



the word

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This think-piece was the lead article in the December 1924 issue of The Builder. It is worth study, and consideration of 100-year parallels—or evolution. Cadman was a Methodist minister, born in the UK in 1864, died in Plattsburgh 1936.—Editor.

A Real Menace

By Bro. S. PARKES CADMAN, D. D., New York

—Dr. Cadman contributed to THE BUILDER for May last an essay so forceful that after these many months special copies of it are still being requested. In the present article Dr. Cadman returns to his attack on sin and unreason and reiterates his appeal to Masons to stand guard over our precious

moral heritage. He is making similar appeals to Masons from the platform every little while; Ye Editor has been urging it upon him to collect these addresses into a volume that they may have the permanence and wide hearing they deserve. Will not Dr. Cadman's admirers in the Brotherhood back Ye

EMESBE

Hello, Brothers all. I hope this paper finds all of you doing well. We at your paper hope you had a very nice Thanksgiving with your families and will have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's celebrations.

Brother Brendan Cowzer from Ireland was here for my wedding and Tigris 2024 Potentate's Ball. If you attended you were able to see him. His lady Sandra and he were only here for two weeks and we were not sure how many Lodges he would be able to visit.

Some good personal news: I became a grandfather again. Young Ms. Courtney is the first female born since 1930 to our clan.

Again, all of us wish all of you the most joyous of seasons. We hope you are able to celebrate with your loved ones. If anyone needs anything please reach out to your Lodge, a Brother or someone else you are close to. We are all here for each other. My motto is "Pay it Forward." Try it and see how

good you feel afterwards. We are a brotherhood like no other.

We have several Lodges that have not paid subscription fees for 2024. Every Lodge will be receiving a bill in December and January for 2024 and 2025. All have received invoices for this year, some more than one. We cannot afford to keep mailing bills monthly to all the Lodges. Please send your check as soon as possible, with a copy of your roster.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and any other holiday you may celebrate, my Brothers. And Happy New Year! Keep our Military, Police and First Responders in your thoughts and prayers. Remember that they may be away from their loved ones while you are celebrating the holidays with your loved ones. Think of this: "The sweetest of all sounds is praise."—Xenophon.

Brian Courtney

Editor in this effort to persuade so busy a man to add yet one more obligation to his many duties? A review of his latest book was published in the Library Department, September of this year, page 285.—

TIME was when the secret societies of Continental Europe were organizations that wove plots about the feet of tyrannical rulers who sniped treason everywhere. Although the majority of such rulers have vanished, and those who remain are shorn of their power, the traditional enmity between them and secret societies persists, and differentiates English speaking Masonry from that of the European Continent. The Royal House of Windsor has been identified with our Order for nearly two centuries. It is an accepted procedure for one or more of the princes of that house to enroll as a Mason. King Edward VII, before he came to the throne, was the Grand Master of the Order in Britain. The Duke of Connaught now holds that office, if my memory serves me correctly, and the Prince of Wales belongs to the Fra-

ternity as a matter of course. The leading citizens of every shire in Great Britain follow the example of these princes who, although limited in politics by a strictly interpreted constitutionalism, have great influence in the social life, not only of Great Britain but of the Empire.

In a recent history of Secret Societies and Subversive Movements Mrs. Nesta H. Webster infers that while conspiracies and plottings against the established government in church and state are congenial to the secret societies among continental peoples, those societies are nothing more than fraternal and loyal organizations so far as we and our English speaking brothers are concerned. Indeed, this talented authoress goes so far as to assert that our type of Freemasonry and the Roman Catholic Church are the two chief bulwarks of faith and morals against assaults from the secret and open forces of disruption. This theory will not commend itself to many of my readers, any more than to many Christians of the Roman Catholic persuasion.

Yet there is something to be said in its favor since both Masons and many Roman Catholics, along with the bulk of Protestants generally, are conservative in their attitude on ethical and religious issues. None who maintain a firm belief in God as the Father of all men, and in the Bible as the Great Light of Masonry and of mankind can be anything else but conservative in view of the present welter of opinions publicly paraded and detrimental to the whole structure of our culture as a nation.

An attack is made upon marriage in particular, and the accepted codes of sex morality in general, by those who have a common and utterly foreign point of view. The leaders of this invasion come in the main from Eastern and Central Europe, but they have recognized allies in English speaking lands, who ridicule faith in another and a Higher Power - self existent, independent, absolute, from whom all true religion and virtue alike proceed. They are materialists to a man and not a few literary women are included in

their ranks. Samuel Merwin, the well-known American novelist, declares that these propagandists are "Freudian in morals, futurists in painting, cacophonously suggestive in music, perverse in literature, Bolsheviks in politics." One does not have to admit all the articles of this sweeping indictment, but it gives Masons food for serious reflection. So long as many earnest brethren among us are liable to misdirect their reformative energies the real antagonists of social wellbeing are likely to elude them. It can be said of some of these brethren that,

"Twice they vanquish all their foes

And twice they slay the slain."

While putting up men of straw for the sheer pleasure of knocking them down again may fascinate Masonic brethren of a certain kind, the foes they should defeat occupy strategic positions in journalism, and in the republic of letters, from which they disseminate a considerable quantity of filth.

A Real Menace ...
see page 2

Memorial Welcomes Researcher from MMRI

The Brothers of Memorial Lodge No. 648 invite Masons and guests to their meeting on Thursday

evening, January 23. The Lodge is located at the Memorial Masonic Center, 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse, NY. The evening kicks off with a dinner at 6:30 p.m.

RW James D. Swan, Jr., a member of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI), says, "We will move into the Lodge meeting room for a presentation on the subject of 'Lupus Research at the Masonic Medical Research Institute.' Dr. Samantha LeSommer, a research scientist at MMRI, will present a program and answer questions regarding the MMRI and Lupus Research."

Reservations for the dinner and to attend the meeting are required. Please reserve with RW Gary S. Hartman, Memorial Lodge Secretary, by email to g.hartman@twcny.rr.com or phone at 315/706-3533.

Mentor

Hello, Brethren. Sometimes wonderful things occur unexpectedly. This happened a couple of weeks ago when I received email from RW LaRocco, Director of the Grand Lodge Livingston Library, requesting volunteers to open "Library Presentation Franchises" in Albany, Buffalo and Rochester. I applied, suggesting the Library open a franchise in Syracuse. Bro. LaRocco agreed and now our Group Exploring Lodge-Community activities has found its first, important task.

Library franchises would allow groups of Lodges in these Upstate cities to organize public talks about Freemasonry, similar to the ones offered each month by the Library in Grand Lodge. These talks are filmed and become excellent material to use in Lodge learning and discussion. Its videos can be found in: <https://www.youtube.com/@thechancellorrobertliving4946/featured>.

RW LaRocco's vision for such franchises consists in the creation of Masonic Centers around the State that allow both Brothers and the public to attend live lectures without having to travel to Grand Lodge. RW LaRocco's aim is to create a community of education, inquisitiveness and enlightenment, open to the public. This may help bring new members (recruitment) as well as promote discussions among current Masons, which may help improve retention. These are the same goals our Group Exploring Lodge-Community events has been pursuing for the last several months. It is natural that we use this opportunity to establish our first public event.

During our Group Zoom, RW Brother David Barnello described how their Lodge sponsored a program with the high school to give some scholarship money to a student. The Lodge requested to be involved in the student selection process, which was denied by the school. The Lodge then requested to be involved in the student award presentation, which was also denied. It was evident that the school wanted the scholarship money but not anything else from the Lodge.

Several of us have had similar experiences when dealing with non-Masons. This may be a consequence of an atmosphere of distrust of Freemasonry, among some, that inhibits them from interacting with us. For some outsiders or profanes, we Freemasons are a group of weird and secretive people that they will not trust. Sometimes it stems from religious indoctrination; at others, from sheer ignorance. This gives us a very good reason to develop Lodge-Community activities. We need to educate the broader community about what the Craft really is. By offering library presentations about Freemasonry, open to the public, we may be working toward such an objective.

Brothers interested in volunteering to present a topic appropriate for such an open activity, of about half an hour long, should please join our Lodge-Community Zoom meetings. You may also contact me at matresearch@cortland.edu with a title and a brief program description. We must attempt to give our first presentation in the near future, so current Library, and Grand Lodge enthusiasm does not wane.

Finally, our Presidential Election is over. We have both a new President (Trump) and a divided country. This difficult situation creates another opportunity for the Craft that we should be ready to seize. I always remember (and warmly admire) Brother Benjamin Franklin, who once said during similar divided times: "We must, indeed, all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

Freemasonry is the Institution of Brotherly Love. We preach and stand for Love of Country, Service to Humanity and Tolerance. They are not just nice mottos, but important values that we Masons live by. There is much need for all these virtues out there. By sharing them with others in the broader community, we will be contributing both to our country and our institution.

Jorge L. Romeu



ONONDAGA DISTRICT

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

DDGM



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

Greetings, Brethren. I write this at the last minute of the last day—translation, November 12 just before midnight. It seems that remembering to write the article can be a greater challenge than writing the article.

As we transition from remembering our veterans to celebrating our holidays, I look forward to the Official Visits at Liverpool Lodge on December 2 and Tully Lodge on December 12 (which should wrap up the visits for the Masonic year). I would like to thank the Lodges visited to date for their generosity and brotherhood.

By the time you read this our Grand Lecturer's Convention and District-wide Table Lodge/Apron presentations will have been, hopefully, successful and enjoyable. Thanks go to the Brothers who do the behind-the-scenes work, especially our old timer DDGM Dan Campis.

The District Team and I wish everyone a happy holiday season. Until we meet on the level, as always.

Toby Shelley

Past DDGM Oswego Dist. John F. Tanner

the word

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VW Rick Miori

VW Carlton Jackson

VW John Bromka

VW Todd Platten

No News Received

Staff Officer from 2nd column . . .

ciency.

My Brethren, numerous opportunities await those seeking further light in Masonry and the Grand Lodge will persist in offering educational resources, both in-

person and online. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone should you wish to engage in any or all these opportunities.

Adam Novak

Event schedule, Dec '24

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

- Dec 2 LivSyr—OV
- Dec 3 FayCC—3°
- OnStar—Jr PM/PP
- Dec 4 Skaneateles—1°
- Callimachus—Annual/History of Lodge
- Nortrip @ Clear Path
- Dec 5 Auburn
- ErieCanal
- CentSq
- Dec 8 LkCityVic—Christmas
- Dec 12 Memorial—3°
- BonaFide—Open meeting/Party
- Nortrip—Annual
- Tully—OV
- Dec 14 BonaFide—Breakfast with Santa
- Nortrip—Christmas
- Dec 17 FayCC—Ham Dinner
- OnStar—Christmas Cookie
- Dec 18 Skaneateles—Christmas
- Callimachus—Mixed Table Lodge
- Tigris—Elect
- Dec 19 ErieCanal—Holiday Party
- CentSq—Annual
- Centerville—Christmas
- Dec 27 CMDist—St. John's Festive Board
- Dec 28 OnonOES—Holiday Party

- Jan 7 OnStar
- Jan 10 Auburn—Family Christmas
- Jan 15 Skaneateles—Conclude 1°
- Jan 16 Auburn—2°
- Jan 23 Memorial—MMRI Lupus

We have enjoyed the musings of Editor Haywood on many other occasions. This is from The Builder magazine, December 1924.—Editor.

