MASONIC BODIES

of the

ONONDAGA

CAYUGA - TOMPKINS

CORTLAND - MADISON

OSWEGO DISTRICTS

Circulation 1,750

Vol. 51. No. 8

Published by EMESBE Service Bureau Inc., P.O. Box 242, Liverpool, NY 13088

April 2025



Posting the Colors. Left, VW Norm Kruth, Doug Campbell, Lynn Howard; Front, Cmdr Brian Courtney.

#### MWV Post 43

Brothers in Arms, as all of you have heard we lost VW Norman Kruth. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

MWV Post 43 posted the Colors for Lake City Lodge's George Washington Dinner on February 22 with MW GM Steven Rubin as guest. Post 43 posted the Colors for every Official Visit in Oswego and Onondaga Counties in 2024 and 2025. I was not able to be involved in all of them but Norm was very proud of this achievement.

We are going to visit the VA Hospital in the near future and will contact every-

one. Your dues notice will be coming shortly; please mail your payment when you get your notice. We will be getting together soon for a meeting. If any Brother needs anything please contact us. God bless all of you and your Country.

Brian Courtney

## **EMESBE**

I say, Happy spring to all of you. I hope it is truly around the corner.

I also say thank you to all the Secretaries who have sent in your yearly subscription fees to the *word*. It is much appreciated. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me. Those who have not sent a check yet should please do so as soon as possible.

On that note, we would like to thank RW Bill Toth for the generous monetary gift he gave to the EMESBE to help keep our paper going. We cannot tell you how much it is appreciated. If anyone or any Lodge is likewise inclined, it would also be appreciated. If anyone is motivated to do a fundraiser to help *the word*, we are open to that, also. You may like a Bingo night, a raffle or another idea.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that March 6 was the anniversary of Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Bruce Widger's passing. What he did in his time here still leaves a lasting impression on the Morning Star Lodge, Onondaga District and NY State. Onondaga County's own Bruce Widger from Morning Star Lodge led Masons in New York State from 1980 to 1982. He was the man atop the chain of command of Freemasons here. You would never know it, as he was the most downto-earth guy you would ever want to meet. But then, he was a Mason.

Around the area, Callimachus Lodge in Phoenix is having their worldfamous fish fry from March 7 to April 18, running from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Stop by to sit, eat and enjoy some camaraderie with Brothers you have not seen in a while or call ahead for pick up.

The more we publicize our events the more support every Lodge will get. If anyone else is having an event please message the

EMESBE see page 7

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Master's Golf Tournament

Hosted by the Onondaga and Oswego Masonic Charities, this year's tournament will again have an event within the event: low aggregate District score will win the District Cup. All surrounding Districts are invited to come and enjoy a great day of fellowship. As usual, the format is a four-player Captain & Crew, whereby men, women and children can make up a team.

The venue is the Wood

Golf Club at 7439 Canton Street, Baldwinsville, NY. The phone is 315/635-9826. Tee time is 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 19.

We will have the usual contests: closest to the pin, longest drive and of course the skins game. We will have liquid refreshments available on the course as well as hot dogs and chips at the turn. An Italian dinner will be provided at day's end for the great price of \$70 per per-

son. Please bring an extra \$20 per team for the skins pot. What a deal!

Hole sponsorships are \$100 and cart sponsorships are \$50. Please encourage your Lodges and organizations to get involved with a sponsorship. We thank you for your help because the Onondaga District Charity relies on your support. All

18th Annual Golf see page 2

## Shriners Children's New England

Nobles, did you know that one of the services that Shriners Children's New England (SCNE) provides to the local community near our clinic, and with the school district's permission, is to make athletic trainers available to attend school sporting events. The February Patient Presentation to the Board involved a young student athlete who sustained not one, but two torn ACLs while playing high school basketball.

The ACL (or Anterior Cruciate Ligament) connects

the thigh bone to the shin bone and provides rotational stability to the knee. ACL injuries are fairly common in dynamic sports requiring sudden and aggressive changes in direction, such as basketball, football, soccer and downhill skiing. Most ACL injuries are of the noncontact variety where the athlete over-stresses the knee while making a sudden and aggressive change in direction.

Our athlete's first ACL tear was of the non-contact type and the presence of the

SCNE athletic trainer at the event resulted in the injury receiving treatment more rapidly than is typically the case. ACL injuries can be difficult to differentiate from other knee injuries if not evaluated immediately following the injury. Stiffness, swelling and "muscle guarding" (which all develop within 24 to 48 hours following an injury) tend to immobilize the knee, making diagnosis more difficult.

Shriners Children's see page 2



(L) Kurt Neufang, W Bob Neufang and W Brian Courtney. RIP, Bob.

#### **Mentor**

Hello, Brethren. I read with particular interest February's Editor's Prerogative column titled, "Il faut cultiver notre Jardin" (we need to care for our garden). In it our Editor explained how he is receiving a daily email from the "Empire Report," a digest of New York State news that he has not subscribed to or cares much about. This news caught my attention because I also receive email from another organization, *CLG News*, whose sources and backers are not known. And I wonder how many of our readers are also receiving such types of unsolicited information via email.

In his article our Editor also stated how this email outlet reported opinions on issues where there might be two sides, something that also worries this Mentor. For, one characteristic of many of today's media news outlets is the one-sidedness of their reports. This compels readers to seek alternative sources with different viewpoints in order to get more balanced information.

For more than twenty years I watched the evening show, *McNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*. I tried hard to establish whether they favored Democrats or Republicans but never could. They reported news and not their opinions. And when some judgment was required they brought at least two guests, one from each side. I am sorry to say that I cannot find anything like that in our current news.

During times when society is badly polarized, partial

Mentor see page 10 ...



Scottish Rite News - Page 9

## ONONDAGA DISTRICT

#### **DDGM**



RW Toby Shelley, toby shelley@yahoo.com 315/427-6961

Greetings, Brothers. April is believed to be named after the Latin word "Aperire—to open," referring to the opening of buds and flowers. After the winter we shared together, I am looking forward to the opening of spring.

Thanks go out to Crossroads Lodge in Solvay for hosting Grand Master Rubin, Senior Grand Warden Loughran, Junior Grand Warden Haslam and Chancellor Robert R Livingston Library Executive Director Michael LaRocco. RW LaRocco gave a very interesting historical presentation on what our Grand Lodge library has to offer, from General Lafayette's Masonic apron to the original petition that formed Crossroads Lodge. Our Masonic history has tons of information for those interested in looking. The Grand Master's message was about where New York Masonry is and where New York Masonry is headed. I appreciate his vision and optimism.

I was fortunate to attend Degrees in both Tully and Skaneateles Lodges. The Degrees were presented by Brothers from multiple Lodges and it was amazing ritual and impressive teamwork. The Brothers of the Onondaga District make me proud to be their DDGM.

Toby Shelley

the Word
(USPS 050-170)
(Published Monthly
Except July and August) by
Masonic
Service Bureau Inc.
EMESBE of Central New York
400 Alder St,
Liverpool, NY 13088
PERIODICALS

#### PERIODICALS Paid at Liverpool, N.Y.

Len Hass, Chairman Brian Courtney, Ex. Dir. (Home) 315/447-2104

(Rates subject to change)

News Deadline: 12th of the Month
Editor: Stephen L. Zabriskie
zabled@aol.com

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "The Word" P.O. Box 242, Liverpool, NY 13088

#### STAFF OFFICER



RW Adam Novak Novakadam14@yahoo.com 315/200-0886

Dear Brethren, we are pleased to present numerous opportunities for Masonic education. Various self-paced and non-scheduled programs are accessible, including the Livingston Library, Masonic Culture Classes and Maxwell Leadership. For those who prefer auditory learning, the Craftsmen online podcast is also available. You can explore all these resources at <a href="https://nymasons.org/">https://nymasons.org/</a>.

For those interested in an in-person educational experience, the third session of the MDC course is set for April 19 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. Classes are held on Saturdays, starting at 9 a.m. and concluding around 12 p.m., unless otherwise notified. I strongly encourage new Master Masons to enroll in the Masonic Development Course to enhance their knowledge.

Please stay alert for forthcoming emails that will provide schedules and course materials. If you wish to attend these classes or know any brethren who may be interested, please contact me to sign up for the courses. Furthermore, if you have any suggestions or feedback regarding past training sessions or ideas for future offerings, do not hesitate to reach out.

I am dedicated to addressing the educational needs of our District and your honest input is highly valued. My contact information is above. Should you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out.

Adam Novak

Past Grand Master Carl J. Fitje Sponsor

#### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS**

VW Rick Miori VW John Bromka

Greetings, Brethren! As mentioned in last month's article, Grand Master Steven M. Rubin visited Crossroads Lodge. We were presented with entertainment by VW John Bromka and wife Sondra playing harp and a number of stringed instruments. The music was beautiful and filled the room before the dinner of prime rib, mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables.

The Executive Director of the Livingston Library, RW Michael LaRocco, delivered a very enlightening historical lecture and encouraged all to visit our Grand Lodge library in person or online. We were joined by ladies from the OES who were properly recognized.

On Friday morning, March 7, Todd Platten, John Bromka and I went to the Utica campus for AGL training. After breakfast we trudged across campus in

## VW Carlton Jackson VW Todd Platten

bone-chilling wind. Grand Lecturer Greg Noulas's instructions were very well received. A question and answer session followed, with best practices shared.

We broke for lunch and were joined by RW Bill Toth and Grand Master Steven M. Rubin, who was seated next to yours truly and made my day. Instruction continued in the afternoon with much more open opinion sharing. We three agreed to pass on dinner and drove home.

I was honored to have been asked to join Skaneateles Lodge for their drama presentation, sitting in as King Solomon. Bob Tyrell of Liverpool 501 played Hiram King of Tyre. I really looked forward to

> Carlton Jackson Todd Platten John Bromka Rick Miori

# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Master's Golf Tournament ... from page 1

Hole Sponsors, Cart Sponsors and Players have enabled us to contribute to the relief of distressed Brothers and Sisters and also support our other Masonic Charities.

Golf is great fun and is meant to be enjoyed; being able to participate in helping others is the greatest privilege given to mankind. Our Masonic institutions in all eras have been leaders in supporting our society at large. To all our contributing Brother Masons and friends: thank you for your help.

We hope to see you in July. Letters via email will have been sent to your Lodges. For more information you may call, text or email Brother Garry Campbell: 315/385-1170 or gcampbellk950@gmail.com.

Please make checks payable to "OMDC" and send to Garry Campbell at 300 East Ave. East Syracuse, NY 13057. Again, on behalf of the OMDC I thank you for your support.

Garry Campbell

## **Event schedule, Apr '25**

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

status of these ev	ents.				
Apr 1	FayCC—Awards				
	OnStar—School of Instruction				
Apr 2	Cazenovia—Un-OV				
	Skaneateles—3° Lecture				
Apr 3	CentSq—1° Practice				
	Centerville				
	CrossroadsU				
	ErieCanal—Masonic Escape Room				
Apr 5	Auburn—3°				
Apr 8	Scipio—GA Clugston Night				
Apr 10	BonaFide—OV				
	Nortrip—Awards				
	Memorial—Ladies Night				
	LkOntRAM—OV				
	KT25				
Apr 11	LkCityVic—OV				
Apr 12					
Apr 15	LivSyr—Easter Egg Hunt FayCC—2°				
	OnStar—OV/Raffle Drawing				
	WarrenSalemTown—Egg Stuffing				
	Cortlandville—Un-OV				
Apr 17	Auburn—3° LSOME				
жрт т <i>/</i>	CentSq				
	Centerville—School of Instruction				
	CrossroadsU—Awards & Widows				
Apr 19	WarrenSalemTown—Easter Egg Hunt				
•	MDC 3 @ Memorial				
Λ 21					
Apr 21	Marathon—Un-OV				
Apr 22	PulaskiPuritan—OV				
Λ 24	KingHiram—2° Memorial—Awards				
Apr 24					
Λ 26	KT25				
Apr 26	BonaFide—Calendar Party				
A 20	LkCityVic—Funeral Ritual				
Apr 28	CCRivRAM—OV				
Apr 29	CHPlatt—OV				
Mov. 1	Auburn Naminations				
May 1	Auburn—Nominations				
Mary 2	Tri-Valley—Un-OV				
May 8	OnStar—Kentucky Derby				
•	Memorial—Elect BonaFide—Initiation				
	Fulton50—Annual Assembly				
Mov. 10	•				
May 10	RTTE 1 @ Memorial				
May 13	Scipio—Elect				
May 15	Auburn—Elect				
	LkOntRAM—Dist. 12 Festive Board				
May 22	BonaFide—Masonic Family Reunion				
	KT25—Inspection				
May 23	LkCityVic—Draping Altar				
May 24	RTTE 2 @ Memorial				

## Shriners Children's New England... from page 1

The presence of our trainer at the Friday night game enabled immediate evaluation of the knee's stability immediately following the injury. This enabled the trainer to advise the parents to seek treatment for a possible torn ACL as soon as possible. The trainer's suspicion of a torn ACL was quickly confirmed by X-rays on Monday morning.

