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EMESBE

Hello, Brothers. I have a quick reminder for all Masters and Secretaries: please pay your invoice for the 2024 *word* before you break for summer. Only half of the Lodges that subscribe have paid for this year. Please send your check as soon as possible. We cannot wait until September because we have monthly bills to pay. Call me at 315/447-2104 if you are unsure whether you paid or not. Thank you.

I receive calls and email from many Masons asking why their Lodge does not have an article in the paper. I cannot answer them because I do not know. We just want to get every WM or someone from every Lodge or Body to write an article or put a picture in the paper.

I shared that we have a Brother in need. Jemiell Graham was diagnosed in March 2023 with Stage 5 kidney failure and is desperately in need of a transplant. I received a phone call from a Brother in Florida, who is not doing well, himself. He could not wait to send a check to help Jemiell. Approximately sixteen Masons have donated to his cause and only three since the last article came out. If anyone has the means to donate just \$20, please do so at <https://gofund.me/f0b26fef> to help Brother Jemiell Graham. I thank you from the bottom of his heart.

We hope all of you have a wonderful summer and we cannot wait to have you back in September. Your articles are due by August 12. If anyone has any questions, ideas or most importantly, any way you think we can do better, please get hold of me.

Everyone on the Board looks forward to giving you a wonderful paper with all the information you need in Masonry. They are all wonderful members and I am blessed to be able to work with them.

Brian Courtney

Organization of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons the United States

By Bro. C. C. HUNT, Associate Editor, Iowa

ON Oct. 24, 1797, a convention of committees from St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston, Temple Chapter, Albany, and Newburyport Chapter, met in convention at Masons' Hall, Boston, Mass., and resolved to take steps necessary to forming a Grand Royal Arch Chapter for the states in the northeastern part of the United States. Thomas Smith Webb was chosen chairman of this convention. They therefore issued a circular letter to the chapters in these states asking them to send one or more delegates to represent their chapter at a meeting to be held in the city of Hartford, Conn., on the fourth Wednesday of January, next ensuing.

Most of the chapters invited accepted the invitation and on Jan. 24, 1798, the delegates from the several chapters met at Hartford, Conn., and organized the Grand Royal Arch Chapter

of the Northern States of America, consisting of the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and New York. A constitution was adopted and officers elected, among them being Ephraim Kirby, of Litchfield, Conn., as Grand High Priest, and Thos. Smith Webb, of Albany, N.Y., Grand Scribe.

The first meeting of the Grand Chapter after its organization was held on the third Wednesday of September, 1798, in the city of Middleton, Conn. The second meeting was held on the second Wednesday of January, 1799, at Providence, R. I. At this second meeting the Constitution was amended and the name changed to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Northern States of America. This change was apparently made because of the fact that some of the states had orga-

nized Grand Chapters of their own under the original Grand Chapter, and the name was changed to General Grand Chapter to indicate the superior body.

Provision was also made for future organization of other State Grand Chapters, and for meetings every seven years after 1799, instead of annual meetings as had been the case before.

The third meeting was, therefore, held in 1806. At this meeting requests for charters were received from Georgia and South Carolina. Therefore the Constitution was again changed to enable them to take in Grand Chapters from other states. The new name was General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America. Since that time other Grand Chapters have been organized under the General Grand Chapter, and at the present time all the Grand Chapters in the United

States, with the exception of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Texas, are members of the General Grand body.

As to the present General Grand Chapter ritual, there was a memorial presented to the General Grand Chapter at the convocation at Indianapolis in 1912, from the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Mississippi, in which attention was called to the fact that —

“... in the ritual as promulgated by the General Grand Chapter, there are numerous instances in which the same idea is presented in a different phraseology, which makes it difficult to retain. The language employed is not a matter of any great importance, but the fact that it varies in numerous instances has proven a source of great embarrassment in the propagation of the work, because the mind is burdened needlessly in an endeavor to express in more ways than

one, an idea that is identical.

“Your Memorialists think that it is worthy of your consideration, that latitude should be given to the several Grand Chapters, to follow the work of their several Grand Lodges where there is a difference existing between the lodge and chapter work, in the same jurisdiction. In the large chapters existing in cities, where one set of brethren do the work of the lodge and another that of the chapter, this is not a matter of very much importance, but in small towns or cities where the same brethren are the workers in the lodge and chapter also, it is exceedingly confusing to have to use one phraseology in the lodge and another in the chapter to convey an identical meaning and your Memorialists think that no harm could come from granting

Organization
see page 2

17th Annual Grand Masters Golf Tournament

Hosted by the Onondaga & Oswego Masonic Charities, this event is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 13. We play at The Wood Golf Club at 7439 Canton Street, Baldwinsville, NY. The club phone is 315/635-9826.

For this year's tournament we will have an event within the event. The 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 four-player Captain & Crew. Men, women and children may play as a team.

Look for the usual contests—closest to the pin, longest drive and of course the skins game. We will have our usual liquid refreshments on the course, hot dogs and chips at the turn and dinner at the end. The unbelievable bargain price is \$70 per person. What a deal!

We offer hole sponsorships for \$100 and cart sponsorships are \$50. Please encourage your Lodges and organizations to get involved with a sponsorship. The Onondaga District Charity relies on your support as hole sponsors, cart sponsors and players. It has 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 mankind. Our Masonic institutions have in all eras been leaders in supporting our society at large.

To all our contributing Brother Masons and friends, we thank you for your help.

I hope to see you in July. Letters will have been sent

to your Lodges but for more information you may call, text or email Brother Garry Campbell: 315/385-1170 or gcampbellk950@gmail.com.

To enter your team and/or purchase a hole or cart sponsorship, please make checks payable to “OMDC,” and send to Garry Campbell

at 300 East Ave., East Syracuse, NY 13057. On behalf of the OMDC, I thank you for your support.

Garry Campbell

Mentor

Hello, Brethren. This month I celebrated two important anniversaries that had a large influence in my life: one was writing this column and the other was creating the JLM Int'l Education Project.

Ten years ago I started writing this Mentor column for *the word*. It has been a great honor and pleasure having shared with you some thoughts, ideas and stories about Freemasonry. You can find all my Mentor articles in <https://web.cortland.edu/romeu/TheMentoringCorner.pdf>.

Our Editor carefully selects notable articles from *The Builder*, a worthy Masonic magazine one century old. Perhaps 100 years from today other brethren and Masonic scholars will as well seek *the word* to find out what was going on in Upstate New York, and what were Freemasons doing and thinking during these trying times we are currently living. Few other Masonic Districts (in New York, or even in other states or other countries) can present a long-lasting publication such as *the word*, a collective endeavor where many of us collaborate in several different ways.

Then, thirty years ago I created the Juarez Lincoln Marti Int'l Education Project, teaching as a Fulbright in Mexico (<https://web.cortland.edu/matresearch/>). This project has supported higher education in Ibero-America during the past thirty years, developing many programs such as finding eighteen scholarships to attend American conferences, sending hundreds of textbooks, and teaching numerous faculty development workshops that update teaching methods in Latin America.

To develop such work I was inspired by goals set in the Constitutions of the three Spanish Caribbean Grand Lodges. Their Article I states that Freemasonry should encourage education in every form, and that the Craft should “dispel ignorance, combat all vices and inspire the love of humanity” (in Spanish, *disipar la ignorancia, combatir el vicio e inspirar amor a la humanidad*). Education is a very

helpful method for our Lodges to better reach and inform their communities.

I provide an illustrative, real-life example of the application of such procedures. Many years ago Tampico Lodge in Mexico invited High School students to write compositions and to attend speaking contests that took place in their Lodge premises. The Lodge awarded cash prizes to winners. One participant was Prof. Guillermo de los Reyes, now a faculty at the University of Houston, TX (https://www.uh.edu/class/spanish/faculty/delosreyes_g/). Guillermo, who is not a Freemason, became so interested in Freemasonry and its history, that he went on to college and researched it under Prof. Paul Rich, a Masonic scholar, authoring various articles and books on different topics concerning the Craft.

Student competitions entice many individuals, of all ages and genders, to visit our Lodges. Providing only students cash prizes may generate recognition in the graduation program. Organizing contests where student prize winners present their work in an event at the Lodge premises draws in family and friends, making our Lodges an active part of the community. We need that our Lodges become more visible and active members of society.

This Mentor is actively seeking input and advice from all our brethren, and especially from Lodge leaders, regarding the creation of several public programs in our Lodges. On May 14 we presented another Zoom to consider some likely topics for student competitions and future talks and public presentations. But such an endeavor cannot be a one-man show. For it to succeed we must create a group that develops, supports and promotes these community-Lodge activities.

Finally, and on a personal note, I want to thank those who enquired about my son's accident. He spent two weeks in an ICU and another four in the hospital. He was badly injured but is alive.

Jorge L. Romeu



ONONDAGA DISTRICT

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

DDGM



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

Greetings, Brethren. Once again in life I find myself as the new guy as your rookie District Deputy Grand Master. I am honored at the trust placed in me to lead the District. I have big shoes to fill following RW Campis; Dan has committed to staying involved and helping along the way. Congratulations go to the rest of the team: RW Adam Novak, RW Rick Miori, VW Todd Platten, VW Carton Jackson and VW John Bromka.

Following up on what is already in the works (Investiture, Song Mountain Degree, District Table Lodge, etc.) should keep me busy throughout the next few months. By September's word article I will have more of a plan going forward.

The best way to reach me is a text to my personal cell phone 315/427-6961 and I will call or text back. If you send me an important email let me know in a text. I receive well over 100 emails a day and do not always get to all of them.

May brotherly love prevail. Enjoy your summer.
Toby Shelley

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

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No News Received

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No News Received

Organization from page 1 ...

the Grand Chapters liberty to follow in the work of the chapter, the work of the Grand Lodge."

