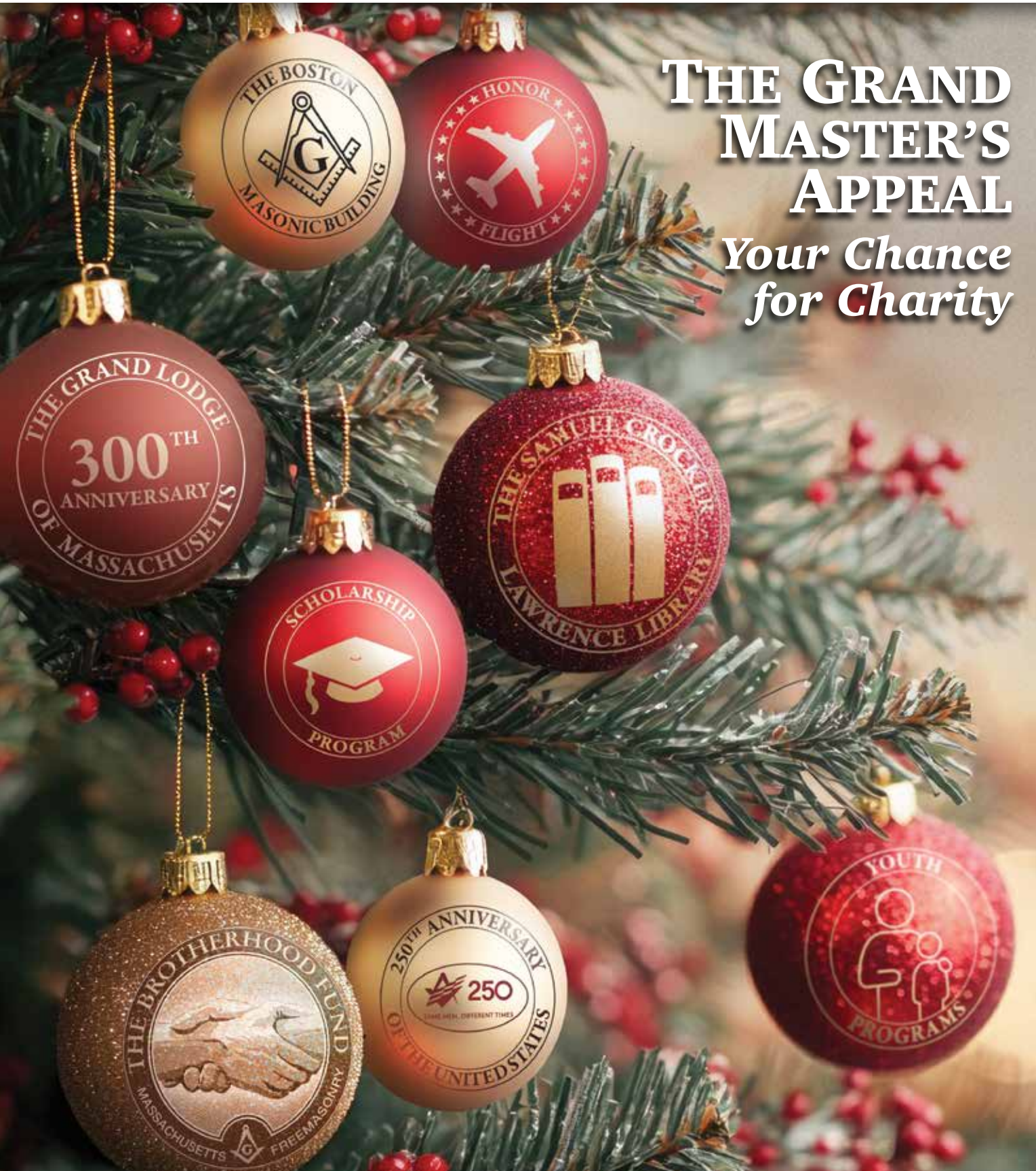


TROWEL

GRAND LODGE OF MASONS IN MASSACHUSETTS WINTER 2024-25

THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

*Your Chance
for Charity*





From the East of Grand Lodge
MOST WORSHIPFUL GEORGE HAMILTON

Brethren,

As the Grand Marshal, Lady Theresa, and I, prepared for our trip to South America in October, I read up on the history of our lodges in Central and South America. Wor. Bro. Ahern, our Grand Lodge Librarian, provided considerable reading material which I was able to read on our lengthy flight. Our Bethesda Lodge was chartered in 1853 in Valparaíso, Chile, some nine years before the efforts to establish a Grand Lodge in Chile. In 1862, there were four exclusively national lodges operating in the Spanish language in the country, and they were able to form the Grand Lodge of Chile in April, 1862. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was the first Grand Lodge to recognize them, and was soon followed by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. The Grand Lodge of Chile was headquartered in Valparaíso until 1906, when the devastating Valparaíso earthquake occurred. At that time, it was moved to the capital of Santiago.

It may seem strange to us in 2025, how such important Masonic business was conducted exclusively through correspondences. I read of M. Wor. Everett Benton's 18,000 mile trip to South America in 1913. He traveled with his wife and two teenage children by steamship for the purpose of constituting Sojourners Lodge in the Canal Zone. He also made visits to Masonic lodges in Peru and Chile, being the first Grand Master to visit our lodges in Chile, 60 years after Bethesda Lodge was chartered by our Grand Lodge, and 51 years after the Grand Lodge of Chile was recognized. There is a detailed account of his arrival in Valparaíso Bay aboard the SS Huasco on February 5th, and a photograph of his visit to Bethesda Lodge, February 8, 1913.

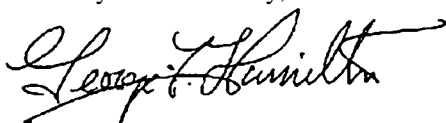
I am pleased to say that our fraternal relationship in Chile has continued to blossom in the years since. We were received at a special communication of the Grand Lodge of Chile, in Santiago, with over 470 Brethren in attendance. Most Worshipful Brother Sebastián Jans Pérez, is the Grand Master, in his second four-year term. With the aid of a Spanish interpreter, we were able to have a wonderful conversation, and I am hopeful that he will be able to join us for the Feast of Saint John next year. Their Grand Historian read an account of the creation of the Grand Lodge of Chile, and the long relationship between our Grand Lodges. They consider our Grand Lodge as their mother Grand Lodge. It was my honor to be made an honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Chile. In my remarks at the session, I could not help but comment on how much the Grand Lodge of Chile has prospered, with numerous lodges over the vast geography, and a magnificent Grand Lodge building in Santiago. There is no doubt that our forebearers in both Grand Lodges would be very proud of the Masonic Fraternity in Chile.

We were joined on the trip by the District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocarno, the Deputy District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Roberto Rodriguez, Past District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. John Bamber, and the District Grand Marshal, Bro. Pablo Amaris Reyes. It was our special privilege to attend a combined meeting of our lodges in Chile, held at the apartments of Bethesda Lodge in Valparaíso. We were greeted by the Worshipful Masters and Brethren of Huelen Lodge (Santiago, Chile), Bethesda Lodge (Valparaíso, Chile), and Saint John's Lodge (Concepcion, Chile).

We were able to layover in Panama on the flight to Chile. This allowed us to attend Fraternity Day at the Grand Lodge of Panama. They celebrated the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone laid for their Grand Lodge building. It was my honor to be made an honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Panama by the Grand Master, M. Wor. Galileo Ahumada.

This was an outstanding trip. To my brethren in Chile, as well as those in the District of Panama, I wish to express my heartfelt and sincere thanks for all the courtesies extended.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Most Worshipful George Forest Hamilton
Grand Master



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Most Worshipful George Hamilton



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The Joy of Freemasonry



"But who is the guy in the picture above your editorial?" joked Rt. Wor. Robert Carron, just before a Commandery Christmas Celebration. "I'd like to congratulate you on your ten years as Editor," wrote Rt. Wor. Bryan Simmons in an email. I have had many jobs, but at a certain point I wanted a career. I'd been a bike mechanic for years off and on, so

why not own a bike shop? I looked at the owner of the shop and remembered the owners of the other bike shops where I'd worked. I realized the owners were stressed. That stress often resulted in unhappiness.

I never noticed the picture above this editorial. When we go through an issue of TROWEL, the "send to the printer" button is also my "memory erase" button. All past issues, even ten years' worth, get erased. It appears, though I know it isn't true, that I've aged. I'm sure I'm still 24, but the new picture is evidence to the contrary.

When I look around at other grey-haired Brothers and the chrome domes like me, I notice the important element: they're smiling. They're happy, enjoying their time in Lodge and life. Many face a broad range of adversity in their daily lives. Life can be difficult. Yet, they are, by and large, happy people.

That joy, that thrill of living is one of the ancillary benefits of Freemasonry. We slowly, over the course of many Lodge communications, learn about virtue, charity, and many other positive attributes. Eventually, those words that we hear or memorize impact our actions and, therefore, our lives. Even the Masonic License Plate changes how we behave.

Those in our lives notice, sometimes slowly. The people in our workplaces, communities, and those we casually encounter see that joy. The joy of Freemasonry spreads to make everyone and everything better.

Fraternally, Lee H. Fenn

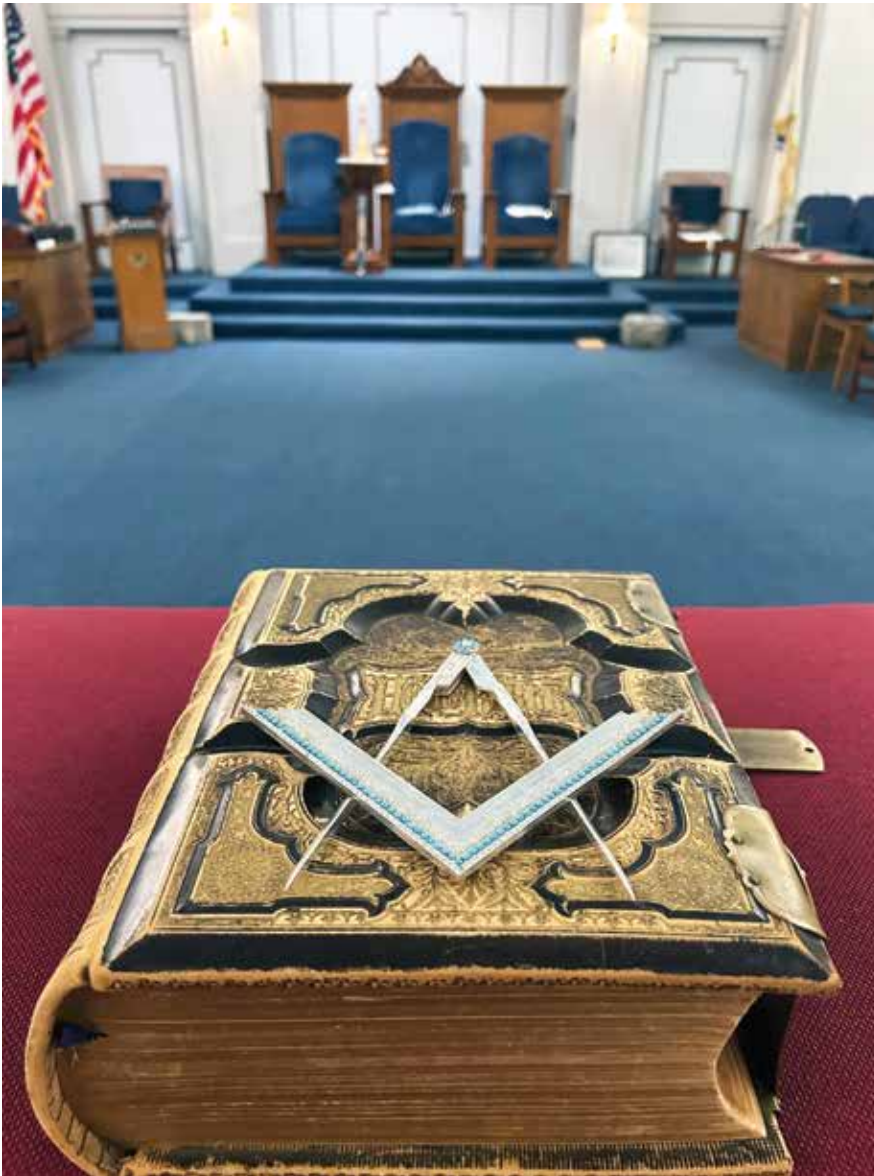
Feast of St. John
featured in Spring issue

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 9, 2025



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

<https://tinyurl.com/MasonPlate>



After initiating an Entered Apprentice, Bro Jason Stark, of Lynnfield-Zetland Lodge took this picture of his Lodge room. He is using it on social media.



H.E.L.P Helps North Carolina

In early November, the Grand Lodge Service Director, Rt. Wor. John VanKuilenburg sent an urgent message to the Brethren, “Please send out an immediate plea to all within your District to help provide bodies and donations to directly help our Brethren from North Carolina.”

The Hospital Equipment Loan Program (H.E.L.P.), under the direction of Bro. Brian Cavanaugh, immediately responded with an outreach to its members in Districts 4, 9, 13, and 14. Two telephone calls resulted in the invaluable offer of a full-sized trailer truck and two drivers from the Teamsters Union! An outpouring of Brethren met the truck at H.E.L.P. Headquarters in Woburn, and later at the Wakefield Masonic Lodge, to pack a flood of diapers, dry food, water, and other non-perishables, which is now on its way to our distressed Brethren in North Carolina.

-M. Wor. Paul Gleason



Is this You?

If this is your picture in MORI, then it is you, to your Brothers in Freemasonry and to the Future Masons.

Complete Your Masonic Record: Add Your Picture

- Secretaries: photograph your Brethren
- Brethren: give your Secretaries your pictures
- Make MORI Better: Complete your Record

Unity in this Time of Division

by Rt. Wor. & Rev. Matthew Wissell

In a world increasingly defined by division and discord, the words of Psalm 133:1 serve as a beacon of hope, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” These ancient words, rich with timeless wisdom, call us to reflect on the ideals of harmony and fraternity that are foundational to our Craft. This verse is profoundly relevant in our current climate. It invites us not only to recognize the goodness of unity, but also to cultivate it actively in our communities, our lodges, and our hearts.

