

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS WINTER 2020-21

Charity Keeps Masonry Strong

NIC

ROGRAM

PLATE

Senior DeMolay Profile: Bro. John Twigg

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From the East of Grand Lodge MOST WORSHIPFUE RICHARD MAGGIO

Brethren,

The frost has come, the autumn leaves have fallen, and winter is upon us. The COVID-19 pandemic lingers on, and the work of the Craft continues. How very honored and proud I am to be part of an organization, that despite the pandemic, social unrest, and the political divisiveness that surrounds us, we continue to be a beacon of light. You have helped, aided, and assisted our Brethren, their families, and fellow man, without hesitation. You have truly made a difference in many lives by contributing not only your money and material objects, but your time. There is only one thing more precious than our time and that's who we choose to spend it on. You continued to choose wisely. The value of your time and random acts of kindness cannot be understated.

We recently started our Grand Master Town Hall Listening Tour meetings. We will meet online until we are able to meet in person. Once the in-person Town Hall Listening Tour starts, we will travel the entire Commonwealth to hear your questions, concerns, and suggestions. Your input is critical to our success. Additionally, we are conducting a special series of First Responder Town Hall Forums to reach out to our Police, Firefighters, and EMT Brethren. Sign up on Massmasons.org. My sincerest thanks to our First Responders for keeping us safe, not only during major emergencies, but daily.

As we return to our regular in-person meetings and continue our degree work, we must continue to find good men for our Fraternity. Eighty percent of all new candidates interviewed said they joined the Fraternity for friendship and fellowship. We have all been isolated. Now that the vaccine for COVID-19 is being administered and we return to normal, let us embrace this moment by sharing the gift of Freemasonry. As we are set free from the pandemic restrictions, ask a family member, a friend, or a co-worker to join our Fraternity that embraces good men from all walks of life.

Now is the time to start planning a local lodge welcome back event for all your membership. From the Grand Lodge perspective, I hope to welcome back the Fraternity in a big way. Parades, a Unity Picnic, as well as our traditional events: Grand Masters Table Lodge, Bowtie Banquet, Golden Gavels, and more. I know large events will require us to be in Phase 4 guidelines following the pandemic, but now is the time to plan.

Speaking of planning, our 300th Anniversary (2033) Committee is now meeting and planning for a full year of activities surround 300 years of Freemasonry in Massachusetts, the beginning of organized Freemasonry in the New World!

I continue to be humbled and honored to serve you as Grand Master. God bless you, our Fraternity, and God bless America!

Sincerely and fraternally, *Most Worshipful Richard Maggio* Your Grand Master

P.S. "Brother, when you are in need, lean on me..."



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Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts Most Worshipful Richard Maggio

TROWEL Staff

Executive Editor Lee H. Fenn

Design and Production Kevin J. Papierski

> Copy Editor Brian McHale

Consulting Editor Robert W. Williams III

> Editorial Staff Stephen C. Cohn David P. Newcomb Richard Thompson

Office Staff George S. Fontana Helena M. Fontana

Information Officer Elliot Chikofsky

Photographers Marcus Griep, Jim McIntosh, Joshua Mantello, Joe Raviele, Allan R. Sinclair, Bob Wallace

Editorial Board: Richard Maggio, Stephen H. Burrall, Jr., Jeffrey L. Gardiner, Donald G. Hicks, Jr., David A. Libby

> E-mail all stories to Executive Editor: editortrowel@gmail.com Telephone: 617-401-7587

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E-mail: grandsecretary@massfreemasonry.org *Grand Lodge telephone:* 617-426-6040 *Grand Lodge web page:* www.MassFreemasonry.org

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Living Charity

In our Lodges, we hear about the permanence of charity. Charity is the action that flows through time and changes the world. In this time of trouble, when families are stressed in their homes, when jobs are lost, when businesses close, there are great opportunities for charity. We are not



apart from the pandemic, like angelic assistants, we are living within the pandemic with everyone else. Within this pandemic, some of us can help and lift someone up, while some of us need a lift up. Others of us want to help but can't.

Those who can help can do many things, like donating to the Grand Master's Appeal, having a Masonic license plate, and helping to feed the hungry. The fabric of Freemasonry is woven with charity. It can be driving someone to Lodge or the hospital or cleaning up the kitchen. There are so many charitable opportunities for the Brother who can help, that such a Brother is able to help at any moment

Those who need help have a rougher time. They can see all the charity all around their Lodge. Little kindnesses, little moments of help. But this Brother is in need. Relief is there, just a question away, but any Brother would have trouble asking. But, when the question "Can I get some help?" is asked, then the help is there. It is not judgmental. It is just pure help. The wellspring of Brotherly Love has opened.

While those in need cannot help, there are Brethren who can help, but not just this minute. I am often one of these Brethren. I can help. I just can't do it now. The sadness that I feel every time I miss a charitable opportunity is profound. I do as much donating as I can afford, but spending time with the Brethren, taking care of our Brethren, making sure we keep people fed, that I have trouble doing.

Because of Freemasonry, however, I am in a charitable frame of mind. All of us, no matter which category we fall into, are living a charitable life. If I get to give, I have the personal growth of becoming a better person. If I must get help, and I've been in that position, I feel the immediate relief, but also a hope for a day when I get to repay. If I wish to, but can't, then I enter into a mode of being which looks for charitable opportunities.

But we all get to help. We can help an older woman who can't get up from kneeling in church. We can move that branch from the sidewalk so someone else will not trip. We can live and breathe the charitable heart that is a result of our training in Freemasonry.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 15, 2021



Do you have an experience from seeing or having a Masonic plate? Send it to the Editor of TROWEL at editortrowel@gmail.com.

GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS

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New Rookies & Master Builders Dinner

New Rookies and Master Builders from across the Commonwealth were invited to join the Grand Master at the Annual Rookie and Master Builder Association dinner banquet this past October. A most enjoyable evening of Brotherhood was held on October 30th, 2020, in the Grand Master's Dining Room at the Grand Lodge building in Boston. What differentiated this annual event from others was the more intimate setting due to COVID restrictions. In past years, past recipients of either award are invited along with the new recipients. Despite COVID, the Grand Master did not want recognition for these brothers to go unnoticed. Approximately 25 new Rookies and Builders were able to join us.

The attendees were addressed by the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Rt. Wor. William Yanakakis. The Membership Committee first created the Rookie program back in 2009 and Past Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Stewart had the idea about creating an association for these brothers that received the award. It was not until 2015 that the idea finally took off and the Rookie and Master Builder Association was formed. Having the Pillar Officers of our Grand Lodge present really made the evening extra special. Their shared words of wisdom most certainly had an impact on our newly minted Rookies.

Our keynote speaker of the evening was Rt. Wor. Bill Benoit. RW Bro. Benoit was one of the first Rookies in the Jurisdiction. His journey from Rookie to District Deputy Grand Master was truly moving. The evening concluded with remarks from the Rookie Association President, Wor. James Uzdarwin and an update on the Association from Wor. Stephen Qualey. Each of the new Rookies and Builders had a chance to share a bit of their journeys which is always a highlight. Our Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio left us all feeling inspired. Seeing such enthusiastic new Masons is something the Fraternity so desperately needs in these difficult times.

-Wor. James Uzdarwin



A Visit, A Donation, and An Ad

The members of William Parkman Lodge present the Winchester Friends of Music a check for \$1,200. WHS Chorus teacher Joel Buford accepted the donation, which is being used to purchase an on-line learning program for his 130 students. Pictured in the ad, which ran in local papers, second from left are student chorus officers Maddie Heckler, Alessandro Cella, Grand Master of

> Masons in Massachusetts, and member of William Parkman Lodge M. Wor. Richard Maggio, presiding Master Stephen Vassella, and Joel Buford. Also pictured, M. Wor. Bro. Maggio at William Parkman Lodge. Photo by Rt. Wor. Frank Kautz. -Wor. Richard Allison



A re you one of those people who is interested in genealogy? Many people are. There are all sorts of genealogical help services available now which were not here for us in the past. Sometimes, we can learn priceless lessons from those who have gone on before us.

I was almost Irish. Part of my family had a story which could have been taken right out of a novel by Charles Dickens. My mother's father, my grandfather, was born in England before the turn of the 20th century. He was supposed to inherit a large farm somewhere in Ireland. In his case, however, his father died before he was born. His uncles took his rightful inheritance. My great grandmother, now a widow, worked in an estate house, near Hastings, close to the southern coast of England. One might think "Downton Abbey" or "Upstairs, Downstairs." Apparently, the family was very poor. I can remember my grandfather telling me that as a child, sometimes the only thing he and his brothers and sisters would have to eat for Christmas dinner would be the scraps of food that his mother scraped off the plates from the people who lived in the estate house. One thing that this experience did was to help my family be grateful for the good things that we did have.

A great many people are suffering from all sorts of things related to COVID-19. First, there is the virus itself. I have known a number of people who had it and did not make it. I have known people who had it and never would have known they had it had they not been professionally tested. And I have known people who have had the virus and got better, eventually. Whether you have had COVID-19 or not, it has changed all of our lives. Some people are afraid to go out of their homes, even to the grocery store or to the pharmacy. Others are suffering a great deal because they are living in social isolation. Others have had plans changed indefinitely. Weddings have been put off until another future time, travel cancelled, educational plans upended, vacations rescheduled until sometime in the distant future.

While one never wishes for it, even adversity has its uses. One of the uses of adversity is to help us to examine who we are and what we are, and if possible, make positive changes in our lives. The truth is that no matter who we are or where we are, there is much that God wants to accomplish in each of us. God wants you to live a life which is attuned to what is right and good and faithful.

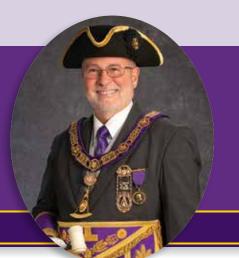
One of the things I have always done which has helped me is to pick out heroes and try to live up to what was the best in them. Sometimes, it is the poor widow woman who survives by her wits and the strength of her character. At other times, it was the brother in Lodge, who if you passed him on the street you would never look twice at him but possessed inner qualities which would make God proud. Our ancient Brother, Robert Burns, offered what is known as The Selkirk Grace before meals. He prayed, "Some hae meat and canna eat and some that are that want it, but we hae meat and we can est, so let the Lord be thankit." What we do with what we have is important. To make the best of our circumstances in which we find ourselves is paramount. What is your spiritual genealogy? From whom do you take that which is good and right and true and faithful, which helps you to become a better man, a better Mason?