The special committee to whom this memorial was referred reported that they found the complaint of the Mississippi companions well founded, and recommended certain changes to make the ritual more uniform. This report was unanimously adopted, but did not fully correct evil complained of, and at the convocation at San Francisco, Cal., in 1915, the Grand Chapter of Iowa presented a memorial calling attention to one hundred forty-five other changes which should be made to harmonize the work.

Trowel Chapter, No. 49, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, also presented a memorial asking that the Past Master's Degree be rewritten. Both of these memorials were referred to a committee on ritual, but in the meantime the General Grand High Priest had recommended that a committee be appointed to rewrite and revise the entire ritual, to bring it into harmony with changes which had already been made. This recommendation was adopted by the General Grand Chapter and the committee on ritual recommended that the memorial from Iowa be referred to the special committee, which was done. Companions Wm. F. Kuhn, Nelson Williams and Harry W. Harvey were appointed on the committee and presented their report at the Triennial Convocation at Baltimore in 1918. This report consisted of a complete revision of the ritual and was adopted.

This is the present General Grand Chapter ritual, and the above briefly recites the circumstances leading up to its adoption. The essentials which go with this ritual are the old-time essentials of the General Grand Chapter. The committee reported that they made no change in this whatever.

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Ft. Brewerton's 50-year member Skip Soeder receives his certificate and apron.

Onondaga District – Song Mountain

The Song Mountain Third Degree date is rapidly approaching. We are excited to announce that reservations are now open for any Mason to attend, regardless of District affiliation. We will take reservations until May 24 or until the Degree venue is full. Get your reservations in early to ensure that you have your spot reserved for the Degree.

The details: The Onondaga District will be hosting a collective Third Degree at the top of Song Mountain in Tully, NY on June 8 (rain date June 15). There is a capacity of 250 Brothers. Cost of attendance will be \$30 per person. This amount is the same for spectators, Degree participants and candidates. If you will be on the mountain, this is the cost, no exceptions. This fee covers operating the event and includes a quick-service lunch on the top of the mountain. Transportation is being coordinated to get to the top of the mountain and limited space will be reserved for 4-wheel drive vehicles at the peak through prior arrangements.

The Degree will be an all-day affair. The gavel drops at 9 a.m., sharp on June 8 (June 15 rain date). Please arrange to be there well in advance in order to be seated in time for the opening. Seating will be on bleachers set up for the event will be long pants (jeans are fine) and a button-down or polo. Wear shoes appropriate for walking and being in an outdoor environment.

At the conclusion of the Degree there will be a dinner buffet at the base of the mountain. This is a separate cost of \$40 per person and is open to all Masons and their family, regardless of participation in the Degree at the top of the mountain. A separate reservation will be re-

quired.

Reservations will be accepted by navigating to <http://degree.onondagadistrict.com>. Here you will fill out a form with your information and be pushed to a site to accept payment. When your reservation is accepted, you will receive an email from degree@onondagadistrict.com confirming your spot. Once we reach 250 reservations, the reservation portal will close. Note that even if you are participating in the Degree you still need to make a reservation.

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

Daniel Campis

Event schedule, June '24

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

- Jun 1 OZ-Stravaganza in Chittenango
- Cazenovia—Awards
- CentSq—BBQ
- Jun 3 MornStar—Install
- Jun 4 FayCC—Install
- Jun 5 Skaneateles—Install
- Jun 6 Auburn—Scholarship/Service
- Centerville—Master Masons Night
- ErieCanal—Awards Picnic
- CentSq—Concordant Bodies
- Jun 7-8 Weedsport FD Field Days
- Jun 8 Song Mtn. —3°
- ErieCanal—Cornhole Tourney
- Jun 9 Tigris Clean-up
- ErieCanal—Father's Day Pancakes
- Jun 10 Scriba —2°
- Jun 13 Nortrip—Open Install
- KT25—Install
- LkOntRAM—Royal Arch Degree Talk
- Jun 14 LkCityVic—Master Masons Night
- Jun 15 Osw Charities Masters Golf
- CentSq—BBQ
- Jun 18 FayCC—Mets Baseball
- Jun 19 MornStar—Picnic
- Skaneateles—Dinner Cruise
- Jun 20 Auburn—Install
- Centerville—Honor Officers
- ErieCanal—Install
- CentSq—Install/Awards
- Jun 21-23 St. John's Day Weekend
- Jun 27 Nortrip—Steak Bake
- KT25—Going Dark Party
- Jun 30 ErieCanal—Golf at Meadowbrook
- Jul 13 CentSq—BBQ
- OnonOsw Grand Masters Golf
- Jul 19-21 Tigris at Syr Nationals
- Jul 26-27 OES Festival at Oriskany
- Jul 27 CentSq—BBQ
- Aug 6 WarrenSalemTown—
- Recognition Picnic
- Aug 15 Tigris at Lynyrd Skynyrd
- Aug 24 Tigris Clam Bake

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WM Dave Jones

Greetings from the East! Where has the time gone?

June will be another busy month for our Lodge. Congratulations go to all officers for 2024-2025. Lodge installation will be June 4 at 7:30 p.m. A chicken and biscuit dinner will serve at 6:30 p.m. The cost \$10. Make your dinner reservation with Craig at 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net by Sunday, June 2.

Tuesday, June 18 is our annual Mets Baseball Night at NBT Stadium. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. This cost is \$40 per person, which includes a picnic buffet dinner. Contact Craig Cobb at 315/446-0625 for reservations. All are welcome to attend. The reservation deadline is Tuesday, June 11. Play ball!

May you and your family enjoy the days of summer. Stay tuned for an announcement regarding our annual summer picnic. May God bless.

Dave Jones

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

WM Todd Burns



Hello and welcome to spring! Even though, as I write this it feels like November. There are only a few meetings left in our Masonic year.

To recap a bit: on April 25 we had our annual awards night. It is always a fun night with awards given for a variety of reasons. We started off with some shepherd's pie and cocktails, and then went upstairs where awards were presented. To W Todd Burns, a ten-year certificate; to

RW Jack Dombrowski, a fifteen-year certificate; to Brother Gary Sadler, his



W Todd Burns and his wife Heather, RW Chris Heberle, W Tom Mitchell, DSA, and Bro. Carson Zacharias, DSA. Missing from the photo are Bro. Bill Baird, DSA, and W Kevin Ingalls. It is the Nortrip Lodge Adopt-A-Highway crew in action in front of Green Lakes.

twenty-five-year certificate; W Tom Mitchell received a thirty-five-year certificate and Brother James Wagner, one for sixty-five years.

The Novelty Awards arena featured Carson Zacharias and the "Loving the Nurses" Award; Donna Heberle got the "Queen Hors Devours" Award while Chris Heberle took the "Lampighter Award." Kevin Ingalls was recognized with "The "Giorgio Armani Necktie" Award and Todd and Heather got the "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer" Award. Thomas Mitchell was awarded both the "Early Bird" and "Crop Duster" Awards and Bill Baird won the "Tooth Fairy" Award.

May 4 was our semi-annual Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. We started out with some breakfast casserole and fried eggs at the Lodge, then rounded the troops and braved the traffic and ticks on Green Lakes Rd. This year the event was sponsored by Fireball Whisky and cheap light beers. The strangest find was some red twine that literally went for miles. We

picked up an amazing amount of trash and debris. Driving past there now you would not know it but we did make a difference for a little while, at least. I thank all the Brothers who made it and my wife Heather for helping out. As Masons and just plain good people we made a difference.

We followed the meeting with a barbecue and discussion on where we were going as a Lodge. We all agreed that what to do and who we do it with was too important to let go. We will continue to set the example for what we do for as long as we can do it with the brethren present and future. It was a well-attended event; I thank you all for being there. We have an amazing Lodge and I am proud to call you Brothers.

On May 9 we had our annual election of officers where W Mark Lafountain was voted in as the next Master of Nortrip Lodge. This will be his eighth year as a Master. That has got to be some kind of award. Be on the lookout for his Trestleboard for the upcoming Masonic year.

On May 23 we had our Past Masters night. We went through the necrology of our Lodge and discussed some history of our Past Masters. It did not hit me until I just typed it but I am officially a "Past Master." I consider it an honor to join the ranks of such great people from our Lodge and Fraternity. I thank all of you for letting me be a part of this great Fraternity of ours.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on the 13th, when we will have our annual installation of officers. After that we have our annual Brother Bring a Friend Steak Bake on the 27th. Please be sure to get your reservations in to Tom or me so we can plan accordingly. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Todd Burns

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

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

Greetings, Brethren. Good rainy morning. I hope

that all is well with the brethren of Tully Lodge and elsewhere. It is another soggy start to the day but there is not much we are going to do about it.

As advertised, we recently replaced the boiler and now have heat again. We are still accepting donations to help cover the cost of replacing it. You may send a much-appreciated gift to our Treasurer at POB 896, Tully, NY 13159.

Other projects languish. The restored Masonic sign needs volunteers to raise it and the barn still needs painting. We will provide the paint and brushes if a handful of Brothers can commit to painting a section.

We voted on a slate of candidates on May 9. Brother Tom Murphy has agreed to be our Jr. Deacon; Brother Tim Chatfield has agreed to be our new Jr. Warden as well as Secretary, with my assistance. Brother Don Bayles will be our Sr. Deacon, Brother Bill Coffin has agreed to be our Treasurer and yours truly will be Worshipful Master Again. A Certificate of Election will be

available soon.

In other Lodge news: Brother David "Rusty" Spaulding recently laid down the Tools of a Working Master Mason. We Draped the Altar last night in Rusty's memory. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers. His spirit of gentleness, hard work and self-determination will live on in our Lodge.

We also voted a new candidate to join our ranks last night. Brother Don Bayles sponsored him and his petition was read at the last meeting.

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

Do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything. That is email at: jrapp126@twcny.rr.com or by phone at 315/569-5203. Let us all keep the Mason in Masonry.

John Rapp



Here is the lineup at Fayetteville Central City Lodge No. 305 on Move-Up Night, 2024.

