire some new scientific staff and submit multiple grant requests. The MMRI has made several scientific breakthroughs regarding autism and cardiac disease. Scientific papers must be submitted before I am able to disclose the details. But we are excited by these advances and you will be proud of your Masonic Medical Research Institute once announced. We believe the impact of these discoveries will be substantial.

We are planning our first-ever Masonic challenge golf tournament at Willowbrook Golf Course in Lockport, NY on June 5, 2024. Please save the date and plan to play for your Lodge. We will also be hosting our second annual MMRI golf tournament on August 25, 2024 at the Yahnundasis Country Club in New Hartford, NY. This is a great event at a beautiful golf course with lots of great prizes and we hope you will join us.

Despite all these efforts, we continue to have an awareness problem within New York State Masonry. When we speak at various Lodges and Concordant Bodies, there are still too many Brothers who are not aware of this New York State Masonic jewel. I would like to begin an ambassador program here in New York. If you would like to be involved at your District level, please contact me. This would involve Lodge presentations and arranging local events. We would gratefully accept any help or suggestions you may offer.

I look forward to meeting you or your Lodge representatives at the Grand Lodge session on May 6 and 7 in New York City. Please reach out to me at any time should you require any information or have questions. You can also visit our website at mmri.org.

Stay well, my Brothers. These are exciting times.

Find us on:



Suffolk Mason Visits Shriners Hospital

Visiting family in Salt Lake City, Noble Terry Maccarrone of Kismet Shrine on Long Island toured the Shriners Children's Hospital there. Notably, the Salt Lake City hospital boasts a Wheelchair Lab. Technicians custom build specialty wheelchairs for patients, keyed to biometric data scanned directly from them.





MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MARIA I. KONTARIDIS, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

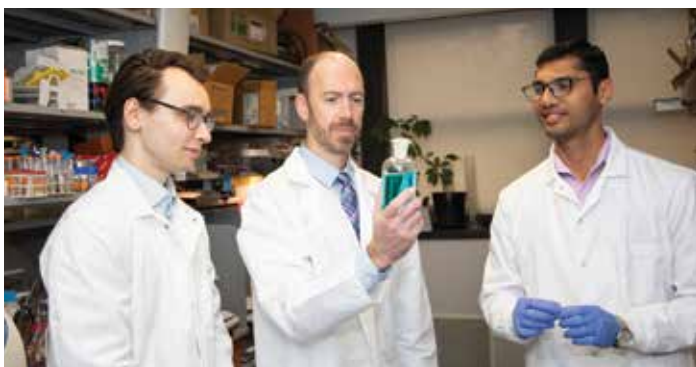
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

315/624-7496

mkontaridis@mmri.edu



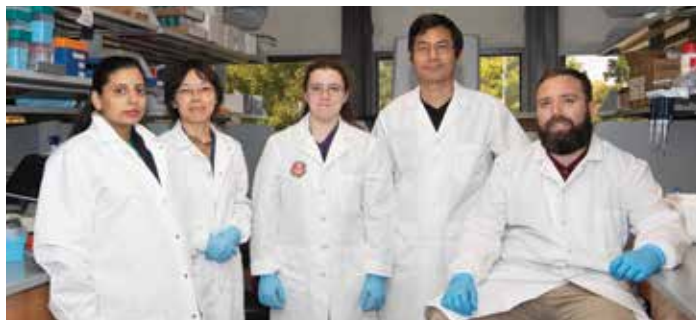
It is hard to believe that 2023 has already come to an end. The MMRI was fortunate to have many successes this year, many of which I could never have imagined six years ago when I started my role as Executive Director. Our six Principal Investigators have succeeded in moving several steps forward in their research areas and I am delighted to share their significant accomplishments with you.



Jason McCarthy, Ph.D., Associate Professor, and his team published a breakthrough study that utilizes a nanoparticle platform to target the spleen. Using this strategy to deliver anti-inflammatory drugs, he demonstrated he could reduce cardiac damage and decrease scar size following a heart attack. You can read more about the study in the journal *Advanced Materials*.