Our patient immediately began pre-surgical conditioning and was scheduled for a surgical repair of the ACL. Following surgery she also received extensive physical therapy (PT) and conditioning. By six months post injury she was feeling great and anxious to return to the basketball court; however, analysis in our motion

lab documented that additional PT and conditioning were necessary to correct some favoritism of the injured leg and muscular imbalance between the right and left sides. Studies show that there is a significantly higher rate of re-injury for athletes who return to their sport in the six months to one-year time frame.

The patient returned to sports after almost a year on the injury list and was doing great when disaster struck. Her second ACL injury (on the other leg) was of the contact variety where the athlete sustains an impact injury to the knee while the leg is weight-bearing. She knew immediately that it was another ACL injury which

would effectively end her high school athletic career. She again sought treatment at Shriners, had a surgical repair of the new injury and repeated all the rehab and therapy for a second time.

The recurring theme of this patient's presentation to the Board was that Shriners not only treated her physical injuries, but also treated the whole person. She said over and over again that in addition to all the surgical and physical treatment, her care included emotional and motivational support. While a collegiate or professional sports career may now be out of reach, she is confident that she will return to her sport in pick-up games.

The whole-person ap-

proach to a patient's care at Shriners may well be the characteristic that sets us apart from other healthcare providers. Once again, Nobles, you can be proud of the work being done on your behalf by all the dedicated personnel employed at Shriners Children's New England.

Bill Toth



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#### **Crossroads United** Lodge 93 F.&A.M.

780 Woods Rd. Solvay, N.Y. 13209 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/487-0596

WM David DeOlden II, wife Karen 315/400-7909 deoldend@vahoo.com



Brothers: What a phenomenal time we had with MW GM Stephen A. Rubin and the Grand Line at dinner! It was a great job by everyone who put it together. Thanks go to all. I am sorry that I have not yet received a picture of the group after our dinner. I will provide the evidence next month.

On March 19 we had a joint Third Degree with Skaneateles Lodge, where we Raised five Brothers to Master Mason. Our next meeting on April 3 is a regular meeting and our Awards & Widows night is on April 17. There is a dinner at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 program.

David DeOlden

Jordan 386 (ON) 14 North Main St. Jordan, N.Y. 13080 1st & 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m. 315/689-3455

> WM Bradley Fetes fetesbg@gmail.com

While Jordan Lodge may have been dark during January and February, our working tools have been far from idle, both metaphorically and literally. Brother Rich Rohmer, our Junior Warden, has been leading the effort to update the anteroom, creating a proud display of the past, present and future leadership of Jordan Lodge. In addition, RW Adam Novak has proposed transforming our inner chamber into a library where members can deepen their understanding of the Craft—a fitting tribute to our commitment to lifelong learning.

Construction tools are not the only instruments being put to work. In February we fired up our cooking tools for the Big Game Chicken BBQ. On a traditional gloomy February morning, we gathered to cook for the community ahead of the evening's big sporting event. The cold weather did nothing to dampen our spirits as we served up a hearty meal and strengthened our ties with the local community.

Community is the heart of our Order. Even though we did not meet formally over the winter, we were pleased to visit various communications around Onondaga County. We had the pleasure of watching the Skaneateles Lodge perform a Degree and shared fellowship with the members of Konosioni Lodge.

Jordan Lodge was not just visiting others. We have also been hard at work welcoming new members. While the weather delayed our original plans, on March 3 we conferred the First Degree and brought a new Brother into our ranks. Our Lodge

> Jordan see 2nd column

#### Jordan from 1st column

continues to grow, with another First Degree already on the calendar in the coming weeks. It is heartening to see our Lodge remain vibrant and active.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Earth Day cleanup in April and our participation in the Jordan Memorial Day parade. The work is plentiful and the time is short but we are grateful for the opportunity to strengthen our bonds and serve our community. We are wishing all of you a joyful and peaceful Easter season.

**Brad Fetes** 

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

WM John Covell



Greetings, Brethren. Several members of Skaneateles Lodge attended the reception honoring the Grand Master, MW Steven Adam Rubin, at Crossroads United Lodge on March 6. The remarks by the Grand Master were well received and appreciated by all present. My wife Debbie is a retired school librarian. She and I thought the interactive program presented by Executive Director of the Grand Lodge Library, RW Michael LaRocco, was outstanding. He showed slides of artifacts and memorabilia from the Livingston Masonic Library, and then led discussions about those artifacts and the associated Masonic history. It was an evening of excellence throughout.

We practiced the Third Degree at Skaneateles Lodge on Sunday, March 16 and on Wednesday, March 19 at Skaneateles Lodge we conferred it. We Raised five candidates, three from Skaneateles Lodge and two from Crossroads United. Brothers from several Onondaga District Lodges participated in conferring the Degree.

On April 2 we will be completing the Third Degree with the presentation of the Historical Lecture. All Brothers are invited to attend this meeting; we do this lecture at Skaneateles Lodge with an old school projector and slides and it is always well received by the Brothers. As usual at Skaneateles Lodge, social hour is at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and I like to bring the gavel down at 7:30, sharp. Please call me if you plan to attend so the right amount of food may be prepared.

The snow on my property finally melted off today but as I write this article on the evening of March 12, the temperature has dived down into the 20s again. It could be worse. I just spoke to W Bob Bowles and he got trapped on Route 81 North two weeks ago when 100 inches of snow dropped in the Tug Hill Plateau. Things can always be worse.

John Covell

Liverpool Syracuse 501 (ON) 608 Oswego St. Liverpool, N.Y. 13088 1st & 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m.

> 315/451-7524 WM Ralph Haney Jr. Secy Gary L. Heinmiller

Brothers, we are alive and well. Master been a little lax on getting the word article in by the 12th of each month.

We conferred Fellowcraft Degree on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Everyone did an outstanding job. We are looking to hold the Third Degree in May.

Our Brother Norman Kruth passed after a long illness with cancer. The altar has been draped for the period of thirty days.

The Brothers Liverpool-Syracuse have been doing some great work on the inside of the building. We painted the second and third floors and installed new carpeting and tile flooring in the Lodge room—with a new tessellated border. Stop by and see the place.

The Lodge is doing fine and we are having some type of Masonic education at each meeting. Brother Bob Bowles is doing Masonic Jeopardy and is the favorite among the Brothers and the new EAs

We have the paperwork in with the Village of Liverpool Clerk for our upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12. It will be in Johnson Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have three different age groups so everyone will have a chance to receive Easter eggs and prizes. The Easter Bunny will be present and refreshments will be served. We are hoping for good weather and a great turnout of parents and kids. Brother Dauris Little is overseeing this and is extremely excited to see that everyone has a great time.

Brothers, with all the new changes going on please make the time to stop in and see the place and enjoy yourself at a meeting night. We would be delighted to see you. And if there is anyone that needs our assistance feel free to contact us.

Ralph Haney Jr.

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

> WM Karl D. Parker. 315/427-1411 Secy RW Gary Hartman, 315/706-3533

The winter, hopefully, is behind us and spring is upon us. We have had a rough winter but in the Lodge it was fruitful. We have been very busy with our Saturday ritual practices and have successfully Raised five new Brothers. Congratulations go to our new Brothers and to all the Brothers and officers who made this possible. The Degree work was exceptional and all members of Memorial Lodge should be very proud.

In March we greatly enjoyed meeting and fellowship with our Brothers of

> Memorial see 4th column

#### Memorial from 3rd column

Tully and Nortrip Lodges at our annual tri-meeting. This year Tully Lodge was the host and we all had a great time.

In the month of April we will have our annual Ladies Night on the 10th. The 24th will be our Awards Night to honor years of service and to award our annual scholarships. Both of these events are open-meeting nights. Please pass the information to enhance attendance on those evenings.

The annual Grand Lodge session is nearly upon us. Memorial 648 will be represented by our Sr. Warden, Brother Mike Brooker. Our first meeting following Grand Lodge will be on May 8 and will be our annual meeting and election of new officers. We currently plan to elect a new line of officers all looking to the East. As always this will be a summoned meeting and I hope it is within the length of everyone's cabletow.

Lastly, to all goes my wish for a warm spring. Have a blessed Easter season.

Karl Parker

Fayetteville-Central City 305 (ON) 116 East Genesee St. Favetteville, N.Y. 13066 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m 315/637-6431

WM Joseph Flanagan

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

April 1st is our Awards Night. A boiled shrimp dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Please make reservations with Craig by Sunday, March 30 at 315/446-

On April 15 we confer the Second Degree. Please plan to attend and support your Lodge officers. A ham dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. at a cost of \$10. Please make your reservation with Craig: 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net before Sunday, April 13.

Do not forget your donation to the Brotherhood Fund. We will see you in Lodge.

Joe Flanagan

#### **Past DDGM** Oswego Dist. John F. Tanner

#### **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

We are still working to bring RW Toby Shelly to our Lodge this year. I will advise everyone when his lecture is scheduled.

The Spinning Class continues to thrive. We look to take advantage of the many educational opportunities offered online or in person. And we hosted the Annual Shamrock Shuffle on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.

I would also like to welcome two new Entered Apprentices to our Lodge. We hosted the First Degree at our Lodge on February 13. The Second Degree will be held by Fayetteville Central City Lodge on April 15. A ham dinner will be provided at 6:30 p.m., with the gavel dropping at 7:30. All are encouraged to attend.

The Masonic Dart League has commenced once again. Brother Tim and Yours Truly continue to discover that we are not good dart throwers. But we are enjoying it.

As always, let us keep our ailing Brothers in our thoughts. Remember our Military, First Responders, Police and people on the front lines both here and abroad.

John Rapp

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

WM Mark LaFountain

Greetings from the East. It is hard to believe that we are in the final stretch of another Masonic year. It has been a long winter but we managed to get through it. In January we had a pizza and wing night at Trappers in Minoa. It was probably one of the coldest nights we had during the month of January but the Brothers and wives braved the elements and we enjoyed some good food and conversation.

In February we took our special Valentine to Vito's Italian restaurant for a Sweet Heart Dinner. We had eighteen in attendance for the evening.

In March we traveled to Tully Lodge for our tri-meeting. This has been a longstanding tradition with Memorial Lodge 648 and Tully Lodge 898. We are currently making plans and either visited Scriba Lodge 414 in March or will in April.

We want to give a special welcome to Larry Egnaczyk who Affiliated with our Lodge. Make sure you plan on attending our awards evening on April 10. You may be surprised that evening to find you, maybe, are a recipient of a Lloyd Goodell Novelty Award.

Mark LaFountain

Confession Confession



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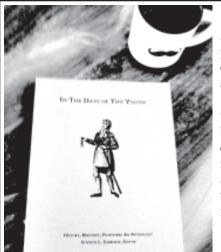
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#### In The Days of Thy Youth A collection of local histories, papers and

presentations, Masonic and otherwise, of the origins of Lodges of Cayuga-Tompkins District and of early inhabitants. Published by Scipio 110 for its 200th anniversary in 1997, this updated, larger version celebrates the 225th birthday of the charter. Contains submissions quaint and polished from Masons and historians, including research by Temple R. Hollcroft, Stuart Sturges and George Peter. A nice addition to any Masonic library and a great gift for your favorite Craftsman.

\$18.00 Place orders and pay to: Scipio 110, F&AM, POB 74, Aurora, NY 13026 Page 4 the word April 2025

## **Editor's Prerogative**

#### **Quantum Masonry**

I am thinking about ripples. Like, what happens when you cannonball into a swimming pool? In a small pool there is a large reaction to the force of the splash and the toys and noodles and thermometer and chlorine dispenser surge and bob angrily. In an olympic pool the insult causes small lappings against the walls. In a lake, there is not much discernible effect, other than at the point of entry. The little waves expand and dissipate.