Editor's Prerogative

Pomp and...Pomp

A friend and Brother politely inquired, "How was Grand Lodge?" I have not responded to him because I wanted to process. In the first place, I am sensitive to the expectations of young Masters and Staff Officers and District Deputies, and of those more seasoned members who have never been to a Grand Lodge session in New York City. A meeting in Buffalo or Utica does not really count. There is something about the bigness of NYC and everything in it that is overwhelming, alarming, titillating and satisfying. Did I say, "terrifying?"

One year—and by the way, I have been going on and off but mostly regularly since I was a DDGM in 1985-86 with GM Calvin Bond and '86-87 with GM Bob Singer—one year an old Master from the Cayuga-Tompkins District dismantled the Onondaga Coach in front of our hotel on W. 33rd Street and went right into his room. When the District walked to 71 W. 23rd he was in the middle of the pack; when they returned to the hotel, ditto. When the group separated that night into little parties of explorers and tourists, he carefully crossed the street to a restaurant, dined by himself and took himself home to the hotel. The next evening, throwing caution to the winds, he crossed the street for dinner and went a further block down to 32nd Street. I think that was the year I walked from 33rd Street down and across the Brooklyn Bridge to Flatbush, because my grandfather came from there in the 1860s.

So, going to New York for the first time, or for any time, can be a rush. So can Grand Lodge. Impressions: The hall is enormous and gorgeous, with a main floor and wrap-around balcony seating. There is an abundance of purple and gold, aprons and cuffs and jewels and chains. There is an aura of majesty. The main chairs in the East are like thrones. And frequently there is some posturing, when folks seem to forget the thing about the level.

Getting to a seat early is a good thing, particularly in the balcony. It affords opportunity to observe Masonic friendship and brotherhood in action. Men who have not seen each other in a year hurry across the floor to embrace; men who have not seen one another in a week do the same. This milling about continues until after the Marshals call for order and if a session ever opened on time it would be a wonder. This being an election year, we identified candidates doing a little impromptu campaigning.

There is a display of getting the Past Grand Masters and certain Grand officers on the dais, and then a display of welcoming the Grand visitors from around the world. One can see how this would be reciprocated when our guys travel. This is fun and it is interesting to see who is there. It is also fun to see how many return for the Tuesday session after the Grand Master's Blow-out Dinner on Monday night.

The processes of Grand Lodge are interesting. In former days the reading of reports would go forever. Now, the reports are pre-published and distributed and members have a chance to digest and, if necessary, question. There was a bit of inconclusive back and forth over gigantic budgets, investments and losses. A few select committees report live. The legal operations sometimes arouse interesting conversations: the deliberations of the Constitutions Committee, Jurisprudence, Restorations. In most of these legal arenas the Past Grand Masters rule.

I have not much to say about the elections except to applaud the decision years ago to go high-tech. Now every representative has an electronic device to register a vote. Counting paper ballots was endless.

I do have a couple of beefs. Maybe that should be "beeves." One is the annoying manner of a speaker addressing the body. Every speaker. I do not know if it is time-honored protocol or everyone copies the first guy. It does seem to be part of the Standard Work and it goes like this: "MW Grand Master; RW Deputy Grand Master; Distinguished East; RW, VW, W Brothers all: Good morning!" And the response from those in the house is a shout: "Good morning!" After two days it begins to wear.

My other complaint has to do with awards. They must stamp out medals like widgets on the 17th Floor and give them out like it is Halloween. I am sorry and I do not denigrate people being recognized for their good labors but those medals used to mean something—Johnson, Livingston, Walker. These days it is like graduating everyone Cum Laude. But it is the Grand Master's show.

So how was Grand Lodge? It was Grand Lodge: good, impressive, something about which to feel proud to belong. And it was Grand Lodge: overblown ceremony, entitlement and clubbiness. If you are a new Master, though, I urge you to make your plans to head to the city next May.

Stephen L. Zabriskie

Morning Star 524 (ON)

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WM Lynn Howard
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howardlynn13@yahoo.com

Brethren, Greetings and Salutations. It does not seem like a year has passed since we began last June. I would like to thank all of you for your support and assistance during my first year as the Lodge Master. We have had our share of ups and downs but we prevailed.

I am glad that Jim Mooney is doing well and made it to the Honor Guard Flight. That was well earned and well deserved.

I went to Grand Lodge, where a good time was had by all. Our elections were held on May 21. Our installation will be on June 3, with our picnic scheduled for June 19.

We will be in the Old Home Days Parade and will have a stand out front selling hot dogs. The Eastern Star Chapter will sell strawberry shortcake. We will again participate in the village-wide garage sale in July, so bring in your stuff to sell. Be well and enjoy the summer.

Lynn Howard

Skaneateles 522 (ON)

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

WM Shawn Plourde

Greetings, Brethren! As this will be my last article until we return in September, I want to say I hope you all have a great summer.

I attended the annual communication at Grand Lodge at the beginning of May. I wish to congratulate Most Worshipful Steven Adam Rubin as our next Grand Master of NY, and all others that have been elected as Grand Lodge Officers.

Over the past two months we were able to take two poor, blind candidates desiring light in Masonry and make them into Brothers and worthy Fellowcrafts. These Brothers will now take part in the District-wide Third Degree ritual on Song Mountain on June 8.

Elections were held on May 15 but at the time of this writing we do not have the results. Stay tuned for the installations on June 5 and watch for information posted on Facebook and Our Lodge Page.

The annual end-of-year dinner cruise will be on June

19. If you have not reserved with W Mark Kulik, please do so as soon as possible. We need to provide a headcount soon.

We are looking forward to next year. We already have a candidate in waiting and we are excited to start the year off making him a duly Initiated Entered Apprentice.

Thank you for your time and support. Please reach out if anything is needed.

Shawn Plourde

Ft. Brewerton 256 (ON)

451 Main St.
Phoenix, N.Y. 13135
2nd & 4th Fri., 7:30 p.m.
315/676-4324

WM Scott Magill,
315/632-8165,
bluenavyguy@yahoo.com
Secy David Childress,
315/430-2722,
big08fish@aol.com

Our meeting nights have moved to the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Accordingly, we have revised our By-Laws.

We have held our election and installation of officers. See the accompanying photo of our line of officers.

We sponsored a water stop for the Mountain Goat Race in Syracuse on May 5. It was a great public relations event. It was a good time for fellowship and fun

with my Brothers and their families.

Let me tell you about my Brother. He recently reached fifty years in Freemasonry. That is a long time, by any scale. You have to think that there is something about this Fraternity that has kept these Brothers here through the years. It is probably the same thing that has kept me in for over twenty-five years. There is something about the fellowship and the principles of Freemasonry that keeps me fighting and supporting the Fraternity.

My Brother and good friend is W Skip Soeder. Skip is one of the few remaining Brothers who were there when I first joined. That was quite a mix of diverse Brothers and I am surprised that the Lodge survived that circus.

Anyway, I knew Skip from church. When I joined the Lodge I was glad he was there; it is comforting to have friends in the organization you are joining. My relationship with Skip in Lodge was as a friend and a Brother. This relationship is important for my growth as a Mason. You have mentors,

**Fort Brewerton
see page 5**



RW Brother James Mooney of Morning Star Lodge No. 524 is greeted on his return to Syracuse Hancock Airport from the Veteran's Honor Flight on April 27, 2024. More than 200 veterans, aides and support staff were able to make the trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials. Tom Mitchell

Fort Brewerton ... from page 4

Brothers who challenge you, but you also need to have friends who help you as Brothers. This is one thing I

try to do with our new Brothers—act not only as a mentor, but also as a friend and a true Brother.

It was my honor and privilege to present Skip with his 50-year apron, pin and certificate at his home. Please

see his photo on page two. See you in Lodge.

David Childress



Fort Brewerton Lodge elected and installed its officers. Here is the line.



Members of Ft. Brewerton No. 256 and friends had a hydration station during the Mountain Goat Race in Syracuse. You can see a runner way down the road.

OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



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

Greetings, Brethren. By the time you receive this the 242nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge F & AM State of New York will be over and new leadership will be in place. As all of you are aware, our new Grand Master is the MW Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master of Masons in the State of NY. I am excited and honored to be part of his team. Team Rubin has a lot of exciting ideas and strategies on how to move our Fraternity forward. I am looking forward to sharing these ideas with all of you.

It is time to get to work and it is my hope that all of you will come aboard and join me in moving our District forward. We can do it together, my Brothers.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our outgoing DDGM, RW Chris Reis, for his service to our District. The rest of our District team will consist of the following Brothers: RW Ken Sterling, Grand Steward; RW Robert Boutell, AGL; and RW Garry Visconti, AGL. I am very proud of these Brothers for stepping up to assist me in moving the District forward.

I am happy to inform you all that we will reintroduce the Masters, Wardens and Deacons Association and we will meet in conjunction with the AGLs for their quarterly training. That is right, my Brothers: training will take place when we meet. Please watch your emails for details.

I sent out a State of the Oswego District survey last month. I received many requests for more family outings and district events. To date, there has been a golf outing and bowling outing. There will be more events planned in the future.

I would like to inform you to be on the lookout for a family picnic being planned for sometime in August. Stay tuned for details. This is for you, my Brothers.

I am open to all suggestions. Please share your ideas with me so we can get things on the schedule. It was brought to my attention that we should have a District

DDGM
see 3rd column

STAFF OFFICER



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

Greeting, Brethren. I want to start off by saying what an honor it is to be serving as the Grand Steward on the Oswego District Team under MW Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. I would like to extend my gratitude to our outgoing Staff Officer, RW John Pierce, for his dedication to the Craft and the educational opportunities that he provided over his term. I know I have large shoes to fill and I will do my absolute best to live up to his legacy. I look forward to helping to move our District forward into the future. I would also like to thank the Oswego District Purple Club for allowing me the honor to serve our great District as Staff Officer.

As the Grand Lodge Staff Officer, my role is to provide education for the District and to work with the District team, RW John Pierce, DDGM; RW Bob Boutell, AGL; and RW Garry Visconti, AGL. By the time you read this article we will have had several meetings to discuss how we will excel as a team and what we can do to help move Oswego Masonic District forward into the future. Our goal is to provide outstanding leadership, education and motivation to every Mason in the Oswego District.

