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

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May 2025

Marcellus pair captivates onstage

"The Tale of Bawshou & the Dragon" is a traveling production brought to you by Sondra and W Brother John Bromka. They introduce it like this: "What would you do if the Sun was captured by a powerful Dragon, and hidden in a cave, deep beneath the sea? In this traditional Chinese tale of wonder and adventure, our young hero Bawshou bravely sets out to rescue the Sun with the help of a magic golden Phoenix."





Masonic War Vets Post 43

Cmdr. Brian Courtney

Brother Veterans, the Masonic year is coming to an end shortly. We have plans in the making for the summer, getting together for some camaraderie and libations. At our next meeting we will talk about it.

St. John's Day at the Masonic Care Facility will be June 20 to 22 this year. It will be another great time for Masonry. Let us try to get a group together to be in the parade. Does anyone have golf carts or a trailer to carry everyone?

I have noticed quite a few Masons wearing the new Masonic Veterans Medal (see photo). Congratulations go to all of you. But after talking to some of you I found that you do not belong to a Post. You can get the medal when you join a Post and you can wear it at your blue Lodge meetings, as it is allowed by Grand Lodge. Contact me and I can get you signed up for a Post. We do not do ritual or anything; we just stand by for our veterans who need assistance at the Syracuse VA Hospital when needed and help with Official Visits in the District. It is a great way to be amongst other Brothers in Arms. Be

> **MWV Post 43** see page 2



This medallion is for all veterans in Masonry. **Contact Brian Courtney** about joining a Post and getting a medallion.

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND GENEROSITY





TITAN HVAC & MORNING STAR LODGE Springfield, Massachusetts March 2025

Chris Desellems of Titan Heating and Air Conditioning recently raffled off a 2005 Titan Motorcycle. Chris designated a portion of the proceeds to benefit Shriners Children's New England.

Shriners Children's New England

this article is a picture of a "Big Check" presentation I was privileged to make at

Nobles, accompanying the March Board Meeting. A big shout-out goes to Chris Desellems of Titan Heating and Air Conditioning. Chris had the opportunity to raffle off a 2005 Titan Motorcycle (Titan Motorcycle...Titan

HVAC, get it?) and designated a portion of the proceeds to benefit Shriners Children's New England.

> Shriners Children's see page 5



EMESBE

Spring has finally sprung—at least by the time you get this paper. I am guessing our snowbirds are back, refreshed and ready to help their Lodges and Chapters.

As of today around 50% of the Lodges and Concordant Bodies have paid their invoices for your newspaper. We only have two months before everyone goes dark for the summer. We need 100% paid up so, Secretaries and Treasurers, please get this done. The USPS has raised the postage once already and there will be another increase. We were

> **EMESBE** see page 12

Mentor Hello, Brethren. Last month Syracuse was honored with the visit of GM Rubin to Crossroads United Lodge. The GM had visited this Lodge two years before, while Deputy Grand Master. There is ample coverage of this

important event in last month's issue of the word.

It appears that GM Rubin likes Crossroads United Lodge and we do not blame him. It has a beautiful building that we call "traditional upstate." Such buildings are often in a highly visible site close to the center of town. They are in brick, with the Lodge room in the second floor and social events taking place in the first. Onondaga District has several such traditional Lodge buildings: in Liverpool, Marcellus, Skaneateles and Tully. Surrounding Districts also have such Lodges, e.g., Phoenix and Homer, whose

pictures appeared in last month's issue of the word. The Scipio Lodge building is not only very old but also has a very interesting history, about which our newspaper Editor can say a lot. Modern Lodge buildings, instead, usually have a single story, with Lodge and social rooms adjacent to each other. Some examples include Memorial,

Fayetteville and Jordan Lodges. Half a century ago we had more Lodges and even two Onondaga Districts. Today we have only one. There was a four-story Masonic building in downtown Syracuse that harbored several Lodges, some of which no longer exist, as they tendered their charters. Others like Central City

Mentor see page 2 ...



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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. The month of May originates from the Roman God Maia and the Greek Goddess Maius, who were about growth, growing and nurturing the earth. In our Lodges in the month of May we find potential growth from electing new officers. Our District runs very efficiently because of the overall level of experience of our Lodge officers, especially our Sec-

The May growth I am talking about is sharing that experience/knowledge as we nurture new Lodge officers so our Lodges can grow into the future. Some officers have been in office "forever," but I am confident time will put limits on that "forever." Knowledge is power and sharing that knowledge is equally powerful.

Our Grand Lodge will be meeting May 5 and 6. I encourage anyone with the free time and a pocket full of money to attend. I have never had a bad time on a Grand Lodge trip.

Locally, look for Deputy Grand Master Bob Hogan to attend an event at Skaneateles Lodge in June. See the Skaneateles article by WM John Covell for details. I look forward to meeting people on the level.

Toby Shelley

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STAFF OFFICER



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

Greetings, Brethren. We are nearing the midpoint of our Masonic Education spring semester. The Masonic Development Course has been successfully completed and we will commence the Road to the East program this month, beginning with Session 1 on May 10 and concluding with Session 2 on May 24. The spring semester will wrap up with the Master's Chair on June 28. All sessions take place at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse, with specific starting times to be announced as the dates approach. Please mark your calendar and inform me of your intent to register.

I would also like to remind you that there are various self-paced and nonscheduled programs availincluding the Livingston Library, Masonic Culture Classes and Maxwell Leadership. For those who prefer auditory learning, the Craftsmen online podcast is also an option. You can access all these rehttps:// sources at nymasons.org.

If you would like to give feedback on the training sessions or offer ideas for the future, please reach out. We Staff Officers are committed to meeting the educational needs of our Districts. Your candid input is invaluable. My contact information is at the head of this column. For questions or assistance, feel free to get in

Adam Novak

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

VW Rick Miori VW John Bromka

Greetings, Brethren. As spring approaches we find ourselves anticipating the warmth it brings. The Onondaga District has been actively engaged in Initiating, Passing and Raising numerous Master Masons, an endeavor that has been a privilege for my fellow AGLs and me to witness and participate in our cherished rituals. With Grand Lodge just around the corner, I look forward to reconnecting with both old and new acquaintances.

I am pleased to inform you that Tully Lodge has graciously accepted the honor of hosting this year's Investiture, scheduled for Thursday, May 29. You should receive official invitations with pertinent details shortly. We eagerly anticipate a strong turnout to support our new Worshipful **VW Carlton Jackson VW Todd Platten**

Masters

As Memorial Day approaches, I recognize that many Lodges and Concordant Bodies will engage in solemn services to honor our fallen military personnel. I extend my gratitude to those who have contributed to the remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for our

Finally, the AGLs have been actively visiting various Lodges to provide Schools of Instruction, focusing on the ritual of the Masonic Memorial Service. This ritual carries great solemnity and importance and should be executed with the reverence it deserves as we honor our departed Broth-

> Todd Platten Rick Miori John Bromka Carlton Jackson

Mentoring from page 1 . . .

moved to the Fayetteville suburb. Others, such as Liverpool-Syracuse and Crossroads United resulted from mergers. The vacated downtown building became the Metropolitan School of Arts. Today, we have difficulties opening Lodge with the minimum officers. Such issues have prompted some Lodges to hold joint meetings, an option that increases attendance and raises session quality.

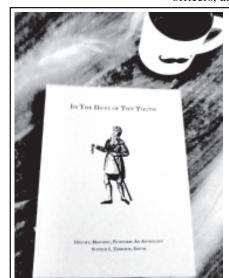
This leads to our next subject: resuscitating our traditional Masters, Wardens and Deacons (MWD) meetings. Conducting periodic meetings is of importance to respond to such dwindling membership. District and Lodge leaders can get together and discuss issues of mutual interest, such as developing activities that enhance and strengthen membership growth and retention. This has been a key objective of our monthly Zoom Group: to Promote the Development of (more and diverse) Lodge Activities, especially those that are jointly organized with the

Lodge community. The good news is that on March 27 a Zoom meeting of leaders of the Cayuga-Tompkins Masonic District took place, organized by RW Michael Miller and RW Thomas Ostrander and VW Joe Sheppard. Several Brothers, as well as Lodge and District officers, attended the meeting and discussed old and new ways of teaching the MDC and NorthStar refresher courses. Two Districts were not represented in this meeting; however, it was an excellent start. We congratulate them for the effort.

As an example, consider this. Two months ago I, as the Membership and NorthStar Chair for this District, gave a Zoom NorthStar refresher for all District Masters and Secretaries. Only two officers attended it. The following week a NorthStar Grand Lodge Coordinator told us that a potential new candidate wished to join one of our District Lodges but that Lodge did not have a NorthStar officer. And no officer from that Lodge had attended our Zoom NorthStar refresher.