Unity is described in Psalm 133 as both “good” and “pleasant.” These words are deliberate and significant. “Good” speaks to its moral and spiritual rightness, while “pleasant” conveys the joy and comfort it brings. The Psalmist likens unity to “precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron.”

This imagery evokes a sense of sacredness and abundance, a reminder that unity is a divine blessing. Just as the oil consecrates and sanctifies, unity elevates relationships, imbuing them with meaning and purpose.

Similarly, unity is compared to “the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.” The dew is life-giving, refreshing the land and fostering growth. It symbolizes the sustaining power of unity, which nourishes not only individuals but entire communities. These poetic images remind us that unity is both a gift to be cherished and a responsibility to uphold. Yet, the beauty of unity is often contrasted with the reality of division.

In our world, ideological, cultural, and social divides threaten to tear apart the very fabric of society. In such times, the temptation to retreat into echo chambers and fortify barriers is strong. However, division is not merely an external issue. It begins in the human heart. Pride, prejudice, and fear can erode the bonds of fellowship, even among brothers who have taken sacred oaths to uphold the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

As Masons, we recognize that discord undermines the work of building a harmonious society. The lodge, with its diverse membership united by shared values, is a microcosm of what the world could be. When division infiltrates our interactions, it diminishes the transformative power of the Craft. It is in such moments that

the call of Psalm 133 becomes not just a lofty ideal but an urgent imperative. Unity does not happen by accident. It is a deliberate act of will. In the lodge and beyond, fostering unity requires humility, empathy, and a commitment to dialogue. As a Chaplain, I often reflect on the symbolic tools of Masonry, which provide profound insights into how we might approach this work.

The plumb reminds us to walk uprightly, treating others with fairness and integrity. In the context of unity, it challenges us to rise above personal biases and extend respect even to those with whom we disagree. The square calls us to square our actions with virtue, emphasizing the importance of honesty and accountability in our interactions. The trowel, a symbol of brotherly love, teaches us to spread the cement of affection and goodwill, binding us together in harmony.

Unity also requires us to listen deeply. In the midst of disagreement, the simple act of truly hearing another’s perspective can be transformative. It builds bridges where walls once stood, and creates space for mutual understanding. Unity is not uniformity. It does not require us to abandon our individuality or convictions. Rather, it calls us to recognize the humanity in one another and to work together despite our differences.

Psalm 133 concludes with a powerful affirmation. “For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” Unity is not merely an earthly endeavor. It is a divine calling with eternal implications. As Masons and as men of faith, we are entrusted with the sacred duty of being peacemakers in a fractured world. In practical terms, this means taking initiative within our lodges and communities. It might involve mediating conflicts, reaching out to estranged brothers, or organizing efforts to address social divides. It also means modeling the values of unity in our daily lives, ensuring that our words and actions reflect the principles we hold dear.

In this time of great division, the *continued on page 32*

Rt. Wor. & Rev. Matthew Wissell is the Pastor of Cochesett United Methodist Church in West Bridgewater, and Chartley United Methodist Church in Norton.



THE DECEMBER 2024 QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS



by *Wor. Lee H. Fenn*

Before 1:30, Rt. Wor. Joseph Camara played *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the organ version, as the Brethren assembled in anticipation of the arrival of the dignitaries, the District Deputies, and the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, Most Worshipful George F. Hamilton. At precisely 1:30, the wait was over. The Grand Master entered to the hoorays and applause of the Brethren.

The Grand Master welcomed the color guard, comprised of Honor Guard Brethren from Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Once the flags were posted, the Brethren pledged their allegiance to the flag, and gave a full-throated rendition of the National Anthem. The Grand Master met the Brethren of the Honor Guard on the level, and introduced Past Master Melvin Simpson, Union Lodge #1, Past Master Charles Wren, Rising Sun Lodge #3, Bro. Emmanuel Muhammad, Paul Laurence Dunbar Lodge #19, Bro. Elmon Henderson, Paul Laurence Dunbar Lodge #19, and Bro. Lance Adam, Widows Son Lodge #28.

“Please extend our condolences to Bro. Dorien Bazmore on the loss of his mother. We hope we’ll see him real soon,” remarked the Grand Master as the Color Guard retired.

“Brethren, we are happy to have Ms. Tanya Saggese, who was installed the Supreme Deputy in Massachusetts for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls at their Grand Assembly in June. In case you did not know, Massachusetts has fourteen active Assemblies across the state. For 100 years, Rainbow has been a youth organization focusing on developing the young ladies of today into the confident and responsible leaders of tomorrow. Brethren, supporting our young people is a priority of our Grand Lodge and I encourage you and our Blue Lodges in supporting youth organizations across the state, thereby, ensuring the future of our fraternity.”

“Rt. Wor. Grand Marshal, you will present Rt. Wor. Arnold Johnson, Ms. Tanya Saggese to the East.” When they arrived in the East, the Grand Master announced two special presentations. “Susan Torrey began her Rainbow journey in 1969, dedicating eight years as a member. She served as the Past Worthy Advisor, and as an Advisory Board Member. In 1998 to 2011, she served as a valued member of the Grand Executive Board, becoming the Supreme Deputy in 2011. Her commitment continues as

Left: The Color Guard from The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Massachusetts. Right: Rt. Wor. Arnold Johnson and Ms. Tanya Saggese, with Susan Torrey and Nancy Whalen, who are honored for their work with the Rainbow Girls.



she became a Supreme Inspector and a Member of the House of Gold from 2020 to 2024. In addition to her leadership roles, Susan has been an active participant with the Rainbow Camp. First, as a camper in 1971, Camp Counselor, and Camp Cook. In 1989, she served as Camp Director. She has also contributed her expertise as a Rainbow Camp Board of Directors member and has served as Co-Vice President since 2011.”

“Susan Torrey’s enduring dedication and service have made a lasting impact on the Rainbow community, and we honor her for her outstanding contributions,” explained the Grand Master. He called her to the East.

“Nancy Whalen’s journey with the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls began as a member in Massachusetts in 1959. Since her youth, Nancy has held numerous titles and responsibilities. As a Grand Deputy, Nancy has served five assemblies over the course of 34 years. She continues to mentor and instruct at Grand Assembly events. Her contributions to the Rainbow Camp of Massachusetts are equally extensive. Since 1992, she has been a dedicated member of the Board of Directors, serving as Programming Director, Executive Director, and Clerk. Nancy Whalen is a true cornerstone of Rainbow, and her lifetime of service is a testament to her dedication to the values and principles we hold dear,” said the Grand Master.

After attending several Rainbow events, the Grand Master was very inspired by the effort these women put into developing the young girls. The new age to become a Rainbow has now been established as ten. He then read the Meritorious Service Certificates and presented them to

Nancy Whalen and Susan Torrey for their long-term devotion to Rainbow Girls. He presented all the ladies with bouquets of flowers.

With only Masons in attendance, the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication was opened in ample form. The Grand Master introduced his guests.

M. Wor. Bro. Maggio explained the voting powers and delineated the recognition of proxies for 162 lodges, which was approved. The Grand Master called a five-minute recess to allow voting members to collect their ballots. The votes for the Grand Officers are paper ballots. Upon reassembling, the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Matthew Neidermeier, delivered the Necrology. We lost well over 350 years of Masonic expertise to the Celestial Lodge above. The Grand Historian, Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt, eulogized Rt. Wor. Charles Rondald Lavallee, “a true lover of the Fraternity,” who worked in the Panama Canal zone, served in the Panama District Grand Lodge, and was a personal acquaintance of Rt. Wor. Bro. Hunt. In prayer, the Brethren bid farewell to their Brothers, with hopes of reacquainting themselves with them in the Celestial Lodge above.

The Grand Master retired from the East in favor of his Deputy Grand Master, for the election of Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. The vote was cast and a Committee of Past Grand Masters, chaired by M. Wor. Bro. Hicks. retired to the counting room. M. Wor. Bro. Ames was missed by all assembled.

The Deputy Grand Master called for a report from the Records Committee, delivered by Rt. Wor. W. Warren Richardson, Jr., which was accepted. The report from the



The Deputy Grand Master comfortable in the East during the vote for Grand Master.

The Grand Master introduced the guests as follows:

Visiting Grand Lodge Jurisdictions

M. Wor. Reuben H. Meade, Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (1775)

M. Wor. Kenneth A. Clay, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New Hampshire (1789)

Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge Rio De Janeiro (1927)

Rt. Wor. Leone Brandao, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Minas Gerias (1927)

Massachusetts York Rite Bodies

M. Excel. George Leonard Herbolsheimer IV, Grand High Priest, Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts

M. Ill. Manuel Ferreira, III, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts

Sir Knight Stephen D. Whitmore, Rt. Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, and the Appendant Orders, of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America

Ill. Scott D. Inglis, 33°, Deputy for Massachusetts

Ill. Donald M. Moran, 33°, Active for Massachusetts

Ill. Robert C. Schremser, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

Ill. Peter R. Smith, 33°, Active Emeritus for Massachusetts

Shrine International

Ill. David P. Veo, Potentate, Aleppo Shrine

Other Masonic Bodies

Wor. & Dad Matthew S. Gerrish, Executive Officer, Order of the DeMolay, Massachusetts

Other Masonic Introductions

Rt. Wor. Kenneth R. Blake, Chairman of the Board, Masonic Health System of Massachusetts

Streaming

District of Panama

Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocamo, District Grand Master

Past Grand Masters

M. Wor. Albert Timothy Ames (at home)

M. Wor. Arthur Eugene Johnson (streaming)

M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr.

M. Wor. Jeffrey Black Hodgdon

M. Wor. Richard James Stewart (streaming)

M. Wor. Harvey John Waugh

M. Wor. Paul Fulton Gleason

M. Wor. Richard Maggio

Rt. Wor. Jerry Bergeron, Captain of the First Responders

Wor. Patrick DelVal, Director of Live Streaming



Left: M. Wor. Bro. Hicks announces that the Grand Master has been elected to serve another year. Right: The Grand Master humbly accepts the position.

Committee on Charters and By-Laws, delivered by Rt. Wor. Steve Cohn, was also accepted.

After the organ interlude, M. Wor. Bro. Hicks, representing the Committee of Past Grand Masters, announced the election of Most Worshipful George F. Hamilton to another year in the office of Grand Master. He was honored, and humbly accepted the trust the Brethren had placed in him and ascended to the East.

The Grand Master re-introduced the candidates for Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. John Craig Toto, and Rt. Wor. William David Kessler. The Grand Master opened the ballot. After all had balloted, he closed the ballot, and appointed a committee of Past Senior Grand Wardens, chaired by Rt. Wor. Stephen H. Burrall, Jr. After the committee retired to the counting room, the Grand Master called for the report from the Committee on Foreign Relations, delivered by Rt. Wor. Basilios E. Tsingos. The two Grand Lodges discussed were the Grand Lodge of Paraguay and the Grand Oriente of Sao Paulo (GOSP) in Brazil.

Regarding Paraguay, Rt. Wor. Bro. Tsingos announced that the Committee will review “voluminous materials” and make a recommendation at a future Quarterly, mindful of the fact that our Grand Lodge already recognizes a grand lodge in that country. Rt. Wor. Bro. Tsingos noted that per Section 712 of our Grand Constitutions, “it is the rule of our Grand Lodge that when a grand lodge has been recognized” by our Grand Lodge “in any country, state or other territorial jurisdiction,” that “no other grand lodge will be recognized there by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in the absence of mutual consent or treaty.” Regarding the GOSP, he explained that our Grand Lodge already recognizes several grand lodges there that share territorial jurisdiction, by mutual consent or treaty, but which do not

share such jurisdiction by mutual consent or treaty with the Grand Oriente of Sao Paulo. Accordingly, the Committee concluded, “with much fraternal regret,” that the GOSP could not be recognized at present. The report was accepted by the Brethren.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Burrall returned with the committee to announce the results of the vote. Rt. Wor. Bro. Toto was elected Senior Grand Warden, which he humbly accepted.

The Grand Master called Rt. Wor. Travis Blu Sawyer and Rt. Wor. Michael Shawn Nemeth, the candidates for Junior Grand Warden, to be brought to the East. Like with the prior candidates, the Grand Master acknowledged that either candidate would be a fantastic Junior Grand Warden. After balloting, the Grand Master formed a committee to count the ballots, chaired by the Junior Past Junior Warden, Rt. Wor. Alfredo Canhoto (pronounced cann-uot).

While the counting commenced in a Tyled room, M. Wor. Bro. Maggio reported on Mergers and Acquisitions. Macedonian Lodge and Milton Lodge will merge under the charter and name of Macedonian Lodge. Moses Michael Hays Lodge, of Needham, and Garden City Lodge, of Newton, will merge under the charter and name of Moses Michael Hays Lodge. Webster Lodge, in Webster, and Quinebaug Lodge, in Sturbridge, will merge under the charter of Webster Lodge, and will be named Major General Salem Town Lodge. Each merger was voted upon and accepted, empowering the Grand Master to set the date and time of each merger.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Canhoto signaled to the Grand Master that the count was complete. Standing at the West of the altar, Rt. Wor. Bro. Canhoto announced the winner. Rt. Wor. Bro. Sawyer was elected to the office of Junior Grand Warden. In the East, he humbly accepted the position.



The Past Grand Masters balloting on the Senior Grand Warden.

The Grand Master entertained “a motion for the Grand Secretary to cast one ballot for the remaining slate of Officers.” The Deputy Grand Master supplied that motion, seconded by Rt. Wor. Mason W. Russell. The Brethren approved, and M. Wor. Bro. Maggio cast the ballot.

Not all men can be Masons. Even men who have passed through our Western Gate can fail to live up to our “strict code of conduct” and “high standard.” The Grand Master announced one expulsion and two suspensions. The Grand Master’s action, in accordance with the power vested in him, was approved by the Brethren.

On a brighter note, the Grand Master called Bro. Stephen Prentiss to the East. “Brethren, Bro. Prentiss is a well-known face among these halls. He volunteers his time, among many other things, as a tour guide at our Grand Lodge. He is the face of our Grand Lodge to many people, not just around the state, but from all over the world. He has introduced me to people from India, Australia, Canada, and Springfield. Shortly after our last Quarterly, Bro. Prentiss gave a tour to a couple, Nigel and Sue Wilson, from England, who were in Boston as a stop on a cruise. Nigel was a Mason in London, and was very appreciative of the tour. However, their trip was not without an event. Nigel suffered a massive heart attack, and was rushed to Tufts Medical Center here in the city. Sue knew no one to turn to but for the Craft and Brother Prentiss.”

