



HAPPY Valentine's Day February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY February 17

February 2



Lincoln's Birthday February 12 Washington's Birthday February 22



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

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# the word

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On Friday, December 18 RW Thomas Ostrander and RW Michael Miller represented Auburn Lodge No. 124 at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fill-a-Belly Drive-thru Food Giveaway program for families in need. This effort is in conjunction with the Auburn Enlarged City School District, Auburn Police Department and Auburn Rotarians. Each family receives enough supplemental food items to last over the winter break. Featured in the photo is RW Tommy "O." Photo credit: RW Michael Miller



### MWV43 from 2nd column . . .

10 to 15 minutes, as we cannot go inside. There will be photos taken and I will post pictures of the event in March. This is usually a Thanksgiving Day event but things got in the way with the VA on lockdown.

I procured a list of things needed and sizes. Grand Post Representative Norm Kruth and I low-crawled through stores using cover and concealment with our laundry

list for our Brothers. It wasn't easy: grocery carts full, multiple stores, snatching items from bewildered customers and disappearing like Ninjas into the night. It was a sight to behold.

We purchased more than 400 items—sweat pants, sweat shirts, T shirts, underwear and personal hygiene items (see the accompanying photos). The VA doesn't supply these items as they

aren't part of their budget. Because of our Masonic program we were able to acquire the items needed for our Brothers in Arms. A lot of the veterans that show up there are homeless. Thanks go to GM Bill Sardone and RW Don Kunego from the VA Hospital Military Outreach Committee of the

More MWV43 see page 2



These are some of the items purchased and donated to our Brother Veterans at the VA. Courtesy of the Masonic VA Hospital Military Outreach Committee. Submitted by Brian Courtney



## MWV43

Brothers in Arms, by the time you read this our pilgrimage to the VA Hospital will probably have happened. It is set for January 29 at the ER entrance. If you get this before it happens and you want to attend, contact me for access to the parking garage. It will only last

More MWV43 see 4th column

## Mentor

Hello, Brethren. As I write this I am still ruminating about the unacceptable events that took place in Washington DC, two days ago, when mobs invaded and vandalized the Capitol building. As a citizen, I cannot accept or justify such acts. As a Mason, my obligation of Love of Country compels me to take action. This article tries to analyze the issue from a Masonic point of view.

This is not a political issue. Whether we support or abominate President Trump or we feel indifferent about him, we should be disturbed with the images of the Capitol we saw in our TV screens. Citizens have the right to peacefully protest, whatever their reasons are (be they about Black Lives Matter or the presidential election results), and whether we agree with them or not. This falls under our obligation to be Tolerant of others, especially of those who disagree with us.

But events have exposed that inside these protests there are at least two types of participants. Probably, most are true believers in the justice of their protest. And these tend to be peaceful and lawful individuals. But a few others infiltrate these movements to advance their own interests—be they personal or political—to steal, vandalize or create problems. Brotherly Love obligation does not cover those individuals. And it is precisely because of that that we are compelled to act.

The Social Fabric is formed both by individuals and by their organizations. The combination is called Civil Society. Social Fabric provides unwritten laws that regulate the behavior of its members. We do not steal or kill because we will be put in jail. We do not use foul language or take off our clothes in public because it is socially unacceptable: we could be censured and ostracized.

The leaders of Civil Society could have made declarations or taken ads in major newspapers condemning, in no uncertain terms, the entry and desecration of the Capitol building. The failure to publicly react to this unacceptable

action signals their weakness and ineffectiveness.

A strong Civil Society response is far more than cosmetic. It sends a message to both our political leaders and to individuals participating in protests. The former care about re-election and will take into consideration voter's opinion. Good faith demonstrators will be more careful to join and organizers will become aware of public rejection, which goes against their intent.

Freemasonry constitutes a special case. We are not just another irrelevant club. We are an institution that prides itself in core principles such as Love of Country, Tolerance and Brotherly Love. Our principles, in addition to being obligations, constitute a formal part of our laws and regulations. This latter and particular condition differentiates the Craft from other groups and has both a positive and a negative side. The first side attracts good members: we want to belong to something noble. The second side is that if our proclaimed institutional values are seen by the outsiders as empty statements they will portray Freemasonry in a very poor light. And that is not good for recruiting or retaining new members, or for self-image. We need to do something.

I propose developing a series of simple Zoom presentations about a theme at the core of the U.S. founding: the *Federalist Papers* (<https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/full-text>). They discuss the main concepts of the American Constitution, the document that governs everything. But how much do we actually know about these papers? How many were they? When were they written? Why? By whom? We could prepare a cycle of Zoom talks and open them to the public at large. This would provide the Craft good community exposure.

If interested, send me an email. For now, may the GAOTU keep us safe until we become vaccinated and can again meet in our Lodges.

Jorge L. Romeu





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

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Brethren, I hope that as you are reading this you and your family are all staying safe in this lengthy and tumultuous time. We had a brief sense of normalcy appear, just to have it ripped away with another surge from the holiday season gatherings. As the vaccine distribution continues to increase, I have a sense of hope that there is light starting to pierce through the darkness.

As we are still unable to meet in person, remote meetings via Zoom or other platforms continue to take place, allowing our fellowship to flourish and us to keep in touch with one another. This is a sense of that normalcy we all are so eager to reach again. Hopefully, the plea to the governor by our local leaders will allow us to return to in-person meetings, although with a limited attendance.

Our ritual is full of life lessons that are still relevant, even in today's times. It also can help lift the spirit, giving a sense of direction when things seem so chaotic. This



**VW Tim Conover**  
 timconover1@gmail.com  
 315/263-5717

is a great time to pick up that new ritual book to learn a new part, practice one that may be a little rusty or just flip through it to see all the changes.

As always, your AGLs are available for any questions, clarification or just a conversation. Always remember, "Masonry Never Stops."

Tim Conover  
 Rick Miori  
 Toby Shelly

**DDGM from 2nd column . . .**

year should have their checklists and plans complete and all Lodges should be maintaining contact with all Lodge members, along with the surviving spouses. Remember that we are all in this together.

Finally, my Brothers, stay informed of rapidly changing dates and COVID direc-

tives and requirements by visiting the Grand Lodge website, paying attention to emails and reaching out to your District team with questions. Thank you for your patience and your dedication to Freemasonry. I hope to see you around the District and Region soon.

Jack G. Dombrowski

**MWV43 from page 1 . . .**

Grand Lodge of the State of New York: [grandpostmwv.org](http://grandpostmwv.org).

If anyone can donate women's gloves, mittens, women's T shirts L, XL and 2XL, and sweat pants in the same sizes, they need them desperately. Also, there is need for women's deodorant, body wash, chap stick and gift cards so they can buy diapers and formula, as some of the women are pregnant. We could have purchased some of this if we knew ahead of time but the allotment of money donated was spent on clothes for men before we were notified.

There are pages on Facebook such as "Masonic War Veterans" that let you know what is going on within NY State; another Facebook page is "Onondaga County Masonic District." That had been inactive for a couple of years and we have resurrected it. There are more than enough ways for everyone to get and receive information on what's going on. You just have to seek out more light. If you want something posted there, email or message me, as only editors or administrators can post on the pages.

Post No. 43 thanks Brother Nick Lettieri for stepping up as Treasurer; Brother Connor McKeon is 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander; Brother Charles Blood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander; and Brother Stephen Anderson is Adjutant, with my assistance. Stephen will also have his Veterans Motorcycle Club at the VA on the 29<sup>th</sup> if they are available. I need to get these guys the rank insignia for their berets. I thank them for volunteering to help our Post succeed.

Age is just a number, my

Brothers in Arms. Make yourself come alive again by getting involved with your Post. You don't have to do everything, just do something. Others out there who are not veterans can join as an Associate Member. You can do everything with us except hold an office. Brothers from other Posts can join as Associate Members, also. If you join our ranks to help out we will do the same. Isn't that what Brothers are supposed to do? That's an honest question I'm asking. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

We need new, younger blood to keep the Post going. It's up to you younger Masonic veterans out there to join and jump into line. What better cause is there than to help your Brother veterans? We meet once a month and go dark in January and February. After this virus is over we will plan more events to bring everyone together and include our better halves. We want this to be a more cohesive group with fun and fellowship the most important aspects. Camaraderie is looking out for each other. As a veteran, that's what we are taught. Never leave anyone behind. Call me, text me, email me to discuss joining. As an organization we can meet anywhere in Oswego or Onondaga County. If a Brother needs help we will get you to the correct people to assist you or if you just need someone to talk to.

We are going to do a meeting online in the next two to three weeks. I will email those I have addresses for. You can also join by phone. For those who can't

**MWV43 see page 4**

**DDGM**



**RW Jack G. Dombrowski**  
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 bdombrowski@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Brethren! The month of February brings us many things. First, is that we are now deep into the winter weather. Many dread this time of year due to the constant snow shoveling and bad road conditions. However, we adapt to the weather conditions as we know that the snow is needed to replenish our water supplies and to keep our environment rich, fertile and continually growing.

Second, a new mutant strain of the COVID-19 virus has been circulating for some time. We know that we can't control the virus just as we can't control the weather so we have to do what we do best. That is to adapt our behaviours and lifestyles to control the possibility of becoming infected with the virus or spreading it to someone else, taking actions such as mask wearing, social distancing and getting vaccines when available according to your situational priority. Your safe and responsible actions ensure that our great Fraternity and our communities will continue to grow and thrive.

A third is that February is the traditional time of cel-

**More DDGM see 2nd column**

**STAFF OFFICER**



**RW Dan Campis**  
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 dancampis@gmail.com

Greeting, Brethren! As we continue through the winter months still socially distanced, many things are still not as they usually are. As of this writing we continue to be restricted from in-person meeting. I have had the pleasure to join a few virtual Lodge meetings and again enthusiastically encourage you all to include me on your invites for any virtual get-togethers you may have.

I hope to get a few different classes or education-focused virtual meetings off the ground over the next 30-45 days. Keep an eye on your inbox.

Hang in there, my Brothers. Hopefully, we are nearing the end of this pandemic and things will begin to return to a more familiar fashion sooner rather than later. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Daniel Campis

**DDGM from 1st column . . .**

celebrating our Brother George Washington through banquets and lectures. This year will most likely have many of these celebrations going virtual. I have seen the cre-

**DDGM see 3rd column**

**DDGM from 2nd column . . .**

ativity many have put into hosting virtual celebrations and it really has shown the adaptability all of us have within us to keep our daily routines moving forward despite whatever obstacles or challenges have been put before us.

Fourth, with the Grand Lodge communication and

the end of the Masonic year swiftly approaching, there is much work to complete. Lodges need to ensure all required reports and documents are submitted to Grand Lodge in a timely manner, prospective officers for next

**DDGM see 5th column**



**PARADE OF PLAUDITS**

A retirement parade was held Dec. 22 for Seward Elementary School reading teacher Linda Miller. Staff, students and parents from the school and the district drove by her home, recognizing the impact she made during her 22 years at the school and 30 years as a teacher.

**Congratulations go to Linda Miller, wife of RW Mike Miller, PDDGM and PM from Auburn Lodge 124. The caption in Auburn's paper, The Citizen, says it all. Tommy Ostrander**

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

WM Matt Gregory

Happy Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. February days are getting longer with the sun higher in the sky. I hope all is well with you and your family.

Our monthly Lodge Zoom meetings will take place on Tuesday, February 2 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to attend our monthly Zoom meetings please email your request to: [cobb3@verizon.net](mailto:cobb3@verizon.net).

Two pieces of advice: Remember your valentine on February 14. Please send your donation for the Brotherhood Fund directly to Grand Lodge.

Stay warm and continue to stay safe. May God bless.  
Matt Gregory

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

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Welcome, my Brethren. The cool crisp air in the morning is so invigorating. To you snowbirds who wake up sweating, my condolences to you. CNY is well below our snow level for the year, by more than 30 inches. That's not to say Mother Nature won't come back with a fury.

Here is some awesome news. Crossroads United Lodge would like to congratulate Brother Richard (Dick) Forth on being chosen to receive the DSA (Distinguished Service Award) for 2020-2021. Good things did happen in 2020. I have been a WM four years in two Lodges and have had three DSAs chosen in my tenure. It was a year ago that I got to congratulate our last DSA winner. That just goes to prove there are many good Brothers out there, you just need to bring them out.