Every institution with dwindling membership tries hard to recruit new bodies. But they should first work on keeping and improving those they already have. Overcommitted leaders burn out in time and cannot fully support their main projects and obligations. Finding the right balance allows leaders to fulfill their duties effectively, for a longer time. Less re, goes the saying. Efficient organizations are just as good as the leaders they elect and support to govern

Jorge Luis Romeu



In The Days of Thy Youth

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

\$18.00 Place orders and pay to: Scipio 110, F&AM, POB 74, Aurora, NY 13026

Event schedule, May '25

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

May 1	Auburn—Nominations
	Tri-Valley—Un-OV
	CentSq—Nominations OnStar—Kentucky Derby
May 3	OnStar—Kentucky Derby
	Auburn—New Member Training
May 5-6	Grand Lodge, NYC
May 6	OnStar—Draping Altar
	FayCC—Move-Up
May 7	Callimachus—Nominations
	Nortrip—Widows
	Skaneateles—Elect
May 8	Memorial—Elect
	BonaFide—Initiation
	Fulton50—Annual Assembly
	KT25—Elect
May 10	RTTE 1 @ Memorial
	Nortrip—Adopt-a-Highway
May 11	ErieCanal—Mother's Day Pancakes
May 13	Scipio—Elect
	LkCity—Annual
May 15	Auburn—Elect
	LkOntRAM—Dist. 12 Festive Board
	CentSq—Elect
	CrossroadsU—Elect
May 17	ErieCanal—District Festive Board
	WarrenSalemTown—Annual BBQ
May 20	OnStar—Honor Mothers LkCity—1°
•••••	LkCity—1°
	FayCC—Annual
May 21	Skaneateles—PM Night
May 22	BonaFide—Masonic Family Reunion
•••••	KT25—Inspection
•••••	Memorial—PM Night
	Nortrip—PM Night
May 23	LkCityVic—Draping Altar
May 24	RTTE 2 @ Memorial
•••••	LkCity—Bowling
	Family Festival in N Syr
May 26	Auburn—Memorial Day Wreath
	Laying
	CrossroadsU—Parade
May 29	Onon Invest @ Tully
May 31	ErieCanal—Cornhole at Field Days
June 7	Osw Masonic Charities Golf
June 12	ErieCanal—1°
June 20-22	St. John's Day @ Utica
June 25	Callimachus—Picnic/Awards
June 28	Master's Chair @ Memorial
June 29	ErieCanal—Golf Tournament
	10 (

MWV Post 43 from page 1...

one of the few.

Here, too, is a poster of a project we will be involved with. This is an idea MWGM Rubin came up with, along with the committee he has established. I was asked to be part of this and I am sincerely grateful to be a mem-

We have to do our part in helping Brothers in Arms who are serving now. We are asking for help from Masons and veterans from every place this paper is distributed. If you can donate any of the items listed on the photo, let us know and we will meet you to collect them. Monetary donations are welcome, also.

This is a huge way to help give back to those Brothers and Sisters that need our help. More information will become available. You can reach out to me at 315/457-40thSPVet@gmail.com with questions or to coordi-

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nate dropping off or picking up items. The number of veterans we help depends on the number of you who help us. We may be looking for help in packing the items,

Remember what VW Past Commander Norman Kruth used to say: "A person is never forgotten as long as his name is mentioned." And remember the admonishment of this guy: "Always do everything you ask of those you command."—General George S. Patton. Hooah! **Brian Courtney**

below (incl. seasonal changes) State | ≀ Print your NEW address Clip and mail to: May 2025 the word Page 3



At the end of March, Memorial Lodge 648, North Syracuse, Raised five Brothers to Master Masons. Front row, new Memorial Master Masons, L-R, Brothers

James Quattro, Ryan Matousek, John LaLonde, Daniel Frederick and Sean Delpha.

Gary Hartman



Nortrip Lodge, Tully Lodge and Memorial Lodge met in Tully for the annual Tri Meeting. Prior to the meeting the Brothers enjoyed a lasagna dinner prepared by the Brothers of Tully Lodge.

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

315/458-5560

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

The Masonic year is nearing its end. At Memorial Lodge we have a busy month of May to tie everything up with a nice bow on top. We will have our annual meeting and elections at a Summoned meeting on May 8. This will include a report on Grand Lodge proceedings by our delegate, Senior Warden Brother Mike Brooker. Hopefully, he will be elected to replace our current Master later in the meeting. I know that Brother Mike has been working on his Trestleboard for the upcoming year and has plans that will please us all. The coming year will have no Past Masters in line to move on to the East. This is the first time in a long while that only the Chaplain, Secretary and Treasurer are Past Masters.

The meeting on May 22 will be our yearly Past Masters night with W Tom Duskee in the East. This is a fun event with Past Masters filling all the chairs. Come and see if they can outdo the current officers at holding a meeting. There will be a dinner preceding the meeting at 6:30. Please call the Secretary or me to make a reservation.

On May 29 Tully Lodge will be the host of the

Onondaga District Investiture ceremony. This yearly event is open only to Past, newly elected and current Masters. To all Past Masters: please try to attend and support all newly elected Masters. At Memorial Lodge our Brother Mike Brooker has truly earned our support. Let us support him with many of us being there.

of us being there.
May 24 is the Family Festival event in the Village of North Syracuse. Our street will be blocked off and several hundred people will be in attendance around our building. Let us take advantage of the opportunity and promote our great Fraternity. We will set up a table in front and pass out information and answer questions.

Karl Parker

Nortrip 998 (ON)

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

WM Mark LaFountain

Greetings, Brothers. On the evening of April 10 we had our Annual Awards Night. The evening began with a social hour prior to the awards ceremony. This year W Charles Higgins was recognized for fifty years of being a Mason; RW Dennis Breheny was recognized for forty-five years as a Mason; and RW Samuel Showers was recognized for forty years. Of course, Awards Night would not be complete without those who received the Lloyd Goodell Novelty Award.

On April 14 our Lodge

traveled to Scriba Lodge for dinner and a meeting. This was a great evening and hopefully they can travel to our Lodge in the fall.

Saturday, May 10 will be Adopt-a-Highway clean-up. Brothers are to arrive at the Lodge at 8:00 for coffee and donuts. Clean-up usually takes two hours if we can get at least seven Brothers. So please mark your calendar for this event.

On May 7 we will be honoring our widows with a dinner at Vito's Italian Restaurant. Reservations are due to the Secretary or me by April 24. May 22 will be Past Master's Night with dinner served at 6 p.m.

Mark LaFountain

Lafayette Celebration - June 8, 2025

By: Lafayette Trail Assn., Skaneateles Lodge, Skaneateles Historical Society

Celebrate 200th anniversary of Lafayette's visit! Begin at 1:00 p.m. at Skaneateles Lodge;

Revolutionary War gun display; Historical short talks and Lodge/museum tours; Historical Marker dedication in front of Lodge.

Register with John Covell: 315/246-3411 covell2011@gmail.com

Page 4 the word May 2025

Editor's Prerogative Labors of love

Complaints about attendance at meetings are ubiquitous. That means everybody makes them. And it is not only meetings but events in general. It is often hard to open the Lodge meeting because of the absence of those who occupy the chairs. It is frustrating to set up an open program and welcome an embarrassingly small group of attendees. It is demoralizing to cajole a new member—or a senior officer—to come to a training program that can only improve his understanding and prepare him for leadership, only to find him a no-show.

I was working some research for a community program in early April, consulting three successive minute books. These spanned Scipio Lodge meetings from early 1974 through most of 1989, which coincides with my early years. It was very interesting to read and recall how full our sidelines were at nearly every meeting. There was a great variety of programs offered by a changing roster of members and each topic led to prolonged discussion. They covered Masonic history, local history, items of literary interest and musical import. Most were Masonry themed and all were well attended, by Scipio members and far-ranging visitors. It was usual to receive Brothers from Marcellus, including a certain Grand Master, and from Geneva. I think the most telling observation was the longevity of Worshipful Master involvement. That is, when his year in the East was concluded, virtually every Master happily returned to the sidelines and participated with his Brothers of every rank, most of whom had a role on a

Those were the days of imaginative community service activities. The members were active in blood drives, local fundraising golf tournaments, numerous chicken barbecues for our not-for-profits. We participated in bowling tournaments for charities such as the Brotherhood Fund; and we had aggressive Brotherhood Fund chairmen. In those days we organized work crews and attacked various problems in Oak Glen Cemetery, resetting toppled stones and so forth. This, by the way, was an educational process in itself: Masonic history, you know. To put it indelicately, we discovered where the bodies were buried. I found the first reference, in 1979, to a Halloween Open House. This tradition continues after forty-five years. We used to have a yearly summer meal with our lady friends and we presented the Years of Service awards. And we always had a Brother Bring a Friend supper (or breakfast) before it was called that; and we chose a worthy member of the community for a Citizen of the Year award before there was a Dewitt Clinton. Our open programs were popular and well supported by our neighbors. We even had a traveling Colonial Degree team in sort-of-period costume.

So what has happened here and everywhere? There used to be an electricity in our attitudes about Lodge. We wanted to be there with our Brothers, even if we interacted with them all day, every day in real life. There was intensity in the consuming and experiencing. It is easy to say that the times and culture have left us behind; that group burnout is the dreaded and inevitable culprit; that the electricity of gathering in person has been supplanted by the attraction of 5G; that we have become a society of sluggards with engines that just will not turn over

Is it age? Are we lazy and unmotivated? I think it is not so much an energy deficit as a curiosity deficit. I think it is a matter of a mental correction. We look in the mirror at a guy in his 70s or 80s and accept the notion that he must be exhausted. Why? We should see a youngster eager to learn all he can about this thing called Masonry and to do it with his Brothers. Which of us can say he knows all there is? We should demand that our leaders do a little work and give us entrée into the deep pools of Masonic learning. Or we might volunteer to bring our own program. There are hundreds of avenues and thousands of opportunities branching from them. Let us get a little excited about a chance to learn new things and apply them to new works. Maybe we will find guys knocking at our door. If that does not work we can always sit around with bowls full of gummies.

Stephen L. Zabriskie



Fort Brewerton Brothers showed their appreciation to landlord Callimachus Lodge with some improvement projects around the building. Chuck and Dave install a screen door.



This photo depicts the makeshift altar and the dais in the East at the outdoor Third Degree on Song Mountain, 2024. The trim pieces on three sides of the altar are the plumb, level and square.



The image features three Brothers from Memorial Lodge 648 who are receiving their Masonic Training certificates. They are W Pete Rompf, Brother Jason Savlov and Brother Tim Kuney. RW Adam Novak conducted the presentation.

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

We are still standing! I am sorry, my Brothers. I have not written a *word* article in quite some time. It seemed the deadline for submission would come and I did not have the energy or time to write an article. I will try to do better in the future. Many things have passed since I last put an article in *the word*.

Can you believe that it has been almost a year since the Degree on the Mountain? I have attached a photo from the event. I will say that it was one of the most impressive and memorable events I have ever attended. Unfortunately, I was the only member from Fort Brewerton to attend, but I represented well and took part as the Guard. The fellowship that I had and Brothers I met-old and new-was well worth the time spent.