“If you do not know it, Steve has many friends throughout the city. He was able to contact the hospital and secure accommodation for Nigel and Sue, for what would be a much longer stay in Boston than they had planned. He kept

in regular contact with Sue Wilson, inquiring about Nigel’s health. Sue was concerned about their belongings that were left aboard their cruise ship. As it was preparing to leave Boston, Bro. Prentiss made contact with the port authorities and the Coast Guard to pick up the Wilsons’ luggage, and have it brought back to the medical center. Steve also helped make arrangements for Sue to stay at a local hotel while Nigel was in care.”

“Bro. Nigel Wilson sadly passed away here in Boston. Bro. Prentiss assisted the Wilson family with the arrangements to ship Nigel’s remains back to England. Bro.

Prentiss has been keeping in touch with Sue and the Wilson family through what can only be described as a nightmare for any traveler. We cannot ask of anything more from a Brother who goes well beyond the expectations of his cabletow. Bro. Prentiss has proven that Masonry is more than universal. He acted with honor to himself and to the Craft. The Wilson family cannot begin to thank you enough, your Brothers cannot thank you for all that you do for them, and I can only thank you on behalf of the Craft with presenting you this

Henry Price Medal for your unselfish service,” concluded the Grand Master to the surprise of Bro. Prentiss. Bro. Prentiss was loudly applauded by the Brethren, who were giving him a standing ovation.

In the East, the Grand Master presented Bro. Frederick L. Sewall his commission as the Grand Representative to the State of Washington. He called members of Mount Hope Lodge and Rising Star Lodge. Mount Hope Lodge will celebrate their 200th anniversary and Rising Star Lodge will celebrate their 250th.



**The new Senior Grand Warden,
Rt. Wor. John C. Toto.**

Left: The District Deputies voting on the Junior Grand Warden.

Right: The new Junior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Travis B. Sawyer.





Left: Bro. Frederick L. Sewall accepts his commission as representative to the State of Washington. Center: Newest Henry Price Medal awardee, Bro. Stephen J. Prentis. Right: New representatives to George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Rt. Wors. Chris Tonini and Larry Bethune with M. Wor. Bro. Gleason. (Rt. Wor. Sean LeBlanc not pictured.)

“Bro. Marshal you will conduct M. Wor. Paul Gleason to the East,” said the Grand Master. In the East, M. Wor. Bro. Gleason spoke of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, which is “the physical expression of the high esteem with which we hold the memory and character of our Brother, George Washington” on top of Shooters Hill in Alexandria. Founded to preserve artifacts of Bro. Washington in 1899, it now contains over 3,000 such artifacts. Over the past 18 years, 11 million dollars have been spent in refurbishing the structure. The money was raised from individuals and lodges. Twenty-five members of Massachusetts Lodges are in The George Washington Memorial Society, reserved for the most generous donors. More lodges from Massachusetts than any other state have donated at least \$2,500, which includes them in the Society of Washington Lodges.

The three representatives for Massachusetts are Rt. Wors. Chris Tonnini, covering the West area, Larry Bethune, covering the Central area, and Sean LeBlanc, covering Cape Cod. M. Wor. Bro. Gleason will be retiring from the Board of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. He presented those present, Rt. Wor. Bros. Tonini and Bethune, a personalized challenge coin from the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The Grand Master called for a show of hands for those who have been to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. “Many have, but many have not,” remarked the Grand Master. He strongly encouraged all who had not been, to go.

He went to the Level to meet Wor. Evan Fisher for a presentation. After acknowledging the Grand Master’s upcoming 40th anniversary since his raising, Wor. Bro. Fisher, from The Henry Price Lodge, donated to the Brotherhood Fund, as the lodge has done for many years. Rt. Wor. Michael Boucher was escorted to the East by the

Grand Marshal where he presented a donation to the Brotherhood Fund to the Grand Master on behalf of the Consistory Guard of the Valley of Boston, as part of their continued support for Brothers in need.

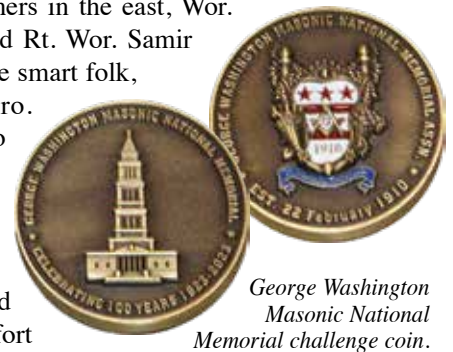
The Grand Master opened the East to other presentations. The 24th District Lodges of Instruction (LOIs) have been very well attended. The prior year, Rt. Wor. Jonathan K. Neitz presented a donation to the Grand Master of the proceeds of the LOIs. This year, he had two envelopes: one for the Honor Flight, and another for the Brotherhood Fund. On behalf of the Metro West 15th South District, Rt.

Wor. Caldwell donated the proceeds from the Masonic Family Fun Day’s barbeque tent to the Brotherhood Fund. In addition, Rt. Wor. James L. Holmes, on behalf of the Medfield Acacia Club, focused on fraternity and supporting Veterans, donated to the Honor Flight. From the 19th East and West Districts, Rt. Wors. Lawrence Santos and Joshua Bumpas donated to the Brotherhood Fund from the coffee sold at the Family Fun Day, and passing the hat during visits from Rt. Wor. Bro. Bumpas.



Mount Hope Lodge and Rising Star Lodge are recognized for their anniversaries.

The Grand Master heard about a Masonic Motorcycle ride to raise funds for the Melrose Masonic building. The day of the ride, there was a monsoon. The two Brothers in the east, Wor. Peter Demirdjian and Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara, rode. The smart folk, joked Wor. Bro. Demirdjian, drove to the building. Wor. Bro. Demirdjian augmented the funds and donated to the Brotherhood Fund, a combined effort



George Washington Masonic National Memorial challenge coin.

PRESENTATIONS IN THE EAST



Wor. Evan Fisher, The Henry Price Lodge, donates to the Brotherhood Fund.



Rt. Wor. Michael J. Boucher on behalf of the Consistory Guard of the Valley of Boston donated to the Brotherhood Fund.



Rt. Wor. Jonathan K. Neitz donated to the Honor Flight and the Brother Fund from the proceeds collected at the LOIs of the 24th District.



Rt. Wor. Caldwell donated to the Brotherhood Fund proceeds from the Family Fun Day and Rt. Wor. James L. Holmes, on behalf of the Medfield Acacia Club, donated to the Honor Flight.

of the 4th District. M. Wor. Bro. Gleason, current Master of The Master's Lodge, donated personally to the Honor Flight. From the Brothers in the Master's Lodge, he donated to the 250th Committee. Wor. Donald Edward Carberry, representing an affinity club focused on Brothers who enjoy metal detecting, had a treasure hunt in October. While the group donated to other groups, he donated to the Brotherhood Fund from the Massachusetts Freemason Detecting Club affinity club. To join this, or other affinity clubs, visit massmasons.org.

Deputy Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. Neidermeir, who enjoyed the laughter of the Brethren when he stumbled on *Robert's Rules of Order* when he was in the East, warned the Grand Master that he had to get some help by phoning a friend. Over the speakers in the lodge room, Rt. Wor. G. Edward "Hot Brown" called in. Rt. Wor. Bro. "Hot Brown" reminded the Brethren that the Grand Master's birthday was the next day. A rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" was belted out by all the Brethren present, with Rt. Wor. Bro. "Hot Brown" in the lead. Rt. Wor. Bro Neidermeir presented the Grand Master with a huge birthday card, signed by all the Grand Lodge officers. "Brethren, you may not be aware of this, but my birthday is tomorrow, and it is also the birthday of M. Wor. Donald Gardner Hicks, Jr.," reminded the Grand Master, to the cheers of the Brethren.

"Thank you to Rt. Wor. Joseph Camara for your inspiring music this afternoon," said the Grand Master as he started his address. "As 2024 comes to an end, we have much to celebrate, and much to look forward to in 2025."

The Grand Master spoke of the Membership Campaign and the videos on television and social media. This has been particularly important, due to the increased use of both during the election season. People will "hear our unifying message of what our Fraternity stands for." The results, hopefully, are to "greatly increase the number of good leads that go to all of our lodges." He invited all to "use the videos to spread the message wherever you can, so we can find those men who are looking for greatness. I am counting on each lodge to do their part in following up on the leads and working with the district ambassadors, so we can add the best men to our ranks as Freemasons. Even those leads that do not pan out give us critical information to refine the media campaign and our message."

This is the first large-scale membership campaign in 14 years. "The number of Masons raised each year in Massachusetts has declined from the high of over 1500, in 2009, to an average of 500 for the last several years. I am confident that we can get that back to over 1000 per year."

The Grand Master recalled rededicating the Wakefield Masonic Building in September, the Barre Parade, and Fall Foliage Parade in North Adams. He celebrated "Veterans Day with Good Samaritan Lodge in dedicating the Service Branch flagpoles donated by the lodge to the Town of Reading." (See page 26.)

"You might be surprised to learn that over 200 of our Masonic Veterans are US Marines, and I was pleased to join a handful of them in celebrating the birthday of the United States Marine Corps on November 13th in Boston. I was pleased to shake hands with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and present him with one of our George Washington Military Service Medals on that occasion. (See page 13.)

"On December 1st, we performed a Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony for the Town of North Attleborough, at the Richards Memorial Library, and then joined the brethren of Bristol Lodge in the Santa Parade."

"On Saturday, October 19th, the Membership Committee sponsored a One Day jurisdiction-wide Class at the Worcester Masonic Building.

Seventy Candidates received all three degrees at the event. The work was delivered in fine form by five degree teams: the Kilwinning Club, Melha Highlanders (Afterglow), Colonial Craftsmen, Hellenic Square and Compass Club, and the Unspoken Degree Team. As the day concluded, I saw the newly raised Masons smiling, from ear-to-ear,” the Grand Master reported with joy. (See page 20.) This was an experience that they will always remember. It occurred to me that that kind of special experience should be the goal of the lodges when they perform every degree. There are many ways to make the experience special, including bringing special degree teams to your lodge, holding the degree in a special location, working together as a district, and many others. If we provide the same level of enthusiasm that I saw on October 19th, we will be making Masons for life!”

The Grand Master thanked the Committee Chairs, Rt. Wor. George Bibilos and Rt. Wor. Bro. Alfredo Canhoto, along with the Class Masters of Ceremonies, Rt. Wor. Ted Morang and Rt. Wor. Sean LeBlanc, Membership Committee Chair Rt. Wor. Philip Drouin, Grand Lecturer Rt. Wor. David Raymond, District Ambassador 26 and 29 Wor. Donald Carberry, and Bro. Aaron Paterson, with “special thanks to Rt. Wor. Robert Burnett and the Worcester Masonic Building Association for hosting the event.”

The Grand Master celebrated several Anniversaries during the quarter. “The Kilwinning Club celebrated their 100th anniversary, by first taking a trip to Scotland back in May to renew their association with Mother Kilwinning, and secondly to hold a Table lodge in September. Those of us who were unable to travel to Scotland were regaled with stories and a slide show of the trip. [There will be a story in an upcoming issue of TROWEL: Editor] “The Deputy Grand Master, acting as Grand Master, led the Carpet Ceremony for the 100th anniversary of Eastern Star Lodge in Rehoboth, on September 28th. On December 7th, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of Mount Hope Lodge. I thank all the lodges for including us in their celebrations!”

“The Grand Lady and I, accompanied by the Grand Marshal, traveled to Panama and Chile in October. Copa Airline offered a special where we could layover for two days in Panama on the flight to Chile. This allowed us to attend Fraternity Day at the Grand Lodge of Panama. They celebrated the 100th anniversary of the cornerstone laid for their Grand Lodge. It was my honor to be made an honorary member of the Grand Lodge of Panama. We were joined by the District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Eduardo Crocarno, the Deputy District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. Roberto Rodriguez, Past District Grand Master, Rt. Wor. John Bamber, and the District Grand Marshal, Pablo Amaris.”

“We travelled on to Chile, and were greeted by the brethren of all three of our lodges in Chile. We met at a combined meeting, in the apartments of Bethesda Lodge, in Valparaiso. It was our pleasure to be received at a special meeting of the Grand Lodge of Chile in Santiago. M. Wor. Sebastián Jans Pérez is the Grand Master, in his second four-year term. With the aid of a Spanish interpreter, we were able to have a wonderful conversation, and I am hopeful that he will be able to join us for the Feast of Saint John next year. Over 470 Brethren were in attendance.”

Their Grand Historian explained the long relationship between our Grand Lodges. They consider our Grand Lodge to be their mother Grand Lodge. We already had Bethesda lodge (1853) in Chile when the Grand Lodge was formed in 1862. Our Grand Lodge was the first to recognize the Grand Lodge of Chile. The Grand Master commented at their Grand Lodge on how much the Grand Lodge of Chile has prospered, with numerous lodges over the vast geography, and a magnificent Grand Lodge building in Santiago. “There is no doubt that our forebearers in both Grand Lodges would be very proud of the



From 19th East and West Districts, Rt. Wors. Lawrence S. Santos and Joshua D. Bumpas donated to the Brotherhood Fund proceeds from Family Fund Day and District Deputy visits.



Wor. Peter Demirdjian and Rt. Wor. Samir C. Bichara from the 4th District donated to the Brotherhood Fund.



M. Wor. Bro. Gleason, current Master of The Master's Lodge, donated personally to the Honor Flight and to 250th Committee on behalf of The Master's Lodge.



Wor. Donald Edward Carberry, representing the affinity club Massachusetts Freemason Detecting, donated to the Brotherhood Fund.



Rt. Wor. Matthew Niedermeier marked the Grand Master's coming birthday with a call, a song, and a large, large card.

Masonic Fraternity in Chile.”

