



April 1

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS' DAY!

Passover Begins at Sundown APRIL 22

Income Tax Pay Day

April 15

the word

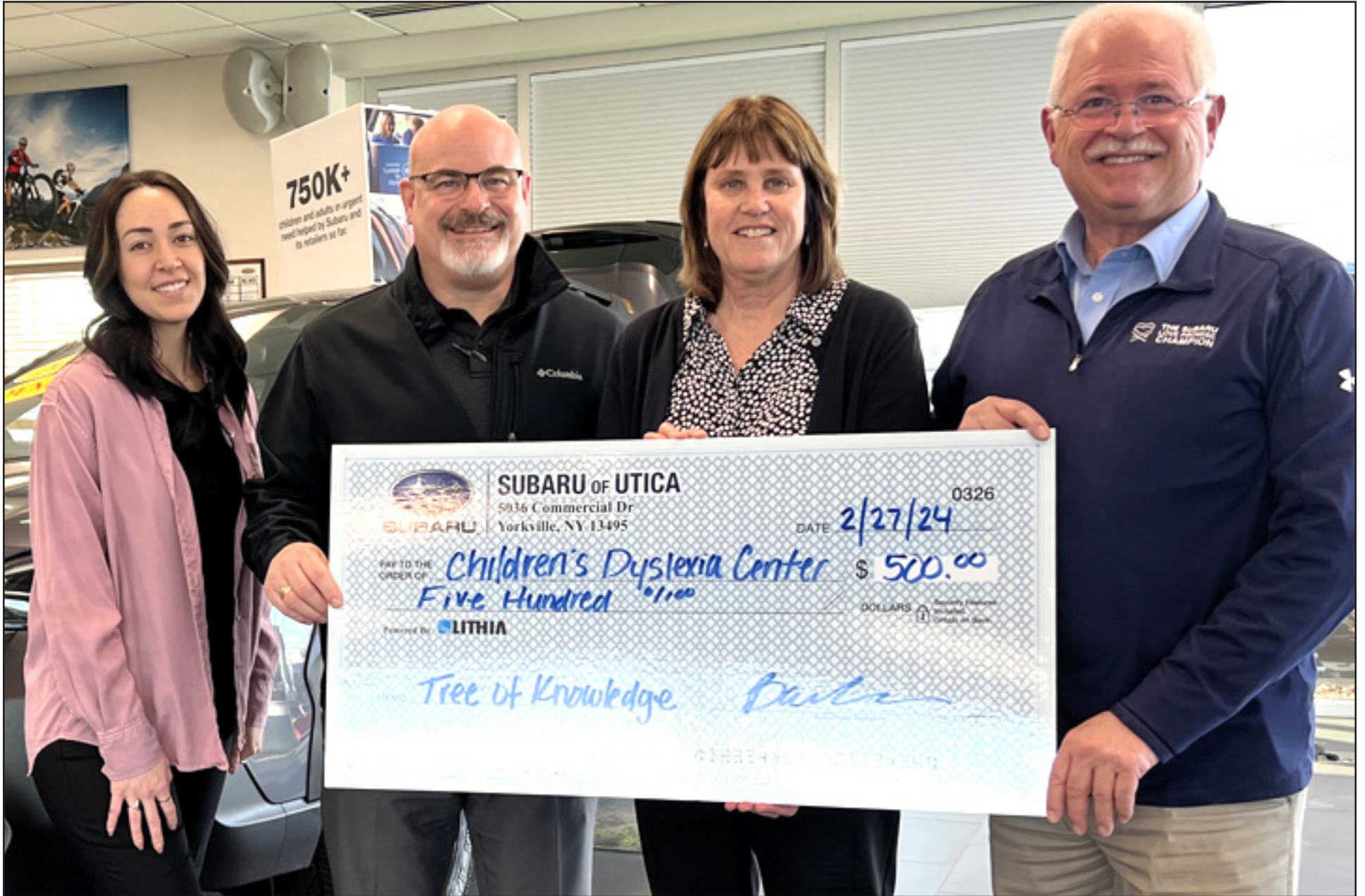
MASONIC BODIES of the ONONDAGA CAYUGA - TOMPKINS CORTLAND - MADISON OSWEGO DISTRICTS

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April 2024



Marianne Jones, Center Director, (second from right) receives a \$500 donation from Subaru of Utica for the Children's Dyslexia Center of Central New York.

Masonic Charities Works Up Golf Tourney

Heads-up, CNY golfers. Our Annual Masonic Charities golf outing is scheduled for Saturday, July 13 at The Wood in Baldwinsville, NY. See you there!

Please mark your calendar and plan on a great day of fellowship. Tournament Chairman Garry Campbell will have more information in the May edition of *the word*.

Pat Pacini

EMESBE

Good day, Brothers. We wish a happy belated birthday to MW GM Richard Kessler. The Onondaga District hopes he had a wonder-

ful day.

It was pretty sweet seeing our first newspapers in last month's issue, was it not? The *word* was as well received back then as it is today. Let us hope it continues another fifty-three years.

If any Lodge would like me to look up any history from an old paper, please let me know. Secretaries, if you have not paid your invoice for *the word*, please do so as soon as possible. We thank you.

The Onondaga District is putting on a Third Degree on Song Mountain. Right now there are about twenty-three candidates from our District going through this. Anyone who wants to fill a part or get more information may contact our DDGM Dan Campis—or look for details in this issue. You will want to get your reservations in early. This is not something you want to miss, Brothers. Brian Courtney

Mentor

Hello, Brethren. In the past this Mentor column has discussed Freemasonry in Cuba and Puerto Rico during the XIX Century (e.g., May 2021). We will now quickly overview the XX Century.

During the first forty years after Cuba became independent (in 1902), Freemasonry developed firmly throughout the island. Most every town had its own one-story Lodge building and the big cities had more than one. Havana, whose metropolitan area had 25% of the country's popu-

lation, included about one-third of all Cuban Lodges, plus the Appended Bodies and the Grand Lodge. Many social, political and economic public figures, such as government ministers, university deans, newspaper editors, business executives, etc., joined Masonry and several became Grand Masters. It was its golden age.

Such leading town figures as doctors, judges, pharmacists, schoolteachers, chiefs of police, mayors, political bosses—even the priest—usually became members. Many local and national issues were informally considered. My father joined one of these Lodges, Verdad, in a provincial city, in 1926.

After 1940 the economic situation of the country improved and Freemasonry spread much faster, doubling in members and Lodges. The new Lodge buildings had now two stories: the first floor was rented out for income and the Lodge used the second floor. A Grand Lodge skyscraper was built in Havana using three floors for Lodges and the Masonic university and renting the rest. More social, political and economic public figures joined, enhancing Masonry's public standing.

But the government's political corruption and mismanagement was creating an unhealthy environment. Freemasonry and other civil society groups failed to help improve this situation. It led to a broad loss of faith in the Cuban governmental system. Such loss in turn brought the 1959 revolution, as many thought a new generation would help fix our national problems (at the time, Marxism was not part of said fix). However, the remedy proved an even worse result than the disease.

The revolutionary government took over all private enterprise, education system, and media and banned all political parties. Citizens were required to fill long forms known as "cuentame tu vida" (tell me the story of your life) where religious and fraternal activities, past work history,

More Mentor see page 4



Jorge Romeu's father was a member of Verdad Lodge, or Logia Verdad, in Cuba in the 1920s. Jorge belonged to Island, or Logia Island, when he joined decades later. The more recent image (2016) of the building named Luz del Sur is the Cuba Trinidad Freemason Lodge house.



ONONDAGA DISTRICT

www.onondagadistricts.org
or Grand Lodge web site under regional and District Web Sites at:
www.nymasons.org

DDGM



RW Daniel Campis
732/241-0606
dancampis@gmail.com

Greetings, Brothers! There is a lot to announce this month. You will find another article in *the word* regarding the bulk of my announcement regarding the Third Degree on Song Mountain, so this column will be somewhat shorter in order to give you the endurance to read my other article.

To begin I would like to announce the following appointments for the ensuing term. The Grand Lecturer has appointed W Todd Platten, W Carlton Jackson and W John Bromka as AGLs for the ensuing term. I congratulate these Brothers on their well-earned appointments and look forward to their leadership in the next several years. They are already hard at work planning and working on the ritual preparations for the Song Mountain Third Degree.

Speaking of the Song Mountain Degree, please check my article elsewhere in *the word* for more details on the event. I will summarize some key details here. Cost of attendance will be \$30 per person. This amount is the same for spectators, Degree participants and candidates. If you will be on the mountain, this is the cost, no exceptions. This fee covers the cost of the Degree and

STAFF OFFICER



RW Rick Miori
glso@onondagadistrict.org
315/254-1671

Greetings, Brethren! We are planning for the Grand Lodge session slated for May 6 and 7. For some of us on the District team it will be the last session we will be attending for a while. You should have one of the council officers attend as a representative for your Lodge. You will have an opportunity to see many Brothers and Grand Line Officers while you are there. These sessions are always informative, and you will receive plenty of training ideas to bring back to your Lodge(s).

Sometimes during the Grand Lodge session the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library is opened for us to visit. You may not be able to schedule an official tour because this is a busy couple of days but you may be able to see some of the archives in the library.

We recently held our combined 3-District Masonic Development Course (Onondaga, Cayuga-Tompkins, Oswego). This was the first in what will be held in three sessions, one for each Degree. The course is open for all Masons to attend. It goes into great detail about the EA, FC and MM Degrees. It is a course that all Masons should attend, especially those just getting into the Craft.

We will be soon starting the RTTE (Road to the East course). This is many times the second in line of Grand Lodge-offered educational courses. This course is also very informative and historic for each of the chairs, officer positions and inner workings of the Lodge. Feel free to contact me about any of the Masonic Education courses.

Rick Miori

CLASSIFIEDS

Compliments
VW Norman Kruth
W Joshua Kruth
VW Aaron Kruth

Chuck Toombs
Past
Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu
Past Master
Liverpool Syracuse

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS



VW Tim Conover
agl@onondagadistrict.org
315/263-5717

The Masonic year's end is near but our work is not done. There is a buzz about. What is the buzz, you ask? The Song Mountain Degree, of course. What else? It is just two months away and counting.

This event has not happened in almost thirty years. Were you there? If you were, why not do it again? If not, make this event a Masonic memory you and your Brothers can talk about for years to come.

An email was sent in early March, via the OLP email service, listing the parts to

DDGM from 1st column . . .

includes lunch.

The Degree will be an all-day affair. The gavel drops at 9 a.m., sharp on June 8 (June 15 rain date). There will be a dinner after the Degree, open to all Masons and their families. The cost of this will be \$40 per person and is separate from the Degree cost.

Lastly, Tully Lodge has offered to host the Ladies on Degree day for a luncheon, possibly more, if there is enough interest. Details will be forthcoming. Once again, please check the Song Mountain article.

Last month the District Team completed our final Official Visit. It was a bitter-sweet moment for all of us. Over the last ten or so years I have had the privilege to



VW Toby Shelley,
toby_shelley@yahoo.com
315/427-6961

be filled. If you like performing ritual, excellent. If not, we can work with that too. There is a plethora of opportunities to be a part of this event. All you need to do is say Yes, I want to be involved.

For ritual parts, speaking or not, send your request with three choices and all contact information to agl@onondagadistrict.org. We will do our best to honor your request. See you on the mountain.

Tim Conover
Toby Shelley

travel around our District in one capacity or another spreading the Grand Master's word and working with the Lodges of our District. It has been my distinct honor to have done so and I have also had a tremendous amount of fun while doing it. Though my term may be ending, it is my intention to support our new District Team in whatever capacity I can and continue to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that traveling has to offer.

I will have one more update for you next month before turning over the reins to our next DDGM, VW Toby Shelley. Until then, my Brothers, I will see you in Lodge.

Daniel Campis

Event schedule, Apr '24

The reader should consult each organization to check the status of these events.

