

The Empire State Mason

FALL 2024

ST. JOHN'S DAY WEEKEND 2024





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My Brothers, thank you for the trust you have placed in me as the 106th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. The opportunity and obligation to serve you and our Craft is one I hold in the highest regard. Over the past eighteen years, I have witnessed the remarkable dedication of countless Brothers who fuel the spirit of Masonry across our state. Their unwavering commitment to Masonic Ritual, education and Brotherhood inspires us all.

My Brothers, my Grand Lodge duties and travels during the past eighteen years have afforded me the opportunity to witness firsthand the generous Masonic spirit of so many hardworking Brothers, especially the Grand Line and Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Lodge Committeemen, District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Staff Officers and Assistant Grand Lecturers, the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home, and the Livingston Masonic Library, Directors of the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation and Masonic Medical Research Institute and my hands within the field of Masonry, our Worshipful Masters and their Lodge Officers. All of these committed brethren promote the incredible experiences that we witness within our communities, our Grand Lodge, and our Districts and Lodges on a daily basis. This noble and high-minded work includes fantastic ritual, insightful lectures, thoughtful discussions, outstanding Schools of Instruction, meaningful mentoring and programming and acts of charity, as well as the impactful work of our Trustees, Boards and Foundations, that both inspires and excites our brethren to continue their own journey of self-discovery and self-reflection, as well as to foster the brotherhood that can only be found within a Masonic Lodge.

This journey has shaped my vision: Empowering Blue Lodges with the support of a member-centric Grand Lodge that is driven by a culture of steward leadership. My goal beyond the next 100 days is to work with our committees, elected and appointed officers and brethren all to enhance our communication, revitalize committees and improve the meaningful services that enrich the membership experience. We are blessed to have such a rich blend of seasoned, accomplished and knowledgeable Masons, such as our Past Grand Masters and Permanent Members, that we can draw from their experiences to further advance our journey.

To accomplish this, I have established seven pillars to serve as the guide during our labors:

- Our Three Precious Jewels
- Grand Lodge Leadership
- Masonic Education
- Membership Value
- Masonic Lodge and Building Governance
- Masonic Communication and Social Responsibility
- New York Masonic History

Our Three Precious Jewels

The Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home (Masonic Care Community MCC), Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) and Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum: your importance to New York Masonry and our Craft cannot be overestimated. From the first moment an orphaned child was brought to the Masonic Care Community, and for 130-plus years since, you have fulfilled the obligation of the Craftsman. Since 1958 the MMRI has served Masonry and Humanity and has embodied the very essence of our Masonic duty to Charity. Since 1850 the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum has been a beacon of Light, whose importance I celebrate and champion.

Yet for all three, real challenges exist. In order to fulfill our duty we must have honest, thoughtful conversations as we collaborate to ensure that each of our Three Precious Jewels remains strong, meaningful and vibrant for generations to come.

Grand Lodge Leadership

I am refining the Grand Lodge Leadership structure by fully engaging our Grand Lodge Liaison Officers: the Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and Grand Treasurer. These Brothers will have defined duties and responsibilities over those regions of the State in which they serve, as well as over designated Committees and Programs. While I will always be hands-on, having these Grand Line Officers engaged in such a manner will ensure that District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Staff Officers and Worshipful Masters will be offered real assistance as they govern as well as have clearly defined sources of assistance. The Liaison Officers will assist me to further ensure real communication, accountability and real transparency within our Grand Lodge system of governance.

Furthermore, I am instituting a soft Grand Lodge policy that will prohibit a Brother from serving on more than one Board/Foundation/Committee. This strategic shift will revitalize our leadership pipeline and prepare us for the future. I am also establishing systems to refocus the work of our Grand Lodge Committees, which will be detailed in the fall issue of the Empire State Mason.

I am further granting the authority to my District Deputies the ability to grant dispensations for Degree classes of more than five candidates. Additionally, I am introducing two initiatives to benchmark our Lodges and streamline our formal proceedings and processions.

1. Lodge of Excellence Program

This new program, The Lodge of Excellence, will identify the health of each of our Lodges, celebrate successes and offer real guidance and assistance to those in need.

2. Constitutions, Masonic Law and our Grand Lodge Session

Continues on page 4 – From the Grand East

It's Called Brotherhood!

FALL 2024



Pictures taken during the weekend of St. John's Day 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 73 • Number 3 • Fall 2024

SPECIAL SECTION:

Grand Lodge Committee - Charities 14-21

ARTICLES:

From the Grand East 2-5

Deputy Grand Master 6-7

Senior Grand Warden 8

Junior Grand Warden 9-10

Grand Treasurer 10

Grand Secretary 11

2025 Florida Sojourner Form 12

Masonic War Veterans 22-23

Grand Lodge Educational Assistant Program 24

Masonic Brotherhood Fund 25-27

Masonic Care Community 28-31

Awards Committee 33

ME & RW Edmund 'Ted' Dale Harrison's Eulogy 37-39

Concordant Bodies Page 40

Masonic Youth Committee 42

International Order of the Rainbow Girls of NY 44

Organization of Triangles, Inc. 45

DeMolay 46-47

Masonic Medical Research Institute 48-50

Camp Turk 51

Grand Master's Day at Camp Turk Photos 52

Years of Service 53

Grand Master's Day at Tappan 54

Statement of Ownership 55

Submission Guidelines 55

Grand Master's Ball 56



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We will address many of the Constitutional and legal issues, shortcomings and deficiencies that have become apparent over the years. We will afford opportunities of discussion throughout the year and throughout the State with the use of in-person Town Halls as well as Zoom programming to ensure an informed electorate, and thereafter present several Constitutional Amendments at the 2025 Grand Lodge Session.

To that point, significant portions of our 2025 Grand Lodge Session will be open to New York members-only, to ensure honest, open discussion within the sanctity of our Session. There is no reason to air our challenges or disagreements outside of our New York Masonic Family.

Masonic Education

Brothers elected to serve their Lodge as Worshipful Master gather around our altars and obligate themselves to provide Masonic Education at Stated Communications. I have heard the calls from Lodge and District Leaders and Past Masters for the need to provide additional leadership resources beyond presentations or programs in meetings. I am proud to share that we have established educational programming that will include both in-person Regional Educational Conferences and virtual Zoom Programs and, for the very first time, an Esoteric Course of Study. Additionally, under the leadership of RW Bill Edwards, we will roll out the long-awaited Maxwell Leadership Program to offer enhanced Leadership Training to our brethren.

Membership Value

My goal for the Grand Lodge of New York is to show how Brothers best can work as an example for other jurisdictions to emulate. After all, “It’s Called Brotherhood” is my motto for this Masonic year and has been my rule and guide for my work in the Craft. I want my fellow Brothers to share my pride in being a New York Mason and to support that, I have created unique events and programs meant to engage and excite our members.

- Save the date: our Grand Lodge will hold its first Masonic Con in Masonic Hall on January 17-18, 2025, with speakers and authors from around the country. Be on the lookout for more messages on purchasing tickets and the schedule of events in the weeks to come.
- A Masonic Retreat at Camp Turk where esoteric topics will be addressed by day and comradery and fellowship will commence at night.
- We are re-tooling the functionality of the NorthStar Program to ensure a steady stream of potential candidates, fair distribution of those candidates and oversight of our success coaches/mentors, to ensure that our newly Initiated, Passed and Raised Brothers receive the Masonic guidance and experience they deserve;
- We have established for our various Lodges and Districts new additional officers and programs with specific duties and responsibilities. These include the Lodge/District Recruitment and Retention Officers/Programs, Lodge Youth Officers, Lodge Masonic Military Veteran Officers, Lodge Surviving Spouse Officers and Lodge Communications/Public Relations Officers to ensure that no member of our Masonic Family is forgotten or left behind and that our message both within the Craft and without is thoughtfully, purposefully and effectively

delivered.

- We are re-tooling, re-energizing and re-focusing the Masonic Brotherhood Fund Committee that not only spearheads our charitable needs, but ensures that our message of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth is not a mere bumper sticker.
- I am pleased to introduce our newest Masonic Brotherhood Fund Campaign: The 1781 Society. 1781 marks the year our Grand Lodge was warranted. By pledging \$1,781 you will receive a distinguished medal symbolizing your commitment to our noble cause. I hope Brothers will join me as we embark on a journey of philanthropy and camaraderie, with the option of spreading your contribution over seven years (\$255 per year) or making a one-time donation.
- We are in the planning stage of a Camp Turk Fundraising Campaign that will culminate with a Grand Master’s Polar Plunge at Camp Turk.
- We will be establishing at Masonic Hall a Men’s Masonic Choir. For those interested, please contact RW Matthew George: wbrmatthewgeorge@gmail.com.
- Finally, we will continue our partnership with Craftsmen Online to provide Masonic Education and History through our podcast, virtual programs like the Reading Room and thought-provoking blog articles from contributors such as RW Samuel Lloyd Kinsey, Chairman, Custodians of the Work.

Masonic Lodge and Building Governance

During my travels to Lodges throughout our great State, I have found that every Lodge is special and each Lodge’s history is very important. Some are older, others newer, but all share a common Masonic Legacy. Yet, most also share the same challenge of managing a Lodge and Lodge building and in recent years this task has grown even more complex.

To support our Masonic Halls and Temples I will introduce new programming to offer real guidance and financial support to our Masonic Lodge Building owners, including accounting and legal sub-committees to assist in the complexities of Lodge business and building ownership.

- We will introduce several draft manuals: Lodge Treasurer and Trustee Manuals to establish baseline protocols that Lodges and Districts must follow.
- We will require each Secretary to update his membership data in our M2 (MORI) system.
- We will require every Lodge to engage in the self-auditing program instituted several years ago but rarely followed.
- We will require that Lodge management safeguards and protocols be practiced by each Lodge.
- We will mandate that Lodge Secretaries, Treasurers and Trustees participate in Grand Lodge-sponsored Leadership Courses to ensure that best practices are how we conduct the business of Masonry in New York State.
- We will mandate that every Senior and Junior Warden, desiring a seat in the East, participate in the Road to the East, Master’s Chair and Masonic Development Courses.

Masonic Communications and Social Responsibility

We live in the Information Age, where just about every member of society carries in his pocket a cell phone with more computing power than the original space shuttle. Yet, communication between the Grand Lodge and our Lodges

Continues on page 5 – From the Grand East

Continued from page 4 – From the Grand East

and brethren is a constant challenge. This problem is only further exacerbated by the fact that many of our Lodges do not engage in social media or have any real web presence; and if they do, the calendar is from 2017. This is not a way to attract new members or engage current members.

Come September, I will require each Lodge Secretary to ensure that his Lodge's M2 (MORI) information is up-to-date and accurate. Each Brother will be required to provide necessary information to complete our system. Lodges will be required to have, at a minimum, a basic website. For those Lodges incapable of establishing such a social media or web presence, our Communication Committee will assist in this endeavor.

Additionally:

- We have established a Lodge Officer system to ensure that our Lodges will have the knowledge and tools needed to support our Masonic Youth, military veterans, surviving spouses and fallen Brothers.
- We will encourage Lodges and Districts to employ communication strategies within their Lodge and District membership, as well as to employ social media and web platforms for communication with membership and profane alike, and offer assistance through the Grand Lodge Communication Committee when guidance is necessary.
- We will encourage Lodges and Districts to promote their good works via press releases and other like means, and assist them when and where necessary.
- We will encourage all Lodges to engage in Charitable endeavors, and for those Lodges in need of guidance the Grand Lodge Charity Committee is able to assist in a multitude of pre-planned programs.
- We will celebrate our Masonic Military Veterans during the month of November, never forgetting those Masons who have served and continue to serve our Nation with dignity and honor.
- We will ensure Lodges are connected with their older brethren and encourage occasional Zoom meetings to include those brethren who have moved away from New York or due to health restrictions cannot travel, so they too can have an opportunity to remain connected with their Lodge.
- We will encourage Lodges/Districts to actively participate in the Surviving Spouses Program, demonstrating by action and deed that Surviving Spouses and Loved ones are always part of our Masonic Family.
- We will continue the District Public Relations Officer Program (DPRO) and refine its techniques as we further work to provide monthly email notification to our Worshipful Masters and Lodge Secretaries containing important news and events occurring within our Grand Jurisdiction.

New York Masonic History

Over the centuries our Grand Lodge has played a crucial role in supporting Masonic Lodges across the State, fostering charitable endeavors and preserving Masonic traditions and history. Today it continues to thrive as a coordinating body for Masonic activities, with a jurisdiction over nearly twenty-five thousand Freemasons and hundreds of Lodges in New York and Lebanon. Yet, many of the Masons who take their solemn

obligations in our Lodges are sadly in the dark regarding our proud history.

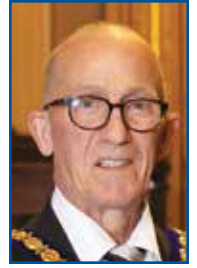
The first area we must address is a vacancy at the top. Our esteemed Grand Historian, RW Gary Heinmiller, has retired following eight years of dedicated and loyal service. As such, we are seeking Brothers who are interested in serving as Grand Historian to send their resume and letter of intent to RW Lorenzo Cesare, the Aide to the Grand Master at GMAide@nymasons.org. To support the efforts of the Grand Historian I will continue to encourage each Lodge to have a Lodge Historian.

To continue to shine Freemasonry's Light in our great State I have several programs to introduce:

- I am pleased to announce our Lodge History Contest as I wish to celebrate our Lodges by displaying Masonic memorabilia and Lodge aprons and artifacts in the display cases at Masonic Hall. Lodges interested in participating should contact RW Michael LaRocco, Executive Director of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum at MLarocco@nymasoniclibrary.org.
- We have further established new multi-tiered programs to celebrate our New York Masonic History with our Masonic History Projects:
- Our Walking and Driving Tour Program, headed by RW Ivan Boluarte, is creating walking and driving tours of Masonic locations within our State. We are seeking Brothers from all over the State to help map out their Masonic locations of interest within their own communities. Interested Brothers should contact RW Ivan Boluarte at Ivant55@hotmail.com.
- I am pleased to be partnering with RW Walter Cooke, Trustee of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum as he prepares a manual with clear and concise instructions on the proper manner of preserving Lodge documents and artifacts. Indeed, the Grand Lodge will be establishing a system to permit the borrowing of scanning kits to enable Lodges to better preserve their records, documents, aprons and artifacts.
- Throughout 2024-2025 we will be celebrating the 200th Year Anniversary of General and Brother The Marquis de Lafayette's return to the shores of the United States, and specifically his return to New York. Beginning in August 2024 the Grand Lodge, Districts and Lodges across our State will sponsor events to celebrate Lafayette with galas, parades, Degrees and events tracking Brother Lafayette's travels throughout New York State. Those interested in participating in this endeavor should contact Program Chairman, W Bro. Lee Justo at LeeJusto@gmail.com and visit CraftsmenOnline.com for more information and a schedule of events.

My Brothers, these are just some of the initiatives in store for 2024. Yet, I am mindful that it will not be easy to change how we govern. It will require real effort as we confront real challenges and make real commitment to change, not for a day, a week or a month but for years. Our greatest asset is you, the brethren. By working together, we will elevate our Grand Lodge, empower our Lodges and ensure a vibrant future for Freemasonry in New York. The future of Masonry is in our hands. Let us be the generation that sparks a renaissance in our Craft, for our time and for all time. With the help and love of our GAOTU we will succeed.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER



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I want to begin by thanking you, the Brothers of the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York, for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving you as your Deputy Grand Master for these next two years. Having the opportunity to work for you in this capacity is a dream come true. Being the Deputy Grand Master of one of the oldest Grand Jurisdictions on Earth is nothing to take lightly, and I do not. When I represent the Grand Master and you, the Brothers of our Jurisdiction, it will be with honor, humility, integrity, generosity and kindness. I hope you will not expect or accept anything less. I know I would not. It is how I was raised.

After I started traveling around the Jurisdiction with then-Jr. Grand Warden, RW Charles P. Uhle, (2010-2012), I received a call from my dad. He reminded me that I did not represent just my Lodge and my District, but when people saw me they saw a New York State Trooper and I had better always look sharp. He, being a retired B.C.I. Investigator, was proud of our family's law enforcement heritage. He was also a USMC Drill Instructor and I think that goes towards the "always look sharp." The man was always impeccably dressed. He was also correct. I spent nearly thirty-three years with the State Police. I look like a cop, I talk like a cop and I stand like a cop. We are what we are.

For the last ten years I have served on the Advisory Committee of every Deputy Grand Master but one. The last two, DGM Kessler and DGM Rubin, both asked me to be Chairman of their respective Committee. As Chairman you do not just work on the goals and initiatives on his Trestleboard, you help the new Deputy Grand Master design that Trestleboard. In other words, I have skin in the game.

The initiatives we have planned will make you proud to be New York Masons. Some are new and some are simply refining what was already started. The Grand Master's Address explains them so I do not need to. What I will say is that these are long-range plans. Some may begin during this term but may not get fully into motion until 2026-2028.

Knowing our Grand Master for as long as I do, I know he cherishes the Brotherhood of it. I do as well. As leaders of our beloved Craft we must also be concerned with the governance of it. We are so fortunate to have the team of dedicated Masons serving as your Elected and Appointed Grand Line, because for the most part we are all like-minded Brothers. We all want what is best for our Craft and will support our Grand Master in making this Jurisdiction the shining beacon of Masonry that it can be.

My Brothers and friends, look at the shape the world out there is in. One of our top stories is that the marriage of a couple of our movie stars is in trouble. This country is in trouble and they need us. In a world permeated with the spirit of selfish rivalry, Freemasonry teaches universal brotherhood. In a world floundering in the depths of a great moral and

spiritual depression, it teaches industry, self-reliance and integrity. Masonry, my friends, is the last, best hope for a decent, benevolent society.

As Masons we are builders and we have the opportunity to build the life that we want. Living stones, we are shaped and reshaped by our Masonic tools. That is why so many men have come to the doors of Freemasonry in the past and why they are still coming today. It is the promise of building a better life. Our challenge is to keep that promise alive. We must make certain that Masonry provides a pathway to excellence to those who are committed and it is our responsibility to keep the light shining so the good men will continue to find the way.

Speaking of finding the way, I urge all of you to find your way to the properties owned by our Jurisdiction and maintained by the Masonic Hall and Home Trustees. Camp Turk at Round Lake up in the Adirondack Mountains is amazing. Our Masonic Care Community in Utica is absolutely gorgeous and a top-rated facility, to boot. Get a group together from your Lodge or District, contact the MCC and arrange to visit the residents.

While you are there let them show you the work that they are doing with state-of-the-art technology. Arrange for a tour of the world-renowned Masonic Medical Research Institute. I guarantee you will walk out of there amazed and proud to be a New York Mason. That is our Research Institute.

Take a tour of the Horticulture Center. I learned that all the fresh plantings and flowers I saw during St. John's week were grown in our own Horticultural Center. There is so much on that Campus we can be proud of.

Down in Rockland County in the hamlet of Tappan, you will find the DeWint House. It was built in 1700 and visited twice by General George Washington. While there in 1780 he signed the death warrant for British Major John Andre, who conspired with Benedict Arnold to surrender West Point to the British. When he visited in 1783, Washington entertained British General Sir Guy Carleton to negotiate the British Army's evacuation of New York City. It is Masonic history and it is American history, all wrapped up in one place and it is ours.

And then there is the Masonic Hall on 23rd Street in New York City. It would take an entire issue of this magazine to adequately describe what we have at Grand Lodge. It is home to the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library (14th Floor). Take advantage of our reading course program. Contact the Library and make an appointment to go down and see what they have there. It is not just books. There are artifacts and relics from different eras, photographs, manuscripts and art. Heck, if you had a relative who was a member of our Jurisdiction way back when, you can ask the Library to do a

Continues on page 7 – Deputy Grand Master

Continued from page 6 – Deputy Grand Master genealogy search.

The makeover that the MHH Trustees gave to the various Lodge rooms a few years back is nothing short of breathtaking. Gothic, Ionic, Corinthian, Jacobean, Renaissance and many more. Each has its own unique style. Each one is more beautiful than the next. The huge Grand Lodge Room is jaw-dropping. If you look up you see Tiffany stained glass, intricate hand carved moldings and over 50,000 sheets of metal gold leaf. Masonic Hall is so amazing that we have tour guides there. You owe it to yourselves to go down and take advantage of what we have there. After all, it is yours.