Brother Forth travels from Pennsylvania with his wonderful sidekick and bride Lucy for meetings on a regular basis. He is an original charter member of William S Farmer Lodge and a fifty-one-year Brother. This year 2020-2021 is the first time he has held an office and he served as Jr. Warden. Earlier in his career he served and volunteered for many positions, never looking to move up the ladder. He preferred to be an Indian over a Chief and what a worker he has been over his career! He worked on many committees

tirelessly behind the scenes. He should have been nominated years ago. What more can you ask from a Brother? He is the definition of a DSA recipient. It just goes to prove that the smallest things a Brother helps with do not go unnoticed.

**Crossroads see 2nd column**

**Crossroads from 1st column . . .**

The number of annual recommendations for each District is limited to no more than

1/5<sup>th</sup> the number of Lodges. Worshipful Jon Lorber, our Secretary, and I didn't have to think hard about who to nominate and writing up his bio was a piece of cake. Again, it's a team effort. It really works, Brothers. Dick should bask in the glory. He deserves it.

I am so proud to say I have worked with some of the finest Brothers, whom I surround myself with. We are here to make our Lodge and Masonry stronger, our responsibility as Worshipful Masters. Thanks are due Most Worshipful GM Bruce Widger for coming up with this award.

Crossroads United Lodge No. 93 in Solvay will be hosting our second (should be third) Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, March 20 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. This is to-go orders only because of the virus. It will be corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and carrots, along with rolls. It will be another great meal and is open to everyone. Reservations are required to let us know what time you will pick up and so we know how much to cook. Please respond to [WMCUR93@gmail.com](mailto:WMCUR93@gmail.com) or call 315/447-2104 and leave a message. Dinners are \$8, \$4 for kids and \$20 for a family of two adults and two children 12 and under. We'd love to see volunteers; just contact me, please. We are limited to the number of volunteers and masks and social distancing are mandatory.

Brothers, if you haven't been notified of various events, besides the *word* articles, that is not my problem. Give us a working cell number for texts; an email address that doesn't get kicked back as undeliverable; a mailing address that doesn't come back; or even a home number for us to call you. Every problem has a solution. Please tell us how we can get in touch with you. Things come up and we utilize texts and emails to get the word out quickly. I'll contact you any way I can but you need to help us help you.

For the following Brothers we need an email address and telephone numbers. Call, text or email me your info please: Warren Barth, Martin Benedict Sr., Edward Edem, Robert Ellis, Steven Esgro, Salvatore Greco, Gary Kimpel, Shawn Reilley, Ray Wachob, Frederick Weber, Matt Vecchio, Joseph Strom.

A lot has changed around here since this virus hit. We will get back to it, my Brethren. Don't give up the ship yet. We are open to any and all suggestions to help your Lodge be a better place. This is not my Lodge, it's yours and I work for you. The same plea goes to those through-

**Crossroads see 3rd column**

**Crossroads from 2nd column . . .**

out the District who don't attend Blue Lodge meetings. Show up when things open up again and make a difference. With Zoom it's much easier to attend. We'd like to welcome our new candidate as soon as we can have a Degree.

We are working on awards for the Brothers this year. The order was put in as soon as the new year struck midnight. As soon as they come in they will be mailed out to you, along with last year's. Grand Lodge having closed early last year, their skeleton crew has had it tough to get out every Lodge's order. Also, please check any mail you received last year from Grand Lodge as you should have a permanent plastic dues card. You will not get a new one every year. If you don't have one, call Jon Lorber.

Those in arrears should please get your dues paid, as your Lodge depends on it. Your 2021 dues are due yesterday. If there's a problem sending them in, get with me, please.

The acronym BAB2L means Bring A Brother 2 Lodge. It is for those Brothers who can't drive to meetings. We will pick you up, bring you to Lodge and deliver you home. All you have to do is call me. This program has brought a sixty-plus-year PM back to Lodge and now he has been driving himself.

Please keep Brother Josh Heitmann in your prayers. He has the virus in a rehab facility recovering from knee surgery. I don't know of anyone else. If anyone is sick or in need of our assistance please contact Secretary Jon Lorber at 315/657-4068 or [bisco302@gmail.com](mailto:bisco302@gmail.com) or me.

Character denotes what someone does when nobody is watching. These folks often have traits like integrity, honesty, courage, loyalty, fortitude and other important virtues that promote good behavior. These character traits define them as people and highly influence the choices they make. I've posted this before and wanted to again. It describes what Masonry is supposed to be. Some don't practice it as much as they should, which is sad. If you know someone else like this then bring him into Masonry. Nobody has brought in a new candidate yet to take advantage of the dues-reduction program. If they are your friends, make them our Brothers.

We are dark for January and February but work continues around the Lodge. If anybody would like to help out we'd love to see you. We will have a Masonic Association Meeting soon and will notify everyone by text or email. If you'd like to be involved in what happens to the building you can show up to hear it firsthand or on Zoom.

Last night via FaceTtime my smiling grandson asked

**Crossroads see 4th column**

**Crossroads from 3rd column . . .**

me how all of his uncles are doing. I said, "Brady, you only have one uncle and one great-uncle. What do you mean by all your uncles?" He responded, "You're always talking about all of your Brothers so that means I have a lot of uncles I've never met." Out of the mouth of a soon-to-be comedian.

We wish Happy Birthday to these Brothers in February. They are Jeff Wilson, Jon Lorber, Richard Penhall, Richard Pishotti, Samuel Redd and George Schunck.

I continue to offer: If anyone is interested in becoming a Shriner he may contact me. And if you are a veteran and would like to join the Masonic War Veterans Post No. 43 serving Oswego and Onondaga Counties, contact me.

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."—Albert Einstein.

God bless America. God bless all of you, my Brothers,

Brian Courtney

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

WM Adam Novak,  
315/200-0886,  
[Novakadam14@yahoo.com](mailto:Novakadam14@yahoo.com)  
Secy Joe Maslak,  
315/491-1410



Fraternal greeting, Brothers. Lodge business has been steady despite social distancing restrictions. We have a core group of active Brothers who keep our Lodge moving forward and to those Brothers I say thank you.

I also wanted to thank our snowbirds who have participated in our Zoom meetings. The one good thing that has come out of all this is we now have a way to keep our Brothers in the southern states informed and participating.

February 7 is our Super Bowl chicken barbecue take-out. Expect to hear more details as we get closer to this event.

As always, please stay healthy. If any Brother needs aid or assistance do not hesitate to reach out to me—or any Brother of our Lodge for help.

Adam Novak

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

WM Garry E. Campbell  
H 315/214-4435,  
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Happy New Year, Brothers! For the first time it truly can be said that hindsight is 2020. Hopefully 2021 brings us a new hope of returning to our old normal once all the vaccines have been administered. In the meantime, we are still holding virtual meetings on the first and third

**Konosioni see 5th column**

**Konosioni from 4th column . . .**

Thursdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. Here is the link if you want to join in: <https://meet.google.com/iei-qyaf-tgz>.

We are trying to maintain a formality to each meeting and an agenda will be emailed, texted or sent via Facebook, so stay tuned. A weekly Masonic reflection and discussion has been the order of business so please feel free to log on and join in the discussion.

Please remember that our many charitable donations are being put on hold this year; if any Brother would like to make an online donation please do so through our PayPal account at [klodge950@gmail.com](mailto:klodge950@gmail.com). You can use the same link to pay your dues, as well. Remember to choose Friends and Family to avoid charges.

I also ask your prayers for the repose of Brother Steven Guzman's soul, as he laid his working tools to rest. Thanks go to W John Buckley and others for performing a Masonic funeral. Steve's obituary asked that donations in his honor can be made to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund: <http://nymasonicbrotherhoodfund.org/donate.html>.

If any Brother needs assistance or knows of a Brother in need, please reach out to me. I wish each and every one of you a happy new year. But please continue to wear your mask and make healthy choices for the safety of yourself, family and community. May the Great Architect of the Universe be with you.

Garry E Campbell

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

WM Mark Kulik,  
315/278-0010,  
[mark.kulik@verizon.net](mailto:mark.kulik@verizon.net)  
Secy Earl Tuttle,  
315/673-2213

Greetings, Brothers. Another month has gone by without a meeting. Intellectually, I understand the need to maintain a closed Lodge but from an emotional, spiritual and fraternal standpoint, I am really longing for the old days. Even the occasional squabble, the botched ritual and the meetings that run well over an acceptable time limit would be more than welcome. I must admit, I miss my Brothers. I do take solace in knowing that this will all be over soon and we will be back in the Lodge before we know it. In the meantime, I want to recommend the fol-

**Skaneateles see 6th column**

**Skaneateles from 5th column . . .**

lowing:

Remember to participate in works of charity. Even though we are trying to maintain safe habits, it is important that we continue to work towards helping our fellow man. There are lots of opportunities to get out and help. And if anyone knows of a need for bread, please let me know as we are still making deliveries.

Reach out to our Brothers. Even though we are not supposed to be actively meeting with each other we can still call and write. There is even Skype or Zoom. We all need to stay connected.

Take this time to appreciate all that we have. Practice gratitude. Take this time to appreciate who we have. Remember the people we love and practice compassion. Most of all, have fun. Enjoy this time.

I have a tendency to get busy and forget to reach out to everyone, a trait that I would love to modify. Because of this, I would like to put out the welcome mat and let everyone know that I am always happy to have people reach out to me if they, too, are looking for some brotherly interaction.

Faith, Hope and Charity. The most important of these is Charity (love).

Mark Kulik

**Morning Star 524 (ON)**  
46 E. Main St.  
Marcellus, N.Y. 13108  
1st & 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m.  
315/673-2561

WM John Bromka,  
315/567-5697



"Half your wood and half your hay/In your barn on Ground Hog's Day." Yes, Brethren, here we are halfway between winter and spring. As the old rhyme goes, I'm sure you've all been planning well.

And hey, soon we'll have Presidents' Day. Take out a dollar bill and contemplate the Great Seal of the United States. Likewise, everything else engraved on the green-back side. It's a token of a great work in progress.

We have much to be thankful for and always more work ahead. Thank you, Brethren, for all of your efforts and for your perseverance and dedication to upholding our Masonic ideals.

John Bromka

**Tom Ostrander, Sponsor Past Grand Steward Cayuga-Tompkins District 2012-2014**

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# Editor's Prerogative

## We have met the enemy

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."—Spanish philosopher George Santayana.

"Those that fail to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it."—British statesman Winston Churchill.

So here we are in a new year that feels an awful lot like the old one, just that we are getting an earlier start at the discomfort. In 2020 we waded into March before things crashed; on January 1, 2021 we plunged right back in, still up to our neck.

It is not about virus. This distress we feel is really of our own making, or rather, of those we answer to. Separation across our country feels engineered like the shutdown. You will observe that social distancing is not measured in linear feet. How do we correct that? bridge that gap? First, I suggest we ignore the drama and the clowns headlining the news and go from there.

There is a lot of sound advice in this issue in the articles by our leaders. Absolutely, reach out to one another. But there is more to be done than making polite connections with our friends. What about those whom we know to be wrong-headed? Where is our obligation there?

This may, bottom line, be a real opportunity for each of us, in terms of temple building. We will have to give up a lot of ourselves to meet those others where they are; and we must demand of them a similar sacrifice. Because it is not We versus They because we all are Us.

We do have the tools. It's about knocking off the rough corners. While philosophical solutions are easy, in practice it's long, hard work. This is how Master Builders make their mark.

I'm looking at a spectacular sunset—what appear to be snow clouds above and below, backlit in the crease by a horizontal band of hot embers. It reminds me of Ben Franklin's musing at the close of the Constitutional Convention. Studying the sun design on the back of Washington's chair throughout the deliberations, he pondered whether it was rising or setting. He at last rose and declared, "Now at length, I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

Stephen L. Zabriskie  
zabled@aol.com

## MWV43 from page 2 . . .

get out for meetings, this will be a great way to get involved. When we get back to meeting with ten or more, if somebody needs a ride just call me and we will get you there and home again. You will miss this first one if we don't have your information; hopefully you can join the next.

To show your pride we have Masonic War Veteran hats, knives, patches, berets and aprons for sale. If inter-

ested, just contact me.