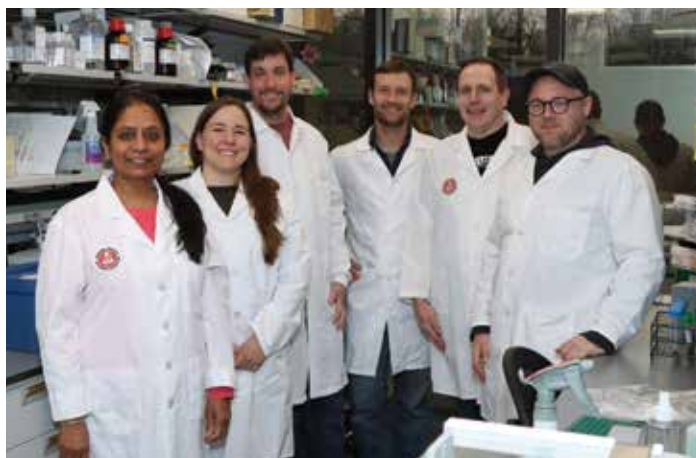


Chase Kessinger, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and his laboratory received funding from the Battle Within Foundation to research Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a disease that affects more than six percent of Americans (CDC). His focus is on studying the role of inflammation in PTSD.

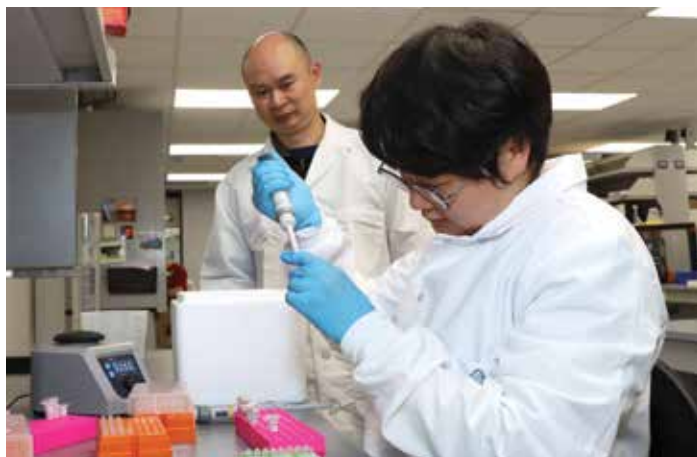


Zhiqiang Lin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and his team were the first to publish that the COVID-19 spike protein alone has harmful effects on cardiac function. His work has led him to develop a new research model, which he will use to study the long-term consequences of COVID-19 and its effects on heart disease.

Continues on page 40 – MMRI



Nathan Tucker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and his laboratory received significant support from the NIH to further his research on the genetic risks associated with cardiac arrhythmia. He is one step closer to identifying new therapies for this disease, affecting millions of Americans.



Tongbin Wu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and his team are the newest members of the MMRI family. His research is focused on developing treatments for left ventricular noncompaction (LVNC) and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) during embryonic development to find ways to prevent congenital heart disease.

I am excited to share that my laboratory made significant progress in understanding the link between cardiovascular disease and autism. These cutting-edge discoveries have identified new mutations that link causes of autism with congenital heart defects.



Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our recruitment efforts to bring additional faculty members, their teams and their innovative ideas from across the world to MMRI. It is amazing what is happening, all right here in the Mohawk Valley.

In addition to our scientific achievements, we have recruited several new key staff members, including in marketing and communications, whose experience and knowledge will surely lead MMRI to new heights. In this regard, we have some exciting events planned for 2024. Mark your calendar:

- Saturday, March 23, 2024, will be MMRI's first annual 1958 Gala. The premiere event will feature exquisite food, entertainment, and networking. It will take place in the historic Fort Schuyler Clubhouse in Utica, NY. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at mmri.edu/1958-gala.
- Saturday, May 18, 2024, will be MMRI's first annual lupus walk, co-sponsored with the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association. Wear your purple and join us at the Masonic Care Community Campus in Utica, NY to celebrate Lupus Awareness Month. Visit mmri.edu/lupuswalk to register.
- Monday, August 24, 2024, will be MMRI's second annual golf tournament, which will take place at the Yahnundasis Golf Club, New Hartford, NY. Last year's tournament raised over \$88,000 and this year, we are aiming to reach \$100,000. More information will be available soon at mmri.edu/golf.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon, and sharing with you the exciting research we are doing to help combat heart disease, lupus and autism. To learn more about our research, arrange a tour of MMRI, or support us with a gift, please contact us at cschleider@mmri.edu or 315/735-2217 ext. 6116.

Find us on:



Wamponamon Confers Degree

On Thursday, November 30 Wamponamon Lodge 437 conferred the Second Degree on four worthy Brothers. Visitors applauded the excellent ritual work, especially complimenting the presentation of the Lecture.