One of my spiritual heroes was a man by the name of Sidney Phillips. Perhaps you remember seeing him in the series, The War, by Ken Burns. Sydney was a Private in the Marine Corps in the Pacific in the early days of World War II. He lived through the unspeakable horror of battle, and lived for many months without adequate food, clothing, rest, or shelter. One of the things that this did for Sidney Phillips was he tried to make that experience a catalyst to make himself into something more than he might have been. Because of his difficult and heartrending experience in World War II, Sidney Phillips decided to become a physician after his time in the service to enable him to give something worthwhile back to humanity because he had been spared during the war. I remember seeing an interview in which he said that his time living in the jungles of the Pacific Theater changed him immensely. For the rest of his life, he was grateful to have fresh sheets to sleep on, and clean, fresh water to drink. Really grateful. He allowed that tough experience to change him for the better.

Speaking of being Irish, not too long ago I was looking through some of my old papers and came across a Celtic prayer that I had written down many years ago. I would like to share with you, because it might help you today, in this time of COVID-19. It goes like this, "Bless you God for sleep and waking. Bless you God for rest and working. Bless you God for dark and light. Bless you God for moon and stars and sun. Bless you God for a bed to lie on. Bless you God for a pillow for my head. Bless you God for dreams and dreamless sleep. Bless you God for your Angels ground my bed. Amen."

Rt. Wor. Rev. Dr. Keith C. Alderman is an active member and Chaplain of Columbian Lodge in Boston, The Chaplain of The Masters Lodge, twice served as master of Village Lodge No. 29 in Collinsville, CT, and has been a Grand Chaplain since 2009.

THE DECEMBER 2020 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION



OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS

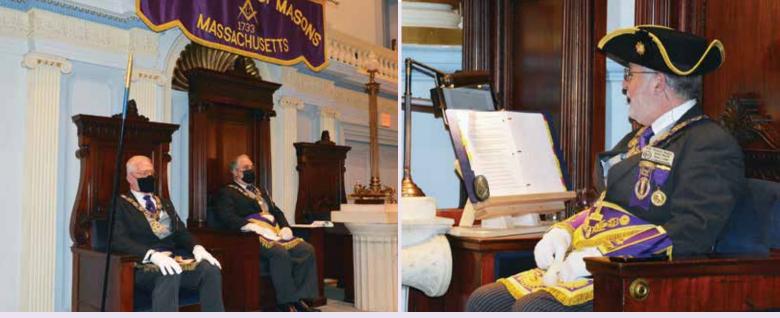
by Wor. Lee H. Fenn

On computer screens, phones, laptops, and projectors, the Masons of Massachusetts enjoyed a return to the lodge room they know and love for the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts on December 9, 2020, at 1:30 pm. Rather than at their desks scattered around the Grand Lodge building, for this online Quarterly Communication, the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio sat in the East of the Ionic Hall and conducted the 3rd online communication of 2020 of the first and, hopefully, the only year of the COVID Pandemic.

After the organ introduction, the Grand Marshal informed the online brethren on tyling their participation in the Quarterly. Headsets must be worn so non-Masons cannot overhear the proceedings. The Grand Master, M. Wor. Richard Maggio, called the Brethren to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our nation's flag. The physical lodge room was securely tyled, the lights were opened, and after a prayer from Rt. Wor. Rev. Henry Peirce, the Grand Master declared the Quarterly Communication opened in ample form.

"Good afternoon Brethren," the Grand Master began, "COVID-19, Day 274, held hostage. Today we will attempt a new hybrid version of a Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge with a very limited number of officers in Ionic hall, for the purpose of testing equipment. Most of you will be watching an online stream of this event with provisions for those entitled to vote. This process will provide us the guidance we need to execute an abbreviated installation on December 28th. This is not an ideal situation, but necessary as to minimize the spread of COVID-19

The Grand Master introduced the guests for the Quarterly.:	
 M. Excel. Ernest A. Bean, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts M. Illus. Andrew C. Maninos, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts Sir Knight James S. Stone, Sr., Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island 	 Most Worthy David D. Frizzell, Worthy Grand Patron, Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, Order of the Eastern Star Sir Knight Mark Z. Stought, Grand Royal Patron, Grand Court of Massachusetts, Order of the Amaranth Rt. Wor. Kenneth R. Blake, Chairman of the Board, Masonic Health Systems Shrine International
Representatives of The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry	Ill. Gary D. Bartlett, Potentate, Aleppo Shrine Ill. Leo J. Proude, Potentate, Melha Shrine
for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA III. David A Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander III. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts III. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active for Massachusetts III. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active for Massachusetts III. George F. Hamilton, 33°, Active for Massachusetts III. C. William Lakso, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts III. Ralph I. Sewall, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts III. Robert E. Godbout, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts	III. Leo J. Proude, Potentate, Melha Shrine District of Panama Rt. Wor. Albert C. Hopper, District Grand Master Rt. Wor. George O'Masta, Past DGM Rt. Wor. Gerard A. Dowden, Past DGM Rt. Wor. John A. Bamber, Past DGM Rt. Wor. Victor D. Cruz, Past DGM Rt. Wor. Jack R. Tatzauer, Past DGM Rt. Wor. Donald P. Garrido, Past DGM Rt. Wor. Charles R. Lavallee, Past DGM Rt. Wor. W. Eugene Bondurant, Past DGM
 M. Wor. Jeffery M. Coaston, Grand Master Rt. Wor. Timothy R. Downes, Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Gerald R. Thaxton, III, Senior Grand Warden Rt. Wor. Justin Petty, Junior Grand Warden M. Wor. Nicholas Locker, Past Grand Master and Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Rt. Wor. Wilbur Evans, Sr., Grand Marshal Emeritus 	Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames M. Wor. Arthur Eugene Johnson M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr. M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon M. Wor. Richard James Stewart
Rt. Wor. Dad Philip Drouin, Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts	M. Wor. Harvey John Waugh M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason



Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Deacon in the West of Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master in the East of Grand Lodge.

and to comply with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' guidelines as well as the City of Boston. Thank you for joining me today."

The Grand Master noted that Ill. David A. Glattly, 33°, has recently affiliated as a Massachusetts Mason by joining Simon W. Robinson Lodge in Lexington. The Grand Master introduced the Brothers from the Information Committee, Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky, Wor. Charles Carolselli, on audio, and Wor. Patrick DelVal, on video, who made the Communication happen. He also thanked the Grand Organist, Wor. George Wiseman, who was in the hall lifting spirits with his music.

For the online votes, the Grand Master explained the online voting procedure, which opened at 8:30 in the morning. After a motion is seconded, the Brethren will have 30 seconds to cast their votes. Only those eligible to vote will see voting buttons on the screen at MassMasons.org. The Grand Master called on the Grand Secretary, M. Wor. Bro. Ames, to explain the voting procedures. Reports on the recognition of proxies was delivered by M. Wor. Bro. Ames. Reports on Charters and By-Laws was prepared by Rt. Wor. Robert V. Jolly, Jr., and read by Rt. Wor. Donald M. Moran. Five were approved, and two partially approved. Both reports were approved.

Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Peter Culbertson had the difficult task of reading the Necrology. Eight of our Brethren had departed to the Celestial Lodge above. We are all the poorer because of their departure. With them, we lost nearly 500 years of Masonic experience.

The Grand Master reminded the Brethren of the odd times the elected Officers of Grand Lodge had due to COVID-19. As a result of the Officers not getting to enjoy the duties of their offices, the slate of candidates will be repeated as follows: M. Wor Richard Maggio, Grand Master; Rt Wor. George Forest Hamilton, Senior Grand Warden; Rt. Wor Christopher Michael St. Cyr, Junior Grand Warden; Rt Wor Mason Webster Russell, Grand Treasurer; and M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames, Grand Secretary.

The Grand Master retired for the vote for Grand Master, leaving the East to the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Culbertson. Most Worshipful Richard Maggio was elected unanimously to another term as Grand Master. The same is true of the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens and the rest of the slate of officers. All were asked if they accepted the responsibilities of their positions: all assented.

The Grand Master had the difficult duty of enforcing our strict code of conduct by moving for the suspension of one man for un-Masonic conduct. The Grand Secretary moved for approval of the motion from the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master seconded. It was voted upon and passed.

To more joyous announcements, the Grand Master presented Anniversary Certificates to Howard Lodge for their 150th year, chartered on December 14, 1870, by M. Wor. William Sewall Gardner and to Cincinnatus Lodge for their 250th year, chartered on December 9, 1795, by M. Wor. Paul Revere. The physical certificates will be presented either by the Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Masters. The Grand Master congratulated two lodges, Orient Lodge and Rural Lodge, for having earned the Grand Master's Award for 2019. "These awards are well deserved," said the Grand Master, "and will be presented by your District Deputies on my behalf."

The Grand Master addressed the pandemic. "It has deprived us from human contact and touch, distancing us from our family, our Brethren, and all those we love. It has claimed lives and left others with long term health effects. It has devasted our economy, many have lost their job, businesses have failed. Despite the pandemic, Freemasonry adapts and flourishes. That which we took for granted shall return and with it a greater appreciation." Related to COVID-19, there was on November 8, 2020, an outbreak confined to a fourth-floor wing of the Health Center. "The swift and decisive actions of our Overlook team was successful in curtailing and containing the virus and minimizing its impact and spreading."

On the other hand, the Grand Master noted that Overlook received the Best of Central Mass Senior Living Facility Award for the fourth consecutive year. In addition, the Overlook Visiting Nurses Association received the Best of Central Mass Home Health Care Provider award for the second consecutive year. "The Overlook at Charlton is the premiere facility in Central Mass and continues to fulfill our mission to empower individuals to realize their potential where they live and work," the Grand Master continued.

The Grand Master reminded the Brethren of the good of the Pandemic. Families spending more time together, and distant Brothers participating online and renewing old friendships. The role of Masons is enhanced within the stress of the pandemic. Masons are to be kinder, more understanding, and more respectful. "Masons must be the guiding light for society and face the challenges ahead of us. We will pass through this storm together," the Grand Master admonished.

There are times when things change; times when a life event occurs and changes us drastically, whether we like it or not, in our case it is the Pandemic. After such events, things never quite seem the same again because they change us as individuals, and the way that we look at the world is never the same.

In our 287-year history in Massachusetts, Freemasonry has experienced several such events, but none that has had such a profound effect on society, on the economy and on us. What remains constant in our lives is

Deputy Grand Master Rt. Wor. Peter M. Culbertson, Grand Secretary M. Wor. Albert T. Ames.

Freemasonry, something we can always depend on regardless of what is happening in the profane world.

When things change and life turns in ways we may never imagined, we think life as we know it is over and will never be the same, when it truly is just a new beginning. It is a time to reflect, evaluate and move forward. The change that then occurs may be the best thing that ever happened.