People ask me about Freemasonry and why I am a Mason and my answer should always be: my Brothers and the fellowship that we have. The common bond that we form by each going through the Degree, and then bringing others through the Degree, is something that is hard to explain to non-Masons. This Degree had all of those elements. I hope and pray that the Brothers who took the Degree on the Mountain are active and contributing members.

Fort Brewerton runs a water stop for the Mountain

Goat race every year. We have a great time and get a little PR from the event. I shared a picture of the event last year; I will include an article in next month's edition about this year's race.

We are currently renting space from Phoenix Lodge (Callimachus No. 369). As a gesture of gratitude for their hospitality, we have done some improvement projects for the Lodge. Chuck and I installed a screen door on the back entrance. Also helping were Brothers Kim Magill, Scott Magill and Sam Sweet (from Callimachus Lodge). This was also a time of good fellowship. Additionally, we installed a new carpet for the Eastern Star group that meets in that building. Carpet layers were Kim Magill, Scott Magill and me. We also enjoy lending a hand with their fish dinners.

We have been a little too quiet lately. It is time for us to be more visible so, we will see you around. See you in Lodge.

David Childress

Crossroads United Lodge 93 F.&A.M. 780 Woods Rd. Solvay, N.Y. 13209 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/487-0596

WM David DeOlden II, wife Karen 315/400-7909



Greetings from the East. I hope all had a great Easter holiday. And I hope everyone is doing well.

We still have our barbecue raffle going on. Contact a Brother from Crossroads United No. 93 or a Sister from Bona Fide Hiawatha No. 567.

Our first meeting in April was good; the second meeting was a dinner and meeting as we welcomed home some Brothers from snowbirding. It was good to see our Brothers.

Do not forget that we are marching in the Memorial Day parade in Solvay on the 26th, Monday. I will let everyone know the details in Lodge.

May 15 is our election of officers. The Secretary will send the Summons notice. If any Brother needs a ride, contact me and we will help you. I hope to see everyone in Lodge.

David DeOlden



New Master Mason at Crossroads United, (L) Andrew Lavaranchuk; VW Bob Tyrrell; W Brian Courtney.

May 2025 the word Page 5



Two Skaneateles and two Crossroads Fellowcrafts were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 19 at Skaneateles Lodge.

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

WM John Covell



Brothers: At our March 19 meeting we Raised two Skaneateles and two Crossroads Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. VW Tim Gannon prepared the traditional oyster stew, W Don Forward brought lasagna and my wife sent a green salad and bread.

The Degree went very well with the exception of one minor hiccup. I thought, as did others, that the Walking Charge, done flawlessly by VW Tim Conover, took the place of the Charge for the Third Degree. It does not. When informed of this at the end of the meeting I was about to read the Charge when W Bob Tyrrell stood up and said "Give me 30 seconds to study the Degree." After literally 30 seconds he then did the charge flawlessly. Several younger members were impressed. I was asked if he was a savant. Twenty-eight Master Masons from several different Lodges made this an excellent Third Degree. I thank all who attended and participated in the Degree.

Our third Fellowcraft was unable to attend as he was stuck in Albany on business (he was voting on the state budget proposals). Plans were made for him to be Raised at Liverpool Lodge on April 21.

On April 2 we finished the Third Degree with the presentation of the Historical Lecture in slideshow format. A delicious chili was prepared by Senior Warden Darren McLaughlin for this meeting. RW Steve Zabriskie came to this meeting to hear the Historical Lecture. Brother Steve wrote his first article for *the word* in 1982 and has been editor of *the word* for twenty-five years. He was called to the East and Grand Honors were paid to him for all his work in Masonry but especially for his work on *the word*.

Steve is a member of Scipio Lodge, which meets in Aurora. If you have never been in the Aurora Lodge you are missing out. The Lodge is unique in many ways but especially for students of Masonic symbolism. We discussed with Brother Steve tentative plans for Skaneateles Brothers to attend a meeting in Aurora during the 2025-2026 Masonic year, possibly doing the Historical Lecture there for Brothers Raised next

Our meeting on April 19 was a Walk About the Lodge for the newly Raised Brothers. At this meeting we solidified our plans for the Lafayette Celebration.

The Marquis de Lafayette stopped at a hotel in Skaneateles on June 9, 1825 during a carriage ride from Geneva to Syracuse. This was during the 1824-1825 Lafayette tour of the U.S. funded by the U.S. Congress. The Lafayette Trail Association, Skaneateles Lodge No. 522 and the Skaneateles Historical Society are preparing a Lafayette Celebration on June 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Skaneateles Lodge to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his visit.

We will have a social hour with finger food and beverages at 1:00, with tours of the Lodge and our museum. Brother Leon Bulriss, an accomplished Oswego Freemason, will display his collection of Revolutionary War guns and memorabilia. We will have a public opening and some lectures about Lafayette in the Lodge room. We will then proceed to the

front porch/lawn/sidewalk adjacent to Route 20 for the dedication of a roadside historical marker commemorating Lafayette's visit here.

All Brothers, family and friends are invited to the party. Please call me if you are coming to this event to allow us to manage the food properly. Deputy Grand Master RW Robert Hogan will be attending our Lafayette celebration.

The May 7 meeting will be the annual reports and election of officers. The May 21 meeting will be our Past Masters and Awards night. Brother Tim is doing tacos on May 7 and Brother Tyde will do his prime rib dinner at the May 21 meeting. If you are not a regular attendee at Lodge, let me know if you will be coming. Again, this is to arrange the proper amount of food.

John Covell

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

WM Joseph Flanagan

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

May 6 is Move-Up Night. Please plan to attend and support your Lodge officers. A Taco Tuesday dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and its cost is \$10. Please make your reservation with Craig at 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net before Sunday, May 4.

May 20 is our Annual Meeting. All members are Summoned to attend this meeting. A roast beef dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Please reserve with Craig by Sunday, May 18.

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

Joe Flanagan

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

Chris is a member of Morning Star Lodge and wanted to designate a Masonic Charity to benefit from his raffle. If you run into Chris, please be sure to thank him for his very generous donation.

In this month's article I wish to highlight the role of a Child Life Specialist. This professional is employed at many hospitals, but it does not take too much imagination to understand how critical the role is for a Hospital System that provides care exclusively to children. The range of children in our care is anywhere from infant up to age 18 and that broad range of ages presents its own unique challenges. Older teenagers may well be able to comprehend what their treatment will entail, while other teenagers on the Autism Spectrum may still face obstacles to the effectiveness of their care. Infants, toddlers and pre-teens also present challenges. Anyone who has had to have physical therapy knows that therapy sessions can be very uncomfortable. How do you get a toddler or young preteen to participate in a physical therapy activity that causes discomfort?

The role of the Child Life Specialist is to support and encourage all our patients as they undergo treatment in our hospitals and clinics. In addition to having an undergraduate degree in a related field, these professionals receive special training to enable them to engage with children, including children on the Autism Spectrum. Before receiving their credentials they also serve 600 hours in an internship in a hospital setting to gain real world experience with children, under the guidance of an experienced Child Life Specialist. Finally, they have to pass a certification examination.

What exactly does a Child Life Specialist do? Well, it varies based on the age and needs of the child and the needs of the family. For our youngest patients the Specialist may simply be a distraction for the child during an examination or while preparing the child for a surgery or other treatment, while at the same time helping the parents understand what to expect after the child's surgery or while recovering from other treatment. For somewhat older children, play can be an important component in de-stressing the child. Medical offices, hospitals and clinics can be scary places with many strange and scary items. For these children the Child Life Specialist might engage in play with an empty cast, IV tubing, stethoscope or an anesthesia mask to help make these items a little less stressful for the patient. Play can also be an effective method to encourage activity needed to adjust to a new prosthetic. For example, walking on a new prosthetic can be awkward and uncomfortable, so a scavenger hunt or dancing could be an effective way to get a patient to use the new prosthetic and become accustomed to it.

Three key roles of the Child Life Specialist are to Facilitate, Promote and Support. They facilitate communication by helping patients and families understand medical terminology and what treatment will entail. They promote the child's development by supporting their social, emotional and cognitive growth while they are undergoing treatment and during recovery. They help support the entire family by providing information, guidance and resources to help families navigate the healthcare system and support their children.

The Child Life Specialist who talked to the Board about her role was most engaging. I was most impressed with her enthusiasm for the role and the personal satisfaction she expressed. She admitted that the role was challenging as there is no set playbook revealing how to deal with a particular child in a particular situation. Her personal satisfaction was clearly evident as she relayed various examples of her work with our patients. She expressed that she was grateful that all the specialists within the clinic are encouraged to call on her expertise to calmly deal with a stressed, scared, uncooperative child in an effort to improve that patient's experience receiving care in our System. This is just one more example of the holistic and individualized care offered by Shriners. Bill Toth

Summer break is after June issue - deadline for September

The June issue is the last before the July-August summer break. Send me September's piece by August 12. I prefer email contributions (and photos). Send your copy as an email message or an attached Word file to: zabled@aol.com. Please identify yourself and your Lodge in your subject line and text. I hate to have to guess whether or not to open an email. And please send a head-shot photo of yourself for your column heading.

One other thing: Be sure to have your Secretary send address changes "The Word," P.O. Box 242, Liverpool, NY 13088. Thanks. —Editor

OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



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

Greetings. Our Masonic journey is in full swing and I am thrilled to share the latest developments and upcoming events in our District.

Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to those who attended the Grand Lodge Session held on May 5 and 6. These gatherings serve as a reminder of the strength of our brotherhood and the dedication we share to our Masonic principles.

I am eagerly anticipating the District Lodge Installation of Officers and our Investiture Service. It will be an honor to witness the leadership and commitment of our Masters as they step into their roles to guide their respective Lodges.