Eagle Scout Awards

On November 30, 2023 Worshipful William Peist Sr., DSA, of Goldenrule Claremont McKinley Lodge 486 attended an Eagle award ceremony in Far Rockaway, Queens. He presented three Eagle Scouts the Grand Master's Certificate of Achievement and a personal letter from him congratulating their hard work. They also received a Masonic Medal and a limited Goldenrule Claremont McKinley Eagle Scout patch.



Pictured left to right: Jeremy Finklestein; W William J. Peist Sr., DSA; Zackary Finklestein; and Harrison Rosenbaus.

Brother Celebrates 60 Years

Brother Brad Hafner received his apron and Grand Lodge certificate commemorating sixty years of service to our Craft. Brother Hafner attributes his success in life to the values taught and reinforced by his membership in the Fraternity. Honesty, integrity, fairness and transparency have been our Brother's mantra in his private life and his business.

Brother Hafner is the Chairman of New York State's largest vehicle retailer, West Herr Auto Group. Brad began his career as a car salesman in Hamburg, NY and worked his way up at a dealership that he would later own. His success has allowed the company to donate to many community groups and local charities.

Our Brother still maintains office hours at his Ford store. He continues to be a physical presence at his business and within the community. Western Star Lodge 1185 salutes our Brother Brad Hafner and wishes him many more years of service.



Pictured (l to r): Brother Erik Dash, VW Keith Dash, RW James Kintzel and Brother Brad Hafner.

Eagle Scout Awards

Six Eagle Scouts from Troop 24, Malverne, NY were recognized at their Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Friday, December 21. The venue was the American Legion Hall in Malverne. Each Scout was presented a commendation and letter of congratulations from MW Richard Kessler, Grand Master of Masons in New York. They also received a commemorative medal.



The Scouts were also presented with a commendation from the Connecticut Masonic Scouters Association. Letter of congratulations came from MW Joseph Porco, Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut, along with a collector CMSA Eagle Scout patch.

The presentation was made by W David Elkodsi, Secretary of Lynbrook-Massapequa Lodge 822, a committee member and merit badge counselor of the troop. This is believed to be the first Eagle Scout presentation that included both jurisdictions of New York and Connecticut.



Polar Plungers



These members of Mecca Shrine 1 took the Polar Bear plunge on New Year's day at Coney Island. The weather was chilly but their hearts were warm.