What happens when you drop a scoop of protein into the blender for your smoothie? The force pushes the liquid content outward against the glass. But the disturbance is short lived, a little plop and the powder rides the surface for a bit, and then slips under. If one could consolidate a scoop of protein powder into a sticky mass, maybe like a wet ball, and drop it from six feet of height into the blender we could imagine a more demonstrative reaction on the part of the liquid. In reality, the observation of the influence of equal and opposite reaction depends upon the dimension of the container. This may be the sense of the phrase, Big fish in a little pond.

We are taught in Lodge that our actions within our narrow sphere can spread implications way beyond our narrow awareness. It is a butterfly effect and it focuses on each one of us as the point within the circle. This is a huge homage to ego.

All the teachings emphasize search for light, for self-improvement, for self-initiated and self-directed shaping according to a Divine plan. The elements of the three Degrees—the working tools, the obligations, the charges, the questions and answers and lectures are concentric circles that expand around the candidate at the altar.

Notice that we always consider the movement of ripples as they run away from the point of disruption. Is this a Natural Law? What if we consider the movement in reverse, as though the cause comes from beyond and the effect is upon the center?

Put yourself back at the altar in the center of the Lodge room. Strip away all awareness of ego. Accept that there exists a Divine plan, that you are in it, do not have to create it. Realize your reality—that the lectures, the Q&As, the charges, the obligations, the working tools already belong to you and are in you. You are a Mason and you were a Mason before you were Initiated. Perceive these distinguishing qualities of your character as waves rushing in to you. And receive...

Stephen L. Zabriskie

Masonic research can be tricky business. There is a lot of data and stuff comes to be accepted fact without, necessarily, hard confirmation. This inquiry from the March 1925 copy of The Builder is one example of the historian examining his suspicions before he arrives at his conclusion. In a future issue I may share one of the other articles referenced in the introduction.—Editor.

## Where and When Was Lafayette Made a Mason?

#### By BRO. HARRY J. GUTHRIE, P. G. M., Delaware

...THE question here ably discussed by Bro. Guthrie is one of more consequence than might appear to a casual reader: like other similar questions an answer would throw light on certain problems of the first importance in the history of American Masonry. Brethren will find it worth their while to read in connection with the present study other contributions to THE BUILDER: 1916, pp. 219, 313; 1918, pp. 163, 219, 250; 1921, pp. 26, 70, 118; 1923, p. 331 more especially the last named. See also "The History of Brother General Lafayette's Fraternal Connections with the R.W. Grand Lodge, F. & A. M., of Pennsylvania," by Julius F. Philadelphia: Sachse; 1916...

WHENEVER a reference is made to the Marquis de Lafayette and his Masonic connection there arises in my mind feelings of great regret that the time and place of his initiation and subsequent raising cannot be a matter of absolute record, not that it would prove the more that our distinguished patriot was a Master Mason, but that it would set at rest the various claims that have been forthcoming from ambitious writers and Masonic historians.

That he was a Master Mason is fully attested by the fact of his visit to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on Oct. 2, 1824, and to the Grand Lodge of Delaware on July 25, 1825, and his enrollment as an honorary member by each of the said Grand Lodges; together with his visitations to several other Grand Lodges at different times, all of which are matters of Masonic record easily obtainable.

While it may be impossible for me to prove my contention by facts I do feel competent to demolish one tradition by the means of an alibi which I believe to be water-tight.

There is a tradition in Masonic circles that General Lafayette was made a Mason in one of the military lodges at Morristown, N.J., where a Festal Lodge was held on Dec. 27, 1779, for which occasion the jewels, furniture and clothing of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, located

at Newark, N.J., were borrowed. At this communication General George Washington and sixty-seven brothers, including General Benedict Arnold, were present. This lodge has been identified, so to speak, as "American Union Lodge," later known as "Military Union Lodge, No. 1," traveling in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, the minutes, or at least a portion of the same, being in the possession of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, so I am advised. These records

C.W. Moore," I am prompted to believe that if his "belief" in regard to Lafayette's being made a Mason was no better than his knowledge which prompted him to deny that B. Arnold was a Mason, then that whole reference used by Bro. Gould had better be crossed off and forgotten: for it is bald fact that Benedict Arnold was a Mason and was expelled directly after he proved himself a traitor to his country, which did not occur until some time in 1780.

the first of November and the fifteenth of December, 1777, on which date Washington set his troops into winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pa., and at which place Lafayette was quartered until after Dec. 30, 1777, after which time he went to Albany, N.Y., for some special work.

This should satisfy the mind as to the utter improbability of his having taken any degrees at Morristown, N.J., in 1777. But I am inclined to think the printed date of 1777 an error and

NOT INCLUDED IN THE LODGE REGISTER WHICH CONTAINED THE NAMES OF WASHINGTON AND THE OTHER SIXTY-SEVEN DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

The second tradition is, that General Lafayette was made a Mason in a military lodge which met at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78, but no official lodge records of such action have ever been discovered.

Gould says, in his Military Lodges, 1732-1899: "In December, 1777, the Army retired to Valley Forge, and it was there—according to evidence which seems to be of a trustworthy character that General Lafayette was initiated." He makes a further reference, quoting Lafayette himself. "After I was made a Mason," said Lafayette, "General Washington seemed to have received a new light. I never had from that moment any cause to doubt his entire confidence. It was not long before I had a separate command of great importance." It is significant that Lafayette, on Dec. 4, 1777, was made a Major General by act of the Congress and was given the charge of a Division of the Army by Washington on that authorization.

"Having in a very brief manner referred to Lafayette as a soldier, a patriot, a statesman and a friend, we will now introduce him to you as a Mason, and endeavor to show WHEN and WHERE he first saw the mystic light.

He was not a Mason when he landed in America, nor was he a Mason at the Battle of Brandywine.

do not however contain any reference to Lafayette, for obvious reasons, for which I will later submit an alibi.

Gould, in the *Library of* Freemasonry, twentieth edition, has seen fit to make use of hearsay evidence and named the place of ceremony as Morristown, N.J., saying, "According to the late C.W. Moore, all the American Generals of the Revolution, with the exception of Benedict Arnold, were Freemasons. The Marquis de Lafayette was among the number, and it is believed that he was initiated in American Union Lodge at Morristown, N.J., the jewels and furniture used on the occasion being lent by St. John's Lodge at Newark, N.J." On the basis of this statement the publishers inserted a full page cut of the distinguished Marquis with the following statement: "The Marquis Lafayette was admitted into Freemasonry in American Union Lodge which was held in a room over the old Freemen's Tavern, on the north side of the green, Morristown, N.J., during the winter of 1777, at which Bro. George Washington presided in person."

With all due regard and proper respect for the "late

#### LAFAYETTE'S MOVEMENTS ARE TRACED

Briefly let me trace the movements of General Lafayette. He arrived in this country on June 14, 1777; received a commission (honorary in effect) as a Major General from the Congress and was later assigned to Washington's staff as of July 31, 1777; led part of the troops in the Battle of Brandywine on Sept. 11, 1777, where he was wounded in the leg and remained in an incapacitated condition at Bethlehem, Pa., until the latter part of October. He tired of the quiet and finally volunteered for duty when scarcely able to place a boot on his foot, and was assigned to the command of General Green and assisted that General in conducting a reconnoiter with a view of giving battle to Lord Cornwallis, who was strongly intrenched at Gloucester Point, N.J., about opposite Philadelphia. The fact that the whole country between New York and Philadelphia was held in British grip precludes the probability of a gathering of general officers of the American army attending a Masonic function Morristown, N.J., between

that it should read 1779 in accordance with the tradition quoted above. That surmise however would not correct the matter. History and government records inform us that on Oct. 21, 1778, Lafayette, as a Major General, was granted a leave of absence to go to France to return at his convenience. (Probably on a secret mission.) It is a fact however that Lafayette left Boston Harbor Feb. 11, 1779, for France; and the fact that he was presented with the Congressional sword at Havre on Aug. 24, 1779, comes pretty near proving that he arrived in France. On the return trip he sailed on board the French frigate Hermione from Rochelle, March 19, 1780, and landed at Boston April 28, 1780, and on May 13, 1780, the Continental Congress considered his return to America to resume his command as a fresh proof of zeal, etc., etc. SOIT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO HAVE RECEIVED THE DEGREES OF FREE-MASONRY MORRISTOWN, N.J., IN DECEMBER, 1779, AND THAT IS THE REASON A REFERENCE WAS NOT MADE TO HIM AND THAT HIS NAME WAS

#### DR. GEORGE W. CHAYTOR IS QUOTED

In an address delivered by Bro. George W. Chaytor before Lafayette Lodge, No. 14, A. F. & A. M., located at Wilmington, Del., on Jan. 18, 1875, upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its constitution, he said among other things:

"Having in a very brief manner referred to Lafayette as a soldier, a patriot, a statesman and a friend, we will now introduce him to you as a Mason, and endeavor to show WHEN and WHERE he first saw the mystic light. He was not a Mason when he landed in America, nor was he a Mason at the Battle of Brandywine. The Army under Washington, in December, 1777 retired to Valley Forge, where they wintered. Connected with this Army was a lodge. It was at VAL-LEY FORGE THAT HE WAS MADE A MASON. On this point there should be no second opinion—for surely LAFAYETTE KNEW BEST WHERE HE WAS MADE A MASON. We have this statement FROMHIMSELF—MADE AT THE TIME HE WAS THE GUEST OF THE GRAND LODGE OF DELAWARE, AND TO MEMBERS OF THAT GRAND BODY. The statement he made was as follows:

"'He had offered his ser-

vices to this country from the purest motives, and he knew that in his heart he had no selfish impulses. He found a people struggling for liberty against tyranny, and he put his whole soul in the cause. That Washington received him in the kindest and warmest manner, and never in any direct way showed that he had not the fullest confidence in his intentions and ability as a soldier; but, yet, he could not divest his mind of a suspicion (that, at times, gave him great discomfort) that the General of the American Army was not altogether free from doubt in his case. This suspicion was engendered from the fact that he had never been intrusted with a separate command. This fact, he said, weighed upon him, and at times made him very unhappy. With this exception, he had not the least cause for discomfort. During the winter (1777-78) the Army lay at Valley Forge he learned there was a Masonic lodge working in the camp. Time hanging heavy the routine of duty being monotonous, he conceived the idea that he would like to be made a Mason. He made his wish known to a friend, who at once informed him that he, himself, was a Mason, and would take great pleasure in making his wish known to the lodge. This was done-and he was there made a Mason. He also stated that Washington was present and acted as Master of the Lodge at the time of his initiation.'

"This statement was made to members of the Grand Lodge from some of whom it was received. I have no doubt that he said what I have here given for the par-

When and Where see page 10

the word April 2025 Page 5



The Callimachus crew attends to feeding more than 100 people at their first Lenten Fish Fry night. The dinners go on every Friday, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., until April 18. Photo by Brian Courtney

#### Oswego from page 6 . . .

Lake City ...

looking to the heavens for these tides, know that millennia of observations and records have created a Cosmic Clock that understands time not in just minutes and hours but in cycles of growth, change and destiny on a grand scale. Our observance of this celestial timepiece allows us to align ourselves with the natural rhythms of the Universe. Our Masonic traditions draw from the same spiritual waters as does our celestial reckoning

All of which means there is no better time than now to hear:

#### The Call to the Craft: **Rekindling Our Commitment** to Lodge Meetings:

Brethren, the strength of Freemasonry lies not in the grandeur of its temples, nor in the richness of its rituals alone, but in the unwavering commitment of its members. Our Craft thrives when we gather in Lodge, engage in the work and uphold the sacred bonds of Brotherhood. Yet, in today's fast-paced world, attendance at Lodge meetings has waned and with it, the vital energy that sustains our Fraternity. Now more than ever we must answer the call to return to Lodge, to rekindle our commitment and to reaffirm our sacred duty.

## Freemasonry

is a Living Tradition: Freemasonry is not merely a set of ideas or a historical institution, it is a living tradition that requires participation to flourish. Our rituals, symbols and teachings are not meant to be confined to books or memories but to be practiced, discussed and lived. When we are absent from Lodge we deprive ourselves of the very essence of Freemasonry: the shared experience of enlightenment.

Consider the lessons imparted in our Degrees: the importance of unity, moral virtue and lifelong learning. These teachings cannot be mastered in isolation. They come alive through fellowship, reflection and active participation. Just as a builder must lay each stone with care to construct a lasting edifice, so too must we be present to strengthen the foundation of our Lodge.