God Is Light

By Bro. H. L. HAYWOOD, Editor

The man who is abroad at night-fall sees a profound change come over the world. The distance grows purple; orange and red settle about the nearer hills; a mist creeps up the valleys, and earth and sky grow strangely beautiful. After a little, red, orange and purple change to a deep gray; the horizon grows black; nearer things begin to fade away, until at last nothing at all remains visible. A darkness almost solid envelops everything, even the mind, so that the mountain which a little while ago filled up half the sky is now as if it were not; there is no dis-

tance: there is nothing left but a sensation of blackness. The man gropes slowly along; he stumbles against boulder and ruts; he cannot find his path; he grows confused and afraid; the home toward which he was making his way is now lost in some unknown direction. He is compelled to lie on the ground lest he inadvertently walk over some bank and fall to the rocks below.

After interminable hours, day breaks again. Light comes. Once again he can

God is Light ... see page 3

A Real Menace from page 1

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CAUSE ALARM

I am not an alarmist nor have I lost my trust in the healthy mindedness of the average American, but recent abominations upon the part of young criminals are but the sinister indications of a widespread mischief wrought by non-moral writers and publicists who take advantage of our freedom to sap its foundations. Croce, the best philosopher of the Latin people, is alive to this evil. He defends monogamous marriage, not only as the responsible and disciplinary act which insures the continuance of parenthood, but as the legitimate and necessary fulfillment of one of the noblest functions of human beings. It is superfluous for me to undertake its defense in these columns, which are dedicated to its sanctity and to that of the family. Our Order has enacted excellent regulations bearing upon a Mason's conduct in all questions relating to domestic security and peace.

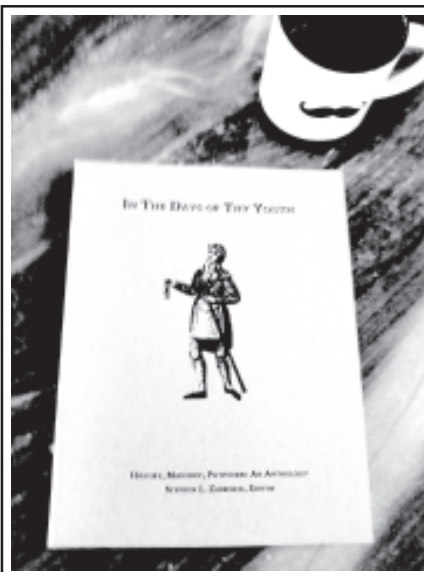
But the shameless exhibitions I have mentioned, the demoralizations of a debauched drama, the tolerated paganism of clever paragraphists of the press, the scandalous escapades of those wretched creatures, rich or not rich, who occupy the front pages of the press and supply its daily sensation, require far more drastic treatment than Masonry as a working system has yet introduced. It is high time for those who still believe in the Theism of Israel, in the Christianity of Christ, in the obligations of morals, and in the fundamentals of our individual and national life, to awaken out of their fatuous slumber. Their enemies are in the field and there is nothing secret about their operations. They produce and defend conscienceless assassins. Their outer fringe of sentimentalists who oppose the penalties attached to capital crimes unwittingly aid and abet them.

What can Masons do practically to resist this contagion? They can be active in detecting its symptoms in cults, groups, lecturers, pressmen, columnists, and "high brows" who ridicule the plain morals we profess. Once these symptoms are

manifested, it is the fore-sworn duty of every Mason to cut them out of his life and that of his family; and reject the papers, magazines and books that print this erotic rubbish. Disregard those subtle pleas about eugenics and psychoanalysis and the brilliant imagination and enthralling style which are nothing more nor less than briefs for personal uncleanness and social degradation.

You hear or read in the prevalent clamor of talk that men and women have the right to express themselves in any way that instinct and impulse may urge. It is said that to repress these instincts and impulses is contrary to life's best estate. The hogs of the sty, had they reason and speech, would echo such pleas and arguments. But the men and women whom we have known in our homes and churches, in our cities and towns, and upon the farmsteads of the country sides are not prepared to surrender the America they have inherited from God-fearing ancestors to Orientalized barbarians. They abhor the turpitude and lust, half concealed and half revealed by advocates whose backgrounds lie in moral anarchy. They feel that the decency we associate with our wives and mothers must be passed on to our sons and daughters undefiled by this river of death.

Those English speaking Masons who were wise enough years ago to reject affiliation with Continental lodges that were and are largely atheistical and political have been abundantly justified. Some of the sickening results of that mongrelized system, which is neither truly Masonic nor religious, have been transplanted to our shores. Brotherly love, truth, relief of suffering, defense of the real values of life still make us strong in the Deity who ordained them to resist the onslaught now being made, and if nation-wide Masonry undertakes the effective rebuke of its dirty crusades it will earn the renewed gratitude of our citizenship and insure its own causes.



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.

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Fayetteville Central City Lodge 305 presented a certificate and apron for 65 years of service to Brother Eric Thresh on November 7. The photo shows, l to r, Secretary Craig Cobb, Eric Thresh and Brother Bill Thresh (Eric's son).

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

Season's Greetings to you all. May you and your family enjoy this very special time of the year.

December 3 will be a Third Degree night at the Lodge. The meeting will start promptly at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for a pulled pork dinner served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Make your reservation with Craig at 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net by Sunday, December 1.

A holiday ham dinner will be served on December 17 at 6:30 p.m. This cost is \$10. Reserve with Craig by Sunday, December 16. This dinner is open to all. Our Ladies of the Lodge will be our special guests that evening. Musical entertainment will follow the dinner. Please come and enjoy.

Remember the Brotherhood Fund. Have a very safe and happy New Year. We hope to see you in Lodge.

Joe Flanagan

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

It is my hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving. Most of us eat too much and overdose on football. Now comes the most joyous of seasons. It is my wish for you for a wonderful, peaceful and prosperous end of 2024 and beginning of 2025.

In news of our Lodge, Brother Rick Pickert has informed me he desires to resign his position as our Lodge Treasurer. This will become effective as soon as possible. RW Kevin Parker has agreed to step up and fill the position until spring elections are held. On behalf of Memorial Lodge I thank Rick for his service and wish him the best.

Please contact RW Gary Hartman or me with any news

Memorial
see 2nd column

Memorial
from 1st column . . .

concerning any Brother or family member in sickness or distress; and we like good news even better. Speaking of good news RW Kevin Parker and his wife Kelly have purchased a new home and are now living in Cicero.

In December we will doing the Third Degree on the 12th. I will be calling many of you for help to do the Degree in the best of traditions.

I will be promoting at every meeting our efforts to provide a more joyful season for our community by participating in the food and toy drives headed by W Brother Peter Rompf. Peter plans to work with our Sisters of Centerville Chapter No. 185 to increase the impact of our efforts.

I have to clarify an upcoming event on December 28. The Trestleboard is a bit misleading. There is a holiday party that is sponsored by the Onondaga District of the Order of the Eastern Star. It is a dish-to-pass meal with a pound auction to follow. Everyone is welcome.

Mark your calendar for January 23. That meeting, organized by RW Jim Swan, will be one of the highlights of the year. It will be a meeting open to all as a public service. The guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Samantha Le Sommer. She will be speaking on the research being done at the MMRI on the disease of lupus. The evening will start with a dinner. Memorial Lodge will treat all who attend as our guest. Reservations will be mandatory.

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. I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. With November behind us December will be another busy month for our Lodge.

On December 4 we will meet at Clear Path at 10:00

Nortrip
see 3rd column

Nortrip
from 2nd column . . .

a.m. as we will once again volunteer our time serving lunch to our veterans. The annual Lodge Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 14 at the home of Sharon and Mark LaFountain from 2 to 4 p.m. Also in December Nortrip's Annual Business Meeting will be held on December 12. Oyster chowder will be served at 6:30 p.m. Remember that this is our only meeting this month.

Sharon and I would like to wish all of you a merry Christmas and happy New Year. We hope everyone will be able to spend some time with family and friends.

Mark LaFountain

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

WM John Covell



Brethren, we had a good turnout of nine members attend the Official Visit of DDGM Tobias Shelley to Morning Star Lodge No. 524 on November 4. A catered roast beef dinner by Northschorty Catering was enjoyed by all. The camaraderie was excellent and the messages from the DDGM, Staff Officer and the AGLs were well received.

We had a busy November. November 19 was the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Jordan Lodge. The topic of the evening was the First Degree up to the Obligation. As we will be doing the First Degree shortly, it was good to have a good turnout for this event.

For our regular meeting on November 20 we hosted several Brothers from a Lodge near Scranton, PA. The topic was NY vs. PA Freemasonry. On November 22 we attended the District Table Lodge/Apron Presentation at Barbagallo's Restaurant in East Syracuse. Our

Skaneateles
see 4th column

Skaneateles
from 3rd column . . .

DDGM Toby officially received his apron and a good turnout of Brothers supported him. Wives and significant others were encouraged to come to this event.

On November 23 we turned out for a Masonic funeral for Brother Dick Marchand. The venue was the Skaneateles Methodist Church.

On December 1 we will practice for the First Degree at 1:00 p.m. On December 4 we will confer the First Degree at 7:30 at Skaneateles Lodge. We will hold the Historical Lecture and the Whys and Wherefores for a later date.

December 18 is the Christmas Party at the Lodge, beginning at 6:00 p.m. A prime rib dinner is to be prepared by Chef Tyde.

For January 1, no meeting. Happy New Year! The January 15 meeting brings the conclusion of the First Degree with the Historical Lecture and Whys and Wherefores by RW Bill Toth.

I am thinking of all Brothers, their wives, family and friends. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Eve/Day.

John Covell

God is Light from page 2 ...

see things as they are. The sky is no longer a blackness but a great blue depth in which gray clouds float by. Each common thing becomes itself again; the tree is a tree, the rock is a rock, the mountain stands where it did before. The traveler now walks swiftly along, without fear of losing his way, because he sees here and there beyond him the familiar landmarks by which he guides himself to his home. Such is light. It enables one to see things as they really are; it helps one to find the path home; it restores to a man his own world.