“On our lengthy trip, I read all the material that Bro. Matthew P. Ahern, our new Grand Lodge Librarian, provided on M. Wor. Everett Benton’s 18,000 mile South America trip in 1913. He traveled with his wife and two teenage children for the purpose of Constituting Sojourners Lodge in the Canal Zone. He also made visits to Masonic Lodges in Peru and Chile, being the first Grand Master to visit our Lodges in Chile.”

“It was my pleasure to travel with Theresa to the Grand Lodge of California for their annual session and installation of officers. M. Wor. Jeffrey Wilkins, Past Grand Master of California, and Massachusetts Mason (Gatun Lodge, Panama), was our special host. We could not have been more warmly welcomed.”

The Grand Master thanked M. Wor. Bro. Maggio for representing our Grand Lodge in NJ, VA, and MD, as he and the other pillar officers were unable to attend.

“On Nov 14 to 17, Theresa and I travelled with the Colonial Craftsmen to Williamsburg. The club presented *On the Square 1775* to a special group of Virginia Masons, including the Grand Master. The play was very well received, and it was an outstanding trip. The Club is celebrating 50 years, as it was formed during the bicentennial in 1974. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, and the events of 2025 in Massachusetts, I encourage members to consider participation in the Colonial Craftsmen’s Club, and I encourage lodges to invite them to your lodge so your members can enjoy the history.” (See page 19.)

The Grand Master, with the Grand Marshal, had a great time at the Annual Fred Kirby Bauer Golf Tournament on September 23rd at the Shaker Hills Country Club, in Harvard, MA. He thanked the organizers for keeping the memory of M. Wor. Bro. Bauer alive. The Grand Master hosted a dinner for the newest Rookie and Master Builder Award recipients on November 30th. We recognized 37 new Rookies and 4 new Master Builders. The Grand Lodge officers installed the officers of Amity Mosaic Lodge in Danvers. Installations were also performed at Eastern Star Lodge and Bristol Lodge in the 16th District. The Grand Master held merger and installation ceremonies for Upton and Berkshire Lodges on the 30th, and Bay Path and Quaboag Lodges on the 25th. “The two new lodges are both good matches, carefully considered, and well executed. We wish them much success and every blessing in the future.”

The Grand Master thanked the Education and Training Committee for supporting the Ambassador Training, both

North and South, and the DDGM training weekend. “Your commitment to continuous improvement will keep this training relevant and important.” Grand Lodge officers attended significant Scottish Rite and York Rite Events during the Quarter, including the Boston Commandery Installation, Grand Commandery Dinner for Rt. Em. Commander, Grand York Rite Annual, and Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction’s Giving Tuesday.

“I have asked you to save the dates **June 20-27, 2025, for our cruise to Bermuda aboard the Norwegian Jewel. There will be four days at sea, and three days in Bermuda, where there will be an opportunity to see the three Grand Lodges on the island: the United Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the Grand Lodge of Scotland. So far, about 25 couples have expressed interest, and the trip is actively booking, with about 50% of the cabins sold. It is important that if you have an interest, you reach out to Rt. Wor. Mason Russell [grandtreasurer@massfreemasonry.org] and get your nose counted. We are planning some social gatherings and group dinners, and we hope this will be an affordable and relaxing trip for all.”**

The Grand Master reminded the Brethren of the plan for a Masonic Honor Flight. “The fundraising has involved 136 individual Brothers, making donations from \$25 to \$2500, totaling \$15,000, and four lodges have made donations totaling \$13,000. This is thirty-one percent of the \$90,000 for the whole program. So far, we only have six applications for Veterans, and three for Guardians. I’m sure we will be able to identify both, but we need your help. I’m asking

each DDGM to help identify two qualified Veterans, and two qualified guardians, with supporting funds to send them on the flight. I’m asking each Worshipful Master to identify and submit a completed application for one qualified Veteran, along with associated funding, to send them on this flight. Please look on massfreemasonry.org/honorflight, for donation, application, and contact information. For any additional information, please reach out directly to Rt. Wor. John A. MacLeod and Wor. George H. Raymond.”

The Grand Master thanked the Past Grand Masters, the Business Office, the Grand Lodge Officers, Committees, and countless brethren “I have met on my travels for all the support and encouragement.” “May God bless the United States of America and our beloved Fraternity.”

After securing the lodge, the closing prayer, and singing “We Meet in Love, We Part in Peace,” the Grand Master closed the Grand Lodge Quarterly in ample form. ■



An empty chair to honor the late Bro. George W. Hamilton, the Grand Master’s father.

Masons Join Marines For 249th Birthday

by Wor. Lee H. Fenn

The Grand Master, M. Wor. George F. Hamilton, 2024 Aleppo Potentate David Veo, Rt. Wor. Ernie Pearlstein, and two tables of Masons, mostly Marines, stood as the dignitaries were introduced at the 249th Marines Birthday Party on November 13th. One of the dignitaries produced cheers from all the Masons present - others were at other tables amongst the hall of 2,000. It was our own Bro. Enoch "Woodie" Woodhouse II, walking and waving on the big screens, flashing his electric smile. Throughout the festivities, including the appearance of actor and retired Marine Rob Riggle, the audience burst with cheers and enthusiasm.

But at no moment did the Masons and Marines cheer more than when the two tables of red-shirted youngsters assembled in the back of the hall. They were poolees, people who signed up to be Marines, but who had not yet taken the oath. As they marched, as best they could, having not yet experienced boot camp, the Marines yelled, laughed, and made them endure friendly taunts. However, when the oath was administered, the hall fell silent. The importance of that moment, the moment they went from being wannabes to Marines, was held sacred by all present. Then, the heartfelt cheers of welcome rang throughout the packed hall.

Next year, Masons who wish to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Marines, should contact Rt. Wor. Bro. Pearlstein, caprollo@gmail.com, as soon as possible. Be prepared for a great meal, wonderful speakers, and a room of the most enthusiastic Marines you will ever know. ■





YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF BRO. MAJ. GEN. RICHARD MONTGOMERY

by *Wor. Robert E. Jackson*

Throughout the founding of this country, countless men made sacrifices varying from minor inconveniences, through to the ultimate sacrifice. A small percentage of these men received the recognition they deserve for this sacrifice. Names like Franklin, Revere, and Washington (all of whom were Masons, if you hadn't heard), are known to most citizens of the United States. The name of Warren is well known among Masons in Massachusetts, but when I played tour guide to a friend from NJ, I learned as you travel further away from our jurisdiction, this name is less well known. Over the last several issues of the TROWEL, we have learned of many other men that fought for the Independence of our nation. Now you will all learn about an even lesser-known name than Warren's, that of Major General Richard Montgomery.

I was familiar with the name of Montgomery through geographical and musical references, however, I had not learned of Brother Montgomery until soon after I petitioned his namesake lodge. Soon after being raised, I wanted to find a way to contribute, so I began working on the lodge's website. This is when I first started learning about Brother Montgomery. Richard Montgomery was born in Swords, Ireland, County of Dublin, on 2 December, 1738. Although he reportedly never finished his formal education at St. Andrews and Trinity College, he enlisted in the British Royal Army in 1756.

He fought in the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War), which brought him from Ireland to the cold lands of Lake Champlain and Canada, as well as the tropics of Martinique and Cuba. He quickly advanced to Lieutenant in 1758, Regimental Adjutant in 1760, and Captain in 1762. However, after the war, there was little opportunity for him to prove his skills and continue, and he was passed over for a promotion in 1771. Reportedly, he and several other British officers, also publicly opposed the Stamp Act of 1765. The culmination of these events led to Richard Montgomery selling his commission for about £1,500, and heading for America in 1772.

Montgomery purchased a farm in Kingsbridge, NY, and

in 1773, he married Janet Livingston, daughter of Robert R. Livingston (later Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, for whom the New York Masonic Library is named). The Livingston family were ardent patriots, pulling Montgomery further away from any allegiance to the Crown that remained. On May 16, 1775, he was elected to represent Dutchess County in the New York Provincial Congress, partly due to his pro-colonial views, but he was also viewed by his peers as a man of high integrity. This also led to his appointment as Brigadier General in the Continental Army on 22 June, 1775.

Montgomery is recorded as being reluctant to this appointment, but eventually accepted as "the will of an oppressed people...must be respected." His first assign-

ment was under Major General Philip John Schuyler and to capture the hearts and cache of the Canadians to the North "if practicable and...not...disagreeable to the Canadians." This was partly due to the guidance of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, who claimed that Canada would be sympathetic to the Americans, or at least neutral, if not actively supportive of the colonists. On 16 September, M.G. Schuyler fell ill and handed the command to Montgomery, who proved his success as a military leader in November, when Montreal was secured, not as a conquest, but rather to guarantee the

"peaceable enjoyment of property" and to allow the "free exercise...of religion."

Pushing on to Quebec, Montgomery expected to meet up with Benedict Arnold, who, under Washington's direction, led 1,100 men through Maine, although only 600 remained when they arrived outside Quebec. With 1,000 Americans and 200 Canadians, Montgomery led the siege of Quebec on 3 December, 1775. On the 9th, he was promoted to Major General, but he would never learn of this achievement. The enlistments of many of these Americans terminated on 1 January, 1776, meaning that the patriots were not only battling the British, but Old Man Winter and Father Time. At 4am on 31 December, Montgomery and Arnold led the attack on Quebec. Richard Montgomery would not see another day.

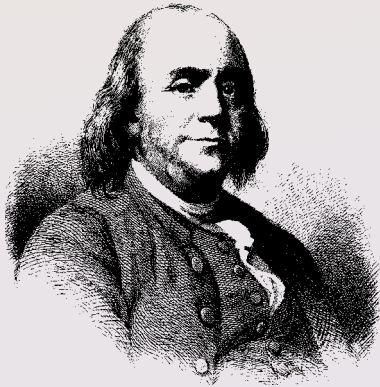
continued on page 28





FROM THE WEST... OF BOSTON

by Bro. Brian McHale



and actions. His Masonic history offers insight into his personal life and provides a glimpse into the broader influence of Freemasonry in the formative years of the United States.

Born on January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts, Franklin's early life as the 15th of 17 children in a poor family was humble, and he was largely self-educated. (The Franklin obelisk in the Granary Burying Ground marks the graves of his parents.) At the age of 12, he was apprenticed to his brother James, a printer, and through this apprenticeship Franklin began to cultivate his writing and communication skills. At age 17, he ran away from Boston, eventually landing in Philadelphia, PA.

Franklin's journey as a Mason began in 1731, when he was initiated into the St. John's Lodge No. 1 in Philadelphia. He was a young, ambitious, printer and writer, already gaining a reputation for his intellectual and social endeavors. Masonry, with its emphasis on moral development, fraternity, and the pursuit of knowledge, resonated with Franklin. Like many of his contemporaries, he saw Masonry as a platform for social and intellectual engagement. In 1734, three years after his initiation, Franklin was elected the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. His skills as a writer, communicator, and administrator made him a natural leader. He helped establish a formal system of lodges throughout the colony.

In 1736, Franklin was elected the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. During his tenure, Franklin helped to revitalize and strengthen the lodge, increasing its visibility, and promoting its values of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Under his leadership, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania became one of the most active and influen-

Benjamin Franklin is a well-known American polymath whose contributions spanned science, diplomacy, philosophy, and politics. Franklin also had significant involvement in Freemasonry, which played a crucial role in shaping his worldview

tial Masonic bodies in the American colonies. One of Franklin's most important contributions to Freemasonry was his involvement in the creation of the first Masonic publication in the American colonies, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Franklin used this publication to promote Masonic ideals and principles, contributing to the spread of Masonic thought, and increasing the visibility of Masonry in the broader community. He also had been publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack* since 1732, using the pseudonym Poor Richard or Richard Saunders. The *Almanack* was published annually until 1758.

Franklin believed that Masonry had a unique ability to foster moral development among men, and that through participation in Masonic rituals and values, individuals could cultivate virtue and wisdom. His famous "13 Virtues," which he developed as part of his personal quest for moral perfection, closely align with the ethical teachings of Masonry. These virtues—such as temperance, silence, order, and humility—embody the principles of personal growth and self-discipline *continued on page 30*

THE KEN BURNS CONUNDRUM

A biography of Ben Franklin was released by Ken Burns in 2022. It is a whopper, clocking in at four hours, easily requiring two sittings. This film painted an interesting portrait of our Brother, filled with stories, as well as locations in Philadelphia that you can still visit. However, Freemasonry was glaringly absent. Not even a whisper. How is this possible? Ben Franklin was Grand Master of Pennsylvania. Masonry was a huge part of his life. Why does Ken Burns ignore Masonry? He has left Masonry out of all of his (clearly incomplete) movies. It was not in *The Roosevelts*. It was nowhere to be found in *Mark Twain*. What else has Burns seen fit to excise from his "historical" films? Burns' latest effort is about the American Revolution, which, as we all know, would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of our Brother Masons. I wrote to the NY Times about a recent profile of Burns. No response. [*Attempts were made to contact Ken Burns—Editor*]

-Brian McHale



THE GRAND MASTER'S APPEAL

DONORS DURING 2024

The Grand Master's Appeal is the foundation of the charitable and educational programs of Massachusetts Freemasonry. Each year, your Grand Master sends a letter to every Massachusetts Mason encouraging him 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 2024, we received over 1,100 contributions totaling almost \$300,000. Following is a list of donors whose cumulative giving throughout the year totaled \$50 or more.