I want to close this issue with a couple more thank-yous. First, I want to thank Past Grand Master William J. Thomas for first assigning me to, and Past Grand Master Jeffrey M. Williamson for making me Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Law Enforcement. I am also aware that our current Grand Master, MW Rubin, had a great deal to do with it, too. I appreciate the confidence each had in me and

allowing me to restructure the Committee was instrumental in our success. As I leave the Committee into the hands and under the watchful eyes of RW Daniel Lort and RW Pasquale Imbimbo, I know I am leaving it to two seasoned veterans. These Brothers and all of the Brothers who work and have worked on the Committee on Law Enforcement are the best of the best. I cannot thank them enough for their hard work, dedication and absolute love for our Craft. Everything they do makes our Lodge rooms better and safer. Do not ever forget that.

Finally, I want to thank the two outstanding Brothers who along with me ran for Deputy Grand Master—RW E. Oscar Alleyne and RW Peter C Stein. It takes a great deal of courage to throw your hat in the ring for any sort of election. Both of these Brothers did so with integrity and honor. I am lucky enough to be able to call both men my friend. Had either of these Brothers been elected it would have been reassuring to know that the Craft would have come out the winner. As it turned out, I was the fortunate one.

O-S-Y Masonic Memorial Service

Well Done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.—Matthew 25:21

On Sunday, May 19 this sixty-sixth annual Masonic Memorial Service was held in memory of our Brothers from the Ontario-Seneca-Yates District and Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star who ceased Earthly labor in 2023. The Memorial Service was begun by the Finger Lakes Council 40, AMD. It is now coordinated by the O-S-Y Right Worshipfuls with assistance from the Assistant Grand Lecturers and the Secretaries of participating organizations.

RW Reverend Timothy Gleason led the Worship service and our guest speaker, MW Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin, provided the memorial address. RW Thomas C. Abraham, Past DDGM, then called the roll. Family members were invited to light a candle in memory of the departed under the steel canopy of the Honor Guard, consisting of members of Sagoyewatha Commandery 17, Knights Templar.

This Memorial Service was to honor those of our Brothers

and Sisters who joined the Great Architect of the Universe during the year 2023 in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. It is our continued hope that this service will help comfort the families, friends and members of our Masonic Family, knowing that their loved ones have not been forgotten.

Fellowship and refreshments followed the service. These were provided by the Ontario-Seneca-Yates Masters and Wardens Association.



RW Christopher M. Egburtson Sr., AGL; RW Thomas C. Abraham, DDGM 2021-2024; MW Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin; RW John T. McCormick, Grand Sword Bearer 2021-2024; and RW Michael Scott Simmons, DDGM.



MW Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin addressing family and friends with RW Reverend Timothy Gleason looking on.



SK Jamie J. Kaim Jr., KYCH, PC Honor Guard, MW Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin along with Maria, Jimmy and Ava.



RW MARK J. LOUGHRAN

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Butterflies, Bikes and Brotherhood

For many, our physics career ended sometime around 10th grade. That would be me. Before bailing on physics, I recall something from chaos theory called the “Butterfly Effect.” It posits that the world is so finely interconnected that, for example, the mere flapping of a butterfly’s wings on one side of the Earth is enough to ultimately cause a hurricane on the opposite side of the globe. Skeptical? Me too. Or at least I was until about six weeks ago.



I am required to take wind therapy fairly frequently on my Softail (Doctor’s orders). Wind therapy is best done in groups and Masons are fortunate to have several Masonic motorcycle associations we can join. About six weeks ago, the Binghamton chapter of the Low Twelve Riders took a ride we had been planning for some time. The route took us from Hancock to Port Jervis along the Delaware River. Those who have been on that road know that it is truly scenic. I believe there were six of us wearing our Masonic “cuts” (vests identifying us as members of a Masonic motorcycle association). We headed south and parked at an overlook called the Crow’s Nest high above the Delaware along with several other groups of bikers and sat there for half an hour exchanging small talk. Being Masons, food was never far from our thoughts and we ultimately headed back north in search of a pub. We found a great roadhouse called the “Outpost.” It was fittingly named, as it was very close to the location of the Revolutionary War battle of Minisink. You may recall that battle: where colonial troops were routed by Brother Joseph Brant’s Mohawk fighters.

Food and fellowship at the Outpost were in abundance. Several of the Brothers wandered around and checked out the outdoor bar and stage while the rest relaxed and chatted. At some point another group of bikers entered the bar and sat at a table very near us. This group of bikers also wore vests, although they did not look like ours. For the non-bikers among you there are certain protocols—dos and don’ts that are part of the bike world. Many of these rules revolve around vest patches. It’s safe to say that it would be very easy to innocently violate a rule without ever having an idea you were doing it. I never did get a clear look at the cuts that the other gentlemen were wearing, but again—they were not like ours. We will just leave it at that.

During lunch (the burgers were great) I noticed that an extremely large member of the other group, patched as their

“Sergeant at Arms,” seemed to stare in my direction. We finished our meal and our group got up and left. I was last to leave. As I walked past Sarge, he grabbed my arm and asked me if he could have a word with me outside. As a funny aside, one of his cohorts asked him if he needed any help and he just smiled and said no. I would be remiss in not further describing this gentleman. Let’s just say he was enormous, covered in tattoos (not necessarily a bad thing) and didn’t have a hair on his head. As we walked outside I noticed that my group hadn’t seen any of this interaction and were now clustered around our bikes a good 40 yards away.

Several things went through my head. Had this been someone I’d prosecuted during my DA career? Was I current with my health insurance premium? Why had I been a distance runner instead of a sprinter? I tried to recall YouTube videos I’d watched about biker etiquette. What, if any, biker rules had we broken? I could think of none. As always, we were perfect gentlemen in the roadhouse, ever mindful of the fact that we were wearing Masonic emblems and were therefore representing the Craft.

The next couple of minutes passed in slow motion. Sarge looked (down) at me and asked me if we were Masons. Steering far clear of any “witty” responses, I told him “yes.” At that, he thrust out his hand and shook mine.

“I just wanted to let you know that I got in a little bit of trouble a few years ago and was sentenced to community service. I did the service at three places. At the first two places I was treated very badly [cleaning up the language, here]. The last place I had to do my service was at a Masonic Lodge in Dover, New Jersey. I just wanted you to know that they were true gentlemen and treated me with respect. Thank you.”

We shook again. I thanked him and told him that he had just made my day.

The Lodge located in Dover, New Jersey is called Acacia Lodge 20. In their spring newsletter this year the Worshipful Master wrote in his column “From the East” that Brothers should “see the square as more than just a tool for building. It’s a symbol of doing what’s right and being fair. Just like it ensures our corners are perfect, it teaches us to live with integrity, honesty and fairness. Let’s think about what the square teaches us. It encourages us to always do the right thing and to treat others well. Whether we’re in the Lodge or we’re out in the world, let’s use its lessons to guide our actions.”

Brothers, like the wind caused by the butterfly’s wings, the lessons inculcated in that Lodge made their way through time and space to a little pub on the Delaware river (and who knows where else). When Sarge thanked me I couldn’t have been prouder to be a Mason. The Brothers in Acacia 20 truly put our fundamental beliefs into practice and the world is better for it. Let’s do the same.



RW JOHN HASLAM SR.
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN
WESTERN REGION LIAISON CONTACT
716/472-4504
jbhaslamsr@gmail.com

I am deeply honored and humbled to have been elected by acclamation as your Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. Your trust and confidence in me are truly appreciated and I am grateful for this remarkable opportunity to serve our esteemed Fraternity.

The principles and values that we hold dear in Masonry—brotherly love, relief and truth—are the foundation upon which we build our lives and our work. I am committed to upholding these principles with dedication and integrity, ensuring that our wonderful Fraternity continues to flourish and that our brotherhood remains strong and united.

I am inspired by the collective wisdom, strength and commitment of our brethren. Together we can achieve great things, fostering growth, supporting one another and having a positive impact in our communities. I look forward to working closely with each of you, drawing on your insights and experiences, as we continue to advance the mission and vision of our Grand Master.

I was not able to deliver my election speech at our Grand Lodge Session in May because of my election by acclamation and time running short. I have chosen to include my speech for the election of Junior Grand Warden in this article because it encapsulates my vision, values and dedication to our community. Although I was unable to deliver it in person, the message remains vital and reflects my commitment to fostering growth, unity and progress within our organization. By sharing it here I hope to convey the same passion and enthusiasm that I would have expressed in front of my peers.

Furthermore, this speech represents a significant moment in my Masonic journey. It is a testament to the hard work, preparation and dedication that goes into seeking a leadership position. Including it in this article not only highlights my personal aspirations but also serves as an inspiration for others who may face similar challenges. It underscores the importance of perseverance, transparency and the willingness to share one's ideas and goals, regardless of the circumstances.

Thank you once again for this significant honor. I pledge to serve with enthusiasm, diligence and unwavering loyalty to our Grand Master and our beloved Fraternity.

JGW Election Speech May 7, 2024

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters and Distinguished Brethren of the Grand East, My Dear Brethren all:

Almighty Father, Great Architect of the Universe, we thank you for the joy of this day, the hope for every day to come, and the power to fill us with your Holy Spirit and make us one as a Fraternity. Amen.

I am RW John Haslam, Senior, but my friends and fellow

brethren know me as “Brother John.” I am very blessed to have a strong and loving family: my dear wife Annie of fifty-two years; our devoted three children: twins Kevin and Patrick and John Junior; our delightful three grandchildren Brendon, Patrick and beautiful Jessica; and the apple of my eye, our great-grandson Kai.

With a lifetime of some thirty-six years devoted to the profession of being a member of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, I certainly am no stranger to the principles, rules of conduct and moral values that this august Union has instilled in me. Running parallel, it should come as no surprise to you that I would also be destined to journey along a path leading to Freemasonry. Clearly defined within the Teamsters’ Code of Ethics, “Let each member do his duty as he sees fit. Let each put his shoulder to the wheel and work together to bring about better results. Let no member sow seeds of discord within our ranks.”

On behalf of our Grand Master, it is my duty to leverage my thirty-six-plus years of experience as a Teamster Union Representative and Organizer to drive forward the much-needed growth of our beautiful Fraternity. Further, it becomes our duty to stay fully abreast of the current trends affecting our membership, to continually gain insight into potential areas for improvement, with the goal of keeping Masonry real, alive and relevant in our Society.

You see, my Brothers, Freemasonry is very personal to me. Freemasonry is a lifestyle that I proudly embrace, defend and share with my closest family members and friends. I allow nothing to stand between me and my family and Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is so much more than a mere social club; it is a genuine path to greater achievement and fulfillment. Freemasonry is that singular blueprint designed to reflect who we are as a brotherhood and what it is we as Masons value most, our honesty and our integrity.

As my dear friend and Brother MW Ed Gilbert would say, “Let’s get back to basics!” Without these two basic elements of honesty and integrity, we as a Fraternity lose the trust and credibility placed in us by our fellows.

In the sage words of Albert Schweitzer, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, “Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing!” I think of myself as a good example of an upright, honest man and Mason. I strive daily through precepts and example to be a good neighbor, a good father and grandfather and a good Brother. The bottom line, my Brothers, is that I love our Fraternity with my whole heart and I want with sincere earnest, to do whatever it takes to make Masonry shine.

This is my pledge to you: that I will not disappoint you my Brothers, and no matter the outcome of today’s election, I will *Continues on page 10 – Junior Grand Warden Haslam, Sr.*



RW ALBERTO G. CORTIZO
GRAND TREASURER
METROPOLITAN REGION LIAISON CONTACT
646/285-1590
grandtreasurer@nymasons.org

Thank you, my dear Brothers, for the confidence that you have in my ability to lead. For over two decades, I have been a part of this Fraternity that we call Freemasonry. My journey has been blessed with mentors and experiences that have shaped me into a capable and compassionate leader. I have held many offices and positions in my Lodges, Districts, in Grand Lodge and on our Grand Line. Every office and position I have held, along with my business training as an operations manager, has helped me prepare to be your Grand Treasurer. I promise to use my knowledge and experience to ensure the growth of our beloved Fraternity as we continue to spread love, unity and social responsibility. I look forward to serving you, my Brothers. I am humbled and filled with pride from all the love and support that my family and I have received from all of you.

Over the past two and a half years while I served as your Junior Grand Deacon, I traveled extensively across our State visiting and supporting your Lodges, Districts and most importantly, you, my dear Brothers. It was truly a pleasure. I also had the opportunity to visit Brothers and Lodges in other States and countries. Since I have given up my seat in the Grand Van, going from appointed officer to elected officer, I will not be in the van with the Grand Master and his team as often as I used to. But let me assure you that I will continue to travel our

jurisdiction as your Grand Treasurer. While traveling can be tiring at times, I am always invigorated when I can spend time with you and your families at meetings, ceremonies, picnics, parades and all the other events that we share.

Our Grand Master, MW Steven Adam Rubin, has set forth a plan that will change New York Freemasonry. Part of that plan is to increase the duties of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Wardens. I take these responsibilities very seriously and will carry them out to my best ability. As one of the three liaison officers, I plan to work closely with the District Grand Lodge Officers of my assigned region, the Metropolitan region, but I will be available to all those officers throughout our jurisdiction.

The time for change is upon us and we must rise to the challenge. Our Grand Lodge cannot remain stagnant and expect to thrive. We must be willing to adapt and evolve and not be deterred by past failures. Instead, we should learn from them and move forward with renewed determination. Remember, 100% of the ideas that we do not try will not work. By working together and living up to our obligations as Freemasons we can make a positive impact in our communities and show the world what we stand for.

You make me proud to call myself a New York Mason.

DGL Syria-Lebanon Celebrates Gala

The District Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon organized its Annual Gala Dinner on June 14, 2024. The site was the Museum and Historic Home of the Arslan Family in Aley, 15 km uphill from Beirut, Lebanon. Attendees reached the staggering number of 360 people, all enjoying the cool summer nights of Lebanon in an atmosphere of unity, harmony and joy. It is on such occasions that the District Grand Lodge of Syria-Lebanon, while outside the United States, pledges its loyalty, love and commitment to the Grand Lodge of New York and the instructions of its Grand Master, MW Steven A. Rubin.

The District Grand Master, Fouad C. Khalifeh, along with his team of dedicated officers, welcomed the guests and addressed them under the flags of Lebanon and the USA. He spoke of the importance to continue the journey in full dedication and commitment to New York Freemasonry in our part of the world.

In attendance were local official dignitaries, as well as our Brothers from the Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon. All present enjoyed the brotherly ambiance creating an energy that stayed strong till early morning hours.



Continues from page 9 – Junior Grand Warden Haslam, Sr.
continue always to love you and our beloved Fraternity called Freemasonry.

My Brothers, I ask for your vote today and help me become the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Free and

Accepted Masons of the State of New York.

Finally, May God bless our beloved Freemasonry, May God bless the United States of America, and may God bless each of you and yours with Blessings of Peace, Love, Happiness and great Health. Amen.



RW RICHARD T. SCHULZ
GRAND SECRETARY
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Brethren, I want to start by thanking all of you for the love and support you have shown me after the passing of my beloved wife, Grayce, on May 15, 2024. Grayce was a wonderful and beautiful person. She always had a smile and was the sweetest person I have ever met. I have known Grayce since I was 15 years old. I miss her terribly and will bear an ache in my heart for the rest of my life. I know she is watching over me and our family. This must have been part of God's plan, although I wish He had given all of us more time with her in this world.

We had a wonderful celebration of her life on May 18. The Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) made a donation and put a Leaf with her name on the MMRI Memorial Tree at St. John's Weekend. Many made donations to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund in her name. We have received calls, cards and letters of sympathy and condolences from around the world. We received cards advising us of prayers and masses for her. Brothers call me even now, months later, to check in. I continue to receive hugs from my friends, relatives and Brothers. I do not know how my family and I would have got through the last few months without this outpouring of love and support.

Thankfully, I had the Grand Secretary's office work to keep my mind off of our loss.

The Annual Communication on May 6-7 is well behind us at this point and we are gearing up for the coming Masonic year. There will be several Grand Lodge activities this fall: Family Day at West Point (October 19), the Grand Master's Ball at Marina Del Rey (October 26) and the Masonic Toys for Tots events highlighted by a Dinner Dance at Russo's on the Bay on Saturday, November 23. I look forward to seeing many of you and your families at these events.

We will host another round of Florida Sojourners Luncheons this January. The dates are:

- Monday, January 6 – Naples, FL at the Doubletree Suites;
- Wednesday, January 8 – Tampa at the Egypt Shrine Center;
- Thursday, January 9 – The Villages at The Waterfront Inn; and
- Saturday, January 11 – Palm Beach Gardens at the Embassy Suites Palm Beach Gardens.

Sojourners tickets are \$10. We will have the Order of Eastern Star with us, headed by the MW Grand Matron-Elect and the MW Grand Patron-Elect. Please see the Reservations Form in this issue (page 12); fill it out and return it to my office by December 2. Please start making your arrangements as soon as possible because the deadline is inflexible, given such early dates right after the New Year.

By the time of the publication of this issue, a number of Grand Line officers and brethren from the Grand Lodge of New York will have traveled to Helsinki, Finland to participate in the Centenary Communication and week-long celebration of the chartering by our Grand Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Finland 100 years ago. Grand Lodge officers from around the world, including the Grand Lodge of New York, will participate in the week-long celebration.

Finally, let me conclude by encouraging everyone to remember the Masonic Brotherhood Fund and help support the Three Jewels of our Grand Lodge: Masonic Care Community (MCC), Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) and the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum. In addition, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund supports Masonic Relief when natural disasters strike and provides benevolence for our members when they fall on hard times. Charity is part of the lifeblood of Freemasonry. To donate, go to: <https://nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org/>.

Thank you. God bless you.



Presentation of Memorial Leaf for Mrs. Grayce M. Schulz by the MMRI Board of Directors at St. John's Weekend.
 L to R: Alvaro Quiroga, David Schneeweiss, Grand Secretary Richard Schulz, Robert Hewson, Pasquale Imbimbo.

SPECIAL NOTE: If your membership in Masonry totals [50], [55], [60], [65], [70], [75] years, either this year, or in the year 2025, and you wish to have the Grand Master present the Service Award Certificate at the luncheon, please circle your anniversary year above, and check one of the boxes below:

- Yes - I joined in 19_____ No, I received one earlier this year. No, I plan to receive it in my Lodge.

Please Read This First

GRAND LODGE F. & A. M., STATE OF NEW YORK 2025 FLORIDA SOJOURNER MEETING – RESERVATIONS FORM

Yes, I plan to attend the following luncheon meeting (Please check one):

- Monday, January 6, in Naples
- Wednesday, January 8, in Tampa
- Thursday, January 9, in The Villages
- Saturday, January 11, in Palm Beach Gardens

I am a member of _____ Lodge No. _____

My companion named below is is not a member of the ORDER of the EASTERN STAR.

PLEASE PRINT AND COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF THIS FORM:

(Your Name) (Your Companion's Name)

(Street)

(City, State & Zip Code) (Telephone)

(e-mail address) @ _____

Please PRINT additional names of each person who will accompany you and indicate affiliation:

NAME LODGE/CHAPTER

Enclosed is my check, or money order, (do not send cash) payable to *OES-MASONS Sojourner Luncheon*:

_____ Luncheon Ticket(s) @ \$10.00 per person listed above

Please do not send cash. Total amount of check or money order. . .\$ _____

PLEASE RETURN BEFORE DECEMBER 2, 2024 TO:

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE - 17th Floor, Florida Luncheon, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4941

Copernicus Milestones

by Michael Baur



On Tuesday evening, May 28, 2024, Copernicus Lodge 545 had the honor of presenting a sixty-year apron to RW Werner Puckhaber and fifty-five-year aprons to W Fritz Riemenschneider and W William Meyer. Under the leadership of new Worshipful Master Jeremy Karlin, the Lodge welcomed newly elected and appointed members of the Grand Line. These included the MW Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master; RW Robert Hogan, Jr., Deputy Grand Master; RW Alberto Cortizo, Grand Treasurer; and many appointed members. RW Bernard Epres, District Deputy Grand Master of the 9th Manhattan District and RW Edwin De Guia, Grand Director of Ceremonies were also present. Whitestone Masonic Temple was filled with more than 100 Brothers and guests for this momentous occasion.

Chartered in 1863, Copernicus Lodge has been blessed with many Brothers who have gone above and beyond in their service to the Craft, the Lodge, the community and their families. Without a doubt, the Brothers receiving their apron from MW Rubin and RW Hogan this evening are among the very best.

Receiving his fifty-five-year apron was W William Meyer, who served as Master of Valley Stream Lodge 1143, affiliated with Copernicus Lodge in 2016 and has been a dedicated and faithful Brother ever since. In brief remarks, he talked about how “you get out of Masonry what you put into Masonry.” He currently serves as a Trustee of the Lodge, having been elected in 2022.