I am also excited to announce the return of the Masonic Charities Golf Outing. This event will take place on June 7 at the Greenview Country Club. Please keep an eye out for further details. We hope to see many of you there as we come together for a day of camaraderie and support for a noble cause.

Brothers, I urge you to keep your District team and me informed of your Masonic functions and events. Whether it is a fundraiser, a community outreach program or a special meeting, we want to be there to support you. Together we can ensure that every Brother feels the strength of our united District. My ultimate goal is for the Oswego Masonic District to function as One Mighty District. This can only be achieved when we stand together, offering mutual support and encouragement every step of the way. Brothers, the power to make this vision a reality lies in your hands. Let us move forward in unity, embodying the true spirit of Freemasonry. John Pierce

John Pier

STAFF OFFICER



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

Greetings, Brethren. Spring is in full swing and May is a very busy month for us Masons, with the Grand Lodge session, Lodge election of officers, the Masonic War Veterans Grand Post Convention and various other events and education classes being put on.

If you have been reading my articles you have seen the updates on the Hiram LMS. Currently, I am working on a fall Masonic semester where we focus primarily on using that system but also some in-person get togethers to really get the most out of both methods of teaching and learning. With this new method of learning the courses will have a bit more of a hybrid feel, where you will do some work online and self paced, but then we will also meet for a short period to have those face-toface discussions and fellow-

Last month we concluded our first MDC multi-District class of the spring Masonic Education semester. This class was held at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. With the MDC completed, you may be asking yourself what is next. Well, that would be the Road to the East (RTTE). If you are a Warden or Master and you have not taken these classes you will have to sign up and take them. If you do not know already, there was a message pushed out by Grand Lodge that "strongly suggests" all Wardens and Masters have the MDC and RTTE completed. That means, if you have not taken them, or even if you have, this would be the perfect time to knock out this class and gain more light in

> Staff Officer see page 7

GRAND LECTURERS AGL Garry Visconti

ASSISTANT

AGL Bob Boutell
No News Received

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, we finally made it to spring, otherwise known as the "mud season." Although Mother Nature is sending us a few inches of snow today. This is to make up for the couple of March days when it did not snow.

Your Lodge has Brothers moving up chairs as needed to keep us moving forward. If things work out we will have a Past Master taking the East. After being your Master for the past four years I am kind of long in the tooth. (After saying that, I needed to find out what it infers: When a horse is in its latter years its gums recede, making their teeth appear to look longer. However, my gums are still pretty good.)

It has been my honor to have served Pulaski 415 these past years. And I will continue working to keep your Lodge strong.

your Lodge strong.
So, looking at some verses from Frank Sinatra that are apropos: "And now, the end is near And so I face the final curtain... Regrets, I've had a few But then again, too few to mention... For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught...."

As we approach a new Masonic year, may we all be steadfast in bringing the light of Masonry to a world that surely needs it. I will see you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

Oswego District brings back golf fundraiser

Greetings, brethren. We are coming into better weather and that brings the opportunity to golf. The Oswego Masonic Charities Golf Tournament was on hold for the last few years and we are hoping to get everyone back together to revive this long-standing tournament. The tournament is open to everyone, Masons and non-Masons, just as it was in the past. Please see the flier nearby.

Should you have any further questions please reach out to Brother Kevin Neary or Brother Shawn Tuff. Our contact information is in the flier. And we want to thank Melissa Ingerham for designing the flier (she is way more artsy-craftsy than we).

We hope that many take the opportunity to register early and join us in a great cause. Of course, the fellowship is free but 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. Our Lodge has been busy with meetings and practice for our upcoming Degrees and all have been very well attended by the brethren. It may have something to do with our head chef's great food, and fellowship is what it is all about. We have three candidates for a First Degree and two waiting for their Second Degree. I cannot wait for these Brothers to get through the Degrees and contribute to the Lodge.

Our Secretary and I will be traveling to Grand Lodge. We cannot wait. I hope to see a bunch of Brothers from our District.

You will start to see some activity for the Masonic golf tournament. Our Secretary and Senior Warden are heading up that event and from some of the stuff I am hearing, it sounds as though it is going to be fun.

We had a chicken barbecue on the 27th of April. It was a great success. It is amazing how supportive the community is with our barbecues.

The officers and brethren would like to wish the following Brothers a happy birthday and hope they find ways to make it special with their family and friends. To Brother Michael Conley; W Linwood Hall; RW Leonard Hass; Brother Charles Menear; Brother Theodore Rupracht; Brother Michael Toper; W Charles Tuff Jr.; and Brother James Wakefield: Happy Birthday, Brethren! Brethren, be safe. Charlie Tuff

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, Brothers. The days are long but the years are short. It is hard to believe that it is already May.

Our meetings this month are on the 1st and the 15th. Our first meeting will be on the upcoming Grand Lodge Communication and we will hear the report of the Nominating Committee. The dress for the evening is a Masonic shirt. Our second meeting will be Summoned and it will be our annual elections. The dress for the meeting will be a shirt and tie.

Please reach out to those Brothers and friends whom we have not seen recently. Some fellowship can brighten someone's day.

Bob Boutell

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

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

Brothers near and far: right now we are having cold, windy April showers that hopefully will provide some May flowers.

In the first week in May I will be attending my first Grand Lodge session in Manhattan. Garret and I will be returning on May 6 with our first monthly meeting taking place the next day May 7. At that meeting you will be getting a report on the session and my experiences visiting the Big Apple. We will also be entertaining nominations for the Lodge

Callimachus see 6th column

Callimachus from 5th column . . .

officers for next year.

Our fish dinners have been going quite well. I will be reporting the final results from our Treasurer.

We are planning a joint Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge picnic, scheduled for June 25. The Lodge will supply hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks; bringing a dish to pass would be great. We will also be presenting awards that evening. Family and friends are invited—the more the merrier.

Those of you who may have overlooked your dues for whatever reason will have received a reminder letter. If you could follow it up with a check it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks. I hope to see you soon in Lodge.

Sam Sweet

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 Eric Hamilton, wife, Michelle, 323/343-8734 ehamilt3@gmail.com Secy Mike Regan, 315/591-3827 secretarylakecity127@gmail.com

Brethren, April was a busy month. There was an amazing and well attended Festive Easter Celebration on April 5. This event was hosted by Lake Ontario Commandery No.32. It was a pot luck dinner and there were so many delicious dishes to pass that none went away dissatisfied. The Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Jeremy Ryder, organized this event and opened it up to all of Freemasonry and the Eastern Star. Fifty or so attended. Crowning the evening was a very special Easter Service

Lake City see page 7



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CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



RW Richard G. Reed 607/591-1301 rgreed13045@gmail.com No News Received

Past Senior Grand Warden John R. Fuller Sponsor

CLASSIFIEDS

Chuck Toombs Past Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu **Past Master Liverpool Syracuse**

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Brothers, I hope this article finds you and your family well and enjoying some spring weather.

I would first like to congratulate Brother Brian Yox, Brother Wesley Cary and VW Walter Boronow for completing the Road to the East course. It was a pleasure to present their certificates and lapel pins at their recent meeting. By the time you read this we will have begun the second round of classes of the RTTE. By order of the Grand Master, this course is required to be taken by all incoming Wardens and Masters, regardless if they have received instruction prior to this year.

I also challenge the incoming Masters and Wardens to read the two Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library courses designed for each office. The Warden's Course is titled "From Labor to Refresh-

> **Staff Officer** see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

Tom Whitney

No News Received

ment" the Master's course is titled "From the East." Please make the effort and contact the library through the Grand Lodge website. The reading courses are free, with the exception of returning post-

Once the Masters have been elected and installed we will hold the Master's Chair. Wardens will be invited to attend but cannot get credit until their incoming year as Master. Once those classes are completed we will move on to the Masonic Development Course for newly Raised Brothers. To those Brothers, I suggest starting with the first reading course: "Who Comes Here?"

For those of you interested in becoming District Officers, please take the time to read the Grand Lodge Staff Officer's course, "Follow Your Conductor" and the District Deputy course, "Worthy and Well Qualified."

I have enjoyed the "unofficial" spring visits that RW Reed and I have done. I thank you for your attention and feedback while I spoke about the Brotherhood Fund. Please donate whatever you can when you can.

Wade A. Caler

Oswego from page 6 . . .

Lake City ...

portrayed by the Sir Knights. At our Stated Communication on April 8 we draped the altar for the passing last month of our good friend and Brother Leo Monette. Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205 notified us of a Memorial Service for Sister Nancy Costello on April 22. Nancy passed this last December.

Our Secretary re-emailed to us and read some portions of two important communications from Grand Lodge on the upcoming annual meeting (lots of changes on that agenda) and the Grand Master's new ideas for the officers of Lodges to spread out the workload within the Lodge. We talked about scheduling an Awards Night separate from the Surviving Spouses & Loved Ones Luncheon, as that has become a District Event.

The upcoming First Degree was tentatively rescheduled for May 20, with a practice to be arranged. Our bowling event is tentatively scheduled for May 24. Look for emails on these events with firm dates and times. We also discussed the possibility of a Table Lodge event on July 19.

Lake Ontario Chapter No. 165, Royal Arch Masons is holding a Charity Festive Board on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge to raise money for Royal Arch Charities. This event is open to all Freemasons and Eastern Star. The dinner is \$25, with a portion going to charity. There will be a Silent Auction, 50/50 raffles and a fun time to be had by all. Attire is Chapter attire for Royal Arch, dark suit/coat and tie for Masons and for Ladies, the equivalent.

Our second communication, on April 22, was dedicated to discussing the budget, proposed revisions to the bylaws, finance, the new line. These and other related matters will handled at the Annual Communication on May 13.

My Brothers, please send in your dues in time to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Check with Secretary W Mike Regan to see if you are up to date. If you are one of our members who lives afar or just cannot make it to meetings, please send any suggestions or concerns to be discussed at the Annual Meeting to: Lake City Lodge No. 127, PO Box 1027, Oswego, NY 13126.