The Grand Master reflected on the cancelation of the March 2020 Quarterly, "What does this mean, how will it affect the Craft, how will Masonry continue, will we survive?" he wondered.

> The Grand Master explained the two principals which guided his decisions: obey the law and trust our leaders, members, and our lodges to decide what is right for them.

"So, my challenge to you is stop focusing on the negative, focus only on the positive and continue the traditions of Freemasonry in Massachusetts. Plan for the future while preserving our past traditions, enjoying the present,

the gift of Masonry."

"Our future depends on you! Involve yourself in your community. Do not think of other organizations as our competitors, but rather as partners looking to help mankind and better our communities. The men in these groups are already joiners! Introduce them to our great Fraternity."

"Find a friend, co-worker, relative, or any good man and offer him the gift of Freemasonry. I talk about Just One. If only the active 20% of our members found one good man every three years, we would raise 1700 new

Wor. Patrick DelVal in the "control balcony" directing the web cast.



TROWEL • WINTER 2020-21









Rt. Wor. Elliot Chikofsky working on the stream to Massmasons.org.

Ballot tally in process, as seen on screens throughout the jurisdiction.

Master Masons every year instead of the current average of 600 per year. Think about that. Please do your share to continue the traditions of Freemasonry by finding just one! President Ronald Regan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction." We have a 287-year tradition of Masonry in Massachusetts under the 303 years of organized Masonry in England. We must all contribute to this Craft for it to thrive and be relevant into the future and continue the traditions of our great Fraternity."

The Grand Master thanked the Brethren for their donations to the Grand Master's Appeal. Regardless of the method, monthly, credit card, check or other, all donations are appreciated. The Grand Master continued, "I want to individually thank the following Blue Lodges, other bodies, and individuals for their exceptionally generous contributions:

All the Valley of Boston Scottish Rite Bodies: Boston-Lafayette Lodge of Perfection, Giles F. Yates Council Princes of Jerusalem, Massachusetts Consistory, Massachusetts Consistory Guard, Mount Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix, St. Bernard Commandery #12

Many Blue Lodges, too numerous to mention. But you know who you are... The following Individual Brothers have made significant generous donations: Albert T. Ames, David J. Raymond, Donald G. Hicks Jr., Donald H. LaLiberte, Donald M. Moran, Donald S. Stevens, E. Joel Peterson, Eric J. Rzepka, Geoffrey Kromer, Richard Howarth, George L. Herbolsheimer IV, George J. Bibilos, Paul F. Gleason, Peter M. Perrin, Philip J. Privitera, Richard D. Marden, Richard J. Stewart, Walter Peterson Jr, John L. Carlson, John W. Alden Jr, John W. Ruggles II, Kenneth R. Blake, Larry E. Houston, Lawrence E. Bethune, and Mark J. Pearrow.

"So far this year, our members in total have donated over \$300,000 that will help aid and assist our Brethren and their families," said the Grand Master, but he reminded that while donations are fantastic, dollars alone do not make a Mason charitable. He thanked the members of District 17 who, in one weekend, built a handicap ramp for a Brother in need; the Brothers of Friendship Lodge in District 13 who have supplied and installed handicap ramps throughout the Commonwealth; Bro. Brian Cavanaugh and the many volunteers who manage the highly successful and important H.E.L.P. (Hospital Equipment Loan Program) in Woburn and its expansion around the state; and Wamesit Lodge's opening their doors to the Red Cross allowing the collection of nearly 500 pints of blood. The Grand Master continued this positive note with more good news. Wm. Sutton Lodge donated to the Saugus and Everett Food Pantries. There were two newspaper articles about their donations and one, the Saugus Advocate, talked about Freemasonry, charity, and published contact information. "It was a great photo and recruiting opportunity," said the Grand Master.

A letter of thanks appeared in the previous TROWEL on page 12 from the young lady, but another letter from Bro. Robert J. Bateman, 33° Deputy for Pennsylvania, to Brother Keith D Patch, 32° and Rt. Wor. Dan Vogel, DDGM for 15N was received, thanking them and a small army of volunteer movers to move a young lady and seeing to her needs. "Additionally, Ill. Brother Peter Samiec and the Grand Almoners Fund came to her aid. A local Brother in D15N who has a restaurant made sure she does not have to cook and that she has a ready supply of heat-and-eat meals," said the Grand Master, "The list goes on."

The Grand Master tried to read a letter, modified to protect those who do not want the publicity:

"For those with an ear to hear, let them listen.

I would like to take a moment, and tell you what Freemasonry means to me. Recently, I lost my granddaughter, she was 1 1/2 years old, and her name was Mary. She never woke from her nap. There are no words to describe the last four days.

I will tell you, it was a Brother who picked her up from

the hospital, it was a Brother who prepared her for her journey ahead, it was a Brother who held the door open for my family, so we could say our goodbyes, it was a Brother who brought her to church for God's blessing, it was a Brother who brought her to her final resting place.

It was a Brother who came to the house, with food for my family, and it was many more Brothers who checked in on us, daily.

It is important to note, at each turn, it was a different Brother.

FREEMASONRY=FAMILY=LOVE"

Though choking up, holding back the tears, the Grand Master said, "This, Brethren, is what separates us from most other organizations. Giving, with no expectation of receiving anything in return but the satisfaction of knowing you have unselfishly helped another in need."

The Grand Master, after composing himself, was pleased to announce the new Trustees Training Educational Program offered to all Trustees of Lodge funds and property. Created by a committee of professional Brothers who will train Trustees and keep them current on the governing means, methods, and laws. "A modified version will also be presented at Masters' Path, DDGM, Secretary, and Treasurer Training," said the Grand Master.

"We have another training program in the works, The Deacons Academy," announced the Grand Master. "I am very excited about this program. It will provide the foundation to leadership. This will be a training you do not want to miss! It will provide the foundation for Officers moving through the line."

The Grand Master then issued a call to action, "Our lodges should be meeting in person, conducting general business, bringing in new candidates and running degrees. I have provided guidance for certain business so that no member is disenfranchised, and every member is able to vote on significant issues. It is most important that your Lodge continues its work during these trying times. Do not become stagnant. Those who can and are comfortable should attend lodge. Those who are uncomfortable should stay safe. All should be respected, and the work of the Craft must continue."

Despite the pandemic, there have been many events since September. Along with Zoom meetings and days at Grand Lodge, the Grand Master visited lodges around the state in safe and respectful environments. "The Grand Lady and I had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting and installation of Officers at the Colonial Craftsman Club. I installed the new President [Right] Worshipful Walter Hunt and experienced a peaceful transition of power as Right Worshipful David Newcomb completed several years of service as the group's President." The Grand Master also congratulated Rt. Wor. Bro. Newcomb on the publication of his book of poems called Poems of our Fraternity, currently available at Grand Lodge Supply Office. Proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to the Brotherhood Fund by Rt. Wor. Bro. Newcomb.

The Grand Master installed Wor. Kenneth Madigan and the Officers of Mayflower Lodge in a legal semi-public installation. He went to the Falmouth Country Club to play a round in a fund-raising golf tournament for Marine Lodge. "Early morning wind and rain ended just as we teed off which is good because I don't play in the rain!" laughed the Grand Master. Along with the Deputy Grand Master, the Junior Grand Warden and other Grand Lodge Officers, the Grand Master a attended a 3rd Degree for five Brothers at Phoenix Lodge. "The degree was held in a tyled lodge on a tennis court in a secluded location at the Rainbow Camp in Hanson, MA. Special thanks to Phoenix Lodge and Rt. Wor. Arnold Johnson for their adherence to COVID-19 Guidelines with conducting an impressive 3rd Degree for a

Grand Tyler Rt. Wor. Arthur B. Dunham Jr. relaxing at safe social distance.

The Grand Master giving a short address to the Brethren assembled.



gathering of 50 Masons," recounted the Grand Master. He was a guest on Grand State Podcast on a session called "The Grand Masters' Gab" with M. Wor. Kenneth Clay, Grand Master of New Hampshire, and M. Wor. Kenneth Poyton, Past Grand Master of Rhode Island. The Grand Master also held over 40 interviews for District Deputy Grand Masters.

"In September, I, along with Brethren from 13 Lodges across multiple districts witnessed a 2nd and 3rd Degree held at Union Lodge in Norwood for four courtesy candidates. A degree team of distinguished Masons raised a father with the assistance of his two sons. Wor. Bro. Robichaud, Master of Union Lodge, sent his father as Chairman of the Committee to escort me into lodge. The Tradition Continues!"

The Grand Master and Grand Lady took a week off, finally, to drive to North Carolina to visit their grandchildren. "A long drive, well worth the effort as the last time I saw our newest grandson he was two weeks old. Now he's walking!"

In October, the Grand Master attended a lecture on the History of Massachusetts Masonry given by Bro. David Itiro Kasahara. Along with Grand Master M. Wor. Norton Valladdo Panizza, the Grand Master offered a question-and-answer session to the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of the State of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil via Zoom. "A special thanks to Wor. Joseph Vincentini who worked as my translator and Rt. Wor. Bro. Sergio Deassis who coordinated the efforts." The Grand Marshal and Grand Master visited lodges on for the Statewide Open House. There was light traffic, but candidates came in and the lodges were more public. The Grand Master attended the 225th Anniversary of Republican Lodge in Greenfield. The event was outside amidst the beautiful fall foliage with the Mayor of Greenfield in attendance. "A wonderful Masonic event in a lodge well connected with the community," said the Grand Master.

The Grand Master enjoyed chats and dinner with the Rookies and Master Builders who completed their requirements despite the pandemic. "I have extended last year's timeline to Brethren in progress to allow another year to complete their requirements. We look forward to a large class as well as alumni for next year's dinner," he announced. In November, the Grand Master attended the 231st Annual Communication coupled with the 163rd



Semiannual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. While the event was very limited in person, it was streamed to the Brethren of New Hampshire. Rt. Wor. Edgar de Leon represented the Grand Master at the Central American Masonic Confederations 53rd General Assembly from November 16-18. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was the only Grand Lodge from the United States represented at the Assembly. Rt. Wor. Bro. de Leon is the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Guatemala near the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

"The Grand Lady and I rocked several lodges in Massachusetts, as well as a few in New Hampshire. The Rocking Tradition now continues, and rocks have been sighted in Maine, North Carolina, and Delaware, as well as other states." (See the full story on the next page)

"I had the pleasure of signing a certificate for Bro. Allan A. Seroll of Norumbega Fraternity Lodge, a US Army Veteran celebrating his 105th birthday and 63rd anniversary as a Mason. I hope to meet him in person after the pandemic," said the Grand Master.