As my predecessor RW John Pierce did during his term as Staff Officer, I will work not only with our District team, but also with our sister Districts. Together we will be providing top-notch training, such as the Masonic Development Course (MDC), Road to the East (RTE) and the Masters Chair (MC) at centralized locations. If you are a new Master Mason I would encourage you to sign up for the Masonic Development Course to help with your search for more light. If you are a Warden I would encourage you to take the Road to the East to help prepare you for your journey into the Master's station. If you are interested in some day be-

Staff Officer
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

AGL Garry Visconti
AGL Bob Boutell

No News Received

DDGM from 1st column . . .

calendar so everyone can see what is going on within the District. If you get the Our Lodge Page (OLP) app everything is at your fingertips. If we have a Brother in the District who would be willing to get a Google calendar up and running, please reach out to me.

I know this will be the last word article until fall so do not hesitate to contact me. I am here for all of you. I look forward to our journey together. Be well.

John Pierce

Staff Officer from 2nd column . . .

coming a Master of your Lodge, you will need to take the Master's Chair.

Be on the lookout for emails from me for future educational opportunities, dates and locations. If you have any suggestions or feedback on previous training and what you would like to see in the future at our training 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 your honest feedback.

This may be the last article I write until the fall, but I am always available by phone or email. My contact information is at the header. If you ever have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am looking forward to our journey into the future together.

Ken Sterling

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

WM Patrick Fasulo,
Wife Tracey
315/760-7676

Greetings, Brethren. This will be my last word article as Master of Lake City Lodge No. 127 and I would like to thank all the brethren for making the past two years fun and rewarding. We instituted an annual pig roast, held our George Washington Banquets, celebrated 175 years as a Lodge in Oswego and learned some ritual and engaged in Masonic education. It was a success, for sure.

Thank you all for your support. I will now be sitting beside our new Master as the Chaplain and look forward to this inspiring role.

Our new Master, Worshipful Eric Hamilton, comes in with many new and exciting ideas as a first time Master and I look forward to seeing what he brings to the table for the next twelve months. Congratulations and good luck go to our Worshipful Master. Let's go!

Pat Fasulo

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

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

Brethren, I want to thank all of you for your support during my year as WM. Our election is over with and I would like to tell you who was elected but I do not have that information yet.

What was supposed to be a teaching lesson on how to do a fish-fry fundraiser for another group turned into a long friendship and I was hooked, so to speak. Callimachus Lodge holds a special place in my heart for this. We had lots of laughs, lots of jocularly, throwing each other under the bus—only to pick each other up and do it all over again.

The brethren of Oswego County from the other Lodges that visited us and DD John Pierce were very welcoming to this Past WM from Onondaga County. To the Colbert Brothers, Dave VanAuken, Kevin Dix, Jimmy Buckbee, Mick, Garrett, Sam Sweet, Scott P, Aunt Lou and others: I thank you very much. I am not leaving you, as much as you tell me to. I cannot wait to help out in the community with Worshipful Sam Sweet leading us forward.

Our summer party is in the works and you will all be notified before you receive your word, I am sure. Enjoy your summer, Brothers. Do not be strangers and please be there on September 5 when we come out of darkness to support your new officers.

Brian Courtney

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

WM Bob Boutell

Greetings and salutations, Brothers. It is hard to believe this will be the last word article until fall.

Our June meetings are the 6th and the 20th. Our first meeting will continue the theme of Concordant Bodies and the dress will be a Masonic shirt. The second meeting will be our awards and officer installation. Dress for the evening will be shirt and tie.

Our chicken barbecues for June will be the 1st and 15th and July's dates are the 13th and the 27th. As always, please come and help your Lodge for an hour or two and share some fellowship.

Please reach out to your Brothers and spread some brotherly love and affection. A friendly word can mean much. Enjoy the summer.

Bob Boutell

Oswego Charities Masters Golf

Greetings, Brethren. The Oswego Masonic Charities Golf Tournament was on hold for the last few years and we are reviving the tradition. The tournament is open to Masons and non-Masons. See the flier for details and reach out to Brother Kevin Neary or Brother Shawn Tuff with any further questions; contact information is in the flier.

We hope that many take the opportunity and register early and join us in a great cause. You know, the fellowship is free but it is also priceless.

Shawn Tuff

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

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren. We just cannot seem to get this weather system to move closer to summer weather; but it is coming, I hope.

We had a very successful First Degree for our two new Brothers. It was very well attended and was a very nice Degree. We will be doing a Second Degree soon for all four of our Brothers (tentatively, June 10). I cannot wait, and then on to Oswego for their Third, the final voyage to becoming a Master Mason.

The Secretary and I traveled to Grand Lodge on yet another rainy day on a train, but we made the best of it. If you have never been to Grand Lodge, put it on the list of things to do before you die. Whether visiting as Master of your Lodge or just traveling, the place is beautiful. I had the pleasure of seeing a lot of Brothers in the District as well as meeting a lot of other Brother Masons and seeing the full Grand Line Officers.

The officers and Brothers would like to wish the following members a very special happy birthday in June, July and August: Brother Gregory Bolton, Brother Ron Chapman, Brother Hawley Evans, Brother Melvin Foster, Brother Carl Hoyt Jr., Brother James Lemm, Brother Michael Maitland, Brother Bryan Morse.

Scriba ...
see page 7

Oswego Masonic Charities Presents

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CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT

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

Greetings, Brethren! I greet you as your new District Deputy, a position I am humbled and honored to take on for the benefit of the Craft in the Cortland-Madison District. Please join me in congratulating MW Steven Adam Rubin, our new Grand Master; RW Robert Hogan, Deputy Grand Master; RW Mark Loughran, Sr. Grand Warden; RW John Haslam, Jr. Grand Warden; RW Alberto Cortizo, Grand Treasurer; and RW Richard Schulz, Grand Secretary, on their elections to the Grand Line.

The 242nd Communication of Grand Lodge was filled with good cheer as well as many accolades for our now Past Grand Master Richard J. Kessler. I was privileged to be in attendance. Homer, Cazenovia and Tri-Valley Lodges were represented. I hope that at the next Communication all our Lodges can have a representative.

I also wish to congratulate my colleagues on the District Team: RW Wade A. Caler, Grand Sword Bearer/Staff Officer, and Tom Whitney, our AGL. We are planning the year ahead for our District and we covet your input, your constructive suggestions, and most of all your support and participation. In addition, please let us know of any events that your Lodge is planning—in fact, please let us know as you are planning them so we can attend. Your District Team, like the Grand Lodge, exists to be a resource to you, our Lodges, and to our Brothers. Please be in contact with any questions, concerns or suggestions. I am looking forward to the year(s) ahead.

Richard G. Reed

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Brethren, as the Cortland-Madison District's Staff Officer responsible for Masonic education, I am looking forward to working with you and continuing the work that RW Richard Reed has started. The standard education courses will be offered: the Masonic Development Course, Road to the East for prospective Lodge officers and the Master's Chair, which I encourage not only Masters to attend but Wardens as well.

I also encourage you to participate in the Livingston Library Masonic reading courses. I would like to start a Masonic book club, reading one selected book and meeting to discuss at a later date.

More information regarding the MUNY (Masonic University of NY) will be forthcoming as I get it figured out. If any Brother has an interest in any subject related to Freemasonry please let me know and we can work on a class.

Wade A. Caler

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, on May 4 we held our annual chicken barbecue for the Homer Little League. We cooked 250 chickens and this year threw in some hotdogs. Everything sold out. The total proceeds went to the league.

Also, the Syracuse Mets ball team mascot was there and met our new District Deputy Grand Master for the Cortland-Madison District, RW Richard Reed. See you in Lodge.

Kim Dellow



CM DDGM Richard Reed auditions for first string position.

PGMs
Calvin G. Bond
Bruce W. Widger:
Thanks

CLASSIFIEDS

Compliments
VW Norman Kruth
W Joshua Kruth
VW Aaron Kruth

Chuck Toombs
Past
Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu
Past Master
Liverpool Syracuse

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ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

Tom Whitney
No News Received

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

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



Brethren, as this Masonic term comes to a close I thank the officers for their diligence. We worked through our "Dark" winter months with practices and Degree work. Many situations have changed but we remain.

Recent times have moved swiftly and sometimes adversely towards our Lodge. We are in the process of applying structural changes to our operating procedures and affiliations in order to meet the current financial and membership goals. With great assistance received we are making the proper adjustments. Many members also contributed to a Lodge fund in addition to their dues. This permitted us to continue the level of charitable donations we historically make, in particular the Oneida and Canastota high schools. They were of concern and the goals have been met. Thank you, Brothers, all.

In the month of June we will try to put on a picnic barbecue at Lodge. A date has not been set but we foresee it being on a Saturday. Notices will be sent out as soon as it is confirmed.

As with this and other events, we are increasing our social activities in conjunction with OES and Rainbow. We have had such great times together and I look forward to increased fellowship.

On this note we also endeavor to start holding monthly pancake breakfasts, being on a Saturday. We are considering the third or fourth Saturday, with a target date of late September for our kickoff breakfast. This too will be in partnership with OES and Rainbow.

I am pleased and honored to report that RW Bill Wilcox, Grand Chaplain, has agreed to serve if elected as Master of the Lodge. I have personally been the recipient of his wise counsel and patience. Our Lodge has had the benefit of his voice and in steering the ship. He brings to the table the many characteristics of our three historically merged Lodges with almost six decades of service to the Craft. I look forward to supporting him, along with my Brothers.

Indeed, our greatest benefit is each other. I say that often and feel that strongly. If not for our Fraternity we might otherwise have remained perpetually at a distance. We can build great things together. Please stay in touch and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Walter J. Boronow

Oswego from page 6 . . .

Scriba from page 6 . . .