"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."-Brother Harry S. Truman, 33rd President and Past Grand Master of Masons in the State of Missouri.

James Rizzo

Staff Officer from page 6 . . .

Masonry.

Following suit, all Masters and Masters-elect must attend the Master's Chair around the time they are installed. Even if the Master is continuing his tenure in the East he still must attend the Master's Chair in June. The schedule for the RTTE and Master's Chair is as follows: RTTE Session 1 is May 10 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse; RTTE Session 2 is May 24; the Master's Chair is June 28, also at Memorial Lodge.

If you are a Warden or Master or looking forward to becoming a Warden or Master someday, you should sign up to take the coming classes. This will allow us to plan accordingly with any refreshments and ensure the Brothers attending have all the required materials ahead of time.

If you have comments on previous training or requests for future training sessions, please let me know. My role is to serve the educational needs of the District and I need your input. My contact information is above. If you ever have questions or need assistance do not hesitate to reach out. I want to take our journey into the future together.

Ken Sterling

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Marcellus pair captivates onstage - from page 1 ...

The Bromkas bring kids and families into the plot, first through a mask-making workshop, and then in costumed participation in the story. The activity is an in-

troduction to the costumes, dance and storytelling techniques of the orient, to the literal tune of live music on authentic Chinese instruments: pipa, erhu, gong,

temple bells, drum and guzhung, an ancient Chinese zither harp.

In March John and Sondra took their show to the Morgan Opera House in Aurora and immersed their audience in Chinese cultural traditions. These pictures capture a little of the experience.



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CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT



DDGM REPORT RW Ed Maassen

Greetings, Brothers. Congratulations and welcomes go to our five newly Raised Brothers: Jan Stowell from Scipio Lodge, Tyler Forsyth and Rob Springstead from Auburn Lodge and Jason Phytila and Ted Skibinski from Tritown Lodge. Auburn Lodge did a great Third Degree with Brothers from the three Lodges participating.

On April 8 Scipio Lodge paid tribute and appreciation to departed Brother G. Alan Clugston. This date coincided with his birthday and the day he was Raised. The event was well attended by many who knew him throughout the community. The event was very well orchestrated by Brother Scott Heinekamp, Brother Steve Zabriskie and Brother Scott Ward.

The second part of this celebration was going to be the conferral of a fifty-year apron and certificate to Brother Crawford "Doc" Thoburn. Due to doctor's orders he could not attend and we had to postpone his presentation to another time.

Everyone knows Mel Brown of Tritown Lodge. Please wish him a very happy 90th birthday on May 9.

The Newfield Lodge, King Hiram, presented on April 22 a Second Degree. I will let you know how it went in the next article. Until then, take care and I will see you in Lodge.

Ed Maassen

Past Grand Master Carl J. Fitje Sponsor

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



STAFF OFFICER RW Tom Ostrander 315/224-0940

Brothers, under Sickness and Distress, RW Ed Kabelac's wife Linda fell while in Florida and is now in rehab. The address for cards is 2461 N. Todd Point, Hernando, FL 34442. RW Dave Bowman's wife Beth is now home recuperating from a fall. My wife Paula is getting ready for cancer surgery, date to be determined.

The Third Degree in Auburn was very successful. We Raised two Brothers from Auburn, Tyler Forsythe and Rob Springstead, and two from Tritown, Jason Phytila and Ted Skibinski. The work was well done by all the Brothers from Auburn 124, Tritown 472 and Scipio 110.

W Mel Brown from Tritown 472 is turning 90 years young on May 9. Send a card to Mel at 275 West Hill Rd., Cortland NY 13045-9155. RW Ken Pollard, PDDGM was honored for seventy years of service by the American Legion Post in Cayuga, NY—awesome. He has seventy years of dedicated service to the Craft as of November 26, 2025 also.

Our Grand Lodge Officers met in Auburn on April 24 for our annual meeting. RW Ed Maassen is working on his Trestleboard for 2025 as we speak and will be in contact with all the Lodges regarding our Official Visits.

As our Masonic year winds down, keep in touch with RW Ed and me for any special functions coming up. We would be honored to attend and wash dishes, if need be.

On April 26 Auburn 124 sponsored a chicken barbecue for the Auburn Jr. High. On May 11 Erie Canal 141 is hosting a Mother's Day pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. Moms eat for free. And on May 26 Auburn 124 is again part of a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Veterans Park in Auburn at 11:45 a.m.

Take care and God bless. I hope to see you all soon.

Tom Ostrander



ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

VW Joe Sheppard
No News Received

WARREN SALEM TOWN 147

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

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

We continue to have regular meetings. In April we started the planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the 19th. The facility-use form to conduct the event at AJ Elementary School was approved and we had a pizza night on April 15 to stuff the plastic eggs. The Easter Bunny was present to entertain everyone. It was a fun day for all.

Brothers in Distress include W Tim Dodman, who had a knee replacement procedure in December. Unfortunately, he experienced complications and underwent corrective surgery. Currently, he has recovered enough to start his physical therapy. Keep him in your prayers; we need him back for golf season.

In recent Lodge activity we undraped the altar we had covered at the passing of Brother Edwin Smith. But we draped it again for the passing of Brother Boyd Foster, who was 77 years old when he laid down the working tools of life on March 26, 2025. Our Chaplain, Brother Kevin Grish, conducted the ceremony.

Our annual barbecue for Warren Salem Town Lodge 147 is on Saturday, May 17. We can use lots of help.

Our Birthday Corner is lightly populated. Wish happy birthday to Brother Mike Murray on May 13 and to Brother Kevin Grish a week later on May 20.

Warren Albrecht

Past DDGM
Oswego Dist.
John F. Tanner

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

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

Greetings from Erie Canal Lodge! Springtime is a time of growth and renewal and Erie Canal Lodge is celebrating with hosting events new and old. Last month we had our first Masonic Escape Room where our Brothers and an esteemed guest completed five First Degree themed puzzles to win a prize (a square-and-compassesstamped penny). A good time was had by all and based on the results, I look forward to trying my hand at designing one based on the Second Degree.

We also joined up with Jordan Lodge for our Earth Day Clean-Up of the road that runs between our two Lodges. Good deeds were done and good food and fellowship were shared. Our Brothers also took time to do some spring cleaning and maintenance to get our Lodge ready for spring.

We have multiple events to look forward to this spring and Brothers across the District are invited to join. On May 17 we are helping host and celebrate our District's Festive Board. See the emails sent out to the District for details.

On May 31 Erie Canal Lodge is going to have a cornhole tournament as part of the Weedsport Fire Department Fireman Field Days. Entry fee is \$20 per person and teams will be created by blind draw. It will be a double-elimination tournament with cash prizes of \$150 for the first-place team, \$80 for the second-place team and \$40 for the third-place team. Please reach out to Rory to register-or with any questions—at 315/224-2936.

On June 12 we are planning to have a First Degree. Any Brothers interested in attending or assisting are welcome to reach out to the Lodge. It is always nice for the benches to be full when welcoming in a new Brother.

Finally, our annual golf tournament is booked for June 29 with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. It is a captain and crew format, with four-person teams (\$100 dollars a person). There will be two flights; in each flight the firstplace team will win \$400 and second-place team, \$200. Entry fees include lunch, dinner, drinks, cart, greens fees, door prize and favor. We will also be playing skins, double your dollars on the first and tenth hole and doing a closest to the pin contest. Please

> Erie Canal see 5th column

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Erie Canal from 4th column

reach out to Gary to register at 315/246-7029.

This year we will also bring back our golf ball drop. Following the tournament we will drop hundreds of numbered golf balls onto the practice green. Whoever purchased the lucky-numbered ball closest to the pin will win \$500; second closest wins \$250 and \$100 goes to the third-closest ball. To play, buy one ball for \$10 or three balls for \$20. Please reach out to our Secretary Mike for ball drop tickets. Contact Mike at 315/753-1392.

As usual, we are going to have our monthly pancake breakfast. We hold this breakfast on every second Sunday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with all the food you care to eat for only \$12. Veterans eat free with military ID. Everybody is welcome.

Keep your eye out for fliers in your emails about these and other events. Check out our Facebook page by searching Erie Canal Lodge.

Seth Molloy

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

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

Brothers, the Lodge managed to complete the Third Degree process for Brother Jan Stowell, with the assistance of Auburn Lodge. On Saturday, April 5 Auburn began the full Degree at 8:15 a.m. Two FCs from Auburn and two from Tritown were Raised. Brother Bill Hitchcock helped out as Junior Master of Ceremonies. After a lunch break Brother Stowell joined to witness the Hiramic Drama, and then he signed the Scipio By-Laws/ Register.

W Scott Ward, RW Ed Maassen and RW Steve Zabriskie were present to lend support and witness. I was pleased to give the responses to the O&A section.

A few days later, on April 8, the Lodge sponsored a very successful open house to honor W Brother G. Alan Clugston, who passed in 2022. This was a fitting date because Brother Alan was Initiated on his birthday. April 8, in 1980 and this regular Lodge meeting night would have been his birth-Brother Scott Heinekamp organized the event, supplied a sample of eight single malt Scotches for tasting and some food for munching. W Scott Ward also prepared foods for the gathering. Brother Heinekamp shared some obscure facts about Alan's years as a resident of the village of Aurora and as a distinguished professor at Wells College. There was a short selection from Lodge minutes, highlighting some of his involvement and leadership as a Mason. And there were a few limericks to com-

> Scipio see 6th column

Scipio from 5th column

memorate Alan's annual St. Patrick's Day limerick contest. Alan's nephew Jonathan drove in from Rhode Island for the party and some forty members and guests enjoyed the evening.

We were also planning to present W Brother Crawford Thoburn's fifty-year apron and certificate and share some of his Lodge history. Unfortunately, Brother Thoburn was unable to join us and we will make the presentation in a private ceremony at a convenient time.