#### **Brotherhood Requires Presence:**

We call each other "Brother" because we share a bond deeper than mere acquaintance. True Brotherhood is built through trust, shared experiences and mutual support—qualities that cannot be nurtured from a distance. When we gather in Lodge we reinforce this bond, reminding each other that we are never alone in our journey.

Think of the newly Initiated Entered Apprentice, stepping into the Light for the first time. He looks to his brethren for guidance, support and mentorship. If we are absent, who will be there to inspire him? Who will help shape the next generation of Masons? By attending Lodge we fulfill our obligation to preserve and pass down the wisdom of the Craft.

#### A Commitment to **Something Greater:**

Freemasonry calls us to be builders not only of physical structures but of character, community and civilization itself. In an era where division and discord threaten to unravel the fabric of society, our principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are needed more than ever. But these principles are only powerful if they are prac-

When we step into the Lodge we step away from the distractions of the world and into a sacred space of harmony and enlightenment. It is here that we remind ourselves of our higher purpose.

It is here that we find strength in unity and wisdom in tradition. And it is here that we commit, once again, to be better men—not just for ourselves, but for our families, our communities and humanity.

#### A Personal Call

#### to Action:

Brethren, let us not allow the light of Freemasonry to dim through neglect. Let us honor the commitment we made when we first knelt at the altar and took our solemn obligations. Your Lodge needs you. Your Brothers need you. And you, in turn, need the strength and wisdom that only Freemasonry can provide. The doors of the Lodge stand open. The sacred work awaits. Will you answer the call? So mote it

James Rizzo

#### **PULASKI 415** 28 Broad St. Pulaski, N.Y. 13142 1st & 3rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.

315/298-6029 WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, Brothers. As spring is approaching and the snowbanks begin to recede, it is a welcome thing to once again see a few spots of the lawn reappearing.

Our first communication was well attended. It is good to be back in Lodge. With many items to be voted on, it was necessary to cut my program short. Our altar was draped for VW Brother Norman Kruth. Brother Norm will be dearly missed.

We always try to go to close by 9:00 p.m. Our Junior Warden always has great refreshments. Our thanks go to Bill and Jann.

Your Lodge is planning to have an open house on village yard sale weekend, the first or second weekend in May. Stop by and bring a friend to say hello.

A special thank-you goes to Brother Bill Rowland. He made many trips to the roof and third floor to try and open the frozen drain and melt the tons of snow. Our Brother made a mat with heat tape woven through it and a power cord to heat and melt several inches of ice. Possibly, this saved our Lodge.

We will be scheduling a work day for some muchneeded repair on our cook wagon. Brother Vic Waggoner built it for us many years ago. The date will be forthcoming.

If you have not attended a meeting in a while, we are always there by seven. This is in case you need a refresher on the opening.

One verse from an Alabama song often comes to mind in the difficult time. An angel is among us. "When life held troubled times, and had me down on my knees There's always been someone there to come along and comfort me A kind word from a stranger, to lend a helpin' hand A phone call from a friend, just to say I understand And ain't it kind of funny that at the dark end of the road Someone lights the way with just a single ray of hope."

Let us here resolve to always be that ray of hope. May God bless our country and Craft and be with us always. See you on the level. Fred Dashnaw

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## OSWEGO DISTRICT

#### DDGM REPORT



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

Brethren, in April the world shifts from the cold, dormant months into a period of vibrant activity. This is a perfect metaphor for our own Masonic journey. The work we do in the Lodge is like the gardener tending to the soil—preparing ourselves and one another for new beginnings. The rituals we perform, the knowledge we share and the bonds we strengthen all play a part in helping us blossom as individuals and as Brothers.

We are called to examine our character, refine our prin-

DDGM see 3rd column

#### STAFF OFFICER



Grand Steward RW Kenneth D. Sterling 315/283-6562 kenneth.d.sterling @gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren. Spring has finally sprung. Remember, April showers bring May flowers.

As you may have read in my previous article, there was some in-person leadership and education training in early March in Utica. Out of this training came some updates to the education system and courses that are offered. For instance, there is a brand-new MDC 2.0 that looks familiar to previous training but is also different

Staff Officer see 3rd column

## Oswego District 2025 GL Trip Form

The 2025 Grand Lodge Session will meet May 5 and 6 in the Grand Lodge Building, 71 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., New York City. The Oswego District has arranged for hotel rooms at the Hampton Inn Chelsea, a very short walk from the Grand Lodge building. We have been using this hotel for a number of years and find it quite satisfactory.

We no longer offer bus transportation due to the very high cost but suggest booking Amtrak for your transportation to NYC. Current pricing between Syracuse and Penn Station is about \$120 round trip.

Rooms will be held on a first come, first 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 that no refunds will be made for room cancellations after April 1. And note that we do not take reservations for the Grand Master's Dinner, which must be made directly with Grand Lodge.

Send payment with this completed reservation form to: Garret Wikoff, 9494 Pendergast Rd, Phoenix NY 13135 Questions? wikoffg@windstream.net or 315/695-4271

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:
District:	Lodge:
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Your room preference: [ ] Room with 1 King Size bed or

[ ] Room with 2 Queen Size beds.

Roommate preference if any\_

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(Make checks payable to: Oswego Masonic Charities) All surplus goes to the Oswego District Masonic Charities relief efforts.

#### ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

AGL Bob Boutell

No News Received

## DDGM from 1st column . . .

ciples and reaffirm our commitment to our Masonic obligations. Whether through attending meetings, participating in charitable works or simply being there for one another, we continue to nurture the seeds of brotherhood and wisdom within our District

RW Ken Sterling and I spent two days in early March in Utica at the Masonic Care Community for training. While spending time on the wonderful campus, I noticed pictures of GM Bond, GM Blank and RW Fuller—all Brothers from the Oswego District. I was overcome with joy and honor to be able to represent the Oswego District as your DDGM.

I can tell you this: Grand Master Rubin is adamant that all Lodges succeed. The passion and commitment he shows are inspiring. He has instituted several avenues for improvement, such as the Lodge of Excellence, the Our Quarry Newsletter, the Craftsman Online Podcast, the Leadership Academy Masonic Culture Classes, the HIRAM Online Learning System, the John Maxwell Masonic Leadership Initiative and many more committees to streamline accomplishment. Let us take this energy and dedication as a model for our own efforts within our Lodges.

As we move forward let us remain steadfast in our Masonic principles and continue to support one another. Together, we can achieve great things and ensure the prosperity and growth of our Fraternity. I look forward to seeing you in the Quarries, my Brothers.

John Pierce

## Staff Officer from 2nd column . . .

and updated to a more modern feel. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the Hiram Learning Management System (LMS) will be fully functional and I will have the keys to unlock education that District members can take at their own pace but still get credit for completing. With this new method of learning, the courses will have a bit more of a hybrid feel. You will do some work online and self-paced, but then we will also meet for a short period to have those face-to-face discussions and fellowship.

Last month we conducted the second multi-District class of the Spring Masonic Education Semester. This class, which was the MDC Session 2, was held on March 15 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse.

What does that mean, you ask? Well, it means that this

Staff Officer see 4th column

## Staff Officer from 3rd column . . .

month we will be conducting the third and final session of the Masonic Development Course, the Master Mason, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. This will once again be held at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. If you are a new Master Mason, I would encourage you to sign up for the Masonic Development Course. If you missed the opportunity to attend MDC Session 1 or 2 and would like to attend MDC Session 3, please reach out and let me know. I will be more than happy to set up a make-up so you can join the rest of the class for the semester.

After the MDC is completed we will be jumping right into the Road to the East. If you are a Warden or Master and you have not taken these classes, you will have to sign up and take them. If you do not know already, there was a message pushed out by Grand Lodge that "strongly suggests" all Wardens and Masters complete the MDC and RTTE before they assume a seat in the East. Following suit, all Masters and Masters-elect must attend the Master's Chair around the time they are installed; even if the Master is continuing his tenure in the East he must attend the Master's Chair in June. Here is the rest of the semester schedule: MDC Session 3, April 19 at Memorial Lodge; RTTE Session 1, May 10 at Memorial Lodge; RTTE Session 2, May 24 at Memorial Lodge; and Master's Chair, June 28 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse.

If you are interested in attending these classes or know a Brother who is, please reach out to me and reserve a spot. This will allow us to plan accordingly with refreshments and ensure the attendees have the required materials. If you have any suggestions or feedback on previous training and what you would like to see in the future at our sessions, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know. I am here to serve the educational needs of the District and I cannot do that without hon-

est feedback. As mentioned last month, we are in the process of accepting reservations for the Grand Lodge session scheduled for May 5 and 6. The reservation form can be found here and has also been sent to all the Masters and Secretaries of the District. The deadline for reservations is April 1. If you have not got your reservation in by the time you are reading this, you may still submit one, along with the late fee. We will let you know if there is room, on a first-come, firstserved basis.

If you ever have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I look forward to our journey into the future together.

Ken Sterling

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

> WM Samuel W. Sweet 241 CO RT 12 Phoenix, NY 13135 315/447-6427 sanman369@aol.com

315/695-6222

Brothers near and far, as I write this mid-March, we are just coming out of about three weeks of snowy, windy, nasty, below-freezing weather; but the ten-day forecast promises to be sunny and much warmer. It looks as though March will be going out like a lamb.

Our fish dinners have got

off to a great start and by the time you read this we will have completed the four in March. Again, I will make a plea for help producing the dinners. It would be nice to see some of the Brothers who have not been around for a while. If you joined Masonry for the fellowship you will receive it in spades if you work a fish dinner. So, shove aside that Masonic inertia and come out for one of the three dinners that remain in April. Hang out with the guys and have an enjoyable evening.

Pete Lanno, our Treasurer, called me the other day to let me know that the dues are coming in rather slowly this spring. For those of you who know him it will come as no surprise that he is very fussy about the Lodge finances. It pains him when he does not have any checks to deposit. For those of you who have anted up: Thanks. For those of you who "just haven't gotten around to it": Take this as a genteel reminder. If you have lost your notice, call Secretary Garret Wikoff at 315/695-4271 and he will be more than happy to supply the information. I hope to see you soon in Lodge.

Sam Sweet

#### CENTRAL SQUARE 622 3215 East Ave. Central Square, N.Y. 13036

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WM Bob Boutell

Salutations, Brothers. As I write this, we are finally having some warm weather and the snow banks are getting smaller. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this winter has released her grip and spring is well underway.

The meetings for this month, April, are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17th. As of this writing we are still waiting on petitions so the Degree schedule is up in the air. This gives us time to practice for the First Degree at our first meeting. It will be an openbook practice and the dress for the evening will be a Masonic shirt. At the second meeting we will be planning our chicken barbecues, awards night and our summer events. Dress will be a shirt and tie.

It has been a more difficult winter than usual so check on family, friends and Brothers. Remember to think of those less fortunate, as well.

Bob Boutell

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

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren, from Scriba Lodge 414. Wow! What a winter! It is kinda like the old fashioned ones we had back when I was a kid. I hope everyone made it through without too many complications from the heavy snow that we had to shovel around and shovel around.

As we are working our way back into the quarries—and if you have not been there in a while I encourage you to come—do not worry if you are a little rusty. We all are when we return. It sure is nice getting back to work and seeing all the Brothers again.

We will be having meals prior to the meeting where we meet our new candidates and share in the fellowship. We have a new petition from a very interested man.

We had our last cornhole tournament on March 15 at the Cleveland Legion. Once again it was a large turnout as we helped to support the Legion and mix with the community. I think Brother DJ Buck has special weights in his bags, as he always seems to find a way to win.

Brothers, I hope everyone enjoyed St. Patrick's Day. We look forward to seeing all of you.

Charlie Tuff

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WM Patrick Fasulo, Wife Tracey 315/760-7676

Brethren, we had our two Stated Communications last month on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we had a very productive Social Meeting on Saturday, March 8 in the late morning. Topics discussed were proposed changes to the By-Laws, a dues increase, finances, the upcoming budget, possible events and the new officer line. Be mindful that our Annual Meeting is coming up next month on Tuesday, May 13. That is a Summoned Communication. Please remember your Masonic obligation in regard to Summoned Communications.

Spring began a bit more than a week ago, bringing us new beginnings and the promise of growth. Sap rises and we feel renewed vigor, shaking off old winter doldrums. Cosmic winds signal shifts in old alliances, indicate a period of deep transformations, mark this as a time of reflection, a chance to step into new opportunities with courage and wisdom. After a period of confused communications in the preceding month, we now move toward self-assertion and bold decision making.