Also receiving his fifty-five-year apron was W Fritz Riemenschneider. He served as Master of Zschokke Lodge No. 202 before the Lodge consolidated with its granddaughter Lodge, Copernicus, in 1998. Born in Bremen, Germany, W Riemenschneider received the Dedicated Service Award in 2010 and currently serves the Lodge as a Trustee and is a member of Post 22. In his remarks W Riemenschneider spoke of the power of Masonry and the impacts that it has had on his and his family’s life.

Concluding the evening was the presentation of a sixty-year apron to RW Werner Puckhaber. Born in Heissenbüttel, Germany, RW Puckhaber served Copernicus Lodge as its Master in 1977 and 1978 and served the District as District Deputy

Grand Master in 1982. He also holds membership in Post 22 and was appointed to the position of Grand Representative of Australia, New South Wales in 2006. He currently serves the Lodge as a Trustee. RW Puckhaber has been a leader, a friend and a voice of wise counsel for many years in Copernicus Lodge. He continues to impart an enduring legacy that serves as a beacon of inspiration and achievement for the current leadership of the Lodge to aspire to for years to come.

Having both MW Rubin and RW Hogan present on this evening was a true honor. It serves as a reminder to all of the mark that these three men have made in New York State Freemasonry.



Join Us!

January 17-18

GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK
71 West 23rd St, New York, NY

Freemasonry in the
21st Century:
Self and Society

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LEADERSHIP • NETWORKING • SPEAKERS • VENDORS • AND YOU

Get event details, hotel room rate, Masonic Con tickets, and Mariners Lodge No. 67 Beefsteak Dinner tickets online at:

MasonicConNewYork.com

This event is proudly presented by the Grand Lodge of New York, Most Worshipful Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master, and supported by the Trustees of the Hall and Home.



Grand Lodge Committee Rollout

My Brothers, since May 8 your Grand Line and I have been working diligently on refining the manner in which we govern in our Grand Lodge. Part of that process has been re-defining the scope of work and expectations for our committees. In this edition of the *ESM* I am pleased to share with you a number of our committees and their job descriptions, including two brand new Special Committees: our Special Marketing Committee and Grand Lodge Special Events Committee.

Your Grand Lodge and committees are here to serve you

and your Lodges. Do not hesitate to seek my assistance or their assistance. Additionally, we continue to look for Brothers interested in contributing their time and talent to our committees. For those interested, please email my Aide, RW Brother Lorenzo at GMAide@nymasons.org.

Stay tuned for our Charity Spotlight in our winter *ESM*. We are seeking contributions from our Brothers and Lodges to celebrate all of the important work that we do as Master Masons around our state and world. Please send submissions to GMAide@nymasons.org.



Charities Committee

The Grand Lodge Charities Committee plays a crucial role in supporting our Lodges' charitable initiatives within their communities. Our mission statement is to provide assistance to those Lodges in need of guidance in promoting philanthropy and fostering a spirit of giving among their Brothers. Through fundraising efforts and volunteer work we help Lodges make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families facing adversity in their communities.

A key function of the Charities Committee is to educate and assist Lodges to organize events and activities that bring together Lodge members in the service of others. Participating in these initiatives, Brothers contribute their time and skills toward making a difference in their communities.

The Charities Committee will also help Lodges identify worthy causes and organizations that align with our values and goals. By carefully vetting potential beneficiaries we ensure that our resources are directed toward projects that will have a meaningful and lasting impact on those in need.

And once the good work is completed, the Charities Committee will celebrate each Lodge's charitable accomplishments by sharing their stories in *Empire State Mason* magazine to be read by New York Freemasons around the world. Ultimately, the work of the Grand Lodge Charities Committee serves as a testament to the power of collective action. Through collaboration and dedication we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

The committee is actively seeking Brothers who would like to assist this effort in their region of the state. Interested Brothers can reach out to me at GMAide@nymasons.org.

RW Lorenzo Cesare, Chairman

Endowments Committee

The Committee on Endowments shall consist of such number of members as the Grand Master shall appoint. Its duty is to promote methods to secure funds such as gifts and bequests for the maintenance and extension of the charitable work of the Brotherhood Foundation.

Military Outreach Committee - VA Hospital Military Outreach

The mission of the Military Outreach Committee is to provide support items for in/outpatients by identifying needs specific to the demographics of each NY VA Medical Center. Expansion to include VA Clinics under the direction of the Grand Lodge.

The Process: The Contact/Coordinator of Patient Affairs in

each VA Medical Center is in contact monthly with the Grand Lodge Committee member to receive, recommend and review specific support items that are identified as a need. When a need is identified, a detailed request is submitted for review and approval by the Committee Chairman and Grand Lodge Liaison Officer and is then submitted to the Grand Master for approval. Upon approval, the Grand Treasurer, Grand Marshal and Committee VA Hospital Contact schedule payment and review the GL Officers availability to attend.

The VA Hospital Contact obtains possible dates for the presentation of the items to the VA Medical Center and advises the Committee Chairman and Grand Lodge Liaison to schedule the event with the Grand Marshal to obtain Grand Lodge Officer representation.

We currently serve the following NYS VA Medical Centers:

- Buffalo
- Albany
- Bath
- Canandaigua
- Castle Point (Wappingers)
- Northport
- Syracuse
- Batavia
- Montrose
- NYC Area – Metro: Brooklyn, Bronx 23rd Street NY

Special Projects Committee (formerly, Masonic Fellowship)

An incredible St. John's Weekend Celebration had more than 1000 guests joining us. It was one of our largest and most memorable weekends ever. Let us keep that energy flowing as we gear up for more spectacular celebrations. Look for the first-ever Masonic Con hosted by the Grand Lodge of New York, an Esoteric Retreat at Camp Turk, a Grand Lodge trip to Yankee Stadium and many others.

This committee will also be working with the Grand Marshal and MCC for St. John's Weekend. This is a tremendous opportunity to make all our events the best they can be and have even greater impact. If you are passionate about working alongside like-minded Brothers and dedicated to enhancing our Masonic experience, we would love for you to join us. We seek enthusiastic individuals who are ready to contribute energy and ideas to our growing team. Reach out to me at stjohnsday@gmail.com. Let us work together to create something extraordinary.

RW Joseph Maniscalco, Chairman

Concordant Bodies Committee

The Concordant Bodies Committee is comprised of the top elected officers of the following bodies: Grand Lodge of New York, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, the Grand Commandery of the State of New York, the Scottish Rite New York Council of Deliberation and the Masonic War Veterans. Simply put, the charge of this Committee is to ensure that there is a free flow of communication between all the Grand Bodies in our Jurisdiction. The Concordant Bodies Committee will continue to review different ways to enhance the various methods in which we share information with each other.

RW Robert L. Hogan, Jr., Chairman

Restoration Committee

After one year from the time of the expulsion, the person who has been expelled may file with the Grand Secretary a copy of the charges upon which the petitioner was tried and a statement of the grounds upon which he seeks restoration. He must also submit the same to all living members of the trial commission which imposed the punishment upon him, and to the Lodge of which he was a member at the time of expulsion. If the Lodge or the Committee gives an unfavorable report, it ends there and does not get put to Grand Lodge for a vote.

RW Scott D. Peat, Chairman

Credentials of Members and Returns of Lodges Committee

The Credentials of Members and Returns of Lodges Committee reports to Grand Lodge the Lodges entitled to be represented at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication. Over the past several years we have worked with the Grand Secretary's office to streamline the check-in process and the distribution of the electronic voting devices.

The committee members are responsible for making sure that Lodges who have not submitted the required paperwork (annual return, election report, per capita payment and IRS form 990), do not receive a voting device. Immediately following the Annual Communication, the committee members collect the devices. The committee works in conjunction with the Grand Secretary's Office and the Technology committee to prepare the devices for the next Annual Communication.

RW Alberto G. Cortizo, Chairman

Unity Committee

The Unity Committee is a most unique Committee in our Grand Lodge. Established in 1988, it is a Standing Committee, which means it remains in existence until Grand Lodge votes it out of existence. The charge of the Committee is to open a dialogue with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York. We have done that and over the years have achieved mutual recognition but the Unity Committee is charged to stand ready should the time come when the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York is willing to sit down and discuss unification. That is what this Grand Lodge established.

The philosophy of our Grand Lodge is that we are willing to discuss unity. We are not pushing it, we are not proselytizing, but we are available.

MW Daniel M. Semel, Chairman

Necrology

The mission of the Grand Chaplains is to perform those solemn services which we should constantly render to our Infinite Creator and which, when offered by one whose profession it is to point to heaven and lead the way, may by refining our soul, strengthening our virtues and purifying our minds prepare us for admission into the society of those above, with whom our happiness will be endless and perfect.

In order to do justice to this office, Grand Chaplains are asked to make themselves available to deliver invocations and benedictions at Grand Lodge events when needed; to participate in Grand Lodge Session's Necrology Service; to prepare and officiate at St. John's Weekend's multiple religious ceremonies and services; to deliver homilies, etc., throughout the state. Also, Grand Chaplains may serve in local and surrounding Lodges in this capacity.

Although we have many Grand Chaplains on the roll, we are in need of qualified religious leaders of all denominations, those who grace our ranks as Freemasons in our state, and are prepared to be active. So mote it be.

R W Stenrick B. Adams, Chairman

Fraternity on Campus Committee

The Fraternity on Campus Committee exists to help with the creation and development of University Scheme Lodges within our Jurisdiction. These are Lodges dedicated to the service of the students, alumni and faculty of specific institutions of higher learning or broader university systems.

If you live near your alma mater or work at one of New York's many universities and would like to explore becoming a charter member of a newly constituted Lodge, please reach out so we can discuss possibilities. There are few things as exciting as putting your stamp on a new Lodge and becoming part of its history, and by extension, the history of the Craft. We are also extremely interested in any prospective committeemen who would like to contribute to the development of these Lodges, particularly in areas of the state that have large universities.

Ritual Renaissance Committee

The mission of the Ritual Renaissance Program, now in its eleventh year, is to assist every Lodge in our jurisdiction to be well rehearsed and knowledgeable in our ritual, thereby making every Candidate's and Brother's Masonic experience special. We believe that the ritual is our most basic form of Masonic Education. It is the foundation of that house not made with hands that we aspire to build as Freemasons.

Our hope is that the program achieves the following goals:

- Motivating our Brothers to learn and perform the ritual with excellence.
- Presenting tips that will enhance the performance and understanding of the Degrees.
- Clearing up many common errors, questions or mistakes in the rendering and understanding of specific ritual parts and our floor work.
- Providing the basis for discussion of the meanings of the ritual by defining in-depth information around our symbols and allegories.
- Motivating our Brothers to want to learn and understand both the words and meaning of our Masonic ritual through continued study, research and discussion.
- Making lifelong Masons who take pride in their Craft

Continues on page 16—Charities Committee

and in their work.

- Encouraging our newer Brothers to participate in our Degrees by breaking up the work into different parts.

This last year we put all our efforts into redoing the Degree Animation, along with creating a new Hiram Drama Animation. We also were deeply involved in assisting our Grand Lecturer in staffing and portraying the Hiram Drama for Unity Day, where we also witnessed the Grand Lodges of Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania portray their rituals for the Opening and all three Degrees.

Our plan for 2024 is to assist the Masonic Regions throughout the state; do the Hiram Drama for Lodges who cannot do it themselves; show the new 1st Degree Animation. We will also prepare for the 2025 International Grand Lecturers' Convention.

Theodore Roosevelt Award

The Theodore Roosevelt Award is awarded for exemplary service in the civil service sector. The award was named after Theodore Roosevelt, who was a Brother Mason, a New York City Police Commissioner, the Governor of New York, Assistant Secretary of the Navy and became the 26th President of the United States.

During President Roosevelt's term as President of the NYPD Board of Commissioners, he fought corruption in the police department, helped establish a Municipal Lodging House with the Board of Charities to aid immigrants, fought corruption in Tammany Hall, established Meritorious Service Awards for the NYPD and personally walked the beat with patrol officers to ensure things were being done. The journalist Jacob Riis wrote in his book, *How the Other Half Lives* "...that for the first time moral purpose came into the streets. In the light of it everything was transformed." The Theodore Roosevelt Award is awarded in his honor for exemplification of his tradition.

Brotherhood Fund

The Masonic Brotherhood Fund is the charitable arm of the Grand Lodge of New York. The Brotherhood Fund assumes a solemn responsibility, to alleviate the burdens of our distressed Brothers, their families, widows and orphans. It stands as a lifeline in times of unforeseen and often catastrophic tragedies. It helps our brethren and their families overcome some of their darkest moments. While we hope and pray that no one will ever need this assistance, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund has and always will stand ready to assist our Brothers, their widows and orphans in need.

Other than our main mission to support, aid and assist our Brothers, their families, widows and orphans, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund also provides vital support to organizations that are within our community. These include the Masonic Care Community, Masonic Medical Research Institute, Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum and Camp Turk and a variety of initiatives such as Disaster Relief, Military Outreach and our Masonic Youth Programs.

Deputy Grand Master's Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Deputy Grand Master's Advisory Committee is to support the Deputy Grand Master and his efforts in every possible manner to ensure his success and preparation for the office of Grand Master within two years. These efforts and support are extended to the Grand Master,

Grand Line and the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

Our work is not limited to programing and educational efforts, but goes to the success and wellbeing of our Brothers, their families our Lodges and communities. Therefore, we support the Deputy Grand Master's travels and attendance throughout the jurisdiction and beyond, and promote the events that he is spearheading and participating in.

Camp Turk Committee

Forty minutes north of Utica, nestled in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains, exists a majestic place abundant in beauty and tranquility. Camp Turk, our Masonic Youth Camp, opens its doors each year during the summer months for children ages 7-16 to disconnect from our modern technological world and rediscover nature. We in the Camp Turk Committee have been charged with ensuring each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction has an opportunity to enroll the children and grandchildren of fellow Masons into the Camp Turk summer camping program.

We seek highly motivated Brothers from across New York State to join us and ensure we achieve this mission in every District. All NY Masons interested in giving presentations about Camp Turk in their regions and meeting on the property to help prepare for campers and promote this amazing program are encouraged to contact us at campturkcommittee@gmail.com.

Distinguished Achievement Award

The Distinguished Achievement Award Committee is charged to approach and secure the Grand Master's choice to receive the highest award our Grand Lodge bestows upon a Brother of the Masonic Craft.

On the 17th floor of our Grand Lodge building there is a display wall of pictures of recipients of the award, which was begun over nine decades ago. Famous Brothers make up the list—actors, astronauts, musical composers, U.S. Governors, Generals, Admirals, Grand Commanders of both the Northern Masonic Scottish Rite and Southern Masonic Scottish Rite and many others.

MW Vincent Libone, as Chairman, and colleagues MW Edward Trosin and MW Carl Smith invite the Brother the Grand Master has chosen to attend our Grand Lodge Communication. At that time he is presented the leather-bound biography produced by the Grand Secretary and Assistant Grand Secretary plus the Distinguished Achievement Medal.

MW Vincent Libone, Chairman

Standing Committee on Long-Range Planning

The renewed Standing Committee on Long-Range Planning is charged with examining the current health of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. It will establish a five-to-ten-year master plan to address the issues that we currently face and will confront in the future. It will work with our Grand Master and Grand Lodge to institute these initiatives.

Observant Masonry Committee

The renewed Observant Masonry Committee is an extension of the Grand Lodge of NY's perpetual commitment to the pursuit of excellence, with the understanding that the future of Freemasonry depends significantly on the observance of its foundational intent and purpose. Accordingly, the OM

committee's charge is to orient the Craft toward this goal by increasing awareness and understanding of this critical initiative. It will provide practical guidance to those desirous of walking the path of Masonic Observance and will act as a certifying body for Lodges within our jurisdiction that conspicuously exemplify the principles of Observant Masonry and further wish to offer themselves as a resource for the restoration of the Craft to its fundamental role as a custodian of the Western esoteric tradition. Any Brother wishing to contribute to this ongoing effort is encouraged to email Brother Bradley R. Hubbard at SummaObservantia@gmail.com.

Surviving Spouses Committee

The renewed Surviving Spouses Committee will enlist each District Deputy to facilitate and encourage each Lodge in his District to, at a minimum, set aside one day or evening to recognize and honor the widows and family of our departed Brothers. This is to ensure they know that they are not forgotten and will always be a part of our Masonic family. We hope each Lodge will give these ladies a small token to make them feel special and important. This can be accomplished by individual Lodges or Districts.

We want each widow in the state to receive a widow's pin to wear with love, pride and remembrance. The financial burden incurred would be the cost of the pins and a mailing to each District Deputy to request participation in this endeavor. If necessary, we would visit the Districts to explain what is requested.

Finance Committee

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist the Grand Master in preparing the budget for the ensuing year, review the financial statements prepared by the accounting office of Grand Lodge, audit the accounts of the Trustees, the MMRI, and the Library, and to approve the audited financial statements for the calendar year. The committee is also available to answer any financial questions that may arise during the year.

Masonic Youth Committee

The Masonic Youth Committee empowers the Grand Lodge of New York to make a positive impact in the next generation of servant leaders. Working with New York's three Masonic Youth Groups—DeMolay, Rainbow and Triangle—the youth committee promotes and encourages a more vibrant culture of youth leadership and development. It also partners with Lodges on local youth programs.

Ongoing Projects:

- Developing promotional materials
- Providing training on youth development
- Recruiting additional adult mentors

Needs:

- Members with expertise in youth development, risk management, non-profit governance and desktop publishing skills.

W Ed Draves

Correspondence and Relations Committee

The Correspondence and Relations Committee is a vital Standing Committee within the Grand Lodge. Its multifaceted role encompasses several key functions. First and foremost, the committee handles requests for mutual recognition and

amity from foreign jurisdictions. In this role it safeguards the brethren of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, ensuring they do not engage in Masonic interactions with irregular or clandestine Grand Lodges or Masons.

Beyond its primary mission, the committee maintains a vigilant watch over the entire Masonic landscape. It observes the actions of other Grand Lodges and stays abreast of current events within the Fraternity. Operating under the authority of the Constitutions, this committee acts as a fact-finding body in our Grand Lodge's foreign affairs. It addresses matters that require discussion or action, diligently performing the detailed work necessary to uphold harmony between our Grand Lodge and the broader Masonic world.

Jurisprudence Committee

Masonic Jurisprudence serves as the Common Law of Freemasonry. It is a set of principles and guidelines that govern our Fraternity. Within its scope it encompasses the Ancient Landmarks, which trace back to 1721, as well as the Constitutions, Rules and Regulations specific to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Importantly, Masonic Jurisprudence should not be confused with civil law; the two exist as separate and distinct entities.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence is a standing committee and plays a pivotal role within the Grand Lodge. Its responsibilities include reviewing both domestic and foreign correspondence, addressing inquiries related to Masonic Law and confirming the usages, privileges and customs of our beloved Fraternity.

The Committee's membership is all Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Their collective experience, wisdom, history and knowledge span over 400 years. Additionally, the committee serves as an advisory body to the Grand Master.

The Masonic Brotherhood Foundation

The Masonic Brotherhood Fund Committee is a Standing Committee within the Grand Lodge. Operating under the umbrella of the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation, Inc., a registered 501 (c)(3) charitable corporation, it has a clear and noble purpose: to provide aid, assistance and support to New York Masons and their families in emergent situations. The Foundation serves as the Grand Lodge's official charitable fundraising and distribution system. Within this organized and professional framework, Masons of the Grand Lodge have the opportunity to fulfill their Masonic obligations. Many well-established and commendable charitable efforts fall under its purview. These include the Masonic Home, the Masonic Medical Research Institute, Masonic Military Veterans, Livingston Library, the Battle Within, various Youth Groups and Camp Turk. But the spirit of brotherhood extends beyond state lines. New York Masons also lend a helping hand to other Grand Lodges facing natural disasters. Examples include hurricanes, floods, fires or other natural disasters. Additionally, they stand in solidarity with those affected by the ravages of war.

Brothers may choose to donate specifically to the Grand Master's Allocation. This flexible fund empowers the Grand Master to direct resources where they are most needed, ensuring a compassionate and responsive approach to charitable endeavors.

Continues on page 18—Charities Committee

Grand Lodge Tour Guides Committee

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York is one of the pearls of Freemasonry. We present the Grand Lodge, as well as Freemasonry, to brethren from all over the world and to non-Masons. We aim to bring the story behind Masonry in the best light. Also we show the effects that Masonry has had on the United States as well as worldwide. Due to our efforts many young men have joined the Craft.

We are all Master Masons who love what we do. There is perhaps no greater joy than showing off the Grand Lodge, the rooms, and hearing the amazed reaction of the visitors. Brothers in the Metropolitan area wishing to work on this committee should reach out to its Chairman, brothershlomo@gmail.com.