I will be setting up a nominating committee to propose officers for the next Masonic year. The first meeting in May, Tuesday the 13th, will be a Summoned meeting. Please try to loosen your cabletow for this evening. We will hear the report of that committee and elect officers to be installed later. The second May date almost coincides with Memorial Day. Expect a connection.

Mark Jordan

AUBURN 124

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

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

Brothers, I usually start my articles with Sickness and Distress but this time I am going to start with good news. Our recent Third Degree on April 5 was absolutely well done by all involved. RW Miller, our Lodge Ritual Director, put together a great cast led by our WM Scott Bennett. We Raised four Brothers—two from Auburn, Tyler Forsythe and Rob Springstead-and two from Tritown, Jason Phytila and Ted Skibinski. Auburn 124, Tritown 472 and Scipio 110 all participated for a memorable morning and afternoon.

Under Distress, Beth Bowman is home and on the mend after a fall in Florida. My wife Paula is waiting for cancer surgery and is staying strong. We are not sure of the surgery date yet but the doctors are very positive of success.

On April 17 we had the Third Degree Walkabout and LSOME. May 1 is the night for Officer Nominations. On May 3 we offer training for our new Brothers. May 15 will feature the Grand Lodge report and election of officers. On May 26 we observe our Annual Memorial Day Wreath Laying at Veterans Park, Auburn at 11:45 a.m.

Our March Madness night on March 20 was a great time with food and sports. Our in-house raffle of Scratch Off Boards cleared a profit of \$450 for the Lodge. Kudos goes to VW Joe Sheppard for heading this up and making it successful.

Our chicken barbecue for the students of Auburn Jr. High was a big deal on April 26. We cooked 300 birds and sold from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. It is good to support the kids.

That is all for this month. I hope to see you in Lodge.
Tommy Ostrander



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

Greetings, Princes and Brothers, alike. At this time of year Lodge and Concordant Body nominating committees are hard at work. Their all-important task is to identify the future leaders of our Craft and to develop those leaders who have been progressing through the lines. The old adage, "you had one job," does not apply to Masonic leadership. Those who find themselves in the East have two responsibilities: to Lead and to Manage.

As a Scottish Rite body head, WM, EHP, IM or EC your ability to lead specifically refers to the depth of knowledge and your understanding of the history, symbolism and lessons associated with the allegories of that body. The greater your understanding, the greater your ability to lead when conferring Degrees. The better the presentation, the greater the impact on the candidate.

Additionally, our various Masonic bodies have a business side to them. It is further the body head's responsibility to manage and have oversight regarding the work of the Secretary and Treasurer. He also has oversight concerning budgeting, building and grounds, etc. Success in the management department complements success as a great leader.

The NY Council of Deliberation, AASR NMJ supports an outstanding leadership program known as Excelsior. The Excelsior series offers online sessions and videos on topics of relevance to leadership, including sessions pertaining to the Maxwell Leadership Method co-sponsored by GLSNY (see nyscottishritemasons.org).

I strongly encourage sideliners to further their personal knowledge and understanding of the workings of the organization. The better informed you become, the better you are able to support the work of your elected officers and prepare to become one. Princes and Brothers: best of success to you

Michael A. Miller

Consistory

May is a busy month for our Valley as we elect and install our new leaders. It also holds our last two opportunities to confer the 4° on new candidates and potentially qualify for the Valley of Excellence this year. In addition to the Rite on the Road scheduled for May 7 we added a second Rite on the Road for May 14. Watch your emails for any last minute updates on time or

May 12 will be our Guard's Club Dinner and

Meeting, starting at 6:15 p.m. This will be followed by the annual meeting and election of officers for all four Bodies. If you have had any part in Degrees conferred in our Valley since September 2024 you are encouraged to attend the Guard's Club Dinner. We appreciate your participation in the work of the Valley. Make your reservations through the office.

The Public Installation of Officers is on May 19. It will be preceded by a social time at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. Installation begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Lodge room. Even if you cannot make the dinners, I encourage all Scottish Riters to attend on May 12 and 19 to support our Valley leadership.

The Valley has received a number of items from MW and Ill. Bruce Widger's personal collection of Masonic memorabilia. These items are from all branches of Masonry: Scottish Rite, York Rite Bodies, Craft Lodge, Shrine, Grotto and more. Some items will go on display at Masonic Memorial Temple and others will go to silent auction on May 12 and May 19. Bruce was a generous supporter of the Children's Dyslexia Center; proceeds of this auction will go to the Center in Oriskany. Additional items from Bruce's collection may become available at a future date. (See page 12 for photos of two examples)

The Motorcycle Ride to support the Dyslexia Center is planned for July 27. The ride is open to Scottish Riters, Masons and friends and could be a great way to introduce non-Masons to our Fraternity and Masonic friends to Scottish Rite. The format is a "Destination Ride" to Oriskany. Organize a group, start anywhere convenient to your group and arrive at the Dyslexia Center between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. There will be a DJ and food at the Pavilion on the campus. Find additional information in next month's word and in Valley emails. Three- and four-wheelers are also encouraged.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the officers who have served our Valley over the past two years and to all members who supported our events. I think everyone knows what an emotional roller coaster my personal life has been over this period. A simple "Thank you" seems woefully inadequate acknowledgment. The Scottish Rite Office, officers, Masons and Scottish Riters far and wide continue to ofsupport and encouragement...the purest demonstration of the special Fraternity we belong to. It has been a privilege to serve as Commander-in-Chief and I will continue to support our activities and events.

Finally, our Brother-to-Brother contact: A Core Value is to care for our Brothers. In my opinion, one touch-phone call, email or text-is the absolute minimum to demonstrate a caring attitude. If you signed up to make calls, please complete them soon.

William H. Toth II

Perfection

Greetings, Brothers! I want to thank again all of the cast and others who helped make the 11° an amazing experience for all. It was refreshing to confer it live.

Secondly, I congratulate all those who became 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons during our Degree day in March. I look forward to sharing this experience and Masonic light with all of you at the meetings to come.

As I write this, Easter is around the corner. I hope all who celebrate have an opportunity for time with family and a real celebration. As we enter May, we wrap up another Masonic year. Thanks go to all the officers who go to meetings and volunteer for tasks throughout the year. Without them things would be much more diffi-

If any new Brothers have something they want to be a part of or learn more about, please reach out. We will be happy to assist you with learning and getting into what you enjoy. Be well, my Brothers.

Eric Driscoll

Hospitaler

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

The sad news is that we need to keep the family of Brother Gerald A. Roberts, who passed away on March 24, 2025, in our prayers during this time of sorrow. Other Brothers and families in need of prayer include Heather Scarson, Joel's wife. Brother Tim Page is home recovering from a bad car accident. Brother Harvey Eysman is having many health issues and Brother Jorge Romeu's wife Zoila is still undergoing treatment since September. Ill. Sandy Samson continues to have health problems.

Donations to Brothers in need can be made through the Hospitaler Fund. Note the person to whom they should go. As always, please keep the Valley informed of anyone in distress.

Garry Visconti

Rose Croix

On April 12 the Chapter of Rose Croix had the pleasure of presenting the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. This annual Feast is a moving and solemn memorial service for Brothers we have lost in the past year, honoring their memory and emphasizing the enduring bonds of brotherhood beyond the grave. It is also a ritual of profound introspection and a reflection on themes of sacrifice, resurrection and eternal life. The Paschal Lamb becomes a powerful emblem connecting Masonic thought with ancient Jewish traditions of the Passover lamb and Christian interpretations of Christ

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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

May 2025

May 07 (Wed) "Rite on the Road" — 4° "Builder" 7:30 p.m.; Masonic Memorial Ctr.,

...... N Syracuse.

May 12 Guard's Club Dinner & Annual Meeting 6:15/Central City Bodies Annual Meeting & Election of Officers 7:30 p.m.

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

June 2025

Jun 02..... 2025 – 2026 Organization Meetings 6:15 p.m./AASR Valley Trustees

Allegiance

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

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

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

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

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

as the sacrificial lamb.

In Rose Croix symbolism, the Paschal Lamb represents purity, sacrifice and spiritual renewal. The ritual affirms the immortality of the soul and the triumph of light over darkness. It encourages the living to lead virtuous lives guided by faith, hope and charity—core tenets of the Rose Croix philosophy. Through this observance, Masons are reminded that death is not an end but a transition and that the legacy of a just and upright man endures in the hearts and actions of those he touched.

Ultimately, the Feast of the Paschal Lamb bridges ancient traditions and esoteric teachings with deeply personal reflection. It invites each Mason to contemplate his own mortality, honor those who have passed and renew his commitment to the path of moral and spiritual enlightenment. We hope to see many of our Masonic Brothers join us for the Feast of the Paschal Lamb next year and in future.

Joseph W. Flanagan

Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

As we wrap up another incredible year at the Central New York Children's Dyslexia Center, I reflect on all the wonderful progress our students have made and the experiences we have shared. From the very first page to the final chapter of the year, it has been a journey.

End-of-year assessments are underway as well as post assessment meetings with the families to discuss their child's progress and the plan for next year. Our end-ofthe-year assessments measure each child's progress in decoding, fluency, comprehension and spelling. I am very proud of the children's hard work and the progress they made.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our dedicated tutors. We have two trainees completing their initial certification, two completing their advanced training and two tutors completing their mentor training. We also have three additional tutors working with the children. Our tutors spend countless hours preparing individual lessons tailored to the needs of each child they work with.

In celebration of their achievements we will be holding our End-of-Year Recognition Ceremony at Hart's Hill Inn on June 10. Each child will be recognized for the unique progress he or she has made this year, and we will recognize our hardworking, dedicated tutors.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible generosity and support that our center receives. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the mission of helping all children learn to read and reach their full potential. Your support has played a vital role in enriching the lives of our students.