Last but not least, Brothers, we need to get your dues paid up. If you haven't yet, mail them to: Brian Courtney, 8975 E. MudLake Rd., Baldwinsville, NY 13027. Make checks to MW Veterans Post #43.

In order to do the things we do we need this taken care of. Also, as stated more than once, anyone who brings in six members gets a free,

embroidered Polo shirt or your dues paid for a year. And don't forget about the veterans signs you can order from last month's *word*. Anyone who needs an order form or an application for Post No. 43 should contact me.

Keep Commander General of the State of NY Carl Hoyt Sr. in your prayers. He will have undergone surgery at the end of January. If any-

one else out there needs our prayers, please let me know. My Masonic Brothers are near and dear to me; my Masonic Veteran Brothers are just a little closer to my heart. God bless America and God bless all of you, my Brothers,

"A man who conquers himself is greater than one who conquers a thousand men in battle."—Buddha.

Brian Courtney

## Tigris from page 12 . . .

A big topic of discussion at our first Divan meeting was to minimize costs for the family picnic. To do that we will hold three 50/50 raffles to take place in March, April and May. The profits for these raffles will be used to support the family picnic. The savings will be reflected in the cost (if any) in your ticket prices. Fun is the name of the game.

For membership information please contact any member of Tigris Shrine. He can point you in the right direction. Please remember that dues can all be paid online for your convenience.

Thanks go to all of the Nobles for your support in 2020 and your confidence in my leadership in 2021. Lady Suzanne and I look forward to representing Tigris Shrine this year.

Duane E. Crapser



# New York DeMolay expanding

We are excited to announce that Hiram Lodge No. 136 and Pulaski No. 415 have each agreed to sponsor a DeMolay Chapter. DeMolay is an experience of a lifetime for young men age 12 to 21. DeMolay helps develop the civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills needed for a well-rounded character. DeMolay combines its dedicated mission with a fun approach that builds important bonds of friendship and brotherhood among members in more than 1,000 Chapters worldwide.

DeMolay also provides an opportunity for adults to teach, coach and mentor our

future leaders. As an adult Advisor you will witness firsthand the success that these young men will accomplish in your community.

In the near future a presentation will be given via Zoom and, if our current COVID restrictions allow it, at a Lodge near you. It will cover a brief history of DeMolay and what is required to start a Chapter. The presentation will also include

what candidates may expect from their participation in DeMolay. We will discuss the requirements of becoming a DeMolay Advisor.

We will share the login information on many of our Masonic social media platforms. Until then, if you have any questions please contact "Dad" Rob Myers at 315/744-0231 or email: [rmyers@nydemolay.org](mailto:rmyers@nydemolay.org).

Rob Myers

## One more offering from the 1921 Builder.

# THE VOICE OF AMERICA

I have taken the breed of all nations,  
Barred no religion or race,  
From the highest and lowest of stations  
They came and I found them place.

Powers invisible drew them,  
Freedom unborn was their quest,  
'Til my uttermost borderlands knew them  
The least of the world and the best.

They came with the wisdom of sages,  
The darkness, the stain and the dirt,  
They came with the glory of ages,  
And I took them my hope and my hurt.

I have gathered the breed of all nations,  
Drawn from each caste and each clan;  
Tried them and proved them and loved them  
And made them American.

Made them a nation of Builders,  
Fearless and faithful and free,  
Entered them, passed them and raised them  
To the Master's Sublime Degree.

Theirs is the task of restoring  
The Ancient and Honored Guild  
The work to the Speculative,  
The spirit to those who build.

'Til none shall be less than a Master,  
And know but one Ruler above,  
Bound by the spirit of justice  
And the mortar of brotherly love.

'Til the house shall belong to the Workman  
And the Craft come again to its own;  
And this is your task, oh, my people!  
Through you will the Lost Word be known.

Josephine B. Bowman. Peoria, Illinois.



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# Event schedule, Feb '21

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

- Feb 2 ..... Groundhog Day
- ..... FayCC—Zoom
- Feb 4 ..... Konosioni—Zoom
- Feb 5 ..... CC25KT—Zoom
- Feb 7 ..... Jordan—BBQ Take-Out
- Feb 9 ..... LkCity—Zoom
- Feb 10 ..... WSalemTown—Blood Drive
- Feb 14 ..... Valentine's Day
- Feb 16 ..... FayCC—Zoom
- Feb 18 ..... Konosioni—Zoom
- Feb 23 ..... CCRivRAM—Zoom
- ..... LkCity—Zoom

- Mar 13 ..... Dyslexia CNY—Zoom Gala
- Mar 20 ..... CrossroadsU—Corned Beef



# Inscription

TO THE MEMORY OF GEN. MORDECAI GIST WHILE IN COMMAND OF THE FIRST MARYLAND BATTALION, HE SO VALIENTLY COVERED THE RETREAT OF THE AMERICAN FORCES AT THE BATTLE OF LONG REVOLUTION A TRIBUTE FROM THE MARYLAND SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ERECTED 1919

A couple of issues back, we shared detail on the career of the Revolutionary figure Mordecai Gist. The article referred to an illustration that was not available in the source material. Scipio Lodge Brother Richard Baldwin contributed this follow up, with a helpful referral to the Find a Grave website. It's interesting to note the zeal of this patriot, in that his two sons were named Independent Gist and States Rights Gist.—Editor.

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This long excerpt appeared 100 years ago in the January 1921 issue of *The Builder*. The relevant time frame considerations were the Spanish flu and World War I—although, at that time the war did not have a number. See if this makes you feel like Groundhog Day, the movie.—Editor.

## EDITED BY BRO. ROBERT TIPTON

Some time ago we were privileged to read an essay dealing with village life in England six hundred years ago. The author had gleaned facts relative to the people of this particular village whose history he was investigating, from the parish records. His labor throughout revealed the marks of patient industry and exhaustive research.

It requires no little imagination to realize that the ancestry of a people who have acquired a marked degree of culture, refinement, and progressive enterprise, could have possibly lived in such mean circumstances as he discovered. Of the people referred to there were no doubt some whose homes were near those of the lineal ancestry of George Washington, and a stretch of the imagination would make it possible to conclude that probably some of these shared the impoverished condition described as the lot of the common people. For example, we find that of Washington's ancestors, one was the first lay proprietor of the Manor of Sulgrave, suggesting a possible one-time emerging from a lower into a higher rank where respectable merchandising or some such vocation received more than paltry recognition.

Dr. Jessopp, our investigator, describing the conditions of that period, writes thus as the result of his findings:

"As for the houses themselves, they were squalid enough for the most part. The manor house was often built of stone, when stone was to be had, then of flint, as in so many of our church towers. The poorer houses were dirty hovels, run up 'anyhow,' sometimes covered with turf, sometimes with thatch. None of them had chimneys. Six hundred years ago houses with chimneys were at least as rare as houses heated by hot-water pipes are now. Moreover, there were no brick houses. It is a curious fact that the art of making bricks seems to have been lost in England for some hundreds of years. The laborer's dwelling had no windows; the hole in the roof which let out the smoke rendered windows unnecessary, and even in the houses of the well-to-do, glass windows were rare. In many cases oiled linen cloth served to admit a feeble semblance

of light, and to keep out the rain. The laborer's fire was in the middle of his house; he and his wife and children huddled round it, sometimes grovelling in the ashes, and going to bed meant flinging themselves down upon the straw which served them as mattress and feather bed, exactly as it does to the present day in the gypsy's tent in our byways. The laborer's only light by night was the smouldering fire. Why should he burn a rushlight when there was nothing to look at, and reading was an accomplishment which few laboring men were masters of?"

Compare now, if you please, the following, which will give an interesting light on some of the perplexing problems that the civilized world is confronting after the Great War. From the comparison it will be readily seen that of the millions inhabiting the Balkan Peninsula, the great majority are almost on a par with those English rurals of six hundred years ago. A recent study of "The Balkans" by Professor Sloan discover for us an analogous condition depicted in the piece of historical research by Dr. Jessopp. In Professor Sloan's work which so remarkably sets forth the conditions under which men live in southeastern Europe today, we read particularly of a Montenegrin home. A visitor to Montenegro has a sense of that country's bitter poverty which the people themselves do not feel. As was said of Greece, the estimate of the tourist depends on his point of view.

"Amid the wild surrounding people, Montenegro is in a state of advanced civilization, a model and a stimulus. But a Montenegrin country home! Four stone walls and a roof, thatch or slate, with no chimneys, the smoke oozing out through every cranny of the eaves, the unglazed windows and open doors. Within is a clay floor, with smouldering embers in the middle, and wide couches round about; the cattle are in a lean-to at the end, with their hoard of manure cherished like the treasure it is."

Some houses are better, some worse than this faithful description, but the average is very low. Squalid enough ancestry is here depicted, for so many of our twentieth century people have attained a degree of comfort and prosperity that is indeed enviable.

We are naturally always interested in finding the factors responsible for the generic movements, or the person responsible for what today must be regarded as wonderful transformation. For during these days of much talking about interdependence, organization and cooperation, little or no credit is ascribed to the effort of the individual, and the tendency is to a general forgetfulness of his potency. The chief concern seems to be to insist that all men are but relative in their usefulness, and in that last summing up are but cogs in a vast machine. Because of this it will do us good occasionally if we but revert to those wise sages who grace the pages of history, who have emphasized in unforgettable ways the value of the individual.

Let us turn to Carlyle, and we may read something like this relative to those who are sponsors for great movements in human progress:

"In all epochs of the world's history, we shall find the Great Man to have been the indispensable savior of his epoch; the lightning, without which the fuel never would have burnt. The History of the World, I said already, is the Biography of Great Men."

A re-reading of the Heroes impressed the following quotation which seemed to us eminently worth considering. It is what Carlyle offers in regard to those puny souls who are forever delighting in disparaging their kind, and belittling the noble efforts of great men. "No sadder proof," says he, "can be given by a man of his own littleness than disbelief in great men."

Our search then, for the factor that transforms society and enhances the interest of men, will be the search for the individual. That individual may not always be discoverable, even as in the case of the English village; much difficulty would be encountered in the endeavor to ascertain the single individual whose aspiration and success became a beacon light of promise in such darkness. "Some there be which have no memorial." Such was the observation of an ancient writer.

...We are today deeply impressed in the post-war studies of influences that were at work generating the tendencies that made for war, in discovering the remarkable power wielded over thinking youth by those writ-

ers who so trenchantly enunciated a philosophy for which they were either sponsors or strong devotees. To reflect that Nietzsche and Frietschke were potent factors in the shaping of the thought that made Germany a militaristic nation serves formidably in bringing to the fore the power and influence of the individual. To enhance this conception of the influence of such individuals, it may be interesting to reflect on the following quotation from General Bernhardt's recent book, *War in the Future*, which in no small degree accentuates the belief that the German militaristic aspirations are not yet completely buried.

"I know that the course of politics changes; that the moment will come, all too soon, when there will be need of us on one side or the other; that, when it comes, things will turn out favorably for our restoration. I hope that the Germans, who now seem sunk in selfishness and the pursuit of pleasure, will stand up again like men; that there will arise a purified nation, worthy of its great forefathers, able to look upon war as it really is.

"As for me, I shall hardly live to see this great moment. My life-course has been run helping build up the nation which now lies in ruin. But I write confidently for the future. Men of a day yet to come will be capable of appreciating that which I here set down, and my words, which until now have always fallen on unheeding ears, will prove to be seeds that do not fall upon thorns. With that belief I lay down my pen for the present.

"Germany will arise again: she still has a great future before her!"

...One friend, who is particularly interested in statecraft, wrote us and said that the biographies which he considered most powerful and stimulating were: First, *The Lives* by Plutarch; Second, Froude's *Caesar*; Third, Herndon's *Lincoln*; Fourth, Lockhart's *Napoleon*.

...We here wish to bring attention to one of the remarkable paragraphs that we ran across in the re-reading of Froude's *Caesar*. At the time of the breaking down of the Republic, due to being burdened by extravagancies

and luxuries of the privileged, the only redemption possible seemed to be through the efforts of the stout Yeomanry who had been uncontaminated by the offenses and abuses of those who lived in the cities. The paragraph referred to caused us to reflect that the conditions described by Froude were in measure prototype

loathes it, yet when I find myself in the centre of a jazz jamboree, I listen with no bored, snobbish insouciance, but with what I imagine to be serene toleration."