God is light. What the sun does for a world lost in night, God does for the human mind. In the mere thought of Him the darkness lifts; we see things as they are, and not as in a mirage; we find the path that "leads us thither where we wish to go"; we walk and live in certainty, in confidence, and therefore in peace. The man who walks through a world which he believes to be a blind, dead thing, composed of unliving forces and indifferent energies, where the human soul itself is the strange result of a chain of chances, where his very being rests in the keeping of forces to which it means no more than a fly on the highway, that man must necessarily live in uneasiness and fear, ever afraid lest the blow

fall and he cease to exist, ever doubting his own senses, ever looking forward from catastrophe to catastrophe. To such a one God comes as a great light. All things fall into normal proportions; the ground grows solid beneath his feet; he treads the path before him with confidence. God in Himself is light. He understands everything there is. Unlike us, He is such by His nature that He does not need to feel His way about, blindly putting out one hand before the other, puzzled and alarmed; but He is perfectly at home with the universe. Under every conceivable circumstance, He knows immediately what to do, and is able to do it. There is no great sphinx to Him, no appalling enigma; all is broad daylight, and He knows each and everything as it really is. The meaning of this world, the outcome of the human race, the purpose of suffering, the mission of death, the future of us all, these things bear down upon our minds like a great weight, but to Him they are all as plain as the ground beneath one's feet at noon time. Some men live like passengers who have no confidence in the captain's ability to handle a ship; their fears rob every moment of its joy. They should learn that there is no possibility of God's failure. To Him the good ship Earth, every atom of it, every passenger upon

it, and every inch of the Great Deep over which that "divine ship" sails, is as clearly known as if it were all transparent glass. For to Him there are no puzzles, no mysteries, no fears, no dreaded outcomes, but everywhere the clarity, the certainty, the calmness of daylight, because He is Himself light.

When I am most harassed and driven, I like best to think of God. It heals the hurts of my mind to feel that the One who knows the most about all things is the One who does not fear or worry. It makes me believe that if I lived in such light I also would have no fears either, but would endure a little while, knowing that sooner or later all things will make for our peace. When I once found myself very close to death, it gave me great ease of heart to know that my own being was in the keeping, not of an aggregation of helpless and blind energies, but of One who was as easily able to care for me, to carry me through the Great Experience, as I had been, in the days of health to carry my own babe across the room.

CLASSIFIEDS

Compliments
VW Norman Kruth
VW Joshua Kruth
VW Aaron Kruth

Chuck Toombs
Past
Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu
Past Master
Liverpool Syracuse

Tom Ostrander,
Sponsor
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Editor's Prerogative

Dependence: Strong Bond

Sometimes Masons promote their charitable efforts as though they were the only ones who make those sacrifices. Not so. From a position of generous wealth or a strained devotion to a favorite cause, it takes all kinds. I venture to say that no one, billionaires included, can put something into every outstretched hand, no matter how taken he is with a particular request. Remember the Biblical story of the Widow's Mite. Jesus did not scorn those who gave from their abundance, neither did He salute them; but He had a special blessing for the woman who gave in her poverty.

We have to choose and we make choices sometimes based on personal connection to a charity, for calculated reasons if we endorse the mission, from a sense of guilt that we must support it. If we belong to a group we may buy in to the group's favorite charitable objectives. Or, think of some of the things that move us as individuals: our veterans and the reverence, appreciation and love in which we hold them. We honor their contributions by ours.

These are great motivations, personal and corporate;

and they must be voluntary—that is the charity part. There should never be coercion. The impulse to give to another is universal. It is the remembered characteristic of the Kabbalist's Creative Force, of which we aim to partake. It is the DNA of the brotherhood of man in the family whose Father is God and—guess what—it exists outside of the Masonic Fraternity. That is not a thing of which to be jealous if you are a Freemason, but another thing to be celebrated. It is something else that reinforces the value of the Craft as part of the fabric of general society. We should consider, how can the individual activities of the multitude of Lodges and the larger efforts of the Grand Lodge fit into, complement and lift up all the worthy projects of our world?

There are those, to be sure, and probably in large numbers, who do not feel or who resist this pouring-out impulse. Who can say why? It may simply be the attitude that my dollars are mine; let somebody else feed the pot. But it might nevertheless be the case that these resisters are the first ones to rush to the aid of their fellows in distress. Their charitable work translates to the expense of physical energy and emotional comfort, and that is immeasurable.

From a certain Degree: "It might have pleased the great Creator of Heaven and earth to make man independent of all other beings...." What follows is a big "but." We are made dependent on each other for protection and support and that

leads us into love and friendship. The connections we enjoy are about so much more than the dollars we share.

Our local transfer site has a collection jar at the point of purchase of bag stickers. The voluntary donations every week support a local food pantry. The only thing these donors have in common, our only connection is that we are generators of waste. Our area population is a vast metabolic and digestive system: we consume goods and we produce stuff we have to dispose of. Yet, this is a powerful if unlikely bond in itself. There is community in dropping now and then a couple of anonymous bucks, or a fiver or ten, knowing a sense of satisfaction in participation for a good cause.

It is not for Freemasonry to suggest for itself an exalted position in the field of charitable works but to claim its place as a respected and appreciated partner in the help, aid and assist business. Do not talk to me of Giving back or Time, talent and treasure. These are trite and lazy and insulting expressions. And besides, we—all of us—do it because that is who we are. We should care little for recognition. But we do, rightly, acknowledge the brotherhood and community baked into executing a project, pouring out of ourselves for a deserving charity.

Stephen L. Zabriskie

For the Seekers amongst us, be careful what you wish for. (An apologue is a moral fable.) From The Builder issue December 1924.—Editor.

The Eclipse of the Heavenly Brightness

An Apologue

By Bro. DONALD HUGHES, California

MASTER OF THE SECRET - My son, it has now been many years since first you sought us out in our Hidden School. You arrived at the end of a weary day, worn and disconsolate, with the burden of a great search upon you.

AN APPRENTICE - I came from a place very far away. From my childhood I had cherished the great fear of death. The Tragedy of the End was one I dared not to confront. The wise told me that if I sought you out you would teach me how to escape death. I have learned the Great Secret. My feet are now on a path that has no ending. Mornings will break and evenings will fall forever, but I shall heed them not. My friends will never be called upon to weep above my grave. My gratitude for your wisdom is more than I can express.

MASTER - And are you now satisfied? Is there not something else to be desired in the cup of your happiness?

APPRENTICE - Nothing. What more could I wish? Endless life is mine; is not a man's joy complete after he has put the Shadow behind him?

MASTER - Perhaps. Your feet have indeed found the Path that has no Ending. Is there not something you may wish to find as you journey along it?

APPRENTICE - What could there be? I shall start upon it at dawn tomorrow, with no fear before me.

MASTER - If that be your intention, my son, let me then have this last hour with you, before the dusk falls. Even in so short a time it is possible that I can teach you another wisdom. Let us follow this path a little on which we now stand. See, it leads among the hills toward the mountain that has overlooked the valley in which you have been abiding with us these many years. You will notice that as we leave the village behind us we meet with no more gardens. A garden is a man's out-of-doors home.... Now we find

the trees thinning away; like us they crave for companionship.... Here the shrubbery begins to grow more sparse; there is little soil upon these heights.... At last the grass fails us; its tender blades demand more than these naked rocks can give them.... And now we have reached the summits where only eagles are at home.... You start with surprise!

APPRENTICE - Yes, I had always supposed this to be the outermost sentinel of a chain of snowy peaks.

MASTER - No, it is only the wall of our valley. You are taken aback to find the immensity of this high plateau before you?

APPRENTICE - It appears to be endless.

MASTER - It is. Those flat reaches stretch on forever.

APPRENTICE - But the sky is boundless with blue and golden splendor!

MASTER - It is a land where no birds sing.

APPRENTICE - But it is very beautiful. There are no shadows upon it. Its floor is like a carpet of beaten brass!

MASTER - It is a land of little rain.

APPRENTICE - It is immensity itself, filled with magnificent distances!

MASTER - You would not come upon a house were you to walk across it through countless days. You would encounter no pilgrims upon that road which lies across it.

APPRENTICE - The road! I had not seen it before! It loses itself in the horizons. One might think it had been laid along the edge of a rule. Whither does it lead?

MASTER - It is the Highway of Endlessness. It leads nowhere. It is upon that road that you are to begin your journey tomorrow. What would you say if you were to walk along it through numberless life-times without meeting another being like yourself? what if you never came upon a human habitation? how would you feel if you were to find yourself with nothing except the knowledge that your path

will never come to an end?

APPRENTICE - Master! That would be an eclipse of the Heavenly Brightness!

MASTER - Yes. But you asked for nothing else. You came to us with only one fear—the fear of the Tragedy of the End; you had only one desire—that no night should ever fall upon your existence; you made only one request of our wisdom—that we should teach you the Secret of Endless Existence.

APPRENTICE - I have learned the Great Secret.

MASTER - Yes, but it has not given you the joy you expected. Why not begin your journey at once? The Road is at your feet.

APPRENTICE - Master! Master!

MASTER - You are filled with a tumult of new fear and apprehensions. The prospect

In The Builder of December 1924 appears this sweet little poem. It reads well aloud and a Brother might want to try it in Lodge.—Editor.

THE THREE DEGREES

BE BRO. DAVID S. LOFTHOUSE, Canada

Entered Apprentice

WHEN, by a word, the Architect divine,
Called into being this vast universe,
He also formed, with wonderful design
Man, in His likeness, upright and averse
From doing aught his destiny to mar.
But darkness came and man till time shall end
Must struggle upward, waging endless war
Against the foes that constantly attend.

When his uncertain chequered life began,
The choice was his to make that life sublime,
For, as a builder, 'tis his lot to plan
And raise a building till the end of time.
The edifice, if well-constructed, stands
A great and grand memorial of hours
Well spent, a monument built up by hands
Strained to the very utmost of their powers.

For life is not stagnation; how debased
The limpet's mean existence, such a fate
For him who, by the Great Designer, placed
To forge toward highest heaven were to rate
Him of a servile nature not his own.
True actions, high ideals, firm resolves,
By these man's truest character is shown
And prove he, from the hand of God, evolves.

Fellowcraft

The finer, rarer qualities of soul and mind
Demand insistently that they be not denied
That which is theirs by right, and so they seek to find
Some noble thought, some splendid imagery, wide
As the widest sea; or as the loftiest hill
Majestical, clear as a limpid, crystal stream:

lers toward the Light.

MASTER - They are, and more. They are a Hidden Brotherhood that has learned the secret of Labor and Refreshment. But they are more even than that. They possess a Great Wisdom for which you are now greatly hungered. It is the mighty need of your nature for their wisdom that causes your unhappiness.

APPRENTICE - What is their Great Wisdom?

MASTER - It is the knowledge of the Divine Geometry. The Brethren of the Mystic Tie long ago discovered the dimensions of the Holy City of Man. They learned, as you have learned, the lesson of the Mystic Twenty-Four Inch Gauge, that existence is endless; but they learned other lore to

which you are a stranger. They know the secret of the Square, that life must have breadth, else its mere length would drive us insane; and of the Plumb, that life must have height and depth, else it is thin and poor, with no satisfaction for our hearts. What will it profit a man to travel the Road of Endlessness if his soul is eaten out with loneliness all the way!

APPRENTICE - I find myself weighed down with a new ignorance. Is it too late for me to turn back?