Marianne Jones

Membership **Dues**

I thank those who have paid their 2025 member's dues and ask those who have not to please pay your 2025 member's dues. The Valley depends upon its members to pay their annual dues prior to March 1 each year. If member's dues are not paid prior to March the Valley must transfer funds from our investments to pay our operating expenses.

If you question the status of your 2024 or earlier dues, or your 2025 member's dues, please contact the Valley office. You may call 315/ 452-7976 or email slsny017@gmail.com or ny017@twcny.rr.com. And if you have lost your member ID card, please notify the office and we will request a replacement.

James D. Swan, Jr.

Communications from the Office

As declared several times, some changes have been implemented at your Office. With the retirement of Sharon Fox, Sharon Swan is now the Administrative Assistant, working with Valley Secretary James D. Swan, Jr. The office hours are the same: Monday to Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. But those planning to visit the office should call before making the trip.

The use of USPS mail has been suspended for cost. Event and meeting notices will be announced by email and sent to the email address we have on record for you. If you wish to change your email address or to be added to the list, please send a message from your current email address or call 315/452-

Note that you will receive these messages from secretary@syr-aasr.org. We intend to discontinue use of ny017@twcny.rr.com.

James D. Swan, Jr.

Annual Meetings Notice

The Central City Guard's Club comes together for dinner and its Annual Meeting at 6:15 p.m. on Monday evening, May 12. I urge every Valley Member and Valley Officers to attend this dinner, at no charge. The menu calls for hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, potato chips and beverages. Reservations are required by May 7.

The Annual Meeting for Central City Lodge of Perfection, Central City Council Princes of Jerusalem, Central City Chapter of Rose Croix and Central City Consistory is Monday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Memorial Center, 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse, NY.

All Valley of Syracuse Scottish Rite Masons were Summoned by official notice to attend this meeting.

If you have any questions about these 2025 Valley of Syracuse Annual Meetings, please contact the Valley office. Phone 315/452-7976 email adminny017@twcny.rr.com, slsny017@gmail.com or ny017@twcny.rr.com.

James D. Swan, Jr.

YORK RITE



ROYAL ARCH MASON

LAKE ONTARIO CHAPTER 165 RAM Oswego Masonic Lodge

765 E. Seneca St. Meets 2nd Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

HP Jeremy Ryder

Greetings, Companions. Fresh off an excellent Grand Chapter session held in Binghamton, many changes are taking place. Lake Ontario No. 165 was awarded the Chapter of Distinction Bachelors award, which is a mark of pride for our Chapter.

We also have some events on the horizon, one being our annual Hands Across the Border event when we will be hosting our Companions from Canada. This will be on September 20. More details will be forthcoming. If you would like to attend please let me know so we can get a headcount for the meals. We have done the virtual Past Master Degree for our Canadian Companions, as they need this to sit in our Chapters here in the US. This is not a requirement for them in Canada.

The cutoff date for the Charity Festive Board is now past. The event is on May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Lake City Lodge. The cost of \$25 includes the payment for the meatloaf dinner. All funds raised go to the Royal Arch Charities. We will also be having a silent auction and again, proceeds go to Royal Arch Charities.

This task has been a labor of love for me personally and even if I were not named the District 12 Charity Chairman, I would have done it anyway. I have seen personally the Companions and families it has helped. I hope to see all of you at one or both of these events.

Jeremy Ryder



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. I was on vacation last month so I do not have a lot to report. We did not have any new recruits this year for the Scotia Pilgrimage. We did order the Challenge coin to raise money for Sir Knight Rick Miori for when he makes Grand Commander.

In April we had two meetings to practice for our upcoming Inspection. At our May 8 meeting we will be holding our election of officers. And we will be having our Inspection on May 22. I would like to get together some time in May for a last minute practice for the Inspection, if possible.

LAKE ONTARIO COMMANDERY 32 KT

EC Jeremy Ryder jerekwlf@aol.com

Lake Ontario Com mandery No. 32, Knights Templar is alive and well in Oswego City. EC Jeremy Ryder and his lady Lisa welcomed approximately fifty Sir Knights, their ladies, families and friends to a pre-Easter celebration at the Asylum, 765 East Seneca Street, Oswego.

Among the honored guests were RE Richard Fowler, Past Eminent Commander and current Zone Commander; RE David Rowling, Grand Representative of the District of Columbia; and E Terry A. Byard, Past Commander of Watertown Commandery No 11, KT. W Eric Hamilton, Worshipful Master of Lake City Lodge No. 127, was also in attendance.

The guests enjoyed a bountiful buffet repast in the dining room from tables which fairly groaned from the amount of food. No one went away hungry. Following the meal, the children had fun hunting for Easter eggs hidden in the dining room area by the Sir Knights.

Eminent Commander Ryder and his officers then presented an Easter program with the theme, "Why did Jesus have to die?"

Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, Knights Templar was chartered on September 6, 1862 with ten charter members. Notable Sir Knights have included ME SK C. Richard Trust; E SK Calvin G. Bond; SK Sheldon Blank; SK the Honorable Thomas M. Costello, member of Congress; SK the Honorable David D. Long, mayor of Oswego; SK Harold Day.

The current line officers are EC SK Jeremy Ryder, Commander; SK James Swan, Jr., Generalissimo; RE Richard Fowler, Recorder/ Treasurer; SK Timothy Zimpfer, Captain General. Current appointive officers are SK James Rizzo, Senior Warden; SK Thomas Duskee, Junior Warden; SK George A. Reed, Prelate. Any Christian Freemason interested in becoming a Knight Templar is urged to contact EC Sir Knight Jeremy Ryder for more infor-

Natalie J. Woodall

mation.



Commander Jeremy Ryder, Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, KT.



PP Joe Peters from Kahlura Shrine visits Media Shrine and hangs with the Easter Bunny at Kietha's

Media **Shrine**

Greetings, Nobles and Masons all! As a Past Potentate I am writing this article on behalf of the Media Shriners Potentate, Illustrious John Zimmer. I hope this writing finds you happy and healthy, enjoying all that our Masonic Fraternity and family have to offer. As you read the word I am sure that you are familiar with these offerings and that many of you are members of some of the other Bodies.

Media Shriners are proud to be a part of this family with a territory stretching from Oswego to Watertown to Massena and elsewhere. We have a large territory and are dedicated to serving it as best we can, even though we are one of the smallest Shrine Centers in Shriners International. While in pursuit of fun, fellowship and philanthropy, we participate in parades, hold events for the community, have fun doing fundraisers and transport patients to Shriners Hospitals for treatment at no cost to them.

We do many parades throughout the year and our Parade Unit, the Fez Riders, leads the way and has a great time doing it. We run our parade participation as a family affair, with spouses and children included whenever possible.

We also do events to benefit our community. Just last year we hosted a Little League Skills Clinic in Oswego County and we cohosted an Easter Egg Hunt this year in Lorraine. We have plans for more things like this in the pipeline. We hold raffles and have had a Duck Derby in the past. This year we are going to host a golf tournament and a bowling tournament.

We do Celebrity Chef fundraisers for the hospitals of Shriners Children's, as well. Check in to future ar-



Past Potentate Gerry Roberts passed away March 24, 2025.

ticles for details on these events as they develop.

As the Shrine Center assigned to Oswego County, we are responsible for the transport of patients in this county, as well as the other counties we are assigned, to the clinics and hospitals of Shriners Children's. This transportation is provided by Media Shriners at no cost to the patient or family. We believe our philanthropy to be the greatest responsibility and privilege we have as Shriners.

When thinking about more ways to be involved in community and philanthropic ventures, while having fun doing it, please consider becoming a Shriner. We would be happy to talk

to you about it. Just email Media Shriners Recorder at mediashriners55@gmail.com. You can also go online to

BeAShrinerNow.com to learn more and fill out a contact form.

Scott Elliott

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ORDER of the **EASTERN STAR**



Onondaga Star 144 Masonic Memorial Center

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. Here we are in May already. Time seems to be flying by now.

On April 15 DDGM RW Patricia Tefoe was scheduled to make her Official Visit to our Chapter. We also were to have the following drawings: Kardia Mobile Red personal EKG raffle tickets that RW Barbara Brooker oversaw and the ham raffle tickets that DGL RW Alfred Tefoe was selling. The writeup for the word is submitted ahead of the month, so I will list the winners in the next submission.

Here are the coming events: May 3 will be the Kentucky Derby Party. We will watch the race and try a mint julep for an additional charge. There will be games, prizes and food. The cost is \$20 per person; please make your reservation. We will be at Memorial Masonic Temple from 4 to 8 p.m.

On May 6 we will be Draping the Altar. The May 20 meeting will Honor Moth-

We wish, Happy Birthday! to our May birthday members. Also, big congratulations go to our members with a May service-year anniversary. I give you my sincere thank-you for your years of service.

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

Bona Fide - Hiawatha -Solvay 567

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

The Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron would like us to thank everyone who attended the calendar party last month. It was a huge suc-

May 8 is Initiation and the DGL's Official Visit. We look forward to his Official Visit and, hopefully, the Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Matron will be scheduled later in the month.

On May 22 we will be having an open meeting and celebrating Masonic Family Reunion night. All area Lodges, Eastern Star, Nile and Concordant Bodies are invited to come and bring a non-member friend. The Triangles will be making a presentation. It should be a great time.

Mark W. Heitmann

PGMs Calvin G. Bond Bruce W. Widger: Thanks

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

My Sisters and Brothers, our golden chain was again broken with the death of W Brother Leo F. Monette on March 25. Leo was Initiated into Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205 on October 7, 2011 and served as Worthy Patron numerous times. He performed his duties admirably and was always eager to assist in any way necessary. Leo habitually had a smile on his face and he thoroughly enjoyed participating in Chapter skits and presentations. He was a wonderful companion and is sorely missed. Requiesce in pace aeterna, mi frater nobilissime. Ave atque vale!