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 2025 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 George F. Hamilton, Grand Master

\$25,000

Giles F. Yates Council Princes of Jerusalem, A.A.S.R. ^{BMB}

\$10,000-\$24,999

Richard J. Stewart ^{BF}

\$5,000-\$9,999

Todd J. Beauchemin ^{Knox}
Boston-Lafayette Lodge of Perfection, A.A.S.R. ^{BF}
Brothers of the Dimpled Orb ^{BF}
Brothers of the White Ash ^{BF, 250}

The Henry Price Lodge ^{BF, HF}
Major General Henry Knox Lodge ^{HF}
Peter & Marilyn Stagg ^{HF} *in honor of Bro. Howard J. Stagg III*
West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge ^{BF}

\$1,734-\$4,999

7th Masonic District ^{BF} *in memory of*
Bro. Eric D. Wickberg
18th Masonic District ^{BF}
19th East & West Masonic Districts ^{BF}
24th Masonic District ^{BF, HF}
Anonymous ^{SP}
Jonathan J. M. Arata
Azure Lodge ^{BF}
Matthew W. Bell ^{HF}

George L. Herbolsheimer IV
Donald G. Hicks, Jr. ^{BF, Knox}
Joseph Webb Lodge ^{HF}
The Kilwinning Club of Boston ^{BF}
Richard D. Marden
Mount Lebanon Lodge ^{HF}
Norfolk Lodge ^{BF} *in memory of*
Wor. Roger W. Austin and the Lodge's
Brethren who departed during the past year

Walter Peterson, Jr. ²⁵⁰
Philanthropic Lodge
Prospect Lodge ^{BF, SP}
John C. Robinson, Jr. ^{HF}
Saint Bernard Commandery No. 12 ^{BF, 300}
Saint John's (B) Lodge ^{HF}
Star of Bethlehem Lodge ^{BF, SP}
Benjamin S. Wood ^{BF}

\$1,733 IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR GRAND LODGE IN 1733

Kenneth R. Blake
Paul F. Gleason ^{BF, 250, HF}

George F. Hamilton
Donald H. LaLiberte ^{BF, 250}

Robert A. Lindberg ^{Knox}
John S. Mitchell ^{Knox}

\$1,000-\$1,732

6th Masonic District ^{BF}
John W. Alden
Anonymous ^{BF}
Thomas R. Appleton II

Jeffrey A. Blum
John L. Carlson ^{BF}
Robert C. Chamberlain
The Colonial Craftsmen's Club of

Colonial MA
John J. Driscoll
Philip A. Drouin
Eastern Star Lodge ^{BF, FL}

\$1,000-\$1,732

James R. Franklin^{BF}
 R. Dean Gilligan, Jr.^{SP, Knox, HF}
 Golden Rule Lodge^{ODC}
 Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile
in appreciation of the Masonic relationship between our two Grand Lodges
 William C. Hamm
 Richard G. Howarth, Sr.
 J. Irving & Jane L. England
 Charitable Trust
 Joel H. Prouty Lodge^{BF, HF}
 Richard E. Johnson^{BF}

Shaun P. Kelley^T *in memory of*
Bro. Franklin G. Estes
 James B. Kershaw
 William D. Kessler
 Geoffrey Kromer^{BF, SP}
 Glenn L. Kubick^{Knox, HF}
 Lynnfield-Zetland Lodge^{BF, SP}
 Ian C. Mackenzie
 Joshua N. Mantello^{BF}
 Massachusetts Consistory Guard^{BF}
 The Masters Lodge^{BF}
 Leland F. Ross²⁵⁰

Eric J. Rzepka^{BF}
 Saggahew Lodge^{BF}
 Donald S. Stevens^{BF}
 Wayne T. Szretter^{BF}
 Basilios E. Tsingos^{BF, 250}
 Wampatuck Lodge^{HF}
 Richard A. Waterhouse^{BF}
 Harvey J. Waugh
 Webster Lodge
 The William D. Deadman Society^{BF}

\$500-\$999

15th North Masonic District^{BF}
 15th South Masonic District^{BF}
 Anonymous^{HF}
 Herbert G. Bell II
 Jonathan D. Buck^{HF}
 Mark G. Cerel^{BF}
 Peter Demirdjian^{BF, HF}

Easthampton Rod & Gun Club^{BF}
 Ronald A. Fowler
 William S. Hildreth
 Larry E. Houston^{BF}
 Ronald E. Jackson^{Knox, HF}
 David R. James
 Richard P. Legier, Jr.^{BF}

David A. Libby
 Alan V. Malkasian
 John J. & Ada L. Masiero^{SP}
 Medfield Acacia Club^{HF}
 Donald M. Moran²⁵⁰
 Mason W. Russell
 Saint George Lodge^T

Frederick L. Sewall^{BF}
 James R. Tedford
 John M. Vining
 Scott J. Zuffanti²⁵⁰

\$292-\$499

Aleppo Shriners^{SCL}
 Denis Abiasang Ako^{SP}
 Clayton A. Bemis
 David G. Berube
 Edwin J. Brailey, Jr.^{BF, SCL}
 Peter B. Cameron

Thomas W. Davies
 Timothy J. Doane^{HF}
 Michael A. Fish^{SCL}
 Alan T. Gorrie
 Joseph Warren-Soley Lodge^{SCL}
 Frederick E. Lavergne

David J. Liberty
 Melrose Masonic
 Charitable Trust^{BF}
 Raymond W. Pittman
 Philip S. Rand
 Thomas A. Rorrie^{BF, HF}

Charles R. Ryan
 Peter R. Smith^{BF}
 Craig W. Walsh
 Thomas L. Winter

\$291 IN RECOGNITION OF 291 YEARS OF MASSACHUSETTS FREEMASONRY

Christos P. Alex^{BF, SP}
 Janice A. Christensen
in memory of Wor. Frederick G. Christensen
 Leon H. Cudworth, Sr.
 Kevin A. Davis
 Jeffrey R. Dornbush

Joseph G. Fournier, Jr.
 Robert E. Godbout
 Eugene A. Haley^{BMB}
 Andrew D. Harding
 John R. Harrington II
 Paul H. Horan
 Robert V. Jolly, Jr.

Joseph H. Kameese
 Mervin A. Locke
 Joan M. McGlauffin
in memory of Brother Howard R. McGlauffin
 Richard V. Minns
 Mark P. Murray

Kenneth W. Pfeiffer^{BF}
 Richard A. Pierce
 Joyce C. Robinson *in memory of*
Wor. Frederic H. Robinson
 John L. Schuller

\$100-\$290

21st Masonic District^{SP}
 Spiros C. Aloupis^{HF}
 Albert T. Ames^{BF}
 Thomas D. Baird III
 Geoffrey C. Bartlett^{HF}
 Ralph H. Bartlett^{BF}
 Kay J. Bauer^{SP}
 George J. Bibilos
 William Bilkic
 Ralph G. Bittelari
 W. Eugene Bondurant
 R. Dennis Breen^{BF}
 Geoffrey A. Briggs^{HF}
 Francis A. Brooks, Jr.
 Timothy J. Brooks^{HF}
 Michael S. Broomfield
 Paul B. Brousseau
 Mario & Ana Brum^{HF}
 Lawrence R. Burbridge
 Dustin C. Burroughs^{HF}
 Steven A. Burton^{BF}
 George W. Caldwell III^{HF}

Dennis F. Calnan^{HF}
 Robert J. Campbell^{BF}
 David W. Catten, Jr.
 Robert Y. Chan^{HF}
 Joseph T. Chilton, Jr.
 David F. Cleathero^{SP}
 Dominic J. Colanton^{HF}
 Arthur W. Cole, Jr.^{HF}
 Andrew J. Costa
 James C. Cullen
 Dustin D'Andrea^{HF}
 Eliaho Davidyan^{BF, HF}
 Walter Demoorjian
 Joseph C. DeNicola^{BF, HF}
 Mark W. Dickinson^{BF}
 Charles S. Donovan^{BF}
 Robert J. Downing^{SP}
 Patrick E. Doyle^{BF}
 Wilfred E. Ducharme, Jr.
 George R. Dykeman
 Mary-Louise Essaian *in memory of*
Brother Garbis C. Essaian

Explorers of Hope Chapter OES^{BF}
 Felix R. Fernandez^{HF}
 Terrence P. Fetters
 Anibal C. Figueiredo^{HF}
 Stephen F. Freehan
 Jeffrey L. Gardiner^{BF}
 Damiao Gasparini
 Albert G. Giguere, Jr.^{HF}
 Harold L. Gilmore
 Alexander H. Glass, Jr.
 Dana J. Gould
 Steven L. Graffam^{BF}
 Kellan Grenier
 Terry W. Griffith, Jr.^{BF}
 Jean B. Guillaume^{HF}
 Jeramie D. Hammond^{BF, HF}
 Matthew W. Hamory^{HF}
 William K. Hargreaves
 George E. Harper
 Paul M. Harris^{HF}
 Francis M. Hart^{HF}
 James C. Holmes^{HF, 250}

James L. Holmes^{HF}
 Richard J. Hood
 Hristo Hristov^{HF}
 Brian J. Hughes^{HF}
 Greg W. Irvine^{HF}
 Scott T. Jareo^{BF}
 Philip F. Johnson
 Alan H. Jones^{HF}
 Boris O. Kalinichenko
 William D. Kerr
 Wendy Bergeron Kloc^{SP} *in memory of*
Brother Walter D. Kloc
 Eric P. Knight
 Constantine N. Kossifos
 Karl A. Krassler
 Charles R. Laforme
 William E. Landry
 Steven W. Lane^{HF}
 Gregory T. Lano^{BF, BMB}
 Peter J. Lawson^{BF, HF}
 Sean T. LeBlanc^{SP}
 Roy I. Lederman

250: 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee • 300: Grand Lodge's 300th Anniversary • BF: The Brotherhood Fund
 BMB: Boston Masonic Building • HF: Masonic Honor Flight Campaign • Knox: Col. Henry Knox Trail Cannon Project
 SCL: Samuel Crocker Lawrence Library • SP: Grand Lodge Scholarship Program • T: Trowel Magazine

\$100-\$290

Roy J. Leone^{BF, HF}
 Lanning L. Levine^{HF}
 Gary A. & Linda A. Lewia^{SP}
 Evangelos Liapis^{HF}
 John T. Lohr
 William R. Long
 Russell E. Lowe^{HF}
 David R. Lucas^{HF}
 Robert B. MacIntosh^{HF}
 Scot W. Mack^{HF}
 Myles H. Mackay^{SP, HF}
 Ian B. MacRobbie
 Joseph A. Manzo, Jr.
 Marshfield Rod & Gun Club^{BF}
 Ray Martin, Jr.
 Neil D. McElwey^{BF, SP}
 Michael J. Meoli^{HF}
 Metri R. Metri^{HF}
 Kevin C. Miller
 Paul G. Moore^{SP}
 Kenneth M. Murnane, Sr.^{HF}
 Charles G. Nahatis^{HF}
 Eric J. Narciso^{HF}
 Michael A. Nepi

Matthew A. Niedermeier^{HF}
 Hugh R. Nisbet^{HF}
 Philip A. Nowlan^{HF}
 Scott P. Nussey
 Allan D. Parker III
 Christian R. Parker^{BF}
 Al A. Parreno^{HF}
 Harold L. Parsons
 John K. Paulik III^{HF}
 Scott F. Pedro^{HF}
 Frank H. Penner
 Pentucket Lodge^{BF}
 Donald F. Phillips
 Everett G. Pierce
 Kevin B. Prescott
 Prince Hall Grand Lodge of MA^{BF}
 Richard A. Quindley, Jr.^{HF}
 Carlos O. Ramos-Rivera^{HF}
 Peter A. Randall^{SP, HF}
 Thomas E. Ray^{SP}
 Dennis E. Reebe^{HF}
 Carl G. Rhodes^{HF}
 John M. Riordan^{HF}
 Antonio J. Rodrigues^{HF}

Robert C. Rohlfs
 Daniel B. Rosenberg
 Clayton T. Ryan
 Richard H. Ryder^{BF}
 William R. Rylander^{HF}
 Saint Matthew's Lodge^{BF}
 Timothy M. Sawyer
 Lawrence A. Schwartz^{BF}
 Robert S. Sedlacek
 Liam J. Seward
 Arthur H. Sharp^{BF}
 Edward I. Shifman^{HF}
 Yves Simon^{BF, SP}
 Robert F. Stanley^{HF}
 Paul M. Starratt^{HF}
 Thomas E. Stoakley
 Peter M. Sulfaro, Jr.^{HF}
 Daniel L. Taylor^{HF}
 Richard B. Taylor^{BF}
 TechLaw^{BF}
 C. Randolph & Sheila K. Thunfors^{SP}
 John A. Torrisi^{HF}
 John C. Toto^{HF}
 Frederic Tudor^{SP}

John E. VanKuilenburg^{HF}
 G. Glenn Van Orman, Jr.^{SP}
 Farshid Varasteh^{HF}
 Alexandru-Vlad Vilisca
 Bruce A. Wall^{SP}
 Thomas E. Walrath^{HF}
 Rufus R. Ward^{BF}
 James Watt, Jr.
 David L. Weil
 James G. & Audrey Wellspeak^{SP}
 Ronald W. Wetmore^{HF}
 Darell R. Whitehead^{HF}
 Edward R. Wiest^{BF} *in memory of*
Wor. Jeremy A. Gross
 Glenn S. K. Williams^{HF}
 Robert B. Williams^{HF}
 Williams High School Alumni
 Association^{SP}
 Max J. Wolf
 Wyoming Lodge^{SP}
 William E. Yanakakis^{BF, 250}
 Jeffrey A. Zesch^{HF}

\$50-\$99

Keith C. Alderman^{BF}
 Derek R. Androvett^{BF}
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 William P. Asadoorian^{HF}
 Scott T. Aune
 Henry F. & Lisa Baldwin^{SP}
 Richard P. Barry^{HF}
 Joshua R. Beauvais^{HF}
 Mark B. Bell
 Kenneth A. Brown
 Richard A. Brown^{HF}
 Budleigh Lodge
 John D. Burns
 Michael P. Chagnon^{HF}
 Dennis V. Christo
 Stephen C. Cohn²⁵⁰
 Robert W. Comeau
 Michael J. Conniff^{HF}
 Joshua A. Cook
 Robert H. Counsell^{BF}
 Jeremy F. Coyle^{HF}
 Richard P. Crowley
 Stephen A. Currie^{BF}
 William R. Currier^{BF}

John C. Dalco, Jr.^{BF}
 Robert S. Davis
 John B. DiSanzo^{HF}
 Raymond A. Dembkoski
 Peter Dorflinger^{HF}
 Richard J. Duhaine^{BF}
 George E. Durfee
 Jeffrey S. Edmiston
 William H. Eklund
 Robert C. Farmer
 Ioannis P. Fenerlis
 Benjamin S. Flax^{HF}
 Kamil Francis^{HF}
 Walter A. Gabriel
 Allan D. Gilman^{HF}
 James A. Gilrein II^{HF}
 James Giragosian²⁵⁰
 Dennis da Costa Graeff
 Richard E. Haley^{BF}
 Robert R. Hall
 John W. Hanson^{BF}
 Gerald R. Hartling
 June Anderson Holt
 Leonard W. Hooton
 Timothy J. Hubert