- Apr 1 LivSyr—PM Night
- Apr 2 WarrenSalemTown
..... FayCC—2°
- Apr 3 Skaneateles—2°
- Apr 4 CentSq—Concordant Body
..... Centerville—Ample Form
..... Auburn
..... Konosioni—Oscar Alleyne
- Apr 5 OswOES—GM/GP Official Visit
- Apr 6 OnonOES—GM/GP Official Visit
- Apr 9 PulPur—OV
- Apr 11 LkOntRAM—OV
..... Memorial—Move Up
- Apr 13 BonaFide—Calendar Party
..... Caz—Nelson Creamery Opens
- Apr 15 LivSyr—1°
- Apr 16 WarrenSalemTown
..... FayCC—Awards
- Apr 17 Skaneateles—1°
- Apr 18 Centerville—OV
..... CentSq—Charities
..... Auburn—FC Proficiency
- Apr 19 KT25—Inspection
- Apr 20 Tigris—Dart Championship
- Apr 22 MornStarOES—OV
..... Phelon—OV
- Apr 25 Memorial—Awards
- Apr 27 Memorial Center—Paint Party
..... OswOES—Dist. Leaders
- Mar 15-Apr 27 . Onon Dist. Reservations for Song Mtn.
- Apr 28- Statewide Reservations for Song Mtn.

- May 2 Auburn—Nominations
- May 4 Auburn—3°
- May 6-7 Grand Lodge Session
- May 7 OnStar—DGL OV
- May 9 LkOntOES—OV
..... BonaFide—OV
..... KT25—New Meeting Night
- May 10 LkCityVic—OV
..... Tigris—Buccaneer
- May 11 Tigris—Ice Cream Social
- May 18 Tri-Valley—Service Awards
- May 21 OnStar—OV
- May 22 Tigris—Ladies Appreciation
- May 27 Memorial Day Parades—Fayetteville,
..... Manlius, Camillus, Jordan

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Jorge Romeu
- Past Master

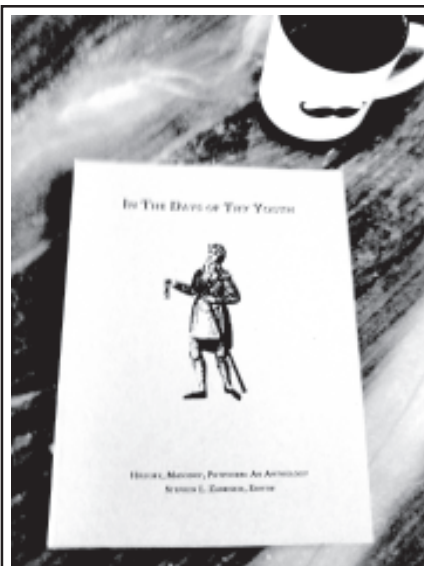
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315/637-6431

WM Dave Jones

Greetings, Brethren. I hope that all is well and that you and your family are enjoying the spring weather.

April 2nd is a Second Degree. Please plan to attend and support your Lodge officers. A ham dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10. Please make your reservation with Craig at 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net before Sunday, March 31.

April 16 is our Awards Night. A boiled shrimp dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. This cost is \$10 per person. Please reserve with Craig by Sunday, April 14 at 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net.

Do not forget your donation to the Brotherhood Fund. See you in Lodge.

Dave Jones

Nortrip 998 (ON)
116 East Genesee St.
Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066
2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/637-6431

WM Todd Burns



Recently my family has gone through some suffering because of dementia. A lot of what has happened has made me think more in depth of what Masonry has done for me and others. More on this later.

To be a Mason you must meet certain requirements. You must be a man, freeborn and at least 18 years old, with a belief in a supreme non-denominational deity. (The "freeborn" part is just a holdover now but is still there to preserve the heritage of the Fraternity). These are the basics but there are more.

One is that you are joining of your own free will, not simply following a friend or family member out of an obligation. Another is that

Nortrip
see 2nd column

Nortrip
from 1st column . . .

you are not an old man in dotage. Being old does not prevent one from joining but it is required that one be mentally healthy and alert, "Not suffering in dotage."

The ritual that we memorize (most of you way better than me) is an exercise for sure. But I cannot help but think how good that is. There are Masons much older than me who can recite Degree ritual verbatim with little to no effort. These mental exercises I believe can only be a good thing.

Here is the "More on this later" part. I feel that if someone like my father or my mother had continued exercising their brain after retirement that dementia would not have progressed so quickly. Masonry is not the only option but look around you at the brethren in your Lodge. They are there because they are making that effort.

I was told to learn a second language, play an instrument. I was also told that continuing to learn and being in social groups are some of the greatest things we can do for ourselves to maintain a healthy and alert mental state.

I have been a Mason for ten years now (short term, by some standards) and I have met many Masons much older than me. I am always impressed at how alert and alive they are. This is true not just in my own Lodge but also in the others I have visited. I once again cannot help but think that they are in such good shape mentally because they work to be proficient in ritual, attend meetings and events regularly. And they invest the same effort in the rest of their life outside of Masonry. I look fondly upon this Fraternity of ours and the men involved whom I call Brothers.

On March 14 we had our annual Tri-Lodge meeting with Memorial and Tully lodges. We started out with a meal of some slow-smoked

Nortrip
see 3rd column

Nortrip
from 2nd column . . .

pulled pork and Jamaican jerk chicken. We opened on the Degree of Entered Apprentice for W Carlton's new brethren. It was a great time.

On Sunday, March 24 at 12:00 the Brothers, friends and family of Nortrip Lodge volunteered their services at the Samaritan Center, where we prepped and served food for those in need. It is a great organization that we are proud to support both in our labors and through our financial donations. Please check them out here www.samcenter.org.

Our next regularly scheduled event was an open St. Patrick's Irish Dinner on March 28. Surviving spouses and our friends at Eastern Star were invited, as well. Refreshments were out at 6:30 and dinner followed at 7:00.

Welcome to spring. I hope to see all of you soon.

Todd Burns

Konosioni 950 (ON)
116 E. Genesee St.
Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/637-6431

WM Chris Rhea
ChristopherRhea44@yahoo.com

Greetings, Brethren. It has been a busy month at Konosioni.

Our Official Visit on February 15 went very well. Grand Honors went out to the entire District team, especially to our very own Right Worshipful Rick Miori Jr. I had a chance to say a few words, too. Special thanks go to Right Worshipful Rick and the entire District team for all their efforts these last few years.

Afterwards, another outstanding meal was prepared by our new Senior Deacon Cliff Cardon, who makes an amazing chicken tandoori. Thanks again go to Cliff.

We had our Second Degree ritual on March 7 and Passed six new Brothers. Exceptional Degree work was witnessed by the many Brothers who filled our side-

Konosioni
see 4th column

Konosioni
from 3rd column . . .

lines for our new Fellowcrafts. Senior Warden Andrew Blair did a fantastic job in the East. I also heard some say that they had never seen such an incredible delivery of the Middle Chamber lecture. Right Worshipful John Adams had our hearts and minds captivated.

I know we are all excited about our upcoming visit from Right Worshipful Oscar Alleyne, who will be at Lodge on April 4 to present his lecture on "The Mystique of Freemasonry."

I am looking forward to the Easter basket drive on Good Friday. I am looking forward to seeing PM Mike Marney shave for St. Baldrick's. I am looking forward to the District-wide Third Degree on top of Song Mountain on June 8. And I am looking forward to seeing you at Lodge, my Brother.

Chris Rhea

Tully 896 (ON)
13 State St., POB 896
Tully, N.Y. 13159
2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/696-8252

WM John Rapp,
315/569-5203,
jrapp126@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Brethren. It is a good, snowy afternoon. I hope all is well with the brethren of Tully Lodge and elsewhere. Old Man Winter is making his last gasp today, I hope. I was reminded of the time change this morning when the four-legged alarm clock told me it was time to get up and it was still dark.

As previously announced, we have replaced the boiler in the Lodge and now have heat again. The price was over \$25,000 and we are still accepting donations to help cover the cost. You may send your much-appreciated gifts to our Treasurer at P.O. Box 896, Tully, NY 13159.

The Masonic Sign has been repaired and still awaits us to raise it. We need some Brothers to commit to the project and we will install it.

Tully
see 5th column

Tully
from 4th column . . .

Ditto for the barn painting project. We will provide paint and brushes.

I am opening Lodge now with a light meal. And we have hung a dart board in the fellowship hall and begun a friendly league with Brothers from other Lodges throughout the District. Your team consists of yours truly, Brother Tim Chatfield and Brother Tom Murphy. We have had a lot of fun and met Brothers from other Lodges. We are not very good but have lots of laughs.

We know that a Third Degree is being put on by the Onondaga District and hosted by Tully Lodge at the top of Song Mountain on June 8. It goes at 9 a.m., sharp, with a rain date of June 15. We are also planning some sort of catered program for the Ladies while we are on Song Mountain. I have offered our Lodge as the staging point for this most pivotal event. I hope that all the Brothers at Tully Lodge can be available for this activity. More will come from me in the following days.

The Annual Tri-Lodge meeting was hosted by Nortrip Lodge in Fayetteville on March 14. We had five Brothers attend. Thanks go to all who attended this event.

Brother Tim Chatfield hosted a Shamrock Shuffle 5K run on March 16. Half of the proceeds go to our Lodge and half go to the Tully Cemetery Association for the purchase of bronze flag holders for our deceased veterans buried in the cemetery.

I am taking names for Lodge officers for the fall of 2024. Elections will be held in May. If you would like to take a chair in the Lodge, please contact me for consideration.

Steven J. Sherman, Past Master of Tully Lodge, laid down the Working Tools of Master Mason on March 3, 2024. He was Raised December 14, 1995. His career took him to Clarks Summit,

Tully
see 6th column

Tully
from 5th column . . .

PA where he continued in the Craft, becoming Master of several Masonic organizations. Steve will be sorely missed in the world of Masonry.

Let us keep all ailing Brothers in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless our Troops, First Responders, Firemen and Police. And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

I encourage all Brothers from Tully Lodge and elsewhere to attend our Lodge meetings on second and fourth Thursdays at 1930 hours. Let us all keep the Mason in Masonry. Please do not hesitate to contact me through email: jrapp126@twcny.rr.com or by phone 315/569-5203.

John Rapp

Skaneateles 522 (ON)
13 E. Genesee St.
Skaneateles, N.Y. 13152
1st & 3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
315/685-8297

WM Shawn Plourde

Greetings, Brethren! Happy spring! Good things are in the works.

We had a great Brother-Bring-a-Friend night at our last meeting. From this we now have two potential candidates in waiting for Entered Apprentice. Petitions have been completed and submitted and with this, we are looking now to have the First Degree ceremony on April 17. I am currently looking into joining up with any other Lodge that may be having a Second Degree ceremony so we can get these candidates prepared in time for the outdoor Third Degree in June at Song Mountain.

Elections will be coming up pretty quickly. If anyone is interested in taking on a new position for the ensuing year, please let me know so we can work out nominations and process.

Discussions are also underway for planning our traditional end-of-year dinner cruise. More details will be forthcoming.

Shawn Plourde



On March 14 members of Tully Lodge No. 896, Nortrip Lodge No. 998 and Memorial Lodge No. 648 met for their Annual Tri-Meeting at Nortrip Lodge in Fayetteville. The brethren were treated to a delicious meal of pulled pork and jerk chicken prepared by W Todd Burns and his wife Heather. All of which was followed by an evening of some Lodge business and much fellowship.

Editor's Prerogative

Over the Counter and Through the Woods

In this April composition of entries there is an interesting convergence of voices, not exactly singing the same tune but presenting a harmony of sentiments. See what I mean when you look at the column of the District Deputy for Cayuga-Tompkins; the Master of Scipio Lodge in the same District; the Staff Officers of Cortland-Madison and Oswego; and the Worshipful Master of Nortrip Lodge in Onondaga. I call out the quote about success: "...making yourself consistently do the things you don't want to do." And the image of growth as a pruning and an expanding. We are urged as Masons and citizens not only to share the Light but also to be the Light. John Pierce, in nice phraseology, talks of a spring cleaning of the soul, the need to "cleanse our inner chambers...sweep away negativity and plant seeds of goodwill."

These thoughts are powerful images and good motivators—if we let them be. Todd Burns shares a poignant personal story in his Nortrip column, and then uses it to push us all toward the healthy benefits of ongoing learning and social engagement and friendships, which are the stuff of Masonry.