For those who question

Lake City see page 5

## CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

#### **DDGM REPORT**



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

Greetings, Brethren! Happy Spring, Eid Mubarak, Blessed Passover, Happy Easter!

It is good to thaw out from the long winter we have had. It means that we are better able to get together in our Lodges, plan for fundraisers and programs and travel to District Lodges and events.

I have scheduled my spring un-Official Visits as follows. I visited Homer No. 352 on March 24. I will be at Cazenovia No. 616 on April 2; Cortlandville No. 470 on April 15; and Marathon No. 438 on April 21. I will get to Tri-Valley No. 148 on May 1, right before Grand Lodge. I encourage Brothers of each of the Lodges to come to Lodge meeting on these nights. They will be dedicated to discussion about what the Lodges need, what their vision for the future of their Lodge is and ways that the District and Grand Lodge may be able to help and support their work.

You now perceive that I consider a vital part of my work is getting the Brothers of our District back together. We have allowed the isolation of the pandemic to make us content with staying home. But that is not who we are as Masons. I will be setting a time to meet with Masters of the Lodges to discuss the coming year. I hope to reestablish the RW/Purple Association. And I would like to have a regularly scheduled meeting of the new Brothers in the District (any volunteers to spearhead this—let me know).

On my Trestleboard is a spring Festive Board that will be held at Marathon Lodge No. 438. Details of this are still to be worked out but please keep this on your radar and attend if able. It will be a time to sit together at table, to raise a glass and to enjoy a fine meal prepared by the Eastern Star ladies.

My Brothers, these are all ways that we revitalize the work of our separate Lodges and of the District. They show the brotherly love and affection we have for one another. They deepen our care and strengthen our ties. And these opportuni-

> More DDGM see 2nd column

#### STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

**Grand Sword Bearer RW Wade A. Caler** 607/423-2669 hipper62@yahoo.com

Brothers, RW Reed and I attended DDGM and GLSO Training I at the Masonic Care Community in Utica in the first part of March. Training and information regarding updates to the education programs offered were the focus of my sessions. All of the education opportunities have been updated and are or will be available in a hybrid of online and in-person format. The idea is to read and take the quizzes online and then meet in person to discuss each section.

The primary focus at this point is the Road to the East (RTTE) and the Master's Chair. The recent edict from Grand Master Rubin states that all incoming Masters and Wardens are required to successfully complete the RTTE and all Masters will also need to successfully complete the Master's Chair. This requirement is expected regardless if you have previously taken the courses. Both courses have been updated, including a book to assist the Masters in planning each meeting for their year. I will be contacting you individually so we can schedule classes. Although I do not have any details, your long-term planning should include a 250<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

If you have any new members I would be willing to do a Lodge Room Walkabout. This would be a 15-minute presentation at one of your regular meetings. Please take a look at the offerings of the Livingston Masonic Library reading courses; the only cost is the return postage.

Finally, please remember the Grand Lodge Brotherhood Fund. There are several specific places you can direct your donation, regardless of the amount.

Wade A. Caler

## from 1st column . . .

ties for fun, food, and fellowship help to give purpose to our work and retain our members.

Finally, Brethren, bring your new Brothers along. Call them up, pick them up, help them to know what to expect. Make sure they have the right words to say and assure them that if they get it wrong the Brothers will gladly help them. See you in the Quarries!

Richard G. Reed

**Tom Ostrander.** Sponsor **Grand Steward Cayuga-Tompkins District** 2012-2014, 2024-2026

#### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS**

Tom Whitney

No News Received

**HOMER 352** 27 S. Main St. Homer, N.Y. 13077 2nd & 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m. 607/749-2201

WM Kim C. Dellow

Brethren, the construction on the Lodge is finally finished. All that is left is a good cleaning and putting everything where it belongs.

We should be having an open house, probably in June. Rusty, our Secretary, will be sending out the information about that.

Here are a couple of pictures. I hope to see you soon. Kim Dellow

**CORTLANDVILLE 470** 1883 Rt. 13 North Cortland, NY 13045 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m. 607/753-9525

WM Christopher Jenney

Brothers, I hope you are enjoying the longer days of sunshine, the flowers poking out of the ground and the return of the green grass. I expect a report from the investigation committee and am hearing of more petitions coming in.

For our April 15 meeting the RW DDGM Richard Reed will be coming for his spring visit. Watch your email for any updates.

I thank the Brothers who helped with the Fellowcraft Degree. This especially goes to the Brothers from Cayuga-Tompkins District. I will see you in Lodge.

Scott Haynes



Homer Lodge No. 352, ready for business in the East.



Homer's Lodge room, West-ern exposure.

#### EMESBE from page 1 . . .

Onondaga District Masonic page so the webmaster there can post it. Send it to me to post here for the following month. Teamwork makes the Dream work, Brothers. We all have to work together to

Speaking of success, kudos goes to RW Toby Shelly and RW Adam Novak for the great job they are doing in the District. The training they are doing is awesome and much appreciated by everyone, including Oswego District.

As all know, we lost a pillar in Masonry in VW Norm Kruth. He was always helping a Lodge or Concordant Body somewhere. Thanks go to Morning Star Lodge, Masonic War Vets Post No. 43 and Liverpool Lodge for bringing the beverages to Norm's Celebration of Life. His family was very appreciative of everything everyone chipped in to do. Thanks also go to Memorial Lodge and Karl Parker for hosting us. Doing a Masonic Funeral Service is tough when you do it for a close friend and that is what Norm was.

Last month I posted the number of Lodges in each District that wrote an article. Not much has changed. Six out of eleven in Onondaga District (one more) sent in, five in Cayuga-Tompkins (two more), Cortlandville-Madison one (the same), two Concordant Bodies out of seven and that is all. Four Eastern Star Chapters out of eight submitted. Congratulations go to those who wrote articles, keeping everyone in Lodges and Bodies informed. If you cannot personally write a communication, please delegate it to someone else.

If anyone has a business and would like to advertise please contact Steve Zabriskie or me. Ask your boss at work if he would be interested. More than 1700 people receive this paper in eight counties.

If you are not getting your paper, please contact me. Sometimes when moving, people forget to notify the Lodge and the word. The paper is returned to us and we get charged and that chips away at our funds. If anyone is interested in going to digital, let me know and we can switch that up for you.

Something that I hear in my travels has to do with failure to respond to events, and I mean making reservations. We all have a habit of putting off reserving to attend functions. This puts stress on those valuable volunteers trying to plan food and everything else that goes

along with coordinating an event. I hear this from so many people in Masonic and other organizations. Those who plan events get very frustrated and just stop doing them. None of us can afford to lose volunteers. Let us all try to be better at this for everyone's sake.

I opted not to go to a Concordant Body meeting this month. I brought in a new candidate to one of my Lodges and I felt the Raising of Andrew Lavaranchuk was more important. "The journey of a Mason does not end at the Raising. That is only the starting line for a lifetime of growth."

Crossroads United lost one of the last original William S. Farmer (former Grand Master of the State of NY) Masonic Lodge members. W Robert (Bob) Neufang passed away March 3. He was the oldest surviving member at 91 years. His sons Kurt and Eric are also members of Crossroads. They also lost their mom Joan in January. She was very involved in Eastern Star. There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, July 12.

Crossroads United took a special interest in helping the family look after Bob. Before he took a turn we would pick him up and bring to meetings when he was able. As I said in last month's article, we need to look after our older Brothers. Someday any of us could be in that predicament.

God bless all of you. Please keep our Military, Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders in your thoughts and prayers. Remember that Brotherly Love will prevail. At least it should.

**Brian Courtney** 

Memorial Lodge No. 648 W.. Alfred W. Fergerson Centerville Chapter No. 185, OES Patricia H. Fergerson





215 SOUTH MAIN STREET NORTH SYRACUSE, NY 13212-3100 FergersonFuneralHome.com

## CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT



DDGM REPORT RW Ed Maassen

Greetings, Brothers. A great job by the Brothers of Scipio Lodge was the rendering of the first part of the Third Degree. The Degree was well attended and went very smoothly.

In my last article I mentioned a Third Degree at Auburn Lodge on April 5 for five Brothers. Please let Tommy Ostrander know if you are planning to attend breakfast and or lunch so he can plan accordingly. And Brothers, if you are planning any Degrees let Tommy, Joe Sheppard or me know so that we may attend. Let us know, also, if you need any help with the Degrees. We have good ritualists who can pitch in.

Tommy Ostrander, Joe Sheppard, Mike Miller and I went to training in Utica on March 7 and 8. The Friday session was well attended, Saturday, not so much. Many topics were discussed, such as retention, bringing in new Brothers and of course the Brotherhood of Freemasonry. Tommy and I are planning this year's Official Visits and will bring any new changes to you.

Worshipful Masters or their proxy should look to the first Monday and Tuesday of May for Grand Lodge in New York City. MW Steven A. Rubin is planning discussions on the health of Freemasonry and where we would like to go for the future. I will see all of you in Lodge.

Ed Maassen

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

WM Seth Molloy Secy Gary Mowers; 315/246-7029

Greetings from Erie Canal Lodge! We have had an eventful month since our last article.

After a longer and harsher winter than we wanted, Erie Canal Lodge has emerged and spent March reaching out of our four walls to connect with others. Our Lodge was approached by a Scout looking to earn his Eagle rank and we agreed to partner with him on a project. He will be helping our Lodge by orga-

Erie Canal see 2nd column



STAFF OFFICER RW Tom Ostrander 315/224-0940

Brothers, Scipio Lodge No. 110 in Aurora conferred the first Section of the Third Degree on February 25. I attended with RW Maassen (Scipio is his home Lodge). It was very well done by W Mark Jordan, Lodge Master

On April 5 Auburn Lodge will confer the Third Degree on five Brothers who include men from Auburn 124, Scipio 110 and Tritown 472. Breakfast is at 6:30 a.m. with the Degree at 8:00 a.m. There will be a lunch break and the day will conclude with the Hiramic Legend.

I attended Cortlandville Lodge No. 470 on March 4 for a Second Degree with RW Mike Miller and RW Steve Howard. The work was very well done by new, young Brothers. RW Miller presented the Middle Chamber Lecture, superbly. RW Howard was the man on the ivories and, as always, added class to the Degree. I was there as a prompter (not necessary) and for the pizza and wings

RW Ed Maassen and I attended the Training Session in Utica on March 7 and 8 at the Masonic Home. It was very informative and will allow us to convey new ideas on the Master's Chair, Road to the East and Masonic Development Courses. We also received new planners for our District Masters to use for their Trestleboards. We will dispense this new information to the District soon.

As always, Ed and I are looking forward to our travels in 2025. Ed is working on a schedule as we speak.

Take care, God bless. I hope to see you all soon in our District.

Tom Ostrander

## Erie Canal from 1st column . . .

nizing a team of Scouts to clear some of our land, build a fire pit and renovate our front garden. We look forward to working with him and giving him a chance to grow in his leadership skills.

Due to a conflict on our second meeting night, Erie Canal Lodge took to the road and had our first travel night of the year. This gave us a chance to experience fellowship and connection with our Brothers from other Lodges. For our upcoming meetings,

Erie Canal see 6th column



#### ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

VW Joe Sheppard No News Received

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

> WM Scott Bennett Secy Tom Ostrander, tostrander7948@gmail.com, 315/224-0940

Brothers, we have an update in the area of Sickness and Distress. As mentioned in the last article, Beth Bowman, RW Dave Bowman's wife, was injured in a fall at Disney World and was looking at surgery for a broken arm. Dave reports she is recovering well. RW Miller's mom is doing much better. Prayers go to all from the Lodge Brothers.

On March 1 we held our annual chicken barbecue to defray Lodge expenses. It was very successful with a profit of \$1090 for the Lodge coffers. On March 6 the program was Second Degree proficiency for our two Fellowcrafts. They were very well prepared and are now ready to be Raised on April 5.

March 20 saw the return of March Madness with sports, food, raffles and refreshments. Raffle tickets were drawn for the special scratch-off boards.

On March 23 and 30 we rehearsed for the upcoming Third Degree on April 5. We will be joined by Tritown 472 and Scipio 110 to Raise five new Brothers. Breakfast is at 6:30 a.m. and the Degree work begins at 8:00 a.m. On April 17 we present the Third Degree LSOME and Walkabout. RW Brothers Steve Howard and Mike Miller will do the honors.