YEARS OF SERVICE

86 YEARS

0203 MUNN
Max Weill

84 YEARS

0178 CORNERSTONE
Alexander P. Brody

1068
JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
Samuel Levitt

83 YEARS

1068
JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
Irving A. Hurwitz

77 YEARS

0084 AMSTERDAM
Carson A. Thompson

0112 STEUBEN
Donald E. Scott

0120 HAMILTON
Arnold R. Fisher

0231 CORNERSTONE
Belding F. Clearwater

0297 ALEXANDRIA
John A. Keeler

0839 ATHELSTANE
Fred Kaplowitz

0855
PAUMANOK-PORT WASHINGTON
James R. Wells

0890 JOSHUA
David Rowe

0892 QUEENSBORO
Joseph K. Muller

76 YEARS

0087 VAN RENSSELAER
Chester E. Ladue

0634 SCOTIA
John Williamson Robertson

75 YEARS

0033 GENEVA-ARK
Richard Haag

0137 ANGLO-SAXON
George R. Johanson

0164 PHILANTHROPIC
Irwin E. Brown

0445 CASSIA
Hugh D. Greenberg

0551 RANSOMVILLE
Albert L. Rusk

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN
Marcel Seidler

1174 SCHENECTADY
Robert L. Johnson

74 YEARS

0472 TRITOWN
Elmer Harold Vanarkel

0533 ROUND HILL
Carl Marca

0634 SCOTIA
Dr Jack M. Breuer

0639 SOMERSET
Burnette C. Wayner

0651 TRUE CRAFTSMAN'S
Theodore J. Fuchs

0787 GASPORT
Victor E. Fitchlee

73 YEARS

0589 NAURASHANK
Vincent Trojan

0616 CAZENOVIA
Sterling Grant Brisbin

0634 SCOTIA
Herman S. Stein

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL
Curtis J. Hammill

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

72 YEARS

0083 NEWARK
Eugene R. Denagel

0155 FRATERNAL MYRON
Frederick Degenhardt

0177 BINGHAMTON
Jerome P. Jones Jr

0183 FARMERVILLE-UNION
John Holcomb

0204 PERFECT SQUARE
Donald H. Joseph

0230 UNIVERSITY
John D. Cramond Jr

0285 GEORGE WASHINGTON
Frank J. Lengenfelder

0365 GOSHEN
Harold E. Suresky

0548 LAURENS
John C. Duroe

0627 WALLKILL
Walter T. Roosa

0639 SOMERSET
Herbert C. Loesch

0819 COMPOSITE
Arthur Schorr

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN
Lester Fishman

71 YEARS

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

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Donald T. Gloo

0060 SUFFOLK
Alten Richard Cox

0155 FRATERNAL
Lindy H. Carl

0230 UNIVERSITY
Carl E. Clark

0284 AMERICA
Chester T. Nantz

0378 BIG FLATS
E James Strates

0468 RIP VAN WINKLE
Charles W. Link

0508 HERSCHEL-ARGYLE
Theodore Cross

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL
James Tallon

0799 ORISKANY
William R. Wind

0890 JOSHUA
Burton J. Tudor

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
William Charles Hatfield

1185 WESTERN STAR
David W. Bradway

70 YEARS

0008 HOLLAND
Byam K. Stevens Jr

0040 OLIVE BRANCH
Clark Bruce Workman

0120 HAMILTON
Peter A B Gardiner

0139 FINGER LAKES
Lewis Robert Lash

0155 FRATERNAL
Raymond L. Dominy

0203 MUNN
Cyrus S. Mager

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON
William W. Abraham
Armand R. Burghard