These are good pieces of advice, which we have heard in many forms many times before. We can embrace them and apply them without having to validate them. By contrast, I am reading a little Kindle book about a treatment for mitochondrial defects. I have never heard of this product, nor the author. I am not sure where to go to fact-check. He may be just another guy with a product to sell and a YouTube to promote. But part of his thesis is a debunking of long-standing medical—and Big Pharm—theory and treatments. For one of many examples, he spurns the knee-jerk prescription of nitric oxide as a vasodilator (think Viagra) and suggests instead that its overuse complicates and worsens the condition it tries to fix. The medical industry is fixated on disease and throwing at each one an expensive treatment. He cites as one example a gene-therapy treatment that costs more than \$2 million for a single dose.

Rather than spending billions for R&D on disease cures that do not cure, the industry, he says, should focus on what is happening at the cellular level. Many, many studies have been done over decades showing outcomes counter to the medical machine's truths in any number of treatments of "disease." These findings are downplayed or suppressed, for obvious financial reasons. If this sounds like a conspiracy theory, I guess I will have to say, Guilty. But once again, if it is true it is not theory. We saw it all through the COVID thing. And consider the hundreds of products that are hyped whenever we turn on the TV. Consider, too, the happy consumers in those ads frolicking with grandchildren, oblivious to the thirty-seven pages of possible side effects.

The product, subject of the book, is available as a pharmaceutical supplement. The author cites several instances where it has proven useful and effective, for many years, against such things as malaria, Ebola, migraines and arthritis. He discusses autism, stress and depression, and PTSD and bipolar issues. And he devotes a lot of space to the dementia manifestations of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. This thing looks to me to be a miracle for your healthcare toolbox but this is not an endorsement by me. I intend to do much more homework and see if I can satisfy myself that it—and he—are legitimate.

If anyone is interested, he is Mark Sloan. This book is *The Ultimate Guide to Methylene Blue*.

Stephen L. Zabriskie



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The Song Mountain Story

Greetings, Brothers! You have heard about it through the Official Visits, through our columns and via emails but the time has come for the rubber to meet the road. The Onondaga District will be hosting a collective Third Degree at the Top of Song Mountain in Tully, NY on June 8 (rain date is June 15). Through the collaboration and effort of all of the Lodges in the Onondaga District, all 20+ candidates in the District will be Raised collectively in this joint outdoor Degree. This is not only a special experience for the Brothers who will be Raised

at this event but is also a testament to the dedication and unity that exist amongst the Brothers within the District.

Though we wish we could, due to the size of the class we cannot accommodate candidates from other Districts for the obligation or Raising portions of the Degree. That said, we welcome any candidates from other Districts to join us for the Hiram Legend, Charges, etc. This means that you will need to ensure these Brothers are obligated and Raised prior to their participation in our Third Degree. Prior arrangements will need to be made to accommodate these Brothers before April 14. Please send me an email at ddgm@onondagadistrict.com if you have candidates you would like to get involved.

The event has a total capacity of 250 Brothers. Though that might seem like a lot, about 35% of that is already filled by the candidates and Degree participants, so getting reservations and payment in early is imperative. We will be accepting reservations on two timelines, one for Onondaga District members and another which we will open up to the rest of the surrounding Districts and state.

The cost of attendance will be \$30 per person. This amount is the same for spectators, Degree participants and candidates. If you will be on the mountain, this is the cost, no exceptions. This

fee covers operating the event and includes a quick-service lunch on the top of the mountain. Transportation is being coordinated for getting to the top of the mountain and limited space will be reserved for 4-wheel drive vehicles at the peak, through prior arrangements.

The Degree will be an all-day affair. The gavel will drop at 9 a.m. on June 8 (remember that the rain date is June 15). Please arrange to be there well in advance in order to be seated in time for the opening. More details will follow on the seating. Two options are being considered and one includes a bring-your-own lawn chair. Dress for the event will be long pants (jeans are fine) and a button-down or polo. Wear shoes appropriate for walking and being in an outdoor environment.

There will be a dinner buffet at the conclusion of the Degree at the base of the mountain. This is a separate cost of \$40 per person and it is open to all Masons and families, regardless of participation in the Degree at the top of the mountain. A separate reservation will be required.

Reservations may be placed by navigating to <http://degree.onondagadistrict.com>. Here you will fill out a form with your information and be pushed to a site to accept payment. When your reservation is accepted you will receive an email from degree@onondagadistrict.com confirming your spot.

Reservations will be open on the following timelines: Onondaga District-only reservations will be accepted from March 15 to April 27. On April 28 reservations will open to all Masons in the state regardless of which District they are from. Once we reached 250 reservations, the reservation portal will close. Note that even if you are participating in the Degree you will still need to make a reservation.

Tully Lodge has offered to host a luncheon or event for the Ladies on the day of the Degree. We are looking to see how much interest there is for this. If your Lady would be interested in participating, please so indicate on the reservation form.

The performance of this Degree is something we have been planning for and working on for well over a year now. We are extremely excited to be able to present this to the brethren of our area. Many of us cannot remember the last time our entire District got together and worked together to Raise a class of Master Masons, let alone in a picturesque environment on the top of a mountain overlooking Otisco Lake. The amount of effort, time and dedication the District Team and the Degree participants are putting into this all but guarantees that this will be one for the ages. We are excited to have you be a part of it and look forward to seeing many of you on the mountain.

Daniel Campis

Memorial 648 (ON)
648 Centerville Place
N. Syracuse, N.Y. 13212
2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/458-5560

Carlton P. Jackson
315/863-6630
Carltonjackson88@gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren! Some of you know this but for those of you who do not: on October 3 I had a motorcycle accident and suffered chronic subdural hematomas and underwent multiple surgeries and spent most of December hospitalized. My recovery has been long and slow. This being my first word article since October, I will try to catch up.

We held our Official Visit on February 8 with our DDGM Daniel Campis. He talked of the Most Worshipful Grand Master's mission and is planning the upcoming Table Lodge and the outdoor Third Degree at Song Mountain.

On February 22 Jim Swan gave a very informative talk on progress being made at the MMRI. Most notably, he told of the progress being made in treating autism.

On March 14 we held our annual tri-meeting for the first time at Nortrip Lodge, along with Tully Lodge. It was great to see Brothers we do not often get a chance to see. We held our Second Degree on the 28th of March and now have four new Fellowcrafts who are prepared for the Song Mountain Degree. April 11 will be Move Up Night and Awards Night is on the 25th.

If any Brother is in need of assistance or knows of someone who might be in need, please reach out to me. I can be reached at carltonjackson88@gmail.com or 315/863-6630.

Carlton P. Jackson

Mentor from page 1 ...



HOME OF ISLAND LODGE, HAVANA, CUBA

all family abroad or jailed, etc., was requested. Individual future work and study opportunities were offered, depending on such informa-

tion. Those classified as "non-supporters" were ignored.

Freemasonry was never banned, as occurred in Russia, Germany or Spain, for our Craft had a long and distinguished history forging the Cuban nation; but it was severely affected. Masonic Lodges were required to submit to the Ministry of Inte-

rior, within 72 hours after each session, a report detailing who was present, what matters were discussed, etc. Hence, between the tens of thousands who left the country and those who ended or decreased their Lodge attendance due to political mea-

Mentor see page 7

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STEVEN M. ILTSCH

This history is drawn from the April 1924 issue of The Builder magazine.—Editor.

Maundy Thursday

The ceremonies of Maundy Thursday, made obligatory on each Rose Croix Chapter of the Scottish Rite, is a festival almost as old as the world, for it has been observed in some form or other from time immemorial. It began with early man's naive wonder at the coming of spring, an event to him of the very greatest importance, since it represented the return of the sun god from the death of winter to the resurrection of the vernal equinox. "The year's at the Spring," that was his feeling, and this feeling took a thousand forms of expression, some of them magical, some religious, some of them a joyous human merry-making. Whatever the form the kernel of feeling remained the same; the god of light, warmth, and life, whatever may have been his name Mithra, Attis, Cama, Osiris, Ormuzd, Dionysus had been dead through the winter time, and now he had come back to life again, and would bestow life on his people, therefore there were solemn rejoicings.

The Parsees, who retain ancient Zoroastrianism in something like its original form, still celebrate the event in a very old manner. They call their festival "Jamshedji Nauroz." Other religions have departed farther from the ancient forms but nevertheless retain the idea and the feeling. The Jews gave to their vernal festival the character of a national memorial service to keep fresh in the minds of the people their deliverance from bondage in Egypt, the land of darkness, and called it the Passover.

The Christian ceremony of the Lord's Supper has an historical connection with the Jewish Passover. Jesus and His disciples went to an upper room to observe the Passover (or Paschal) feast. Under normal circumstances there should have been a servant at hand to wash their feet, a service made necessary by the fact that all men wore sandals when walking abroad and consequently gathered up sand and dust; but there was no such servant available, and the disciples, who had gone on ahead, were quarreling among themselves as to who would perform this menial act. When Jesus arrived He immediately gave them all a silent rebuke by taking up a towel and basin to wash their feet Himself. But it will be better to give the story as found in the New Testament, John XIII, 1-15:

"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus

knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

"And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

"Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

"He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

"After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded,

"Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

"Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

"Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

"Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

"For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

"So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

"Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

What the Passover had been among Jews the Last Supper came to be among Christians, and then with a very close connection with Easter Day. And since it was always the policy of the early Church to accommodate itself as closely as possible to the religious customs already in popular use both Easter and the celebration of the Lord's Supper became substituted for the ancient religious ceremonies of the vernal equinox, as that in its very act "of making all things new" the new religion retained many things very old,

and thus enabled the religious man to retain his contact with customs as ancient as the world.

The act of washing the disciples' feet, originally a simple rebuke to men untaught in the wisdom of humility, became in time a rich symbol of all service. Bishops and popes bathed the feet of the poor and everybody that was able distributed baskets of food to the needy. Some historians of the Church believe that the word "Maundy" came thus into use, being derived from the Saxon "maund" or "mond," meaning "basket"; others, with a sounder reasoning perhaps, trace the term to a corruption of the first Latin word in the saying "A new commandment give I unto you," which in the Vulgate read, Mandatum novum do vocio. In either event the Maundy Thursday rites have been quite generally practiced throughout Christendom, and still, in many lands, retain a very old form. One of the best examples is furnished by English customs, a very complete description of which may be found in *Curious Survivals*, by Dr. George C. Williamson (Herbert Jenkins, publisher), a page or two of which is here quoted with the publisher's permission:

"Perhaps the most interesting of the ancient ceremonies retained in the Church of England is that in connection with the distribution of Maundy money, which takes place annually in the Abbey. The last Sovereign in England who actually washed the feet of poor men on Maundy Thursday was James II, but this ceremony, in commemoration of the act of Our Lord, is still carried out in Catholic countries, and was, until recently, one of the notable events of Holy Week in Vienna, when the Emperor of Austria took the chief part in it. It still takes place in Spain with its accustomed ceremonial, but in England the day is commemorated only by the distribution of the silver currency, struck specially for that occasion, and given away to a certain number of poor men and poor women, who have been selected as suitable recipients for the bounty.

"English sovereigns have always attached great importance to this ceremonial. Elizabeth observed the day with specially lavish bounty, and there is a remarkable miniature in existence, representing her distribution of Maundy money. Charles I

and Anne also distributed the Maundy money with specially imposing and stately ceremonial, and today, linen scarves or towels are worn by all officials connected with the Royal Almonry, and by the children of the Royal Almonry, who also take part in the ceremonial. These are, of course, typical of the towel which Our Lord girded about Himself, when He washed the disciples' feet.

"The ceremonial is one of the few occasions when the public see the Yeomen of the Guard in their full uniform, the oldest military body in the kingdom, whose record dates back to 1485, and who still wear, with proud distinction, the Tudor crown ornament which commemorates their original appointment. Moreover, those who are to take part in the ceremony carry with them bunches of flowers and foliage, reminiscent of the day when the Yeomen of the Laundry performed a preliminary ablution of the feet of the beggars with ceremonial herbs, prior to the washing of the feet by the Sovereign.