MASTER - To one who has learned the Secret of Endlessness it is never too late. Let us then return to our brethren. Their road is not a bleak and unbroken infinity, but winds and winds, with many a halt, and, many a hill, and countless feet upon it.

Or as a summer night, silent profound and still
Or as the fleeting fancies of a wondrous dream.

So from the Halls of Science comes a stirring cry,
And Nature, with a face now frowning, now all smiles,
Invites to contemplation of the earth and sky;
Of this so complex life, its arts and earning wiles,
Its riddle, vast, inscrutable, unfathomed still
Despite the learning and the wisdom of the years,
Despite philosophy, research or thought, or skill,
Incomprehensible, stupendous as the spheres.

And thus, forever, through the corridors of time
The mysteries of Nature and of Science, hid
From all but noble minds attuned to the sublime,
Make their imperious demand, and heard amid
Clam'rous, intruding tongues, compel attentive thought
And contemplative study; yielding rich requite
To those who, knowing wisdom to be hardly bought
Yet fail not in pursuit of all pervading light.

Master Mason

Darkness, the Grave and Death; three dreaded foes
Confront and threaten mortals from their birth,
Invading palaces and halls of mirth,
Respecting not the humblest cot; for those
Who, lost within a labyrinth of woes,
Oppressed by visible obscurity,
Yet seek to penetrate futurity,
A radiant luminary shines and glows:
Its rising gives unto the faithful peace,
Its ardent rays dispel the deepest gloom;
The burdened heart finds comfort and release
From haunting visions of impending doom:
Threats which the King of Terrors hurls, now cease,
The shining star illuminates the tomb.

Shriners from page 10 . . .

appointments, rehabilitation services (physical, occupational and speech therapy), motion analysis, radiology, orthotic and prosthetic services and care management. When needed, Shriners Children's medical staff performs surgeries at a nearby affiliate location.

We are closing in on a century of care in Springfield. I submit to you that it might be an appropriate time to recommit ourselves to supporting this facility. There are seventeen Temples in the Springfield catchment area who have together raised \$490,428.36 (as of September 9, 2024) for an average of \$28,848 per Temple. The vast majority of this money does not come from the pockets of individual Shriners or from the Temple treasury. Rather, it is Temples either soliciting local area business to sponsor an event benefiting Shriners Children's New England or Temples organizing large community events such as the Lobster Bowl and Maple Sugar Bowl, sponsored by Maine Temples and Vermont/New Hampshire Temples, respectively.

I assure you that giving attributable to Tigris is well below the average. I just feel that as a Temple, and perhaps as a coalition of NY Temples, we could do more. Thank you again for the opportunity to represent Tigris on the Springfield Board.

Bill Toth



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

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

Tigris

Happy Christmas, Nobles and Ladies. We hope all of you were able to spend time with your family and loved ones for Thanksgiving. I have no family locally and I have spent my holidays alone, as some of you have, so I know how hard it can be. I hope you were able to share it with someone.

This year I was able to have family with me as I recently got married and my grandson was in town. Lady Tami and I were married on

Veterans Day, November 11 at 11:11 a.m.—the exact time the Armistice was signed to end WWI. As a veteran, it seemed fitting to honor my time serving my country, the comrades I served with and others who served or are serving now.

Lady Tami has followed me around the country, missing only one engagement all year. I thank Tami for her constant encouragement over the year. From Reno, NV to Toronto and Buffalo we have hit them all. From the Damascus Shrine's Ball in Rochester to NYC to make our pilgrimage to the Mecca #1 Shriner's Ball, we went to Springfield, MA for the Cheers for Children Fundraiser and to the Media's Ball in Alexandria Bay. One weekend alone involved a 750-mile round trip. All the while, we spread the word of Shrinedom.

In all the places our Potentate travels to he solidifies Tigris Temple with the others and keeps the communication open to work with all of them. I have done that with this year's Potentates around the state and have enjoyed working with all of them. I thank the NYOSA (New York Ontario Shrine Association) Potentates. It was sincerely a pleasure working with all of them.

A position has opened up as an Associate Member on the Board of Governors at Springfield Hospital. I would like to put my name in for

consideration for this position starting in January 2025. This will be up to the members to decide at our next meeting.

Tigris participated in our Veterans Day parade this year under the care of Noble Ralph Haney III. I could not be there as I was out of town to pick up our Irish Ambassador Brendan coming in from Ireland.

Our trunk or treat was a huge hit this year. It just keeps getting bigger and better. Thanks go to Noble Joel Scarson. Our 12 Days of Christmas is in full swing. By the time you get this, ticket sales will be closed (deadline November 30). Winners will be announced from December 1 to the 12th.

According to another Mason, I speak of the Shrine a lot. Yes I do, but that is not all I speak of. I talk about the most important one of all, our Blue Lodge. Why? Because without them the Shrine would not exist. Be there for your Blue Lodge, Brothers.

Under sickness and distress, please keep Noble Ben Lees in your prayers. He had an extended stay in the hospital and is home recuperating now. Keep all who are sick in your prayers, please, along with Heather Scarson.

There was no meeting in November and we will see you on December 18. This will be the night for Shrine elections. A meal will be planned.

November 13 was our Bull Session. I looked forward, more than you can imagine, to cooking for those Past Potentates who attended.

I said last month and have to repeat a thank-you to those volunteers (Shriners and Ladies) who have helped out all year, especially at Bingo. Between surgeries and recovering from other issues, and with Potentate duties out of town, I have missed a lot at home. I even missed some out-of-town events because of sickness. It is too bad that not a lot of our Trestleboard was accomplished this year. We cannot do things if we do not get any volunteers. Helping to raise money for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept K-9 Unit was a big goal. We could not put our name on it, per Imperial By-Laws, but we still could have got it done. Maybe it will happen next year, if all goes well.

We still desperately need volunteers for Bingo every Sunday. This is what keeps the lights on and pays the bills, everyone. Even if you are not a Shriner, come see what it is like and decide if you want to join. What better cause is there than helping a child? Attached is a picture of Hailie, the young girl I tried to bring back from Ireland to get the help she so needs at Shriners Children's Hospitals.

The Tigris Shrine Potentate's Ball will gener-

ate pictures for next month. Our Irish Ambassador for Tigris arrived for the ball so we are ready to start. Brother Brendan Cowzer and his Lady Sandra are here for two weeks to enjoy CNY's cold weather. Brendan is not a fan of the cold weather but he loves coming here.

The Baldwinsville Parade of Lights was Saturday, November 30. It was a wonderful time to start the Christmas season.

We hope all of you have the best Christmas ever, hopefully with your loved ones. If anyone has an extra seat at the dinner table, think about inviting someone who will be spending Christmas alone. It would be the greatest thing you could do.

If we can be of assistance to anyone please contact our Recorder or me. We are here for all of you. And my door is always open for ideas or suggestions. Please reach out if you have something you would like to be involved in, Nobles. If anyone is interested in becoming a Shriner please go to BeAShrinerNow.com and join. For a limited time you will be able to join for free and get your Fez also.

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

Brian Courtney



Free-range cowpokes: eight NYOSA Potentates pose during Damascus Shrine's Ball this fall.

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OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



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

Brethren, as we approach the festive season, I extend my warmest holiday greetings to each of you and your family. This time of year offers us a moment to reflect on the values that bind us together as Masons: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

I am very honored by the continued support you have provided thus far and I thank you.

November was a busy month in the Oswego District, from the District Table Lodge, Official Visits to Hiram Lodge No. 136 and Central Square Lodge No. 622, Veterans Day, Grand Lecturer's Convention to Thanksgiving. After the first of the year the District team will be out visiting every Lodge to get everyone on board with the Lodge of Excellence program.

As we move forward together, my Brothers, I would like to bring up the importance of Brotherhood. Our Brotherhood is not just a name; it is a profound commitment to each other. This year I am asking everyone to work on strengthening your connections through our shared endeavors and unwavering support of each other. The bonds we forge within our Lodges are the foundation upon which our community stands strong. Let us continue to honor these connections, remembering that each Brother's wellbeing contributes to the health of our entire District.

I challenge all of you to support each other during District events. Participation in District events is not just a duty, it is also a privilege. These gatherings offer us opportunities to share knowledge, celebrate achievements and provide support where it is needed most. I encourage each of you to stay actively involved, lending your voice and presence to our collective efforts. When we come together we not only enrich our Masonic experience but also strengthen the fabric of our Brotherhood. As we move forward together, we can ensure that the Oswego Masonic District continues to

DDGM
see 2nd column

STAFF OFFICER



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

No News Received

DDGM from 1st column . . .

thrive. Let us be proactive, innovative and committed to our shared vision.

In closing, I wish all of you a joyous holiday season filled with peace, love and fulfillment. May the coming year bring us closer together in Brotherhood and service.
John Pierce

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, Brothers. This is veterans weekend; we honor those who defend our country. Our Lodge has several vets. We will recognize them at our next meeting.

Your Lodge traveled to Rising Light Lodge in Bellville on Wednesday evening. We enjoyed a meal with the Brothers from Jefferson District, along with a variety of pies. The program featured a Trooper from the K9 Search and Rescue Troop D. Troop D covers a large area of most of three counties. The dog she handles is Belgian Malinois, known for their intelligence and agility. Several other breeds are used as well for other purposes. Our Lodge will be resuming our Traveling Lodge visits as a yearly thing.

Our Halloween set up in front of the Lodge again went very well. We gave out 200 hot dogs, gallons of cider, cocoa and lots of candy. The weather was amazing—70 degrees at 7 p.m. We were greeted with many smiles and thank-yous. This has been a great community function.

We have two Brothers recuperating at home and one scheduled for a procedure. We hope for speedy recovery. We miss seeing these guys.

With the fires again in

Pulaski
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

AGL Garry Visconti
AGL Bob Boutell

No News Received

Pulaski from 2nd column . . .

California and the continuing struggles from the floods in Appalachia and horrific death toll we need to look to our Creator for strength. This brings to mind a verse from Mariah Carey. "...With the strength to carry on And you cast your fears aside And you know you can survive So when you feel like hope is gone Look inside you and be strong And you'll finally see the truth That a hero lies in you."

May our Creator bless and keep us all. See you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

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

WM Bob Boutell

Salutations, Brothers. Now that Thanksgiving has passed, please remember your Brothers in your devotions.

Our meetings this month are the 5th and the 19th. Our first meeting will be a review of the Grand Lecturer's Convention and our Official Visit. Also, we will be going over the planned lunch/dinner with Santa. As of this writing, many things were still being planned. Please watch your email for the schedule. The dress for this meeting will be a Masonic shirt. Our second meeting will be our annual meeting and will include reports from our several committees, along with reports from our Secretary and Treasurer. The dress for this meeting is a shirt and tie.

As usual, our meetings in January and February will be in the fellowship room and we will dress casually. The emphasis during this time will be more esoteric in nature.

Please reach out to your Brothers during the holidays. This is a difficult time of the year for some and a kind word can mean the world.