In November, the Grand Master installed the Officers of the Masonic Secretaries Association and celebrated their 100th Anniversary, via Zoom meeting. Recently, and throughout the pandemic, the Grand Master attended many lodges and events via online meetings, including the Board of Directors meetings, meetings in ME and CT, Overlook Board meetings, and others.

The Grand Master had some further announcements. The Grand Master thanked Rt. Wor. Thomas O'Shaughnessy for the great work helping North Reading Lodge, and Rt. Wor. James Gilrein for his team which helped Universal Lodge. Both were working in the Receivership Committee, directed by Rt. Wor. Bro. de Leon.



"Freemasonry license plates are available online or at your local full-service RMV. Please show your pride in the Fraternity while contributing to a great cause. The Board of Directors approved refunding the 40-dollar application fee for new registrations. With your support, this program supports the Brotherhood Fund to the tune of over 4,000 dollars a month. Your cost over and above your normal registration is only \$20 per year! And believe me, you will suddenly become a better driver!" the Grand Master

"And finally, I am pleased to announce that by a unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, there will be no increase in dues next year," the Grand Master announced. "I hope to see you all soon and in person. Remember, I along with the Grand Lodge Officers and the Staff at Grand Lodge are here to support you and your Lodge in any way we are able. Thank you for joining me today."

After his address, the 3rd online Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts was closed in ample form.



by Grand Lady Jody Maggio

A shard as it may seem to believe, rock painting is a craft enjoyed worldwide. My experience began three years ago with a chance visit to a friend's house (Marcia G. Richter) who was trying this new craft. Our experience and enthusiasm led to us teaching adult education classes and hosting several Masonic Ladies' rock painting programs. 2020 brought new challenges, and a deadly worldwide pandemic, which created isolation and many lodges were unable to meet. I wondered if there was a way I could help. Something fun, something to involve the Craft, and so the 'Masonic Rock' was born. On a drop off day, we choose multiple lodges and in true Masonic form our journey begins, visiting lodge after lodge. We take a picture of the rock, a picture of the lodge building or the lodge front door, hoping to never fully disclose our location. All drops are posted on Facebook, and the Brethren try to guess the lodge. To date, we have "rocked" lodges in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Delaware, North Carolina, and Ohio. We look forward to "rocking" your lodge in 2021.







Past Grand Master of Ohio MW Jess Raines wrote this on Facebook: Tt's a great day in Malta, Ohio - we've been rocked! While you don't normally get excited about having rocks thrown at you, this one is special, very special. The First Lady of Massachusetts Freemasonry has been rocking Masonic Lodges throughout the northeast as a token of friendship and love during these strange times in which we find ourselves living. It took her twice to "rock" us. Only the box arrived the first time ... perfectly empty. Mailed on December 18th, and guaranteed to arrive before Christmas, the empty box was finally delivered by the USPS on January 4th. Kelly thought it was a joke and said it was probably just my lump of coal for Christmas. I said it can't be, they wouldn't spend \$8.30 to mail us an empty box. Jody and Kelly enjoyed trading jokes about the empty box and Jody thought Kelly was kidding. Ha-ha, the joke was, well, lost in the mail I trust the Post Office in Tewksbury, MA is a different place these days since hearing from our dear friend about her rock entrusted to the postal service. Good news to report and as shown, the rock has arrived, courtesy of the First Lady and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. We are truly blessed to have them as friends and our friendship is even stronger now, SOLID AS A ROCK. Love you both! (And that's our Vizsla named Mason looking on.)









The Prodigal Mason

by Wor. Richard Thompson



I am confident I am not the only one with this sentiment, "I'm sure happy I'm looking at the year 2020 through the rear-view mirror." It was a year for the books and a year we most likely want to forget. In March 2020, my lodge, Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge in Tewksbury, canceled its meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I can remember thinking everything will be back to normal by

summer. As we are a daylight lodge with mostly senior Masons in its membership, we meet all summer long. We expected to be back together by July. In the summer, with the pandemic still raging, we were all thinking things will be back to normal by fall. Of course, by the time we were in the fall season, we were thinking things will be back to normal in winter. When we got to winter and the pandemic was not only still raging, but it was getting worse, I can remember thinking, "Does anybody remember what normal is?"

Now we are in 2021, which did not start out any better than 2020 ended and I have stopped predicting when things will get back to normal. Daylight Lodge has been lucky. Since we are a small lodge, with fewer than 60 members, we can easily meet, maintain social distancing, and stay under the limits set by the Commonwealth. For us, things were back to normal - almost. Members and visitors were scattered around the room, instead of congregating in the southwest, and we were practicing what I call the interrupted handshake.

The interrupted handshake is easy. You start to reach out like you are going to shake hands, realize there is a pandemic going on and social distancing is the norm, and then strike a pose like the Supremes singing "Stop! In the Name of Love." Let's face it, there is no group on the earth that shakes hands as often as Masons do. If you are the 26th person to enter a lodge room, you will shake 25 hands within the first 15 minutes. The handshaking is not limited to the lodge. You see it at committee meetings, parties, and when two Masons meet on a street corner or in a grocery store.

During those times when we were not meeting, we did get together using Zoom. That is a marvelous technology that came along at the right moment. It was the perfect way to keep in touch during these troubled times. This is something I hope we continue to use once we get back to normal. There are some hidden benefits to using Zoom. For one, I have been at meetings where the Zoom audience equaled the in-person audience. Where we are limited in the numbers who can attend in person, the virtual audience has fewer limits. You can't perform the ritual for a Zoom audience, but you can invite them into a special program or an after-meeting event.

I was on a Scottish Rite Zoom gathering a few months ago. In the crowd were two members who we have not seen for a number of years. One lives in Tennessee and the other in Arizona. I was sitting in on an Eastern Star Zoom meeting and one of the attendees was a member who lives in Texas who we have not seen for more than 10 years. Think of how we can use the new technologies to keep in touch with members we have not seen for a while. Maybe they moved out of the area long ago but have kept their membership in the lodge. Maybe they now work a shift that prevents them from attending lodge meetings. Maybe we can schedule a Zoom gathering on the weekend. Technology gives us a chance to reach out to our members. It can help us to keep in touch. Sitting in a meeting is great for many of us. Others may not want to or cannot attend. Let's use technology to expand the ways we can be brothers to each other. Let's combine new ways with the old ones as we strive to live by the tenets of our Fraternity.

Wor. Richard Thompson is the Secretary of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge and a Mason who is always looking for new ways to practice Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.





District Deputy Grand Marshall of the 12th District, current Most Wise Master of Valley of Lowell Rose Croix, and Master of Cochichewick Lodge in North Andover, Wor. Shawn Smith rides his 2013 Harley Davidson Police edition Electra Glide, "retired" from Newburyport Police Department, to Masonic Open Houses, promotions, and membership events. It has been painted by Ron Weed of Weed Studios in Lowell and the photos are by Off Camber Produkshuns.

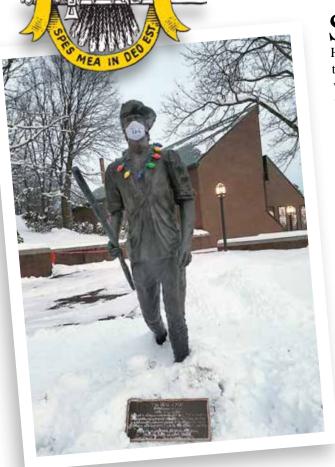




TROWEL 🛛 WINTER 2020-21

Scottish Rite Serves December Dinner

by Bro. Brian McHale



S aturday, December 19th, 2020. 4pm. You can see the lights before you turn into the entrance to The Scottish Rite Headquarters in Lexington. The glowing hockey pucks line the road, blinking in hues of red, yellow, and blue. They are visible up the entire hill, creating an otherworldly sight, not unlike a landing strip at an airfield. I would not be surprised to see Santa and his sleigh, led by his eight reindeer (nine, if the weather deems it necessary). The statue on the right is draped in lights that blink, and the same are draped upon the animated participants of this special evening's event.

We are directed up the hill, where Bro. Wally greets us at the summit. The lights around his neck match his cheerful demeanor. Commander in Chief 'Cappy' Capobianco greets us as well, while he curates the music from his pickup truck. I thank him personally for his PPE project that he undertook for the Overlook. The next tent on the right, staffed by two gracious people, took our name and placed a yellow paper onto the windshield denoting the type and quantity of our dinners.

The tent at the left turn foisted upon us a large white handled bag with three ham dinners, each with ham (obviously), smashed 'taters, and squash. Utensils are included in the bag to facilitate our feast. Everyone helping is decked out in their Christmas finest, braving the cold, yet brimming with enthusiasm. Rounding the turn, the next stop bestowed upon us an apple pie. The choice of egg nog or apple cider followed. We chose the cider.

Scottish Rite One Day Class Coming

by Wor. Lee H. Fenn 32°

I love going to my Lodge, Mount Olivet in Cambridge, MA. It is a place where I can see friends, often have a good meal, and be reminded that I can be a better man. It is a place where I can shut off my phone and just enjoy the night with the fellows. My wife knows we are not up to no good and it is time for me to recharge and redirect myself toward the virtues on display in the ritual.

I thought my Lodge was enough, and it really is. But at a certain point, I started wondering if there was more I could learn. I had heard from a friend about Scottish Rite. Of course, I had heard about it all over Freemasonry, but I had also heard about a bunch of other groups of Masons doing wonderful things. But this friend spoke to me about the degrees, there are 29 of them, and that they are all more like stage plays.

We all have been initiated. We have climbed through the three degrees of Freemasonry. Hopefully, we have heard the ritual countless times. I was consistently surprised by the ritual. It has been different every time. As I have grown, so has my understanding of what we are about.

There comes a moment when we need more. Many of my Brothers knew they needed more right after becoming Masons. For me, it was later.

When I joined Scottish Rite, I was excited. I went from



Above: Santa helping with the dinner Below: The dinner given away at Scottish Rite **Right**: Rt. Wor. Eugene "Cappy" Capobianco with Drea Couture, a fine Scottish Rite woman.

being the main player, though the least informed, in the drama of the first three degrees, to enjoying the company of other Masons watching a dramatization of historical and biblical situations that are edifying and uplifting. Within the drama, there is morality - sometimes exemplary, at other times despicable tension, and always, always, Freemasonry. It is there symbolically, explicitly, or through inference, but the principals from the first three degrees are everywhere in the Scottish Rite degrees.

As a member of Scottish Rite, I have the opportunity to be part of the show. Like theater, there are parts on stage, offstage, and in the control booth. Some of the degrees have been filmed for viewing all around the country. All the joy of working on a project with other Masons are for the having in Scottish Rite. While I have not participated yet, I know that when my sons are in college, I will have the time and would love to participate. For now, I participate as an



Something about the calories. The beverage attendants did have very specific suggestions for livening up the 'nog.