"The money is borne into the Abbey by one of the Yeomen, who carries on his head a splendid silver-gilt dish, and the strings of the purses, red and white, with which originally they were bound to the girdle of the persons who used them, hang over the borders of the dish, with curious effect. The number of pennies given away corresponds with the age of the King, the recipients, as well as the pence in the white purses, equalling years of the King's age. The money consists of pieces of the value of fourpence, threepence, twopence and a penny, the total number of pence agreeing with the number of the years of the King's age, and the coins are current coin of the realm, although specially struck for the purpose. I am inclined to think that there might be some difficulty if one of these pennies was presented as the fare in an ordinary omnibus, because of its exceedingly small size, and the chances are that the 'bus conductor would not recognize it as current coin, but it is really so, and but for its size, the coin would pass readily from hand to hand.

"As a matter of fact, however, the little group of silver coins has a higher value than its intrinsic importance, and collectors are always eager to add it to their collections. The red purse should contain within it a pound, in gold, and thirty shillings, an allowance in lieu of provisions

formerly given in kind; it does not in these later days contain gold coins, but the distribution is made in paper. In addition to this Maundy money, there are three other sums of money distributed on the same day, known as the Minor Bounty, the Discretionary Bounty and the Royal Gate Alms, and these, in accordance with ancient usage, are distributed at the Royal Almonry Office, to some 'hundred aged, disabled and meritorious persons, who have been personally recommended by the clergy of selected parishes,' throughout the different dioceses of England and Wales.

"Gate Alms no doubt derived its name from the money that was given to those beggars who clustered round the gates of the Royal Palaces, and the duties of the King's Almoner, with regard to poor people, are expressly laid down in some papers belonging to the time of Edward I, where it is stated that he was to collect and distribute the fragments from the Royal table, and give away the King's cast-off robes, but it is particularly noted that he was not to do so either to 'players, minstrels or flatterers.'

"Cardinal Wolsey, when first he kept his Maundy celebration, or, in the old phrase, 'made his Maund' (the word coming, of course, from the word mandatum, and being carried out in obedience to Our Lord's commands) did so at Peterborough; and on the occasion in 1530, gave three white and three red herrings to each recipient of his alms. It is to his benefaction that the Almonry owes its present seal. On this seal is represented a great three-masted ship, *Henri Grace de Dieu*, in full sail. This important vessel was built by Wolsey in 1512 and presented by him to Henry VIII, and when he was the King's Almoner he had it represented on the seal he used for the documents in connection with the ceremony, and this seal still exists, and is in use, at the present day.

"The great monasteries also had their almoners, and also some of the chief noblemen, and the office still survives and is used in various ancient hospitals, and in some few other places.

"It is of interest to notice that the Lord High Almoner and his assistant, the Subalmoner, remove the ceremonial capes which they wear when they enter in the procession of the Maundy, and gird themselves with linen towels before they make the presentation. The ceremony

must have been far more imposing in the old days, when the Sovereign himself took prominent part in it, but it is still an exceedingly interesting and picturesque one, and one of the most important survivals of an ancient religious observance. In Monte Cassino, in Italy, it is carried out with great elaboration, and the recipients are still actual pilgrims, but in addition to the washing of feet, they are the recipients of a big loaf of bread, and a piece of money, and are then taken in to the large refectory, and given a substantial meal. Similar procedure takes place in many other Catholic monasteries throughout Europe." (Page 179 ff.)

It is worthy of notice in this connection that Maundy Thursday, with its ceremony of the Lord's Supper, the Coena Domini, has been the inspiration of some of the most enduring art of the past thousand years. It appears in Da Vinci's picture, "The Last Supper"; in the epics of Calderon; in Wagner's "Parsifal"; and it has been the source of all the beautiful "grail (or graal) literature" ("grail" referring to the cup used by Jesus), of which Tennyson's *Epics of the King* is the most familiar example. The finest use of it in American literature is Lowell's *Vision of Sir Launfal*, in which are lines of almost poignant beauty:

"The Holy Supper is kept, indeed,

In whatso we share with another's need;

Not what we give, but what we share,

For the gift without the giver is bare;

Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,

Himself, hungering neighbour, and Me."

It would be difficult at this late day to trace the use of Maundy Thursday in Rose Croix Chapters of the Scottish Rite to any one origin. As there used, it is not Christian, Jewish or Pagan, but a re-writing of inspirations from many sources so as to make the ceremony stand in a universal tradition.

"To Freemasons," writes Conley, "it has no religious significance, but it is a feast dedicated to freedom, and the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences, in which good men of all creeds and faiths may join without relinquishing the essential doctrines of their own religion. It is this liberality that gives Masonry the character of universality."

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OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT
RW Chris Reis

No News Received

LAKE CITY 127
765 E. Seneca St.
Oswego, N.Y. 13126
2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m.
315/207-0127
www.lakecitylodge127.org

WM Patrick Fasulo,
Wife Tracey
315/760-7676

Greetings, Brethren. Welcome to spring. In February we held our annual George Washington Dinner. What a great time! The Masonic War Vets Post 43 posted the colors and we were off.

Grand Proctor RW Mark Loughran gave an engaging talk about the similarities between Teddy Roosevelt, Harry Truman and George Washington. Everyone had a great time.

Special thanks go to Lake City Victoria Chapter 205, under the leadership of Worthy Mary Babbitt, for a fantastic roast beef dinner. Also, thanks to Worshipful Ronald Bond and his wife Jackie for maintaining the Lodge and making it party-ready.

We have a few candidates in waiting and will be putting on Degrees very soon. Details will follow in emails from our Secretary, Mike Regan.

Pat Fasulo

STAFF OFFICER



RW John Pierce
585/610-8772
jpierce1307@gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren. Where does the time go? It is April already and it is time to do some Spring Cleaning of the Soul. Just as we tidy our Lodges, let us also cleanse our inner chambers.

What mental clutter weighs us down? Perhaps it is time to release grudges, forgive and seek harmony. Spring invites us to sweep away negativity and plant seeds of goodwill.

In March the three-District training team consisting of Cayuga-Tompkins, Onondaga and the Oswego District conducted the Entered Apprentice section of the Masonic Development Course for twelve Brothers at Jordan Lodge No. 386. A big thank-you goes out to the Lodge for hosting the course. Stay tuned for date and time for the Fellowcraft section.

Staff Officer
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS



Patrick Fasulo
315/760-7676
ptfasulo@yahoo.com

AGL Bob Boutell

No News Received

Staff Officer
from 2nd column . . .

If any Brother would like to take the course, please reach out to me and I will get you caught up.

This is a reminder to submit your room reservations for the Grand Lodge trip in May as soon as possible. Time is running out to hold the rooms.

May is just around the corner and after the Grand Lodge session we will have new District leaders. The following Brothers have been selected to lead the Oswego District: RW John Pierce, DDGM; W Ken Sterling, Grand Steward; RW Robert Boutell, AGL; RW Garry Visconti, AGL. I want to congratulate everyone and I am looking forward to working with all. There will be more exciting news to come—stay tuned.

Staff Officer
see 4th column

Staff Officer
from 3rd column . . .

May the Easter holiday renew your spirit and put a little spring in your step. Be well.

John Pierce

CENTRAL SQUARE 622
3215 East Ave.
Central Square, N.Y. 13036
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
315/668-3277

WM Bob Boutell

Spring is well underway, Brothers, and the quarries are busy. Our first meeting is April 4. We will be having a speaker from a Concordant Body (not yet finalized at the time of this writing). Dress for the evening is Masonic shirt.

Our second meeting is April 18. We will be discussing our charity efforts. Dress for the evening will be shirt and tie. As always, please reach out to a Brother you have not seen lately. Spread some fellowship.

Bob Boutell

PULASKI 415
28 Broad St.
Pulaski, N.Y. 13142
1st & 3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
315/298-6029

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, Brothers. We kicked off our spring communication on March 6. There was much to cover, such as planning for building repairs and projects to contemplate. If you need something to do this spring I think I can help with that.

Unfortunately as it is, our altar has remained covered for several months, now. Brother Stephan Sattler has laid down his working tools and has entered that house not made with hands eternal in the Heavens.

With many members in their 70s and 80s we need to redouble our efforts to bring in new members. My Brothers, we have brochures in the Lodge with Masonry's teachings and principles. Pick up a few and if you know a man of good character, share it with him. Good results to follow.

Barbecue season is just

Pulaski
see 5th column

Pulaski
from 4th column . . .

around the corner. We are down three helpers because of family demands as well as medical issues. We wish them well and hope for better days ahead. That being said, we are like the Marines and looking for a few good men. If you would have four or five hours on a Saturday once or sometimes twice a month it would be greatly appreciated.

We know how difficult it can be with matters of health and finances. And many struggle to keep up with it all. We need to always stretch out a hand in support of others.

This would be a good moment to reflect on the lyrics of James Taylor: shower your love on the ones you love and the world will be a better place for it. May the good Lord watch over our gentle Craft and country. See you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

SCRIBA 414
1416 St. Rt. 49
Constantia, N.Y. 13044
2nd & 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren. We finally brought our Lodge back to light after what was not a bad winter at all. It feels good getting back into the seats and seeing the brethren again.

We have a pretty busy schedule practicing now for our Second Degree for our two Brothers in waiting and it looks as though a couple more candidates are looking to join our Lodge. It is a great feeling getting new brethren in Lodge and watching them grow.

We also finished up our last cornhole tournament on March 2, with a very good turnout. I would like to thank American Legion Post 858, Brother DJ Buck for running the tournaments and Brother Paul Morse for letting us use the Post and all the Brothers and community that came out and supported us. We will continue this over the winter

Scriba
see 6th column

in 2025. Great fellowship!

The officers and brethren of Scriba Lodge would like to wish these Brothers Happy Birthday: Brother Cody Casteline, W Terry Day, Brother Michael Kirwin, Brother James Nolan, Brother William Ruprecht, Brother Douglas Shaw and Brother Timothy Zimpfer. I hope they make their day special with families and friends. Stay safe, Brethren.

Charlie Tuff

CALLIMACHUS 369
451 Main St.
Phoenix, N.Y. 13135
1st & 3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
315/695-6222

WM Brian Courtney
40thSPVet@gmail.com
315/447-2104
Secy Garrett Wikoff
Wikoffg@windstream.net
315/695-4271

Good day, Brothers all. We came out of darkness for our first meeting of the year. Jr. Warden Sam Sweet looks very debonair with his beard and Scally cap, we all thought. It was great to see everyone. With our meetings in full swing again please dress accordingly unless told differently. Thank you.

Callimachus Lodge is winding down our Lenten fish fries for the year. Thanks go to everyone who stopped by from Onondaga and Oswego District Lodges and especially to all the volunteers who helped make the efforts a success. We could not do it without all of you. I hope to see all of you at the next one.

If any Lodge is doing any Degrees please let us know. We have Brothers in waiting. Check out the EMESBE article about the Degree on Song Mountain on Saturday, June 8. You will not want to miss that.

We will be doing some more handicap ramps in the village soon, under the direction of Brother Scott Pecoy. It was a pleasure meeting his dad and brother at the last fish fry.

Plugs: If anyone is interested in becoming a Shriner we will pay your first year's dues and purchase your Fez for you. Contact me. If you are a veteran and would like to join the Masonic War Veterans Post you can contact me, also. Keep our Military, First Responders and LEOs in your thoughts and prayers.

Brian Courtney

Oswego District 2024 Grand Lodge trip Reservation Form

Grand Lodge will meet May 6 and 7 in the Grand Lodge Building 71 W. 23rd St., New York City. For those wishing to join us, the Oswego District has arranged hotel rooms at the Hampton Inn, Manhattan/Chelsea. It is located at 108 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011; Telephone: 212/414-1000.

We are not offering transportation at this time, due to the rise in transportation pricing. We can suggest booking Amtrak for your transportation to NYC. Current pricing from Syracuse to Penn Station is \$104.00 round trip.

Note: We do not take reservations for the Grand Master's Dinner. They must be made directly with Grand Lodge.

Rooms will be held on a 1st come-1st served basis. We rent the rooms as a nonprofit so you must be a member of Oswego District Masonic Charities to take part. If you are not a member, \$3 added to your remittance will cover you for the trip.

Reservations received after April 1 will incur a \$30 late fee and will be accepted as space permits.

NOTE : No refunds for room cancellations after April 1.

Send payment with this completed reservation form to:
Garret Wikoff, 9494 Pendergast Rd., Phoenix, NY 13135

Questions? wikoffg@windstream.net or 315/695-4271

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Your room preference: [] Room with 1 king size bed or [] Room with 2 full size beds.