Bob Boutell

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

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren. From Scriba Lodge 414, I hope all is well with all the Brothers and their families.

At this time our Lodge has been full speed ahead with Degree work for our four Brothers who became Master Masons at the end of November. Our practice meetings that we had on the first and third Mondays have

Scriba
see 4th column

Scriba from 2nd column . . .

been very well attended by Brothers of our Lodge and visiting Brothers. We always have a great meal, prepared by our resident chef. If you have not been there to try his food you do not know what you are missing. There is nothing better than a great meal and great fellowship before we go upstairs and continue with our work as usual.

We had great attendance at the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Central Square Lodge No. 622 on the 18th of November to support our new DDGM RW John Pierce. We also enjoyed much fellowship where we shared our thoughts on the First Degree.

The officers and members of Scriba Lodge want to wish the following Brothers a very happy birthday. We hope they take the time to make it special with their family and friends: Brother Richard Hufnagle, Brother Charles Lord, Brother Andrew Marr and Brother Shawn Tuff. Happy Birthday, Brothers!

And this for everyone else. Brothers, as usual, stay safe out there.

Charlie Tuff

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, Callimachus has been pretty busy this fall, with the largest challenge being producing our acclaimed Fish Dinners. We held seven dinners with an average of eighty customers each. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many Brothers, Sisters and civilians who worked to make this effort possible. Well done!

In October the Lodge hosted DDGM John Pierce and his team for a well-attended Official Visit. We received the Grand Master's message and the Traveling Gavel, which I, in turn, handed off to the Brothers at Hiram Lodge the first week in November.

In September, Brother Wikoff and I traveled to Auburn to take part in a multi-District presentation of The Master's Chair training. As a new Master I found it most useful.

Our first meeting in December, on the 4th, will be our Annual meeting where various reports are given. Brother Wikoff will be presenting a brief history of Callimachus Lodge. The second meeting will, by popular demand, be a Mixed Table Lodge for Masons, Stars and their adult family members. This is always a fun evening. You will not be sorry you attended.

Lastly, dues notices will be going out about the time you read this. National Grid insists that we pay them each month to keep the heat and lights on.

Sam Sweet



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

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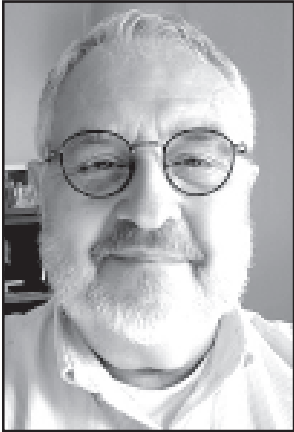
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CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



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

Greetings, Brethren! I hope you had a happy Thanksgiving. May we truly be thankful for all the blessings we enjoy—food, friendship, freedom, fidelity—and may the blessings of our Generous God spill out to a world that is in need of that which we enjoy.

And Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays! I hope you are planning on celebrating this joyous time of the year by coming to our District St. John's Day Festive Board on December 27 at Cortlandville Lodge. Watch the *Grapevine* for more details.

Brethren, after a very contentious election, and in a very deeply divided nation, it would do well for us to reflect on what makes us Brother Masons. That is our duty to God, our brotherly affection, our integrity, our service to humanity.

As you know, a perfect ashlar is a Freemason who has improved himself through the teachings and moral precepts of Freemasonry. It represents progress, and the journey to becoming a perfect ashlar is intended to teach us that we should shed habits and traits that prevent us from becoming good and just and upright men and Masons.

My Brothers, let us strive to break off our rough edges toward becoming perfect ashlars. Let us be a bridge, not a wall; let us be a beacon, not a bushel; let us sow love, not hate; let us sow respect, not revenge. Let our lives as Masons be the little "I" light that helps lead good men to the big "L" Light; the true Light that enlightens humanity.

I share this inspiration by Rachel Marie Martin:

"Don't give up on this year. Keep fighting for the good. Keep showing up. Keep loving. Keep being kind. Keep being brave. Keep caring. Keep trying new things. Keep showing grace. Keep on. This world needs you to believe in the good."

Richard G. Reed

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Brethren, on Friday, December 27, 2024 the Cortland-Madison District will be hosting a St. John the Evangelist Day Festive Board at Cortlandville Lodge No. 470. This will be open to all Masons to celebrate one of the Patron Saints of Masonry.

What is a Festive Board, you ask? It is a feast complete with toasts. Not just a meal or a dinner, it is a celebration for brethren to come together and honor one of our Patron Saints without the constraints of the Table Lodge ceremonies. Often, in the early days of Speculative Freemasonry the communications were held in rooms of inns. The meetings were held with members never leaving the table. The heart of the Festive Board is the tradition of the cannon-fire toasts, representing a salute to Freemasonry and Brotherhood.

Why St. John the Evangelist and why the 27th of December? St. John the Evangelist, also known as St. John the Apostle, lived from 15 AD to 100 AD and is often cited as the author of the Gospel of John. He was one of the original twelve apostles of Jesus and is believed to be the only one who was not killed for his faith.

Why St. John the Evangelist is one of the Patron Saints of Freemasonry is not clear, other than that the Premier Grand Lodge of England was formed on June 24, 1717, St. John the Baptist Day. December 27 is six months later, when the northern hemisphere starts moving from dark to lighter days. However, from Biblical accounts his writings include the Masonic values of Brotherly Love, Truth, Charity and Integrity. Masonic tradition holds that on St. John the Evangelist Day the Grand Lodge of All England, and its predecessor, the Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York, elected and installed their president. Then from 1725 they chose their Grand Master on the day of the Evangelist and in London the Ancient Grand Lodge of England elected their new Grand Master on the same day. When the Ancients and the Moderns eventually came together in the United Grand Lodge of England, it was on the Feast of the Evangelist in 1813.

So if you are interested in attending a Festive Board celebrating one of the Holy Saints John, please plan on attending on December 27 at Cortlandville Lodge. Exact details will follow soon.

Wade A. Caler

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

Tom Whitney

Greetings, Brethren. Many things from Official Visits to the Grand Lecturer's Conventions are happening and have happened in surrounding Districts and ours. I encourage each of you to participate and attend these events, as we are seeing a new rebound of pride in our Craft, and I love it.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention was hosted by Homer Lodge at Cortlandville Lodge building. The Grand Lecturer spoke on the importance of our ritual but also the accompanying floor work. He notes we should take interest in our Brothers not only in Lodge but also in life. It was a very successful convention, in my eyes. We brought together Brothers from Cayuga-Tompkins and Cortland-Madison Districts for a wonderful evening of ritual and fellowship. We cannot ask for much more than that.

The District has been working together as well, with Degrees being worked with Brothers of several Lodges working as one for the good of making Masons. This is my purpose in this chair and this is what you are allowing me to do and assist with. So, congratulations to you for doing it. And I was there in Cazenovia on November 14 to see this.

I may have something up my sleeve for all of you in the not too distant future. Stay tuned.

Tom Whitney



Warren Salem Town
from page 8 . . .

the presentation of one fifty-year and two sixty-year certificates and aprons to well-deserving Brothers. It was a wonderful evening.

Locally, we have had to replace the old cast iron sewer stack, which had split and was leaking. Our thanks go to Trustee Brother Sid Gilmore for locating a contractor to perform the work. It was completed for \$2195,

which came in about \$800 below the quote.

Our storefront tenant has purchased some new signage to promote her business. Brother Sid installed the new signs. Our tenant has requested rent relief for one month, as she is undergoing a hip replacement and will not be able to perform massages for a while. The Brothers approved her request on

November 5.

There are a few guys in the Birthday Corner this month. W Brother Arthur Smith has a birthday on December 4; W Brother Dennis Zach on December 26; and RW Ken Pollard turns 94 years young on December 30. Happy Birthday, Brothers! And we wish you happy holidays.

Warren Albrecht

Onondaga Star from page 11 ...

elected and appointed officers are as follows: WM Susan Cole, WP Henry Havener, Associate Matron Patricia Tefoe, Associate Patron Alfred Tefoe, Secretary Barbara Booker, Treasurer Sharon Fox, Conductress Pamela Trendell, Associate Conductress Karen Button, Trustee three years MW Jodelle C. Fletcher, Trustee two years Catherine Woods, Trustee one year David Blovat, Chaplain Evelyn Blovat, Marshal Jackie Gates, Assistant Marshal Michael Gates, Historian Debra Krackhardt, Warder Joseph Stevens, Sentinel Carson Zacharias, Color Bearer Jack Dombrowski, Adah Tamara Klock, Ruth Peggy Morrell, Esther MaryJean Conover, Martha Betty Dombrowski, and Electa Jeannine Parks. I would also like to thank those who are serving on the following committees: Finance, Necrology, Membership, Sickness and Distress and my callers Marilyn Decker, Patricia McCaffery and Catherine Woods.

My motto is "Be the change you want to see in the world," Mahatma Gandhi. My symbol is the Dragon Fly, which symbolizes courage, strength and resilience. My flower is the Pansy (the fun flower). The meanings of the different colors are: loyalty, joy, faith and posi-

tive energy.

We will be having several fun events throughout the year and a raffle for a beautiful wood bench made by our own Brother Michael Brooker. More information will be forthcoming in the future articles.

Our first meeting is December 3 and we will be honoring the Jr. Past Matron and Patron. The second meeting is December 17 and that will be our annual Christmas cookie exchange. Looking ahead to January and February we will be having one meeting each month. The first meeting in January will be the 7th and if the weather is bad the meeting will be on the 21st.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas (or whatever holiday you celebrate). Have a very happy and healthy 2025 new year.

Susan Cole

Centerville 185
Masonic Memorial Center

Hello, Sisters and Brothers. Congratulations go to our 2025 officers who were installed November 21st. We look forward to supporting our Chapter, District and Grand Officers in the coming year.

Our only meeting in December is December 19 for our Christmas Party and gift exchange. I hope you had a

happy Thanksgiving. And I hope to see you in Chapter.
Cathy Barling

Bona Fide - Hiawatha - Solvay 567
Solvay Masonic Temple
780 Woods Road
Solvay, NY 13209
315/487-0596

Bona Fide Hiawatha-Solvay Chapter is holding an open meeting on the evening of December 12. This will be followed by a holiday party and gift exchange. Bring a friend, have some fun.

BHS Chapter 567 is also having a breakfast with Santa on December 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The meal will consist of pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, tea and juice.

There will be several raffle baskets, several vendors offering items that are reasonably priced for kids to purchase or to be purchased for them. The price for kids under 10 is \$5, adults and kids over 10 are \$10. Santa will be available for pictures for a small donation towards the Chapter.

Mrs. Claus will have a small craft. Presale tickets may be had by contacting Reine Fitzgerald at 315/516-0435 and at other Chapter events. You may also sponsor a local youth in foster care by paying for that ticket as well. Please join us for our December events.

Jeannine Parks

OES see page 12 ...