Santa himself bounded forth from the adjacent tent, offering us a choice of popcorn or a gingerbread house. I selected the house, kit and all. I did pause to look 'round for his sleigh, but it was nowhere in sight. The final tent capped our magical little jaunt by giving us a stocking filled with goodies. Said goodies included glow sticks, bells on strings, mints, candy canes, M&M's, and Scottish Rite face masks.

I must thank Boston Commandery #2 for treating my family to this delightful meal. Thanks go to the Scottish Rite Family Life for this detour into Christmas magic. It was a welcome respite from a world on fire. For a few minutes, everything was okay. Thank you again to everyone who made this possible.

appreciative member of the audience, supplying my Brothers with their opportunity for excellence on stage.

Many fine Masons have been raised in one day classes for the first three degrees. In Scottish Rite, the one-day class is very different. You get to see a good number of degrees. They are all standalone, unlike the first three degrees. You will see the 32nd Degree of the Sublime Prince and then be a 32nd Mason. Also, you will get to meet many other Scottish Rite Masons. Some new, some old, some from the stage, and some in the leadership. I went through a one-day class and enjoyed every minute of it.

Now, I see the degrees every chance I get. When the pandemic is over, and it will end, I will participate more in Scottish Rite. For more information about the Spring 2021 One Day Class, visit www.highermasonry.org.



THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

DONORS DURING 2020

The Grand Master's Appeal is the foundation of the charitable and educational programs of Massachusetts Freemasonry. Each year, your Grand Master encourages every Massachusetts Mason to make a tax-deductible donation to support programs such as the Brotherhood Fund, Grand Lodge Scholarship Program, the Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library, and many other great and important undertakings. In 2020, we received 2,200 contributions from more than 1,500 Brothers and friends totaling \$320,000. The following is a list of donors whose cumulative giving throughout the year totaled \$50 or more. There were also over 400 contributors who donated fewer than \$50. Their contributions totaled more than \$10,000. To everyone who gave a gift to the Grand

Master's Appeal: Thank you very much! Because of you, we are able to help others every single day.

I am very appreciative of the support we have received, but it does not diminish the continuing need for the Relief we can provide. Please consider a donation within the length of your cable-tow to the 2021 Grand Master's Appeal as part of your charitable giving this year. A convenient reply envelope has been included in this magazine for your use. Thank you for your time and for your consideration. And thank you for everything you do on behalf of Massachusetts Freemasonry!

Sincerely & fraternally, Most Worshipful Richard Maggio, Grand Master

\$30,000 OR GREATER

Boston Lafayette Lodge of Perfection^{BF, Y}

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While we appreciate all donations to the Craft, gifts in memory of our departed Brothers are particularly meaningful. Just as these Brothers practiced the tenet of Relief during their lives, their passing inspired others to make a contribution in their memory. We are honored to be part of their legacy.

\$1000 TO \$1732

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FORTITUDE

by Bro. Brian McHale

Courage, especially when facing pain or adversity. This is how a dictionary defines fortitude, the third of our four cardinal virtues. The other virtues are prudence, justice, and temperance. These are part of classic philosophy and help us guide our lives and the decisions we face. In light of the events of the past 11 months, this virtue has been one we have all utilized, whether we did so consciously or not.

Adversity has plagued all of us for months and months now, to varying degrees. Our courage has been tested, again and again, on a seemingly daily basis. As much as I hope none of you has had to overcome pain, I know that it has been an unavoidable reality, and for that I am truly sorry. For some, the pain has been literal, visceral in nature. It may have been physical due to the contraction of the virus itself or emotional due to the loss of a loved one due to the virus or other circumstances.

Fortitude allows us to persevere in spite of these obstacles. It may be as simple as finding the will to get out of bed in the morning and go to a job that has less than safe working conditions. Many people work on the so-called front lines, where they are exposed to scores of people. My utmost respect and regard goes to the people whose profession is in a facility that provides healthcare, such as a hospital. Others work in less obvious arenas such as grocery stores, while others are teachers whose schools have decided to employ in-person learning.

This virtue is deliberate, not daring. It is brave and courageous, but not foolish. It is always wearing a mask, but walking in the opposite direction of everyone else toward the place where help is needed. It is doing what is right, even if it goes against the grain of what you normally do. It is the power to forge ahead despite daunting obstacles. It is a group of volunteers, braving the cold, putting together Christmas dinners in the parking lot of the Scottish Rite Headquarters in Lexington on a Saturday evening in December in order to bring smiles and some joy to families fortunate enough to participate.

It is COVID vaccines on a snowy highway in Oregon. On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, motorists found themselves stranded on Highway 199 due to severely inclement weather. Josephine County Public Health Staff and Volunteers were among the unlucky group. They had just come from administering vaccines, and had a few doses remaining that would have expired while they were stuck in the snow. Rather than allowing this to occur, they braved the elements, going car to car, injecting surprised drivers who accepted their offer.

It is U.S. Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman.

During the riot in the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, Officer Goodman single handedly led a mob of rioters away from the Senate Chamber. The rioters chased him up a flight of stairs. Goodman, a 41 year-old Army Veteran, was all alone versus the mob. His quick thinking and decisive action saved the lives of those inside. He escorted Vice-President elect Kamala Harris at the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2021.

Fortitude is Desmond Thomas Doss. He was a WWII Army Combat Medic who refused to carry a weapon. Despite being asked to quit, Doss believed in the cause of this war and persevered despite abuse from other soldiers. In Okinawa, at the Battle at Hacksaw Ridge, Private Doss saved the lives of 75 men over a 12 hour period. He kept saying to himself, "Help me get one more." He lowered the men to safety by rope after rescuing them from the field

of battle so other medics could tend to their injuries. He was twice awarded the Bronze Star for his incredible deeds. President Harry Truman presented Mr. Doss with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1945.

Fortitude shows itself in other ways as well. It is students who must look after their siblings, and attend remote learning, so their parents can work. It is students as young as 6th or 7th grade who must navigate the Boston trains and buses to attend school, some traveling for as long as 45 minutes to an hour one way. It is the students

who are responsible for going to the food bank for their family, during COVID, sibling in tow, so their family can eat for a few days. It is the two students who had to go into a shelter with their mom on Thursday. Their request to the school district was not for sympathy, but for hotspots so the girls would not miss any school.

The unseen nature of COVID and its stealth delivery system is cause for stress whether we acknowledge it or not. It is not as easily addressed as an open wound or a purely visible foe. Masons have continued to be Masons in spite of these conditions. As the Copy Editor of this fine publication, I pore over every story printed. Countless times have I been awed and proud to read of the charitable endeavors of the Brothers in Massachusetts. Some of my favorites include when an award recipient has been surprised by a coterie of Brethren visiting his home to bestow the honor upon him. Other ones that give me pause are the Brothers who ensure that those unable to do so for themselves are provided with food. This charity of thought and deed, despite challenges, is what Masonry is to its core. Fortitude is what makes it possible.

Charles W. Moore Lodge and the 22nd Work Through Weird Year

by Bro. Joseph Firmani

In a year that we can classify as just weird, organizations like ours that pride themselves on charity and community service have certainly had to adapt. The brethren of Charles W. Moore Lodge in Fitchburg, MA, along with the support of the entire 22nd Masonic District have done just that. We have teamed up with local and international businesses to give a helping hand to our community in a time when it has been needed more than ever. We have stayed safe yet visible, stayed active, and continue to have an impact.

CWM Lodge Supplies Socks

The socks were donated through collaboration with the local non-profit Operation Service in Fitchburg, MA and The Bombas Sock Company. Bombas' Mission is to help those experiencing homelessness. For every item that is purchased, they donate an item. Through this same venture, Charles W. Moore also plans to donate an additional 750 pairs of socks to the local elementary schools, and 1000 socks to those in need because these motivated men worked hard to coordinate with other organizations and made it



Left to Right: Wor. Michael Cook and President of Fitch/Leom Shrine Club, Noble Karl Edmands delivered 250 pairs of socks to the Pepperell Senior Center, represented by Susan McCarthy.

happen. "Being able to coordinate our desire to support our community with an organization like Bombas Sock Co. and the network Charles W. Moore Masonic Lodge and the Fitchburg/Leominster Shrine Club were able to bring to the table made this a seamless transition from idea to completion. It was a pleasure to work with all these great organizations and make it happen," Bro. Joe Firmani, Director of Operation Service.



CWM Spends Spare Time

In our spare time, we supported local businesses and met for breakfast, outdoors, at a social distance, giving us the opportunity to check up, check in, and see if everyone was okay. We are happy to say this was attended most times by multiple districts. To round out our year, over 200 gifts were collected and provided to underprivileged children throughout our district and we assisted in the distribution of over 600 Christmas trees provided to our US military servicemen, women, and families at no charge as a thank you for their service and sacrifice.

None of this could happen without the bond and determination of the 22nd District, to step up when other community organizations took a back seat when our community needed them the most. It did not happen without the love and support of our families and we cannot thank them enough. We made it clear that the 22nd is here and ready. We all can find a way to help and stay active while staying safe and following all state and CDC guidelines. I cannot thank the brethren of Charles W. Moore, Aurora, Wilder, St. Paul, Hope and Artisan Lodges more for showing our community why we are here.



CWM Delivers 50 Cases of Chips

Saturday, Oct 16th, the brethren teamed up again, this time with Ajinomoto Cambrooke in Ayer, MA. Cambrooke produces medical formulas and foods for the management of a variety of medical conditions. Bro. Michael Firmani (not shown), and Bro. Karl Edmands delivered 50 cases (1200 bags) of chips to Ginny's Food Bank in Leominster, MA, represented by Manager Brandon Robbins. "Even in a pandemic, Charles W. Moore Lodge still finds ways to assist families in need. A true team effort and great organizations to work with, further cementing charity as the cornerstone of our lodge and our district," said Wor. Michael Cook, Master of Charles W, Moore Lodge.



CWM Lodge Adopts Island

Over the summer we adopted an island on a main drag in Fitchburg. We had support from our brethren from Hope Lodge and St. Paul Lodge, both in Gardner MA, and over several weekends we did clean up, landscaping, and now maintain what we feel is the best island in the city, managed 100% by Masonic volunteers!

HOW DO YOU SIGN YOUR NAME?

by Rt. Wor. Steve Cohn

We have all seen it, a signature that is all scribbles or a squiggly line. What does that say about the person? Sure, it is one thing for that style of signature to be on a letter where the actual name is printed just below it or to signify an approval of a voucher. It is a different situation when a lodge officer is signing a new Brother's Master Mason diploma or signing the member's register at the Tyler's desk. How many Brothers have looked at their diplomas from years back and wonder who those people were whose signatures are affixed? Sloppy but semi-legible handwriting is one thing, illegible handwriting is a whole different condition.