Grand Lodge Educational Assistance Committee

The Grand Lodge Educational Assistance committee exists to support the children and grandchildren of Master Masons (including those of deceased Brothers) in their pursuit for higher education. This effort stems from the desire to aid the children and orphans of Masons, which began with the opening of the Masonic Care Community in Utica in 1893.

The monies provided are in the form of a grant. Financial grants can be used by the recipients however they see fit. The committee operates a web-based application process. As applications are received they are logged and a checklist is created to follow each application to its conclusion. The Educational Assistance Program is currently funded by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home.

Committee on Law Enforcement

The Committee on Law Enforcement (LEC) is a Standing Committee of Grand Lodge consisting of seven members and several consultants. The duties include conducting investigations into violations of Masonic Law and our Constitutions. Depending on the violation, these investigations may be carried out by one of the committee members or by assignment to the respective DDGM for minor intra-District issues. The LEC is also charged with the task of inspecting the books, accounts and records of a Lodge Under Dispensation prior to a Charter being granted.

Consisting of active and retired law enforcement officers with decades of experience, the committee is tasked with gathering evidence to support any charges in violation of Masonic Law; presenting these to the Grand Master for his endorsement and sending the case to the Proctor for the preparation of formal charges. The Committee is, arguably, one of busiest Grand Lodge committees, needing almost daily attention. By working hand-in-hand with the Office of the Proctor, the caseload is being efficiently managed. As our membership screening process improves, the caseload will, one day, hopefully diminish.

RW Daniel G. Lort, Chairman

Technology Committee

While the Technology Committee has a broad mandate to assist in the bringing of technological resources to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York and its associated Lodges, it functions with three primary points of vision:

1. The Technology Committee provides an architectural

view of technology, encouraging standardization, consistent use and secure adoption of technology by the Craft.

2. The Technology Committee assists the Lodges and committees of Grand Lodge with their technology use. This includes guidance with technological tools (ex. Zoom), provisioning of systems (ex. Hiram) and assistance with technology-based activities (ex. recording and transmission of Grand Lodge Programs.)
3. The Technology Committee assists Grand Lodge and its associated entities with preventative and post-event information security efforts. This includes but is not limited to advising on best practices, reporting and incident response.

The committee is actively seeking Brothers who would like to assist in this effort in their region of the state. Individuals with a strong background in Technology Deployment, Technology Education and/or IT Incident Response should apply to weisbm@ix.netcom.com.

Committee on Awards

The Committee on Awards is a standing committee in the Constitution and is directly responsible for the investigation and approval of the Dedicated Service Award. Members of the committee provide an unbiased evaluation of Brothers nominated for this award, and then take a vote. The vote of the chairman is a tie-breaker for approval.

This award has a time frame for submission, which is September 1 to November 12 of the previous year. All approvals are subject to the final consent of the Grand Master. Recipients are notified in January of the award year.

The committee is also responsible for the DeWitt Clinton, Jacob Morton and Grand Lodge Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence in Service to the Community. Members of the committee follow the same process of evaluation and vote for the candidates for these awards. Nominations may be submitted throughout the year. Recipients are notified within a short time after submission.

The committee is responsible for the Years of Service awards. Although Lodge Services handles the certificates, pins, etc., this committee submits the totals of certificates, pins, etc. in its Annual Report.

This committee has a Chairman and eight Committeemen. There are two committeemen in each of the four Regions of the state. This number is sufficient to investigate and vote on nominees.

George R. Wacob, Chairman

Constitutions Committee

The Constitutions Committee is a Standing Committee of Grand Lodge. There are presently nine members. The primary function of the Committee is to review all propositions to amend the Constitutions, Masonic Law and Rules of Order of Grand Lodge. (See Masonic Law: Section 332 and Rules of Order section XI sub.8.)

The criteria are the same for every proposal submitted: is it clear, concise and in acceptable language for inclusion in our Constitutions? Will it benefit the Craft, does it conflict with another Section or some other Masonic Law? Will it have a positive rather than negative impact and will it assist in the administration of Grand Lodge?

The Committee members discuss these proposals, using their insight and knowledge. Their conclusions are in keeping with protecting these cherished documents for the brethren of the Fraternity. The Committee believes these documents should be amended only when absolutely necessary and not just for the sake of change.

These proposals are then reviewed and discussed via e-mail, Zoom or at a meeting of the Committee prior to the Committee's annual meeting, which is held approximately one week prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. After discussing these proposals the Committee votes to recommend approval, disapproval, referral to another Committee or have it tabled. It is then brought to Grand Lodge for a vote of the brethren who will have the final say.

The Committee encourages the Brothers to read and understand the Constitutions and Masonic Law. Before submitting a proposal, consider whether or not the proposal is really necessary. Do the research and remember that these articles are what make Masonry such a great institution.

Marino Cesarini, Chairman

Custodians of the Work

The Custodians of the Work are a Constitutional committee consisting of seven members that is charged with caretaking the Standard Work and Lectures of the Grand Lodge of New York. This responsibility takes many forms, including periodic restorations, adjustments, updates and changes to the ritual in order to best serve the brethren in the present age. Examples are the Constitutional proposal to allow opening and closing on any of the three Degrees of Masonry and creation of opening and closing rituals for Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Lodges; creating, correcting and modifying the written and other materials used by the brethren in learning and performing our Ritual, the best example of which is the 2019 edition of the blue Ritual book; working with the Grand Lecturer and issuing occasional guidance to ensure that our rites and ceremonies are performed correctly and appropriately; and other activities with relevance to our ritual.

The Custodians are nearing completion of a ten-year project to review all of our printed assets and the ritual contained within them. The first phase was thoroughly reconsidering, reorganizing, reformatting, regularizing, supplementing and expanding the blue Ritual Book. This took over six years to accomplish, and the book which resulted is unsurpassed in the worldwide Masonic community. Soon we will bring forth a new Monitor containing all the exoteric material in our Standard Work and Lectures. There has not been a real Monitor published by our Grand Lodge in thirty-five years, with the result that many Lodges still perform ceremonies from old Monitors that have not been valid for over twenty years. The forthcoming Monitor contains not only the exoteric material from the Degree rituals, but also such materials as annotated schematics showing the basic pathways of the Drama of the Hiram Legend and a special script for the Narrator; scores for the musical selections specified in the ritual, including simplified versions with just the melody and chords; an updated Installation of Lodge Officers in both the contemporary "Tiler to Master" order and the traditional "Master to Tiler" order; illustrations of the correct configuration of the apron for each Degree; an expanded "Basic Principles" section setting forth guidance on common questions such as proper pronunciation of Lodge numbers, how to wear the apron, declaring Liberty

of the Lodge, what to do with additional volumes of Sacred Law on the altar, proper positioning and configuration of the Square and Compasses; and much, much more. We believe the new Monitor will be every bit as outstanding as the 2019 blue Ritual Book.

All of these undertakings are done with deep respect and consideration for the many years of history and tradition which have accrued around our rituals and ceremonies, an understanding of the interests and preferences of incoming Masonic generations and the goal of providing the brethren with the best possible materials to aid and guide them in learning and performing our beautiful Masonic ritual. Perhaps most importantly, all of the foregoing is done—and can only be done—in close consultation with Masons from every corner of the state. We not only proactively reach out to the brethren in our various regions and Districts, but also welcome communication of ideas, observations, compliments and complaints from any Brother who would like to share his thoughts with us. These are best directed to the Chairman,

RW Samuel Lloyd Kinsey,
at slkinsey@me.com or
917/770-1793.

Communications Committee

There are many, many ways in which we communicate with each other within our beloved Craft and outside in the profane world. Many Lodges and Districts have been able to keep on the cutting edge, while others have lagged. The Grand Lodge Communications Committee is here to help those Lodges and Districts that are struggling to find a better communication strategy.

Social Media, Public Relations, Publications (including newsletters), and the GL Speakers Bureau are branches of the Communications Committee that are here to assist our Lodges and Districts with all their communications needs. The Communications Committee will continue to review different ways to enhance the various systems and methods in which we communicate with each other.

RW Robert L. Hogan, Jr. Chairman

Convention Committee

The primary responsibilities of the Grand Lodge Convention Committee are the coordination and facilitation of many Grand Lodge activities and events. Among them are: the Metropolitan District Deputies Masons and Families Dedication Service and Breakfast, the Annual Brotherhood Night in Delaware and the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, which also includes the VIP Dinner, Grand Master's Reception and Dinner and several activities for the Grand Lodge ladies.

During the 2024/2025 Masonic year we will also be assisting with the Grand Master's Ball (October) Unity Day (January) and with select activities celebrating the Lafayette Bicentennial. The specific responsibilities of the committee include: coordination of hotel reservations; ticket sales and distribution; securing buses and coordinating transportation; arranging needed lunches and dinners and, when required, banquet seating. The continued mission of the Convention Committee is to ensure that all planned activities are successful and meet with the high standards of our Grand Lodge and our Grand Master, MW Steven A Rubin.

Continues on page 20—Charities Committee

RW Donald P. Mattson Chairman

George Washington Masonic Historic Site at Tappan

This beautiful Historical Site is located a short drive from NYC in Tappan, New York. We know the phrase, George Washington slept here. Well, he did. In August of 1780 President Washington was in the area when he was invited to stay the night. Over the next three years, Washington and his staff would visit twice more. This gave rise to the home's nickname of Washington's Headquarters.

Grand Master's Day 2024 at Tappan is on Sunday, October 6. Our Grand Master, MW Steven Adam Rubin, is inviting all his Masonic family members to join with him and his Grand Line to celebrate the annual Grand Master's Day. Enjoy a day of brotherhood, tour the grounds, the museum and the original home where some artifacts from the 1700s are still located.

As always, there will be plenty of food and enjoyment. The day starts at twelve noon and ends whenever you wish to leave. Dress is Grand Lodge uniform or business suit plus apron and jewels.

Location: DeWint House, 20 Livingston Street, Tappan, NY 10983.

RW Joseph J. Saglimbene

Marketing Committee

I am excited to announce the new Marketing Committee. Over the next year our short-term goals are to increase the marketing efforts on the local Lodge efforts as well as assist any committee with branding and marketing guidance. Our over-arching, long-term goal will be to audit, and constantly grow our Grand Lodge branding efforts. Ideally, we will be formulating a creative center of excellence for the Grand Lodge of NY. So far, we have worked closely with the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation to renovate their website and look forward to its launch.

That said, we are always looking for Brothers who work in marketing, advertising, PR and media to grow our talent pool. If interested, kindly reach out to me at zachary.n.ostrow@gmail.com with your resume/CV attached. In the body of the email explain how you would like to help the committee. More importantly, what projects would you be interested in working on?

W Zachary Ostrow Chairman

Membership Development Committee

The mission of the Membership Development Committee is to recruit and retain members by providing advice and resources. We recommend and monitor the Grand Lodge membership development plan, aligning it with the overall strategic vision.

The NorthStar Program has been very successful and efforts continue to train chairmen at the local level to more efficiently deal with incoming candidates. Different areas of the state have different needs and requirements. Accordingly, the committee will gather information across the state and develop training that can be used in conjunction with the NorthStar program.

RW Joseph Passaretti

Leadership & Education Services

The mission of the Leadership & Educational Services is to provide opportunities to improve the caliber of leadership

and education at all levels of Freemasonry in the Grand Lodge of New York by developing, implementing and maintaining programs of advanced instructional resources, forums and mentors to meet the current as well as future needs of the Craft in this jurisdiction. These formal and informal developmental opportunities will prepare Masons to better understand the foundations of Freemasonry and will develop basic and advanced leadership techniques and skills. The objective is to help all Brothers who seek more light to be innovative and creative in leading the Fraternity of the present and the future.

Publications Committee

Brethren, as a chairman of this project I encourage you to participate actively. We have already published two Walking Tours and one Driving Tour in NYC. Brother Lee Justo developed the idea of making a brochure for Kensico Cemetery, which contains several Masonic monuments.

Worshipful Ron Seifried also created a timeline in excel format of all the Long Island Lodges. We together can create a gigantic timeline of our Grand Lodge by Regions and Districts to have a better sense of the growth of our Craft in our state. Please contact me: Brother Ivan Boluarte (ivanti55@hotmail.com.)

Library & Museum Committee

The Library & Museum Committee supports our Grand Master and the Board of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library and Museum, which has served as the central research library of the Grand Lodge of New York. The mission of the library is to collect, preserve, interpret and support the research and education of a community of scholars, including Freemasons, academics, undergraduate and graduate students and the general public. Our institution features the foremost collections of the history, philosophy, culture and organization of American and International Freemasonry, with an emphasis on Freemasonry in New York State.

The Livingston Masonic Library Museum has been a beacon of knowledge, enlightenment and Fraternity for nearly 175 years. We have over 37,000 artifacts, 60,000 books and a Masonic Reading Course spanning seventeen themes. In addition, we have Digital Content on Odilo, Geology, American Lodge of Research and Ars Quatuor Coronatorum, Lodge Founding documents.

Come visit the library on the 14th Floor of Grand Lodge; or reach out to me so I can come to you for an impassioned presentation to your Lodge or District. Please also contact me should you like to contribute to the work of our Library and Museum.

RW Michael LaRocco, Executive Director

Lodges & Buildings Committee

The Lodges and Buildings Committee's purpose is to help our Lodges with best practices appertaining to Lodge management, building management, insurance, budgets and safety. The Committee consists of Brothers from across our state who have experience in these matters, who are always willing to help, aid and assist.

Additionally, the Committee can provide insight into the National Register of Historic Places as well as opportunities for tax exemption (501 (c)(3) status). Please do not hesitate to reach out with any insights or questions. If your Lodge or District has questions, or should you care to become a committee member or consultant to the Committee, please

email us at LodgesandBuildings@nymasons.org.

Charter Committee

The Charter Committee works with the Grand Secretary's office in approving new Lodge Dispensations & Charters and Consolidations (aka Mergers). A Consolidation of Lodges requires the issuance of a new Charter or the annotation of the senior Charter making it the working Charter of the newly consolidated Lodge.

While the rules for the Granting of Dispensations/Charters is specified in the *Masonic Book of Law for New York*, consolidations are not. A process has evolved, written and approved by Grand Masters over the years. It is designed to protect the assets of the Lodges and the members. The process seems daunting to some, but it is preferable to surrendering a charter. The Committee and your District Deputy Grand Master are here to help.

Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Benevolence

Mission Statement:

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent upon all Masons, Relief being one of the Principal Tenets of our Fraternity. Through Benevolence we fulfill our Masonic duty by providing help, aid and assistance to our Brothers in need.

On-going Projects:

None. Responding to requests for financial assistance upon receipt as required.

Proposed Projects:

Determine the viability of each District to support their

Lodges with financial assistance to distressed Brothers when needed.

- Contact all DDGMs regarding existence of District benevolence fund.
 - If yes, are there adequate funds to support all their Lodges?
 - How are funds raised specifically for benevolence?
 - If no, what needs to be done to establish one?
 - Collaborate with other DDGMs whose Districts have one.
 - Create a District-wide event to kick off benevolence fundraising efforts.
- Travelling Gavel events promote camaraderie and unity in individual Lodges and throughout the District, while working towards one common goal. (This could be especially helpful where Lodges and Districts are suffering from member apathy due to mergers that have left Brothers feeling disenfranchised.)

Needs of the committee:

- In a previous response to Grand Master Rubin I expressed my concerns over the current make-up of this committee, with an eye on a full overhaul.
- We could use someone knowledgeable in federal, state and local social programs and other non-Masonic charitable organizations, to which we can direct Brothers, their widows and dependent children for additional assistance, be that financial, legal or a combination of the two.

W Hugh C. Dungey, Chairman



JOIN OUR TEAM

Seeking Brothers interested in getting involved in Grand Lodge committees, boards and foundations.

New York Masons
WHERE MEN BUILD MEANING

Interested Brothers, send resumes and letters of interest to Bro. Lorenzo Cesare.
GMAide@nymasons.org



Masonic Con New York
Freemasonry in the 21st Century:
Self and Society

FRI 17 JANUARY
6 PM
Mariners Lodge 67's
Beefsteak Dinner
Kick off the lodge's bicentennial celebration with its famous Maritime Festive Board.

SAT 18 JANUARY
9 AM - 5 PM
Program of Speakers
Keynote: Maj. Gen. William Green, Jr.
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army
Dr. Heather Calloway ♦ Bro. Chuck Dunning ♦
Bro. Bill Garington ♦ Bro. Michael LaRocco ♦
Bro. Jim Lopicco ♦ and more

PLUS VENDORS ♦ TOURS OF MASONIC HALL ♦ AND MORE!

Need Lodging? A block of tickets for a local hotel have been reserved at a special rate!

Tickets and Additional Information:
masonicconnewyork.com

MASONIC WAR VETERANS

W VINCENT SCANDOLE
MWV, GRAND POST
3RD LT. COMMANDER GENERAL
516/650-1076

The weekend of June 14-15, 2024, found many members of the newly installed Grand Line, led by our Grand Master, MW Steven A. Rubin, gathered in Fishkill, NY for the Grand Post Masonic War Veterans Annual Convention and Communication. The weekend was full of brotherhood and patriotism, and we were honored to have so many esteemed Brothers and their Ladies join us.



The Masonic War Veterans, founded in New York in 1948 as a way for those brothers who served their nation in the Military to be recognized for their service, as well as to continue a similar service to our Fraternity. We are grateful for their service to both our Nation and our Fraternity.

As this convention was held mere weeks after our 242nd Grand Lodge Communication, we were honored to present MW Steven A. Rubin with his Commander-in-Chief apron and beret. He then officiated over the traditional Change of Command Ceremony as outgoing Commander General Raymond Roché passed the leadership of the Grand Post to his successor, Commander General Frederick Newton.

Commander General Roché's goal during his tenure as Grand Post Commander was to increase the visibility and awareness of the Masonic War Veterans throughout the jurisdiction. CG Newton's focus, with the support of the Grand Master and the twenty-three subordinate posts throughout the state, will be to increase membership. We believe that there are many brothers in New York who are Veterans, and we would like to invite them to be a part of the Masonic War Veterans.

Many of you may be familiar with the Masonic War Veterans because you have seen them present the Colors at Grand Lodge and the Grand Conventions of our Concordant bodies. Or you have seen them march in a parade in your community. But did you know that we also raise funds to assist veterans in need of a Service Dog and to receive one, through America's Vet Dogs Program? After adopting this charity, we have successfully raised funds to train seven dogs for our veterans.

This cause was close to the heart of Bro. Robert T. Mantia. He personally knew the value of a service dog and knew that this was a cause that the Masonic War Veterans could proudly get behind. We were saddened by his loss in 2023, but it just emboldened us to make sure that we carried on with his mission and continue to raise funds for this program. In 2024 the Directors of the Masonic War Veterans chose to name Bro. Mantia as an Honorary Past Commander General of the Grand

Post of Masonic War Veterans. We were privileged and pleased to present his Lady, Karol Wright, with his Commission. His name will forever be listed as a Past Commander General in the records of the Masonic War Veterans, and we will continue to support his mission of seeing to it that veterans in need of a service animal receive one. If you are interested in donating to this worthy charity, please reach out to us and we will be more than happy to assist you.

Every year the Masonic War Veterans choose to recognize a deserving Brother as our Mason of the Year. This brother need not be a member of MWV or even a veteran. We were pleased to present RW John Haslam, Sr. with this honor. We honor him not only for his dedication and love of our Craft, but also for his mentorship, wise counsel, and for being an inspiration to so many. Admittedly, it was difficult to keep this from him and get him to Fishkill, but with the help of many, he was incredibly surprised. The hardest part was the 24 hours prior to the presentation, but we were successful in keeping our Ad Journal out of his hands.



If you would like more information about becoming a member of a local Masonic War Veterans post, or would like us to participate in your upcoming events, please contact us through Facebook or our website: <https://grandpostmwv.com>





Veterans Day 2024 Save the Weekend!

With the approbation of our Grand Master, MW Steven Adam Rubin, and with his desire to celebrate and support our Military veterans in a truly collaborative effort, the Masonic family across the State of New York will be donating their time and abilities on Veterans Day 2024 in support of Grand Lodge's effort to reach out to those who have served in our country's armed forces. Spearheaded by the Masonic War Veterans Grand Post and the Veterans Outreach Committee of Grand Lodge, with the Order of the Eastern Star of New York and veterans' organizations from around the state and with the help of Brothers and Sisters from Buffalo to Long Island, the Masonic community will be honoring our veterans in every Masonic District in the state on the weekend of November 8 through the 11.

Chartered in 1948, the Grand Post of Masonic War Veterans carries our nation's Colors whenever requested and participates

in Veterans Parades and activities. They have been active in the Masonic Toys for Tots program and the Battle Within effort and the America's VetDogs Program.