Brother Kenneth Mosley, Brother Kevin Neary, Brother Mark Savage, Brother Carl Shaw Jr., Brother Michael Sterling, Brother Ronald Sterling, Brother Christopher Tuff, Brother Patrick Violando, Brother Charles Whipple and Brother Robert Wright. Brothers, Happy Birthday! I hope you have the chance to make the day special with your family and friends. Brethren, be safe.

Charlie Tuff

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, my Brothers. It is a rainy Sunday and a good time to reflect on all things as well as life in general.

At our last communication we delved into what King Solomon was conveying to the young men in Ecclesiastes 12. What the sermon conveyed all these many years ago is still very relevant to this day. Most, if not all, is being experienced by us now. "Ecclesiastes" may be considered a speech or sermon—or a Ted Talk or now a Fred Talk. Please take the time to look further into

Pulaski ...
see 5th column

Past Senior Grand Warden
John R. Fuller
Sponsor

About the Future of Freemasonry
https://web.cortland.edu/romeu/MyBedwellEssay2018.pdf

Jorge Romeu
- Past Master

Pulaski from 4th column . . .

what it is saying. By now we have had our first barbecue of the season. I thank you, Brothers, for your continuing support. Also, our summoned communication and elections have happened. We are lacking a couple of appointed positions. Please consider stepping up and lending a hand to your Lodge.

We held our open house for the community on May 18. Your Lodge has a substantial history in Pulaski. As such, we need to promote and celebrate our history.

We have Brothers recu-

Pulaski from 5th column . . .

perating and who could use our continuing prayers. Many things happening in our world give me good reason to reflect on the recent lyrics of Oliver Anthony. I am an old soul in the new world. It is a feeling shared by many.

As the rain soaks our lawns for a growing season, may the good Lord shower our Lodges and Craft to continue with our Masonic teachings. Please make a random act of kindness. I know at least two will be blessed. See you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw



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Centerville Chapter No. 185, OES
Patricia H. Ferguson



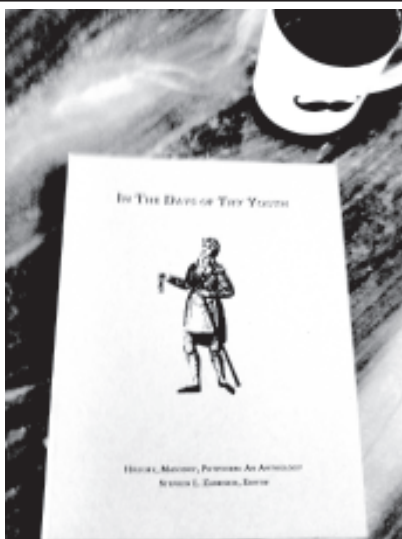
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In Memory of
Sandy Creek Lodge No. 564,
Oswego District





In The Days of Thy Youth

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CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT

RW Ed Maassen

No News Received

ERIE CANAL 141

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

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

Greetings, Brothers. The conferring of the Third Degree on three of our Brothers, one from Jordan and a late entry from Auburn, was held on May 20 in a great joint effort between Erie Canal and Jordan Lodge. Congratulations go to our new Master Masons and all who participated.

Our Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast was huge. We served close to 150. We will have our Father's Day Breakfast on June 9. Come join us.

June is shaping up to be a very active month. In addition to our breakfast we will have our Lodge Awards picnic on the 6th, help serving food at the Weedsport Fire Department Field Days on the 7th and 8th, and hold a Cornhole tournament on the 8th, as well. Get together your two-man teams for this and join us.

We will hold our Public Installation of Officers on the 20th. We will be installing a new Master (one of his new duties will be to write word articles).

On Sunday, June 30 Erie Canal Lodge will be holding our 21st Annual Golf Tournament at Meadowbrook. Fliers have been sent out to the District. Anyone wishing to enter can contact Gary Mowers or me. We are planning another fun-filled day with great food, great golf and great weather. I hope to see you in—and out of—Lodge.

Dave Barnello

STAFF OFFICER

RW Tom Ostrander

Greetings, all. This will be my last word article as a District Officer, and probably my shortest. As my term comes to a close, I must say it has been a great ride and I enjoyed serving all the Brothers of the Cayuga-Tompkins District.

As I fade into the shadows, my support to the future officers of the Lodges and District will not waiver and I will continue to look forward to seeing you in your Lodges and activities. The friendships I have made along this journey mean much to me and I hope my presence in your life means as much to you. Until we meet again: Stay safe and do good things!

Dave Barnello

SYLVAN F&AM 41

Moravia, N.Y. 13118
1st & 3rd. Tues., 7:00 p.m.

WM Paul Schenck

Our April meeting was very interesting and inspiring. The Moravia chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) was invited and they delivered an excellent program. The group is very active, with more than sixty members. They work all year in their greenhouse and undertake many activities to raise money. Among other things, they sponsor a tractor pull event, they sell pumpkins and they offer an ag literacy week.

Each young speaker was proficient in public speaking and well informed on the particular subject. W Brant Sherlock has been an advisor to the chapter for many years. The Lodge presented a donation to the Moravia chapter to help the students attend state and national con-

Sylvan
see 4th column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

VW Joe Sheppard

Brothers, I am honored to introduce myself as the incoming Assistant Grand Lecturer for our District. As we all know, ritual work is a cornerstone of our Masonic tradition. It is through the performance of our rituals that we not only convey the teachings and values of Freemasonry, but also create a shared experience that unites us as Brothers.

The performance of our rituals with precision, reverence and understanding is crucial to the growth and success of our Fraternity. It is through the ritual work that we instill the lessons of morality, brotherly love and charity in our members, and create a sense of unity and purpose within our Lodges.

I want to assure you that I am here to support and assist any Brother or Lodge who may be struggling with their ritual work. Whether it is a matter of memorization, understanding the symbolism or simply feeling confident in the performance, I am here to help. My goal is to ensure that every Brother in our District has the resources and support he needs to perform our rituals with excellence and pride.

If you or your Lodge is ever in need of assistance with ritual work, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am available to provide coaching, guidance and support to help you improve your ritual performance. Whether it is through one-on-one coaching sessions, group workshops or personalized training plans, I am committed to helping you achieve excellence in your ritual work.

I believe that by focusing on the quality and precision of our ritual work we can strengthen our Lodges, inspire our members and uphold the traditions of Freemasonry. Let us all work together to ensure that our ritu-

AGL
see 4th column

AGL from 3rd column . . .

als are performed with dedication, understanding and reverence, so that we may continue to enrich the lives of our members and uphold the principles of our beloved Fraternity.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you to support and enhance our ritual work in Cayuga-Tompkins District. Together we can—and will—create a strong and vibrant Masonic community that is grounded in the teachings and traditions of our Craft.

Joe Sheppard

Sylvan from 2nd column . . .

ventions. Seven Lodge members brought in their FFA jacket from the old days. I do not think they fit any of us now. We noted that Don Hatfield earned an American Farmer award.

The FFA is a lot like Masonry. It builds leadership in its young members. This evening brought back a lot of good memories for many of us. We will hang onto it for a long time. It was very enjoyable.

Paul Schenck

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

As we approach the "Dark Season," there are many things for which we are thankful. Since we will be closed for part of June, July and August, we will begin with the birthday corner for the summer and wish a happy birthday to these Brothers: on June 21 Brothers Edwin E. Smith and David Balcom; Brother Tim Dodman is June 23; Brothers Greg Ford and Ed Chadwick have a July 26 birthday; and Brother Peter Chappell is August 7.

For the first time in five years we have had a petition for membership submitted.

Warren Salem Town
see 5th column

Warren Salem Town from 4th column . . .

We look forward to preparing for his Degree work. We anticipate needing help from neighboring Lodges.

At our February 6 meeting we began a program called "Getting to Know a Brother Night." We continue to conduct the program, as it has generated much interest in the Lodge. Brother Ed Chadwick shared his life story at our May 21 meeting.

At our meeting on May 7 we approved the slate of officers for the 2024-2025 Masonic year. Our annual chicken barbecue was conducted on Saturday, May 18.

Our Summer Picnic and Masonic Recognition program will be held at the home of Brother George and Carol Fearon on Tuesday, August 6 at 5 p.m. Brothers Ed and Mel have agreed to conduct the grilling and we are asked to provide a dish to pass. The awards ceremony will follow dinner. Award recipients will be notified. We will need a meal count, so please let me know if you are attending. Have a great summer.

Warren Albrecht

AUBURN 124

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

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

Brothers, under Sickness and Distress, Brother Charles Masters is having home-care PT and is on oxygen but is improving, according to his wife Nancy. Our prayers are with him. Prayers go to VW Fred Kruger's mother-in-law who is fighting cancer but staying strong. Prayers also go to Roy Jones, home with health issues.

The Third Degree on May 4 was awesome. We Raised four new Brothers, all young-

Auburn
see 6th column

Past
Grand Master
Carl J. Fitje
Sponsor

Auburn from 5th column . . .

sters at 40 years old or younger. We welcome Erik Andre, Mike Colegrove, Erich Grome and Ryan Tanner. The special guest of the day was the grandfather of Ryan Tanner, Ralph Tanner Jr., from Wildwood Lodge No. 477. He made the special trip to be part of his grandson's Raising.

Kudos goes to W Joe Sheppard, Master; SW Scott Bennett; and JW Mike Stockmyer for a job well done on the Degree. They were ably assisted by all the Lodge Brothers. The Hiram Legend was portrayed by RW Steve Howard, RW Mike Miller, VW Fred Kruger, W Scott Harris and W Steve Persaile, along with many other Brothers. Again, it was very well done and informative for the new Brothers. Special thanks also go to JW Mike Stockmyer and SW Bennett for breakfast and lunch.

Our Community Service Program is moving forward with out-of-pocket donations being collected for the new Safe & Warm Program. This project provides coffee, snacks, clothing and charging stations for homeless veterans and others.

We put on a chicken barbecue on May 19 for the Seward School. This was served at Lodge from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The chickens are from Auburn Poultry.