Roommate preference if any _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: "Oswego Masonic Charities")

All surplus goes to the Oswego District Masonic Charities relief efforts.



Lake City Lodge enjoyed a good turnout of guests at their annual George Washington dinner in February. Left to right are VW Norman Kruth, Commander, Masonic War Veterans Post 43; RW Oscar Alleyne, PJGW; RW Mark Loughran, Grand Proctor; RW Christopher Reis, DDGM Oswego District; Brother Doug Campbell; WM Patrick Fasulo. Photo courtesy of Natalie Woodall

CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT

Wade A Caler
hipper62@yahoo.com
607/423-2669

Brothers, my apologies for a short article this month. Sometimes business, health or family issues get in the way. Sometimes all three at once, as in these last few weeks. We are working through them and all will be well.

Once again, I remind you that Grand Lodge will be held in New York City on May 6 and 7. There will be elections held for the Grand Line Officers. There is a crowded field for Deputy Grand Master and Treasurer. I am looking forward to an exciting time.

I plan on visiting all the Lodges in the District before Grand Lodge. Please call if there is anything I can assist with.

Wade A. Caler

CAZENOVIA 616
2836 State Rt. 20 East
PO Box 285
Cazenovia, NY 13035
1st & 3rd Wednesday,
7:30 p.m.

WM Michael A. Hayes

Glad tidings from the Brothers of Cazenovia

Cazenovia ...
see column 3

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

RW Richard G. Reed
607/591-1301
rgreed13045@gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren! Spring has come to Central New York, at least on the calendar. (Some of us wonder where winter was.) And spring promises new life, beauty and Light.

We Masons are all about Light. Divine Light comes to us in the teachings of the major religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. And from the end of March through April these three great religions hold their most holy celebrations—Easter, Ramadan and Passover, respectively. This is a time to consider the Light that we have been given and how to be beacons of that Light. Masonry is in a great position to do that, since we hold sacred all faiths that believe in one True God. Are you a good reflection of the Light you have received in Masonry?

The Lodges in our District are planning for the activities of the next several months. Degrees, dinners, fundraisers, fellowship—all are ways that we enjoy our brotherly care and affection.

Staff Officer ...
see column 3

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

RW Kim Dellow
Clint Brooks

No News Received

Staff Officer from 2nd column ...

They also give us opportunities to share Light with others. Please make sure that your District Team knows about all of these activities so that we can attend, if time allows.

I know I say it often, but please consider adding travel to that list. We are doing more of that lately and it is a wonderful thing. And that travel to visit other Lodges can be out of the District, as well.

We are not just members of a club who get together for ourselves or to do nice things. We are one great Fraternity, Brothers together, receiving and reflecting Light. Be the Light to each other and to the profane world.

Richard G. Reed

Cazenovia from 1st column ...

Lodge No. 616. The Brothers studied and prepared diligently for our Fellowcraft Degree on March 20. Brothers interested in attending were warmly welcomed, as always.

In December the Brothers and family came together for a great Christmas party.

Cazenovia ...
see column 4

Cazenovia from 3rd column ...

On February 10 the Brothers held a chicken barbecue and 200 chicken halves were sold out in 36 minutes. That same weekend the Nelson Creamery opened for its first, and hopefully annual, Fire and Ice weekend. People were waiting in line a half hour before opening and the line never stopped. The staff did an awesome job.

June 1 will be our awards dinner. Please check the "Grapevine" for further information.

As soon as spring breaks we will begin several projects around the Lodge and April 13 will be the season opener for the Nelson Creamery. I hope to see some of you there. Be well, my Brothers, until next we shall meet.

Michael A. Hayes

TRI-VALLEY 148
611 Stone St.
Oneida, N.Y. 13421
1st Thurs., 7:30 p.m.

WM Walter J. Boronow
walterisagenius@aol.com
315750-5985



Brethren, let me begin with dates to add to your calendar. First, we will be presenting Service Awards on Saturday, May 18. The Dedicated Service Award will be presented to Brother Bill Baird. The social gathering will be from 5:30 to 6

Tri-Valley ...
see column 5

Tri-Valley from 4th column ...

p.m., with a dinner being served at 6 p.m. The program will follow directly thereafter. Dinner with dessert will be \$15 a plate. The menu will be announced shortly. As always, please advise of dietary needs. Make your reservations with the Master at 315/750-5985 or at

walterisagenius@aol.com.

We hope all Brother DSA honorees will attend. Please bring your apron and be acknowledged.

Look for announcements regarding our annual Lodge picnic/barbecue, to be held sometime in mid- to late-June. We encourage Masters of other Lodges to use this event as a Brother Bring a Friend or for other fellowship opportunities. Just bring a dish to pass as possible. We look forward to being your event host and we are open to all.

It has recently become important to report that Tri-Valley Lodge has been adjusting to the current economy and its effect on the Lodge. We have been fiscally responsible but find it necessary to make changes in our structure and fundraising to achieve both financial stability and longevity. Donations have been received by our membership to assist in keeping the levels of our charitable endeavors ongoing and stable.

Tri-Valley ...
see column 6

Tri-Valley from 5th column ...

Thanks go to Brothers all. Our obligations to each other remain paramount. We are taking a hard look at the current direction of the Lodge and will be making necessary course corrections. We are partnering with other Lodges and Concordant Bodies across our jurisdiction who are assisting in keeping us solvent and sustainable. We appreciate the wise counsel, assistance and the in-person support of the Fraternity.

The origins of our own Charter date back to the 1850s. A clear-eyed look forward at this time and place is necessary. The path forward is clear. Through the teachings as exemplified in our ritual we will prevail. It becomes our reality and has shaped our response. We are not alone but have much work to do.

If you or someone you know is in need of our aid or sympathy, please contact the Lodge. We would also like to hear from you if you have good news to report. I will do my best to keep you informed. Be well, my Brothers.

Walter J. Boronow

**Past Senior Grand Warden
John R. Fuller
Sponsor**

Mentor from page 4 ...

sures penalizing participation, the participation of younger and economically active members substantially decreased. These measures were effective enough to

choke Lodges. It was during this time that I joined the Craft, after two years of military service in the labor units. My Lodge was Island. This situation lasted until

mid-1980s, when the Cuban government allowed religious believers and Masons to join official institutions. Pressures on membership and attendance eased up.

It is possible that our past Cuban experience predisposes me to advocate on behalf of a more activist stance on the part of our Craft here that might contribute toward

a healthier political environment. Thus, Mentor will offer a Zoom talk on Surveys and their implementation and interpretation on Tuesday,

April 2. Join me at 7 p.m., using this link: <https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/94545765754>.

Jorge L. Romeu



CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



RW Anthony J. Tabone
thats1happitooth@verizon.net

Now that we have rolled into March, I have a very important question for you. How many of your New Year's resolutions remain unbroken? Have you been hitting the gym every day? Avoided sweets? Gone the whole month without drinking alcohol? Regardless of the resolution, if you are like most people, those well-intentioned promises are already in the rearview mirror. Why is that? I think the reason New Year's resolutions do not stick is all about our mindset. We are so accustomed to them not sticking and our friends not achieving theirs, either, that it makes it OK to fail. Do you not believe me? Pay attention to how many gym or restaurant commercials you will see this time of year that reference failed resolutions. So we, as a collective unconscious, have made it OK to fail at our New Year's resolutions while at the same time making it admirable for a person to pursue positive change. Weird, is it not?

So, how to succeed with our new year's goals? Ironically enough, we have to follow one of the oldest clichés in the book and "think outside the box." Instead of making a New Year's resolution, let us simply "decide to change" and then "do it." I know that sounds ridiculously simple but when you break everything down to the most basic level, that is all change amounts to. Motivational Expert, Marshall Sylver, often says, "The secret to success is making yourself consistently do the things you don't want to do." If you think about it, that is

More DDGM see page 12

STAFF OFFICER



RW David A. Barnello
GLSO Cayuga-Tompkins District
dabbc@aol.com
315/283-6705

Greetings, all. The real spring season is upon us. We had several glimpses of it practically all winter long. It was almost a shock when we actually had measurable snow. I only shoveled snow three times the whole season.

Are you planning to observe the Solar Eclipse on April 8? Central, Western, and Northern New York are in the zone of totality. Although solar eclipses themselves are somewhat frequent over time, the paths they take are not consistent. None of us seeing this one will likely see another from our current vantage point. Get out, take in the experience firsthand.

Is your Lodge holding Degrees this spring? If so, I hope you are offering your new Brothers the opportunity to take part in the Masonic Development Course being offered. We had more than a dozen participants in the first session. The next session will be given soon. Be on the lookout for dates, times, and locations. Also, the LSOME program is available to be given between the Degrees. Call me if you need me to assist in this endeavor.

There are sessions being set up for NorthStar training in Districts and online. Your Lodge should have as many Brothers trained as possible. This program plays an important part in the candidate selection process and prepares the Brothers in your Lodge for mentoring the new members, especially in the first year as Masons. Strengthen your Lodge by having your officers in-

More Staff Officer see page 12

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

Jeffrey Lampman Jr.,
315/406-8050,
jefflamppost@gmail.com

No News Received

ERIE CANAL 141
2803 Rte. 31 East
Weedsport, N.Y. 13166
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

WM David Barnello;
Wife, Ann;
315/283-6705
315/283-6705
Secy Gary Mowers;
315/246-7029

Greetings, Brothers. For those who missed it, our Fellowcraft Degree held on March 7 could not have gone much better. With the participation of Brothers from Erie Canal, Fidelity-Hobasco and Jordan Lodges, the Degree was conferred on three Brothers. Newly Raised Brother Gary Gilfus took on the Middle Chamber Lecture and did an outstanding job. Brother Scott Martin and Brother Steve Baird of Jordan Lodge also did a great job on the Q & As. With Brother Seth Molloy presiding, the Brothers from Erie Canal Lodge made up the rest of the team. Preparations for the Raising of three Brothers have begun.

Our March Pancake Breakfast went well with our St. Patrick's theme and the new placemats were set in place. As mentioned last month, we now have new placemats with advertisements of local businesses promoting their services. Along with the placemat ads, we are scrolling visual ads on our large TV screens around the dining area. Our hope is this will give our patrons a look at those businesses in the community around us as we show our support to buying local, as well as promoting ourselves as to what Erie Canal Lodge has to offer.

Health news update: Brother John Roden is home and in recovery from recent surgery. Brother Elvin Dolph had his "boot" removed recently and is working on getting back to walking in time for golf season. Brother Dale Cotten is back to work after having his gall bladder removed. Brother Joe Marshall—at last report—is holding his own as he convalesces at home. Brother Marty Dunham is home for a while, undergoing testing after a heart-related event.

More Erie Canal see page 12



Auburn Lodge No. 124 donated \$900 to the Cayuga County Meals on Wheels Program. These funds were out-of-pocket contributions from the members. Left to right at the presentation are WM Joe Sheppard; Jenna Adams, Meals on Wheels Program Coordinator; RW Tom Ostrander, Lodge Secretary.

AUBURN 124
5593 St. Rte. 34B.
Auburn, N.Y. 13021
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.

WM Joe Sheppard
Secy Tom Ostrander,
tostrander7948@gmail.com,
315/224-0940

Brothers, under Sickness and Distress: Brother Charles Masters is having home-care PT and is on oxygen but is improving, according to his wife Nancy. Our prayers are with him. I will stop by for a brief visit.

Our March 21 casual meeting was open to all. We celebrated the March Madness thing. It was a Bring-a-Friend event with pizza, wings, venison chili and spicy Mac-n-cheese. We sold beverages through the JW Fund and brought our own.

April 4 is a regular meeting at 7:30. On April 18 we will examine Fellowcraft proficiency.

Our Community Service Program is going quite well. We collected for Meals on Wheels recently and were able to donate \$900. All of these donations are out-of-pocket contributions by our Brothers attending Lodge, plus Brothers sending checks. Our next donation is scheduled for the new Safe & Warm Program, which provides support for the homeless men and women of Auburn.

The chicken barbecue to support Lodge projects was scheduled for March 17. It has been postponed until further notice due to many conflicts. Upcoming barbecues are being scheduled for both the Rainbow Girls and

More Auburn see page 12

SCIOPIO 110
Main St.
Aurora, N.Y. 13026
2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m.