0394 COBLESKILL
Harold John Loder

0415 PULASKI
Malcolm B. Adsit

0548 LAURENS
George Henry Decker

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL
William M. Kisbany

0695 ALCYONE
Anthony H. Olivari Jr

0820 ON DA WA
Frank M. Orminski

0839 ATHELSTANE
Jack Sheldon Schreiber

0849 NORTH WOODS
Robert C. Brussel

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE
Sheldon S. Leventhal

0942 UNITED LODGE
Thomas Ventrudo

1037 VICTORIA SEA GATE
Ezra Berkowitz

65 YEARS

0014 ANCIENT TEMPLE
Alexander G. Jeoney

0082 PHOEBUS
Stanley R. Rolan

0087 VAN RENSSELAER
Otto M. Shaut

0111 ST. LAWRENCE
Garcia E. Morrow

0203 MUNN
George Asch

0224 ORIENTAL-FAXTON
Harry E. Turner

0230 UNIVERSITY
Theron A. Burdick

0246 ARCANA
Morton Weinstein

0284 AMERICA
Harvey Ross

0305 FAYETTEVILLE CENTRAL CITY
G.R. Russell Craig

0349 PECONIC
George C. Strom

0375 NIAGARA
Richard E. Hull

0403 BALDER-GREENPOINT
Richard Kolligian

0404 CONSTELLATION
Robert P. Bennett
Howard Charles Wood

0419 ARCADE
Richard Allen
Wiedemann

0438 MARATHON
Carl W. Summers

0458 SHEKOMEKO
Robert Bellizzi

0471 TOMPKINS
Alfred A. Debard

0477 WILDWOOD
Richard L. Meldrim

0479 UNITY
Dayle Owen Martin

0486 GOLDENRULE
CLERMONT MCKINLEY
Lawrence Nadler

0506 RISING LIGHT
Laurance R. MacDuffie

0622 CENTRAL SQUARE
John Richard Fuller

0737 GUTTENBERG
Carl Lester Jenkins Jr

0820 ON DA WA
Harold W. Horning

0847 RAQUETTE RIVER LODGE
Joseph Edward Fazio

0902 MOUNT MASADA-GALAXY
Herbert S. Herling

0915 BEUKENDAAL
Douglas Ottendorf

0916 PHILADELPHIA
Theodore E. Leeson

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Steven Snyder

0942 UNITED LODGE
William L. Klueber

0948 SWEET HOME
William John Bagdy
John Lloyd

0998 NORTRIP
James Richard Wagner

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS
Edward W. Middendorf Sr

1188 RENAISSANCE
Alton G. Tower

1901 SYRIO-AMERICAN
Elie Melki

60 YEARS

0013 APOLLO-KING SOLOMON'S
Elwood Hacker

0041 SYLVAN

John W. Parsons
Brant R. Sherlock

0051 FIDELITY-HOBASCO

Harold A. Fish Jr

0056 ST. ALBANS

George G. Crawley

0065 MORNING STAR

Lynn E. Brotzman
Charles D. Welles

0082 PHOEBUS

Frederick L. Pope

0087 VAN RENSSELAER

Richard G. Haswell

0097 RENOVATION

Rex Horton

0118 ADDISON UNION

Harry P. Laffkas

0134 LOWVILLE

Thomas Edward Knapp

0153 VALLEY

George R. Morrow

0175 OXFORD

Brian Bartle

0231 CORNERSTONE

Theodore E. Jones Jr

0264 BARON STEUBEN

Clarence V. Daily

0306 CUBA-FRIENDSHIP

Edward E. Blodgett

0343 RONDOUT

Myron E. Rowe
Paul Trataros

0392 SODUS

Harry E. Standhart Jr

0425 WARRENSBURGH

Fernand A. Paillex Jr

0425 WARRENSBURGH

Jack J. Toney

0433 FORT PLAIN

Robert J. Mabie

0468 RIP VAN WINKLE

Floyd H. Falk

0479 UNITY

Walter Lee Gay

0484 COLUMBIAN

Morton S. Ginsberg

0517 FRONTIER

Hamilton F. Wood

0521 SULLIVAN

Gerald Stollman

0529 MOUNTAIN

Richard Carter

0588 CARPENTER-EMANUEL

Seymour Levine
Elliott Sutton
Robert I. Toussie

0589 NAURASHANK

Edward H. Russell

0602 IROQUOIS

Wayne R. Bailey

0627 WALLKILL

Jeffrey A. Sohns

0634 SCOTIA

Donald M. Cameron
Leon B. Weinstein

0671 WAPPINGERS

James Larry Irvin

0682 NUNDA STATION

Philip A. Cox
Keith R. Shoemaker

0765 VON MENSCH

Roland Mistler

0877 WEST POINT

William Lawrence Golden

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC

Harvey Holzberg

0948 SWEET HOME

Phillip Brothman
Harold R. Macof
Warren I. Simon

0977 AMITYVILLE

Gary W. Hirschman

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

Charles W. Dunn

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN

John F. Heller

1068**JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX**

Harry C. Black

1127 SMITHTOWN

Frederick Woodrow Koch

1185 WESTERN STAR

Roy S. Loomis

1186 KEN-TON

Rodney E. Stellrecht

1193 TOWPATH

Thomas Vernon Lovejoy

55 YEARS**0002 INDEPENDENT ROYAL ARCH**

Edmund
Dale 'Ted' Harrison

0009 UNITY

Harold Sharp
Leroy W. Zimmerman

0022 FRANKLIN

Robert F. Coates

0073 CHARLOTTEVILLE

Gary M. Edmister

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN

Carl Huer Blowers

0107 NORTH STAR

Ralph B. Hastings
Roger A. Hastings

0136 HIRAM

Martin A. Vandelinder

0145 MOUNT MORIAH

Ronald G. Hix

0154 ERAC

James D. Blair

0159 PULTNEYVILLE

Andrew Charles Orbaker

0178 CORNERSTONE

Daniel B. Lang

0252 ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS

John Edgar Brook

0290 MOUNT OLIVE

Lyle R. Shaffer

0309 HUDSON RIVER

Gary Alan Johnson

0347 CLINTON-HAMPTON

George Frederick Wollin

0375 NIAGARA

Gordon E. Dietz Jr