May 16 was a regular meeting with the Grand Lodge report from W Sheppard. We also elected officers for 2024-25.

Our Scholarship & Service Awards Night is on June 6 with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. The event is open to the public. The installation of officers on June 20 is also open to the public, with refreshments at 6:30.

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

Tommy Ostrander

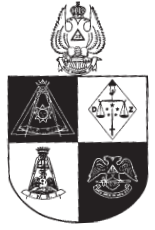
Past DDGM
Oswego Dist.
John F. Tanner



Auburn Lodge Raised four Fellowcraft Brothers on May 4. Joining with enthusiastic support was Ralph Tanner Jr., whose grandson Ryan was one of the four.

Scottish Riter

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



Council Princes

I thank the Valley of Syracuse and my brethren in the Council of Princes of Jerusalem for a successful year. I deeply appreciate the Valley of Syracuse staff, led by Jim Swan, 33°, and my brethren in the Executive Committee who meet behind the scenes to make the Valley successful. We do have challenges, especially around finances. Our programming and enthusiasm exceed our financial endowments, so I anticipate a serious discussion of changes ahead as we focus on sustainability.

I have been reminded this year of the philosophy of American actor Clint Eastwood. He writes, "Every day when I wake up, I don't let the old man in. My secret has been the same since 1959: staying busy. I never let the old man into the house. I've had to drag him out because he was already comfortably settled, bothering me all the time, leaving no space for anything other than nostalgia. You have to stay active, alive, happy, strong, and capable. It's in us, in our intelligence, attitude, and mentality. We are young, regardless of our ID. We must learn to fight to not let the old man in. That old man awaits us, stationed and tired by the side of the road to discourage us. I don't let the old, critical, hostile, envious spirit in—the one that scrutinizes our past to tie us up with complaints and distant anxieties or relived traumas and waves of pain. You have to turn your back on the old murmurer, full of rage and complaints, lacking courage, denying himself that old age can be creative, determined, and full of light and projection. Aging can be pleasant and even fun if you know how to use your time, if you're satisfied with what you've achieved, and if you still maintain enthusiasm. That's called not letting the old man into the house."

I am working not to let the Old Man in. Are you? See you in the Valley.

Jeffrey M. Cox

Consistory

Sublime Princes, it is hard to believe it has been a year since I was installed as C-I-C of the Valley of Syracuse. I am grateful for everyone who stepped up over the past year to put forth an outstanding program of activities. My wife's health situation forced me to rely on the Lt. Commanders, Office staff, body heads of Lodge, Chapter and Council and many others. From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone who answered in the affirmative when I asked for help or assigned a task. This has truly been a team effort.

Special thanks are due to

Jim and Sharon Swan and Sharon Fox who kept me on-track over the year. The Office does an outstanding job organizing our events and holding the other body heads and me accountable.

It is unclear if we will meet the standards for a Valley of Excellence for 2023-2024. Critical to achieving VOE is meeting at least 75% of our new-member goal of fourteen 4° members. After our Degree Festival in April we had eight new members and need at least three more. We have scheduled two Rite on the Road events at Memorial Masonic Temple. One was May 22 and the other on Tuesday, June 11. If we receive a petition prior to either date we will show the 4° in addition to other Degrees planned for the night. If we can initiate at least three 4° members we have a shot at VOE again this year.

The Council of Deliberation is June 28 to 30. If you have not made your reservation please do so. Our own DB Richard Barrett will be presented his Meritorious Service Award at the MSA Banquet on Saturday evening. Dress for the evening is a tuxedo (black or white jacket) or dark suit. MSA recipients are encouraged to wear their Red Hat. The ladies program on Saturday is a tour and garden party at the Carol Watson Greenhouse in Fayetteville.

Our Pathfinder/New Member Orientation Program is set for Saturday morning, June 15.

Coffee and donuts are available at 8:00 a.m., with the program to start at 9:00. It will conclude by noon. I encourage new and experienced members to attend. It is fun and you will learn something new about Scottish Rite before the program concludes.

Our ride to the Dyslexia Center is Sunday, July 7. The cost is \$20 per motorcycle and we encourage our 4-wheeled friends to join us at a cost of \$10 per person. Plan to arrive by 1:00 p.m. There will be a short program on the amazing work being done at the Center. A DJ and food will be available at the Pavilion on the Eastern Star Campus at: 8280 State Route 69, Oriskany, New York.

Our Family Life Baseball event is July 19 at the Syracuse Mets Stadium. The home team is playing the Rochester Red Wings. Watch your mail for further details. We will again be on the patio to eat and enjoy the game.

Our adaptation of the 19° "Brothers of the Trail" will be on Monday, July 29. In this version, instead of two Brothers on horseback on the Oregon Trail, two Brothers

are traveling cross country by motorcycle on historic Route 66. This is for Scottish Rite members only at Memorial Masonic Temple. The event kicks off at 7:00 p.m. with light refreshments.

Mark your calendar for the Family Life Picnic on Saturday, August 17 at the Cicero American Legion. Make your reservations through the Scottish Rite Office.

William H. Toth II

Rose Croix

Greeting, Knights. I was not present for the Five Degree Festival but I was told it came out very nicely. I was not present at the Reunion Banquet, either. I was in Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital caring for my injured son.

When I returned I attended our last Exec. Committee meeting. A Brother who called himself a "new Scottish Riter" raised important and valid issues regarding brethren missing our meetings (sometimes, fewer than 20% attend). He gave two instances that could explain these absences.

He said it is challenging for a new member to participate in a group where he is not acquainted with most others. We need to facilitate introductions. We have many Body leaders who can sit at different tables and help participants introduce themselves and break the ice.

Then, regarding Degree presentations, he said that newer members are not always able to identify the main plot and characters or the key lesson. Even more seasoned members find this is difficult and we need to witness the Degrees several times to get it.

In High School I belonged to a Cinema Club and we watched movies in several steps. We were given a one-pager about its genre, plot, actors and director. After a short introduction from the group leader, we would watch the film. Finally, after a short summary of its main points, we had questions and answers and a discussion. It was fun and very instructive.

I appreciate the candor of this new Scottish Riter. His opinions are welcome and provide us with valuable information to help improve our meetings.

This is my last article as Most Wise Master of the Chapter. Brother Flanagan will surely succeed in this position.

Keep our military and our country in our prayers. May God keep peace in the world. Be safe.

Jorge L. Romeu

Perfection

This has been an interesting year for the Valley of Syracuse and the Lodge of Perfection in particular. I thank the members of the Executive Committee; and Secretary James D. Swan Jr. and Sharon Fox and Sharon Swan for all they do to keep the Valley Office working smoothly. We are fortunate to have dedicated people taking care of the tasks required by the Supreme Council.

Special thanks go to Ill.

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

June 2024

Jun 3 Trustees Meeting Live 6:15 p.m. /
..... Executive Committee Meeting Live 7:00 p.m.
Jun 28 NYS COD Annual Session- Call Office
Jun 29 NYS COD Annual Session- Call Office

Summer 2024 Special Events

Office will send notice for each event to the Valley Members

Jul 7 Motorcycle Ride Event
Jul 19 Syracuse Mets vs. Rochester Red Wings Baseball Game
Jul 29 Knights of St. Andrew Special 19th Degree presentation
Aug 2 Teddy Bear Golf Outing
Aug 14 Rite on the Road Event @ North Syracuse Masonic Center
Aug 17 Family Life All Masonic Picnic Event @ Cicero American Legion
Aug 26 Trustees Meeting 6:15 p.m. / Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Allegiance

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

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

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

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

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

Gary S. Hartman, 33°, MSA for pulling together the cast of the 14° live Degree team in 2023 and 2024. This is our signature Degree and they present it in excellent form.

Summer events include the Annual Picnic and a Syracuse Mets ballgame. The Famous Brooks BBQ of Oneonta will be at the Eastern Star Campus to benefit the Children's Dyslexia Center in Oriskany and we have a motorcycle ride planned.

New officers for 2024-2025 were installed on May 20 and the new T.P.M. is Eric Driscoll, 32°. I hope you will support their efforts in the Lodge of Perfection Degrees and programs. They are tasked to present the 11° with a live cast on Monday, September 30. This Degree requires considerable casting and a commitment to all the rehearsals needed to make this a memorable event.

I thank all the Ladies who support us in our endeavors that make Freemasonry what it is today and may become in the future. You make us better men for it.

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk

Hospitaler

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

There are still a few people we are concerned for: Diana Toth, Sandy Samson, Gary Kall, Gerry Hogg and Steve Maddox have been ill and need our prayers. Garrett Wykoff had a heart procedure. If you know of anyone who is in need of assistance or prayers, please let me know.

The Hospitaler fund has helped several of our senior members and a Mason who needed help on a kidney procedure. When you donate to the Hospitaler fund, all money goes to help your Brothers and their families.

Garry Visconti

Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

It is time for our Center to

celebrate the accomplishments of our students and Practitioners. Seven students will be exiting our program as they have been with us for two years. There are eight students who will return next year as second-year students. Ten Practitioner 1s have completed the program and are awaiting their certification, one onsite and nine offsite. Also, five Practitioner 2s have completed all the requirements for certification. We are proud of the hard work and dedication of the students and the Practitioners and all will be honored at the Recognition Ceremony at Hart's Hill Inn on June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

As the year wraps up, it is a wonderful time to pass along some stories that have been shared with us. One of our students in the fall was not passing her classes in school. She was very introverted and kept her eyes low and averted upon entering. Her mom recently commented that she is now passing all her subjects and just missed honor roll by a hair. She now smiles upon entering, meets the eyes of those she passes and engages in conversation with everyone, as well.

It is wonderful to watch an improvement in academics and on the emotional and social levels. Another student was a non-reader. He recently declared to his grandmother, "Grandma, I can now read!" What a moment of delight for this grandmother and child!

Finally, a student was doing so well that at his most recent IEP meeting the school district wanted to remove all services and accommodations. While this was not the best strategy for the student, it was a remarkable improvement for the district to want to withdraw services.