...Likewise there comes to us a recollection that some noted lecturer ventured to suggest at the beginning that the reason for the intensification of the militaristic spirit in Germany was occasioned by the German government, when they recognized that the young German students becoming tired of the preachments of Nietzsche, and looking

of the conditions that we face today, and we too felt an avowed conviction that the regeneration of our own times lies largely with those who live upon the farms and in the rural districts, far from the madness and social insanity that is most eloquently symbolized in what is designated as the "Jazz."

Let us, if you please, place side by side a quotation from Froude's *Caesar*, a short article by a recent writer in *The Living Age* on "Jazz."

"Redemption," says Froude, "if redemption was to be hoped for, could come only from the free citizens in the country districts, whose manner and whose minds were uncontaminated, in whom the ancient habits of life still survived who still believed in the gods, and who were contented to follow the wholesome round of honest labor."

Now read the quotation on "Jazz," which we suggest to be wonderfully symbolic of the insanity of our times:

"Screams, moans, crashes, blows, cowbells, and tin pans fought desperately with each other, something like a tugboat siren cried ghastly at the night, and a booming bass drum carried one's mind to the kraals of Africa. 'A social evening for the young folk,' said someone indulgently, 'it helps to keep the young people in the church.'

"Now I am not going to raise my hands in pious horror at jazz music. Such music is the order of this barbarian day, and the minority can do little but endure. I cannot say that I admire it myself, for the truth is that my soul

around for another teacher, had turned to our own good Walt Whitman. We can readily understand how war would have been impossible should the young Germans ever have succumbed to the glorious gospel about the wider democracy of Walt Whitman.

Therefore, we can readily appreciate the virtue of reading such biographies as Herndon's *Lincoln*. May we not with assurance assert that to keep the American spirit alive one must become saturated with the idealisms of those who best have interpreted America?

We have heard in recent years a certain beratement of the West by the East on account of what they designate as a lack of what antiquity and culture gives. There is a broad, beautiful, unconventionality about the western way; it seems to bespeak the vast distances, the high mountains and wide rivers that we have to deal with in America, and the unconventionality and the charm of these things seems to reflect itself in such great souls as Abraham Lincoln. Herndon has given him to America as he knew him, in this biography, so as to make him the enchanted one to which young America can ever resort for inspiration in real Americanism.

Knowing Lincoln one can read about all the emperors, kings, and potentates that the world has even seen and yet keep sanely American, and the keeping sanely American of our younger generation of thinkers is going to prove itself the great barrier against that tendency among us to Europeanize America.

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# OSWEGO DISTRICT

## DDGM REPORT



**Leon A. Bulriss**  
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Greetings, Brethren. I hope this finds you and your family well since the resurgence after the holidays of COVID. As I write this month's article my mind wanders back to last year at this time when Groundhog Day was nearly upon us and Punxsutawney Phil would predict an early spring or six more weeks of winter. Back then we would have sooner believed his prediction was an absolute truth than to have believed what we were about to experience during 2020 with the yet unknown COVID pandemic. No doubt, we would have all been happy with the six more weeks of winter instead. As we look to the new year with hope and optimism, we can in retrospect take solace in knowing that we have become stronger because of the past year and now move forward with confidence that we are ready to meet the challenges of the new.

With great difficulty and sadness I feel compelled to mention the horrific attack on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 on our National Capitol and our Democracy. Another infamous and dark day is now recorded in the history of our great country. I am sure you all as Freemasons and patriotic Americans felt the same shock and mixed emotions I experienced as I watched what transpired that day. This is neither the time nor place to expound further on this except to say, as Freemasons the subject of politics, regardless of our personal views and political affiliation, are never openly discussed in Lodge, Masonic writing, on Zoom or any other social media. We must always remember the new word we were presented in the First Degree, "Caution," which applies to all we do and say as Freemasons.

Another word that dominates my thoughts since that day is "Civility." This word had such an influence on our first President and Brother George Washington that as a boy he transcribed the 110 rules from the section on Civility from the 1761 book

**DDGM**  
see 2nd column

## STAFF OFFICER



**Shawn Tuff**  
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**No News Received**  
**DDGM**  
from 1st column . . .

by Francis Hawkins: *Youth's Behavior, Or, Decencies in Conversation Among Men.* These values that he learned as a boy and held dear shaped the rest of his private and public life. There still is much to be learned from our history and our forefathers that can be applied to the present.

Most all of the Oswego District Lodges held Zoom meetings in January. As of this writing I have not yet heard if Grand Master Sardone will extend through February his decree of November 29, 2020 permitting virtual communication.

In December I was invited to attend the Lake City Lodge No. 127 virtual Christmas Party. It was well attended by their Lodge Brothers, a new Lake City candidate, several guest Brothers from outside our District, Grand Line members RW Steven Rubin, RW Scott Peat, RW David Menegon, and from the near empty streets of New York City, Grand Master Sardone and his family who gave us a brief walking tour video to include a view of Macy's. It was a fun event with fellowship enjoyed by all.

Another annual Masonic social event was held on Saturday, January 30—the virtual Robert Burns Supper presented by the Knights of St. Andrews from the AASR Valley of Syracuse. This was held in lieu of their annual Burns Night Supper at Coleman's Restaurant, which had to be cancelled. Entertainment included samples of Burns's poetry, plenty of toasting and the traditional Address to the Haggis. Adult beverages were enjoyed, with no worries about driving home.

Another very important fundraising event presently in the works is the virtual Children's Dyslexia Annual Gala to be held on Saturday, March 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The evening's entertainment is by worldwide hit Leon Etienne, America's Rock Illusionist. His show commences at 7:00 p.m. Leon Etienne is a native of Utica, NY, with two decades of professional performing

**DDGM**  
see page 7

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS



**Patrick Fasulo**  
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### AGL Bob Boutell

Greetings, Brethren! Here is an article from best-selling author Ryan Holiday's the Daily Stoic. You may find it inspiring. I did.

"We all have vices. We all have flaws. We all have things we know we want to change.

What happens? Nothing happens.

"This is true for everyone, even Martin Luther King. 'One day,' King said that we tell ourselves, 'I'm going to rise up and drive this evil out. I know it is wrong. It is destroying my character and embarrassing my family.'

"But then... At last the day came and you made a New Year's resolution that would get rid of the whole base evil. And then the next year came around and you were doing the same old evil thing. Can you remember the surprise and disappointment that gripped you when you discovered that... after all that you had done through your resolutions to get rid of it—the old habit was still there? And out of amazement you found yourself asking, 'Why could I not cast it out?'

"Seneca reminds us that fools all have one thing in common: They are always getting ready to start. They are always getting ready to change. And then? And then? And then?

They never do. They don't do the work.

"Rooting evil out of your life takes work. Same with losing five pounds, quitting smoking, breaking the smartphone addiction, drinking less, reading more. But, as King said, the nature of evil is only simple in theory. 'Neither a bull nor a noble-spirited man comes to be what he is all at once,' Epictetus told one eager student. 'He must undertake a hard winter training.'

"You must do the work. You must stop delaying. You must get started.

"Today.

"Right now.

"A new year is upon you. Is there a better time than now?

"No, there is not.

"Let's go. Not tomorrow, as Marcus warns, but today."

Pat Fasulo

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Brethren, February has come, though I write this in early January. So far, it seems this pandemic will never end. It is hoped that all of you and your family are healthy and safe. We found out last month that our Grand Master was stricken with COVID and pneumonia. As of this writing he was home and recovering. We have sent our prayers to speed him along that path. We can only pray that faster ways of getting people inoculated are found to finally end this scourge. As the situation stands, meetings on Zoom are still indicated and so that is what we will do.

Your Trestleboard looks like this: Tuesday, February 9 is a Special Communication at 7:30 p.m. And Tuesday, February 23 is another Special Communication at 7:30. You will be invited via email for each meeting.

The George Washington Banquet has been cancelled and there are no other meetings or events scheduled for February at this time. Should something come up, you will be notified.

One of the oft-repeated Masonic mottos is "Making good men better." In modern parlance, what does this mean in actual practice?

We begin with a search for the historical origins of the motto, and that was not something discoverable, though it aligns with the aims of the Fraternity. Unlike a religion whose purpose is to accept all, Freemasonry is discerning and only accepts those who can be ascertained to be of good standing. We check into the background of the men who seek to join, we evaluate them and check the references required on our petition.

Our goal, though similar to any religion worthy of the name, is the betterment of all. But in the Fraternity this is done by taking men adjudged as good and making them better. Thus they can stand as exemplars and by their own lives uplift their fellow men.

Our usage of the phrase in both the Lodge and for recruiting purposes is not for aggrandizement, but rather to demonstrate Freemasonry's unique path. In the modern world, we hold ourselves out to a higher standard, striving ever upward and onward to a lofty goal: that of being a Worthy Brother Mason.

In Freemasonry we truly believe that man is God in the making and we encourage all to be co-Creators, involved in the Spiritual Evolution of Humanity. This is our mandate from the Great Architect of the Universe: to be a shining beacon of what

**Lake City**  
see 5th column

## Lake City from 4th column . . .

man not only can be, but also should be.

Making good men better is as important now as it ever has been. Providing the light to illuminate each candidate's way on the path; dispelling the shadow and all of the difficult and destructive thoughts that arise; bringing Master Masons to the pinnacle of actualizing all of our God-given abilities, such that we may light the way for all.

"That which is above is as that which is below...." We all partake in Deity and ever the more so when we bring it to the fore. So mote it be.

In parting, here is an inspiring quote from a worthy Brother Mason:

"The major offense of Masonry to orthodox churches is that it, like our First Amendment, encourages equal tolerance for all religions, and this tends, somewhat, to lessen dogmatic allegiance to any one religion."

Robert Anton Wilson (1932-2007) was a Freemason, American novelist, essayist, philosopher, futurist and guerilla ontologist. He was author of thirty books, fiction and non-fiction, some best sellers, and many articles and essays. His was a very unique and inquiring voice.

James Rizzo

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315/427-2878  
Scott.colbert@pauldavis.com



Greetings Brothers. I hope this message finds you and your family well. At the time of this writing we are but a few days away from our first chicken barbecue in a long time. We've pre-sold 100 meals and I want to thank all who supported us. A special thank-you goes to Brother Kevin Dix and his wife Jamie for doing most of the leg work, Dave VanAuken (we seem to keep calling his name), Mary Lou Colbert for always being there to help, as well, and Mark Alnutt for cooking up some excellent chicken. I'm certain we're going to have a great time this weekend and I hope you were able to join us.

It would be careless of me if I didn't say Happy New Year! to all of you. Aren't we all glad 2020 is over? Now that the calendar has turned the page, all that had ailed us has been healed. All that concerned us has been rectified. Our political divisions have been reconciled. We have new vaccines to wipe out this pandemic. Our financial concerns have been put to rest. It's a new year! We have new trails to blaze and no obstacles in sight. It's going to be our best year ever. If you want it to be.

I write this pungent little

**Callimachus**  
see 6th column

## Callimachus from 5th column . . .

"soliloquy" to remind you all that you have a choice each day. This can absolutely be the best year ever. We always have that choice. It's a simple formula to turn things around. You just have to work harder. Work harder on yourself. Work harder at being happy with your lot in life. Work harder to bring joy to those around you. Work harder to make someone else smile—for no other reason than that you can. Work harder to do something for someone else with no expectation of getting anything in return. A simple act of kindness can change a stranger's day, perhaps his life, and yours as well.

One of the core principles of our great Fraternity is that Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better. In this time of unbridled division and disdain for others in this country, how is our Fraternity doing? Are we making an impact? Are you making an impact?

My guidance to all is to control what you can control in front of you. Work harder to set the example for your family, friends, community. The fact is that your actions are being watched by someone. Show that person a better way. There are 88 muscles in your face. I challenge you to use them more this year than you did last simply by smiling more.

Be engaged in your community. The world needs good men right now and we are those men. Make an impact this year by engaging with a good thing. I ask you to re-engage with your Lodge if you've been away. We know you're busy and a regular or full-time commitment is probably out of the question at this time. An occasional presence at a meeting or event is welcomed by all. I can assure you that you will be met with a smile. Brother George Washington stated: Human happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected. Scott Colbert

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Brethren, we have made it to a new year and hopefully to something resembling normal. I'm sure our Brothers of the 1918 era went through difficult times, what with pandemic and WW 1 raging in Europe. And somehow they came through it and continued to spread the light of Masonry to mankind.