The Veterans Outreach Committee of Grand Lodge provides assistance and support to veterans in facilities throughout New York in the form of much-needed personal items and visits. It regularly partners with veterans groups to provide those who served with the support they need.

The Order of the Eastern Star is renowned for its work in support of our veterans, most notably by lending their support to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. This organization provides mortgage-free homes to our nation's heroes.

These organizations will be partnering together in activities, events, visits and donations on this Veterans Day Weekend. Specific information will follow soon in OurLodgePage, via District channels, on Facebook and via the websites of the organizations listed above. Please join us as we fulfill our sacred duty to help, aid and assist those who gave so much for our country.

Grand Lodge Wants You!



Brothers, the Grand Lodge Military Outreach Program is looking for a few good men. We need your help to assist us in reaching out to brethren who have served in the armed forces—and to past and present servicemen and women throughout New York State.

The Grand Post of Masonic War Veterans, in addition to carrying our nation's colors at official functions and participating in Veterans Parades and activities, has been active in the Masonic Toys for Tots program, the Battle Within effort and America's VetDogs Program. If you are a Masonic veteran you should toe the line and sign up.

The Veterans Outreach Committee of Grand Lodge assists and supports veterans in facilities throughout the state. They provide much-needed personal items and pay regular visits. Volunteers partner with veterans groups to support those who served. Whether you are a veteran or not, your participation is needed. Please consider joining one of the above groups today.

Contact Grand Post of Masonic War Veterans: <https://grandpostmwv.com/contact/> and Veterans Outreach Committee: Chefs@optonline.net

**Masonic
Toys for Tots
Annual Charity Gala Ball**

**Saturday
23 NOV 2024**

Russo's On The Bay
Howard Beach, NY
1PM - 6PM

To purchase tickets, make a donation, or to donate items for the silent auction, please contact
RW George Filippidis
george@aresny.com
917-572-4312
MasonicToysForTots.com

GRAND LODGE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



RW CHRISTOPHER J. HOUGH
CHAIRMAN
hough441@roadrunner.com

Greetings. As you read this the 2024 Grand Lodge Educational Assistance program will be in the books. We had another great year with 422 educational grants presented to extremely worthy young scholars. Presentations were made in Utica, New York City and Buffalo and the chance to speak to these very gifted young people is the best part of this job.

The fields of study that are represented are amazing and always impressive. They cover everything from elementary education to astrophysics. This Fraternity and this Country will truly be in good hands as these young people assume their

places in society.

Looking forward, the next round of grants will begin on January 1, 2025 and applications will be found on www.nymasons.org. Applications close, as always, on March 31. Applications are open and encouraged from the children and grandchildren of Master Masons in good standing. If your Masonic sponsor has passed, you are still eligible, of course. It is also worth reminding current young Brothers: if your life journey has you back in school, you are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Veterans Crisis

Weric Van Dalinda and the Brothers of Wallkill Lodge 627 proudly built two park benches and donated a plaque to bring awareness to the current veterans crisis. The benches will give veterans a place to sit and reflect and to be heard.

Attending the ceremony were RW Mark J. Loughran, Senior Grand Warden and Brian M. Maher, Member of Assembly, 101st District. RW Harold Jones spoke about how P.T.S.D. impacts veterans.



MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FUND



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

Masonic Brotherhood Fund



nybrotherhoodfund.org

We are excited to announce the new Masonic Brotherhood Fund website nybrotherhoodfund.org. The new website will give you information on the entities your donation supports. The website can now accept secure PayPal and Credit Card payments and is now mobile friendly. Please visit our website to learn more about the Masonic Brotherhood Fund or Scan the QR Code.

The Masonic Brotherhood Fund is the charitable arm of the Grand Lodge of New York. The Brotherhood Fund assumes a solemn responsibility to alleviate the burdens of our distressed Brothers, their family, widows and orphans. It stands as a lifeline in times of unforeseen and often catastrophic tragedies. It helps our brethren and families overcome some of their darkest moments. While we hope and pray that no one will ever need this assistance, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund has and always will stand ready to assist our Brothers, their widows and orphans in need.

The support of our Brothers, Lodges and Districts is the financial lifeline of the Fund. Through their support the fund has assisted in life-changing ways, such as repairing the roof of a Masonic widow's home, who could not afford the repair during the cold winter months. The fund has also alleviated the financial stresses of Brothers who have been inundated with substantial medical bills. Moreover, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund financially supports our veterans by obtaining service

dogs to help them cope with life beyond the battlefield. We contribute to the funeral expenses for our dearly departed Brothers both to lessen the burden on their family and to ensure they are laid to rest with dignity.

Other than our main mission to support, aid and assist our Brothers, their family, widows and orphans, the Masonic Brotherhood Fund also provides vital support to organizations that are within our community. These include such as the Masonic Care Community, Masonic Medical Research Institute and Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library along with a variety of initiatives such as Military Outreach, and our Masonic Youth Programs.

In times of crisis the Masonic Brotherhood Fund stands as a beacon of hope, ensuring that no member of our Masonic family faces adversity alone. An array of causes have been given crucial aid for the betterment of mankind. Your support and generosity, regardless of size, help this mission succeed. Thank you for being a part of our unwavering commitment to care for our Masonic family. Please visit nybrotherhoodfund.org to make a donation or call the Masonic Brotherhood Fund office at 212/337-6652. If you would like to draw a check, please mail it to Masonic Brotherhood Fund, P.O. Box 2497, Hicksville, NY 11802-2497.

Masonic Brotherhood Fund - 2024 - Campaign Figures

June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

Categories	Total
Grand Masters Allocation	\$ 311,531.64
Camp Turk.	\$ 6,066.00
Masonic Medical Research Institute.. . . .	\$ 184,833.42
Children's Dyslexia Center.	\$ 20,339.00
Masonic Care Community.	\$ 26,055.76
Military Outreach Program	\$ 24,817.00
Masonic Youth Program	\$ 9,664.00
Tomkins Organ Restoration	\$ 4,237.00
Livingston Masonic Library	\$ 12,545.00
Battle Within.	\$ 22,348.00
Masonic Benevolence	\$ 8,875.37
Total	\$ 631,222.19

WE NEED YOU!

Join us in supporting a special campaign! The Masonic Care Community is in need of a new transportation vehicle to take residents to important doctor's appointments and health care services outside of our facility. This vehicle will also be used for trips to Camp Turk, the St. Patty's Day Parade, and other enjoyable outside activities. Grand Master Steven Rubin is supporting this initiative, and we already have a lead donor who has made a significant contribution. This will enable MCC to replace an older transportation vehicle with a new 2024 Allstar Starlite, which can comfortably seat up to 14 passengers and has wheelchair capacity for residents who require mobility assistance. We call upon you, your Masonic Lodges, or your Masonic Districts to join Grand Master Steven Rubin today in this campaign, so we can continue to provide the highest level of transportation services for our residents!



MCC residents enjoy events like Ulster St. Patrick's Day Parade in a transportation vehicle.

\$20K
 LEAD DONATION

\$150K
 GOAL

LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER FOR THE RESIDENTS
www.nybrotherhoodfund.org
 Select Masonic Care Community when making a donation to the Brotherhood Fund

Masonic Brotherhood Fund

2024 Jurisdiction Report (6/01/2023 - 5/31/2024) - Total Donations Order

District	- Contributors -					- Contributions -					
	Mbrs	Mbr	Lodge	Other	Total	Mbr	Lodge	Other	Total	Part %	Total \$
037 Queens	698	166	3	5	174	228	4	5	237	24.93	\$ 29,391.84
010 Erie	1402	234	7	22	263	381	7	26	414	18.76	\$ 23,257.75
035 Orange-Rockland-Sullivan	1061	183	1	0	184	337	1	0	338	17.34	\$ 17,499.50
022 Fifth Manhattan	594	62	3	4	69	81	3	4	88	11.62	\$ 16,473.00
043 Suffolk	1151	142	2	6	150	209	2	6	217	13.03	\$ 15,837.41
018 Letchworth	635	270	0	6	276	376	0	7	383	43.46	\$ 15,625.52
033 Onondaga	851	154	2	4	160	215	2	5	222	18.80	\$ 15,478.00
029 Nassau	1006	100	3	5	108	144	6	5	155	10.74	\$ 14,962.41
032 Oneida	962	114	5	3	122	206	7	3	216	12.68	\$ 14,590.00
027 Monroe	893	111	4	5	120	163	5	6	174	13.44	\$ 13,226.47
031 Old Seventeenth	1134	122	3	3	128	189	5	4	198	11.29	\$ 12,008.25
046 Second Westchester-Putnam	487	58	1	1	60	81	1	1	83	12.32	\$ 11,794.00
028 Mid Hudson	858	106	2	6	114	187	3	9	199	13.29	\$ 11,350.48
025 Ninth Manhattan	710	40	10	3	53	69	15	3	87	7.46	\$ 10,070.00
007 Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga	335	54	1	0	55	76	1	0	77	16.42	\$ 8,700.00
041 Southern Tier	569	41	2	1	44	54	2	1	57	7.73	\$ 8,483.00
030 Niagara-Orleans	507	80	2	4	86	123	2	7	132	16.96	\$ 8,370.00
021 Fourth Manhattan	879	41	1	0	42	53	1	0	54	4.78	\$ 8,365.00
004 Cayuga-Tompkins	404	53	5	1	59	73	8	1	82	14.60	\$ 8,294.50
012 Fulton-Montgomery	371	103	2	1	106	155	2	4	161	28.57	\$ 8,024.00
023 Seventh Manhattan	409	25	0	2	27	34	0	3	37	6.60	\$ 7,650.00
039 St. Lawrence	445	72	3	1	76	119	3	123	1	7.08	\$ 7,241.00
005 Central Leatherstocking	632	80	3	3	86	95	4	3	102	13.61	\$ 6,598.00
019 First Manhattan	1264	51	0	1	52	64	0	1	65	4.11	\$ 6,489.66
038 Richmond	731	54	1	1	56	70	3	1	74	7.66	\$ 6,399.00
026 Tenth Manhattan	899	39	3	1	43	50	4	2	56	4.78	\$ 6,330.00
006 Chautauqua	447	108	0	2	110	158	0	2	160	24.61	\$ 6,194.00
045 First Westchester-Putnam	462	45	1	1	47	73	4	1	78	10.17	\$ 6,023.00
003 Cattaraugus	205	14	1	0	15	16	1	0	17	7.32	\$ 5,980.00
040 Saratoga-Warren-Washington	506	64	1	4	69	94	1	5	100	13.64	\$ 5,770.00
016 Second Kings	272	30	1	3	34	49	3	4	56	12.50	\$ 5,065.00
034 Onterio-Seneca-Yates	431	85	0	0	85	114	0	0	114	19.72	\$ 4,850.00
036 Oswego	404	40	1	2	43	50	2	2	54	10.64	\$ 4,496.00
020 Metropolitan	488	23	1	0	24	26	1	0	27	4.92	\$ 3,951.00
014 Jefferson-Lewis	486	49	0	1	50	71	0	1	72	10.29	\$ 3,890.00
002 Bronx	280	17	0	0	17	26	0	0	26	6.07	\$ 3,840.00
017 Third Kings	293	105	2	11	118	112	3	12	127	40.27	\$ 3,173.00
009 Cortland-Madison	285	3	1	0	32	54	0	1	55	11.23	\$ 2,805.00
044 Wayne	352	46	2	1	49	59	2	1	62	13.92	\$ 2,698.00
015 First Kings	289	16	0	3	19	24	0	9	33	6.57	\$ 2,424.36
042 Steuben	270	18	1	0	19	31	1	0	32	7.04	\$ 1,880.00
013 Herkimer	248	19	0	0	19	27	0	0	27	7.66	\$ 1,400.00
001 Allegany	230	17	1	0	18	25	1	0	26	7.83	\$ 1,235.00
011 Franklin-Hamilton	165	14	0	0	14	18	0	0	18	8.48	\$ 1,125.00
008 Clinton-Essex	258	19	0	0	19	25	0	0	25	7.36	\$ 1,120.00
070 Syria-Lebanon	443	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	\$ - .00
999 Special District	361	1	1	68	70	1	1	96	98	19.39	\$250,794.04
Totals:	27062	3316	82	186	3584	4885	111	242	5238	13.24	\$631,222.19

Masonic Brotherhood Fund

2024 Jurisdiction Report (6/01/2023 - 5/31/2024) - Total Participation Order

District	- Contributors -					- Contributions -					
	Mbers	Mbr	Lodge	Other	Total	Mbr	Lodge	Other	Total	Part %	Total \$
018 Letchworth	635	270	0	6	276	376	0	7	383	43.46	\$ 15,625.52
017 Third King	293	105	2	11	118	112	3	12	127	40.27	\$ 3,173.00
012 Fulton-Montgomery	371	103	2	1	106	155	2	4	161	28.57	\$ 8,024.00
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034 Ontario-Seneca-Yates	431	85	0	0	85	114	0	0	114	19.72	\$ 4,850.00
999 Special District	361	1	1	68	70	1	1	96	98	19.39	\$ 250,794.04
033 Onondaga	851	154	2	4	160	215	2	5	222	18.80	\$ 15,478.00
010 Erie	1402	234	7	22	263	381	7	26	414	18.76	\$ 23,257.75
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007 Chemung-Schuyler-Tioga	335	54	1	0	55	76	1	0	77	16.42	\$ 8,700.00
004 Cayuga-Tompkins	404	53	5	1	59	73	8	1	82	14.60	\$ 8,294.50
044 Wayne	352	46	2	1	49	59	2	1	62	13.92	\$ 2,698.00
040 Saratoga-Warren-Washington	506	64	1	4	69	94	1	5	100	13.64	\$ 5,770.00
005 Central Leatherstocking	632	80	3	3	86	95	4	3	102	13.61	\$ 6,598.00
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036 Oswego	404	40	1	2	43	50	2	2	54	10.64	\$ 4,496.00
014 Jefferson-Lewis	486	49	0	1	50	71	0	1	72	10.29	\$ 3,890.00
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011 Franklin-Hamilton	165	14	0	0	14	18	0	0	18	8.48	\$ 1,125.00
001 Allegany	230	17	1	0	18	25	1	0	26	7.83	\$ 1,235.00
041 Southern Tier	569	41	2	1	44	54	2	1	57	7.73	\$ 8,483.00
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070 Syria-Lebanon	443	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	\$ - .00
Totals:	27062	3316	82	186	3584	4885	111	242	5238	13.24	\$ 631,222.19



RW G. MICHAEL MORRIS,
PRESIDENT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC HALL AND HOME
585/734-4012 (C)
MMorris@NYTrustees.org

Masonic Care New Rochelle

The development of the Masonic Care New Rochelle (MCNR) campus in 2024 has seen significant progress. Over the first half of the year, substantial efforts have been

focused on preparing several buildings for public occupancy and establishing a wide range of programs to serve both seniors and youth.

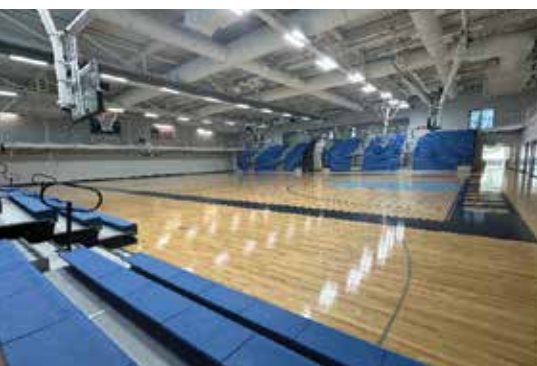
MCNR Center for Wellness, Nurturing Mind, Body and Soul



Masonic Care New Rochelle, Wellness Center

The Wellness Center is set to host a variety of programs tailored for seniors and local youth groups. This modern facility is designed to cater to all aspects of health and fitness. The building boasts a competitive swimming pool facility for swim meets and swim classes, several basketball courts with seating for 1,000 spectators, a state-of-the-art fitness center

and studios for yoga, aerobics and Pilates for those interested in a more holistic approach to health and wellness. In fact, several Westchester-based swim teams have already expressed interest in utilizing the pool and fitness center in the Wellness Center, which will also play host to several MCNR Youth Day Camps next summer.



Coming soon! MCNR Social Adult Day Center

For seniors, the Trustees are set to launch a robust array of programs at MCNR aimed at enhancing quality of life for the 55+ Community by promoting personal fitness, continued learning and personal development. These programs include senior exercise classes, continuing education classes, creative arts (such as painting and pottery), computer skills workshops, and informational programs designed to help seniors access local services. Such initiatives are poised to make MCNR a valuable resource and hub of activity for seniors. As the campus continues to evolve and these programs take root, the Trustees are excited about the positive impact Masonic Care New Rochelle will have on the greater NYC Masonic community and Westchester County residents, as well.

Plans to host an Adult Social Day Care Center on the

campus are in the works. MCNR Social Adult Day Center will play a crucial role in enhancing the lives of older adults and individuals living with Alzheimer's disease (AD) or related dementias, and those at risk of developing cognitive decline. These programs effectively combat social isolation by promoting social and community engagement among participants.

The Trustees look forward to helping seniors age in place, offering a supportive framework that enhances quality of life and manages the challenges associated with aging and dementia. MCNR facilities, its resources and park-like settings will contribute positively to the well-being of both program participants and their caregivers.



Masonic Care New Rochelle, Gill Library (Location of MCNR Adult Social Day Center)



In the second half of 2024 we will continue to develop programs that cater to both youth and seniors, recognizing the immense value of intergenerational programming. By fostering interactions between these two demographics we aim to create a supportive environment where knowledge, skills and

experiences can be shared across generations. Intergenerational programming is crucial as it promotes understanding, respect and empathy among different age groups, while also enriching the lives of participants through meaningful social connections and shared activities.

Lights, Camera, Action!—See MCNR in Television Shows



MCNR has also emerged as a pivotal player in New York City's bustling film industry. Since late-2020, MCNR has hosted an impressive array of television shows and feature films, contributing significantly to the local economy and cementing its reputation as an industry favorite in Westchester County. With thirty-two shows filmed on its grounds since its inception, including popular titles such as *Long Bright River*, *FBI Most Wanted*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Law & Order Organized Crime*, *Blacklist*, *Prodigal Son*, and *Evil*, Masonic Care New Rochelle has become a sought-after location for both small-screen dramas and big-screen productions alike. One of the key

Continues on page 26 – MCC – Michael Morris

Continued from page 25 – MCC – Michael Morris

factors driving MCNR's popularity is its scenic beauty and convenient proximity to Manhattan. Filmmakers are drawn to its well-manicured grounds, which provide a variety of settings ranging from Gothic-Revival facades to expansive outdoor spaces, perfect for capturing diverse scenes without the need for excessive travel.

Additional information about current and upcoming programs and activities at MCNR can be found on Masonic Care New Rochelle's website <https://mccnr.org> [Masonic Care New Rochelle – Masonic Care New Rochelle \(mccnr.org\)](https://mccnr.org). Information about senior services offered through our location in Utica, NY can be found on MCC's website, [Masonic Care Community of Utica, NY \(masonichomeny.org\)](https://masonichomeny.org).



Artis Recognized by Blood Center

On Wednesday, May 8 the New York Blood Center held its annual dinner to recognize those who have contributed to their life-saving mission. In attendance were Brothers of the Queens Masonic Association's Blood Drive Committee. The unexpected highlight of the evening was the recognition of Committee Chairman W Rodney Artis, DSA, of Cornucopia 563. The special award acknowledges his years of service organizing blood drives.

When asked about receiving the award, Brother Rodney said, "I wasn't expecting it. I told the guys at the table there must be another Rodney. When I realized it was me I almost fell out of my chair!"

Brother Rodney attributed the continuing success of the blood drives, hosted at Advance Masonic Temple, to the dedication of all the Brothers who serve on the committee and ensure smooth operations. He also applauded the character of the Astoria neighborhood, which provides a steady stream of walk-ins and regulars at each blood drive.





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



Incredible St. John's Day

This past June the Masonic Care Community was proud to host once again the annual St. John's Day celebration on our campus. I want to extend my thanks to Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin and his event team, the Grand Line, the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund and the members of the New York State Masonic Fraternity for making this year's St. John's Day such an amazing event. I want to also extend my thanks to the many staff at the Masonic Care Community who work diligently to make St. John's Day a success.

More than 500 Masons and their families enjoyed a variety of events throughout the weekend. Friday night's Festive Board dinner certainly stole the show, with hand-carved prime rib, the white attire and the joy of Brotherhood.