0381 HUGUENOT

William J. Bovenizer

0384 CHERRY CREEK

Donald E. Butcher Sr

0392 SODUS

Robert J. Herman

0435 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL

Wayne Robert Fish

0439 DELAWARE RIVER

Bruce Becker

0449 MANAHATTA

Steven M. Romm

0470 CORTLANDVILLE

Stephen S. Robinson

0477 WILDWOOD

John A. Towne

0491 SCHOHARIE VALLEY

Duncan M. Bellingier

0501 LIVERPOOL SYRACUSE

George William Skelton

0522 SKANEATELES

Frazier D. Hunt

0527 AKRON

Edward G. Mosman

0542 GARIBALDI

Robert T. Mascialino

0561 DELAWARE

Robert A. Hillriegel
Clarence A. Kratz

0570 AVON SPRINGS

Thomas J. House

0575 OLIVE

John Arthur Chamberlain

0586**ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH**

Benjamin P. Claricia

0608 LESSING

Helmut Stalzer

0627 WALLKILL

Mark A. Knudsen

0681 CAROLINE

Robert B. Goodrich
Harold R. Knuutila

0684 BERNE

Donald L. Wagner

0701 BEACON LIGHT

John F. Mathieson

0739 MAIMONIDES-MARSHALL

Richard S. Hollender

0785 NIAGARA RIVER LODGE

Donald A. Batrouny

0808 GUIDING LIGHT-OLYMPIA

August Gabel

0821 BETHANY

Mark A. Freeman
John E. Peck

0863 DUNWOODIE

Richard A. Carlson

0877 WEST POINT

Thomas R. Gordon

0922 AMOS-FORT GREENE

Arthur Friend
Richard Kapit

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC

Roy H. Igersheim

0950 KONOSIONI

Robert N. Coe Jr

1016 FLORAL PARK

Mark R. Schiff

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN

Nelson D. Ventura

1111 WEST SENECA

Darryl E. Hinterberger

1147 CARROLL

Lynn L. Hartley

1177 EXCELSIOR

Oscar P. Walters Sr

1186 KEN-TON

Earl Duane Crawford

1187 NORTH ROSE WOLCOTT

Richard E. Crane

50 YEARS**0011 THE LODGE OF ANTIQUITY**

Alan F. Castellana
John Ryan
Peter Ryan

0014 ANCIENT TEMPLE

Edward A. Greenwood VIII

0039 OLIVE BRANCH

David L. Beswick

0041 SYLVAN

Wendell B. Hatfield
Frederick R. Richards

0067 MARINERS

Michael Salvadore Figluizzi

0079 UNITY

Warren V. Hulbert

0087 VAN RENSSELAER

Richard G. Agan

0095 GENERAL SULLIVAN

Eddie L. Kauffman

0097 RENOVATION

Robert J. Ord

0105 HIRAM

Alvin S. Mintz

0115 PHOENIX

Dennis Charles King

0131 MYRTLE-JEFFERSON

Larry Paul Girven

0136 HIRAM

Loren E. Knapp

0139 FINGER LAKES

Philip A. Trautman

0168 CORNING PAINTED POST

Creighton J. Miller

0177 BINGHAMTON

Richard Joseph Topa

0205 PHOENIX

Walter C. Stuetzel

0211 POCAHONTAS

Kenneth V. Schmidt Jr

0256 FORT BREWERTON

Preston E. Clark Sr

0284 AMERICA

Ronald J. Reid

0358 ANCIENT LANDMARKS

Herman Theodore Black

0369 CALLIMACHUS

Edward J. Michels III

0403 BALDER-GREENPOINT

Joseph M. Keeler

0412 HOFFMAN

Bohdan Fediuk

0435 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL

David C. Hawke

0491 SCHOHARIE VALLEY

Douglas Bartholomew

0595 SOCRATES

Richard Latteier

0647 AURORA GRATA-DAY STAR

Robert W. Simmons

0750 SHAKESPEARE

Lance C. Rommerdahl

0772 RESCUE

Ford G. Munson
Ned Phinney

0796 DOLGEVILLE

Gary Clayton Luther

0814 SCONONDOA-SHERRILL

Justice M. Cheney

0821 BETHANY

Richard R. Forsyth Jr

0877 WEST POINT

Jack H. Moore

0956 SPARTAN

Elmer L. Forbath

1016 FLORAL PARK

Carl W. Kimmich

1057 SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

Frank J. Wiesman

1066 HARRY S TRUMAN

Alan D. Katz

1068

JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX

Gregory E. Johnson
Ronald A. Sablosky
David Clayton Triplett

1072 DEXTER

Clarence M. Littlefield
Howard Kenneth Murdock
Lloyd J. Stokes

Prince Hall Strengthens Ties with Community Leaders

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons

State of New York

One PHAmily ~ Bridge Building the Past and the Future ~ One Jurisdiction

454 West 155th Street - New York, New York - 10032



In a momentous occasion, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York proudly continued its rich history of engagement with distinguished members of New York's community leadership. The spotlight of this historic event shone brightly on the Initiation of sixteen eminent individuals, among whom were Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, New York City Council Member Kevin C Riley and New York City Council Member-elect Dr. Yusef Salaam, a member of the exonerated five. Also inducted were Majority Leader of the Westchester County Board of Legislators Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, former New York City Council Member Robert Cornegy, the Reverend Michael Waldron of First Corinthian Baptist Church, Minister Conrad Tillard and Terrance Floyd, brother of the late George Floyd.