WM Scott Ward,
Secy Stephen L. Zabriske,
zabled@aol.com

Hello, friends. My apologies for missing last month. My usual last-minute scramble turned out to be a day or two late. My bad.

I had a chuckle the other day as I was having a bite to eat. Someone in an adjoining group of friends asked innocently "What season is it?" The answers ranged from tax season, mud season, eclipse season, a terrific rendition of Looney Tunes wabbit/duck season and obviously, election season.

More Scipio see page 12

WARREN SALEM TOWN 147
155 Cayuga St.
Union Springs, N.Y. 13160
1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.

WM Warren Albrecht,
wife Mary Ann
walbrecht1342@outlook.com

Now that the clocks have sprung forward, we will arrive for Lodge in the daylight. We are hoping more Brothers will plan on attending. For the last three meetings we have not been able to formally open, due to the lack of members. Some of the problem is due to the number of Brothers under "Sickness & Distress." We need prayers for Brothers Richard Hodges, W Randy Mayer and especially Brother Steve Hunter, who

Warren Salem Town see page 12



EASTER EGG HUNT!

**Starting at 9 AM Saturday
March 30th, 2024
At AJ Elementary School**



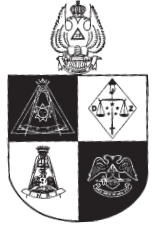
**THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR 3 GROUPS:
AGES 4 AND UNDER; 5 TO 7; AND 8 TO 10**

Sponsored by the Masons of Warren Salem Town Lodge #147



Fellowcraft Degree night at Erie Canal Lodge.

Scottish Riter



Central City Bodies, A.A.S.R.
648 Centerville Pl., N. Syr., NY 13212
(315) 452-7976 • Fax (315) 452-9679

Council Princes

Happy Earth Day! Every April 22 we celebrate the renewal of our commitment to conservation and the wider environment. We see the positive effects of reducing acid rain and the natural increase in the fish population in the Adirondacks. Renewal is not simply preserving treasures but also growing them for future generations.

Our Masonic and Scottish Rite journey also has that spirit of renewal today. I have been in the Craft for more than twenty years. I joined a Lodge in Worcester, MA, which had not Raised a candidate yet. The Lodge subsequently merged within eighteen months of my joining. My sponsoring Master Mason adapted as well and became a leader in Masonry in other places—other streams.

I am continually seeking changes to become a stronger brotherhood. Some consideration must be given to how people in historic Lodges in smaller communities may struggle. We use Zoom for some non-tiled meetings, which allows more to participate while maintaining our zeal and fervor in our work. Though we continue US mail, we are transitioning more communications to electronic mail for efficiency, cost savings and convenience. Every change asks whether we are leaving Brothers behind or becoming less personal. But we look to improve our Craft rather than simply change it.

I believe we must be willing to adapt and change, not for change's sake but for ourselves and our future. You never know what new fishing is out there to be discovered.

Jeffrey M. Cox

Consistory

Where are we? We remain the largest Masonic Body meeting in the Central New York area. While membership has been declining in recent years, we have over 300 members and we have perhaps the most interesting and varied programs populating our Trestleboard. We are committed to our core values and we have 29 Degrees that build and expand upon the lessons we were presented in the Craft Degrees.

Where are we going? Forward! We continue to plan programs and events that will be of interest to all Masons and sometimes non-Masons in Central New York. Our program on Operative Masonry, where the skilled art of stone shaping and carving was demonstrated live, generated a great deal of buzz. Another unique program is planned for fall. We will continue to be a dynamic

organization bringing unique and informative programs to CNY Masons.

How will we get there? The key is membership. The size of our membership and the financial resources we enjoy enable us to plan these events and programs. We are a broad melting pot of members from nine or more counties who bring their talents and ideas. We invite your suggestions to continue to move this Valley forward. Contact any of the Valley officers if you have ideas or suggestions. Our membership is our strength and we encourage all our members to solicit their Masonic friends to join the Scottish Rite experience.

We ended March with our Feast of the Paschal Lamb memorial service and recognition of milestones in the Knights of the Double Eagle. Masons have a strong obligation to provide funeral rites for our deceased members; Scottish Rites conduct a formal memorial service each year to remember our departed Brothers. Knights of the Double Eagle recognizes active participation in our Valley events.

April is a busy month. Our Degree casts and the Scottish Rite Office have been working to prepare for our Degree festival on April 13 and our Reunion Banquet on April 22. April 13 is our last chance to make new Scottish Rite Masons before our elections and installation in May and the summer break. Candidates can walk in as Third Degree Masons and walk out that afternoon as 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons. We will present the 4°, 11° and 14° in the morning. Lunch will follow and in the afternoon we present the 19° and 32°. The 32° will be a hybrid format—video first section followed by a live Knighting Ceremony. You will receive information from the Scottish Rite office regarding the day's events.

A little over a week after our Degree Festival we will have our Reunion Banquet. I strongly encourage attendance at this event to greet our new Scottish Rite members, to renew friendships and catch up with other members of our Valley. Social time will be at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30.

Lastly, your Executive Committee meets twice in April, on the 1st and 29th. I will present the tentative program for the next Scottish Rite year at the April 1 meeting; if you want to see how the sausage is made, feel free to attend and offer your comments and suggestions. Both Executive Committee meetings are live at the Masonic Memorial Center at 7:00 p.m.

William H. Toth II

Rose Croix

Greeting, Knights. By the time you read this article our Chapter will have presented the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. It is one of our most important rituals, as we remember those Brothers who passed away during the year.

We are in the process of proposing a new slate of officers for our Rose Croix Chapter for the 2024-2025 period. Recruiting members for Degree work or for Body officers is usually a challenging task. A core of dedicated Brothers toil year after year in these endeavors but they wear out, move away, pass away, and must be replaced. The Chapter and some of the other Bodies need to fill these vacancies with Brothers willing and able every year.

Recently several Brothers joined our Scottish Rite Valley. Some are already performing a function in one of the four Bodies, which is excellent. Some are still not integrated into the work of the Valley. Joining one Body as an officer or participating in Degree work are excellent opportunities to integrate into our Valley, to grow as a Freemason and to learn more about the Scottish Rite operations. In addition to their important Masonic values, these are ways to become more familiar with Valley Brothers and strengthen the bonds of fellowship.

Jorge L. Romeu

Perfection

I look forward to the Annual Reunion Banquet on Monday, April 22. There is a 6 p.m. social time, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program at 7:30. Remember, many of our Ladies enjoy a night out and chance to visit with the Ladies they have become friends with.

Many thanks go to everyone who attended the 10th Annual Gala in support of the Children's Dyslexia Center of CNY. The attendance was the largest ever at around 170 adults and children. Of the fifty-four baskets donated for the raffle, five came from the Valley of Syracuse MSA Group.

Even though your Body may not be responsible for any event, I hope you will come show your support for the rest of the programs our Valley offers. Please encourage the officers in your Body to attend often and support our newest members and candidates, especially if you are a top-line signer on an application. And if you are interested in a part in our Degrees or serving on a committee or have an idea for a program, please let us know.

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk

Hospitaler

Garry Visconti
oswegogdc@gmail.com
315/529-1936

There are a few people we need to keep in our prayers: Brother Carlton Jackson, who is still recovering from a motorcycle accident; Diana Toth, who is still home recovering. Fred Green, Sandy Samson, Gary Kall, Gerry Hogg and Joel Scarson have been ill and need our prayers. Peter Kline had a second knee replacement procedure and Earl

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

April 2024

- Apr 1** Executive Committee (in person) 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 13 (Sat)** 5-Degrees Festival 4°(V), 11° (L), 14° (L), 19° (V), 32° (L); 8:00 a.m. Coffee & donuts; 8:30 a.m. Candidates Registration; 9:00 a.m. Meeting opens; 9:30 a.m. 4° Conferral; 12 Noon Luncheon; 1:30 p.m. Consistory opens.
- Apr 22** 162nd Annual Reunion Banquet @ Masonic Memorial Center; Ladies & Guests welcome; Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./Program 7:30 p.m.
- Apr 26** **Scholarship Application submission to Valley Office deadline**
- Apr 29** Trustees Meeting Live, 6:15 p.m./ Executive Committee Meeting Live, 7:00 p.m.

May 2024

- May 13** Guard's Club Annual Meeting, 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Meeting; Four Bodies Annual meeting & Officer's Election 7:30 p.m.
- May 20** Installation of Officers; Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./ Install Officers 7:30 p.m.

Allegiance

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Syracuse, State of New York, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose officers are: Ill. Walter F. Wheeler, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Stephen E. Smith, 33°, Grand Lieutenant Commander; Ill. Laurel "Arby" Humphrey, 33°, Grand Minister of State; Ill. G. Michael Morris, 33°, Deputy for New York State.

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK—Ill. Steven C. Stefanakos, 33°; Ill. David E. Barnes, 33°; Ill. Richard J. Powell, 33°; Ill. John R. Patterson, Jr., 33°

AT LARGE—Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Past Sovereign Grand Commander

ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK—Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°; Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, 33°; Ill. Fredrick D. Greene, 33°; Ill. Edward R. Trosin, 33°; Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, Past Grand Minister of State, Past Deputy for New York; Ill. P. Michael Nielsen, 33°; Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°, Past Deputy for New York

DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE—Ill. Robert M. Tyrrell, 33°

Tuttle had a pacemaker installed; both are home recovering.

We received news that Dick Arthur passed away in Clayton, NC on March 4. If you know anyone in need of our assistance or prayers please let me know.

Garry Visconti

Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

It is challenging to believe it is already April. This year is going amazingly fast, with lots of changes and new beginnings. We are grateful for the wonderful donations, sponsors and individuals who helped make the Gala in March a success. We thank our families who donated baskets and those who purchased tickets for them. Much gratitude also goes to our Board members and Gala committee for putting this together. That is a full-time job and needs constant attention to pull it off.

Our Practitioners are in their last full month of working with all-new material for their students. They will complete their last observation in early April and be done with most of their requirements at that point. There were a lot of classroom hours, book reading and reports, written material and tutoring hours.

Our students have completed about 40 hours of tutoring time and they notice the difference. One child exclaimed that he now "has almost all 90s" on his report card. This excitement carries over in the way the children handle themselves. Many are now confident, more knowledgeable and hold their head high. The atmosphere has changed and is filled with vibrancy and joy. We thank you for making this possible.

Marianne Jones
Alyssa Mittiga

NOTICE TO ALL

To Valley Officers and members: be aware of the

planned schedule for Saturday, April 13 when Central City Bodies will confer five Scottish Rite Degrees.

8:00 a.m. - Coffee and donuts available

8:00 a.m. - Candidates for the 4° and all other members of the 2023-2024 DB Stephen G. Maddox, 32° MSA Class continuing their Scottish Rite Journey to become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason report to Ill. Craig E. Cobb, 33°, Class Marshal.

8:30 a.m. - Open Central City Consistory in joint session with the Lodge of Perfection, Council Princes of Jerusalem and Chapter of Rose Croix.

9:00 a.m. - Degree conferrals commence

4° "Builder" (Video)

11° "Sublime Master Elected" (Video)

14° "Grand Elect Mason" (Live)

12:00 noon - Luncheon

1:00 p.m. - 19° "Brothers of the Trail" (Video)

1:45 p.m. - 32° "Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret" Combined conferral Ceremony (Video) Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret Knighting (Live)

James D. Swan, Jr.

2024 - 2025 Scholarship Applications

Applications for the 2024 Leon M. Abbott Scholarship are available online at the Central City Bodies, AASR Valley of Syracuse Scottish Rite website: www.syr-aasr.org or the New York State Council of Deliberation website: www.ny-scottishritemasons.org. Hard copy applications are at the Valley of Syracuse office.

The deadline for submission to the Valley of Syracuse business office is April 26, 2024. Applications received after April 26 will not be considered.

Graduating High School Seniors are eligible to apply for financial assistance, as are members of our Masonic Youth Groups—Triangle, Rainbow and DeMolay. A Masonic relationship is not required. Students who com-

plete the program at the Children's Dyslexia Centers in New York State may also apply.