We recently purchased a 75" flat screen TV for the Lodge room. We look to use it for all our education needs—LSOME, MWOLO, Master's Chair, Road to the East and the Masonic Development Course. This was made possible by donations from the Masters family in memory of Charles Masters and by VW Gordon Clarke.

The MWOLO group met physically at Auburn and also offered a Zoom link on March 27. Refreshments were served.

Looking ahead, on May 1 we will entertain officer nominations for 2025-26. May 15 is Election of Officers and we will receive the Grand Lodge report.

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

Tommy Ostrander

#### KING HIRAM 784

186 Main St. Newfield, N.Y. 14867 2nd & 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m 607/564-9930

WM Paul M. Smith

Brethren, we have accomplished a lot over the past month. First and foremost, we Initiated two new Entered Apprentices on March 11 and I welcome these Brothers to our Lodge. Their Fellowcraft Degree is scheduled for April 22. I would like to thank all the Brothers who helped out on the First Degree. All did a great job and the candidates were very impressed.

Recently, we purchased and received an AED, AED cabinet and a First Aid Kit. These will be installed soon.

On March 1 we hosted the Euchre Tournament. We had twelve people in attendance and they enjoyed the day. We raised money for the Brotherhood Fund by charging 50 cents per euchre. If I recall, we raised \$20, which was matched by one of the guests.

The Trustees have contracted with Whitmore Fence to complete the fence behind the Town Library. This will connect to our existing fence to enclose the entire back yard. This addition will allow the library to have an outdoor reading and program area.

Please keep Brother Walter Madison in your thoughts and prayers. We have just learned that he is now residing at Bethany Senior Living Center in Horseheads. We hope to make contact with him in the next few days to find out his situation.

The By-Laws Committee presented the second reading of the proposed changes. All changes were approved by the Brothers in attendance. We will be sending out copies of the revised By-Laws soon. The revision that affects most people is the change in out meeting time; we will now begin at 7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. We will still have our social hour but it will now be at 6:00 p.m. I am looking forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Paul M. Smith

## **SYLVAN F&AM 41**Moravia, N.Y. 13118 1st & 3rd. Tues., 7:00 p.m.

WM Paul Schenck
Brothers, at our last meeting we enjoyed a program on
Rudolf Diesel and the
Rockefeller family. The
Rockefellers lived in
Moravia for seven years and

we know how Rockefeller Road got its name. Rudolf Diesel engineered and built the diesel engines all over the world. Rudolf was enemies with Rocke-

then moved to Oswego. Now

all over the world. Rudolf was enemies with Rockefeller because Rockefeller was afraid the diesel engines and oil would hurt his oil business.

I had the honor to present Steve Jackson and Gary Hatfield with their fifty-year Masonic pin. I say, Good going, Brothers. I will see all of you in Lodge.

Paul Schenck

#### SCIPIO 110 Main St. Aurora, N.Y. 13026

WM Mark B. Jordan, Secy Stephen L. Zabriskie, zabled@aol.com

2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m.

Hello, Brothers. As reported last month, the Lodge mounted the first part of the Third Degree on February 25 and we officially welcome Brother Jan Stowell into our family as a Master Mason. He will complete the experience with the Q&A and the Hiramic Legend when Auburn No. 124 confers the Degree on its Fellowcrafts on April 5. Scipio Lodge may be asked to provide some cast members.

That reminds me that I neglected to mention our appreciation for AGL Joe Sheppard's willingness to step into a role in our Degree, on the spot. As it turned out, our acting Senior Deacon Virgil Farlow was able to attend to an emergency repair and return to his place in time for the Degree work. We also express our thanks to W Brother Scott Ward for providing the evening's supper. It was consumed with gusto, as always. We also welcomed travelers Walter Boronow and Dick Freeman from Tri-Valley No. 148 in the Cortland-Madison Dis-

At the first meeting in March we fine-tuned the details of the G. Alan Clugston evening set for April 8. The event will be open to the community and we will promote it widely. Among things to recognize is the role Brother Alan played annually at St. Patrick's time. As Limerick Master, he solicited and collected submissions from the community and held a public reading at the Fargo Restaurant, with prizes of various alcoholic content. In the Lodge, Alan was admired for his ritual work, particularly his powerful delivery of the Charges.

I will be appointing an Audit Committee, to examine our financial records for the year, in accordance with Grand Lodge requirements. I will also appoint a Nominating Committee; and we will Summons the Lodge to meet on May 13 to hear its report and to elect officers for 2025-26. Please remember the significance of Masonic Summonses.

Mark Jordan

#### 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

We started planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for April 19. We set up competitions for three age groups: 8 to 10, 5 to 7 and 4 and under. Prizes are awarded to three children in each age group. This is usually a fun day for all.

In Lodge Activity news, we are in the process of identifying Lodge Brothers who are veterans. Military ser-

> Warren Salem Town see 6th column

## Warren Salem Town from 5th column . . .

vice has not previously been recorded on the Grand Lodge roster. If you are a veteran, we need your branch of service with the beginning and ending dates. Information should be sent to Warren Salem Town Lodge No. 147, PO Box 11 in Union Springs, NY 13160; or email W Warren H. Albrecht at walbrecht 1342@outlook.com.

We will have a special meeting on April 15. We will be conducting the annual Easter Egg stuffing at 6 p.m. to prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 at AJ Elementary School. We put pieces of candy in approximately 1200 eggs. As in the past, this will be our pizza night. We need your help.

In the distress column, W Tim Dodman had a knee replacement procedure in December. Unfortunately, he experienced complications. They found the problem and Tim has had additional surgery to reattach muscles to his knee cap.

The Happy Birthday Brothers are listed here. W Ed Heselton celebrates on April 22; W George Fearon has an April 24 birthday; and W Peter Van Vlack's is on April 29. Happy Easter!

Warren Albrecht

## Erie Canal from 2nd column . . .

our Lodge's stated communications will be the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Visiting brethren are always welcome.

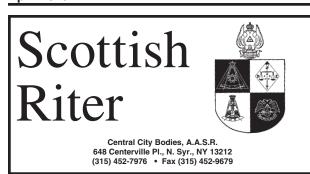
We are looking forward to getting out there even more during April. We will be partnering up with Jordan Lodge on our Earth Day Clean-Up of the road that runs between our two Lodges. If you are interested in joining us and getting your hands dirty, feel free to reach out and we will get you the safety equipment.

We also have a great opportunity for Brothers abroad to join us as well. At our first communication in April (April 3), we will have a Masonic Escape Room as our program. I have been working hard to come up with puzzles themed around the First Degree and cannot wait to have Brothers work them out to earn prizes. If you would like to play, too, come on down. The more the merrier.

Per usual, we are looking forward to connecting with our communities again during our monthly pancake breakfast. We hold this breakfast on every second Sunday of the month from

Erie Canal see page 10





#### **Council Princes**

I have said many times that we Masons were way ahead of Dan Brown when it comes to historical fiction. One of my biggest a-ha moments was when I read this in Albert G. Mackey, M.D.'s Cryptic Masonry: A Manual of the Council. "Like every other myth and allegory of Masonry, the historical relation may be true or it may be false; it may be founded on factor the invention of imagination; the lesson is still there, and the symbolism teaches it exclusive of the history.'

Much of our ritual throughout various Masonic bodies is loosely based upon stories from the Bible or other historical accounts. The overwhelming majority of us can only rely on what we read in books. We do not have firsthand knowledge of the events, nor even the geographical regions that are referenced in a particular Degree. We are not, by any means, considered primary sources.

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting the Middle Chamber Lecture in a Lodge other than my own. The new Brother is a native of an Eastern European country and a recent immigrant of Afghanistan. The lecture recounts a story about Jephtha, a judge of Israel. In that story there is reference to various tribes in the region and how their differences are used to determine friend from foe. The Brother's overwhelmed reaction was unlike any other I had experienced and was a clear indication that he did in fact have firsthand knowledge of that of which I spoke.

Regardless of Masonic body, regardless of the Degree, we all should strive for a greater depth of knowledge regarding the allegory. Then, we more fully appreciate and understand the lesson and symbolism that is there.

Michael A. Miller

#### Consistory

Our Five-Degree festival is behind us and a hearty welcome goes to the newest Scottish Riters in our Valley. I hope their experience in Scottish Rite Masonry will be as rewarding as mine.

I express my appreciation to all the Princes who have assisted in presenting the live Degrees in our schedule this year. In addition to cast members who work to memorize and present their parts, there is an unseen ensemble of casting and Degree directors, stage hands and props and lighting assistants. All combine to turn out a moving Degree presentation. I am pleased that we came together and for the first time since COVID did the new 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, live and

entirely with Valley of Syracuse members. There is a place for video Degrees, but nothing compares to the impact of a live presentation.

The Feast of the Paschal Lamb is scheduled for Sunday, April 11, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The Feast is a moving memorial service for Valley members who passed away over the last year. Much like a Degree, cast members work hard to learn their parts and present their work in a dramatic and moving manner. Following the Ceremony there will be a light buffet in the dining room.

Next up is our 163rd Annual Reunion, set for Monday, April 12. It begins at 6:00 p.m. with a social time to renew old acquaintances and greet new members. Social time will be followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the Consistory meeting at 7:30.

We are still in the running for the Valley of Excellence but still a little light on reaching our new-member goal. The Valley of Excellence program awards substantial points for reaching our goal of fourteen new Scottish Rite members; it is important to keep our eyes and ears open for prospective members. If you have enjoyed your experience in Scottish Rite Masonry, encourage a Masonic acquaintance to share it with you.

The last opportunity to initiate additional members will be a Rite on the Road event scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Masonic Memorial Temple. We plan to do two video Degrees that night: the 4th Degree for any new candidates; the second Degree that evening will be a "Princes" Choice." That is, those Sovereign Princes who attend will choose from the available video Degrees which one will be shown. If you need a Degree that has been difficult to find, this could be an opportunity to get that last one to fill out your pass-

Our Brother-to-Brother contact is now under way. I encourage the callers to get them completed quickly. This is an important fulfillment of our Scottish Rite obligation to care for our members, which statement of a caring attitude is not just a trite phrase. The personal contact is the real world evidence that our caring attitude is an obligation we take to heart. It can be uncomfortable to cold call someone you have not had previous contact with. Consider this: it is not a cold callyou are calling a Brother. It may be a Brother you have not spoken to, but a Brother nonetheless. Give it half a chance and you will find these calls a rewarding experience.

William H. Toth II

#### **Perfection**

Greetings again, Brothers! I write to you this early March day with grass showing for the first time in a bit, the 11th Degree coming up on the 10th of March, and our major all-day Degree later in the month. These were exciting things to think about; and I want to thank all who took part in the 11th Degree. It was a goal of our Commander in Chief to confer this in person and I am honored to have worked with you to make that goal a real-

This coming month we have the Paschal Lamb feast on April 12. Our reunion meeting is on the 14th, and then we should be well into spring. I hope everyone had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day. If you celebrate Easter, may it be all you want it to be and may you enjoy your family while they are here to enjoy. Be well, Brothers.

Eric Driscoll

#### Hospitaler

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

We continue to hold in our prayers Joel and Heather Scarson. Ill. Lawrence Egnaczyk was hospitalized with kidney stones. RW Edward Sinay's mother-in-law passed away. My mother Thelma was in the hospital but is now in rehab. We also pray for Ill. Sandy Samson.

We still think of Brothers and Sisters in the hurricane areas. If you so desire, make contributions to the Hospitaler Fund marking them for "Hurricane Relief." And if you want to make a donation to any Brother in need, do so through the Hospitaler Fund and designate the recipient.

Keep the Valley informed of anyone in distress. The Office staff will send a card. Garry Visconti

#### Children's **Dyslexia** Center CNY

April is National Volunteers Month and the theme for 2025 is spreading love, kindness and hope to every corner of the world. When I unlock the doors at the center, I cannot help but think of those who volunteered their time and efforts to build the Central New York Children's Dyslexia Center and made it what it is today.

Last month we held our  $11^{th}$  annual GALA. The number of people who volunteered time, donated raffle baskets and gift cards, helped with the planning and setup, donated as major sponsors and attended the GALA is amazing. The Acme Mystery Theatre put on a great show and we had more than fifty baskets for the raffle. Thanks go to all who participated. We are truly grateful.