When an Officer signs a diploma, a members', or visitors' register, he is adding the history of the lodge to the document. Legibility is of the utmost importance. Have you seen a Grand Master's signature that cannot be read or understood? Probably not. They know what is at stake. If you are an Officer, sign your new Brother's diploma so your name can be read and understood. If you are a member, do the same thing with your lodge's members' register so you can be honestly counted among the members attending your meeting. Take some pride in your signature. Put your ego aside. It only takes an extra second or two to make it legible and readable, and not just a bunch of squiggles or a couple of bumps and a straight line. Your lodge and your new Brothers expect only your best effort.



Spotlight on Senior DeMolays: Bro. John Twigg



By Wor. Lee H. Fenn 32°, Bro. John (Jack) Twigg, with great appreciation for M. Wor. George P. Pulkkinen, editor of THE MAINE MASON magazine and their permission to use portions of their article on Bro. Twigg.

Bro. John (Jack) Twigg became a DeMolay in Andover, MA. In high school, a number of friends had become members and they said he may like to be a DeMolay. After a while, he became convinced. "They also mentioned that Rainbow Girls would be 'in the area'," recounted Bro. Twigg with a smile. In DeMolay, Bro. Twigg rose to become Master Counsellor at Essex Chapter in Lawrence, serving as a leader of others for the first time in his life. DeMolay taught him about communication skills, sharpened his mind, improved memory association with others, and he gained important leadership skills to solve problems. Most important by far, he notes, DeMolay built his teamwork skills to influence and encourage others and strengthen his loving family relationship to set his values for his adulthood convictions.

As he aged out of DeMolay, he honored the Dads of DeMolay. He saw that they were mostly Masons and was very impressed with them and their caring guidance. "My maternal step-grandfather was what I call a full-time Mason from Lowell. He spent most of his time socializing and playing cards with fellow 33rd degree Masons," Bro. Twigg remembered. "Of course, I received most of my fine teen guidance from my beautiful and helpful mother who was divorced and raising three sons. She told me, 'You will be the first college graduate in our family, and you will go to college!" At the time, Bro. Twigg had not given that much thought.

Bro. Twigg received a small scholarship from Andover Eastern Star, where his mother was a member. This was a huge help as there were no savings for any college. He worked summers tarring local mill roofing surfaces, digging graves, and in the smelly paper factories of Lawrence. He worked hard, but the hard work taught him that he wanted to do something better in his life, something other than laboring.

Bro. Twigg loved math and technical subjects. With the scholarship and money from summer jobs, he could afford the tuition at Lowell Technological Institute. Lowell Tech (now UMass Lowell) required students to join the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) for the first two years. "This turned out to be a wonderful blessing," he recalled. He was selected, and honored, to lead the whole ROTC student corps as its Commander in his senior year. He graduated in 1960 with a degree in Engineering and entered the

The Journey

By David P. Newcomb

The greatest journey a boy may take, Begins in DeMolay. This path may lead to Freemasonry, Where his Brothers are known to say,

One knocks on the door a stranger, Then discovers many friends. When one honors his obligations, His brotherhood never ends.

It started in my days of youth, When I first joined DeMolay. I laid my foundation for future years, Then joined Masonry straight-away.

In the eyes of our Heavenly Father, My hands on His Holy Book, I knelt at the DeMolay altar, And these are the vows I took. I vowed honestly and earnestly, To strive forevermore, To try to be a better son, Than I had ever been before.

To live a clean and moral life, Keeping mind and body free, From things that defile and debauch our youth, Serving God and humanity.

To obey the laws of our city and state, Defending our liberties, Holding freedom of conscience in high regard, In all my activities.

To be loyal to every Brother, To cheat or wrong them not. To seek to aid them in trouble or need, By act or word or thought.

To be tolerant in my opinions, Not hasty in judgement, but give A reasonable benefit of the doubt, A respectable way to live.



United States Air Force proudly with a commission as a Second Lieutenant. The leadership first experienced in DeMolay came into play for him in the Air Force. In 1973, as a result of the October Yom Kippur Israeli/Arab War, Lt. General James Stewart tasked him to build an organization to find a way to hide planes in the sky. Too many fine American strike aircraft, crewed by skilled Israeli pilots, were lost in that war.

He worked with Air Force and industry teams to find a solution. How do you hide a plane? "Our teams were directed to do the nearly impossible," said Bro. Twigg, but to the General, he said, "Yes sir, General," and moved on. The

teams were amazing. "They were so smart. The best engineers we could find. I really believe that no one is smarter than American engineers." In a top-secret facility, this former Senior DeMolay supervised technology efforts to allow the stealth fighter and bomber to be possible. It took perseverance, it took leadership, it took endurance, but he used every bit of his experience from DeMolay, to Freemasonry, to education, to work with a divergent team of experts to make the amazing new Stealth Air Force combat aircraft design culture possible.

Among his recognitions, Bro. Jack Twigg was awarded the Presidential Legion of Merit, the Secretary of Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and was promoted to Air Force Colonel. In 2015, he was awarded the Air Force Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award and has been inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame as a Pioneer of Stealth Research.

Currently, Bro. Twigg attends Bristol Mills Lodge, Maine and divides his time between Maine and Florida with his wife Marylou, without whom none of this would have been as wonderful.

To always honor womanhood, Staying loyal to all my Brothers, And permit no harm to ever come, To their sisters or their mothers.

Then, passing from youth to manhood, Mine eyes toward meridian sun, The opportunities still remained, And life had yet begun,

Again, I arrived at an altar, And began the Masonic degrees, The blessing of deity was invoked, As I knelt on bended knees.

I vowed to keep the secrets, Committed to me and then, Abide by all Fraternal laws, And become much better again.

I entered as an Apprentice, Then was raised - the Sublime Degree. More obligations and promises, Would make a better man of me. I learned to act within the length Of the cable tow, pray tell -Within scope of my abilities, A lesson that serves quite well.

This path to my richer and fuller life, I began in DeMolay. The obligations that I vowed Remain with me today.

How many have taken the journey, That started with DeMolay? I imagine that quite a few Brothers, Might feel the very same way.

I chose this great path long ago, A choice with no regret. I'm proud to be called "A Brother." Am I better off? You bet !!!

It's surely, a journey worth sharing. PASS IT ON whenever you can. DeMolay to Freemasonry -To become a better man.

FRATERNITY News & Events



Wor. Sebastian Napolitano, Bro. Stephen Napolitano, Rose Napolitano, Rt. Wor. Kenneth Brown, and Wor. Stanley Chu perform a driveway surprise.

Still Room for a Surprise

By now, most of us say to ourselves, "Are you kidding me?" when we think of how this pandemic has affected us. But as we are taught that we came into the world rational and intelligent beings, we can also be innovative ones. Rt. Wor. Kenneth L. Brown, DDGM of the 5th Masonic District, had an important award to present, but how? The award was a Grand Lady Service Award for Rose Napolitano, so Rt. Wor. Bro. Brown contacted her husband, Bro. Steve Napolitano, to brainstorm this problem. They decided to tell Rose that the District Deputy would be stopping by to give Steve a 35-year pin, since he was not attending Dalhousie Lodge very often these days. On the evening of November 5th, Rt. Wor. Bro. Brown and Marshal Wor. Mark Collins, and Secretary Wor. Robert Caron drove to the Napolitano home in Westwood. They met in the driveway and Steve told Rose the District Deputy liked to have the spouse and family present for such presentations, so Rose was not really surprised when she saw a few other Dalhousie Lodge members present.

As all assembled in the driveway, Rt. Wor. Bro. Brown asked his Marshal to bring Bro. Napolitano and his wife Rose forward. As Rt. Wor. Bro. Brown asked his Marshal to hand him the award, Wor. Bro. Collins said there must be some mistake, he had no award for Bro. Napolitano, but he did have something else. The District Deputy then proceeded to explain the Grand Lady Service Award to Rose Napolitano and present her the certificate. He handed the pin to Bro. Steve who pinned it on her dress. Rose was equally surprised and overwhelmed by the honor and thanked all present profusely.

For many years, Rose was there to help her husband Steve and her son Sebastian in their Dalhousie Lodge undertakings. But the endeavor that really interested Rose was the Greater Boston Children's Dyslexia Center located right in the Newton Masonic Building. Now a charity of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the Children's Dyslexia Centers are 47 strong around the country, but they all started in Newton when the late M. Wor. J. Philip Berquist, past Grand Master, and past Master of Dalhousie Lodge, founded the Children's Learning Center in 1992. For those years of support to and fundraising for the Center, the Master of Dalhousie Lodge nominated Rose Napolitano for the Grand Lady Service Award, and despite this pandemic, it was given to her in a surprise presentation she will never forget.

-Wor. Robert Caron



A Warren for Rt. Wor. Bro. Belyea

Brethren from William Sutton Lodge make a special presentation to a local resident, Wor. Steve Belyea (second from left). Rt. Wor. Alan Welch (on left) made the presentation of the prestigious Joseph Warren Medal to Wor. Bro. Belyea. Wor. Todd Galarneau (2nd from right), the Master of William Sutton Lodge and Wor. John Cole (on right), Secretary, are present. *-Wor. Todd Galarneau*

Turnaround Is Fair Play

On Thursday evening, October 1st, Rt. Wor. Christopher A. Tonini was presented the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Medal for his exemplary service to Wisdom Lodge, the 31st District, our Grand Lodge, and to his community by Rt. Wor. Joshua D. Hall, DDGM. Chris is a 25-year member of Wisdom Lodge, has served four terms as its Master, and presently serves as Treasurer and Lead Ambassador. He is a member of various lodge and building committees and is a member of the building trust. He is also an affiliated and active member of Cincinnatus and Occidental Lodges. He has served two District Deputies in various capacities, as well as being a certified instructor for the 31st District Lodge of Instruction. He served a year as a Grand Steward and is a member of both Grand Lodge Membership and Receivership Committees. In December of 2019, he completed a third term as District Deputy Grand Master for the 31st District and is also a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Boston.

He has been dedicated and instrumental in organizing and promoting district events and is well respected for his efforts. In the last three years, Chris has arranged several well-attended family outings to baseball, hockey, and theater venues. He has served as co-chair and chairman for the 31st District's annual gala. He is always there to help, whether with his time or with his talent. He has been a driving force for Wisdom Lodge's annual golf tournament benefitting Soldier On and its food pantry, as well as Monument Mountain Regional High School's Nature's Classroom scholarship fund. This past year's golf tourna-



Envision Better Days

By Bro. Peter Colwell

When you find yourself pining, for a silver lining, But can only see that "dark cloud"... Take stock of what's working, Not the dangers out lurking, And speak these bold words loud and proud:

"Better days are ahead for my family and me, This I declare with certainty! My confidence comes from unshaken belief, That God's on our side and will soon send relief."