Another highlight of St. John's Day was the Masonic apron presentation at the Atrium of the Health Pavilion for MCC residents. Brothers received recognition for years of service from fifty to sixty-five years in the Craft. To receive these aprons from the Grand Master, previous Grand Masters and the Grand Line means a great deal to those Brothers who live here.

For those visiting for the first time, we hope you enjoyed seeing the campus and what your support makes possible when you donate to the Masonic Care Community. For my fellow Brothers who were not able to attend St. John's Day this year, I encourage you to join us in June of 2025. Come enjoy the Friday night dinner, the parade, the Masonic food and vendor fair, Fritz's polka band, lawn games and the bouncy house for the kids and so much more.

At MCC, we take great pride in our longstanding relationship with the New York State Fraternity. Brother Masons have helped improve the lives of more than 20,000 men, women and children and have supported us since 1893 when we opened as the Masonic Home. Again, thanks go to all who made St. John's Day such a tremendous celebration and for the many ways you help to support the Masonic Care Community and our mission.




JOIN OUR TEAM
 Seeking reliable, energetic and courteous Brothers to join our team. If this sounds like you, contact us!

PR@nymasons.org



MODERN MEN EXPLORING ANCIENT MYSTERIES
Craftsmen
 ONLINE
 Reading Room
 OCTOBER 30TH 7PM
 SELECTION TO DISCUSS
The Path of Freemasonry
 CHAPTER 8: OCCULT MASONRY OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST, AUTHOR
Bro. Mark Stavish
 DETAILS AT
CRAFTSMENONLINE.COM

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY Masonic Culture Class

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

8/29/24	7:30 PM	CREATING MEMORABLE MASONIC EVENTS
9/30/24	7:30 PM	THE JOURNEY TO THE ORIENTAL CHAIR
10/29/24	7:30 PM	POWER AND BENEFIT OF BEING AN OFFICER
12/7/24	10:30 AM	THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MEMORY
1/30/25	7:30 PM	MASTERING MASONIC RITUAL
3/1/25	10:30 AM	THE PERFORMER'S GUIDE TO DEGREES
3/31/25	7:30 PM	SECRET TO MASONRY: THE MASONIC EXPERIENCE
4/29/25	7:30 PM	BALANCING FAMILY, CAREER, AND FREEMASONRY
5/29/25	7:30 PM	THE NEXT GENERATION: TRAIN YOUR REPLACEMENT
7/29/25	7:30 PM	BECOMING A MENTOR: TEACHING THE TEACHER

Join us at the Masonic Culture Class, a place to gain additional education where Masons across New York State can learn, enjoy fellowship and grow. Come and share in the culture that's called Brotherhood!
 MASONIC CULTURE CLASS, A DIVISION OF THE GRAND LODGE LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE


REGISTER ONLINE
NYMASONSEVENTBRITE.COM




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

Awards Committee Takes DSA Nominations

The committee will be accepting 2025 Dedicated Service Award Recommendation Forms from September 1 through November 12, 2024. At the end of August a letter went to DDGMs, Staff Officers and Lodge Secretaries outlining requirements, information, timetable and the form for the 2025 Dedicated Service Award and various Community Service Awards. If you did not receive a letter you may go to the Grand Lodge website: <https://nymasons.org/awards/> and obtain the information you need.

The committee thanks all the Lodges that have sent in recommendations for a Brother to receive this coveted award. Those chosen to receive the DSA Award will receive notice of approval in late January from the Grand Secretary. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for information.

Take notice that as of 2017, work in the District has been considered equally with work in the Lodge as a qualification for receiving a DSA. The chest medallion to be worn by DSA recipients has been a great success. This medallion is included in the DSA package provided to new recipients. All previous DSA recipients may wear this medallion in recognition of their work in the quarries. The cost is \$20 per medallion and it may be ordered through the Lodge Secretary from Lodge Services.

I want to impress upon you that there is a cutoff date for the Dedicated Service Award Recommendation. The forms and information must be postmarked on or before November



12, 2024. There is a lengthy procedure in place with the committee voting on, the Grand Master approving and the required notifications being made for each recipient. We encourage the timely submission of the nominations for our distinguished Brothers.

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

Please take notice of the Awards Committee's webpage on the Grand Lodge website: <https://nymasons.org/awards/>. This page will give you information, requirements and forms for the various awards. The committee will also continue to provide information through its *Empire State Mason* article.

Committee on Awards:

RW George R. Wacob, Chairman

Metro Region:

RW John T. Hansen and W Carl Strievski

Hudson-Champlain Region:

RW Francis P. Burek and W Daniel D. Elliott

Mid-State Region:

W Alfred W. Fergerson and W William Trinder

Western Region:

RW William H. Greene and RW Douglas D. Airth

Sutherland Marks 125 Years

Sutherland Lodge 826 celebrated a 125th Anniversary and Re-dedication on June 8 in North Tonawanda in the Niagara-Orleans District. The festivities opened with a parade led by a pipe and drum band. Speeches by local officials followed, before the re-dedication by our Grand Master. He performed the beautiful ceremony with corn, wine and oil.

The day ended with a pig roast family picnic. A wonderful time was had by all.





ALR Installs for 2024-25

The American Lodge of Research convened its Annual Meeting June 25 to reorganize its officer team and hear the new Worshipful Master's plans for the coming year. The officer line is comprised of Tiler VW Ziad Jalbout, Junior Deacon Erich Huhn, Senior Deacon Daniel Machlis, Secretary VW Praveen Anumolu, Treasurer RW David Pearlmutter, Junior Warden Michael Brempos, Senior Warden RW Yves Etienne and Worshipful Master Jay Hochberg. In addition, RW Michael Chaplin joins the Trustees. The officers were installed by MW William Sardone, W Michael Livschitz and W Conor Moran.

The Master presented his inaugural paper. "It's Just Common Sense: Thomas Reid and the Fellow Craft Degree" explained how man's Five Physical Senses came to be added to the Second Degree.

The upcoming Stated Communications of the Lodge at Masonic Hall in Manhattan will be these. On

On Tuesday, October 29th the theme is "Masonic Hall Monitors." Keynote speaker RW Ben Hoff will present his new paper on the origins, evolution and diversity of Masonic ritual ciphers, monitors and exposures. Also, RW Samuel Lloyd Kinsey, Chairman of the Custodians of the Work, will visit to discuss the research that went into both Grand Lodge's latest

ritual book and the upcoming monitor (the first monitor since the 1980s). RW Michael LaRocco, Executive Director of the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library, will exhibit choice samples of such books—the antique, the rare the odd. And the Worshipful Master will conclude the evening with an introduction to the new reprint of the Macoy Monitor of 1867.

Monday, March 31, 2025 is "A Night for the Marquis and the Count." RW Brother Chris Ruli of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and author of the forthcoming book *Brother Lafayette*, will discuss the Masonic aspects of the Marquis de Lafayette's farewell tour of the United States in 1824-25. Brother Huhn, Junior Deacon of the Lodge, will discuss Alexis de Tocqueville's thoughts on Freemasonry, as gleaned from his tour of America in 1831-32.

Monday, June 30, 2025 is the Annual Meeting. It will feature elections and installation of officers.

The Lodge likely will hold a meeting on the road, possibly at New Rochelle. Also, a series of Zoom sessions, bringing together brethren wherever dispersed about the face of the earth, is conceived. A project in collaboration with New Jersey's Research Lodge is being planned. Plus, there is always time for a Festive Board. To stay current with the Lodge's activities, visit alrny.org or follow its Facebook page.

Smithtown Hits Milestone

On April 20 the Smithtown Masonic Lodge 1127 marked a significant milestone as it celebrated the 75th anniversary and re-dedication of its building. Since its inception in 1948 the Lodge has been an integral part of the Smithtown community, serving as a beacon of fellowship, charity, and service.

The anniversary celebration was attended by numerous members of the Smithtown Lodge, guests and representatives from the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Grand Chapter of the State of New York, and delegates from other Lodges across the state. As a dual event, a solemn re-dedication ceremony of Asharokan Chapter 288 of Royal Arch also

celebrated its 125th year.

As part of the ceremony, a time capsule was sealed. It contains artifacts and memorabilia from the Lodge's history, to be opened during the 100th anniversary in 2048, providing future generations with a glimpse into the rich heritage of Freemasonry in Smithtown.

As the Smithtown Masonic Lodge looks ahead to its next twenty-five years and beyond, its members remain steadfast in their dedication to upholding the traditions and values of Freemasonry. With the sealing of the time capsule, they have ensured that their legacy will endure, inspiring future generations of Freemasons to continue the noble work of brotherhood and service.



The Battle Within

In the past 40+ years, since the end of the Vietnam War, we have lost more American heroes due to suicide than all foreign wars and conflicts in that time period combined. Despite the very best efforts of family, friends, the VA, and scores of highly dedicated veteran-based organizations, approximately 20 veterans each day are lost to us due to complications from wounds and injuries we cannot see.

That's 7200 brave men and women a year who volunteered, stood on the yellow footprints and swore an oath to God to protect and defend our country. They proved this commitment, many seeing and experiencing the unimaginable in our name. Unfortunately, they made it through one war, only to come home to fight another.

The Brothers of Harmonie Lodge 699 O.M. had their Damascus Road moment when this ongoing tragedy personally touched them. Many other brothers across this state have also felt the same impacts in their personal lives. We could not simply let this continue without stepping up.

This led the RW Ryan Rodriguez Wiggins, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifth Manhattan District to take

on the task of creating and hosting the **First Annual Battle Within Gala for the Metropolitan Region**. Due to his efforts and resolute delegation, this incredibly successful event drew attendance across eight different districts and saw support from the Grand Master of Masons in New York; the MW Steven Adam Rubin.



W Jimmy Gracia offered a heartfelt presentation of the Empty Chair which gave all a moment of reflection and connection to the event and cause.

It was an evening of unexpected and wonderful surprises. Ultimately, the event raised over \$10,000.00 for the Battle

Within.

We will look to build on the success of this established annual event and look to the Fifth Manhattan to bring support and honor to this worthy cause for our Veterans.

Brother Nino Barbera: A Beacon of Masonry

In the heart of Sicily lies a tale of success and profound impact and generosity. This is the story of Nino Barbera, a Brother of Mazzini Lodge 824 in the Tenth Manhattan District, a Mason whose unwavering commitment to fostering education, research and social welfare has left marks across many sectors.

His brainchild, the Mnemosine Association, serves as a testament to his vision, transforming education through a wide array of initiatives since its foundation in 2005. Accredited by the Department of Education (Ministero Istruzione Italiano) for the training of school staff, it boasts prestigious offices sprawled across Italy and beyond, including Paris, London, Madrid, Athens and Lisbon.

The Mnemosine Association has orchestrated approximately 200 university courses annually, reaching out to seventy-five cities worldwide. These courses, spanning various disciplines, are meticulously designed to enlighten and empower educators, thereby enriching the educational landscape.

Brother Nino Barbera's vision encompasses not just academic enrichment but also societal well-being. Through the Mnemosine Association he has orchestrated charitable activities and significant contributions aimed at uplifting communities. Noteworthy initiatives include substantial donations to the Sicani Lions (Leoni Sicani Onlus). This organization supports disabled children who play wheelchair hockey, for whom he built a sports center for their events and donated a team bus. Brother Nino also contributes to UNICEF and the METER ONLUS association, which battles the spread of child pornography.



Barbera's philanthropy extends to various parishes and municipalities, manifesting in donations that have profoundly impacted these communities. From supporting parishes in Mussomeli and Santa Margherita Belice to financing educational and recreational facilities, his generosity knows no bounds.

The Mnemosine Association's philanthropic efforts recently extended to Africa, marking a significant milestone in its global outreach. Recognizing the urgent educational needs in Madagascar, the association made a generous donation to the University of Antsirananana. This financial assistance is aimed at enhancing the university's infrastructure, thereby improving the quality of education available to students.

Beyond financial aid, the association has committed to



community engagement through direct volunteering efforts in Madagascar. Team members from Mnemosine are dedicating their time and skills to support the local population, focusing on education and health initiatives. These actions reflect the association's deep commitment to fostering global educational opportunities and improving lives through direct intervention and support.

Brother Nino Barbera's story is a remarkable narrative of a Mason cum philanthropist whose influence transcends borders. Through the Mnemosine Association, he has illuminated paths, opened doors of opportunity and sown seeds of hope across diverse sectors. His life's work stands as a beacon of philanthropy, inspiring generations to come.



In a world rife with challenges, Brother Nino Barbera's legacy reminds us of the power of education, the importance of community, and the transformational impact of giving back. His contributions not only enhance academic and social landscapes but also weave a tapestry of hope and progress that spans continents. He is a proud member of Mazzini Lodge 824, Tenth Manhattan District and a true Brother and believer in our Fraternity and tenets. Nino Barbera's life and work embody the true essence of Masonry, demonstrating that one person's vision can indeed make a world of difference.



Eulogy for ME and RW Edmund “Ted” Dale Harrison

by Richard W. Bateman

Alas, another Great Oak has fallen within the forest of our fraternal workings. We sorrowfully announce the passing of the Most Excellent and Right Worshipful Edmund “Ted” Dale Harrison, who laid down the working tools of a Mason on Sunday, July 14, 2024 during a brief residency within a rehabilitation center in New York City.

Perhaps solace can be found in the poetic words of Professor Amos Russel Wells reflecting upon “The Comfort of the Woods”:

I understand my comrades in the woods,
And they know me completely; not an Oak
But is my Brother, strong, reserved, sincere.
Along the happy, peaceful forest ways
That wind so intimately through the trees
I hold a calm communion with my friends,
The pines and gentle birches.
Day by day insensibly the bond is closer drawn
With beckoning of branches,
Of subtle fragrance, melodies of birds,
Flickers of sunlight on level leaves,
A thousand sweet enchantments pure and good.
This air dissolves my fretfulness and fears;
They fall into the green depths of the dell,
The cheery brook carries them away,
The bushes brush them off. I enter here
With furrowed brow and heavy-burdened heart;
But little unseen hands are softly pressed
Upon the frowns, and little unseen hands
Tug at the burdens till they are all gone.
Ah, what am I that these my friends
Should minister to me so graciously?
Do they not know my follies and my sin?
Yet with a mother’s blind, forgiving love
They cleanse what they will not see.
Nor do they only wait for me,
Withdrawn, expectant; but amid the din
Of cities, and upon the crowded streets,
I feel the brick and mortar fade away,
And find the woods around me once again
I hear the woodland murmurs like a hymn,
And on my troubled spirit lies once more,
The peaceful Benediction of the Trees.

A gentleman of ambassadorial qualities, Brother Ted Harrison, who had just celebrated his 85th milestone, was born on May 2, 1939 in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada to Major Kenneth M. Harrison of the Canadian Army and K. Marion Lombard of Montreal. Sadly, Brother Ted’s father was killed in action in Italy during World War II.

Brother Ted Harrison attended and then graduated from Westmount High School in 1956. He studied and graduated with honors at the Institut d’Art Photographique on a scholarship received from the local Rotary Club. Brother Ted



Harrison launched a very successful business career in 1957 when he entered into a partnership with C.A. Nicholls, combining a retail camera store with a photographic laboratory and studio named Acme Photo Ltd. Over the years, the business expanded into a full service Professional Commercial Studio and Photo Lab in tandem with two retail camera outlets. He remained active in the commercial and retail photography business until 1963, when he sold the business.

Emigrating to the United States in 1963, Brother Ted Harrison established a wholesale photographic accessory distributorship in Greenfield, Massachusetts. His business quickly expanded throughout the territory of New England and New York. Eventually, it was incorporated in 1973 and became known as N & H Sales, Inc. moving its headquarters to Hingham, Massachusetts.

N & H Sales, Inc. continued to grow and in 1975 Brother Ted Harrison opened a new branch office and warehouse in New York City, which provided additional service to the East Coast of the United States. The following year, capitalizing on the enterprise while at its peak, Brother Harrison sold the company to POSSO SA of Lausanne, Switzerland, where he stayed onboard with the new owners as their Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

A new and more lucrative opportunity then presented itself with the Uniphot Corporation, which is one of the largest suppliers of photographic accessories in the United States. Brother Harrison accepted a position as their Managing Director of the Uniphot Corp.’s International Direct Marketing Division in 1980. Within a period of five years, Brother Ted Harrison was on the fast track with a promotion to Vice President of Marketing, where he superintended fifty-plus sales representatives, managed five warehouses and was directly responsible for handling several major national and corporate accounts, such as K-Mart, Wal-Mart and Target. During his five-year tenure Brother Harrison personally built the company’s gross sales up from \$13 million to \$20 million.

Subsequently, in 1988, Brother Ted Harrison launched a new business venture representing diverse manufacturers called Harnich Sales. This is a successful ongoing business enterprise still in operation today.

Brother Ted Harrison was a devout Christian with a strong religious upbringing. He was baptized in the Anglican Church of Canada, where he was for many years an active member of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal. During the early 1960s Brother Harrison affiliated with Robbins Memorial Congregational Church in Greenfield, Massachusetts, where he was elected to the Diaconate. Upon settling in New York City in the late 1970s, Brother Harrison became a communicant at

Continues on page 38– ME & RW Ted Harrison Eulogy

Continues from page 37— ME & RW Ted Harrison Eulogy
the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, where he served as a Vestryman, advancing to the office of Senior Warden of the Church.

Never one to shirk responsibility or a good challenge, Brother Harrison volunteered his time and talent on the Restoration Committee of the Church of the Incarnation, where as co-chairman he helped to raise over \$1 million towards the successful preservation of the church's historic building.

A familiar theme to all good Masons, our first duty is to God, followed by our loyalty and duty to Country, Brother Ted Harrison volunteered in 1965 as an enlisted member of the United States Army. He went to Boot Camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he was singled out by the Commandant, Major General Beauchamp, for a commendation for exceptional service. He later became an active member of the 26th Division of the National Guard in Massachusetts, where he was assigned to be the photographer to the Commanding General. Brother Harrison honorably concluded his military service in 1971 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Brother Ted Harrison's Masonic career began in 1969 when he was Raised in Republican Lodge, Greenfield, Massachusetts, where he was eventually elected and installed the Worshipful Master from 1974 to 1975. With his relocation to New York City, Brother Harrison petitioned and was elected in 1992 a plural affiliate member of Independent Royal Arch Lodge 2, where he took up the mantle of Worshipful Master from 1995 to 1996. He also served as the Worshipful Master of the American Lodge of Research from 2005 to 2006. He was one of the founding members of John Philip Sousa Lodge 1192 in New York City.

Gaining stature in the New York City Region, our Brother was recommended and received a commission from then Grand Master Earle J. Hino, Jr., to serve as the District Deputy Grand Master of the First Manhattan District from 1996 to 1998. He also served on the Grand Lodge Masonic Fraternity on Campus Committee and held the position of Chairman Emeritus from 2016 until today. RW Brother Ted Harrison was honored in 2014 with the highest award that the Grand Lodge F & AM of the State of New York can bestow upon a worthy Mason, namely the Grand Lodge Distinguished Achievement Medal.

Brother Ted Harrison's involvement and commitment with the concordant bodies of Freemasonry is very extensive and widespread. A sampling of those bodies and offices held are as follows:

Climbing the stairway of the Scottish Rite, Illustrious Ted Harrison was received into the Valley of Greenfield, Massachusetts in 1970. He later affiliated with the Valley of New York in 1991 and then the Valley of Westchester in 2001. He was elected to the office of Most Wise Master in 2003 and Sovereign Master in 2004 of the Valley of Westchester. Ill. Ted Harrison was Coroneted the Thirty-third Degree in 2006 by the Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Brother Ted Harrison was Exalted into the York Rite as a Companion of Franklin Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Greenfield, MA in 1970. In 1981 he affiliated with Jerusalem-Amity Chapter 8 and Ancient Chapter 1 in New York City.

Excellent Companion Ted Harrison was elected and anointed as the Excellent High Priest of Ancient Chapter 1 in 1988. He was honored as the Royal Arch Mason of the Year by the First Capitular District in 1983 and was recognized by the Grand Chapter of the State of New York for having Exalted twenty-eight new Companions in 1988.

In the early 1990s Right Excellent Ted Harrison was appointed and served as the District Deputy Grand High Priest of the First Capitular District and served as the President of the Fraternal Union of Anointed High Priests. His elevation into the Grand Line of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York began in 1993 with his appointment as the Grand Master of the First Veil, which culminated with his election to the office of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for 2002 and 2003.