We are currently tutoring nineteen children and have twenty-one on the waitlist. We need tutors. If you or someone you know holds a bachelor degree and is interested in becoming a certified tutor, please contact the center for more information (315/736-0574).

Marianne Jones

#### **COMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

Website: <u>www.syr-aasr.org</u>

**Apr 07 ....** Executive Committee meeting, live in person 7:00 p.m.

Apr 12 (Sat)..... "Feast of the Paschal Lamb" 2:30 p.m. ceremony; light buffet in the

..... dining room.

**Apr 14 .....** 163<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion; 6:00 p.m. social/6:30 p.m. dinner/7:30 p.m. program. Apr 28 ..... Trustees meeting, in person 6:15 p.m./Executive Committee meeting,

..... in person 7:00 p.m.

May 2025

May 07 (Wed)...."Rite on the Road" — 4° "Builder" 7:30 p.m.; Location to be announced.

May 12 .... Guard's Club Dinner & Annual Meeting 6:15/Central City Bodies

...... Annual Meeting & Election of Officers 7:30 p.m.

May 19 .... Public Installation of Officers, 6:00 p.m. social/6:30 p.m. dinner/7:30 p.m.

..... Installation.

#### 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. Frederick 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°

#### **Annual Feast** of the **Paschal Lamb**

Central City Chapter of Rose Croix, AASR, will host the Annual Feast of the Paschal Lamb Memorial service on Saturday, April 12 at the Masonic Memorial Center, 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse, NY. The ceremony honors the Sublime Princes of the Valley of Syracuse who passed away in the last twelve months. The memorial service is a public event, open to members and guests.

The memorial service is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. A light lunch buffet will be served following the ceremony. Please contact the Valley office if you plan to attend: 315/452-7976 or secretary@syr-aasr.org.

#### **Event Notices** Now Emailed

Effective January 1, 2025 some changes occurred in the Central City Bodies, Valley of Syracuse Office. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Sharon Fox, Mrs. Sharon Swan assumed the role of Administrative Assistant. Ill. James D. Swan, Jr., 33° continues as the Valley Secretary.

Office hours continue as Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitors are urged to call prior to coming to the office.

The big change is the elimination of the USPS mailing permit due to excessive cost increases. Most event and meeting notices will be distributed to our membership and others on our lists by electronic mail. We will use the email address we have in our office system.

Those wishing to change their email address or to be added to the list are advised to send an email from their current address or call the Office at 315/ 452-7976.

These notices will come to you from a new email address: secretary@syraasr.org. Our long-range plan is to drop the ny017@twcny.rr.com address for the Valley Secretary communications.

James D. Swan, Jr.

#### **Blue Envelope** Appeal

We thank all who have contributed to the Blue Envelope Appeal. Your continued support of the Blue Envelope Appeal project at Supreme Council benefits the students who will receive education financial assistance from Supreme Council and the New York Council of Deliberation.

We are making positive progress towards our annual goal of support by members of the Valley. Remember your Blue Envelope Appeal response.

#### **Annual Dues**

Thanks go to those of you who have paid your 2025 member's dues. This is a gentle reminder to those who have not yet done so: Please remember to pay your 2025 member's dues. Supreme Council may have already sent a reminder notice that your 2025 member's dues are not paid.

When you receive your 2025 member's dues invoice, if you have any questions regarding the status of the payment of your 2024 and earlier member's dues, and/or the payment of your 2025 member's dues, please contact the Valley office. Phone 315/ 452- 7976 or email slsny017@gmail.com or ny017@twcny.rr.com at your earliest convenience.

Additionally, if you have misplaced your current member's ID card, please notify the office. The administrators will see that a replacement card is requested for you.

James D. Swan, Jr.

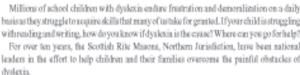
#### 2025 Abbott **Scholarship Applications**

The Supreme Council Abbott Scholarship and NY Scottish Rite Financial Education Financial Assistance application is available online. Note that a single application for both scholarships will be used again this year. The submission deadline date for your application is Tuesday, April 15.

Each application must be submitted to the Sponsor's Valley of membership. For information go to either of these website a d d r e s s e s www.nysccottishritemasons.org or www.syr-aasr.org.

Be prepared and be prompt. Applications received after April 15will not be considered.

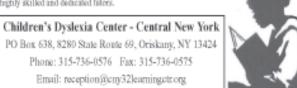
#### Children's Dyslexia Center Central New York

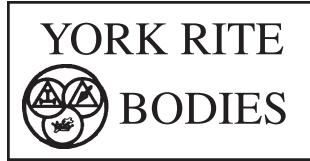


At our Central New York center, located in Oriskarry, the Children's Dyslexia Center tackles the challenge of dyslexia head-on, both by providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by training a growing cadre of

highly skilled and dedicated tators.

PO Box 638, 8280 State Route 69, Oriskany, NY 13424 Phone: 315-736-0576 Fax: 315-736-0575







#### 12th Capitular **District RAM**

Greetings, dear Companions. I hope this finds all of you doing well and that the changing of the season is agreeable to you. We have probably all seen our schedules being filled with so many events as we come out of our sort-of-hibernation winter period.

It is always a bittersweet time with Royal Arch Masonry where we see a changing of the guard, so to speak, of our Grand Line. We celebrate the past year of leadership and welcome in a new Grand High Priest. We are grateful for all our Past Grand High Priests, as they have left their marks on our Craft and in our hearts.

Many thanks go to our Past Most Excellent Steven Shearer—finding it hard to believe that this year has passed so quickly—with gratefulness for his care and mentorship through the year. And we welcome in our new Most Excellent Mark Peerson, who will continue the work done by the previous gentlemen who served so diligently.

We have a lot going on in our District, with immediate efforts culminating in the conferral of the MEM Degree at Charles Platt Chapter on March 26. I will be making Official Visits to each of our Chapters, getting underway in April. The Lake Ontario visit is on April 10; Central City Riverside on April 28; and Charles H. Platt on April 29. I still have Pulaski Chapter to schedule as of the time of this communication.

May 15 will be a Festive Board for our District at Lake Chapter. evening runs from 6:00 to 9:00 and the cost is \$25. Have a wonderful meatloaf dinner, with proceeds raised going to RAM Charities.

I look forward to seeing many of you in my various visits to your Chapters. With Fervency and Zeal, I will see you in the Quarries.

James Nelson

#### **CENTRAL CITY RIVERSIDE CHAPTER 70 RAM**

608 Oswego St. Liverpool, N.Y. Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday

HP Timothy S. Hansen 315/378-5652 timothy.hansen@neardistant.net Secy Bob Bowles 315/436-0997 rbowles1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions! Winter is now fading and for the most part, for many it has been a tough winter.

Hopfully, spring will come in and as March passes will come out like a lamb.

As I write, I look forward to our great Convocation in Binghamton. I am eager to meet the Companions from across the several Districts in our State as well as the other States and Countries that are our guests.

We know the potential for Royal Arch Masonry. But a Chapter needs its Companions to attend meetings and work its business. And we need to participate in the next couple Degrees done by the District. And we need to support meetings that offer educational programs. Remember: no matter how long you have been a Companion, you can always learn something

Companions and Brothers are closest to the life of the community. If you know anyone in sickness, distress or in need of our aid and sympathies, contact me. I hope to see you around the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District soon.

Timothy S. Hansen

#### **FULTON COUNCIL 50** CRYPTIC MASONS

Lake City #127 765 E. Seneca St., Oswego Meets 2nd Thursday of Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.

> III. Master: George Reed, 315/216-4266. georgeareed@aol.com Recorder: James Rizzo, 315/593-9966. cmc\_nyc@hotmail.com

Dear Companions, the Council met informally at our last scheduled Assembly in March, dining on pizza and discussing our upcoming Annual Assembly on Thursday, May 8. Our District Deputy has scheduled his visit to the Council on that date, as well. That will be a Summoned Assembly so please remember your Masonic obligation to answer a Summons.

We only meet every other month so it is imperative that we have nine or more in attendance at the Annual Assembly. Our Illustrious Master, Ill. George Reed, would like to serve another term and many of our officers will be reprising their roles.

Companions, your Council needs you. There will be a dinner (\$10) prepared for us by Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205, OES. They always provide a fine repast. Our District Deputy will be in attendance, your fellow Companions will be there will you answer the Summons?

The Cryptic Council holds a special place in the York Rite. The rituals display a unique beauty and the symbolism delves into the mysteries of the unconscious. Please support your Council and keep this singular Rite shining its Light on the shores of Lake Ontario.

James Rizzo



#### **CENTRAL CITY COMMANDERY 25 KT**

iverpool Masonic Temple 608 Oswego St., Liverpool 13088 Meets 1st or 3rd Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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

Greetings, Sir Knights. With the Scotia Pilgrimage coming in late March, we had a Recruitment/presentation on and about the Templars by Sir Knight Rick Miori and Sir Knight Ron Brown on February 20 at Konosioni Lodge. We canceled our meeting on February 27 to have another Recruitment/presentation at Memorial Lodge.

In March I did my impression of a snowbird and went south. So, on March 13 and March 27 we had a Move-Up Night to give the Sir Knights in line a chance to get a feel of next year's stations. That change is only a few short months away.

In April we have meetings: on April 10 and April 24. We will be working on our openings and closing for the upcoming Inspection, which will be on May 22.

Robert Kimberly

#### Mentoring from page 1 . . .

reporting can be harmful. Most people do not have the time to listen to the opinion of the two major political parties. In addition, as both parties have moved to more extreme positions, a big vacuum has been left in the center. In 2024 a survey reported that 43% of the voters considered themselves as Independent, more than either of the two major political parties (https:// news.gallup.com/poll/ 15370/partyaffiliation.aspx).

But why should all this concern us as Freemasons? I will not repeat our Tolerance, or Love of Country obligation arguments. I will invite you to take a look at our altars during open Lodge. There we place the Three Great Lights of Masonry: the Volume of the Sacred Law, Square and Compasses. Upon them we take our obligations as Freemasons for our three main Degrees.

The Volume of the Sacred Law contains moral rules that we use to govern our lives. We are free to choose which volume we use: the Bible, Koran, Veddas or other. The Craft does not tell us what to believe in but it does tell us that Masons should believe in something, actively.

The Square is used to square our actions. This means, to implement the beliefs that we have espoused with honesty, consistency and fairness. In short, it tells us to be true to ourselves.

The Compasses is used to circumscribe our passions. This relates to Tolerance if we understand it as how we project ourselves in the world. We may have a belief or ideal but we must not shove it down our fellow man's throat. We are instead endowed by the Great Architect with a sound mind to express our ideas peacefully in order to convince others

of their value and strengths.

What we have been discussing in our Lodge-Community activities Zoom meetings is how, or whether, we should enact this. We argue that today's missing piece is the lack of a public space where such open, tolerant conversations take place. We propose that our Lodges facilitate their premises and serve as independent and tolerant moderators to encourage people to engage.

Onondaga DDGM, RW Brother Toby Shelley, wrote in his article of this month: "Of late I have been suffering from the ruthlessness of ignorance orchestrated by a press with an agenda. Our Country sure could benefit from more Masons in politics. Our Masonic Ritual teaches us many lessons, especially how best to get along." Kudos! I cannot agree more.

Jorge Luis Romeu

#### Cayuga-Tompkins from page 8 . . .

#### Erie Canal ...

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with all the food you care to eat for only \$12. Veterans with military ID eat for free. Everybody is welcome.

Erie Canal Lodge is well

underway with planning a number of events we will be advertising shortly. These include a Table Lodge, cornhole tournament and our yearly golf tournament. Keep your eve out for fliers in your emails and check out our Facebook page by searching Erie Canal Lodge.

Seth Molloy

#### Where and When Was Lafayette Made a Mason? - from page 4 ...

ties making the statement were gentlemen as well as Masons, and their public lives show the estimate their fellow citizens placed upon their honor and characters. I know that much doubt and contradiction has been bandied about this important point in Lafayette's life. Various places have been stated as the point of his initiation-but an ARMY LODGE WAS ALWAYS THE ORGANIZATION IN WHICH HE SECURED LIGHT.

"I have not yet finished his statement—the latter part is evidence of the former. In the beginning he stated he felt rather hurt that Washington had not shown sufficient confidence to entrust him with a separate command. Now, listen to what made a Mason, General Washington seemed to have received a new light—I never had from that moment any cause to doubt his entire confidence. It was not long before I had a separate command of great importance.'