It is now our collective obligation to continue that work of those who have come this way before us. At present we are unable to carry out in-person meetings but with Zoom can still be connected. I know a phone call is not used much anymore but it remains a more personal touch.

**Pulaski**  
see page 7



# CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

## DDGM REPORT



**Maurice (Moe) Skinner**  
 rwmoeskinner@gmail.com  
 607/592-5424

Welcome back Brothers! By now most of us are sitting on our couch wrapped in warm blankets watching the temperature drop below 0° at night and hoping that the pipes do not freeze. Remember, while listening to that creaking sound you hope is the cold floors and not your joints, that as of February 2, no matter what Punxsutawney Phil in PA says, spring is only six weeks away. Overnight, all the snow will be gone, it will warm up to 60° and green will be everywhere.

On Sunday, February 14 do not forget Cupid. Guys, this is the day we need to step up more than usual. Our significant others (and wives) need to be shown how much we appreciate them. With the current limitations in restaurants, dining out may not be an option. Cook them a great dinner and don't forget to do the dishes afterwards. Really go all out, vacuum a rug, pick up the living room, put on that romantic DVD and bring her a glass (or bottle) of wine. Guys, remember she has been cooped up in the house just as much as you, if not more.

I know many of you are feeling, as I do, that many things are out of sorts. No Lodge or concordant bodies meetings tend to leave a hole in one's week and social calendar. Zoom meetings are nice but just not the same, are they? With the vaccine being administered, soon enough people will have received it that life will return to a more normal tempo. We will once again hear those familiar words, "Don't you have a meeting or something to go to tonight!"

Good news: Plans are in motion to have Grand Lodge this year. It most likely will not be the same old same old; but I have been given assurances that we will have a Grand Lodge. More details as to just how it will happen will be forthcoming.

Moe Skinner

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

## STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

No News Received

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

WM Clifford Kostuk,  
 ckostuk@cortlandschools.org

Brethren, Homer Lodge's meetings continue to be on hold as we get through the COVID situation. In the meantime, here's some information on Homer Lodge No. 352's first Worshipful Master (1855-1857) and Charter Member Dr. Ashbel Patterson. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

### DEATH OF Dr. Ashbel Patterson

It has long been known that Dr. Patterson was in very feeble health and his death was looked for almost daily, therefore but few will be surprised – though many will be grieved – to learn that our esteemed townsman passed to his rest last evening. Ashbel Patterson was born in New Lebanon, Columbia County, on the 29th of March, 1803. At the age of 18 he entered Berkshire Medical College in Pittsfield, Mass., graduated with honor and in 1824 came to this county and settled in Danby. In the following year he married Miss Eliza Sackett Hill, daughter of the well-remembered "Uncle" Uri Hill. He left Danby in 1834, and located in Homer where he remained until 1858. While a resident of Cortland county he was prominently interested in public affairs and was once or twice sent to the Legislature by the democratic party, of which he was ever an active and uncompromising member. In 1858 he came to Ithaca and for almost a score of years was engaged in an extensive and exceedingly lucrative medical practice. Noted for his keen judgment, shrewd business qualifications as well as his kind heart he soon became popular. It is said that he never would refuse a call from even the poorest and most humble person requiring medical aid, nor would he join the combination which had for its object the increase of fees for professional services, saying that he thought the old rates were high enough and all that the poor could afford. The Doctor was never known to enter into any business enterprise which bore the slightest resemblance to speculation, he even declined to touch a bond of any description. His friends assert that the goodly fortune which he leaves was amassed by the successful practice of his profession extending over the period of fifty-five years. The deceased leaves three children, viz.: U.H. [Uri Hill] Patterson, of Binghamton, Dwight, of Syracuse, and Mrs. Uri Clark of this vil-

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

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

**RW David R. Walter**  
 hydevilles1116@gmail.com  
 607/725-7227

No News Received

lage. (*Ithaca Daily Journal*; Ithaca, NY. Tuesday, December 31, 1878, page 4.)  
 Wade A. Caler

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

WM William T. Brush,  
 315/837-4350,  
 brush@citlink.net  
 Secy Gregory J. Wright,  
 315/655-1089,  
 gjw412@yahoo.com

Greetings, Brothers. The Cazenovia Lodge No. 616 is currently meeting via Zoom. It is amazing how we have adapted. How many of us had heard of Zoom before this current global pandemic?

We at the Cazenovia Lodge have made a concerted effort to communicate with all members of the Lodge. Some of the members are now living far from the Lodge, some not in good health and some have fallen off the regular Lodge communications roll. We have reached out to all members and received some surprising responses. The Brothers who have not been heard from for years expressed their gratitude for the communication and have requested more information on Lodge activities. Even the Brothers who would find great difficulty in attending any activities want to know what is occurring within the Lodge. We are hoping some of these Brothers will be able to attend via Zoom. We are discussing the possibility of continuing in some capacity the production of some form of virtual communication, even once our lives return to normal and in-person meetings resume.

Cazenovia Lodge meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The following is the meeting ID and Passcode for these meetings. We would invite any Brothers—either our Lodge members or not—to attend these meetings in an attempt to keep our fraternal contact.

The meeting ID and pass-word for the first Wednesday of the month meeting is:  
 ID: 812 9058 6420  
 Passcode: 925666

The meeting ID and pass-word for the third Wednesday of the month meeting is:  
 ID: 897 5813 4297  
 Passcode: 416102

The Cazenovia Lodge also congratulates Brother Gary Sunderman on recently receiving the Dedicated Service Award. This is a well-deserved award for many years of dedication and service to the Cazenovia Lodge. Thanks go to all for your continued support during these very challenging times.  
 William T. Brush

## Oswego from page 6 . . .

Pulaski . . . .

As your Lodge has been planning for a new season, we would encourage and welcome suggestions for programs you would like to see. Our Junior Warden Jerney is looking into bringing back a DeMolay and Triangle Chapter to our Lodge. It has been a number of years since we have sponsored one.

With time on our hands, I would encourage our officers to go over the opening ritual. It sounds much better when a word is not left out or a line missed. That way, when we are again open we'll be up to speed.

We still have projects to be done on our Lodge fix-up list and could use a helping hand. Brother Bigelow finished repairing the window for the blue room but we might wait for warmer days to do the install. Thanks go to Brother John for the good work.

Please stay safe during these rough winter days until we can once again meet on the level. May God bless us, one and all.

Fred Dashnaw

**HIRAM LODGE 136**  
 646 Maple Ave.  
 Fulton, N.Y. 13069  
 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.  
 315/593-1832

WM Duane Crapser



Let us sort this out. My last few articles have focused on the lack of vision and the lack of the ability to change with our ever-changing world. After speaking with many New York State Masons and hearing the words of encouragement, here we go.

Lodges struggle with putting on well-executed Degrees. This leaves our candidates with many thoughts and emotions that I have heard over the years. How can we fix this? How about a District Degree Team? I am not talking about a team that goes around to teach the Degrees and ritual. That is what we have AGLs for. I'm talking about a team that shows up at your Lodge fully prepared and ready to go.

A District Degree Team would be able to put on a Degree for your Lodge and give your candidates the experience they deserve. And not only deserve but also need. The messages have been lost or distorted because of the lack of quality in the Degree. The idea of a Degree team has been brought up before but as far as I know it has never been done. With the talent that we have in the District it would be easy to do with representatives from all Lodges.

Let us tackle the recycling of leadership in our Lodges and in our District. I know many of you know that I have been Master of Mexico Lodge in the past. Not once but four times. Why can we not get new members to come to Lodge and why

**Hiram**  
 see 5th column

## Hiram from 4th column . . .

can't we get them to stay in line? Many good leaders in our District have said, I do not have the time to learn all the ritual that comes with being in line. The new members hear talk of memorizing and decide early on that they will not be in the line. With that thinking, why keep coming to Lodge just to listen to the minutes get read and debate on donating \$50 to a charity?

What is my solution? It is time to open the books. I know this is not a popular subject to discuss but it is time we address it and "That is not how we do it" is not the answer. What is the harm of having a binder at each station or chair for the officer to read from? It means every Lodge saying the same thing during an opening and closing; every Lodge following the same road map. There is a reason chain stores are almost identical. Why? Because it makes their customers comfortable, it makes them easier to navigate. Right now the Lodges have openings, closings and Degree ritual in the same ballpark but not all are playing the same game.

With our membership numbers dropping yearly what do we have to lose by making changes that address the issues instead of trying the same old things? Ideas should be celebrated not frowned upon because it has never been done. Leaders come in many ways and when the current leaders do not seek them out, we fail as a Fraternity. It is time to try to save the Craft we love.

Duane E. Crapser

## DDGM from page 6 . . .

experience on six continents, coast to coast in the USA and in dozens of countries around the world. He has performed on *America's Got Talent*, fooled Penn and Teller on their *Fool Us* TV show and blew Jimmy Fallon's mind on *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. Also included in the evening will be the always-popular basket raffle drawings and more. Make sure to mark this date on your calendar now and be watching for further information as the day of the event grows closer or call the Children's Dyslexia Center of CNY at 315/736-0576 if you have further questions on how to purchase tickets, make donations, etc. Enjoy great professional entertainment in the comfort of your home while supporting the Children's Dyslexia Center of Central New York.

The 2021 Grand Lodge Educational Assistance Program is now accepting applications. Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time institution and be the son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a Mason in good standing or a deceased Master Mason. Apply online at [nymasons.org](http://nymasons.org).

As always, Brothers, I will keep you informed through your Worshipful Master and Lodge Secretary of the latest updates from Grand Lodge as I receive them. Brethren, stay safe and healthy. May God bless each of you, our Fraternity and the United States of America.

Leon A. Bulriss

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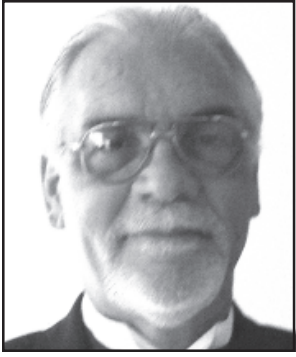
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# CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT

## DDGM REPORT



**David A. Barnello**  
DDGM, Cayuga-Tompkins District  
315/283-6705  
dabbcr@aol.com

Greetings, all. I am sad to report that the number of COVID cases has seen an uptick in communities in our District in the last couple of weeks and reports of Brothers stricken have also increased, but no reported deaths. We have just begun seeing the first rollout of the COVID vaccine. Many frontline medical workers and many elderly have had their first round shot and will have their follow-up shot in February. If all goes well, the rest of our accepting population will be inoculated by summer. Hopefully, this will turn the tide on this menacing virus and lessen some of the social restrictions we now face.

As reported earlier, many Lodges in the District are holding virtual meetings via Zoom or other means. Please feel free to send out notice or post on OLP an invitation to other Lodges. I'm sure that some of your Brothers would be glad to visit your Lodge in this way. Remember, too, to include those men waiting in the wings to join your Lodge, as I'm sure they would like to be part of the experience. You can also send a reminder request to Tommy O. and he will get your notice out to the masses.

Your Grand Lodge continues to offer a variety of online learning opportunities and programs meant to enhance your experience, train current and future leaders of your Lodge and lead the way to more light in Masonry. Be sure to check out more details on upcoming events on the Grand Lodge website.

I'm fielding many requests for information regarding the annual Grand Lodge Communication in May. Be assured that in the upcoming weeks you will be hearing from Grand Lodge on the decisions being made regarding this year's event.

Celebrations: February is Black History month. February 12 begins the Chinese Year of the Ox and is Lincoln's Birthday. February 14 is Valentine's Day. February 15 is President's Day. February 17 is Ash Wednesday. February 22 is Washington's Birthday.

That's it for now. Please

**DDGM**  
see 2nd column

## STAFF OFFICER



**Anthony J. Tabone**  
thats1happitooth@verizon.net

*No News Received*

## DDGM from 1st column . . .

keep in mind our Brothers who may be suffering in sickness or distress. Contribute to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund and support your Lodge and District events. Above all, be safe and do good things.

Dave Barnello

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

WM David A. Timm,  
ddtimm@yahoo.com  
Secy Stephen L. Zabriskie,  
zabled@aol.com

Greetings, Brothers. I hope everyone had a safe New Year celebration.