Sarah is a student who was previously introduced in this column. She will be speaking at the Recognition Ceremony on June 11 and will also be a guest speaker at the Council of

Deliberation on June 28.

As we complete another year here in CNY, we are grateful for all who assist in keeping us running. It would not be possible without our volunteers, board members and the countless individuals who donate. From Sponsor a Child to the dollars for dyslexia, each is so valuable and allows us to make a difference one child at a time. It enables us to train teachers and members of the community to work with our dyslexic and struggling readers.

Marianne Jones
Alyssa Mittiga

Happy Summer!

This 2023-2024 year was exciting and involved. I congratulate Ill. Lawrence W. Egnaczyk, Thrice Potent Master; Jeffrey M. Cox, Sovereign Prince; Jorge L. Romeu, Most Wise Master; and Ill. William H. Toth, II, Commander-In-Chief. They labored well to accomplish a productive and informative year for our members.

The new 2024-2025 presiding officers are elected, appointed and installed. They are Eric J. Driscoll, Thrice Potent Master; Michael A. Miller, Sovereign Prince; Joseph W. Flanagan, Most Wise Master; and Ill. William H. Toth, II, MSA, Commander-In-Chief. I look forward to working with this team as we move into next year.

Our Valley has challenges. We must continue work to educate our members, create new Scottish Rite Masons, support the efforts of the Children's Dyslexia Center of CNY and work diligently to earn distinction as a Supreme Council 33°, AASR, NMJ, Valley of Excellence. Our most difficult challenge to attain this honor is to create new 32° Scottish Rite Masons.

There are several social events scheduled for July and August 2024. Dates for these events are listed in the calendar elsewhere on this page. Details for each will be in your emails and snail mail announcements as the dates approach. Be safe, be happy, enjoy the summer.

Jim Swan

YORK RITE BODIES

ROYAL ARCH MASON
12th Capitular District RAM

DDGHP RE
 James Nelson

Greetings, Companions. I hope this finds everyone doing well, that all are enjoying the last of spring and looking forward to summer, which seems to have come so quickly. We are rapidly approaching the time when most of our Chapters go dark for the summer months.

We have completed the Official Visits with each Chapter of our District, where I was accompanied by our District AGL, VE Ed Sinay Jr. We thank all our Companions for the warm welcome and the sharing of fellowship with our Companions. It is always a pleasure to gather with you and share in the joy of your company. I find it renews my energies and makes me confident that our District is making positive strides for the future of Royal Arch Masonry.

We have St. John's Day celebrations coming up quickly. I hope to see many of you gathering together at the Campus in Utica.

I know we have a number of Brothers who are wishing to join our work in the Quarries who will be Raised at the Song Mountain Degree for the Onondaga District. I find it fascinating that we have Brother Masons who have only begun their journey in Masonry and have already expressed interest in adding to their journey through Masonry with us.

I look forward to the upcoming events we have, including Raymond's Pond gathering and Degrees in August. And the Hands Across the Border will be held in Canada this year. I hope to visit with each of the Chapters through the fall, with no official duties, but just as a fellow Companion enjoying time spent with you all in the quarries.

James Nelson

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

HP Patrick Fasulo

Greetings, Companions! Lake Ontario Chapter No. 165 will meet on Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 for dinner, followed by the meeting at 7:30. I will be presenting a short talk on the Royal Arch Degree.

I look forward to sharing what I have learned with my Companions. I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Pat Fasulo

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@nearldistant.net
 Secy Bob Bowles
 315/436-0997
rbowles1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions! Spring has now sprung and summer is now approaching. Our Chapter had a great turnout for our Convocation in Binghamton and want to extend great wishes to our next Grand Line of Officers. We also had a great Official Visit. We still need to strive to improve in our opening and closing of our Chapter.

I look forward to work with the District Deputy, Assistant Grand Lecturer and other Chapters to confer several Degrees to the new candidates in waiting so that the health of all Chapters can be maintained. Two candidates entering the Degree cycle are Norm Gauthier and Rich Hufnagle. We need to work and support all of our Chapters so Royal Arch Masonry can succeed and grow.

But as many know, any Chapter needs its Companions to attend its meetings so we can open and do the work on its Trestleboard (to quote from our Blue Lodge origins). I look forward to the next several events, including the next couple Degrees done by the District and the next couple meetings to provide several educational programs. As I have said before, no matter how long you may have been a Companion you can always learn something new.

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

Timothy S. Hansen

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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

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

Greetings, Sir Knights. At long last our Inspection is over. We had two of our new Sir Knights filling in for sick and missing officers. I have to take my hat off to them, as well as the rest of the Commandery. We pulled together and got it done and it went well.

On the night of June 13 we will be installing our officers for the oncoming year. And on the night of the 27th we are looking to have a Going Dark Party. The location is still up in the air at this time but wives and family will be invited to attend. I ask that all Sir Knights who can make both meeting please do so.

One more time: we have changed our meeting nights to make it more convenient for our members to attend. We now meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday.

Robert L. Kimberly



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

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

Tigris

Nobles of Tigris Shrine and anyone else reading this: Memorial Day is a very special day honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Country. Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868 the head of the organization of Union Veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established Decoration Day as a time for the Nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared it should be May 30, and so it stands today. We have many veterans who are Tigris Shriners and we are starting a Legion of Honor. If you are a veteran and want to join please contact me.

On May 25 we held our Ladies Appreciation Dinner at the Shrine. This was our way of showing our gratitude for them being there for us throughout the year. Also, I want to publicly apologize to the Daughters of the Nile Queen for not being able to attend her Installation. I thank Joel Scarson for filling in for me, last minute.

On May 27 we will be starting the Fayetteville Parade at 9:00 a.m. Be there by 8:30; then Manlius is at 11:00 a.m. and we finish off at Jordan. Be there by 2:30 p.m. for a 3:05 start. We tried to work in another parade but we did not have enough volunteers to accomplish it. We are trying to get maximum exposure for Tigris.

St. John's Day will be held on Saturday, June 22 in Utica at the Masonic Home Campus. Set up by our new Grand Master of the State of NY,

Steven A. Rubin, we will have all of the Shrines in NY marching together for the first time ever. Calling all Tigris Shriners: GM Steve has created a special Grand Master's Recognition for the Shrine with the largest participation in the parade and it will be awarded in the chapel on Saturday. Would you guys love to bring this award home? Please keep your calendar open on this date. I am unsure of the starting time; everyone will be notified by our Recorder when we find out. We would love to see our clowns march, also. I thank our GM Rubin and Mecca Potentate Anthony for spearheading this.

In July we will be in Reno looking out for Tigris and Shrinedom and voting and electing your Imperial Sirs for the coming year. Also in July, on the 13th North America's largest interactive comedy murder mystery dinner show is playing in Baldwinsville. If you have not reserved a spot, do so quickly. It will be a great time.

Issues have come up regarding our sign in the front of our building. Thanks go to Dom and Dan Ciciarelli for getting involved with codes information to help us understand the process. This has been a work in progress for about two years so a little longer wait will just make it feel better when we have it up. It will be utilized for Bingo advertising and showcasing our building. We have hosted a few weddings, birthday parties and many others already. We will be having craft fairs and much more this year. If you are interested in having an event at the Temple please contact our Recorder Ralph Haney to reserve a date.

We will have a set-up table at the Syracuse Nationals car show at the Fairgrounds from July 19 to 21. We will be showcasing our Fire Truck there. If you are interested in standing by for a few hours taking shifts please call the Recorder and give him your name, number and when you can be there. I thank Mike Barbato for heading up this event.

Sometime over the summer we are going to plan a breakfast for our LEOs, First Responders and Firemen who want to stop by. It is in the thinking stages now, more to follow.

We will be attending Lynyrd Skynyrd & ZZ Top on Thursday, August 15. Any Mason can come and join us for the concert. Bring your better half with you. Fun, Family, Fraternity and the Fez is what Tigris is about. Contact me at 40thSPVet@gmail.com if you would like to help. You get in for free to help sell CDs, get up close and personal with the bands and have a great time with "Rock It Kids" Jody Carson raising money for Shriners Children's Hospitals. Jody does a great thing for our hospitals. I promise that you will not forget this night. We have a chance to then see and participate again Friday night, August 16 in Bethel

Woods—the site of Woodstock. Contact me if you are interested.

Our Shrine Clam Bake is August 24 at the Spinning Wheel in N. Syracuse. Thanks go to John Snyder for putting this together. Put this on your calendar. It is open to all Masons, Eastern Star, DON and Concordant Bodies. Call the Recorder for more information. He loves to answer the phone and tell everyone what we are doing at Tigris. I hope to see some new faces there and kids are welcome.

Tentatively, if we have volunteers we will be at the Jordan Fall Fest again from September 20 to 22, and possibly the Central Square Applefest from September 28 to 29. Last is the Lafayette Apple Fest on October 12 and 13. Tully Lodge needs every Freemason's help or it will be their last year doing this. I have helped out in the past and it is a great time: lots of camaraderie and laughs while helping them pay their bills for the year.

This year's Potentate's Ball is November 15 to 17 at

the Hotel Syracuse. Please let me know if you will be attending at 40thSPVet@gmail.com. Two other dates were chosen and I had to change them because lots of Shriners would be out of town on those dates. I hope to see you there.

We offer congratulations to our new District Deputy Grand Master Toby Shelley. We at Tigris look forward to assisting him any way we can. Also, a huge thank-you goes to PDDGM Dan Campis for his selfless sacrifices to Onondaga District.

From the Divan and me: have a wonderful summer. We have come up with some positive and fun things for every Shriner. It is up to you to attend the functions. Being a Shriner is not about any single person at Tigris. It is about all of us working together for the children.

Please contact me personally if you need any assistance or have any questions. Tigris is here to serve all of you. Please keep all of our LEOs and Military in your thoughts and prayers.

Brian Courtney

Plis Funeral Home Inc.