"We find that, in May, 1778, General Lafayette, with 2,000 men, defeated General Grant of the British Army, whose forces numbered 5,000."

It was on July 25, 1825, that Lafayette affixed his signature to the charter, or warrant, of the aforesaid Lafayette Lodge, No. 14, at

Wilmington, Del., during his visit to the Grand Lodge of Delaware. This lodge was chartered Jan. 18, 1825, upon the petition of seven prominent Masons and citizens of Wilmington, all of them being identified with public affairs; more prominent perhaps among the number were James Tilton, M.D., a former Surgeon-General in the American Army; Colonel Victor du Pont, former aid to General Lafayette, and Nicholas G. Williamson, who shortly afterwards was elevated to the position of Mayor. Notable among the first initiates in the lodge were such men as Allen McLane, noted as a surgeon; General James Wolf; Hon. Willard Hall, U. S. District Judge and father of the Public Educational System in the tate of Delaware and later a Grand Master: Hon. Louis McLane, diplomatist, later a U. S. Senator, Minister to Great Britain, Secretary of the United States Treasury, all contemporaries of General Lafayette and fortunate in their day and generation tall men, sun-crowned men and good Masons.

#### DR. CHAYTOR WAS A MASON OF HIGH STANDING

Now as to the sponsor for the statements connected with the second tradition in so far as my story is concerned. It was no less a personage than Dr. George W.

300 Years of Freemasonry: Its impact on Civil Society https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=31rUnNsOlfk&t=1999s Jorge Romeu - Past Master

Chaytor, well and favorably known, a notable physician and enthusiastic Mason. He was born Dec. 25, 1813, initiated Sept. 7, 1841, raised Nov. 2, 1841, and died April 14, 1878, respected by all men. He served his lodge as Master and in 1845 became a permanent member of the Grand Lodge of Delaware and was immediately elected Senior Grand Warden, Grand Secretary, 1849-53 inclusive, Deputy Grand Master, 1858-59, Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence until 1875, elected Grand Master of Masons of Delaware in 1875.

Dr. Chaytor was fortunate enough to be born well and early enough to be more or less acquainted with many of the men and Masons who ters and public affairs during the years 1824-25, and who took an active part in the organization of the lodge which took as its name that which was perhaps the most prominent at the time; these companions of Bro. Chaytor were also men who were prominent in Lafayette's reception in the Grand Lodges

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

**PGMs** Calvin G. Bond Bruce W. Widger: Thanks

of Pennsylvania and Dela-

Dr. Chaytor's sterling character and reputation precludes the possibility of his statements being misunderstood or subject to discount. He had the reputation of speaking the truth even though it hurt. It can be set down without fear of successful contradiction that his statements concerning Lafayette were made after due information Masonically received through a line of worthy brothers of the Craft.

It is of course to be regretted that the worthy Doctor did not give, in his address, the names of his informants and a little more of the particulars. However, unless someone comes forward and disproves the second tradition which I have incorporated in this letter many of us will continue to base our belief that BRO. MARIE JEAN PAUL JOSEPH ROCHE YVES GILBERT du MOTIER, MARQUIS de LAFAYETTE, was made a Master Mason in an Army Lodge during the winter of 1777-78 at VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVA-

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

**Chuck Toombs Past Grand Lecturer** 

Jorge Romeu **Past Master Liverpool Syracuse** 

## ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



#### Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

Yvonne Hanshew District Deputy Grand Matron

Sisters and Brothers: Spring began on March 20 and believe me, it was none too soon. I am not a snow/ winter person and this year has been too long, too much snow and too icy. It reminded me of winters while growing up. Ugh!

My home Chapter had our first meeting after being dark since early December. Getting started again is like a new experience.

The Oswego District Official Visits of the District Deputy Grand Matron and District Lecturer will be combined, with the first Official Visit on Friday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Oswego at Lake City Victoria. We will follow with a visit on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Pulaski-Puritan Chapter. We hope you will be able to attend at least one or both. RW Clinton Allen and I are hoping for a very successful year full of fun and duty.

Now, it is time for a sales pitch. The Oswego District is selling Mascot Pecans. We have available milk chocolate over pecans, milk chocolate pecan caramel clusters and pecan logs. If you are interested in purchasing any, please contact a member of an Oswego District Chapter or the DGL or DDGM.

Also, please remember that the Phoenix Masons are holding fish frys every Friday during Lent. Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. and takeouts are available.

As I close this article I hope you have a happy St. Patrick's Day. Stay safe and healthy until we meet again.

Yvonne Hanshew

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers! The snow is finally melting and the days are growing longer and warmer. Spring's arrival will be most sincerely welcomed here in Oswego.

RW Cynthia J. Sanders, Worthy Matron, and her devoted kitchen crew were honored to cater the annual George Washington Banquet, held at Lake City Lodge No. 127 on February 22. The nearly fifty guests sat down to a fabulous meal of roast beef and all the trimmings, topped by the traditional cherry pie. RW Cindy received many much-deserved compliments on the cuisine.

MW Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master, was the guest of honor. Several of his Grand Line officers accompanied him. The Hon. Robert Corradino, Mayor of Oswego, was also in attendance. He remarked to me that he was greatly impressed with the Lodge room, built by the Brothers themselves, and the layout of the building in general.

The Chapter's meeting schedule for 2025 has been set. On April 11 Lake City Victoria will welcome RW Yvonne Hanshew, District Deputy Grand Matron, accompanied by RW Clinton Allen, District Grand Lecturer, as she makes her Official Visit. Invitations have been sent to all the Chapters and current Grand Officers. Refreshments that evening will be under the direction of the Past Matrons' Association

Lake City Victoria see 3rd column

## Lake City Vistoria from 2nd column . . .

On April 26 the Chapter will perform the traditional funeral ritual for RW Nancy J. Costello, who died on December 3, 2024. Inclement weather forced the Worthy Matron to cancel the service at that time. Friends and family are invited to attend the ceremony, which will be held at Lake City Lodge at 11:30 a.m. A light luncheon will be served in the dining room afterwards.

Other Chapter events included Ample Form on March 28. We will drape the altar on May 23.

One of RW Cynthia's projects this year is the continued support of the Human Concerns Center in Oswego. Members are encouraged to contribute non-perishable foodstuffs, as well as household and hygiene products, to this worthy cause. As members of this Order we took an obligation to assist our fellow beings when they are in distress. Contributing to the welfare of the community, especially of its children, is a way to fulfill that obligation.

The annual bazaar at Oriskany will take place in July and it is not too early to start looking through closets and boxes for items to contribute. Our conductress, W Lillian A. Schute, will begin soliciting in the near future.

Birthday wishes go out to Sr. Christine Dennison, March 6; Sr. Virginia Cooper, March 15; Bro. William DeLong, March 29; Sr. Benita Reynolds, April 3; Sr. Brittany Gullo, April 9; Sr. Sharon McCoy, April 18; Sr. Lynn Grandjean, also April 18; Sr. Melinda Hadlow, April 25; RW Christopher Reis, April 26.

If you have not attended Chapter in some time, this is your golden opportunity to

Lake City Victoria see 4th column

## Lake City Vistoria from 3rd column . . .

get back into the swing of things. Come out and spend some time with your Sisters and Brothers. Our meetings are never boring and the refreshments are always first

Natalie J. Woodall

## Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

Hi, Sisters and Brothers. The promise of spring around the corner sure makes for better days ahead.

Centerville Chapter is pleased to welcome four new members, three by Initiation and one by Affiliation. We look forward to seeing them in Chapter.

April 3 is a regular meeting night and April 17 brings RW Al Tefoe to our Chapter for a "School of Instruction." I hope to see you in Chapter.

Cathy Barling

## Onondaga Star 144 Masonic Memorial Center

WM Susan Cole

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. Happy Spring! We made it.

We honored the Master Masons on March 4. It was so nice to see so many Brothers attend. On March 18 we honored our Past Matrons and Past Patrons.

Here are the upcoming events for April: On April 1we will have our School of Instruction, presented by our DGL RW Alfred Tefoe. On April 15 DDGM RW Patricia Tefoe makes her Official Visit to our Chapter. May 3 will be the Kentucky Derby Party.

Also, we are selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a Kardia Mobile Red personal EKG. It is an FDA-cleared personal EKG. More information on the EKG can be found at <a href="https://store.kardia.com/products/kardiamobile">https://store.kardia.com/products/kardiamobile</a>. Raffle tickets

Onondaga Star see 5th column

## Onondaga Star from 4th column . . .

are \$5 each and the drawing is on April 15. Contact Barbara Brooker for tickets at 315/380-0413 or email barb brooker@me.com.

Happy Birthday wishes go to our April birthday members. Also, a big Congratulations goes to our members with an April service-year anniversary. I add my sincere thank-you for your years of service.

If there is anything anyone would like to add to the word message, please contact me. I will make sure it gets in. Participation is always welcome.

Susan Cole

#### Bona Fide - Hiawatha -Solvay 567

Solvay Masonic Temple 780 Woods Road Solvay, NY 13209 315/487-0596

It looks as though spring is starting to show up and we hope that you will be coming out to the visits and helping celebrate spring in our Chapter. The Matron would like to remind us of some special dates coming up: the District Deputy Grand Matron's visit is on April 10; a Calendar Party will take place on April 26 at noon. For this event we will have hors d'oeuvres, lasagna, salad, Italian bread and dessert. Entertainment is also provided. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35/ couple. To get tickets contact a Bona Fide Hiawatha-Solvay member or call 315/ 439-8103.

We also want to remind everybody that the Beach Buddies are selling tickets for a meat raffle that will be drawn at the Grand Patron's Homecoming in June. Please ask any of the Beach Buddies for a ticket. One ticket costs \$3, three tickets for \$5.

If you would like to at-

Bona Fide - Hiawatha -Solvay

see 6th column

## Bona Fide - Hiawatha - Solvay from 5th column . . .

tend a meeting and are not able to get out, please let the Matron know or the Patron know. We will help get a ride so you can attend our meetings.

The May 8 meeting is Initiation. May 22 is an open meeting, our Masonic Family Reunion Night. All area Lodges, youth and Concordant Bodies are invited, as are spouses and friends. The Triangle youth will be doing a presentation. Please come and celebrate with us. We look forward to having many members of the Masonic family at this event. If you have any questions for the Worthy Matron or the Worthy Patron please give them

We also want to remember those who have not been feeling well. We understand that RW Marilyn Decker and RW Maggie Heitmann are on the recovery road. We hope to see them back in Chapter very soon. If there are any other members who are under the weather, please let the Matron or Patron know so the cards can be sent.

Mark W Heitmann

# Beach Buddies Bulletin

Hello, from Mark's Beach Buddies. As I write this, MW Mark and his entourage are enjoying the "New York Run" and seeing what the Big Apple has to offer. Those of us up here are still collecting the A and H dollar bills.

Cathy Barling has the quarter cards available and Ann Pennock has meat raffle tickets at \$5 for one or three

Beach Buddies see page 12



The OES Kitchen Crew ham it up while examining the program for the annual George Washington Banquet held on February 22, 2025. Left to right: W Mary M. Babbitt, Associate Matron; RW Cynthia J. Sanders, Worthy Matron; W Lillian

A. Schute, Conductress; RW Carla J. Salisbury, Treasurer. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

APRIL									
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
		Cortlandville 470 <b>1</b> Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	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	Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortland 50KT Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown Lodge 472	Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Lake City Vic 205 OES Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	12			
13	Hamilton 120 14 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of Nile Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	18	19			
20	Jordan 386 21 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Central City Riverside 70 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Charles H. Platt 247 Hannibal 550 Tritown Lodge 472	Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Lake City Vic 205 OES 25 Triangle @ Mem	26			
27	Homer 352 28 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	29	30						



#### Centerville Initiates new member

Pictured above - On March 6, Centerville Chapter 185, OES, Initiated its fourth new member in 2025. In the front row is Worthy Matron RW Cathy Barling, new Brother Jason Savlov and Worthy Patron RW Gary Hartman.

#### Beach Buddies from page 11 . . .

for \$10. We also will have raffle tickets for a handmade quilt. Sweat shirts and hoodies are also available. See Sue Cole.

We are asking that if you have bottles and cans and wish to donate those returnable funds, please turn them in yourself. We cannot be a

collection site.

Plans are underway for future events. We are looking at a boat trip on Skaneateles Lake and dinner afterward; a raffle of a beach cooler bag filled with beach items; a bingo party; and a bowling party.

Evelyn Blovat

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