H. Robert Huke^{BF}
 James D. Hutchison III^{HF}
 Sylvester R. Jordan, Jr.
 Arthur D. Kahn^{SP}
 Donald R. Kaupp
 Donald E. Kelley, Jr.
 Herbert I. Kepnes
 Ronald E. Kim^{HF}
 Paul S. Koss^{SP}
 William D. Kozachuk
 Joanne M. Lahey^{SP}
 Mark C. LeBeau
 Scott J. Lepkowski
 Thomas A. Lima, Jr.^{HF}
 Vincent J. Marino^{HF}
 Thomas A. Morris III²⁵⁰
 James A. Murray^{HF}
 Carmine Nigro^{HF}
 David E. Pace²⁵⁰
 Steven E. Pepper^{HF}
 David Glen V. Pietrantoni^{HF}
 Barbara L. Porter^{BF} *in memory of*
Wor. John H. Sperry III
 Juan A. Prieto^{HF}
 Alistair J. M. Rae^{HF}

Keith M. Raftery^{SP}
 Harry D. Raleigh^{BF} *in memory of*
Wor. John H. Sperry III
 James K. Ray²⁵⁰
 W. Warren Richardson, Jr.^{BF, 250}
 Gregory B. Roche^{HF}
 Steven Russo^{HF}
 William A. M. Schultz^{HF}
 Ralph I. Sewall^{BF}
 Bruce E. Smith
 John F. Sullivan^{BF}
 Robert W. Taupier
 William A. Thompson, Jr.^{BF}
 Richard G. Thrasher
 Dorothy Tibbetts^{SP}
 Frederick M. Tobman
 Robert W. Turner, Jr.^{SP}
 Unity Lodge #9^{BF}
 Justine Viets *in memory of*
A. Gerarld "Gerry" Condon
 Robert G. Wallace^{HF}
 Francis R. Weeks
 Olaf Westphalen^{BF}
 Robert P. White^{HF}
 Gary A. & Lynn C. Winsor^{SP}

IN MEMORY OF Rt. WOR. LAWRENCE D. TONINI

Each year, we receive donations in memory of our departed Brethren. While we appreciate all gifts to the fraternity, contributions in memory of a Brother who has passed are particularly meaningful.

Last April, Rt. Wor. Lawrence D. Tonini, Past Junior Grand Warden (1984), passed to the Celestial Lodge above. In response, we received a number of gifts in his memory, primarily for the benefit of our Grand Lodge Scholarship Program. That Brother Tonini's death inspired such generosity is a testament to his character and the life he lived emulating the tenets of our Profession.

21st Masonic District
 Henry F. & Lisa Baldwin
 Robert E. & Leanne J. Briggs
 John & Brenda Elling
 R. Dean Gilligan
 Joanne M. Lahey
 Sean T. LeBlanc
 Gary A. & Linda A. Lewia
 Lynnfield-Zetland Lodge
 Myles H. Mackay
 Jorja-Ann Marsden
 John J. & Ada L. Masiero
 Neil D. McElwey
 Paul G. Moore

Keith M. Raftery
 Peter A. Randall
 Joseph M. & Patricia A. Salvatore
 Star of Bethlehem Lodge
 C. Randolph & Sheila K. Thunfors
 Dorothy Tibbetts
 Robert W. Turner Jr
 Unity Lodge #9
 Glenn Van Orman
 Bruce A. Wall
 James G. & Audrey Wellspeak
 Williams High School Alumni Association
 Gary A. Winsor
 Wyoming Lodge

Colonial Craftsmen's Club Visits Williamsburg

by Rt. Wor. Walter Hunt

From November 14 to 17, 2024, the Colonial Craftsmen's Club of Colonial Massachusetts traveled to Virginia to visit Colonial Williamsburg and to perform *On the Square: 1775*, their re-enactment of a Massachusetts Masonic lodge prior to the Revolution, along with a program for the ladies of the lodge by the Distaff Side, the ladies' part of the club. This trip had been planned for over a year, and required a great deal of planning, including transportation, hotel, meals, and passes to visit the colonial town. The club was pleased to be accompanied by M. W. Brother George F. Hamilton, Grand Master of Massachusetts, and his lady Theresa. The Grand Master participated in *On the Square*, and our Grand Lodge's First Lady was part of the Distaff presentation.

The bus trip to Virginia took most of the day on Thursday, arriving in a driving rainstorm well after dark. The travelers retired to rooms at the Williamsburg Lodge. The next morning, the weather had largely cleared, and the group enjoyed a fine breakfast and set off to enjoy Williamsburg, a living-history museum on the site of Virginia's original colonial capital. Neglected after the capital was moved to Richmond in 1780, the town was largely spared the devastation of the Civil War due to occupation by Union troops from 1862. A few local industries, and the

presence of the College of William and Mary – Thomas Jefferson's alma mater – kept the town functioning, but many older historical buildings were modified, neglected, or destroyed. In the middle 20th century, various charitable foundations and the state's government moved to preserve and renew the community. In time, the project gained the name Colonial Williamsburg. Today it is a thriving historical site, centered on Duke of Gloucester Street, and includes numerous historic buildings that demonstrate arts and crafts, as well as outdoor performances by costumed historical reenactors. Visitors to Massachusetts' own Old Sturbridge Village will find the environment, if not the historical setting, familiar.

After a day of exploration and a guided afternoon tour, the group attended a wonderful dinner at the Shields Tavern, featuring a traditional family style meal, including (they claimed) the original recipe for fried chicken. (It was very tasty!) Attendees were regaled with musical entertainment. Saturday was the main event for the brethren and ladies. The group assembled at the home of Williamsburg Lodge #6, one of the oldest lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Worshipful Brother Peter Booker, Master of the *continued on page 31*



SEVENTY

ASCEND THE

by Rt. Wor. Alfredo Canhoto

On October 19th, 2024, our Grand Master, M. Wor. George F. Hamilton, and his officers witnessed a truly momentous occasion. Seventy worthy men from across the state participated in a unique One Day Class, receiving their Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees in one exceptional day, leaving the Worcester Masonic Building as excited new brothers. This remarkable event, which was over a year in the planning, wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of phenomenal degree teams from around the state. Due to the large number of applicants, there was a need to use two large lodge rooms in the beautiful and historic Worcester Masonic Building.

Wor. Donald Carberry did an outstanding job of recruiting worthy men in the western part of our state, accounting for over 25 percent of the applicants. Rt. Wor. David Raymond (Grand Lecturer) coordinated those degree teams, which included the Hellenic Square and Compass Team, the Unspoken Degree Team, the Colonial Craftsmen, the Highlander Degree Team, and the Kilwinning Club. In addition, the tireless efforts of the One Day Class Committee, under the joint leadership of Rt. Wors. Philip Drouin (Chairman of Grand Lodge's Membership Development Committee), George Bibilos, and Alfredo Canhoto, ensured meticulous planning and execution of a meaningful day of ceremonies for all involved.

The day ended with a packed dining hall of brethren



FIRST DEGREE TEAMS



THIRD DEGREE TEAMS



BROTHERS

MASONIC LADDER!

enjoying the lovely collation provided by Melha Shrine. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day a resounding success! The future promises even more exciting avenues for the One Day Class programs. Mark your calendars. Next year, a special degree is in the works, following the historic Bro. Major General Henry Knox Cannon Trail in the June and July timeframe. Additionally, the Grand Lodge Membership Development Committee will be hosting a Brazilian Degree, conducted partially in Portuguese, to welcome our Portuguese-speaking community members into the Fraternity. These events promise to be unique and educational experiences for men and Masons interested in history and symbolism.

Sponsors are reminded that every man is an individual with different strengths and interests, therefore, we want to make sure that when a man is sponsored into a particular lodge, they should be a good fit, so do your homework now and find men who complement your existing members. Are you a brother passionate about fostering the growth of Freemasonry in Massachusetts? Would you like to be part of a District Degree Team? Do you have a knack for organization and a desire to contribute to growing our Fraternity? We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to the OneDay2024@massfreemasonry.org Committee and share your interest in being a part of planning either the Brazilian Degree Day or the Henry Knox Cannon Trail Degree Days. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and welcoming Masonic community in Massachusetts! ■



SECOND DEGREE TEAMS



LODGE IN FOCUS: MYSTIC VALLEY



To the Greeks, We Are Indebted

Mystic Valley Lodge Bros. Payton Privitera, Mikael Killian, and Wor. Philip Privitera enjoyed Greek Night, hosted by the Hellenic Square and

Compass Club (HSCC), at the Shriners Auditorium, in Wilmington, on October 4, 2024. The celebration included live Greek music, dancing, lots of fun, and of course, Greek food. The celebration benefited the Club's Scholarship Fund. The HSCC is an affiliate Masonic body, officially recognized by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. Constituted in 1953, the HSCC welcomes Masons of Greek and non-Greek ancestry alike. Membership is ideal for anyone, Greek or not, who appreciates Greek food, culture and language, or for anyone who just wants to have fun surrounded by proud, loving people, while sharing lots of incredible food.

The HSCC boasts four Quarterly

Meetings - NONE of which you will want to miss! All meetings are held at the finest restaurants and resemble "holiday dinners" more than meetings. The meals have become so elaborate that two each year are, by rule, open to spouses, friends, and guests. The HSCC has a traveling Degree Team, a Scholarship Fund, and very reasonable annual membership dues. It is worth joining this group. After celebrating Greek Night with his mother, who was born in Greece, Bro. Killian asked to apply for membership. Bro. Privitera is one of the HSCC's newest members, and his father, Wor. Privitera serves on the HSCC Board of Trustees.

-Wor. Philip Privitera



L to R, Rt. Wors. Sergio Deassis, Jonathan Buck, Mark J. Collins Sr., Wor. Donald Coutoumas Master of King Solomon's Lodge, and Rt. Wor. John Musserian.

Joseph Warren Medal Awarded to Jonathan Buck

When Mystic Valley Lodge Secretary Rt. Wor. Jonathan Buck saw his wife enter the room at the Masonic building on Academy Street in Arlington, "the jig was up" that Buck was receiving the Joseph Warren Medal for distinguished service. "The award was quite a surprise and a great honor," Buck said. "He's been a pillar of the lodge," said Rt. Wor. Alan Jones, Master of Mystic Valley Lodge, who wrote the nomination letter to the Grand Master. The Joseph Warren Medal is the highest honor that a lodge can bestow upon a member. It is named for Joseph Warren, who was Grand

Master from 1769 to 1775, and who was a General killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill, at age 34.

Rt. Wor. Buck was Master of Mystic Valley Lodge from 2011-2012. In addition to his role as Secretary, Rt. Wor. Buck is an Ambassador in Mystic Valley Lodge. He is the point person for finding and welcoming new and prospective members, and engaging current members who are not active. The lodge has over 250 members, 100 or so who live in the area. "We have one member from Wyoming, who attends once a year," said Buck. He is also a Trustee of the Permanent Fund. Asked what Masonry means to him, Rt. Wor. Buck cited the "free exchange of ideas" among members.

He was DDGM in 2017-2018, and currently serves on the DDGM resource team. He has served on the Membership Committee, and was the head of Masonic Education. He was a founding member of the Deacon's Academy, and is preparing its fourth rendition. Jones said Buck's watch must have 50 hours in a day, given how he finds time for family, work, and Masonry.

Buck recently played Ferdinand II, the Holy Roman Emperor, in the Massachusetts Consistory's rendition of the 28th Degree, "Knight of the Sun." Buck said he loves the theatrical aspect of Scottish Rite. "I did theater in high school," he said. He has participated in other Scottish Rite productions, once playing Abraham Lincoln talking to injured soldiers, and delivering the famous Gettysburg Address. He also participated in a degree at Kora Temple in Lewiston, Maine, which was a theater-in-the-round event.

He works as Chief Operating *continued on page 26*



Swift Masonic Response to Brazil Flood

by Rt. Wor. Edward Brown

In the wake of flooding across Southern Brazil, in Rio Grande Do Sul, reports indicated widespread damage to infrastructure and agriculture, leaving communities grappling with the aftermath of nature's fury. Homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure have borne the brunt of the deluge, exacerbating existing challenges for affected regions. Numerous roads and bridges succumbed to the floodwaters, impeding transportation and access to essential services. Residential areas in flood zones suffered significant damage, with many homes left uninhabitable and businesses grappling with losses.

Agricultural lands, vital for Brazil's economy, have not been spared, with crops and livestock threatened by rising waters. Power lines, water treatment facilities, and communication networks have been compromised, amplifying the hardships. Environmental concerns loom large as well, with reports of soil erosion, water contamination, and habitat loss adding to the devastation. As Brazil works to assess the full extent of the damage and implement recovery efforts, the resilience of its infrastructure and the efficacy of disaster response are under scrutiny. The road to recovery will be long and arduous, but with concerted efforts and support, affected regions aim to rebuild stronger and more resilient than before.

Given this terrible situation, the Freemasons sprang into action, embodying the spirit of solidarity and compassion. On Monday, May 6th, Walter Palacio, of Pentucket Lodge, received a call from his friend Djeison Alves, from North Reading Lodge. Together, they discussed the urgent need to provide assistance to the flood victims, focusing on essential

items such as clothing and toothbrushes. Recognizing the magnitude of the situation, Palacio reached out to his Masonic network for support. He and his Worshipful Master, Kevin Ciampa, contacted RW Edward Brown, requesting the use of the Lowell Masonic Center for the processing of donations. Simultaneously, Palacio enlisted the help of RW Thomas Berry to disseminate flyers, ensuring the call for assistance reached as many individuals as possible.

The pace quickened on Thursday, May 9th, as the

Lowell Masonic Center transformed into a hive of activity. The first truckload of donations arrived promptly at 1pm, signaling the beginning of an extraordinary outpouring of support. Throughout the day, a steady stream of seven large trucks delivered much-needed supplies, with the hope of alleviating the suffering of those affected by the floods. Over 30 volunteers worked tirelessly into the night, sorting and processing donations with unwavering determination. Among them was Palacio himself, whose leadership and dedication served as an inspiration to all. Despite physical and mental exhaustion, Palacio's resolve remained unshakeable as he orchestrated the operation with precision.