It's a matter of time until things turn around. Until that day comes, keep your feet on the ground. Connect with the earth and all of its beauty. Help those in need—it's our call to duty!

Life is a series of valleys and peaks. Peaks can last days . . . and valleys last weeks. Use this time wisely and patiently wait, Preparing yourself for a life that is GREAT!

ment raised \$4,000 to aid local food pantries and first responders fighting Covid-19.

He has been instrumental in planning annual Holiday Family and Widow's dinners, personally delivering meals and poinsettias to the lodge widows and shut-ins unable to attend.

Community and youth involvement have been extensive. Chris served a five-year term as a member of the West Stockbridge Planning Board, two terms as a member of the Cemetery Commission, and is a former member of the West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Service. In his service to youth, he has been an ice hockey coach, a youth soccer coach, and an announcer for the local high school soccer program. A self-employed home remodeling contractor, specializing in kitchens, baths, and tile work, he and his wife run a general building and remodeling business in West Stockbridge, MA, where they reside.

In a turnaround, Rt. Wor. Bro. Tonini immediately reversed the tables and made a surprise presentation in the form of a Daniel Carter Beard Award to Rt. Wor. Joshua D. Hall, DDGM for the 31st District on behalf of Wisdom Lodge, Occidental Lodge, and Grand Lodge. The Daniel Carter Beard award is the highest award bestowed on behalf of scouting and is presented to Eagle Scouts for distinguished and outstanding service in scouting. Rt. Wor.

\$100 TO \$286 (CONTINUED)

Herbert I. Kepnes in Memory of Jason Orlov Douglas L. Kimble^{BF} Arthur M. Kinne H. Lee Kirk Jr. Earl R. Kittredge John E. Knowles Peter T. Knox Constantine N. Kossifos Liam J. Kraemer Ward R. Kraemer Glenn L. Kubick David R. Lee John R. Lilley II Francis J. Lindquist Richard P. Lints Jason J. Lipner^{BF} Philip Lirk Edwin R. Lofgren Norman G. Long William R. Long Clark B. Loth^{BF} Bradford W. Luther Jr. Dean R. Luxton Noah Lydiard Robert A. MacDougall Ian C. Mackenzie Timothy D. MacLellan Wayne D. Maggio Malden Square And Compass Club^{BF} Stephen C. Malita Alan V. Malkasian Paul S. Maney Steve P. Marangoudakis Henry S. Marc Warren L. Marcy Bruce T. Marshall^{BF} Douglas T. Martin Rav Martin Jr. Raymond R. Mason Kenneth M. Matthews James T. McAloney IIIBF Samuel R. McClure Jr.BF Howard R. McGlauflin Allan T. McIntosh Michael E. McKeen Donald J. McKinnon^{BF} Robert J. McNary Richard F. Merrill Jr.BF

Calvin E. Metcalf^{BF} in memory of Wor. Robert S. Bean Jr. Chris G. Metros Carl C. Metzler^{BF} Benedict J. Miceli Randy Miselis Eric P. Moir John J. Moore Kenneth J. Moore Arthur A. Morneau Thomas A. Morris III Eugeniu Mosac Stephen B. Munier Richard L. Munroe Christopher W. Murray Alexander J. Newlands Wayne O. Newton Roger E. Nicoll Hugh R. Nisbet^{BF} Philip A. Nowlan^{BF} Scott P. Nussey Robert J. O'Neill Alan E. Otash Randall C. Oxley David E. PaceBF Evan Pantelopoulos John L. Patten Pequossette Lodge^{BF} Roland A. Perkins Donald L. Peterson^{BF} Ulrick Petit-Homme Albert A. Petrulis David M. Petto Guillaume Pfefer Donald F. Phillips Everett G. Pierce Lawrence E. Piper Jr.BF Michael T. Polito Alexander R. PopeBF William C. Powers Philip A. Prairie Pulpit Rock Lodge #103BF in memory of Wor. Robert S. Bean Jr. George S. Pultz Thomas Purcell^{SCL} in memory of Kenneth C. Crouch Juan R. Ramos Douglas P. Rankin IISP James K. Ray^{BF}

William A. Reid Everett H. Rhodes Richard W. Rhuda Jr.BF Paul F. RicciardiBF W. Warren Richardson Jr.BF John C. Robinson Jr. Norman L. Robinson^{BF} W. Gordon Rogerson Robert C. Rohlfs Thomas A. Rorrie^{BF} Charles E. Rouleau Sr. Judd A. Rowe^{BF} David F. Russell Richard H. Ryder^{BF} Daniel F. Rypysc Charles A. Saarisp Louis G. Sardina M. Robert Sarkisian George J. Sarmaniote Jonathan E. Sawyer Timothy M. Sawyer Uwe Schneider^{BF} Clinton E. Schneyer Jr. Wayne L. Schofield John W. Schutack Karl O. Schwartz Donald B. Scott Robert S. Sedlacek Robert M. Selby Brian R. Sewall Liam J. Seward^{BF, SP} John F. Shelby Douglas M. Sibbald David J. Silva Richard J. Simpson Robert C. Simpson Leon H. Small Peter M. SmithBF Foster L. G. Soule Dennis Souweine^{BF} Robert E. Staples^{SP} Kurt D. Staven^{BF} John G. Steeves Kenneth A. Stein Bruce G. Stephens Robert R. Stocks Stanley I. Strachman Gloria F. Streeter William & Carol Sullivan^{BF} in memory of Robert A. Bloom

Raymond F. Sundstrom Jr. Roy T. Swanfeldt^{BF} Robert J. Sweet Jr. Robert W. Taupier Walter F. Tennant Gordon D. Terry George Terzides Theodore P. Theodores Alex Thiongo Harold D. Thomas William A. Thompson Jr. John H. Thornhill III Richard G. Thrasher Frederick L. Tibbetts Christopher A. Tonini Lawrence D. Tonini Sidney L. Toombs John A. Torrisi John Craig Toto Paul Tremblay^{BF} Robert A. Trotter Frederick G. Trudell John E. VanKuilenburg Robert F. Verdonck Keith M. Vicari^{BF} Leo G. Walcott^{BF, SP} Robert G. Wallace Rufus R. Ward^{BF} Watermark^{BF} James Watt Jr. Paul D. Watts Bruce D. Wedlock David L. Weil Herman R. Weinberg Richard R. WenderothBF Mark L. West Ronald W. Wetmore^{SP} Raymond A. Whipple Jr. D. Roger Whitehead Edward R. Wiest^{BF} Philip J. Wildman William S. Wilkinson^{SP} Richard A. Willette John E. Williams Robert B. Williams^{BF} Gary W. Wing Brian C. Winsor^{BF} David S. Wirkala Sylvester M. Wrenn Jr. Clifford E. Young

29 Main St. Thrift Store James T. Aaron Robert E. Abourjaily Richard A. Adams Ludwig Alban^{BF, SP} Stephen E. Allen Donald E. Almstrom Karl J. Anderson Lawrence J. Anderson

Robert J. Anderson Jr. Arthur A. Appelstein Lokman S. Arran Harold F. Arthur^{BF}

Richard V. Aspen Michael A. Assad^{BMB} Harry N. Atamian Ayebi Atsin^{sp} Arthur M. Ayotte Robert J. Bach Kenneth K. Bailey Jr. Michael D. Bailow Philip L. Balboni Hector G. Ballester Robert W. Balliett Edward J. Banzy Claude A. Barden Wendell P. Barthelmes Jr. Donald A. Bates Alex G. Becket David R. Beckman Rex A. Berkey^{BF} Candido M. Berrios-Perez Edward A. Berube Jr. Douglas E. Best^{SP} Earl H. Bethune^{BF} *continued on page 28*

\$50 TO \$99



Gage McRoy and his older sister Kayla McRoy. She spearheads the Mentorship Program for Adults with Autism to promote community inclusion.

Quinebaug Lodge Participates in Mentor Program for Young Adults with Autism

On Friday, November 20, 2020, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge held its first "Mentor Program for Young Adults with Autism" movie night. COVID-19 rules were followed, masks were required, and social distancing guidelines enforced. Back in February 2020, an informational presentation was held at the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge and the guest speaker was Kayla McRoy, Assistant Director at Nonotuck Resource Associates. Kayla's inspiration for this initiative is her younger brother Gage, who has autism. Her fiancé, Bro. Benjamin Marinelli, is a Master Mason and member of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. After this presentation, several Master Masons volunteered to be mentors for this program. Kayla's goal and hope are to get other Masonic Lodges in the state involved in this mentorship program.

Kayla applied for and received a grant through Suffolk University. With the grant money she was able to donate a projector and screen to be able to start her Mentor's Partnership Program with a special movie night at the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge. This mentor program will help to increase community access for young adults with autism and to grow meaningful relationships in the community. Her idea was to start with a movie night and to get the Masons involved with community integration, inclusion, and socialization for adults with special needs. The events are a lot of fun and a great opportunity to communicate with Freemasons.

If you would like more information about this program, please contact Kayla directly at mcroy@nonotuck. com. If you would like to learn more about autism, please visit www.autismspeaks.org. If you would like to learn more about shared living and adult family care, please visit Nonotuck Resources Associates at www.nonotuck.com.

-Bro. Vincenzo Jimmy Falzone



Super donor Bro. Scott Tynell donating with Bro. Richard Wenderoth, the Blood Program Chairman.

The Gift of Life

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, blood centers across the country have been severely impacted and there has been a significant drop in blood donations. With Cape Cod Healthcare experiencing a severe drop in their donations due to blood drive cancellations and concerns about safety, Marine Lodge stepped up and sponsored seven blood drives from September thru December to assist with the cause. The drives were done by appointment only, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols were strictly adhered to, and all drives were held at the John Wesley United Methodist Church in Falmouth. All Cape Cod Healthcare blood donations remain on the Cape to serve the community through Falmouth Hospital, Cape Cod Hospital, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and Nantucket Cottage Hospital. Marine Lodge became a Cape Cod Healthcare blood donor sponsor in May 2014, and since then, Bro. Scott Tynell, pictured here with Bro. Richard Wenderoth, the Blood Program Chairman standing by his side, has donated 35 units of blood and is the lodge's lead donor.

-Bro. Richard Wenderoth



Westfield Blue Lodge/ Springfield area Shriner

I have had my plate for about 2 years. While not as active with the Lodge or Shrine as I would like to be, when I drive from place to place I receive comments frequently about my plate.