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CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT



DDGM REPORT
RW Ed Maassen

Greetings, Brothers. It is with high hopes that I welcome the newest members to our Fraternity. Edgar Torres, Mati LaFrance and Michael Meigs recently took their Third Degree at Scipio Lodge 110. Edgar and Michael are from Fidelity-Hobasco Lodge in Ithaca and Mati hails from Scipio in Aurora.

I also give a big welcome to four new Entered Apprentices, two of whom are from Tritown Lodge in Groton and two in Auburn Lodge. All the individuals involved with the Degrees should be commended for their fine work and a great job. The Brotherhood between the Lodges was super.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention with Cortland-Madison District was well attended as we welcomed new Grand Lecturer RW Greg Noulas. The CM District Deputy Grand Master Rich Reed did a great job at organizing the event.

At our annual District Dinner we had a great turnout for MW Steven A. Rubin, our guest speaker; and RW Peter Unfried, Grand Marshal; RW John Haslam Sr., Junior Grand Warden; and RW Addison Cruz, Grand Standard Bearer. Also in attendance was Steven's wife Mojdeh. MW Steven and I had the pleasure of presenting a fifty-year apron to Brother Francis Darrow and sixty-year aprons to W Mel Brown and W Sheldon Clark. All of these Brothers are from Tritown Lodge.

At this point, four Official Visits are left for RW Tommy and me. But as Tommy has said, "We are available to help out at special events and Degrees, just give us a heads up."

I hope all of you are well and ready for the upcoming holiday season. I will see you in Lodge.

Ed Maassen

PGMs
Calvin G. Bond
Bruce W. Widger:
Thanks



STAFF OFFICER
RW Tom Ostrander
315/224-0940

Brothers, the 2024 travels of DDGM Maassen and me are coming to a close but it does not mean we are going to rest on our laurels. No sir, we are going to stay active after the Official Visits are completed. We will be available for special occasions and Degrees, if you keep us posted.

Our recent District Dinner in Auburn was a huge success, with the Grand Master as our guest speaker. MW Steven Rubin and wife Mojdeh; RW Peter Unfried, Grand Marshal; RW John Haslam Sr., Junior Grand Warden; and RW Adison Cruz, Grand Standard Bearer, were our guests and were well received. MW Rubin shared with us his vision for the next two years, which was embraced by the local Masons.

Brotherhood was first and foremost as MW Rubin presented aprons to RW Ed Maassen, DDGM; RW Tom Ostrander, Grand Steward; and VW Joe Sheppard, AGL. Special apron presentations recognized sixty-year Brothers W Mel Brown and W Sheldon Clark and a fifty-year apron went to Brother Francis Darrow. These three Brothers hail from Tritown 472.

The dinner of roast pork, garlic mashed potatoes, beans and apple crisp was prepared by Chef Harry Frisbie, our new inhouse chef, and it was delicious. Special thanks go to RW Dave Bowman, Grand Chaplain, for his assistance and for providing the program books. After expenses we realized a profit of over \$500, which supports our Masters & Wardens account and Memorial Fund.

Scipio 110 recently Raised three Brothers on October 26. Two are from Fidelity-Hobasco 51 and one is a Scipio member. It was well done by W Mark Jordan and officers.

RW Maassen and I recently attended a Table Lodge at Cayuga 221 in Scipio. It was great chow by W Harry Zirbel and we enjoyed awesome camaraderie.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention was jointly hosted by Cortland-Madison and Cayuga-Tompkins. Led by RW Greg Noulas, Grand

More Staff Officer
see 5th column



ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER
VW Joe Sheppard

Brothers, I am proud to share that the Cayuga-Tompkins District has demonstrated that our Masonic ritual is thriving and passionately practiced. Every Brother who has prepared for, participated in or attended a Degree ceremony should take pride in the exceptional work accomplished. You have all represented our Craft beautifully.

On October 26 Scipio 110 gave a Third Degree presentation. The presentation was outstanding, with principal officers performing excellently and Raising three Brothers. Congratulations go to RW Zabriskie for delivering the optional Hiram lecture skillfully and enthusiastically. This was the first time that I have had the opportunity to witness it and it was spectacular. This Degree was a collaborative effort with Brothers from Fidelity-Hobasco, Scipio, Auburn and Cayuga conducting the work to Raise these three Brothers. Kudos to everyone involved for creating a memorable experience for these newly Raised Brothers.

Do not forget that Part two of this Degree will take place on December 10 at Scipio 110. Your support for our Brothers in this endeavor is greatly encouraged.

Then, on October 28, more than twenty Brothers from various Lodges in our District joined me at the joint Grand Lecturer's Convention with the Cortland-Madison District. It was a fantastic night filled with education and fellowship, highlighted by our new Grand Lecturer, RW Gregory Noulas. We explored the beginning of the First Degree and the process of tearing down the temple. I recommend that anyone preparing a Degree pay close attention to both the construction and dismantling of the temple, as it can greatly enhance the presentation when done well. A big thank-you goes to my Cortland-Madison counterpart VW Tom Whitney for his efforts in organizing this event and for the warm hospitality.

Next, on November 2 Tritown Lodge Initiated two new Brothers with a beautifully executed First Degree. Again, Brothers from Tritown, Auburn, Cayuga

AGL
see 6th column

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, under Sickness and Distress, we draped the altar for thirty days in honor of Past Grand Master Gary Henningsen, who passed away on October 20, 2024. This was a directive from MW Steven A. Rubin our Grand Master. RW Bob Coleman PDDGM is home and under the weather but improving according to W Craig Coleman, his son.

The year 2024 is coming along nicely in Auburn. On November 7 we conferred the First Degree on two gentlemen, with RW Tony Tabone at the helm and the assistance of all the officers and Brothers in Lodge. RW Maassen, DDGM, was in attendance along with three Brothers from Tritown 472 and new Brother Edgar Torres from Fidelity-Hobasco 51. Pizza and wings were provided prior to the Degree. The Second Degree will be conferred on January 16, 2025, with a dinner prior thereto.

Auburn 124 hosted DDGM RW Ed Maassen and Grand Steward RW Tom Ostrander on November 21 with a baked macaroni dinner, salad and bread. The special treat was Swedish meatballs and it was all prepared by my wife Paula.

December 5 is a regular communication. We have to pay some bills and make plans for 2025. There is no meeting on December 19.

Our annual Family Dinner, which is normally in December, has been rescheduled to January 10. This will feature a roast pork dinner with trimmings for \$20 per person. More on that will be revealed as we move along. We will have a special raffle that night under the direction of VW Joe Sheppard. I will be sending a flyer soon. Reservations are due by January 3.

On a serious note, dues notices for 2025 will be out by December 1. Please do not neglect. We have seven Brothers who owe for 2024 and four for 2023-24. I will give no names but you know who you are. Please contact me and we will work out the situation.

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

Tom Ostrander

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

WM Paul Schenck

Brothers, we had a good Official Visit. The food was excellent—Terry Baxter made beef stew and apple cobbler. It was nice to see Brothers on the sidelines.

The two Hatfield brothers are on the mend. They will, hopefully, be back to Lodge soon. We hope everyone has a good Thanksgiving.

Paul Schenck

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! November was full of opportunities to be thankful. We are thankful for our community's ongoing support and our Lodge was excited to return their kindness. During our monthly pancake breakfast we saluted our veterans with half off their breakfast and had our 50/50 fundraiser go towards the Disabled American Veterans organization. Between that money raised and donations from the Lodge we were able to donate over \$200 to the worthy cause of supporting the men and women who served our country.

We are also thankful for our friends and families and were able to spend some quality time with them at our Lodge for a fellowship event. We held a trivia event where we shared laughs, ate snacks and even learned a few things. Our Lodge also sent a contingent to the Cayuga-Tompkins District dinner where we got to connect and reconnect to Brothers from afar, including our Most Worshipful Grand Master Steven A. Rubin and other members of the Grand Line.

As always, I am so thankful for my Brothers' generosity with their time to come to our meetings and events. They share the love and kindness we need when the world seems so dark and divided; and the hard work and dedication they demonstrate, both in the present events and in planning for our Lodge's future, will help ensure our Fraternity can continue to be a force for good for years to come.

This December our regular communication will be the first Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Visiting brethren are always welcome. Our second communication (on the third Thursday) will be our holiday party, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Erie Canal Lodge will also continue to host a pancake breakfast on the 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. Everybody is welcome.

Please check out our Lodge Facebook page for more information on upcoming events (just search Erie Canal Lodge #141). From Erie Canal Lodge and me, we wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons and a blessed new year.

Seth Molloy

Staff Officer
from 2nd column . . .

Lecturer, it was well received with the First Degree exemplified. Next year it is back to Auburn. This is a good tradition, working with other Districts.

As always, RW Ed and I are available to travel and assist in any manner and we are looking forward to it. Just feed us and we are yours to command.

Tom Ostrander

AGL
from 3rd column . . .

and Scipio were on hand to jointly conduct the work and initiate these new Brothers. Congratulations go to W Nate Wells and the entire team for their dedication and skill in guiding the new Brothers toward Masonic Light.

Finally, on November 7 Auburn Lodge had the pleasure to also initiate two new Brothers into our Craft with a stellar presentation of the First Degree led by RW Tabone. It was heartening to see newly Raised Brothers participating actively alongside seasoned veterans, creating a rich experience for all. The teamwork displayed truly reflected the essence of our Masonic journey.

Brothers, the Cayuga-Tompkins District is doing remarkable work and all of you should be proud. If I missed recognizing your Lodge's efforts, please reach out and let me know what you have going on. I would love to come and support you and recognize the work that you are doing for our Craft.

In closing, if your Lodge has not performed a Degree in a while, I encourage you to exemplify one during your Masonic year. Even if you do not have a candidate, take the opportunity to refresh your skills and revisit the journey that we have all taken. Take the time to review your ritual books, support the Lodges that are performing Degrees and involve as many new Brothers in the work as possible. It is what we do.

Remember that all Brothers can participate in any Degree to which they are obligated and can perform any work, unless it is specifically reserved for the Master. Additionally, please do not hesitate to reach out to other Lodges to assist you. I emphasize "assist," not complete the work for you. Reach out to those Brothers you have not seen in a while and ask them if they would be interested in revisiting the work; involve them. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have and for any support you may need. I look forward to seeing all of you in the quarries.

Joe Sheppard

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

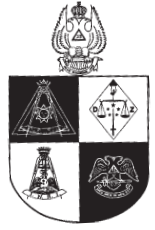
WM Warren Albrecht,
wife Mary Ann
walbrecht1342@outlook.com

I am hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As Brothers in Masonry, we certainly have a great deal to be thankful for in family and friends.

Several of us had the opportunity to attend the Cayuga-Tompkins District Dinner on November 1 at Auburn Lodge and enjoyed the message from guest speaker MW Steven A. Rubin. We also were present to witness

Warren Salem Town
see page 7

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. 'Tis the season for remembering, reflection and rejuvenation. By the time you read this we will be almost smack dab in the middle of the holiday season. With Thanksgiving behind us it is a perfect time to remember those whom the Great Architect has seen fit to recall to His presence. For our departed family and friends, consider why they were important to us, what influence they had on our life, why we miss them most. When our time arrives, I would wish others to reminisce about us.