Gregory Robeson Smith Jr., MW Grand Master of Prince Hall Masonry in the State of New York, expressed his honor and enthusiasm, stating, "I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to these distinguished Brothers as they join our ranks. Each of the sixteen newly Initiated Brothers embodies the excellence that our organization upholds, and we embrace them wholeheartedly. Prince Hall Masons are dedicated to the elevation of good men to greatness, and we eagerly anticipate their meaningful contributions towards this shared objective,

ultimately effecting positive change with our community."

Prince Hall Freemasonry has a longstanding commitment to the transformation of lives, focusing on children, families, veterans and the aging population by enhancing their education, health and family economic stability. Throughout history, the Prince Hall Masons of New York have played a pivotal role in championing equality, justice and enlightenment within our communities. Our journey is marked by unwavering dedication to personal growth, the pursuit of knowledge and steadfast support for one another.

This initiation ceremony serves as a testament to our enduring commitment to enlightenment, fellowship, and service—principles that have defined our beloved Fraternity throughout the years. The Prince Hall Masons of the State of New York remain steadfast in their mission to contribute positively to society and to continue their historic legacy of making good men better.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York proudly stands as one of the state's venerable institutions, with a history spanning centuries. Our lineage and traditions run deep, embodying the timeless principles of fellowship, honor, and service.

Weekend of Service 2023

by Peter C. Stein

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard J. Kessler, called for a Weekend of Service on November 11 and 12. Lodges from across our state took part in this effort. Even the youth groups heeded the Grand Master's call.

Lodges sponsored food drives, clothing drives, veterans breakfasts, turkey drives and turkey giveaways. And Lodges donated money to charitable organizations. This weekend was intended to show our communities that Masons make a difference and that we are still part of our communities.

The Grand Master would like to thank all the Lodges and groups that took part in this effort. Masons do Make a Difference.



GRAND LECTURER



RW RICHARD FRIEDMAN
GRAND LECTURER
richddgm1@gmail.com

The old Rascals song asks a question repeatedly: “How can I be sure? In a world that’s constantly changing, how can I be sure?”

I am sure because you are my Brothers. We are men who trust one another, help one another and are proud to be Freemasons. What an advantage we have being Freemasons and never having to wonder where we stand with each other!

When our ritual is rendered with emotion and care, its beauty is as spectacular as the Grand Canyon. Listen carefully to the words and you will understand. That is the exact reason why we must hold each other to the highest standards possible in rendering the ritual. It is just too important to Freemasonry’s survival to ever accept mediocre work.

The visual beauty that lies at the center of a Masonic Lodge is there for all to see. The re-creation of the Middle Chamber of King Solomon’s Temple, the soaring symbols upon the walls, floors and furniture of the Lodge hold obvious beauty. Yet in the words of the great R&B song, “beauty’s only skin deep.”

Our ritual is the most basic and important form of Masonic Education. It is the foundation for everything that we do as Freemasons. Often we are asked, “How does Masonry improve a good man?” In my view, the incorporation of the soaring concepts of our ritual into our daily lives is a huge part of our self-improvement. The ritual must be nurtured, taught and perhaps more importantly, thought about as we live our Masonic way of life.

To turn the man into the Freemason and keep the Freemason on the right path we need to make more obvious the beauty that adorns our ritual. Displaying the ritual’s beauty should be the focus of every individual Lodge, District and State where Freemasonry exists. More importantly, it should be the absolute mission of every individual Freemason who has been exposed to the overarching lessons of our ritual to explain the beauty that lies within. It is the glue that binds us, as taught in the lesson of the Trowel. It is fair to say that sharing the beauty of the ritual is as great and important an undertaking as any in Freemasonry—well worth the support of each of the three great pillars, especially Beauty.

Just as our ancient operative brethren made the Temple a beautiful thing to behold, our Masonic forefathers with equally incredible workmanship made the ritual a beautiful thing to behold. As our brethren worked so hard to beautifully adorn the Temple, so we must work hard to beautifully adorn our ritual.

We read and hear the Grand Secretary’s report at every Grand Lodge session. Every Grand Secretary shares an emphasis on attempting to retain the Brothers that we have and are making through the Degree process. It is our belief that the Lodge that

puts an emphasis on good ritual work is a Lodge that will not have a hard time retaining its members. We state in the ritual that “we now hold the Brother by a stronger tie.” That tie, that glue is our ritual.

I have written that the man seeking Masonry is searching for something in his life much as immigrants seeking something better in their life built our country. To succeed, our families had to learn the customs and language of their new country. As their grasp of how America worked deepened, so did their ability to identify with their new country, love their new country and protect their new country.