Friday, May 10th, dawned with no respite in sight. After

only two hours' rest, Palacio returned to the lodge at 9am to open its doors again. Bro. Dimy Gasparini of North Reading Lodge, joined him at 8am, offering invaluable assistance in coordinating and directing the efforts of over 70 volunteers. From dawn till dusk, the Lowell Masonic Center buzzed with activity, as donations continued to pour in with volunteers working tirelessly. Saturday, May 11th, saw the culmination of less than a week of tireless *continued on page 26*



FRATERNITY News & Events



The Aleppo Shriners Minutemen with the Potentate and the Deputy Grand Master.

50 Years of the Aleppo Minutemen

Over 100 people gathered in the Fez Room to celebrate 50 years of the founding of the Aleppo Shriners Minutemen, the one and only Minutemen unit in all of Shrinedom. The unit, family, and friends were joined by the Potentate and

Deputy Grand Master. The evening opened with an honor guard by the Minutemen for the head table, followed by the presentation of the colors and the invocation. Following dinner, Senior Past Captain Paul Winam spoke about the founding of the unit, and the connection to the Minutemen of colonial times. The Captain gave his remarks, which included the reading of letters of greetings from the Governor of Massachusetts, and the Captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. Minuteman Bill Wayne was surprised with a promotion to Sergeant Wagoner, in recognition of his dedication in providing for the transportation needs of the unit. With the assistance of Sgt. Mike Havener, the Captain presented the unit with a new guidon. Senior member P.C. Dick Perry and newest member Shawn Robichaud cut the cake together.

After dessert, the Potentate and Deputy Grand Master gave their remarks, and each was presented with a small Minuteman statue. The Captain was pleased to present the Potentate with a check for \$5,000 towards the Transportation Fund. Everyone who attended received a commemorative challenge coin. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the evening, including those who donated the many wonderful prizes for the raffles and silent auctions, those who helped run the evening, Brentley's Famous BBQ, the Aleppo Brew Club, and our good friend John Gautreau. Special thanks to Lt. Dave Gasson, Sgt. Mike Havener, and Pvt. Shawn Robichaud for planning so much of the event.

-Bro. John Wilder



Wor. Neal Winston, Bro. William Schultz, Wor. Pavan Mallur, Friday Night Supper Program Executive Director Aaidaliz Perez, Courtney, and Bro. Jacob N. Ferry.

Joseph Webb Returns To Arlington Street Church

The brothers of Joseph Webb Lodge recently helped out members of the local community when they returned to Arlington Street Church's Friday Night Supper Program.

On the Friday before Thanksgiving, several members of the lodge, along with their friends and family, volunteered their time for the program, which has been providing warm, nutritious meals to those in need since 1984. Wor. Pavan Mallur, Master of Joseph Webb Lodge, was in attendance, along with Right Wor. Neal Winston, and Bros. Jacob Ferry, Scott Lush, and William Schultz. Wor. Mallur's girlfriend Courtney, as well as Bro. Lush's wife Melissa, and son Henry, also took part.

Rt. Wor. Winston, Courtney, Bro. Schultz, and Bro. Ferry portioned food onto plates, while Wor. Mallur, Bro. Lush, Melissa, and Henry served the plates to attendees. Joseph Webb Lodge made a monetary donation which covered the expenses associated with this particular meal. When asked why he chose this particular charity opportunity, Wor. Mallur emphasized that he wanted to get involved with the community in person instead of simply contributing at an organizational level. Members of Joseph Webb Lodge had been involved with the program before, and he wanted to continue that contribution. Going forward, the Friday Night Supper Program, which serves 5,000 meals a year, is happily accepting individual volunteers, group volunteers, and monetary donations. If you are interested in learning more, visit www.fridaynightsupper.org.

-Bro. Charles Lloyd Bovaird II

Webster and Quinebaug Lodges' Chili Burns 'em Up

On Saturday, November 9, the Webster Masonic Lodge's parking lot was packed with Masons, family, and friends from the 24th Masonic District. This was the 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off event, hosted by the Webster Masonic Lodge and its new partner, Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Southbridge. This event has always had a great turnout, and the participants couldn't wait to show their culinary skills, and to "Bring The Heat." Committee members Bros. Mike Chiler, Paul Davidson, Ken Wilson, and Chukwunyere "Chuck" Uwakwe planned long and hard for this event. This 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off had lots of members from the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge all hyped up, claiming victory, bragging how their chili recipes are the best, and how they were going to win.

Ten participants volunteered to show off their culinary skills, six Brethren from the Webster Lodge, and four from the Quinebaug Lodge. The smell and aroma coming from the kitchen was making the guests drool, while they waited to get in line to eat, and participate in the tasting and scoring of the chili. The panel of three judges were Bros. Johnathan Neitz, Dave Nadreau, and Gary Kiliian. You could see the look of concentration on the judges' faces as they were very serious about judging each chili participant. The chili was served in little cups and had numbers on them so you could put the scores on the scorecard.



A long line of hungry people, waiting to walk around the horse-shoe-shaped table set up in the kitchen, to collect sample cups of chili.

Chili was judged in three categories: The People's Choice Award, The Judges' Choice Award, and a 3rd Place Award. The participants were judged by ballot and tallied up, based on scores ranging from 1-5, with 1 being "I don't care for it," and 5 being "this is the best I have tasted." On the scorecards were boxes for aroma, taste, smell, texture, and spice level. The total was added on the card. The results were:

1st place, The People's Choice Award, went to Bro. Dave Kwiecinski of the Webster Masonic Lodge. 2nd place, The Judges' Choice Award, went to Bro. Chris St. Cyr of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge.

3rd place went to Bro. Bob St. Cyr of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge.
-Bro. Jimmy Falzone



West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge - First Daylight Meeting

On January 4, 2025, West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge held its first daylight lodge meeting. Normally, the lodge

met on the first Wednesday, but due to New Year's Day falling on our meeting night, the Worshipful Master filed for dispensation to move the meeting to the following Saturday and hold a daylight lodge. The day started with a sumptuous breakfast including French toast, bacon, sausages, scrambled eggs, western omelets, juice, and coffee, and ended with sandwiches that were prepared by Wor. Earnest Dever III and Bro. David Barry.

Euclid and Rose of Sharon Lodges participated in the daylight lodge. They brought over 10 members to share in this first daylight lodge. Bro Christopher Lopes of King Philip Lodge presented the Point within the Circle lecture to a captive audience. The brothers asked questions and gave comments during and after the presentation. Everyone enjoyed breakfast, meeting discussions on Veterans programs and donations, presentation of Veterans pins and Mason's Book of Secrets from Wor. Robert Matthews' cookbook fundraiser, to brothers of Euclid and Rose of Sharon Lodges, and the fellowship. West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge has been invited to attend Euclid's and Rose of Sharon's meetings in the future. This was the first daylight meeting that West Roxbury-Dorchester Lodge had, and we will be using this type of meeting in the future to get more older and rusty brothers to attend.

-Wor. Robert Khouri



Good Samaritan Lodge Donates Flagpoles

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, The Great War – World War I – ended. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 2024 marked the formal dedication of six branch-of-service flagpoles, donated by Good Samaritan Lodge to the town of Reading. Several years ago, a Reading resident proposed to the town that the flag of each branch of our military be flown on the Town Common on that branch’s founding date. For a variety of reasons, the request was denied, and the resident mentioned it to a Good Samaritan Lodge member as a frustration with town politics.

Good Samaritan Lodge decided to

propose the installation of six flagpoles, one for each branch of service – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard. After extensive discussions with the town, Good Samaritan Lodge decided to donate the flagpoles and flags for each, with the poles to be erected in a semi-circle around the national colors at Reading’s Memorial Park. The lodge was able to raise the money quite quickly, with donations from current members and using part of a bequest from deceased brother David Libby. The town agreed to do the installation of the flagpoles.

Most Worshipful Master of Masons in Massachusetts, George Forest

Hamilton, with most of his Grand Lodge Suite, attended the ceremonies, as did nearly 30 members of Good Samaritan Lodge, including its current Worshipful Master, John J. Galvin, Jr., and recent Past Masters Antonio Aufiero, Dominic Colanton, George Tzortzis, Robert Cimeno, Carl Twiss, Gordon Rogerson, and James Baxter. Most Worshipful Hamilton and Worshipful Galvin spoke during the dedication ceremonies, as did town dignitaries and retired US Army Brigadier General Dana Sanders-Udo. Common themes emerged as each speaker touched on remembering all who have served, continuing to support those who currently serve, and how we as Americans have so much more in common than we have that divides us.

Good Samaritan Lodge hosted a collation in its dining room after the ceremony, with many of the 200 people who attended the ceremony at Memorial Park enjoying coffee, soft drinks, and a light lunch. Kudos to Worshipful Master John J. Galvin, Jr., Good Samaritan Lodge, Reading Veterans’ Service Officer Will Valliere, and to Reading’s Department of Public Works for making this event possible. Good Samaritan Lodge is especially grateful to the Grand Master and his Suite for attending the ceremony.

-Bro. Michael Terry

▶ Jonathan Buck *continued from page 22*

Officer of Mirak Automotive Group, where he started as a teen one summer. The first in his family to go to college, he earned a marketing degree from Boston College. In college, he participated in volunteer immersion trips, including at a Jamaican orphanage. He works in Delta Project, which provides comfort to kids facing crisis situations. It gives teddy bears in special bags to first responders for children. “It’s something the children can hold onto,” helping to calm them. He was in the Boston Haunted Walk, a fundraiser for Shriners Hospitals.

The Mystic Valley event featured a reunion of the Joseph Warren Medal recipients over the past two years. The evening was decidedly a family affair. Rt. Wor. Buck’s wife, children, mother, and brother were on hand. His Joseph Warren Medal was put in place by his three-year-old daughter.

-Bro. Gary Shapiro

▶ Brazil *continued from page 23*

effort and dedication. Rt. Wor. Tom Berry arrived at 7:30am, with coffee and donuts to fuel the final push. With renewed energy, volunteers packed nine large trucks, equivalent to 2½ tractor trailers, with supplies for Brazil.

The Lowell Park Ranger Service and representatives from Lowell Litter Krewe, a 501(c) organization, lent their support, ensuring that the facility was left clean and empty. As the sun set on Saturday, May 11th, the Masonic community took pride in its collective achievement. Thanks to their swift and coordinated response, over \$16,000 in cash donations and countless essential items were on their way to Brazil, offering hope and relief to the flood-ravaged communities. In the face of adversity, the Freemasons demonstrated not only their organizational prowess, but also their boundless compassion and solidarity. Through their actions, they brought light to the darkest of days, embodying the

The Prodigal Mason

by *Wor. Richard Thompson*



There is no other way to phrase it - I love history! I love learning about events in the past. I love learning about why things happened, the impact those events have on the future, and the impact those events have on individuals. For example, my father, Wor. Bro. John R. Thompson, grew up in the small town of Fort Erie, Ontario. My mother, Margaret Holmes Thompson, grew up in Lowell,

MA. My parents lived 500 miles apart, and met in 1945, at the Murphy US Army Hospital in Waltham, MA, because of World War II.

My father joined the Army in early 1939. Due to the Great Depression, jobs were scarce where he lived, and the Army was hiring. Even though he lived in Canada, he joined the US Army because he was born in Buffalo, NY, just across the Niagara River, which separates Fort Erie and Buffalo. In World War II, he served in the South Pacific, from Guadalcanal to the Philippines.

My mother was a graduate of the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing, and worked at Mass General after graduation. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, she joined the US Army Nurse Corps, and served in the European Theater. Since both my father and mother were in the war from the beginning of the US' involvement, they were in the first batch of personnel rotated home. My mother was the charge nurse for a ward at Murphy Hospital, and my father, who was a Sergeant at the time, supervised Army enlisted personnel assigned to that hospital. All of this shows that I am writing this column on history because the United States was involved in World War II.

A year ago, I wrote about Masonic Affinity Groups, saying the groups are ideal for expanding our Masonic friendships. They bring together brothers from different

lodges who share similar interests. When I talk about Masonry, I often say when we join a lodge, we get a circle of friends. To illustrate that circle, I form a small circle with my thumb and index finger. I talk about joining York and Scottish Rites, and the Shrine. I use the thumbs and index fingers from both hands to enlarge the circle, illustrating how our circle of friends grows with each group we join. To those groups, I now add Masonic Affinity Groups.

Thirty-two registered Affinity Groups are in Massachusetts now. Some of them are Brothers of the Dimpled Orb Golf Club, Mass Masonry Hiking and Backpacking, Freemasonry Video Gaming, Chasin' Masons Running Club, The Benjamin Franklin Society, and the Masonic Vinyl Records Collectors Club. There is something for every taste. Now there is a group for brothers interested in Masonic history: Whence Came You? I know a lot about this group since my cousin, Wor. Bro. Dave Hicks, and I created it. We are both fascinated by Masonic history, and we want to know more. We know there are others out there who are equally curious about how we got to where we are today.

I read somewhere that if we look at humankind throughout the millennia, we know only ten percent of what has happened. If that is true about Freemasonry's history, and we know only ten percent of it, we have a lot of ground left to uncover. The Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717. Eight years later, in 1725, the Grand Lodge of Ireland was formed. Eight years after that, 1733, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was formed. We have 292 years of Freemasonry in Massachusetts to research. If we were to fill in all the holes in the Massachusetts Masonic history, it would fill a multi-volume set.

I think Affinity Groups are a great way to expand our Masonic friendship circles. All you have to do is go to Affinity Groups on the Grand Lodge website, and see what is available. If you don't see anything that piques your interest, start your own Affinity Group. It is quite easy to do. Expanding our Masonic friendships is an important part of our Masonic experience. After 54 years in the Masonic fraternity, I can honestly tell you the friendships you cultivate through our fraternity will last a lifetime. ■

Richard Thompson is the Secretary and a Past Master of Merrimack Valley Daylight Lodge.