Continuing his journey along the path of the York Rite, Most Excellent Harrison was received into Titus Strong Council, Royal & Select Masons of Greenfield, MA in 1973. He was presented with the Super Excellent Degree in 1974 by the Grand Council of Massachusetts. Brother Harrison affiliated with the Brooklyn Council 4 in 1985 and affiliated with the Columbian Council 1 in New York the following year. He served the Council as the Illustrious Master in 1990. The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York appointed ME Ted Harrison to the office of Grand Sentinel in 1990. Amongst his many awards, ME Harrison was presented with the Meritorious Ish-Sodi Award for sponsoring the membership of twenty-five new Cryptic Masons in 1992.

The year 1993 witnessed ME Ted Harrison's elevation as the Thrice Potent Illustrious Master of St. George Council, Order of the Anointed Kings, where he was conferred with the Order of the Ninth Arch by the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International.

Eminent Sir Knight Ted Harrison was knighted in 1973 in Greenfield, MA by Connecticut Commandery 3, Knights Templar. He affiliated with Morton Commandery 4 in New York City and served as its Commander from 1985 to 1986. Right Eminent Harrison was appointed the Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee near the Grand Commandery of New York in 1990 and he served as the Deputy Zone Commander for Zone Two from 1991 to 2008. He was the recipient of the Pro Merito Award, the Knight Templar Cross of Honor and the Knight Commander of the Temple Award from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

In 2004 the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York elected Most Excellent Ted Harrison to the office of General Grand Scribe, placing him in the line of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International. His ultimate elevation and election to the office of General Grand High Priest of that august body came to fruition in 2011, an office he held until 2014—a well-deserved honor for a man of exceptional talent and exquisite pedigree. Most Excellent Ted Harrison's work for the Royal Arch Masons throughout North America, Central and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa has been legendary.

ME Ted Harrison's spectacular Masonic journey spans over fifty-five years of exemplary service to the Craft, a career and calling that has been blessed with many Awards, Medals,
Continues to page 39— ME & RW Ted Harrison Eulogy

Continues from page 38— ME & RW Ted Harrison Eulogy
Honorariums and esteemed positions of Leadership. ME Ted Harrison has been a genuine trailblazer and a proven leader who has created a path of worldwide involvement committed to education, community and civic engagement. Brother Ted Harrison's legacy has brought to the world stage a broad

understanding of best practices in organizational development coupled with the principal tenets of our beloved Fraternity.

Reflecting upon his many accomplishments noted above, Brother Ted Harrison would sum it all up in three simple but meaningful words, "I love Freemasonry."

Celebrating Sisterhood and Service

On Saturday, May 11, 2024 Azim 106, the proud Chapter of the esteemed Daughters of Mokanna, welcomed a distinguished guest for an Official Visit of their realm. Jennifer Arnold, serving as the Supreme Mighty Chosen One for the organization, graced the gathering with her presence, accompanied by Cindy Gay, a respected Past Supreme Mighty Chosen One from 2016 to 2017.

The occasion was marked by a sense of camaraderie and reverence as members gathered at the Advance Masonic Temple in Astoria, New York, a historic venue steeped in tradition and recently refurbished with meticulous craftsmanship by Lodge Brothers. This gathering was not only a testament to the enduring spirit of sisterhood but also an opportunity to reflect on a decade of service, solidarity and shared purpose.

Azim 106 holds a unique position within the Daughters of Mokanna, being one of only two female Chapters in New York State. The other is Lalla Rookh 68 in Rochester. Among its ranks, Azim 106 boasts Angelique R. Mann, a Supreme officer and a key figure in the Grotto community. She serves alongside her husband RW Victor L. Mann, the Grand Monarch of Grottoes International and a revered Past Monarch of Azim Grotto 7.

The current Mighty Chosen One (MCO) of Azim 106 is Michelle Mitchell, whose leadership exemplifies the values of the organization. She serves alongside former presiding officers Ayleen Robertson, Angelina Teran and Angelique R. Mann, who bring a wealth of experience and commitment to their roles. The four individuals all served as Matrons in

the Order of Eastern Star, illustrating their dedication to fraternal organizations. Ayleen Roberson is a Past District Deputy Grand Matron (2020) Order of Eastern Star for the Manhattan District. Her husband Wor. Henry Roberson is the Past Master of Allied Lodge 1170. Angelina Teran is currently the Grand Rep to Australia and former Grand Rep to Puerto Rico (2019). Her husband RW Gustavo Terán serves on the Grand Line of the Grand Lodge of New York as the Senior Grand Deacon. Among the esteemed members of the organization throughout history stands Eleanor Roosevelt, the former First Lady of the United States, whose legacy continues to inspire generations of women to strive for excellence and service.

As the May event unfolded, memories were shared and bonds were strengthened, echoing the founding principles of the Daughters of Mokanna: honesty, truth, justice, equality and brotherly love. Drawing to a close, there was a sense of gratitude and optimism in the air, a testament to the enduring legacy of the Daughters of Mokanna and the collective strength of its members. And here, Azim 106 eagerly anticipated its 10-year-anniversary milestone celebration scheduled for August. This significant occasion would not only honor the achievements of the past decade but also reaffirm the commitment to sisterhood, service and solidarity that defines the Daughters of Mokanna. In Astoria's Advance Masonic Temple, amid the echoes of the past and the promise of the future, Azim 106 stands as a beacon of sisterhood, service and solidarity for generations to come.



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.



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Grand Chapter State of New York
Royal Arch Masons

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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



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of the State of New York

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Website: NYCryptic.org

Contact the Grand Recorder's Office:
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KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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of the State of New York

Benefits of membership as a Knight Templar:

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- Learn who the Templars were and who they defended
- The opportunity to become Knighted as a Sir Knight
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- 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

Deputy State Master Councilor Newton



Most Worshipful Grand Master Steven A. Rubin, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Robert Hogan, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Distinguished Guests, my Brothers all: Good morning. I'm truly honored to be speaking here today in front of so many Brothers, my family and friends.

My name is Joseph Newton and I am the Deputy State Master Councilor for New York DeMolay, a member of Forest Lodge 166 in Fredonia; and a fifth-generation Master Mason. I am pleased to be

joined by Sister Alyssa Henderson, the Grand Worthy Advisor of Rainbow, and Sister Angelina Olivera, the Junior Advisor for Erie District Triangle.

The first day I went to DeMolay I learned three things. 1—Meeting new people is terrifying. 2—Ritual is fun. 3—DeMolays love pizza.

While these don't seem nearly as bright as the Great Light we swear by, they are truly the foundation of our great youth organizations. Because meeting new people is scary but it's valuable; Ritual is vital to our understanding of responsibility; and, of course, pizza is the membership draw for a room of fourteen-year-olds.

These youth organizations don't stray far from the path that is paved by your support. We teach of raising great young people, upright in their actions—though undoubtedly untempered in our youth. Your leadership helps to create the fire that tempers the steel of youth and gives us the direction to grow and be steadfast in our own lives, now and in the future. See, while Masonry teaches us to square our corners, DeMolay, Triangle and Rainbow simply won't become the cornerstone of this great Fraternity without the guidance and assistance from those who are already squaring their rough ashlar. Luckily for New York, our support has been strong enough to build the foundation of a great Fraternity. Thank you, Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, District Deputy Grand Masters, Staff Officers, AGLs and anyone else who knows more secret tokens than I do—for all and forever—your continued support.

This summer we have numerous exciting youth events. Our Triangle Sisters have their leadership weekend, Rainbow has a number of picnics, DeMolay has regional conclaves and our epic state convention at the majestic Camp Turk, thanks to the generosity of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home.

Our youth groups not only raise money for Masonic endeavors but also raise our young people to become responsible global citizens, many of whom go on to become members of the adult organizations: Order of the Eastern Star, Amaranth, and yes, with the proper support, DeMolay can also raise Masons. I am proud to say that I was Raised as a Master Mason by my father at one of MW Dad Sardone's favorite events, the Chautauqua District Barn Degree. When I look at the potential in our ranks, I see many more that are coming behind me.

Without the demonstrative guidance of Master Masons, our time spent in the meridian sun of our lives would send us into the darkness. Spread this message to your youth. Teach them that around them is the bulwark for life, there to keep them clean, respectful and loved.

When I became a Mason I knew three things: 1—Meeting people isn't so bad when you know you belong. 2—Ritual isn't just fun. It's frustrating and yet fascinating at the same time; it's emotional but when done right, it's beloved in our hearts and will never be easily forgotten. And 3—Masons bring people together around service, around food and around great community events like St. John's Day.

Thank you for all you do for Rainbow, Triangle and DeMolay.



Forest Lodge 166

Forest Lodge 166 in Fredonia recently presented a 70-year apron to a Brother who lives six hours away but who happened to be in town on family business. W William H. Block is a Past Master of Dunkirk-Irondequoit 301, which recently merged with Forest 166. He currently lives in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Worshipful Bill recently turned 94 years young on May 14. With W Block are RW Richard Newton, Past DDGM of the Chautauqua District, and W David Ludemann, outgoing Master of Forest 166.



Focus on Youth Mental Health

by Peter W. Brusoe, PhD

America is facing a youth mental health crisis. *Politico* recently surveyed mental health and medical professionals on the state of youth mental health. Among respondents, 88% said it had worsened, with 53% saying it had “significantly” worsened. Some of this decline is due to the shutdown from COVID19, some of this is from lack of social interaction and some of it is from social media. Regardless of the cause, we are facing an unprecedented crisis in youth mental health. This mental health crisis is sadly manifesting itself in increased self-harm and suicide attempts. Recent research by the Center for Disease Control shows that it is the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 10-34. Among high school students, 22% reported giving serious thoughts to suicide in the past year, with 10% having actually attempted it. These statistics increase among the LGBTQIP2SA community, women and racial and ethnic minorities. Each of us can play a critical role in helping to address these issues.



1. If someone is talking about harming himself, take it seriously. Call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.
2. Create avenues to open dialogue with your children. Often this can be as simple as asking how they are feeling. Sometimes it is creating the opportunities to have that dialogue—perhaps watching a game or going fishing.
3. Be open to talking about your own feelings and how you cope. This could be a conversation where you share how you are feeling or how you may cope with your own emotions. Youth seeing parents talking about their own emotions will help them share their feelings.
4. Make sure you let them know you are there for them and you will support them no matter what. Creating that support will encourage them to share things that may be bothering them.
5. Look for changes in their daily routines. We all remember our own adolescence and how difficult it may have been for us. If you see your child changing behaviors or changing dietary habits or no longer enjoying things she once did, this can be an indicator of something more serious going on.
6. Make sure you are taking care of yourself. Parenting is the hardest job in America. You want to make sure you are taking care of yourself, seeking help when you need it and engaging in other self-care practices.
7. Take advantage of one of the many trainings our committee is working on this year around mental health and best practices. Each one of us plays a critical role in helping to make this world a better and safer place for youth.



Photos and art by Shutterstock

Masonic Youth Advisor of the Year

Each year, the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction honors one adult volunteer from each state as their Masonic Youth Advisor of the Year. This year the New York Council of Deliberation, based on recommendations from the different youth groups, selected Worshipful Brother Mark Alvarado as the advisor of the year.

Worshipful Brother Alvarado is a long standing volunteer for DeMolay.

DeMolay historians will recount that a critical component of the early success of DeMolay was “Dad” Charley Boyce, described as “a man with graceful charm.” He was constantly working in the background to help promote and keep DeMolay going. What Charley Boyce did for DeMolay in 1922, “Dad” Mark Alvarado does now with his work with DeMolay in 2024. “Dad” Alvarado was a member of David J. Nye Chapter in Ohio DeMolay, rising to the level of State Scribe, a key senior youth administrative role with the Ohio State Council. He was recruited to work for DeMolay International in Kansas City in their membership services office and the store. When NY DeMolay was hiring a new field representative to support our membership growth in 2003, we had many applicants but “Dad” Alvarado was head and shoulders the best candidate for the job. In addition to the work he was doing in the office, “Dad” Alvarado became involved with Mohawk Valley Chapter, serving first as Chapter Advisor and Chairman. He joined the Valley of Utica, Ziya Shrine and many other Masonic Bodies. When the grant for membership services ran out and NY DeMolay was forced to eliminate professional staff, “Dad” Alvarado had a choice to go back to Kansas City, go back to Ohio, or remain with us in New York. Taking a job with the local public school district, “Dad” Alvarado has made the decision to stay and we are so much better for it. “Dad” Alvarado has remained committed to volunteering with DeMolay, and now in his 21st year.



Scottish Rite Honors Mark Alvarado
Masonic Youth Advisor of the Year

“Dad” Alvarado has mentored hundreds of DeMolays, both in Mohawk Valley and across the state. He has served as a volunteer Director of Membership for the state, State Chapter Dad, LeadCon Advisor and so many other activities. “Dad” Alvarado’s approach is an amazing one. He sits with the young men and listens to their concerns and ideas and figures out the best way to help them achieve their results. If it’s a young man trying to plan a fundraiser, or an outing for putt putt, or a state wide convention. His approach echoes the same approach that “Dad” Charley Boyce did. “Dad” Alvarado also volunteers to DJ our annual state conventions every year for free. If “Dad” Alvarado were to charge the commercial rates for the hours and equipment he uses our DJ bill would be thousands of dollars. His help and assistance have been critical for making sure DeMolay is successful.

Congratulations to “Dad” Alvarado!

Nassau Recognizes Matinecock Member Milestone

by Hamilton Lao

On June 8 Brothers from the Nassau District came together for a key celebration. District Deputy Grand Master Berdg Agopian, RW Brother Warren Obes, VW Brother Steve Beiner, W Brother John Botti and W Brother David Diamondstein presented RW Byam K. Stevens Jr., of Matinecock Lodge 806, his seventy-year service award, pin and apron.

This is an amazing milestone and an inspiration to us all. Imagine all the Lodge meetings, Masonic light gained and Masonic light spread to our wonderful Craft, its members and our community during Brother Stevens’s career. That light set the foundation for our Brothers who came this way after him; that light continues to set the foundation for the Brothers yet to come this way after us. God bless you, Brother.



INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW

FOR GIRLS IN NEW YORK



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New York Rainbow At 100

Over the past 100 years Rainbow in New York has gone through so many changes and yet so much has stayed the same. The best and most notable is the influence on the lives of literally thousands of girls across the state during that time. The feelings of sisterhood, inclusion and acceptance transcend the years and are just as relevant today as they were when the very first Rainbow Assembly was started in Binghamton in 1924. Since that time many Assemblies have opened; some have now closed due to lack of participation and interest by both girls and adults, much the way many of our Masonic bodies and other organizations have suffered.

But for those who have been involved as members, advisors and supporters, the relationships made and preserved run deep, as there is nothing else to compare the experience to. It is great for kids to take part in school-based activities such as sports, theater, music or other clubs or activities, as these are needed as a part of the growing-up process. But that Masonic connection, particularly with the youth groups, stands the test of time.

It is the long car trips across the state; it is taking part in charity and community service projects and activities on the state and local levels; it is learning how to plan meals and activities; it is helping each other study ritual parts and applauding when they do well and empathizing when they could have done better; it is attending receptions, leadership

weekends and Grand Assembly, playing games and acting silly all for the sake of the Rainbow skit or theme; it is late night conversations for talking and listening; it is being there to celebrate weddings and births, new jobs and new homes but also being there in support for funerals, separations, losses and saying, "I am here for you."

It is not seeing each other for years, but when you do reconnect the years melt away and you are picking up right where you left off. It is taking the lessons of the Rainbow—love, religion, nature, immortality, fidelity, patriotism and above all service—and applying what you have learned to your everyday life, along with the principles of faith, hope and charity to get you through whatever life throws your way.

It is this that we need to preserve. It is this that you should want the young people in your life involved with and able to experience. Take the time to reach out to the Masonic youth in your area. Contact us if you do not have an organization but would like to keep us growing. The benefits will last a lifetime.

NY Rainbow is planning a dinner event in the fall, as well as opportunities to purchase various 100-year celebration memorabilia. Please follow our social media channels on Facebook at NY Rainbow, Instagram @nyiorg, and TikTok @nyiorg for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to many of our upcoming events.



Grand officers at Grand Family leadership weekend



Initiation of new members at W Mark Sexson Assembly 15



Master Mason honor night at Sayville Lodge



Ice cream social with members from Norseman Lodge


ORGANIZATION OF TRIANGLES, INC.


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Triangle Conventions Cover State

Each even-numbered year, the Organization of Triangles, Inc. hosts a series of District Conventions across the state. These public events are held regionally and give the members of each local Triangle the opportunity to shine and show off their ritual and degree work. The members of the Junior Advisory Council are tasked with planning, organizing, and executing these impactful events. From selecting themes to coordinating logistics, the Junior Advisors take on significant responsibilities. This hands-on experience not only showcases their creativity and dedication but also nurtures essential leadership skills such as teamwork, decision-making, budgeting and event management and perseverance. Through their roles, Junior Advisors not only shape memorable experiences for fellow members but also embark on a journey of personal growth and empowerment.

Monroe & Onondaga Districts Convention: A Wonderland of Talent



The season opened with the Monroe & Onondaga Districts Convention. A School of Instruction and Alumni gathering was held at the Webster Masonic Lodge on April 13, followed by the main event on April 14 at Centerville Lodge in North Syracuse. Members of Fidelity Triangle 4 and Bal-on-Sen Triangle 65 came together for a weekend full of fun and sisterhood. With the enchanting theme of “Alice in Wonderland” and floral elegance, this event transported attendees into a world of imagination and creativity. Junior Advisor Eliza Burley, of the Monroe District, and Junior Advisor Arden Starowicz, of the Onondaga District, curated a beautiful afternoon filled with both ritual and original degrees!

Nassau & Suffolk District Convention: Gotta Catch 'Em All!

On May 19 members of Meridian Triangle 71, Sunrise Triangle 146 and Truth Triangle 31 united for the Nassau & Suffolk District Convention at the Babylon Masonic Hall on Long Island. Junior Advisor Sophia Marlowe led members and guests on a Pokémon hunt, showcased the “Evolution of a



Triangle Girl.” and celebrated our organization’s core tenets of Leadership, Service, Friendship and Growth with beautifully written original degrees. All in attendance were blown away by the impressiveness of the ritual memorization and floorwork of the members.

Erie District Convention: Enchanted by Fairies



Concluding the series was the Erie District Convention held on June 9 at the Lockport Masonic Hall. Hosted by Junior Advisor Angelina Olivera, this wonderful afternoon celebrated the members of Cassiopeia Triangle 202 and Lockport Triangle 128. The convention included a Tribute to Parents degree, original degrees for honored guests and a mesmerizing fairy dance degree that added a magical glow to the afternoon. Under the example and guidance of Junior Advisor Angelina, each of the members worked incredibly hard and came together to make the event a truly inspirational one.

Join us

For nearly 100 years Triangle has provided young women a vibrant and dynamic group where they can make friends and better themselves. We provide our members with a youth-led opportunity to realize their leadership potential and develop skills necessary for success. Members build self-confidence and independence, embrace personal values and serve their community through a lasting sisterhood. For more information and to learn more about getting involved, visit us at www.ootny.org or contact us via the information above.



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DeMolay Picks International Representative

DeMolay challenges young men to live by seven core values: Love of family, reverence for sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism. A DeMolay is encouraged to be a better person today than he was yesterday. DeMolay International hosts a Representative DeMolay program that through a process of critical self-reflection helps a young man to see where he needs to improve himself. Each year, there is a contest to see who the DeMolay Supreme Council deems fit to be the Representative DeMolay of the Year per age division.

This year the Supreme Council selected Brother Hunter Christiano of St. Andrew's Chapter, serving the young men in the Fulton-Montgomery District, as the International Representative DeMolay of the Year for the Junior Division. To win he competed against DeMolays across the United States and twenty-one other countries. Hunter's win was announced at the Grand Master's Banquet at the Supreme Council Session in Phoenix, AZ.



Gavin Johnson, State Master Councilor; "Dad" Terry L. Peters, GC, Grand Master of DeMolay; Hunter Christiano



Max Shanmugasundaram, International Master Councilor; Thomas Goodwin, Upper Age Division Winner; Hunter Christiano, Cole Westermayer

DeMolay Helps Feed Thousands



DeMolay teaches young people to serve others. At every state and regional event there is always a service learning program in place. New York DeMolay's renewed focus on service learning, in keeping with the example set by MWB Sardone and RWB Hazard, led to New York DeMolay being asked to plan the international service project.

DeMolay partnered with Feed My Starving Children, a global non-profit that prepares meal packets for distribution to seventy different countries, to prepare and package 54,000 meals. The DeMolay youth leaders prepared the menu labeling, put together the nutritional packages and boxed up the packages for global shipment to food crisis zones, including Honduras and Madagascar. Brother Gavin Johnson of Olean, Brother Tristan Schulbaum of The Knights of Antiquity and Brother Hunter Christiano of St. Andrew's were among the 168 youth leaders volunteering.