Blue Envelope Appeal

Thanks go to all who supported the Blue Envelope Appeal with your donation. Your continued support of the Blue Envelope Appeal project at Supreme Council benefits the students receiving education financial assistance from Supreme Council and the New York Council of Deliberation. I am happy to report the Valley of Syracuse met and exceeded the annual goal for the number of members who support this project.

Jim Swan

New Member Event

If you are a Master Mason with a thirst for more Masonic knowledge, if you have lingering questions that were never answered, take positive action and get those answers.

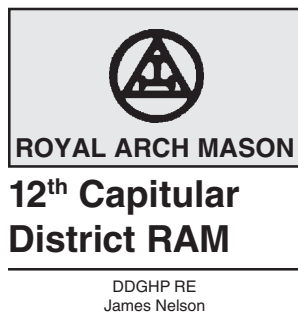
To begin the process, come to the Masonic Memorial Center, 648 Centerville Pl., North Syracuse; phone the Valley Office at 315/452-7976; go online to www.syr-aasr.org; or speak with Ill. Terry A. Byard, 33°, Central City Bodies, Valley of Syracuse New Member Committee Chairman on or prior to April 13. Become a new Scottish Rite Mason by taking Scottish Rite Degrees that day.

You must be a Master Mason and member of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or recognized by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York. The new member petition fee is \$160. You need to bring your current Masonic Lodge membership card with you when you submit your petition for membership.

We urge you to become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. Gain more Masonic knowledge, meet new friends and enjoy Masonic fellowship with your Brothers.

James D. Swan, Jr.

YORK RITE BODIES



DDGHP RE
James Nelson

Greetings, Companions. I hope this communication finds all of you doing well. We have celebrated a new Capitular Season by the time you are reading this, with a newly installed Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of New York. We are thankful for the leadership provided by ME Larry N. Barnard as the titular head of our Order.

We are now going into high gear with visits to each of our Chapters with our Official Visits. I look forward to having the opportunity to share companionship with each of the members in our Capitular District.

We will be working to see how we can best serve our District through cooperative Degree conferrals. We have a new AGL, VE Edward Sinay, who will bring his excellent organizational skills as well as his vast Masonic experience to help with our ritual growth and understanding.

Our opening and closing ritual is important as a reminder of the Degrees we have experienced. Our Degrees are wonderful for giving us better understanding of the continuation of the Hiram Legend, a journey through the quarries and building the temples that are integral to our Fraternity. May you be enjoying your best life.

James Nelson

CENTRAL CITY RIVERSIDE CHAPTER 70 RAM
608 Oswego St.
Liverpool, N.Y.
Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday

HP Timothy S. Hansen
Secy Bob Bowles
315/436-0997
Rbowles1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions! With the winter passing and spring now approaching we look forward to meeting together at Chapter. And I look forward to presenting several education programs at our upcoming meetings.

It is also time to be more committed than ever to Royal Arch Masons and the Craft of Freemasonry. Once again, I want to emphasize that no matter what Chapter you may belong to, your regular attendance and support is of great importance to keep our organization strong and growing.

I also looked forward to attending our Grand Chapter Convocation in March. The opportunity to travel and meet with different Companions from different Chapters across the State is a unique experience. Also, they have access to educational items geared towards non-Companions, new Companions and the more experienced Companions. No matter how long you may have been a Companion, you can always learn something new.

We have two candidates entering the Degree cycle. They are Norm Gauthier and Rich Hufnagle.

If any Companions or Brothers know of anyone in sickness and distress or in need of our aid and sympathies, please feel free to contact me. I hope to see you around the 12th Capitular District soon.

Timothy S. Hansen

LAKE ONTARIO CHAPTER 165 RAM
Oswego Masonic Lodge
765 E. Seneca St.
Meets 2nd Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

HP Patrick Fasulo

Greetings, Companions. On April 11 RE James Nelson will be visiting Lake Ontario Chapter No. 650 for his Official Visit. All Companions are cordially invited to attend to listen to the District Deputy Grand High Priest give the Grand High Priest's message. We look forward to RE James Nelson's visit. It is always a pleasure when he comes up to Oswego.

Get your ritual book out and start studying, Companions. Let us put on a great show for our District Deputy Grand High Priest. Dinner will be provided for \$10 by Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205, Order of the Eastern Star at 6:30. The District Deputy's visit will be at 7:30. I hope to see you there.

Patrick Fasulo

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

CENTRAL CITY COMMANDERY 25 KT
Liverpool Masonic Temple
608 Oswego St.,
Liverpool 13088
Meets 1st or 3rd Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Cmdr Robert L. Kimberley
comet@twcny.rr.com
315/935-4711
Recorder John Buckley,
jbuckley950@gmail.com

Greetings, Sir Knights. March was a great month for us at Central City. On the 1st we had one of our bigger meetings in over a year, with twelve Sir Knights in attendance. We had been talking about changing our meeting night from Friday for about a month and that night it came to a vote.

Central City Commandery has changed its meeting nights from the first and/or third Friday of the month to the second and/or

fourth Thursday of the month. However, since we have our Inspection on Friday, April 19, a day we cannot change, we will not start meeting on Thursdays until May 9. This should help to keep the confusion to a minimum.

We have also grown our Commandery, with nine new Sir Knights receiving their Orders at the Scots Pilgrimage. I am looking forward to seeing all our new Sir Knights, and seeing some older Sir Knights return, due to our meeting night change.

Robert L. Kimberley



Tigris Shrine Potentate III. Sir Brian Courtney
315/447-2104
40thSPVet@gmail.com

Recorder Tigris Shrine III. Sir Ralph I. Haney Jr.
315/308-0410
office@tigrisshriners.com

Tigris

Nobles, Brothers and Future Nobles: As I write this, Mother Nature is trying to make a winter comeback. Hopefully, it is her last one.

By the time you read this we will have participated in the Syracuse St. Patrick's Day Parade, which is always a great time. The RV Show was a complete success again. Thanks go to all the Nobles who participated—I do not have a list of them. And thanks to Dennis Hughes Jr. who donated a YETI cooler package. I donated a 4-foot Shriners Care Bear from Vermont Teddy Bear Company to raise money for our new driveway.

Our night at the Syracuse Crunch was held on March 15. Pictures will come next month or online. Tigris's 1st Annual Chili Cookoff was March 30, hosted by Dennis Hughes Sr. More on that will be revealed next month, also.

Our Meat Raffle occurred in March or will in April if we have the volunteers. You will receive an email and we will post it on the District Facebook page.

The District Dart league is doing well. The Championship will be April 20 at Tigris and we will be selling food for everyone. Proceeds will possibly go towards completing our new parking lot. There will be a 50/50 and gift bags for raffle, too. This activity is the brain child of our DDGM Dan Campis. If you are interested in coming down to help we would love to have you here.

A Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for everyone is in

the plans and we are also looking into a Movie Night at Movie Tavern in Camillus. It will be a very cheap night out and they serve food and adult beverages there. This all depends on participation. The fun begins and ends with every Noble here.

Noble Heath Thomas is planning a fun Buccaneer Degree for Friday, May 10. More information will follow. Bring a potential new Noble with you. We are looking into possibly having an Ice Cream Social on Saturday, May 11—tentatively.

Tigris will be getting our new sign shortly, just in time. Mother Nature destroyed the old one.

We are going to have a Ladies Appreciation Dinner to thank those who have been there for us all year long. We could not do what we do at Tigris if it were not for the fabulous women who work side by side with us. They have our undying gratitude. The tentative date is May 22 and we are working on the details.

In May, too, we will be in full swing with our parades. On May 27, Memorial Day, the Fayetteville Parade starts at 9:00 a.m. and the Manlius Parade at 11:00. This year we are going to try and split up and half go to the Camillus Parade, which starts at 9:30 a.m., and then we will end up at the Jordan Parade with a 3:05 kickoff. June 1 is the 46th OZ-Stravaganza Parade in Chittenango at 2:00 p.m. and June 9 is the Canastota Boxing Hall of Fame Parade of Champions at 12:00 p.m. Tigris success at all of these depends on everyone's participation.

On Wednesday, June 12 there will be an Awards Night. We will honor those with years of service to Tigris, in conjunction with Shriners Awareness Day.

St. John's Day weekend at the Utica Masonic Campus runs from June 20 through 23. All of the Shrines in NY will be marching together for the first time ever. The parade is Saturday the 22nd so keep your calendar clear, please. We would love to see our clowns march, also.

Under Health and Happiness, Noble Tom Sawyer needs our thoughts and prayers. If there is anyone else in need of prayers or assistance, please call the office and let us know.

This year we will be at the Lynrd Skynrd concert on Thursday, August 15 and Hank Williams Jr. on Saturday, August 24 selling CDs for Shriners Children's Hospitals. Yes, I said HWJ. Join before then so you can be there with us, and bring your better half with you. It is fun, family, fraternity and the Fez. The Shriners Imperial Session is June 28 to July 4 this year. As your Potentate I will be there representing all of you.

An idea I have for this year is a mentorship program with PEACE Inc., the organization that works with Syracuse kids. I think we can get local boys involved in DeMolay. There is a Chapter right here in Solvay at

Crossroads United Lodge under Mark Heitmann. If you are interested in helping out he would love to have you.

We would also like to have a Community Liaison to get to know our neighbors better. Is anyone interested in doing this? We are working on having sort of block parties in the parking lot over the summer to get more involved in the area. DD Dan Campis has a movie screen we can put up for the kids. We want to let everyone know who we are and what we do to help children, instead of just being the Bingo people.

We have a lot planned as you can see, Nobles. It cannot happen unless many step up to help. Volunteer for one

item to do. We will all be there to assist you. "T" shirts will be available for you to purchase, also. Check your email so you do not miss out.

All of that being said, Bingo is every Sunday from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., if you would like to play or help out. The kitchen is always looking for help. Just volunteer once a month from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or whenever you can during that time slot.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions to enhance Tigris please contact me. Cookouts, fishing trips, family events for everyone—we are here for all of you and want to make your time at Tigris fun.

Brian Courtney

Bruce Babilot
Owner

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ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron
Alfred Tefoe, DGL

As we head into April, all of the Chapters and the members of the Onondaga District are busy finalizing preparations for the visit of the Grand Matron and Grand Patron on April 6. We are getting back to our normal Chapter meeting schedules. Chapters are planning their special meetings and fundraisers. Many members are planning on traveling to other Districts around the State to participate in the Official Visits of the Grand Matron and Grand Patron. It is truly a busy time for our Order.

Invitations have gone out for the Official Visit of the Grand Matron and Grand Patron to the Onondaga District on Saturday, April 6. The dinner and meeting will be returning to the American Legion in Cicero. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the social hour, dinner is at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 8 p.m. The District will host a hospitality area from noon to 3 p.m. at the hotel.

We are also looking for donations of baskets to raffle this year. These are always a lot of fun and are a great fundraiser. RW Alfred and I appreciate all of the time and energy our members have put into making the Grand Matron and Grand Patron's visit a memorable one.

Mark your calendar for these coming events in the Onondaga District: April 18 at Centerville at 7:30 p.m.: Official Visit of RW Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, accompanied by RW Alfred Tefoe, District Grand Lecturer, and their companion Grand Officers to Centerville Chapter No. 185; and April 22 at Morning Star at 7:30 p.m.: Official Visit of RW Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, accompanied by RW Alfred Tefoe, Dis-

Onondaga District see 3rd column

Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

Carla J. Salisbury, District Deputy Grand Matron

To my Sisters and Brothers of the Oswego District: The invitations are out for the Grand Matron and Grand Patron's Official Visit, which is just around the corner (April 5). Once again it is to be held at the Greenview Country Club in West Monroe. The menu consists of chicken parmesan, pork tenderloin, stuffed shells, stuffing, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, macaroni and cheese, salad and roll and dessert. The subscription is \$35. Reservations are to be sent to Janet Stewart with your check.

Raffle baskets are needed for the Grand Matron's Official Visit. If you are planning on doing a basket, contact RW Cindy Sanders at 315/343-0097 (after 7 p.m.) so that space can be saved for your basket. Let us have a great showing. The ticket prices are a good deal for the opportunity of a great prize.

Rada cutlery and TerriLynn fundraisers are ongoing through the end of May. Catalogs have been given to Chapter Matrons so please take a look. If you see something you would like, submit your order with your check to me and I will be happy to place it with the company.