Listening to the local news it seemed as though the coronavirus was just going to go away come January 1st. Call it wishful thinking or just being positive, let us be like that newsman and hope we can all meet again soon.

I have sad news to report. Brother Scott Ward lost his mom on December 29, 2020. Rosalie was a member of the Genoa Fire Department and Critical Incident Management Team that counseled First Responders. Our thoughts and hearts go out to the Ward family.

On a scary note, Brother Bill Hitchcock decided to spend some time at Ithaca Hospital due to COVID. I am pleased to report he is back home and back to work.

I had two great telephone conversations recently with Brother Chuck Minster and Brother David Timm. Both send warmest regards to the Brothers of the District and I assured both of them they were sadly missed. Brother David has gone to a Lodge meeting in Boise (Idaho) and reports that they open and conduct their meetings a little differently than we and was amused that they called him a Past Master.

Brother Chuck and wife Kris have been outing with their daughter and her family and seem to be adjusting well to the North Country. We wish both families a safe and healthy new year.

To all the Brothers of the District: please be safe. We will get through this together.

Ed Maassen II

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

**Jeffrey Lampman,**  
315/406-8050,  
jefflamppost@gmail.com  
**Anthony Vaughan,**  
607/351-6872,  
aqvaughan56@hotmail.com

*No News Received*

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

WM Tim Carmon  
wift Kelly

We remain at very limited Lodge activity. However, there are some things worth reporting. This month we would like to focus on a family perspective related to our Lodge.

Our annual American Red Cross blood drive will be conducted on Wednesday, February 10 at the Union Springs Fire Department. We sponsor the event along with the US Lions Club.

There are six blood drives annually and for years these events have been managed by Millicent Lewis, wife of departed W Roger Lewis. Over the past few years their daughter Deb Lewis, a member of the Lions, took over the duties of being Day Chair. Since her mother Millie is now 101 years young, she finds it necessary to step back from this responsibility. Lion Linda Banker, daughter of departed RW Robert Banker, has agreed to serve as the Day Chair for the local blood drives. These Brothers would be extremely proud of their daughters serving our community.

Christmas also brings our annual family focus directed to the widows of deceased Brothers. Currently, we have ten widows we contact. Six widows live locally and a team of Brothers deliver a poinsettia to their home. Four widows who live far away received a Christmas card with a note composed by RW Ken Pollard.

"To: The wives of our departed Brothers, Best wishes from Cayuga and Union Springs. While the COVID-19 virus has affected our Lodge meetings since last March, we are remembering the members of this Lodge who are no longer with us. We hope you are safe from the grip of this virus and are preparing to enjoy the Christmas Season. We wish you the very best in the New Year. Cordially and Sincerely, Timothy L. Carmon, Master."

In response to our remembrance we received a thank-you note from Jane Bowen, wife of departed Brother W Ed Bowen.

"Thank you for the lovely poinsettia. I save them every year until Spring, and plant them in my flower garden so they last almost all year. I really appreciate your thinking of me all these years."

Several Brothers continue work on a project to preserve our historical heritage. It includes obtaining pictures of Past Masters, placing them in 5X7 picture frames with

their years of service as Master, and mounting them on a progressive board.

In the Birthday Corner we recognize a couple of Happy-Birthday Brothers. Brother Warren H Albrecht has a February 13 anniversary and Brother Richard Anthony observes February 21.

W Brother Peter Chappell, Lodge Secretary, sent out dues notices in December. Payment for dues and *the word* subscription should be sent to Warren Salem Town Lodge No. 147 to PO Box 11 in Union Springs, NY 13160.

Warren Albrecht

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

G. Scott Harris  
gscotth09@gmail.com  
315/406-4646  
Secy Tom Ostrander,  
tostrander7948@gmail.com,  
315/224-0940



Brothers, here we are jumping into February '21. We are still moving forward in Lodge with regular meetings under the Grand Master's rules.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to RW Mike Miller's mom, who was admitted to the hospital for tests. Mike tells us she is doing better.

Our poinsettias for Christmas were well received by W Harold Parker, Bro. Don Weeks and Bro. Chas. Masters. We also received a nice letter from Lyons National Bank for our donation to the Salvation Army.

Our planned DDGM visit from RW Barnello was changed due to COVID-19 restrictions. RW Barnello and Secretary Ostrander met and all was in order. Also, our 2020 Annual Return was completed and submitted on January 1.

At our last communication, on January 7, RW Miller presented a historical lecture on Scottish Freemasonry, highlighting Bro. Robert Burns. The Lodge is planning a drive-by chicken barbecue for our Scholarship Fund. That date will be announced soon. We also discussed adding the Meals on Wheels organization to our list of donations.

The Temple Trustees report that we had a new water meter installed by Fleming. All our Temple bills are current. Also, Secretary Ostrander is working on arranging to have the floors stripped and waxed again with support from the Cayuga County Jail. Once we know that date we will paint the ceiling ahead of time. (Smart move!)

The January 21 meeting featured an Officer Mentoring program. A date for our Third Degree practice will be announced soon. And we are still working on a date for March Madness.

That's all for now. Take care, God bless and keep the faith, Brothers.

Tom Ostrander

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

**ERIE CANAL 141**  
2805 Rte. 31 East  
Weedsport, N.Y. 13166  
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.  
315/834-9465

WM Mike Lees,  
Secy Gary Mowers

Greetings, Brothers. We have an advertising message board in our front lawn at the Lodge. This is used to advertise upcoming events and fundraisers. Our next major fundraisers are in late spring so in the meantime we are using the board for special messages. In December Brother Dave Barnello added the following: "PRACTICE: 'Humanity, Kindness, Compassion, Patience, Love.'"

In thinking about what to write for this month's message, I came to the conclusion that I would write about Patience. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly tests our patience; we now are nearly a year down the road on this issue and it's getting worse. The light at the end of the tunnel is in sight. Vaccines are here but the process of getting the vaccine is bogged down. This really tests one's patience, particularly for us older folks who are at high

risk.

I have been Secretary for a very long time. Those of you who have been in the same position know the frustration in dealing with Grand Lodge. That also needs a lot of patience.

I currently am having a go-around with a utility regarding fouled up billing. This seems like a continuing issue that surfaces more often than we would like. Again, patience is required.

I could go on. But turning to a positive note, we are continuing to use the Grand Lodge training to focus on NorthStar, new candidates and Degree work when the pandemic is under control. Zoom video meetings are being extensively used by the Lodge to keep moving forward on Lodge business and fundraisers.

Brothers, there is a lot going on with your Lodge. We need everyone to participate in the video meetings. The video meetings are accessible with your computer or by phone.

Have you paid your dues? Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Gary Mowers

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## Consistory

The Seventh Degree radio version presented on December 14 via Zoom was a success and received many positive comments from our members. That has led to the decision to present the Twenty-third Degree in a similar fashion. Keep your ears and eyes open for the announcement of the date and the time for this event and the office will send out the link for those members who want to view the program.

There is also discussion of a virtual presentation of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb on March 27. More information will be forthcoming.

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk

## Lodge of Perfection

Greetings, Brethren. February is the month of paying tribute to the ones we love. Although as men and Masons we should show our love and appreciation every day, Valentine's Day provides an opportunity to give special recognition to reflect on how much they care, support and really do for us and our great Fraternity. First and foremost, our women put up with our many nights out with the Fraternity and often are asked to help provide refreshments (on short notice), help us with memory work and attend Masonic social events (which may be our priority but not theirs). They give their love and support in too many ways to count. They are truly critical to us as individuals and to the Fraternity we love. So Brethren, let us all give special attention this month to our spouse, mother, sisters, daughters and other caregivers in our life.

Brethren, I am happy to say that the Supreme Council has brought back Thursday Night at the Rite for Season 2. The Valley of Syracuse Executive Committee continues to work for you to provide interesting content and Degree work despite continued restrictions in the county and state. I truly hope to see you all person-to-person soon.

I would like to close February's article with some inspiring words from our Sovereign Grand Commander from his 2020 in review Address: "If this year has taught me anything, it's that the world needs more men like us. Men who carry the principles of Freemasonry deep in their hearts, upholding and sharing our values to create a better world... Let us enter the new year standing tall and proud of what we have accomplished. In 2021, let us lead with our Masonic principles, inspiring others to find in their Heart the peace that

comes with a life dedicated to uplifting others and working towards your best self. The world needs you now more than ever."

Terry A. Byard

## Hospitaler

Greetings, Brethren. I hope everyone is still healthy as we get ready to head into February. Dianne and I are in the 1-B category (75 and older) and are next on schedule to receive the vaccine.

On a happier note, the days are getting longer. Let's hope that on Groundhog Day Punxsutawney Phil does a good job.

Every day in the mail we get requests for much-needed donations for all kinds of charities. The Hospitaler's Fund is no different. If you are able to help, please send a check made out to Central City Bodies for the Hospitaler's Fund.

Dick Freeman

## Rose Croix

Within the Seventeenth Degree, we have what is called a "Tracing Board." In this design is a heptagon embracing a circle. At the points outside of the heptagon are the letters: B. D. W. P. H. G. F. and at the points inside the heptagon are the letters: F. U. R. D. F. P. T. Also, there are seven golden candlesticks over which are the letters: E. S. P. T. S. P. L. These letters represent the seven churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

The letters outside the heptagon represent:

**Beauty**, to adorn our works

**Divinity**, to study which is one of our principal aims

**Wisdom**, to invent and work

**Power**, to punish and confront wicked brethren and the profane

**Honor**, as an indispensable quality of Freemasons

**Glory** that the true Freemason is an equal to the prince and potentate

**Font** which is necessary to support and maintain us (as in baptismal/holy water)

The inside initials of the heptagon stand for the seven qualities which all brethren must possess to earn this Degree: Friendship, Union, Resignation, Discretion, Fidelity, Prudence and Temperance.

This Degree is the first of the series of Modern or Accepted Degrees, as opposed to those of the Ancient Degrees (Fourth to Sixteenth). Within the drama we discover that the Book of Life is sealed. The Word (for the Creator) needed to unlock it is lost and the Temple within man is built and dedicated to the God of Truth. The Eighteenth Degree will further expand on the lost Word, the

sealed Book of Life and the God of Truth.

We discover in McClenachan's *The Book of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, that the surviving Knights and Princes of the Crusades returned to their respective countries resolved to do in theory (spend the last drop of their blood to establish a true religion) what they could not do in the Crusades.

"They took the names of Princes of Jerusalem and Knights of the East and West. In memory of the places where this Order was first instituted, and because their doctrines came from the East and West they have, ever since their first establishment, adhered to their customs and forms of reception. In the year 1118, the first Knights of the Order, to number of eleven, took their vows between the hands of Armelfo Guavi Mundos, who hailed from the province of Amiens in France and Prince Patriarch of Jerusalem."

Gary W. Hamburg

## Princes of Jerusalem

Greetings, Sovereign Princes. There is not much to report on the activity front because COVID is still keeping gatherings to a bare minimum. That should not stop us from practicing the principles of Freemasonry and Scottish Rite in everything we do, especially when it comes to charity. Please give what you can to the charity of your choice. Think of those you know that could use some help during these tough times. It might be running a quick errand for them or something as simple as a phone call to check on them.

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder and in the case of not having in-person meetings and live Degrees, that is certainly true. Speaking of Degrees, make sure to check out Thursday Night at the Rite. They have resumed sessions. Your Valley is always well represented in attendance.

One new thing that we are working on is a DSA group and I have the pleasure of getting this off the ground. Suggestions are always welcome. DSAs will be hearing more on this very shortly.

Stay safe, everybody. God bless you all, Freemasons, our military and this great country.

James McNeal

## Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

So it's 2021—a whole new year. We are so excited that our Celebration GALA is right around the corner. Mark March 13, 7:00 p.m. on your calendar. We will bring you a live show by Leon Etienne, an accomplished Magical Arts Performer. This local resident was a finalist on *America's Got Talent* a few years ago. We want you to prepare for astounding grand illusions

## COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: [www.syr-aasr.org](http://www.syr-aasr.org)

### February 2021

- Feb 1** ..... Trustees Zoom virtual meeting, 7:00 p.m.;  
..... Executive Committee following the Trustees meeting
- Feb 15** ..... Sweetheart Program virtual event, 7:00 p.m., hosted by Consistory  
..... Program by Jim Nelson

### March 2021

- Mar 1** ..... Executive Committee Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Note: Dates and times for January 2021 events to be determined and announced.** Specific event invitation notices will be sent from the office for all future events as we are allowed to meet. Dates and times for all events are subject to change as we continue to work around the COVID-19 meeting restrictions. We are taking direction from the Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Commander, and the Memorial Masonic Temple Corporation Trustees respecting the scheduling of meetings and events in the Masonic Memorial Center.