It is said that Man proposes but God disposes and so it was with our planned Official Visit of RW Yvonne Hanshew, District Deputy Grand Matron on April 11. Due to illness in the Chapter the Official Visit has been postponed until Friday, May 9, at the special time of 7 p.m. Notices will go out to all the Chapters.

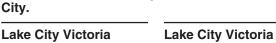
To continue my series of early members of my Chapter, this month I am focusing on the Halsey family. Mary Maud Haight was born on April 3, 1879 in Bernhards Bay, NY, the daughter of Joshua N. Haight and Mary J. Ellis. She had three siblings, Edith, Estell and Claud. Her father, a canal worker, died in 1882 and Maud, as she was generally known, went to live with Dr. and Mrs. Anson Thompson in Ellisburg. She took their surname and in 1900 the census identified her as their adopted daughter. On June 8, 1904 she married Dr. William McDowell Halsey, a local physician.

Dr. Halsey was born in Dryden, NY on August 1, 1879, the son of Dr. William McDowell Halsey and Louisa Maria Woodruff. He attended Cornell University and graduated from Syracuse University's Medical School in 1902. After spending time in Norfolk, VA, Dr. Halsey established a practice in Ellisburg, where he met and married Maud. The couple had two children, Charles Ellis and Jean Louise.

In July 1911 the family moved to Oswego City where Dr. Halsey opened a practice. He and Maud were Initiated into Lake City Chapter No. 352 OES that year. The exact date is unknown. Two years later Halsey served as Worthy Patron. Maud was elected Worthy

Matron for 1920. Both Maud and William were active in Oswego's social and civic life. Maud was a member of Lake City Chapter's Past Matrons' Association. She was a charter member of the Ladies'

> **Lake City Victoria** see 3rd column



Auxiliary of the Oswego YMCA and served as its treasurer for several years. She belonged to the local Medical Auxiliary. The Halseys worshipped in Christ Episcopal Church. Maud was a member of the Philathea ter No. 352. Club and the Circle O Club,

Dr. Halsey was Raised a Master Mason in Oswego Lodge No 127 on December 24, 1901. His other Masonic associations included Lake Ontario Chapter No. 165, RAM, and Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, KT, as well as Media Temple of the Shrine in Watertown.

both church-related organi-

from 2nd column . . .

City.

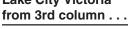
He was active in Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, Fortnightly Club, and the Oswego Country Club. Halsey was an excellent bridge player, winning many tournaments. He frequently offered classes at the YMCA or in his home for those interested in learning to play contract bridge. In 1939 he was elected president of the Oswego County Bridge As-

Professionally, he belonged to the Academy of Medicine, Oswego County Medical Society and the American Medical Association. On August 24, 1918 Dr. Halsey was called to military duty in the US Medical Corps. He was discharged with the rank of Captain on December 6, 1918, after the armistice had been signed.

Dr. Halsey suffered a fatal heart attack on October 27, 1949 while playing in a bridge tournament at the Hotel Pontiac. Maud died on August 29, 1957 at the Beadle Nursing Home following a long illness. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery, Scriba.

Jean Louise Halsey was born in Oswego City on December 8, 1918. She was Initiated into Lake City Chapter OES in 1943. The exact date is unknown. She was married twice, first to David Irving Leland on November 24, 1945 and sec-

> **Lake City Victoria** see 4th column



HALSEY

WILLIAM McD.

William McDowell Halsey and Maude T. Halsey were long-time members in Masonic circles in Oswego

ond, to William Machette in July 1962. She died on August 5, 1985 in Monmouth Medical Center, NJ and her body was cremated. Her obituary stated she was a member of Lake City Chap-

Herbrother, Charles Ellis, born on February 23, 1911 in Ellisburg, became a dentist and had a lengthy practice in Oswego City. He was Raised a Master Mason in Oswego Lodge No. 127 on January 14, 1941 and was elected Worshipful Master for 1945. He was a member and Past High Priest of Lake Ontario Chapter No. 165 RAM and member of Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, KT. He was a member and past Monarch of Whango Grotto.

Gladys Reiner, daughter of George Reiner and Annie Barbara Sponsler, was born in Reiner City, NY in 1911. A graduate of Ithaca College of Music, Gladys was supervisor of music in the Oswego City Schools. She was Initiated into Lake City Chapter No. 352 OES on November 24, 1933 and elected Worthy Matron for 1951. She subsequently served as the Chapter's Musician. Contemporary newspaper accounts reported that she frequently sang at Eastern Star functions. She married Charles E. Halsey on June 19, 1939. Gladys and Charles moved Bowmansville, PA where he practiced dentistry for almost twenty years. After retiring in 1973, he and Gladys moved to Rumbley, MD where he died of an apparent heart attack on March 26, 1978. Gladys died on July 5, 2003. Her obituary stated that she was a life member of Lake City Chapter 352. They are buried in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Upper Fairmount,

More stories are in the works. Stay tuned.

Natalie J. Woodall

Beach Buddies Bulletin

This month's meeting was canceled due to the weather. I would like to remind everyone, however, that we are continuing with our projects and will until the end of July.

A and H series dollar bills are still being collected by Sue Cole. Cathy Barling has the quarter cards and Ann Pennock has the meat raffle tickets (\$5 for one ticket, \$10 for three).

We have raffle tickets for the homemade quilt, also. If

you turn in your bottles and cans and wish to donate that money, Treasurer Sue Cole will be happy to take it. There are a few hoodies and sweat shirts available. Again, see Sue Cole. A filled beach cooler bag is also being raffled.

Future events are in the planning stage. Watch for a boat trip on Skaneateles Lake with dinner afterward and a bowling party.

Evelyn Blovat

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



Tel. (315) 475-1673 Fax (315) 475-1674

Harold H. Greenleaf Jr.

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Page 12 the word May 2025

MAY							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
				Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT Tri-Valley 148	2	3	
4	Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 6 Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Fulton 50 CM Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Lake City Vic 205 OES Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	10	
11	Hamilton 120 12 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Cortland 50KT Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Central City 13 CM 14 Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown Lodge 472	Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	16	17	
18	Jordan 386 19 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of Nile Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Lake City Vic 205 OES 23 Triangle @ Mem	24	
25	Homer 352 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Central City Riverside 70 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Charles H. Platt 247 48 Hannibal 550 Tritown Lodge 472	29	30		

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looking into grants to help subsidize the paper and found we are not a 501(c)3 organization. If any lawyer out there can help it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me.

If any person or Lodge is inclined to help by donating or doing a fundraiser, we would love to hear from you. We welcome any ideas. If you want to go digital we can switch that up for you.

Is anyone interested in buying an ad for your business? Looking back just ten years we were inundated with business ads from Masons and friends of Masonry. We are the only Masonic newspaper in NYS and that is something to be proud of. I have posted pictures of early papers and it has gone from a four-page newsletter to what we have today. I thank all the past Directors of *the* word for what they started here and all those I currently have the pleasure of working with. We are part of a team that is helping over 1700 Masons in our area.

There is only one more paper after this before we go dark for the summer. Send your articles in by May 12 for your June paper so your Brothers know what is going on. Submissions are always due by the 12th of every month (except June and July). Send to <u>zabled@aol.com</u>.

You will read this elsewhere but on April 19 four Brothers were Raised. One of the two from Crossroads I brought into Masonry, as I have known him since he was 12 years old. The other two are from Skaneateles Lodge. It was a great showing of twenty-five Brothers from around the Districts. VW Tim Conover gave the Walking Charge, which I had

never seen before.

We were reminded of our tenets in Freemasonry. In the Third Degree the trowel spreads the cement that binds the stones together and represents the cement of Brotherly Love and Friendship. Sometimes that can get lost when people use their position for gain rather than for the Craft. Brotherly Love must prevail.

I received this thought in an email: "Freemasonry is NOT something to be rushed. It is not a box that needs to be checked off or a title to be earned. It is a journey of self-improvement, knowledge and understanding. Yet today, we often attempt to make a Mason in a single day or rush him through all three degrees in months. Have we forgotten the importance of time and patience in shaping a true Brother?

"Mentorship is very essential in making and keeping a Brother in the craft. With proper guidance a new Mason will progress through the degrees and afterwards in lodge. Otherwise they will never truly understand the meaning of each degree. Therefore leaving him and the lodge unfulfilled. Making them rush to learn each position too soon is not in their best interest. The key: SLOW DOWN when bringing in new Masons.'

My opinion: bring your new Masons to other Lodges so they can sit and see the opening and closing as a guest, travel with them. Masons are known as Travelers. New Masons will benefit by not joining Concordant Bodies right away. I was taught by GM Bruce Widger to learn about Masonry and your Lodge first. The other bodies will then

benefit from your new, gained knowledge.

Every reader should be happy with the number of articles published in the last month. I posted the number of Lodges in each District that wrote articles. We improved everywhere but some Concordant Body leaders and AGLs have not posted at all this year. Our job here is to make sure that every consumer is given all the information needed to be the best he can be. When information is disseminated from your Lodge and District to the 1700 people who receive this paper you will see an increase in your functions, barbecues, fish dinners, Table Lodges, dart leagues and so much more. Some of you do a very good job; we can all do better.

It is with great sorrow that I share that RW Gerry Roberts of Morning Star Lodge and Past Potentate of Tigris Shrine passed away on March 24. Gerry was on the EMESBE Board for many years. He was also Treasurer for the Board of Governors at Springfield Hospital. I was blessed to have Gerry as one of my mentors, with Bruce Widger, Vern Stephens and James Mooney. The respect that these men had in Masonry cannot be measured.

As a Mason I found this to be a great quote. "They want to see what type of person you are. Your character goes with you everywhere you go. It also is there before you go anywhere. Take pride in it.—Nick Saban.

Be the person your children and grandchildren will be proud of. It is never about yourself, it is about doing for others unselfishly and without fanfare.

Brian Courtney

Two artifacts from the collection of MW Bruce Widger. Refer to the Consistory article on page 9 for details.