Our enculturation process begins with the Master’s Address to the Candidates as he says:

“Freemasonry is far removed from all that is trivial, selfish and ungodly. Its structure is built upon the ever-lasting foundation of that God given law, the brotherhood of man in the family whose father is God. Our ancient and honorable Fraternity welcomes to its doors and admits to its privileges worthy men of all creeds, and of every race, yet it insists that all men shall stand upon an exact equality and receive its instruction in a spirit of due humility, emphasizing, in demeanor, in conduct, in ceremony and in language, the helpless groping nature of man at his birth and his need of reliance upon Divine guidance throughout life.”

Freemasonry demands its members pledge themselves to a much harder life than those without its walls. We are to put aside prejudice of all kinds, racism, classism and all the other “isms” that often interfere with men living up to their best instincts. Our ritual demands that we act in a way that lives up to the words we hold dear. The sounds that enter the “attentive ear” are not empty or hollow. They outline a way of life that says do not cheat, do not steal, do not cut corners in quality and always do the right thing, even when no one is looking. This is a far tougher road to walk than allowing ourselves to embrace “selfish individualism.”

Yet all too often a candidate for Masonry gets cheated because his Lodge cares little about true candidate proficiency, meaning both the memorization of the words and an understanding of what they mean and how those words can affect your life. We are either too lazy or too afraid of demanding that our new Brothers sacrifice their time and energy to both memorize and understand the ritual. When Lodges and brethren allow this to happen, the result is a lot of the mediocrity we see today, and even leads to movements to abandon memorization or remove the Hiram Legend.

We forget that if you travel in foreign lands without any knowledge of the language and customs of that land you are at an extreme disadvantage relative to those who do. The ritual is the language of Freemasonry and outlines what an upstanding

Mason must do to succeed.

I want the hard-cores who are out there to get with their AGs and revitalize the Lodges. Guys want to come and learn; it is our bad if we do not give them the chance. At the outset of our journey in Freemasonry we are reminded that our life on

earth will end and that we will be evaluated according to our ability to adhere to the lessons learned in the ritual. Thus, it is critical that every new candidate, right from the night of the First Degree on, be urged to strive for excellence every time he renders the ritual.

Valley Stream 1143

Constituted in 1954, Valley Stream Lodge 1143 was led by Charter Master RW O. Herbert Johnson. The newly organized Lodge in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York held meetings in the town that gave the Lodge its name: Valley Stream, NY. Valley Stream Lodge 1143 kept its home at 30 West Jamaica Avenue in Valley Stream until the late 1990s. At that time they moved to the Scottish Rite Building in Rockville Centre, NY, where they currently hold meetings every first and third Wednesday of every month except July and August.



Today, Valley Stream Lodge 1143 is led by Worshipful Master Edward Espinosa; they hold a bright vision for a shining future. Inspired to make a difference, the Lodge is actively involved in charity, community outreach, solidarity and volunteering. To this end the Lodge has recently volunteered at Lutheran Church of our Savior in Mineola, NY, handling the distribution of groceries and turkeys to families in need. Lodge members volunteered to assist the Salvation Army bell ringing effort. The Lodge distributed seventy cases of socks to local charities and veterans and six cases of socks to Mamma's house in Levittown, NY. In addition, the Lodge actively participates in the annual coat drive with St. Paul AME Church.

Jephtha presents DSA



District Deputy Jeffrey Santorello made his Official Visit to Jephtha Lodge 494 on Monday, November 13. WM William Fenty III and the Brothers of the Lodge took the occasion to present Brother Randy Ivans with his Dedicated Service Award apron and pin. Hearty congratulations go to Brother Ivans.

Grand Master Assists in Erie Degree



An Erie District Degree Team conferred the Degree of Entered Apprentice on eight candidates on October 21, 2023 at the Ski Lodge at Emery Park. Twelve of the sixteen Erie Lodges were represented.

More than sixty Brothers graced the sidelines and witnessed the best ritualists in the District.

Grand Master Kessler participated in the work. He honored the new Entered Apprentices with the presentation of their lambskin, or white leather apron.

The afternoon concluded with a hot dog roast. Proceeds of \$600 were presented to MW Kessler for the Battle Within Foundation.



ARE YOU READY FOR AN
UNFORGETTABLE
SUMMER IN THE ADIRONDACKS!



Session 1 - 7/7 to 7/20
Session 2 - 7/21 to 8/3
Session 3 - 8/4 to 8/17

All sessions are COED
Campers ages 7 to 16
Over 30 activities

campturk.org