With New Year's in sight, resolutions are always on our minds. There is, however, never not a good time for self-reflection. What decisions have I made that are in my best interest, for the good of my family and undoubtedly in the best interest of the Craft? Have I improved myself in Masonry? For both ourselves and our Brothers we should be in a constant state of renewal and rejuvenation. What am I doing to continually strive to be the best version of myself?

Self-improvement is not a competition. The old adage "there is no I in team" may be true but the opposite is also true for improving oneself. Through consistency, persistence and hard work you can locate and achieve that better you. Here is to a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Michael A. Miller

Consistory

Sovereign Princes, one of the seven cardinal virtues in DeMolay is Reverence for Sacred Things. Reverence for God is one of the Core Values of Scottish Rite Masonry. In Craft Lodge, the first act of the Lodge on your behalf was to pray that you would be endowed with a competency of Divine Wisdom and that your life and actions would bring honor and glory to His Holy Name. As Masons, we revere and respect every man's religious observances. In deference to that fact, and because every religion around the world has Holy Days and Observances during the month of December, to avoid conflicting with any religious activities we have few plans for formal gatherings.

We hope that you will have more opportunities to spend time with your family during this holiday season. The only events scheduled for the Valley are our Holiday Celebration with our Ladies on December 9 (social time at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and a program starting at 7:30 p.m.) and our Holiday Luncheon on December 27 at Twin Trees III. A pizza buffet begins at

11:45 a.m.

Please note that we will be collecting food and monetary donations for the Food Bank at our celebration on December 9. Hunger and food insecurity exist in virtually every Central New York community. If you have been blessed to be able to sit down to a bountiful meal with your family during this holiday season, I would ask that you set aside a small portion of your bounty in the form of a non-perishable food item and bring it to the Holiday Celebration. Last year we filled my pickup truck; I hope we can do it again this year. There is a mailing with reservation form for each event. Please return the form or call the office with your reservation.

Membership growth and retention continue to be a high priority for our Valley. Last year we failed to attain our membership goal of fourteen new 4° Scottish Rite Masons and failed to be named a Valley of Excellence. We noted at the last Executive Committee meeting that if each elected officer in the Valley brought in one new member we would easily make our membership goal. We have a very active Valley with popular and interesting programs. It should not be a hard sell to incite interest in Scottish Rite among your Masonic acquaintances. Ask your Lodge Master if he would like a program on Scottish Rite at one of your Lodge meetings.

And now, a shameless plug for our Burns Supper at Coleman's. This could well be the most popular event in our Valley. It has been a sell-out in past years and reservations are now open for the 2025 event. Mark your calendar and make your reservation to attend the Burns Supper at Coleman's Authentic Irish Pub on January 18. Reservations must be made with Ill. Rick Powell.

On behalf of the Valley of Syracuse, I wish for you and your family a relaxing and peaceful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year. May the comfort of your religious rituals and family traditions bring you inner peace and a profound sense of happiness. God Bless.

William H. Toth II

Perfection

Greetings again, Brothers! I want to congratulate the Brothers who were honored a couple of weeks ago on October 21 at our Awards and Recognition event. Also, I want to congratulate and welcome our new Brothers to the Scottish Rite. On October 28 we were able to initiate more Brothers via a video of the 4°, which immediately preceded the videos

of the 15° and 16°. It was a very pleasant evening enjoyed by all.

As I write this, the Veterans Recognition event has yet to happen but I am sure it went off well. I also want to thank all of those who have served our country. Without you, we would not have the amazing country that we have for our children to grow up in.

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over and Christmas will be around the corner. Our Christmas Celebration is on December 9 and our ladies are welcome. Social time starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. I do hope to see you. It is always a great evening to share with those who support us in our Masonic endeavors.

We will also hold our Holiday Luncheon at Twin Trees III at 11:45 a.m. on December 27. It is a pizza buffet and, as in the past, casual dress is the attire. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless you and your family during this festive season.

Eric Driscoll

Hospitaler

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

Under sickness: David Barnes has COVID; Terry Byard has bronchitis; Andrew Miledonis, with pneumonia, is now at home with oxygen. Maurice Mitchell has heart issues and Joel Scarson has pneumonia.

Members in distress include Michael Miller, whose wife Linda has teeth issues, a sinus infection and a knee injury. Joseph W. Flanagan's mother passed away. Joel Scarson's wife Heather continues chemo treatments.

Deaths reported include Richard T. Lynch, October 18, 2024; James B. Sullivan Jr., September 18, 2023 (notified October 14, 2024); James E. Pipher, September 4, 2024; and Alvin H. Bregman, October 24, 2024.

Please keep all these Brothers and their families in your prayers. And we need to remember our Brothers and Sisters in the hurricane areas. If you want to make donations you can give to the Hospitaler Fund, marking it for the Hurricane Relief.

Please keep the Valley informed of anyone in distress. I hope all of you have a great Masonic year.

Garry Visconti

Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

It has been said that December is a magical time. At the Central New York Children's Dyslexia Center we get to see that magic. Most of our students have completed fifteen or sixteen lessons. As they move closer to lesson twenty that is when the magic happens. Things click and the students realize that when they trace an unknown word it helps them to decode it, and fingerspelling does help them to write.

All trainees—Practitioner 1s, 2s, Instructors of Practitioner 1 and Supervisor/

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

December 2024

Dec 02 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Dec 09 Holiday Celebration with the Ladies; Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./ Program 7:30 p.m.
Dec 25 Merry Christmas
Dec 27 (Fri.)....Holiday Luncheon at Twin Trees III Restaurant, 11:45 a.m.

January 2025

Jan 06 Executive Committee Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jan 18 (Sat) Burns Supper @ Coleman's Restaurant 5:00 p.m.
Jan 22 "Rite on the Road" event @TBA 7:00 p.m.

Allegiance

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

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

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

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

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

Mentors—spend countless hours preparing lessons and keeping up with the required readings. It is wonderful to talk with them and hear how they put into practice what they are learning. They are excited to share the knowledge they are gaining with their colleagues at the schools they work in every day.

As I watch the nineteen students come and go, the youngest in second grade and the oldest in the eleventh grade, I know that we are blessed. The Sponsor-A-Child, Sponsor-A-Tutor, Tree of Knowledge donations and the donations of copy paper and everyday supplies keep the center open and running, providing life-changing tutoring services. I cannot thank you enough.

May God bless you and keep you during the holiday season and throughout the year.

Marianne Jones

Degree Cast Invitation

The Central City Bodies are organizing the Degrees casts for the live Degrees and "Feast of the Paschal Lamb" to be presented during the 2024-2025 Scottish Rite year. The schedule is:

Monday, February 24—Chapter of Rose Croix confers the 18° "Knight of Rose Croix HRDM"; Saturday, March 22—Lodge of Perfection confers the 14° Grand Elect Mason"; Saturday, March 22—Consistory confers the 32° "Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret"; Saturday, April 12—Chapter of Rose Croix presents "Feast of the Paschal Lamb" Memorial service.

We are seeking cast members for these Degrees and ceremonies. Speaking and non-speaking participants are required. The commitment entails learning speaking parts; attending one or two rehearsals to make certain the floor work is coordinated; attending the Degree presentation. Contact the Valley office if you wish to participate: 315/452-7976.

Burns Supper

The Knights of St. Andrew will present the 2025 Burns Supper on Saturday, January 18 at Coleman's

Irish Pub, 100 South Lowell Avenue, Syracuse, NY. Celebrating the life and poetry of Brother Robert Burns, "national poet" of Scotland, these suppers are normally held on or near his birthday, 25 January. He was born that day in 1759. Burns Supper enthusiasts include Burns Clubs, Scottish Societies, Masonic Lodges, expatriate Scots and aficionados of Burns's poetry.

A social time will begin at 5:00 p.m. The buffet dinner cost is \$47 per person. Wives and significant others and guests are invited but seating is limited. Make reservations now. Kilts and Tartans are encouraged.

Print out and complete the registration flyer from our website in the News section. Make your check to the "Central City Bodies AASR" and mail to Richard Powell, 4717 Broad Road, Syracuse, NY 13215 before January 1. Be sure to write "KSA Burns Supper" in the memo area. Do join us.

Blue Envelope Appeal

Supreme Council recently sent the "Blue Envelope Appeal" for your annual contribution. I urge you to support this request. Any contribution is significant because the number of donations from a Valley directly impacts distribution of the Abbott Scholarship Funds, as well as the Valley's ranking in the Supreme Council "Valley of Excellence" initiative.

Abbott Scholarships funded by Supreme Council, NMJ or a NYS Educational Financial Assistance Grant funded by the New York State Scottish Rite Charities Corporation are assisting fifty-three students across the Jurisdiction of New York during the 2024-2025 academic year. Five are children and grandchildren of the Valley of Syracuse's current and deceased members. These young people are our future. We thank you for your support of the "Blue Envelope Appeal."

Happy Holidays!

The festive holiday season is upon us once again. The traditional greeting, "Merry Christmas, Happy

New Year!" is often "Happy Holidays!" Whatever your preference, the Officers of Central City Bodies and the staff at the Valley of Syracuse Scottish Rite Office extend sincere holiday greetings to all who scan and read our Scottish Rite page every issue. And the office staff thanks the leaders of the four Bodies for their support and assistance.

On behalf of William H. Toth, II, Commander-In-Chief; Joseph W. Flanagan, Most Wise Master; Michael M. Miller, Sovereign Prince; Eric J. Driscoll, Thrice Potent Master; and your office staff, Mrs. Sharon Fox, Mrs. Sharon Swan and James D. Swan, Jr.: To all our fellow Scottish Rite Princes and Master Masons and family members, wherever you may be this season: our prayers and thoughts are with you. May your travels all be safe. Please remember our Valley members on Active Duty in the Military in your thoughts and prayers. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Reminder-2025 Annual Dues

You will have by now received your 2025 Central City Bodies, AASR Member's Annual Dues Notice from Supreme Council. You will see a slight increase for 2025 due to the plan approved in 2023. Please pay your 2025 Member's Dues prior to January 30, 2025.

The instruction from Supreme Council directs you to make your check payable to Supreme Council in Lexington, MA. We would request you write your check payable to Central City Bodies, AASR, and mail to Central City Bodies, Masonic Memorial Center, 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse, NY 13212-2366.

Payments made to Supreme Council do not arrive in the Valley until after the first of the month two months after payment. That is, if you make your payment in October, the Valley receives notice in November and your payment arrives in the Valley in December. Please contact the Valley office at 315/452-7976 if you have any questions about your invoice or payment.