"All of us at DeMolay International are very proud of the great work that our youth did as part of this project," commented "Dad" Wendell Haney, the Congress Advisor. "Our youth leaders came from around the United States and the world to make a difference. We saw that happen today. With millions of children living in poverty and facing hunger and food insecurity every day, their positive contributions have made a major impact in making the world a better place."

Brother Ryan Brown, International Master Councilor, shared: "The example set for us by 'Dad' George Newbury was service above self. We saw that in full display during this awesome project."

A big thank-you goes to "Dad" Rich Christiano, "Mom" Jennifer Coconato and "Mom" Anne Draves. We are also indebted to Deputy Member "Dad" Ed Draves and Deputy Member and "Dad" Brian Schulbaum for all their help in making this event happen.



DeMolays Support St. John's Day

Every year for St. John's Day weekend in Utica, DeMolay helps out—giving away ice cream, helping to park cars and any other task that our Masonic Care Community may need. This year was no different and with all of the exciting activities added to St. John's Day, DeMolay had a blast. DeMolay members served popcorn, cotton candy and sno-cones to all of the people visiting, in support of the Masonic Care Community. They also helped with parking cars and making sure that everyone got to where he needed to go safely. We are grateful for the invitation from Grand Master Rubin to join in this incredible opportunity.

Deputy State Master Councilor Brother Joseph Newton spoke during the investiture on behalf of Rainbow, Triangle and DeMolay. He told of the exciting things that all three youth groups are doing.

Without the demonstrative guidance of Master Masons, he said, our time spent in the meridian sun of our lives would send us into the darkness. See his message elsewhere in this issue and spread it to your youth. Teach them that around them is the bulwark for life, there to keep them clean, respectful and loved.



DeMolay: Gone Fishin'

DeMolay empowers young people to learn new skills and to enjoy new experiences. Electric City Chapter recently hosted a fishing event in the bucolic waters of Schenectady County. The Youth Leaders there learned how to fish, how to care for the environment and most importantly, how to work together as a team.



MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



RW ROBERT HEWSON, DPM
PRESIDENT
MMRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Rhewson@mmri.edu

It is amazing how quickly we have transitioned into the fall season. The Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) has been buzzing with activity and I am thrilled to share some of the exciting updates with you.

Our inaugural Walk to Support Lupus Research took place on Saturday, May 18 at the Masonic Care Community Campus. Over 350 participants from across the region joined us, walking either the one- or three-mile routes. The event began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference featuring local elected officials, followed by a delightful barbecue fundraiser. We are optimistic that next year's event will be even larger, aiming to double our participation.



This year's St. John's Weekend was another highlight. Cathy Hewson, Hallie Schneeweiss, and Cathy Bocabella hosted the annual Ladies Breakfast, where Chase Kessinger, Ph.D., an assistant professor at MMRI, shared his innovative research on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet and left with MMRI goodies and information to share with their communities. The following day, we welcomed hundreds of Masons and their families to the MMRI campus for tours, poster presentations and interactive science displays. It was a truly enjoyable experience for all.



A poignant moment for us was the Vine of Life presentation by the MMRI Board of Directors in memory of Grayce Schulz,

the beloved wife of RW Richard Schulz, Grand Secretary. Grayce will be deeply missed and our thoughts and prayers are with RW Schulz and his family during this time.



We also had the privilege of thanking several MMRI donors during the festivities, including a special donation to our Autism Fund from the estate of Brother Gregory R. Stahura. His Lodge, the Brothers of Francis Lewis Lodge, were presented with a Vine of Life in his memory. Contributions like these are vital to the success of our research at MMRI. With only 50 percent of our funding coming from foundations and governmental grants, we depend heavily on philanthropy to cover the rest. The support from our Masonic community is more crucial now than ever.



In June we were delighted to welcome a new faculty member, Matthew Nystoriak, Ph.D., who joined us from the University of Louisville to focus on cardiovascular medicine. His research will delve into metabolism, diabetes and blood flow in the heart. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Nystoriak to the MMRI family and learn more about his work at mmri.edu.



The summer was also full of golf fundraisers. In June we had our inaugural Buffalo Golf Tournament at the Willowbrook Golf Course in Lockport, New York. We had a wonderful turnout and our Western New York Masons were proud to

Continues to page 49 – MMRI - Hewson



STEPHEN F. IZZO, MA, MPA, LT. USNR (RET)
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Cornerstone Society Offers Opportunity

Giving USA estimates that of the \$557 billion donated by Americans in 2023, 75%, or \$418 billion, came from individuals. Of that \$418 billion, \$45 billion came from individuals donating via an estate/bequest. Indeed, the seeds of the most important discoveries made by the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) were planted years ago—many through the transformative power of planned gifts. In fact, \$10.9 million in donations fueling critical Laboratory insights into heart disease, autism, lupus, diabetes and other diseases was bequeathed to the Institute by just thirty-two planned-gift donors. MMRI, like other nonprofits, has sought to identify and recognize those who seek to leave us a legacy through our *Cornerstone Society*.

Established in 2019, *Cornerstone Society* provides a vehicle to recognize and thank those who have made a personal, long-term commitment to the mission of the Institute. Members show their support through thoughtful planned gifts, such as will- or trust-based bequests, beneficiary-named retirement plans or charitable gift annuities. MMRI recognizes each Member with a unique *Cornerstone Society* pin, through invitations to exclusive events and attribution in our annual report and quarterly newsletter, *Currents Magazine*.

Planned gifts can be transformational. For many donors planned gifts are an opportunity to leave a large gift at their passing, that they may not be able to make during their lifetime. So, what are some next steps you can take to start the conversation about planned-giving to MMRI?

1. Contact our Planned Giving team at 315/624-7483 and/or development@mmri.edu for additional information or to chat about the different options for including the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) in your will or living trust.
2. Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.
3. Complete and return a Bequest Intention Form available on our website (https://www.mmri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/A-Cornerstone-Tradition_fillable-1.pdf) to document your plans.
4. If you include MMRI in your plans, please use our legal name: “Masonic Medical Research Laboratory,” and federal tax ID: 13-5648611.

I will close by thanking you for all that you have already done for MMRI. I urge you to consider creating a legacy that will improve people’s lives through discovery and innovation.

Find us on:



Continued from page 48 – MMRI - Hewson

support MMRI. We are hoping to make next year’s tournament even more successful. Our friends at the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (LADA) also held their annual tournament in August and MMRI was represented with two teams. LADA is currently funding four lupus research projects and is a longtime supporter of MMRI. We ended August with MMRI’s second annual golf classic at the Yahnundasis Golf Club, New Hartford, New York. This was a huge success and players from all over the region came to show their support for our life-saving research over a fun 18 holes of golf. Thanks go to all who participated; we look forward to next year.



Lastly, our Summer Fellowship program saw a record number of participants this year. Nineteen students were accepted to engage in intensive scientific research projects. Spectrum News featured a statewide story on the program, showcasing the incredible work these students achieve in just ten weeks. You can watch the story at mmri.edu/news.



Thank you for your continued support and engagement with MMRI. Remember, MMRI belongs to you, my Brothers. We are responsible for its legacy.

Help Change a Life

That is what the researchers at Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) are doing for people like my three sons, John, Jameson and Dominic, who all have autism. My name is RW Pasquale (Pat) Imbimbo Jr., Mason of thirty-three years. I am writing to seek your help.



Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can present significant difficulties for individuals and families like mine. With my oldest son, John, challenges started as soon as he was born. At just twenty-two days old he had his first open heart surgery due to complications from his condition. Jameson and Dominic are my fifteen-year-old twins. Jameson cannot communicate at all; he is non-verbal and struggles. Dominic can talk but in “cartoon speak.” Although he is fifteen years old, he behaves like he is only five. My wife and I strive to provide them with a better life, which is why we started our farm: to give them meaningful work opportunities. However, we cannot do the science part. That is where MMRI comes in.



Autism Research at MMRI:

Through cutting-edge research initiatives, Dr. Maria Kontaridis and her team are uncovering new insights into the complex genetics of ASD by comparing the DNA of children diagnosed with autism to their unaffected parents or siblings. They are making leaps and bounds here at MMRI, identifying novel genes that can potentially lead to new drug targets for the treatment of patients with autism.

"My family is excited, I'm excited! Their research is giving my family hope that their lives can one day be just a little easier. That is what I want and what I am fighting for."



How Can My Fellow Mason Brothers Help?

The core of Masonry is helping your fellow Brothers. My plea to you, my Brother, is to support the life-changing medical research at MMRI. MMRI is the only research institute in the world founded by, governed by and supported by Masons. Your donation can mean a higher quality of life for my three boys and countless other families in Masonry and around the world affected by autism.

Together with MMRI, we can accelerate the pace of discovery and innovation.

RW Pasquale Imbimbo, Jr.



WATCH ONLINE!
Scan this QR code
to hear Pat's story

Support groundbreaking medical research at MMRI.
Visit mmri.edu/rwpat to donate now.

Camp Turk Tries Out Changes

The 2024 season at Camp Turk was an incredible summer. For the first time, camp was co-ed for all three sessions. Grand Master's Day was held on July 14. Many thanks go to the Grand Master for supporting the camp program. This year a large number of international staff came from overseas. Campers always enjoy learning about their counselors' countries.

A new Adventure Course (Ninja Warrior, Camp Turk style) was installed and made possible through a donation from the German Masonic Charitable Foundation and the 9th Manhattan District. The new Camp Turk Committee Chairman, VW Eric Demery of Allemania Lodge 740, was very instrumental in helping us secure funding for this course. Brother Ryan Green of Fish House Lodge 298, from Boonville, NY was the contractor who put this together. Ryan and his family travel all over doing Spartan races, so he was the perfect

fit for helping us with this project.



Also, there is new signage for the Camp Turk program.

It is installed at the front gate, on the main road coming into camp and at the pillars at the entrance to the camp property.

Registration for 2025 will begin on December 1, 2024. Be sure to log onto our website at www.campturk.org.

Here is a Camp Turk story:

Thirty-two years ago in July of 1992, a just-turned 13-year-old (and quite socially awkward) kid was really debating with his parents (and grandfather, a Mason) about the notion of three weeks away from friends at a camp somewhere in the Adirondacks. Fast-forward to 2024, that now-dad is really excited to drop off his 8-year-old daughter for two weeks of adventure at the same camp.

The notion of full circle comes to mind as I write this. While that shy kid thirty-plus years ago was initially apprehensive of the camp experience, the rest, as they say, is history. The first person he met that day was a charismatic 18-year-old from Manchester, UK. This person was not only the counselor for

the sky kid, but since then has served as his mentor in the many years he worked at camp with me, was in my wedding and is incidentally dropping his kids off at Camp Turk in 2024. Full circle.

My initial Camp Turk experience went from trepidation to love: as a camper for four years and working there for seven more, ending as head counsellor and running the boating program. More astounding is the prolific impact camps (including Camp Turk) can have on young people and how it can shape their lives. Without that camp experience the path would have been decidedly different. I would not have had the opportunity to travel a dozen times to the UK, visit friends in Australia or randomly run into camp people while trekking in New Zealand. I would not have had an international contingent in my wedding, and I certainly would not be (nearly) as excited as my daughter for camp drop-off.

In sum, I am so happy that I was able to experience the magic of a place like Camp Turk thirty years ago and am beyond ecstatic at the opportunity for my daughter to hopefully start her own path. The story is not yet over.

Todd Fahey



Grand Master's Day at Camp Turk 2024



78 YEARS

0084 AMSTERDAM
E Norman McGrattan

74 YEARS

0750 SHAKESPEARE
Robert L. Anthony

0950 KONOSIONI
Richard T. Lynch

73 YEARS

0822 LYNBROOK-MASSAPEQUA
William A. Pitt

72 YEARS

0020 MOUNT MORIAH
Jerry Cedar

0039 OLIVE BRANCH
Franklin Davis II

0543 TRILUMINAR
Clinton D. Wilcox

71 YEARS

0204 PERFECT SQUARE
Robert Leinkram

0217 GOUVERNEUR
George E. Erdman

70 YEARS

0039 OLIVE BRANCH
Paul H. Joslin

0166 FOREST
William H. Block

0563 CORNUCOPIA
Samuel V. Samuelian

0689 WHAT CHEER
Robert W. Tharrett

0890 JOSHUA
Lawrence M. Greebel

60 YEARS

0019 MIDWOOD FORTITUDE
Robert M. Weiss

0305 FAYETTEVILLE CENTRAL CITY
Richard Arthur Lewis

0358 ANCIENT LANDMARKS
Allen E. Maul

0634 SCOTIA
Leon B Weinstein

0839 ATHELSTANE
Ronald V Pomerance

0934 JOSEPH WARREN-GOTHIC
Alan D. Berlin

1068 JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
James C Herndon

55 YEARS

0136 HIRAM
Alan S. Drohan
Ronald P. Foster

0155 FRATERNAL
Tony Calvarese

0256 FORT BREWERTON
Richard L. Roberts

0381 HUGUENOT
Richard K. Keiser

0826 SUTHERLAND
Raymond E. Hendrickson

0863 DUNWOODIE
William Chester Tepper

0948 SWEET HOME
Eric Davis

1166 BRITANNIA
Ian Marsden

50 YEARS

0009 UNITY
Van P. Atkins

0011 THE LODGE OF ANTIQUITY
John H Hall

0084 AMSTERDAM
Lawrence R. Spring

0087 VAN RENSSELAER
Walter Killough

0145 MOUNT MORIAH
Peter Francis Owen Kay

0193 ULSTER
Rockwell B Harwood

0201 GENESIS
Eric C. Johnson
Stanley M. Petersen

0359 RANDOLPH
Timothy R. Shields

0381 HUGUENOT
Richard J. Seaberg

0416 WAYNE
James E. Wachob

0419 ARCADE
Fred E. Warner

0435 ST. MARK'S-VESTAL
David Mark Leonard

0533 ROUND HILL
Douglas F. Herzig

0581 WINFIELD
William H Dowd

0586 ADVANCE SERVICE MIZPAH
Mehmood Syed

0608 LESSING
Frank Horst Junemann

0653 JOHN JAY
Stephen E. Lipken

0684 BERNE
Frederick E. Weaver

0694 BLAZING STAR
Thomas G Winegar

0740 ALLEMANIA
Rudolf W. Lonk

0956 SPARTAN
Peter H. Sherman

1068 JAMES W. HUSTED-FIAT LUX
Roy Goodman

1126 SOUTH SHORE-LONG BEACH
Les Morgenstein

1188 RENAISSANCE
Gary H Kadow

1907 EL BERDOWNIE
Assad J Zogaib

Ambassador Abroad

One of the often-overlooked great benefits of becoming a New York Mason is that you also join a global network of Brothers from dozens of Grand Lodges in the US and internationally with which Grand Lodge of New York is in amity. Practically, this means that almost no matter where you are in the world, there is a Lodge for you to visit or a Brother for you to meet. Importantly, this also means that if you find yourself abroad and in need of assistance, there is also a Brother available to help. Your Grand Lodge wants to make that benefit more real to all of you.

Therefore, to support GLNY Brothers traveling, living or stationed abroad, to enhance the international connectivity and reputation of our Grand Lodge with other regular and recognized jurisdictions and to raise its profile abroad, the

Grand Master has decided to establish the Special Committee on Grand Lodge Ambassadors Abroad (SCOGLA), under the chairmanship of W Mischa Zabotin. SCOGLA's role will be to establish and supervise a global network of GLNY Brothers currently residing abroad whose principal responsibility will be to come to the assistance of any New York Brother who find himself in distress while in foreign Masonic jurisdictions in amity with GLNY.

The Ambassadors will also assist Brothers who move abroad to connect with foreign jurisdictions should they wish to visit or join a local Lodge during their time abroad. If you are a New York Mason and living abroad, email Program Chair W Brother Mischa at: ambassadorsglny@gmail.com.

**GRAND MASTER'S FAMILY DAY
AT WEST POINT**
SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH, 2024

MW Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master, welcomes all Masons, family and friends to WEST POINT, for a day of fellowship, excessive tailgating, football, and fun.

GAME TICKETS \$45 PER TICKET
Ticket includes a wrist band for access to join our group for an all-inclusive tailgate party
Car parking access pass included with every four tickets

ARMY Black Knights vs East Carolina Pirates

Please make checks payable to "The Masonic Brotherhood Fund" and mail to: George Filippidis 85 Northgate Circle, Melville, NY 11747
For online payments and additional information, please see www.GLSNYevents.com

Festivities will start with early morning tailgating which will continue all day and is included for our group with each ticket purchase. Hot D continental Breakfast will be served until 9:00 am. Attendees can tour the United States Military Academy campus and view the Parade of Cadets and enjoy the football game.

Tailgate Party with the GRAND Master will continue long after the ARMY football game is over.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING PHOTO ID
CONTACT: RW GEORGE FILIPPIDIS
917-572-4312 | GEORGE@ARES.NY.COM

2024 GRAND MASTER'S DAY AT TAPPAN FAMILY PICNIC

DeWint House
George Washington Headquarters
A Jewel of Our Grand Lodge

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS At Tappan
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK - THE HOUSE WAS BUILT AND A HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1777. VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE HOUSE AND GARDENS.

The DeWint House Built 1700

October 6, 2024
DeWint House
20 LIVINGSTON STREET
TAPPAN, NEW YORK
12PM - 5PM
DRESS CODE: COUNTRY CLUB CASUAL

FOR MORE INFO
RW Joseph J Saglimbene
Iron1057@aol.com

Our Grand Master MW Steven Adam Rubin, is inviting his Masonic Family to celebrate New York Masonic History with wonderful food, drink and Brotherhood, at the annual Grand Master's Day Family Picnic. Let's celebrate New York Masonic History!

Walk the grounds that Bro. Washington walked!
DeWint House served as headquarters for Washington during the American Revolution. The house is also the oldest surviving building in Rockland County.

NEW EPISODES EVERY MONDAY

Upcoming Guests:
MW Steven Adam Rubin
Bro. Chris Ruli
Bro. Adam Kendall
Bro. Austin Shifrin
Bro. Maynard Edwards
Bro. Angel Millar

Craftsmen Online Podcast
JULY 8
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Same as above #7

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): **Same as above #7**

Editor (Name and complete mailing address): **Joan Bower
 37 Oliver Street, Lockport, NY 14094-4615**

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): **Same as editor**

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Trustees of the Masonic Hall & Asylum Fund	71 West 23 rd Street, New York, NY 10010-4149

13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Empire State Mason	September 2024		
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		34,000	34,000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	NONE	NONE
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	NONE	NONE
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	31,960	31,295
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	NONE	NONE
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		31,960	31,295
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	NONE	NONE
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	NONE	NONE
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	NONE	NONE
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	1,100	1,100
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		NONE	NONE
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		33,060	32,395
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		940	1,605
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		34,000	34,000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		96.6%	96.6%

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
None	

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

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Empire State Mason	September 2024		
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		34,000	34,000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	NONE	NONE
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	NONE	NONE
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	31,960	31,295
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	NONE	NONE
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		31,960	31,295
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	NONE	NONE
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	NONE	NONE
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	NONE	NONE
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	1,100	1,100
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		NONE	NONE
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		33,060	32,395
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		940	1,605
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		34,000	34,000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		96.6%	96.6%

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

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16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	NONE	NONE
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	31,960	31,295
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	32,060	32,395
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	96.6%	96.6%

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **Fall 2024** issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

G. Michael Morris **G. Michael Morris** President Date **September, 2024**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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 Send photographs, flashdrives and CD-Rom discs (formatted as instructed as in previous column) via United States Postal Service or other delivery service to:
Mrs. Joan C. Bower
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Lockport NY 14094-4615

The 2024 Grand Master's Ball Honoring M.W. Steven Adam Rubin Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York

Marina Del Rey,
Saturday October 26
6:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.
1 Marina Dr.
Bronx, NY 10465
mdrnyc.com

Reservation Deadline:
September 27, 2024.

Dress: Formal Attire

Free valet parking



6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour:
Various food stations.
Followed by Dinner and
Dancing.
Banquet with choice of
entrees.

Subscription:
\$160 per person.

Open Bar during the entire
event.

Any questions can be raised to Mark Suckle at mark@suckle.net or 516/448-3124.

For Meal reservations, please complete the form below & enclose it in an envelope with your check. Payable to "Masonic Brotherhood Fund" - Mail form & check to: Grand Master's Ball Committee, c/o Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, 71 W 23 Street, 17th Floor, New York NY 10010-4149. Or you may pay on line via this link: [Grand Lodge of New York Events \(nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org\)](http://GrandLodgeofNewYorkEvents(nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org))

Please reserve _____ seats @ \$160 per person - Total Amount of Check: \$ _____ Do Not Send Cash
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