Typically, it is a story about a family member, friend, or a service the Lodge, Shrine, or Hospital has performed. I see another MM plate at least weekly in the Springfield area. If promotion is the most I can do, it's the least I can do to keep doing it.

God Bless us all and may we all bless God in return. We are very fortunate. -Bro. Mark Bell

\$50 TO \$99 (CONTINUED)

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Christmas Rises at Phoenix Lodge

Due to the pandemic, Phoenix Lodge had to change the way we have interacted with the Salvation Army for over 40 years this past Christmas season. This year, we set up in front of the Lodge on Saturday, December 12th, from 10 am to 2 pm with Lt. Seven Varro (left) to receive gifts for those the Salvation Army serves. Before the afternoon was over, Bruce MacGregor (center), Master of Phoenix Lodge, was able to present Lt. Varro and Dustin Richardson (right), \$3,500 along with many toys and gift cards. This was the first year we reached out to the community and they responded. *-Bro. Jonathan H. Bond*



Johnston Award for Wor. Wildman

Local Masons at William Sutton Lodge honor Worshipful Kevin Wildman (pictured on the right) with the Robert Johnston Award for outstanding service. Rt. Wor. Alan Welch, DDGM for the 4th Masonic District made this presentation. Wor. Bro. Wildman has devoted many years to our lodge, the Boy Scouts, and the local food pantry. Part of his efforts resulted in William Sutton Lodge donating over \$1,000 to the Saugus and Everett food banks in the last year.

-Wor. Todd Galarneau



Rising Star Collecting Blood

Despite frigid temperatures and the new COVID protocols for collecting blood products, Rising Star Lodge in the 7th Masonic District hosted a very successful Blood and Food Drive on Sunday, January 24th. They filled every single available donation slot and the Dana Farber Bloodmobile drove away that evening very happy with 40 units of life-giving blood. Additionally, the Lodge Officers collected numerous bags of food items which will be distributed to the needy families in the Stoughton area. Congratulations to the Rising Star Brethren and to the 7th District for a very successful and worthy event. *-Rt. Wor. Gordon Craig*

Joseph Warren For Rt. Wor. Craig W. Claffin

On December 1, 2020, Rt. Wor. Michael S. Cavanagh, DDGM for the 22nd District, presented the Joseph Warren Distinguished Service Award to Rt. Wor. Craig W. Claflin of Wilder Lodge in Leominster. The ceremony was attended by Rt. Wor. Bro. Claflin's Father, wife, daughter, son-in-law, son (Bro. Conner Claflin), and grandson. Rt. Wor. Eddie Savage, Past DDGM and Warren Medal recipient, traveled from the 25th District to personally convey his congratulations. Wor. Paul Dixon and Wor. Gary Petit of Wilder Lodge were able to gather the lodge brothers together and keep this ceremony a secret until the Claflin family was conducted into the lodge. *-Rt. Wor. Michael S. Cavanagh*



<image><image>

Holistic Programming for 2021 and Beyond

The Overlook has a vision to expand beyond its singular use as a retirement community into a popular mixeduse environment, attracting chefs, artisans, select retailers, educators, programs, and visitors of all ages from the surrounding region and beyond. Tameryn Campbell, President and CEO of Masonic Health System, knows that "making the Overlook a destination retirement community for the next generation of retirees will require maximizing desirable amenities that baby boomers want and expect, creating even more culinary options and offering activities, events, and recreation that are also open to the public."

In the aftermath of COVID-19, the Overlook will begin a robust 10 to 20-year master planning process. Master planning involves big thinking, blue sky brainstorming, and creative and innovative visioning. It considers and studies what is going on in the town, the surrounding region, the senior living and other industries, both locally, nationwide, and even globally. It takes a comprehensive look at our Overlook/MHS community philosophy and programming. Rather than tackle one random improvement after another, a solid master plan can be used by boards and leadership to ensure a thoughtful, systematic, and financially prudent approach to revitalizing their campuses.

Campbell passionately believes that "seniors and people in general aren't designed to sit idly or be isolated in a remote setting. COVID-19, more than ever, has helped to underscore the importance of connection and the need to create a more sustainable business model that can be magnified and shared with Overlook residents and beyond." The Overlook's programs and vision for the future will be enhanced to further promote wellness and encourage an even more active lifestyle for our Overlook residents and people of all ages.

The Overlook is becoming a community within a community. The Overlook's sprawling land, existing buildings, plethora of enrichment activities, network of hiking trails, mushroom farm, 'Senior Moment' Brewery, historical hotel, and barn - all of these amenities and more will help the Overlook become a central contributor to Charlton's increased commerce stream while designing a more robust view of what senior living can and should look like! Imagine the Overlook, further connected to nature and wellness, full of fresh food, fresh air, and focused on wellbeing. We are pleased to introduce the Overlook's Total Wellness Program, with a primary goal of engaging the community, nourishing the body, and fulfilling the purpose of each resident who lives at the Overlook.

The program focuses on the seven dimensions of wellness: emotional, environmental, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual, and features a wellness road map, educational materials, weekly programs, and specialty events within its life enrichment, fitness, culinary, care coordination, and health transitions departments. The culinary services department at the Overlook has embraced this initiative and is moving forward with a heartier emphasis on wellness, seeking local sources of fresh food, and expanding its dining venues. The Overlook will also be hiring a certified dietitian who will work with the culinary department. supporting and guiding Overlook's residents, team members, and future food venues. As the old saying goes, "You are what you eat," and we are determined to provide fresh, locally sourced food to feed the bodies, minds, and spirits of our Overlook family and friends. The culinary experience at the Overlook will be an active process that encompasses wellness at its core.

The Overlook fitness center staff will also be highlighting specialty exercises, featuring a workout of the week, as well as coordinating with educators to host holistic seminars and workshops tied to a monthly theme and the dimensions of wellness. seven Examples include laughter and feelgood tips and techniques, nutritional recommendations, cooking classes, heart-healthy recipes of the week, spiritual practices, cultural, and intellectual events. Also available to residents and surrounding neighbors is an extensive hiking trail system, with guided hikes on Overlook's over 400 acres of land.

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LIFE - You Can Make a Difference!

by Rt. Wor. Robert F. Stanley

Life is the most precious thing known to humanity. Each day we read or hear of some new study about what is good or bad about it. The key to preserving life is prevention and moderation. Each year over 1,000,000 Americans die from heart disease, over 53,000 people are killed in accidents, 500,000 have a stroke, and 150,000 Americans die from it. These staggering statistics have over the years given rise to questions. "Why?" "What can we do?" The why is not to place blame, but that accidents and illnesses do occur. Some are discoverable by examination and may be averted by taking steps in prevention. "What can we do?" may be answered by learning CPR and First Aid techniques in order to preserve life and provide emergency treatment.

What can an individual do when something does go wrong within the course of his or her life? The most common response is to pray and to call for help. Can something else be done until help arrives? The answer is a definite Yes! As the witness to an event, or if you discover the victim of an event, you can do something more than calling for help by learning the techniques of CPR, the use of an AED, and First Aid. By taking a course in CPR and the use of an AED, you will learn the ABCs of life and how to sustain that life until help arrives. The skills learned in First Aid will give you the confidence that when an accident occurs, you can properly act.

Many people who take a class often express concern that they cannot properly act when an emergency does occur. This is a common apprehension. Training in CPR, the AED, and First Aid replace the fear with confident abil-



ity to handle the situation. The main point made in any course of CPR, the AED, or First Aid, is the immediate call to 911 or the local emergency number. The person on the other end is often trained in CPR and First Aid and can guide you until help arrives. All courses, whether CPR or First Aid, should not be thought of as a one-time training event. Retraining is needed to retain the skills and to be kept up to date on new methods. A CPR course should be repeated at a minimum of once every two years and once every three years for First Aid.

One of the tenets of Freemasonry is charity. The greatest way to extend the hand of charity is to give of one's self. CPR and First Aid require only that you use your hands, your breath, and your training. All Lodge Officers should be trained in CPR, the AED, and First Aid. Should an event occur, proper action can be taken until help arrives. For further information, or if any Lodge, Masonic body, organization, or individual wishes to have training classes scheduled, please contact Wor. Robert F. Stanley of the Grand Lodge Service Committee at starsh@comcast.net, or by phone at (617) 921-8555. Remember, the life you save knowing CPR or First Aid may be a family member, a Brother, or your own.

Santa with his friends at Elm-Belcher Lodge.



Christmas Despite COVID for Elm-Belcher

Despite all of the havoc that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused over the last year, it could not dampen the holiday spirit at Elm-Belcher Lodge in Agawam, MA. On Sunday, December 20th, Elm-Belcher adapted to statewide restrictions and held its annual Children's Christmas Party via a socially distanced drive-up event. With festive outdoor decorations and a light snow falling, families drove up to the front of the lodge where Santa was there to greet them. While his elves loaded gifts into the vehicles, the children and families were able to talk to and take pictures with Santa, all at a safe distance. Along with the children and grandchildren of lodge members, the lodge also invited over 30 local children who have benefited from the Elm-Belcher Masonic Angel fund. Holiday cheer and countless smiles were in abundance as Santa was happy to inform the lodge that he had zero names on his Naughty List. *-Wor. Max Rubacha*

Turnaround continued from page 25

Bro. Hall is an area Scout Council leader and Scout Master, a member of Wisdom Lodge, Occidental Lodge and the Scouter's Lodge. He is also completing his first year as District Deputy Grand Master for the 31st District. He is a Past Master of Occidental Lodge and currently serves as its Secretary. He is a teacher at Lee Middle and High School, a local historian and curator for the Stockbridge, MA Library, and has been recognized as a Local 40 Under 40 Leader, which recognizes community leaders under 40 years of age. He is also a member of Stockbridge Grange P/H #295. Josh, his wife Rebecca, and their two sons reside in Pittsfield, MA. Side note - both of Josh's sons are also Boy Scouts. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions held a damper on what might have otherwise been a gala occasion that had to be masked. -Rt. Wor. Larry Tonini

Holistic Programming continued from page 30

Imagine the possibilities at the Overlook, centered around community and connection. An Overlook banquet and events center, hosting parties, weddings, proms, meaningful educational trainings and conferences, as well as restaurant venues with healthy, locally sourced, fresh, farm to table food, along with targeted retail, open to residents, team members, family, visitors, and the general public, attracting more people of all ages to Charlton and enabling the Overlook to further invest in its important mission over the coming decades. With Overlook's beautiful, rustic setting, combined with plenty of space for social distancing, and miles of nature trails that connect cottage homes, apartments, restaurants, arts, education, and businesses, the Overlook will surely set the new standard for senior living! -Tameryn Campbell

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