YORK RITE BODIES

ROYAL ARCH MASON 12th Capitular District RAM

DDGHP RE
James Nelson

Greetings, Companions. I hope this finds all of you doing well and preparing for holiday festivities with family and loved ones. We are heading into our elections for our Chapters and celebrations of the season. It can be a stressful time for our Companions who might not have family and friends to share the holidays with. We need to remember to express our gratitude to the Great Architect for the blessings bestowed on us through the year and for the comfort and support given to those of us who have suffered loss or illness.

I wish you all the very best for this holiday season, as we tend to pause to reflect on the ending year and look forward to the new year and all the opportunities it may bestow upon us. May we Companions ever bear in mind that we are among friends who will assist us with our distresses and share the joys of companionship with each other. We of the Royal Arch are builders; we may not always get it right but should always look to correct our errors so we might continue building our spiritual temples and mending harms we might have done to our relationships. Blessing to all for success and good health in the coming new year.

Jim Nelson

LAKE ONTARIO CHAPTER 165 RAM

Oswego Masonic Lodge

765 E. Seneca St.

Meets 2nd Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

HP Patrick Fasulo

Greetings, Companions. With the assistance of VE Edward Sinay, Lake Ontario Chapter 165 will be conferring the Most Excellent Master Degree in January 2025. This will be a collaborative effort, pulling in Companions from the 12th Capitular District to get our new Companions this Degree. We are excited to keep the fire of York Rite Masonry burning in our District. Specific dates and times will be announced.

As reported last month, we had the Grand Lecturer's Convention in October. See a photo from that event, courtesy of RW Sister Natalie Woodall, PhD. Our District Deputy, RW James Nelson, accompanied by VE Edward Sinay, ran the program and gave a very interesting talk. As you can see, it was very well attended and we had a great time. We will see you in December for our annual meeting.

Pat Fasulo

CENTRAL CITY RIVERSIDE CHAPTER 70 RAM

608 Oswego St.

Liverpool, N.Y.

Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday

HP Timothy S. Hansen

315/378-5652

timothy.hansen@nearldistant.net

Secy Bob Bowles

315/436-0997

rbowles1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions! The holidays are coming up and we look forward to the festivities.

Central City RAM
see 3rd column

Central City from 2nd column . . .

Last month we had our Grand Lecturer's Convention. I want to thank Lake Ontario 165 for hosting the convention. The event was well attended. I also want to thank our District Deputy, RE James Nelson for his presentation on the meaning of the Breast Plate, which was the topic of the convention.

Royal Arch Masonry can succeed and grow. But as many know, any Chapter needs its Companions to attend its meetings so that we can open and do the work on the Trestleboard (to quote from our Blue Lodge origins).

I look forward to the next several events, including the next couple of Degrees done by the District and the next couple of meetings, to provide several educational programs. As I have said before, Remember, no matter how long you may have been a Companion you can always learn something new.

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

Timothy S. Hansen

Shriners Children's New England

Nobles, I thank you for the privilege of serving on the Shriners Children's New England Board of Governors in Springfield, Massachusetts. On October 25 we held our Gala Event: Cheers for Children. Four Nobles from Tigris with their wives or significant others attended this event. I am pleased to report that this year's event raised a total of \$440,829.62—an impressive increase of \$53,578 over last year's event.

Shriners
see 4th column



Paul Wahlberg of the famous Wahlberg family and Wahlburgers Burger Restaurants was Executive Chef at Shriners Cheers for Children in Springfield, MA. Lady Tami and I attended with Board of Governors rep Bill Toth, Duane Crapser and Joel Scarson and their ladies.—Brian Courtney

Shriners from 3rd column

Next year—2025—will be the 100th anniversary of Shriners providing the most amazing care anywhere in Springfield, MA. The first Shriners Children's hospital in New England opened on February 21, 1925 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Melha Shriners donated 6.5 acres of land for the hospital. It was the eighth hospital opened in the healthcare system. At the time, it housed sixty beds—thirty in a boys ward and thirty in a girls ward. Treatments included clubfoot, congenital dislocation of the hips, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis. In these early days the average length of stay for patients was sixty-six days.

Over the next sixty-four years care expanded to treat scoliosis, limb deficiencies, cerebral palsy, hand disorders and skeletal growth abnormalities. In 1990 a new, larger facility was built just steps behind the original building. It was built at a cost of \$27 million—all

Shriners
see 5th column



Hailie, a youngster in Ireland, could use treatment by the Shriners Children's Hospitals.

Shriners from 4th column . . .

raised by Shriners—and doubled the square footage of the old building. The new building featured two operating theaters and a gait analysis lab. Thousands of children were treated each year.

As healthcare evolved, so

did our facility. Effective January 1, 2023 the Springfield Hospital transitioned from an inpatient hospital to an outpatient clinic. Patients continue to receive clinic

Shriners
see page 5 ...



Lake Ontario Chapter 165 hosted the Grand Lecturer's Convention in October. The project attained a strong turnout.

ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

Yvonne Hanshew
District Deputy Grand Matron

The gavel has passed, after a very successful year of service to the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of New York, from Most Worthy Grand Matron Dierdre McCauley and Most Worthy Grand Patron Edward Mosso. On Saturday, October 19, 2024 Most Worthy Grand Matron Marcia Pratt and Most Worthy Grand Patron Mark Heitmann were installed successors at the Grand Chapter session. It was a beautiful evening with the new officers all decked out in their finery. The new Grand Matron entered in green gown while the new Grand Patron sported a yellow/gold vest and bow tie in a tux.

At the same time, RW Carla Salisbury turned the Oswego District reins over to RW Yvonne Hanshew and RW Clinton Allen as the new Oswego District Deputy Grand Matron and District Grand Lecturer for the ensuing year. Many thanks go to RW Carla for a job well done and a hard act to follow.

The new Grand Matron's emblem is a ring of rhinestones with a green heart suspended in the center. The

project is the Foreverly House in Ballston Spa (the first in New York). This house will be a two-family house to accommodate female veterans with children. This project will afford them the opportunity to get back on their feet.

The new Grand Patron's project is "Feed my Sheep." Many may recognize this as Blessings in a Backpack. There are many children who receive a hot meal (be it breakfast and/or lunch) during the school week but have little to eat on the weekends. This program sends snacks home with the children to sustain them on the weekends.

Both of these projects have a pin—with either a house or a sheep—for sale at \$5 each. They can be purchased from the Grand Lecturer.

During the year Oswego District will have several fundraisers, beginning with the Mascot Pecan Sale to begin next month. Please see me, or any member of the Oswego District, for more information.

I thank you for reading this article. I am sorry if it is not as professional as RW Carla's but I will try to do better in the future. I give you best wishes for a great Christmas.

Yvonne Hanshew



Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205 installed officers for 2025 on Friday, November 8. In the front row are: RW Carla J. Salisbury, Treasurer; RW Cynthia J. Sanders, Worthy Matron; W John Voetelink, Worthy Patron; W Lillian Schute, Conductress. The back row members are: Sr. Brittany N. Gullo, Warder; RW Carol Reed, Adah; W Mary M. Babbitt, Associate Matron; Sr. Ruth Voetelink, Chaplain; RW Nancy J. Costello, Martha. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Sisters and Brothers: There is excitement in the air as the holiday season approaches. The stores are decorated with Christmas trees, all sorts and sizes of ornaments and seasonal foodstuffs such as eggnog and fruitcake. The members of Lake City Victoria Chapter are getting into the spirit, too. The annual Christmas party will take place on Sunday, December 8 at Lake City Lodge in Oswego. Chef Cynthia Sanders and her trusty kitchen elves plan to whip up a feast fit for King Wenceslas himself.

According to Chapter scuttlebutt, the menu will include a succulent roast beef, potatoes, green beans almondine, tossed salad, bread and a yummy dessert to finish off the gourmet delights. A nominal donation of \$10 is requested to help defray the cost of the groceries.

While Old Saint Nick will not be in attendance, a sale in his name is planned. For a mere \$5 a purchaser can buy a great gift for that special someone. Other activities include a 50-50 raffle, basket raffles and Christmas card exchange. As part of the Chapter's community outreach, contributions to the Human Concerns Center will be collected.

On November 8 the Chapter held its annual meeting and installation of officers. RW Cynthia J. Sanders will again be Worthy Matron and W John Voetelink will serve a third term as Worthy Patron. W Mary M. Babbitt will serve as Associate Matron in 2025. The other line officers are RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary; RW Carla J. Salisbury, Treasurer; and W Lillian A. Schute, Conductress.

RW Cindy announced that her plans for 2025 included ongoing Chapter contributions to the Human Concerns Center and the Grand Patron's project, Feed My Sheep. Outgoing Worthy Matron, W Mary M. Babbitt, received her Past Matron's pin and was ac-



RW Carla J. Salisbury, Junior Past District Deputy Grand Matron, recently invited Ms. Lynn Fox of Clear Path for Veterans, Chittenango, NY, to travel to Oswego to describe the organization's services and programs for veterans and their families. As a token of gratitude, RW Carla presented her with a box of military challenge coins. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

corded Grand Honors. Following the installation, everyone partook of the bountiful repast served in the dining room. The Chapter has now "gone dark" until March 2025.

Although the Chapter is not in session, the dinners continue. On December 6 Chef Cindy and her dedicated kitchen crew will prepare a full turkey dinner for Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, KT which is hosting a Christmas Toast that evening. A Blue Lodge dinner and a Royal Arch dinner are also scheduled for December.

In other news, RW Carla

J. Salisbury invited Lynn Fox of Clear Path for Veterans, located in Chittenango, NY, to describe the services the organization provides to veterans throughout New York State. A small but enthusiastic group listened to her talk and asked many questions about the various programs available. They were particularly interested in the canine program for veterans. RW Carla presented Ms. Fox with a box of military challenge coins as a token of gratitude.

Although the holidays are full of hustle and bustle, try to find some quiet time to ponder the foundational meaning of the season. It is very simple: "A little child shall lead them." On behalf of the officers and members of Lake City Victoria Chapter, I bid one and all a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas.

Natalie J. Woodall

Onondaga Star 144 Masonic Memorial Center

WM Susan Cole

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. November was very busy as Onondaga District Chapters had their installations. Onondaga Star Chapter congratulates all the elected and appointed officers in each Chapter for the upcoming year.

The Onondaga Star

Onondaga Star
see page 7



MW Mark Heitmann is escorted for installation.



The Heitmann family at the Grand Matron/Grand Patron Reception.



MW Marcia Pratt and MW Mark Heitmann are installed at OES Grand Chapter.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	2	3 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Warren Salem Town 147	4 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	5 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT	6	7
8	9 Hamilton 120 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	10 Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	11 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown Lodge 472	12 Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Fl. Brewerton 256 Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	13 Lake City Vic 205 OES Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	14
15	16 Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	17 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	18 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of Nile Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	19 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	20	21
22	23 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	24 Central City Riverside 70 RAM E Caldwell OES Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Washington RAM	25 Charles H. Platt 247 Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 Tritown Lodge 472	26 Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Fl. Brewerton 256 Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	27 Lake City Vic 205 OES Triangle @ Mem	28
29	30	31				

OES ... from page 7



Onondaga District members at Grand Chapter.

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