## 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. David Alan Glatty, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Grand Lieutenant Commander; Ill. Richard W. Elliot, 33°, Grand Minister of State; Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°, Deputy for New York State

**ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK** - Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Grand Lt. Commander, Grand Almoner, Past Deputy for New York; Ill. G. Michael Morris, 33°; Ill. Steven C. Stefanakos, 33°; Ill. David E. Barnes, 33°

**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. Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°, Past Grand Master General of Ceremonies

**DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE** - Ill. Carl F. Fahrenkrug, Sr., 33°

exploding on stage in his critically acclaimed 60-minute show, *Magic Rocks!*

Due to the unknown COVID-19 situation, the Board of Governors has voted to present this in virtual form and invitations will be going into the mail shortly for those who have joined us at other events. If you are interested in this event and do not receive an invitation, contact the Center via phone or mail at 315/736-0574 and Children's Dyslexia Center-CNY, PO Box 638, Oriskany, NY 13424.

This is a new format for many of us. But we have great people from Board Member Tony Bartolotti's firm, The Marketing Place, who are working to make things as easy as possible for all. As always, we are thankful for each of you and pray for better things for all in this new year.

Linda L. Martin

## Blue Envelope Appeal

Remember to mail your contribution to the Blue Envelope Appeal. Funds support students seeking financial assistance through the Supreme Council Abbott Scholarship program.

The office is pleased to announce the Blue Envelope contribution results for period ending December 30, 2020: 11.6 % of the Valley of Syracuse's members contributed \$ 3,697, according to the Supreme Council Charities Report. Thanks go to all who have participated thus far.

Jim Swan

## Birthday wishes for Burt Jones

Burton W. "Burt" Jones, SPRS, 32°, celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 1, 2021. Burt is an uncle to the very proud Linda Egnaczyk, wife of our Central City Consistory Commander-In-Chief DB Lawrence W. Egnaczyk, 32° MSA. Burt is a member of the Valley of Utica, AASR. Congratulations go to Burt from the Scottish Rites in the Valley of Syracuse.

A longtime resident of the

Remsen-Whitesboro area, Burt served his country in the

Asian Theater during WW II in the U.S. Army Air Corps, with service in Enewetak, Tinian, Saipan and Iwo Jima. He was honorably discharged in 1954 at the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Burt is currently a resident of the Masonic Care Community in Utica. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, a personal birthday celebration is not possible. Cards and messages of well wishes can be sent to him at:

Burton W. Jones  
Masonic Care Community  
Queen's Household  
2150 Bleecker Street  
Utica, NY 13501

## Annual Dues

The Supreme Council 2020 Standardized Member's Dues collection program, which launched in mid-year 2020, requires that dues for the current year (2021) be paid on or before February 1, 2021. If your 2021 dues are paid, we thank you.

Any member owing member's dues for 2019, 2020 and 2021 as of June 1 is subject to suspension for non-payment of dues prior to June 15, 2021. If the current financial situation being experienced by many is causing difficulty in your ability to pay your dues, please contact the office to discuss possible alternatives.

Your membership in the Scottish Rite is important. The Valley of Syracuse does not desire to suspend any member. Suspension of a member is the worst part of a Valley Secretary's duties. But I am bound by my duty as your Secretary to take this action when required.

James D. Swan, Jr.

## Scholarship apps available

Applications for the 2021-2022 academic year are available. Go to [www.syr-aasr.org](http://www.syr-aasr.org) for the links to the application titled "2021-2022 Application for Scottish Rite Scholarship

Aid Leon M. Abbott and/or NYS Council of Deliberation."

Graduating high school seniors may apply and members of Triangle, Rainbow and DeMolay are eligible for financial assistance. Students who complete the program at the Children's Dyslexia Centers may also apply.

The deadline for submission to the Valley of Syracuse is close of business Thursday April 1. All information requested in the Instructions for Application Preparation must be included. Please contact the Valley Office at 315/452-7976 for assistance and information.

## Valley issues call for new members

Are you curious about the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry? If you are a Master Mason in good standing you are eligible to apply for the Degrees. Our application fee is currently \$110 and must accompany a copy of your Blue Lodge dues card. Dues are currently only \$83 per year.

Applications can be obtained at the Masonic Memorial Center at 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse. You may also go online to [www.srmnj.org](http://www.srmnj.org) to fill out an electronic petition or contact the Valley Secretary, Ill.: James D. Swan, Jr. at [ny017@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ny017@twcny.rr.com) to request a petition.

As Commander in Chief, I am the Chairman of the Valley Membership Action Team. Ken Sterling heads up the Lodge Ambassador Program, reaching out to Masters of Lodges who may want a Scottish Rite Program presentation on their Trestleboard. Terry Byard leads the Rite on the Road Program and brings Scottish Rite Degrees to a Lodge for members who want to join Scottish Rite. Earl Tuttle is Chairman of Membership and New Members Recruiting Committee and Bill Toth heads up the Members Mentoring Committee.

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk



# YORK RITE BODIES



## 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District RAM

DDGHP RE  
Richard J. Powell  
315/439-2386,  
rjpowell@arsonica.com

Welcome to February. I would like to remind the Chapter leaders in the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District: If you have not already done so, please get your yearend reports mailed in to Grand Chapter with a copy emailed to me as soon as possible. These were due at the end of December.

On Thursday, January 21, I held a Zoom Meeting for all Royal Arch Companions from the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District. As this has not happened yet at the time of this writing, I can't really comment on the event but I would like to thank all who attended. Zoom meetings are not perfect but they do allow for regular contact between Chapters and their membership during this time of social distancing.

The COVID vaccinations have been slow in coming but are happening. If you get an opportunity to be vaccinated, please don't put it off.

If we haven't already, we shall soon hear details about how the Grand Chapter session in March will operate. It will of course be very different than in years past but we will get through it.

As I write this on January 10, our country witnessed the storming of our Nation's Capitol just a few days earlier. While I won't go into

my impressions of that event here, I will remind our brethren of this paragraph from the Entered Apprentice Charge:

In the State you are to be a quiet and peaceful citizen, true to your government and just to your country. You are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but are patiently to submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live.

Companions, please take care of yourself, family, friends and neighbors. We must persevere through these difficult times together. Peace.

Richard J. Powell

## 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District RAM

VE Brad Foil  
Assistant Grand Lecturer,  
12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District  
Grand Chapter  
State of New York,  
Royal Arch Masons  
315/391-2186  
triptych@twcny.rr.com




Greetings and Salutations, Chapters of the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District. There is nothing new to report concerning my position as AGL for the District. I have not received any communication from the Chapters of our District; and since I cannot personally visit any Chapter as AGL as of this issue's submission, there is nothing I can really offer.

My term as AGL will be ending in March. I wish my successor all the best, as I petition the Great I Am for a better and healthier year, so he can have the opportunity to actually discharge the duties of the AGL. Be safe, keep warm and stay dry, my Companions. Brad Foil

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

HP Eric J. Driscoll,  
315/575-4470,  
ericjdriscoll@gmail.com  
Secy Bob Bowles,  
315/436-0997,  
rbowles1@twcny.rr.com



Good day, Companions! As we enter this new year of fun-filled events, please remember to hold July 11 aside for our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Borio's. With all the talk of people out there getting scheduled for or getting vaccinated, I have high hopes for this event happening. We are continuing to plan this as we go along.

You should have received the Trestleboard for 2021 by this point. If not, please contact our Secretary for a copy. Our next Zoom meeting, after this is published, is going to be February 23 at 7:30. Watch for the link.

I want to thank RE Chris Heberle for the RAM education programs he has been putting together for us for our meetings. This has proven to be a great way to stay fresh in today's world. Please remember to also read through your parts, if you are an officer, to keep fresh for when the day does come and we are finally able to open up again.

Be safe Companions. If there are any Companions or Brothers in distress or in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Eric J. Driscoll

**WASHINGTON CHAPTER 29 RAM**  
Cortlandville Lodge  
Meets 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

EHP Andrew C. Reed

Companions, once again we are on hold for our meetings. Hopefully, you have received your dues notice in the mail. Please send in your dues to Recorder Bruce King as soon as possible.

Cayuga Council No. 90 is still planning to hold a Table


Council on Wednesday, April 21 at the Cortlandville Masonic Lodge. This will be open to all Masons and guests. RI Don Kunego will be making his Official Visit, as well as MI Phillip Chandler, MIGM, if not otherwise engaged.

Cortland Commandery No. 50's Inspection is still planned for April 1, in whatever form that may take. Details for meetings and events will be sent with due and timely notice when available. Stay safe and be patient.

Wade A. Caler

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

HP Ronald A. Bond  
rbonds@twcny.rr.com  
Secy Alan Wood  
315/207-0127  
awood3@twcny.rr.com



We have seen another month go by and the virus is getting worse by the day with more people getting sick and many more dying. I think we were told a few months back, it's no big deal, it's over and done, to move on. Boy, would I love to. The good thing is the shots are coming—slowly, but they are coming.


The meeting in January was for Council and I'm not sure if it happened, at this time. For February we will set up a Zoom meeting for Royal Arch. We will try to get the information out to the Companions who would like to attend. It's good to see our Companions' faces again, even if it's only on screens. I still think we may be able to meet on the level in Chapter and Lodge rooms starting in June.

I don't have much more to pass along at this time. We should be using this time off to be studying our ritual books to keep our minds sharp. So I will close now with hopes that everyone will stay well and safe

Ronald A. Bond

**CHARLES H. PLATT CHAPTER 247 RAM**  
Skaneateles Masonic Temple  
Meets 4th Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

HP Brad Foil,  
315/391-2186,  
triptych@twcny.rr.com  
Secy Earl Tuttle  
315/673-2213  
etuttle1@twcny.rr.com



Greetings and Salutations, Companions of Charles H. Platt Chapter 247. The new year has begun with new hopes and new expectations. At the time of this article's composition, with almost two weeks into 2021, these hopes and expectations still remain, with ever-increasing uncertainty. For those who have concerns over unexpected, surprising and distressing current events taking place in our nation, and I may add, in our personal lives as well, I offer this observation using the game of chess as comparison: the "Great I Am" is the consummate Chess Master. No matter what happens here on earth the Great I Am has a countermove for every situation we may unintentionally or rebelliously cause. When His Sovereign purposes are fulfilled and the game has concluded, He will victoriously declare "Checkmate!" So be strong, Companions. Keep in your hearts and put into practice your faith, with Royal Arch ideals and principles.

When this article appears in *the word* the DDGHP RE Rick Powell's Official Visit and our next Chapter convocation—another virtually Zoomed event—will have taken place. Even though GHP ME David Raymond has left to the discretion of individual Chapters the decision to convene in person, it is still questionable whether our Chapter will be able to do so in February and beyond. As soon as I receive any authoritative information concerning in-person convocations I will pass it along to my fellow Companions immediately.

Anyone seeking RAM scholarship funds must complete and submit a proper application. As found on the RAM website, here is pertinent information concerning the submission process.

It apparently has not been updated.

Since last month's publi-

cation, the final decision has been taken on our Chapter's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin design. As I understand it, the coins will sell for \$5 apiece. Kudos, accolades and "atta-peoples" (have to be politically correct) go to our Scribe RW Rich Torrey and Brother Mike Toron, owner of Minuteman Press/Masonic Printer, for bringing this project from conception to actualization. It is Brother Mike's company that will produce the coins.

The Anniversary Observation Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Skaneateles Masonic Temple, 13 East Genesee Street, Skaneateles. A celebratory reception will follow in the Marietta House, 2819 State Route 174, Marietta. The social hour commences at 12:30 p.m., with the luncheon immediately following at 1:00 p.m. To reserve your place(s) please forward \$30 per person attending the luncheon to Charles H. Platt Chapter No. 247, PO Box 174, Skaneateles, NY 13152-0174. If paying by check please make it out to Charles H. Platt Chapter No. 247 with "Anniversary Celebration" in the memo portion of the check. The reservation deadline is Friday, May 7. If there are any questions kindly contact Richard Torrey at [rwddgm10@gmail.com](mailto:rwddgm10@gmail.com).