Level Lodge MYCHIP and LOI

The Brothers of Level Lodge had a busy and successful September, contributing to both their local and the broader Masonic communities with two key events. On September 28th, Level Lodge conducted a MYCHIP [Masonic Youth Child Identification Program] event at St. John's High School during the Spirit of Shrewsbury Fall Festival. The event, which focuses on child identification and safety, saw

the lodge process 23 children, offering parents and guardians the tools to help safeguard their loved ones. A special thanks goes to the dedicated Brothers of Level Lodge for their hard work and commitment, as well as to Matthew John Whittall Lodge for their invaluable support. An extra shout-out to Bro. Brian Beck, MYCHIP Chairman, whose training and preparation were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event. He provided the leadership, materials, and confidence needed to execute this important community service.

Earlier in the month, on September 24th, Level Lodge hosted the 23rd District Lodge of Instruction (LOI). The meeting was led by Rt. Wor. Gary Levine and Wor. Todd W. Hall, and featured a presentation by Bro. Brian Beck on the MYCHIP initiative, which aims to locate missing children through events held across Massachusetts. The lodge also welcomed candidates for the offices of Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Bill Kessler, and Junior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Michael Nemeth, adding another layer of significance to the evening. A huge thank you to everyone involved in these events! Your efforts continue to make a positive impact, not only within the lodge, but in the wider community.

-Wor. Mark Howdle

▶ *Montgomery* cont. from page 14

Many reports of Montgomery's heroics and bravery exist, but these qualities didn't save him from the barrage of grapeshot and cannon-fire that took his life, as well as those around him, making him the first American General to be killed in battle during the war for independence. Aaron Burr, the future Vice President, who fought at Montgomery's side during the assault, attempted to pull the general's body from the snow, but the large snow drifts made this impossible, and Burr abandoned Montgomery's body in Quebec. At daybreak, the British found Montgomery's body and subsequently buried him with full military honors. In 1776, Congress erected a marble monument to Montgomery in the graveyard of St. Paul's Cathedral in New York City. In 1818, the Canadian government relinquished his remains and he was buried under the memorial.

This is an attempt to capture the events of a life well lived 200 years ago. What is missing is any record of

his Masonic lineage. This is because I was unable to find any hard evidence. It is believed that he was a member of Mount Vernon Lodge #3, in Albany, NY, but neither the historical list of members of this lodge, nor the Grand Lodge of New York, have any record of his membership. It is also recorded that he was initiated into a Traveling Lodge, Unity #18 (or Traveling Lodge of Unity), under Irish registry. There is also a record of Unity Lodge #18 operating as a British Military Lodge (British 17th Regiment of Foot), whose records, warrant, and regalia, were captured by American forces in July, 1779. These records fell into the hands of General Samuel H. Parsons, patriot and member of American Union Lodge, who promptly returned the lodge artifacts to the British Commander at New York, with the following message:

"West Jersey Highlands, July 23, 1779. Brethren: When the ambition of monarchs or jarring interest of contending States, call forth their subjects to war, as Masons we are disarmed of that resentment which stimulates to undistinguished desolation; and however our political senti-

ments may impel us in the public dispute, we are still Brethren, and (our professional duty apart) ought to promote the happiness and advance the weal of each other. Accept therefore, at the hands of a Brother, the Constitution of the Lodge Unity, No. 18, to be held in the 17th British Regiment which your late misfortunes have put in my power to restore to you. I am your Brother and obedient servant SAMUEL H. PARSONS. Addressed to Master and Wardens of Lodge Unity No. 18, upon the Registry of England."

Within the records of American Union Lodge, it is noted that on the 25th of March (1779?), there was a feast, with songs and celebration, honoring the Commander-in-Chief General Washington, and Masonic martyrs Warren, Montgomery, and Wooster. Did these Brethren possess the evidence of Montgomery's membership which were lost in time, or were they perpetuating a fable like many other stories within our Fraternity? Regardless, the life and actions of Richard Montgomery, as well as Brother Parsons, warrant the highest honor our hearts can afford. ■



Season's Greetings

by Rt. Wor. Robert Caron

“So this is Christmas, And what have you done?” The first line of the 1971 song, sung by John Lennon, reminds us that another year has passed. For some, this time of year is special. On December 16, Gethsemane-DeMolay Commandery of Knights Templar held their annual Christmas Observance in Newtonville. For those not aware, the Knights Templar is part of the York Rite of Masonry, but has a unique membership requirement. Freemasonry requires applicants to profess a belief in a deity, any deity. That’s why all who believe in God can become Masons worldwide.

Knights Templar, owing to their philosophical model, the medieval Knights Templar, require applicants to profess a belief in Jesus Christ. One of the purposes of the Knights Templar in the 1100s and 1200s was to protect Christian pilgrims and travelers in Europe. In emulating their values, today’s Knights also require a similar belief in Jesus that fueled the “Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon.”

Gethsemane-DeMolay Commandery is one of 18 Commanderies in Massachusetts, and part of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Our Grand Lodge was the first formed in the Western Hemisphere. The Grand Commandery of MA and RI was the first formed in the Western Hemisphere as well. Commanderies usually celebrate the two major Christian holidays of Christmas and Easter. Many of these observances are open to the public. I encourage you to find and meet a Templar Knight in your area, and ask about these celebrations. ■





Masonic Ladies' Tea Party at Rose of Sharon Lodge

To thank the wives and widows living at The Overlook for their many years of support of Masonry, the Rose of Sharon Lodge sponsored a Masonic Ladies' Tea Party for fifty guests on Sunday, November 10, 2024. Generous



donations from lodge Brothers made this event possible. Several Rose of Sharon Brothers assisted in welcoming, escorting, and socializing with the guests. Participants declared it a wonderful success! Of particular note is the generous support of the Clara Barton Chapter #63, Order of Eastern Star. Their culinary team created and served a beautiful, delicious luncheon consisting of a variety of teas, petite sandwiches, and desserts. Several Eastern Star members, including Grand Officers of Massachusetts, also participated in the event. In addition to enjoying fine dining and socializing, pianist Helene Weimbs, a young college student known to several attendees, performed an excellent piano concert.

-Bro. Burton Goodrich

► From The West... continued from page 15

that are central to Masonic teachings. Franklin's commitment to these virtues was so strong that he famously carried a booklet in which he kept daily track of his progress in embodying these values.

He believed a Mason should be involved in the betterment of society, not only through personal self-improvement, but also through active contributions to the community. Franklin's many charitable endeavors, such as his work in founding the first public library in America, and his contributions to the establishment of hospitals and educational institutions, reflected these ideals. A prominent figure in the early United States, Franklin's Masonic affiliations played a role in the shaping of the nation's early values. The principles of liberty, equality, fraternity, and tolerance found resonance in the formation of American democracy. Many of the Founding Fathers, including George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, were also Freemasons, and the Masonic tradition was influential in shaping the ideals of the American Revolution and the subsequent establishment of the

United States.

Franklin's experiences as a diplomat also highlighted the international nature of Freemasonry. During his time in France as part of his diplomatic mission, Franklin used his Masonic connections to foster relationships, and garner support for the American cause during the Revolutionary War. His Masonic ties were instrumental in creating a sense of solidarity and unity with other European Masons, and they played a subtle, but important role in securing French assistance for the American Revolution.

Benjamin Franklin's Masonic journey was an integral part of his life and work, which included inventing the lightning rod, Franklin stove, bifocals, and the glass armonica. His leadership in the Masonic community, and his deep commitment to its values, left a lasting impact on the fraternity and the early United States. His Masonic history is a testament to the enduring power of Freemasonry in shaping the moral, intellectual, and civic foundations of America. Franklin embodied the ideals of Masonry, demonstrating how the fraternity could be a force for good, not only within its own ranks, but also in broader society. ■

A MASONIC WAY

by Rt. Wor. David P. Newcomb

We have a situation that
The world exists within.
Conflicts abound...disputes all around,
Where should we begin?

Freemasonry has an answer.
Witness the great design.
The standards of Freemasonry,
Are where values and dreams align.

Following these standards,
Truly a lifelong quest,
Enables good men to be better, and then,
To deal with the world's unrest.

One standard of Freemasonry,
Prominently displayed -
Is The Book of Holy Scriptures,
The Word of God conveyed.

It's an all-inclusive set of plans,
God's gift to humanity,
Answering so many questions,
Concerning global sanity.

More standards of Freemasonry
Are the tenets that we share.
Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,
All values, beyond compare.

Brotherly Love is the practice,
Where all good men respect,
Each other as one family,
To aid, support, and protect.

Relief, a Masonic duty,
Incumbent on all men,
Restoring peace to troubled minds,
That they may be "whole" again.

Truth - an attribute divine.
We strive to be good and true.
It regulates our conduct -
Something to live up to.

These standards of Freemasonry
Give the blueprint that we need,
Providing all the answers
On how we should proceed.

By following these standards,
Our dreams and values align.
The world can be a better place,
A Masonic Way. Divine.

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,
With the Word of God, and then,
Endeavor to walk and act as such,
Forever and ever. Amen.

► Colonial Craftsmen *continued from page 19*

Lodge, was a cordial host, and after lunch, the men and ladies went to work.

With Most Worshipful Gary Huffman, Grand Master of Virginia, in attendance, the Colonial Craftsmen's Club performed *On the Square: 1775*. The team featured Wor. Andrew Paradis, RW Richard Heale, RW Russell Smith, RW Walter Hunt, RW Jack Mulhall, Wor. David Sproul, Bro. Burt Goodrich, Jr., RW David Newcomb, RW Dennis Reebel, Wor. Chris Tourtellot, Bro. Scott Tourtellot, RW Ray Geer from Rhode Island, and Most Wor. George F. Hamilton. The club was honored by the participation of the Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts, and the presence of RW Richard Haley, the Senior Grand Chaplain in Massachusetts, and the Grand Representative of Virginia near our Grand Lodge. The program of the Distaff Side, presented by Lisa Hunt, Patti Heale, Diane Newcomb, Theresa Hamilton, Pat Mulhall, Janice Sproule, Diana Hatch and Janet Goodrich, was very well received by the ladies of Williamsburg Lodge #6. This program included a presentation of clothing and customs in common use

during the Colonial era in our part of the country.

The Colonial Craftsmen's Club was founded in 1973 by a group of active Masons interested in the Colonial era, in preparation for the celebration of the nation's bicentennial in 1976. Over the last half-century, the Club and its ladies' auxiliary, the Distaff Side, have traveled all over the country and the world to bring their presentations of a Colonial lodge reenactment and a display of customs and costumes of that era. While the original members of the Club have moved on to the Celestial Lodge, their successors have continued to follow in their footsteps.

The Colonial Craftsmen and the Distaff Side have been generous contributors to Masonic charitable causes such as the Brotherhood Fund, Shrine International, York Rite foundations, and the Masonic Medical Research Institute in Utica, New York. The Colonial Craftsmen's Club has its name on the Vine of Life wall at the MMRI facility, due to the club's lifetime contributions. The Club, and the Distaff, is available and eager to make presentations, and is always looking for interested Masons and their ladies to participate with us. We meet for dinner five times a year on the second Thursday of odd-numbered months during the Masonic year. ■



ASK THE GRAND LECTURER

by Rt. Wor. Nicholas J. Mantello

Senior Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts



We all have heard the words, “Pay the Craft their wages if any be due.” I have seen this request used in one lodge. It may be used in others, but it is rare. I have used a quote from M. Wor. Benjamin Franklin, Grand Master of Pennsylvania, 1790:

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Master Mason.”

On many occasions, I have presented a newly raised Master Mason a symbolic Masonic One Million Dollar Bill and explained what Masonic wages mean today. Simply put, if at some point during a meeting, the Worshipful Master requests of the Senior Warden to “Pay the Craft their wages if any be due,” it would be the perfect time to recognize any Brother who has done a kind deed, helped the lodge by going above and beyond what is expected of him in his official duties, volunteered to help with a social event - the list can be lengthy. But a big thank you, a round

of applause, and a sincere pat on the back carries great value and inspires more help, encouraging the volunteers to continue to help. So, it is the duty of the Master to diligently observe the work of the Brethren and inform the Senior Warden of the wages due.

Another topic that we have received many questions on is the powers of the Worshipful Master. Many are spurred by *Robert’s Rules of Order*. Yes, we do conduct our meetings as prescribed by this book, but with many variations of the Masters powers, and there are many. It is strongly suggested that every Warden and Master completely read *The Masters Book*, by Carl H. Claudy. This book will guide you through your term as Master of your lodge with confidence. It is very difficult to govern without having a thorough understanding of the powers you possess and the limitations of your authority. And a reminder, when this article is published, we will be in exemplification season. When learning the ritual, rehearsing it, or instructing a new officer, remember that if the words “I think” are spoken or cross your mind, make that call, text, or email, to your Master, Ritualist, or your Grand Lecturer for the correct word. Be well, Brethren. ■

To ask the Grand Lecturers a question, send an email to Rt. Wor. Nicholas Mantello, nicholas.j.mantello@gmail.com.

► Unity continued from page 4

words of Psalm 133 offer both a challenge and a promise. Unity, though elusive, is worth pursuing. It is a source of joy, a reflection of divine grace, and a cornerstone of the Masonic ideal. As we labor in the quarries of life, may we strive to embody the spirit of this Psalm, becoming builders of bridges and sowers of peace. Let us commit ourselves anew to the noble work of dwelling in unity, that we might truly experience the blessing of life forevermore.

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” Indeed, may this be our aspiration and our legacy. ■

THE GRAND MASTER’S 2025 FLORIDA TOUR

Join the Grand Master for a luncheon as he shares his warm fraternal greetings at one of the following locations:

The Rusty Pelican

in Tampa on Tuesday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m.

The Forest Golf and Country Club

in Fort Myers on Wednesday, March 26, at 11:30 a.m.

The Breakers West Country Club

in West Palm Beach on Thursday, March 27, at 11:30 a.m.

Seating is limited, so please reserve your spot by March 4 by contacting Patty Latham, in the Office of the Grand Secretary, at **617-426-6040**, or by email platham@massfreemasonry.org.



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The Signal and the Stand: Honoring the 250th Anniversary of Liberty's Dawn

April 18, 2025

Join the Grand Lodge at the Old North Church as we honor the historic moment when Brother and Captain John Pulling, Jr. and Brother Robert Newman climbed the church stairs to briefly display two lanterns. This small, but powerful, act signaled the riders and ignited the flames of revolution.

April 19, 2025

Experience history firsthand with the opportunity to attend events in Concord and Lexington. Enjoy reenactments, march in the parades, and witness commemorations as we celebrate the legacy of the Revolution.