33 North St., Marcellus
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 220 State St., Auburn
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STEVEN M. ILTSCH

ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Patricia Tefoe,
District Deputy Grand Matron
Alfred Tefoe, DGL

By the time you read this, the Official Visits of the Grand Matron and Grand Patron around our State will just about be finished. The Grand Patron's Homecoming is June 2 (Albany-Rensselaer-Schenectady District) and the Grand Matron's Homecoming is June 9 (Suffolk District). It is hard to believe but the suitcases will finally get a break and the cycle of packing and unpacking will stop, briefly.

This year's Festival, located on the Eastern Star Home Campus in Oriskany, will be Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27. As always, we are looking for donations of new, saleable items such as aprons, linens, wearing apparel of all kinds, toys, stuffed animals, stationery, cosmetics and jewelry. Come and shop the deals and visit with friends from other Districts. Do not forget to visit Onondaga District's "Holiday Booth" (we are not just Christmas!). This year we are also going to be selling chicken sandwiches (no sausage this year) and loaded fries at our food booth. Stop by and try what is sure to be a delicious meal.

This year we will again be met with the sea of American Stars & Stripes waving in the wind for Festival Week 2024. That is the vision being presented by the Eastern Star Home with the Sea of Flags Project. The proceeds of the sale of these flags will benefit veterans organizations and First Responder groups. If you would like to sponsor a flag they are \$10 each. The deadline is July 1 to order a flag. For more information contact Sue Will (315/822-5988).

As the Onondaga District prepares for the excitement of the installation of RW Mark Heitmann as Grand Patron (if elected) at Grand Chapter in October, there are several dates to be mindful of. The Housing Form deadline is July 15. This is to be mailed directly to Grand Chapter. The Pre-Registration deadline is September 25. If you do not pre-register you may not be admitted to the Session Room until after the opening ceremonies and you may not be seated with your District.

Any member of the Onondaga District is welcome to come and participate in the monthly meetings of "Mark's Beach Buddies." They continue to put plans into place to raise funds for RW Mark's year as Grand Patron. So until September, we hope everyone has a safe and fun-filled summer.

Patricia Tefoe
Alfred Tefoe

Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

Carla J. Salisbury,
District Deputy Grand Matron

Sisters and Brothers of Oswego District, spring has sprung and summer will be here before you know it. We all know just how fleeting these gorgeous days are and before you know it they will be gone and we will move into the fall.

It has been an exciting month since we last "met" and I must say that it has been my pleasure to serve as your District Deputy. I was able to attend the Grand Matron and Grand Patron's Official Visit in the Wayne District. It was a lovely though cool day. The lunch was delicious and the company priceless.

My own Official Visits are over and it was terrific to visit with all of you and enjoy the wonderful presentations. My sincere thanks go to all. Congratulations go to our next District Deputy, RW Yvonne Hanshew, and our District Lecturer will be RW Clinton Allen.

The Festival of Stars is quickly approaching and donations are needed. Conductresses, if you need any assistance getting your collections to Oriskany, please reach out to me. I will be happy to pick them up and get them there.

Next on the calendar will be Grand Chapter. Housing forms are available from your Secretary. They need to be completed and submitted as soon as possible (though the deadline is July 15) so your preferences can be accommodated.

Since the Grand Matron and Grand Patron's projects are devoted to veterans affairs, I reached out to Clear Path for Veterans to inquire about their services. I have seen the advertisements on TV, as you likely have too, and I was curious. We were invited to go for lunch and a tour to see their facilities. So with RW Sister Natalie Woodall along for the ride, we went.

The main building is perched on the hills of Chittenango overlooking a magnificent vista where you can see multiple counties and Oneida Lake end-to-end. What a view! The 78-acre property, once a former country club that had seen better days, was purchased by a local philanthropist and restored. Clear Path for Veterans was established in 2011.

Driving onto the property you will see a basketball court and tennis court (soon to be painted to also accommodate pickleball). There is a wood shop and art building, cornhole and miles of hiking trails.

Our welcome was second to none, very warm and cordial. We were met at the door by a gentleman who opened the door for us. Our hostess,

the Ambassador of Happiness, Lynn Fox met us and gave us some history about the building, property and the development of the organization. It is an amazing facility.

There is a professional culinary staff. The kitchen is enormous and operates as a well-oiled machine. Lunch was delicious and consisted of tomato bisque, roast pork, cornbread stuffing and roasted Brussels sprouts with pineapple upside-down cake for dessert.

Clear Path offers a multitude of programs and services not only to veterans but also to their families. Their schedule on Wednesday from 9-12 is woodcarving; 11-1 is the canteen. On Fridays from 9-12 they have tying of fly-fishing lures and at about 4:30 there is Friday night fire. They also offer a service dog program, yoga, counseling, Reiki, massage therapy, reflexology and art classes, to name a few from the extensive listing.

During our conversation it came up that while they service thirty-plus New York State counties, should they receive a call from somewhere else (another state for example) they would do their very best to respond to the appeal. Clear Path for Veterans is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that recognizes the responsibility of communities to help those who serve through supportive programs and services in a safe and respectful environment.

They accept donations which enable them to serve thousands annually. They are having a Red, White and Blue BBQ fundraiser on June 15 from 4 to 8 p.m. at their location, 1223 Salt Springs Road, Chittenango. The cost is \$75 (group rates and sponsorships available) and features a silent auction, live music by the Jon Bates Band, specialty food stations, canine demonstrations, a tasting tent with flavors from across New York State and a signature cocktail.

For more information contact 315/687-3300. We were there for an hour and a half and we were very impressed. I look forward to making another visit.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer. And I look forward to seeing you at the Festival in July.

Carla J. Salisbury

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Springtime Greetings, Sisters and Brothers! Since this is my last column until September I am going to catch you up on all the Chapter's "doings" past, present and future.

On April 27 Lake City Chapter played host to Oswego District for the long-awaited reception of its 2024 District leaders, RW Carla J. Salisbury, District Deputy Grand Matron, and RW Monica Wallis, Associate Grand Marshal. W Mary Babbitt, Worthy Matron of

Lake City Victoria
see page 12



The entrance to the Clear Path facility.



The view from the hills of Clear Path.



W Lillian Schute, Conductress of Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205, performed the initiatory work on May 10, 2024 for the Chapter's newest Sister, Mindy Dumas. Congratulations go to both. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall



The Oswego District's 2024 Grand Officers, RW Carla J. Salisbury, District Deputy Grand Matron, and RW Monica Wallis, Associate Grand Marshal, were guests of honor at a combined reception held at Lake City Lodge No. 127 on April 27. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

JUNE

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



The District Deputy Grand Matron's Official Visit to Centerville Chapter 185, North Syracuse on May 2. (L-R) MW Jodelle Fletcher, Grand Matron 2008, 2017; RW Patricia Tefoe, DDGM; RW Alfred Tefoe, DGL; RW Gary Hartman, W Patron; RW Cathy Barling, W Matron; RW Mark Heitmann, Associate Grand Patron.

OES from page 11

Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

Well, we are one step closer to summer with its warmer weather, ice cream, swimming, camping and just lazing around outside. June 6 will be an open meeting as we honor Master Masons. Special guest Bill Meyer will be speaking about Honor Flight. We will also be honoring fathers.

Our June 20 meeting will begin with a pizza picnic, followed by honoring our officers. Street dress will be the attire for the evening. See you in Chapter.

Birds just waking up to sing as nighttime slips away

Dewdrops sparkling in the sun to greet a brand new day
Fireflies lighting dusky skies and strolls beneath the moon

What could be more perfect that the lively month of June

Cathy Barling

Lake City Victoria from page 11 . . .

Lake City Victoria, and RW Patricia Peters, Worthy Matron of Lake Ontario Chapter No. 124, shared the duties of presiding officer. Distinguished guests included MW Sally A. Clarke, Past Grand Matron; MW Earl B. LaFave, Past Grand Patron;

and MW Kenneth W. Wheeler, Past Grand Patron. Music was provided by none other than Lake City Lodge's very own musician, Brother Eddie Goodness (DSA).

Following speeches by the guests of honor, officers from their respective Chapters entertained with skits especially prepared for the occasion. RW Cynthia J. Sanders, W Lillian A. Schute and RW Natalie J. Woodall spoofed RW Carla's busy schedule with a skit entitled "A Day in the Life." RW Nancy J. Costello presented RW Carla with a money gift from the Chapter.

On May 10 it was time to welcome RW Carla home from her round of Official Visits. The evening began

with the Initiation of a new member, Mindy Dumas. W Lillian Schute, Conductress, performed the initiatory work in exemplary fashion.

The topic of RW Carla's Homecoming speech was "Friendship and Community." The officers entertained her with a presentation involving boxes decorated with butterflies, which contained some necessary items for her anticipated increased leisure time. RW Nancy Costello presented her with a gift from the Chapter. W Mary Babbitt, Worthy Matron, presented a check from the Chapter for the Grand Matron and Grand Patron's projects. She also gave RW Carla a personal gift of a beautiful Bible.

A basket raffle was held in the dining room after the meeting, the proceeds of which were to benefit the OES Education Fund in honor of RW Carla J. Salisbury. All enjoyed a bountiful repast under the direction of the Past Matrons' Association.

The ceremony of Draping the Altar was conducted on May 27. For June 14 our Worthy Matron invites all Master Masons to join the Chapter for an evening of fun, food and fellowship.

W Lillian Schute, our Conductress, is collecting items for the bazaar at Oriskany which will be held on July 26-27. Now is the time to clean those closets. All types of things are ac-

ceptable: cosmetics (new), books, jewelry, knickknacks, purses, toddler and infants' wear (new), dresses, etc. RW Carla J. Salisbury is donating a magnificent hand-made quilt for the Share Booth. All proceeds from the bazaar benefit the OES Home. If you have never attended you are missing a great time and bargains galore.

On behalf of W Sr. Mary, W Bro. John, the officers and members of Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205, I wish all my readers a long, hot, safe and restful summer. Be kind to one another and do not forget to perform a few of those random acts of kindness. Farewell until September.

Natalie J. Woodall