A huge thank-you goes to Lake City Victoria No. 205 for hosting the homeless veteran shoebox packing party and serving a delicious soup and sandwich luncheon to participants. Thank you also to Lake City Victoria and to RW Mary Lou Colbert for their generous donations to the cause. We were able to pack twenty boxes, with some leftover items. If you would still like to donate, I will happily accept items through March 29 and pack more boxes for presentation to the Grand Patron on the 5th.

Oswego District see 3rd column

Oswego District from 2nd column . . .

Special Project (Tunnels to Towers) pins are available for the purchase price of \$10. I have some and RW Monica also has some available.

My Official Visits are scheduled as follows: Pulaski Puritan, April 9; Phelon, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.; Lake Ontario, May 9; Lake City Victoria, May 10. All other visits are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Before you know it, the Festival of Stars will be here in July. Notices have been sent to Conductresses advising them of their responsibility to collect donations for this event. Please be generous. Donations need to be in Oriskany by July 6. If you need assistance getting items there, please contact me at 315/342-5137 so arrangements can be made.

Carla Salisbury

Onondaga District from 1st column . . .

district Grand Lecturer, and their companion Grand Officers to Morning Star Chapter No. 289.

May 7 is the Official Visit of RW Alfred Tefoe, District Grand Lecturer, accompanied by RW Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, and their companion Grand Officers to Onondaga Star Chapter No. 144 at 7:30 p.m. On May 9 at Bona Fide Hiawatha-Solvay, 7:30 p.m., the Official Visit of RW Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, accompanied by RW Alfred Tefoe, District Grand Lecturer, and their companion Grand Officers to Bona Fide Hiawatha-Solvay Chapter No. 567 takes place. May 21 is the Official Visit of RW Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, accompanied by RW Alfred Tefoe, District Grand Lecturer, and their companion Grand Officers to Onondaga Star Chapter No. 144. We would love to have you join us for these Official Visits.

Patricia Tefoe
Alfred Tefoe



We wished Happy Birthday to RW Mary Mason, who turned 93 years "young" on February 14. The members of Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205, Oswego, surprised her with a cake and card shower at the "Sweetheart Luncheon" on February 10. W Lillian Schute, Conductress, delivered the cake and helped blow out the candles. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

What a very nice Initiation we had on March 7. Our Star Points did a great job relating their stories and our officers did a great job, too. Unfortunately, we were unable to Initiate a new member but it was nice to be able to go through the motions as a reminder of what it means to be a member.

March 21 was a regular meeting. April 4 will be Ample Form and on April 18 we will welcome RW Sister Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, on her Official Visit to Centerville Chapter. See you in Chapter.

April showers bring new life,
Washing away the winter strife.
With each drop, the earth revives,
And nature's beauty again arrives.

Cathy Barling

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Sisters and Brothers, Greetings! I performed the annual ritual of moving my clocks ahead one hour last night and am relatively confident that spring will soon be here. I actually saw a robin in my birdbath on March 1. The crocuses are blossoming in parts of Oswego. Maybe the flora and fauna know things we mere mortals do not.

The last two months have literally flown by and one day in particular stands out in my memory. Our Worthy Matron, W Mary Babbitt, proposed a midwinter "Sweetheart Party" for February 10. It was great fun, especially when we surprised RW Mary Mason with a birthday cake and a card shower. RW Mary would celebrate her 93rd birthday on Valentine's Day and we used this occasion to show her our love and esteem. She was visibly surprised but very appreciative.

Lake City Victoria see 6th column

Lake City Victoria from 5th column . . .

On February 24 the Chapter catered the annual George Washington banquet for Lake City Lodge. VW Patrick Fasulo, Worshipful Master, began the evening with a delightful and enthusiastic resume of Brother Washington's career. Although attendance was less than normal, the guests en-

Lake City Victoria see page 12



DDGM Carla Salisbury leads the box-packing effort for vets at Lake City Victoria Chapter. Photo by Natalie Woodall



Centerville Chapter 185, OES, held an Initiation on March 7. Officers in the front row are RW Nancy Weisbeck, Grand Electa; MW Jodelle Fletcher, Grand Matron 2008, 2017; RW Cathy Barling, Worthy Matron; RW Patricia Tefoe,

DDGM; RW Alfred Tefoe, DGL; RW Gary Hartman, Worthy Patron; RW Susan Cole, Grand Chaplain.

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	1 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Warren Salem Town 147	2 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselc Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	3 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT Tri Valley 148	4	5	6
7	Hamilton 120 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	8 Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	9 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown Lodge 472	10 Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	11	12 Ft. Brewerton 256 Lake City Vic 205 OES Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	13
14	Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	15 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	16 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of Nile Otselc Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	17 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	18	19	20
21	Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	22 Central City Riverside 70 RAM E Caldwell OES Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Washington RAM	23 Charles H. Platt 247 Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 Tritown Lodge 472	24 Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	25	26 Ft. Brewerton 256 Lake City Vic 205 OES Triangle @ Mem	27
28		29	30				

Cayuga-Tompkins from page 8 . . . Warren Salem Town ...

suffered a stroke and has been diagnosed with other serious medical issues. His wife Diane and the entire family need our prayers. He has been moved to Matthew House in Auburn, NY. (Sadly, Brother Hunter succumbed on March 10.—Editor)

On March 19 we held our annual Pizza Night and stuffed Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. Students from the National Honor Society volunteered to assist us in hiding the 1200 eggs for three age groups—4 and under, 5 to 7 and 8 to 10 years old. It is a great event. It takes about an hour to hide the eggs and only about 10 minutes for the children to find them. There are prizes for three winners in each group. As usual, we have the Easter Bunny present to entertain the children and their parents. Check the poster and plan to attend.

Please plan to attend the meetings on April 2 and April 16 as we need to discuss the nomination of officers for the ensuing year and vote on the Affiliation of two Brothers from neighboring Lodges. We will continue our program of “Brother Get to Know Another Brother.” Brothers Kevin Grish and W Randy Mayer will be sharing their life stories.

The Birthday Corner salutes and wishes “Happy Birthday” to these Brothers. W Edward Heselton on April 23; W George Fearon is April 25; and W Peter Van Vlack parties on April 28.

Warren Albrecht

Staff Officer from page 8 . . .

formed and trained. I hope you are preparing to attend this year’s Grand Lodge Communication on

May 6 and 7. We will be electing a new Grand Master and Wardens. Your delegate should be carrying your Lodge’s choices for office. It should be an exciting time.

That is it for now. Be safe and do good things.

Dave Barnello

Auburn from page 8 . . .

Seward School kids. Dates will be announced.

RW Ed Maassen and I just spent the weekend in Utica for more Grand Lodge Officer Training. Ed and I are the 2024-26 District Officers as District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Steward, respectively. So much for retirement.

On May 2 we receive officer nominations for 2024-25. Grand Lodge is May 6 and 7 in NYC. The Grand Lodge Report and election of officers take place on May 16. And put May 4 on your calendar. This special communication is the Third Degree for our five Fellowcrafts, with a 9 a.m. breakfast, first part of the Degree, lunch and conclusion of the Degree.

I hope to see you in Lodge. Take care and God bless.

Tommy Ostrander

Erie Canal from page 8 . . .

Brothers, please keep in your thoughts and prayers those in our midst who are having health issues.

Masonic Funeral Service for Brother Thomas Slayton is scheduled for April 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Keysor Funeral Home in Cato. Please attend if able; plan to arrive by 9:45.

Lastly and sadly, we received word of the loss of another Brother. Past Master Deane Chubb was a fifty-eight-year member, origi-

nally from Cato Lodge. A Masonic Funeral Service will be scheduled at a later time and notice will be given.

That is it for now. I hope to see you in and out of Lodge.

Dave Barnello

Scipio from page 8 . . .

I masked my chuckle in light of the associated grumbling directed at “election season.” As I listened more, taxes were a close second in the grumbling department. Someone proclaimed that our leaders were going to use our taxes to ruin the eclipse. (I looked it up: the DEC just released a bunch of new guidelines for viewing.)

I did not, though, hear friends complain about garden season, one of my favorite things. I know it is coming soon as it always closely follows our Masonic election season. We recently appointed a Nominating Committee for ourselves and will be discussing the future slate of Grand Lodge at today’s meeting.

Grumbling aside, garden and election seasons have some similarities. They present a chance for new growth and nourishment, a chance to prune a bit and expand at the same time. I will not say the gardening will come without challenges and I can say the same about elections.

Let us just look up and to the East and say a little prayer that whatever season you decide it should be is your chance for growth. And even though you cannot see Albany through a pinhole in cardboard from here, I am sure that come April 8 we will all in the end be able to say, “Let there be light!”

We will talk soon, friends. Have a nice day.

Scott Ward

DDGM from page 8 . . .

about the simplest and likely truest path-to-success statement I have ever heard.

We all want to be successful, right? We all want to be surrounded by successful people, right? We all agree that performing impressive ritual is very important to getting and keeping new members. How about making it less daunting by committing to study for 20 minutes a night and then doing it?

Man, I wish our Lodge would grow! How easy is it for you to agree to call just ten people a month who have demitted, have not paid their dues or have not been to Lodge in a while? All you need to do is have a simple, short conversation: 1. Make sure he is OK physically and/or financially. 2. See if transportation is an issue as to why he is not attending. 3. See if family reluctance or lack of family involvement in your Lodge is the problem. 4. Did someone or something in the Lodge offend or drive him away? 5. Does he plan to quit Masonry in general? Why? 6. Maybe it is something simple—he just got out of the habit. 7. If he is gone and not coming back, find out why!

When (not if) you take the time to have these short conversations, regardless of the outcome, the entire Lodge will benefit. Perhaps you will get this Brother back into being an active Mason. Perhaps you can assist him mentally, physically or financially. Perhaps you are made aware of something lacking or absolutely wrong in your Lodge that you can now fix.

Even if you find a Brother who is not coming back and/or is leaving Masonry, you can take from his experience valuable information as to how to make your Lodge better.

As a side bonus, you are also helping the Secretary update his records concerning deaths, demits, delinquencies, etc. You have also created a list of Brothers to focus on as well as those who do not require follow-up. The list of positive things that are simple that you can do for your Lodge can go on and on. Just look around at

OES - Lake City Victoria from page 11 . . .

joyed their prime rib dinner and cherry cheesecake. Worthy Matron Mary Babbitt received many compliments on the meal and the service.

We resumed our labors on Friday, March 8 beginning with a potluck dinner before the meeting. Plans are being made for the Grand Matron’s Official Visit on April 5, under the capable direction of our own RW Carla J. Salisbury, District Deputy Grand Matron. RW Cynthia J. Sanders is busy soliciting baskets for the annual raffle. As of this writing, eight have been pledged. I have no doubt more are forthcoming. In each of the last two years this raffle has garnered over \$900 for the District Deputy’s projects.

On April 27 the District will gather at Lake City Lodge at 2 p.m. to celebrate our 2024 District leaders, RW Carla J. Salisbury and RW Monica Wallis, Associate Grand Marshal. We are hoping for a good turnout. Both Sisters are long-time, active members who have richly earned the honor bestowed upon them. I can

your Lodge, what needs to be done, and do it! It does not matter how difficult it is or how big the project is. As long as you are doing something towards the completion of the goal and making progress, your contribution is valuable and definitely needed.

So, forget about New Year’s resolutions and commit to your 365-day resolution that you are going to make Masonry better. And do not just make the resolution, take action!

Anthony J. Tabone

guarantee there will be an abundance of fun, fellowship and food. Attire for the ladies is “go-to-church” street-length dresses and for the gentlemen, dark suits. Invitations will go out shortly. This is a public event and family and friends are welcome to attend.

W Lillian Schute, our Conductress, is in charge of soliciting items for the annual bazaar at Oriskany which this year will take place on July 26 and 27. All types of donations will be welcomed: new infant and toddler clothing, linens, books, jewelry, knickknacks, to name only a few. W Lillian will be most happy to receive contributions until June 14, the date of the Chapter’s last meeting before summer break.

The arrival of spring signals a spate of yard work and home repairs. It also means warmer weather will soon be here. Enjoy the flowers, the birds and especially each other. Life is too short to take anything or anyone for granted.

Natalie J. Woodall