PLEASE NOTE: The Application Deadline has been extended to April 18th, 2020 (April 17th, 2021?) for ALL applicants.

Charles H Platt RAM ... see page 12



On Tuesday, December 15 the regular convocation of King David Chapter No. 34 RAM was held at the Auburn Masonic Temple. During the convocation members conducted the installation of officers for 2021. Companion Anthony Tabone was installed as High Priest for the ensuing Capitular year. The installing officer was RE Steven Howard, who is also current DDGHP for the 13<sup>th</sup> Capitular District.

Shown in the accompanying photo are: Comp. Thomas Ostrander; HP Anthony Tabone; RE Steven Howard, DDGHP; RE E. William Whittaker; Comp. G. Scott Harris; VE Michael Miller, AGL; RE Sam Clark; RE Fred Newton; Comp. Scott Bennett. Photo credit: RE Steven Howard Submitted by Michael Miller



# ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



## Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. Here we are into February. February celebrates Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, Mardi Gras, Super Bowl Sunday and, of course, Groundhog Day which appears to be turning into Groundhog Year.

As of this writing nothing has changed as to starting up Chapter meetings and/or events. When we are able to start up again, we will get communication out to the members.

In the meantime, continue the safety measures to avoid getting the virus. Vaccines are getting out and as of this writing those over 75 are able to get the vaccine. Follow the instructions in the news on how to sign up. The slots have and will fill up quickly. So please be patient and hopefully all will be able to get the two dosages of vaccine.

We want to thank everyone for staying in touch with Sisters and Brothers. We thank all essential workers who have and are continuing to work. We also pray for those who have not been able to work. Stay safe.

Deb Krackhardt  
Karl Parker

## Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

Hello, from the Oswego District. With winter recess and COVID-19 restrictions there isn't a lot going on in Oswego District right now. The most exciting news I know of is the carpet is almost installed in the new first floor meeting room at the Masonic Hall in Phoenix. The walls have been painted, new lights installed and now the search for seating begins.

Barb Foster, District Deputy Grand Matron, asks that I remind everyone in and out of the District about the ongoing sale of fleece jackets with lettering, "Order of the Eastern Star State of New York" and the Star logo. To place your order please contact Yvonne Hanshew at 315/529-3237. Men's and ladies' sizes are available for the cost of \$40 each.

Even though Easter isn't until April 4, Barb says now is the time to be thinking of ordering your Gertrude Hawk candy from the District. Barb has the catalogs and she asks that you contact her at 315/598-8989 for your catalog or online ordering. February 24 is the order deadline.

On January 12 our District had a gathering by Zoom (see the screenshot photo). Our District officers had a chance to talk and share plans. Emails and phone calls from those who could not attend were shared. It was a great time seeing and hearing from others. Plans are in the works for another Zoom

gathering and we hope more will join in.

February is the month of Love and Companionship. How about you at home making some valentines and sending to your Chapter's membership? Perhaps several days throughout the month call different member(s) of your Chapter just to let them know you are thinking of them. For some it might be the only call they receive all month.

Let's also not forget that February brings with it a number of fantastic excuses to partake of life's best things: Singles Awareness, World Nutella Day, American Heart Awareness Month, Canned Food Month, Grapefruit Month, Hot Breakfast Month and our favorite, Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month. February got its start as a spring-cleaning festival and yes, it is Groundhog Month and it seems the list goes on.

But the most famous of the month is Valentine's Day. What better way to celebrate togetherness than on Valentine's Day, whether in person, by mail, by Skype or Zoom or by telephone? It is all about exchanging chocolates, flowers, gifts and sweet treats and your friendship with your loved ones and friends. I wish we could be together swapping chocolates and laughing over sayings on candy hearts. But since we can't, I hope someone spoils you because you

deserve it.  
If you remember from my last article, 2021 brought a chance to write an incredible story for yourself. How did Chapter 1 go?  
Michelle Gogel

## Morning Star 289 Marcellus Masonic Temple

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. I thought by this time we would be back together and holding our meetings. Sadly, that is not the case. Most of you are still at home keeping safe. The good news is, as of January 11 anyone over the age of 65 can sign up to get the vaccine. You must sign up on the [Covid19.gov.net](https://www.covid19.gov.net) website. I encourage all of you to sign up and receive that shot.

Our Golden Chain was broken with the passing of Sr. Betty Mahoney. Our thoughts go out to Jane Tobin and the rest of the family. Sympathies of the Chapter are also extended to RW Al and RW Pat Tefoe on the passing of their daughter.

I have not heard of anyone being under the weather. I will count that as good news. Keep reaching out to each other. Phone calls, cards and emails help those who are alone.

Mary Perry  
Larry Spencer

## Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

Ah, 2021 at last! Wait a minute. Are you sure it's 2021? It still feels like 2020.

I'm not one to make New Year's resolutions, per se. However, I have been feeling a little chubbier and sluggish due to being home all the time and not actually get-

ting out and about. So I decided that I would go out each day to walk the neighborhood. Walking is great exercise and I can take along my music to help me keep a good pace.

Monday: Okay, where are my sneakers? I know I should probably have walking shoes but why spend the money if this relationship doesn't work out? Sneakers are found. Now, what should I wear: sweats, jeans or leggings? Light jacket or heavy jacket? Heavy socks or lighter socks? Should I go out in the morning, afternoon or early evening? Do I need my mask in case I meet someone on the street? Is my cell phone charged? Where the heck did I put my earbuds? Hat, hood or earmuffs? So many decisions: I decide to wait until tomorrow to go for this maiden walk in the new year.

Tuesday: I found my earbuds, charged my phone, decided on jeans, a lighter jacket, light socks, earmuffs and my mask is in my pocket. So now I'm ready to get out in the streets on this cloudy afternoon.

I step outside and start down the street. I get about a block from home and it starts to snow. No big deal because it's just tiny flurries. About three blocks away the flakes get larger and larger so that I can't see in front of me. I realize that my sneakers were not the best choice as the snow is starting to build up on the street. I quickly turn around, slipping my way back home.

Wednesday: the streets have been plowed and are just wet so I venture out into the neighborhood yet again.

Now I don't want to rush anything, so I decide to just walk around my housing development for about half an hour. Coming around a corner, I see this beautiful dog running the fence in a backyard, when all of a sudden I twist my ankle in a stupid pothole. Down I go. My ankle is killing me as I try to stand up and, you guessed it, back down I go. I grab my cell phone, that somehow is on the ground next to the pothole, to call my husband. Once safely in the car, my former EMT husband says that I should go to Urgent Care for an x-ray. Great.

So we head to Wellcare for an x-ray. Two and one-half hours later I'm headed home with my ankle wrapped tightly in an ace bandage with a list of do's and don'ts which include no walking for at least a month, ice for the first day, follow up with your doctor in a couple of days and take Tylenol for pain.

What did I learn from my 2021 walk for exercise? To wait until summer so I can go to the elementary school and walk the nice, safe track. Back to my hot chocolate and cookies.

Did you know that the biggest snowball fight was in Saskatoon, Canada? More than 7,600 winter warriors came out to throw snow at each other on January 31, 2016.

Stay safe. Happy Valentine's Day!  
Cathy Barling

## Pulaski Puritan 159

Okay, it happened again. I got the article all done, looked away for a few minutes and BOOM! It's gone,

never to be seen again. Here we go again. On the feeling crappy list, Sister Pat Tanguma had her back surgery and is doing well. Prayers go out to Sister Gladys DiRaddo and family for the loss of her daughter Cathy Crocker.

Well wishes go to Sister Jan Smith. She has started treatment and is doing okay, appreciating cards of encouragement and well wishes. I guess that's it.

We haven't heard any more about going back to Chapter in March. If we do we will have election and installation of officers. We'll wait and see.

I have two cents to throw in: First we have COVID-19, then the near shutdown of NY, then the election, then the worst strain of COVID and now the Capitol. What do you think, everyone? I think we have upset the Man upstairs. Well, enough of that. "God, when I cannot handle a problem remind me that You can."

Here's a word from an old angel: Arguing with some people is like trying to blow out a light bulb. But to have a friend and be a friend is the greatest happiness of existence. Our Worthy Matron sends her wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

Diane Manwaring

## Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

As we bid farewell to a tumultuous, deadly and dangerous 2020, it behooves us to consider how we shall approach the challenges of 2021. Days will still be fraught with pain and anxiety but if we all commit to the following, I firmly believe we can and will proceed "from the darkness of ignorance into the glorious light of truth."

- O** - Own our mistakes and learn from them.
- R** - Reaffirm our commitment to one another.
- D** - Donate time and talent to worthy causes.
- E** - Educate ourselves about our shared history.
- R** - Resist evil in all its forms.
- E** - Enjoy the blessings the GAU has given us.
- A** - Assist the less fortunate among us.
- S** - Smile more often.
- T** - Thank those to whom we owe gratitude.
- E** - Encourage civility in all our debates.
- R** - Read, read, read.
- N** - Never surrender to bigotry.
- S** - Speak the truth, no matter how painful.
- T** - Take time to appreciate the world's beauty.
- A** - Ask what we can do to make our community a better place and carry through.
- R** - Rejoice in the fact that brighter days are within reach.

Stay safe. Wear that mask. And get vaccinated when your turn comes.  
Natalie J. Woodall



Oswego District OES members enjoyed a Zoom gathering on January 12. Submitted by Michelle Gogel

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# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	1 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Warren Salem Town 147	2 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	3 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT Tri-Valley 148	4 Central City 25KT	5 6
7	Hamilton 120 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Onondaga Hill Club Scriba 414	8 Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Victoria OES Washington RAM	9 Cautious 726 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown 472	10 Bona Fide OES Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	11 Ft. Brewerton 256 Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Liverpool	12 13
14	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	15 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	16 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of the Nile Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	17 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	18 Central City 25KT	19 20
21	Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	22 Central City Riverside 70 RAM E Caldwell OES Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Victoria OES Washington RAM	23 Charles H. Platt 247 RAM Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 MWD's Tritown 472	24 Bona Fide OES Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	25 Ft. Brewerton 256 Triangle @ Liverpool	26 27
28						

## York Rite Bodies from page 10 . . .

Charles H Platt . . .

### RAM Education Assistance

YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT ONE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION CEREMONIES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM YOUR SCHOLARSHIP.

1. Scholarship grants are awarded to Royal Arch Masons, their wives (or significant other), children and grandchildren. The Royal Arch Mason(s) must be in good standing with the Grand Chapter, or was in good standing at the time of their demise should they be deceased.

2. Awards are based on Scholastic Achievement, Character, Financial need of the Applicant as expressed in an essay composed by the applicant and Recommendations if required. Decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

3. An Applicant can receive a Scholarship grant for a maximum of four (4) years.

4. Scholarship grants are typically \$500 but can be more.

5. The APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT and be as detailed and precise as possible.

6. The membership of the Royal Arch Sponsor including Chapter Name and Number along with the Sponsor's relationship to the Applicant is required. Scholarship need and worthiness of the applicant are documented in the essay.

7. If you have NOT RECEIVED A Royal Arch Scholarship in the past you must attach three (3) written recommendations with the application:

a) Two (2) of which should be from instructors,

teachers, coaches, etc. who have had supervision over and observation of the applicant's academic work during the past two years.

b) The third may be someone who has known the applicant well over a period of time, preferably a Mason and should not be a relative or family member!

c) Notification of College Acceptance. NOTE: If you have previously received a Royal Arch Scholarship no recommendations are needed.

8. Complete Official Transcripts of grades (bearing the High School or College Name) must be included in the application. Internet or grade reports are not acceptable.

9. Essay.

10. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST be filled out online or post marked on or before April 18, 2020! (April 17th, 2021?)

11. Complete application, transcript of grades, essay and if required, letters of recommendation and notification of college acceptance, MUST be submitted at the same time as the APPLICATION.

I urge all interested parties to visit the website and view the application requirements in their entirety. Advance planning may be necessary to obtain grade transcripts and the signature of the sponsoring Chapter Secretary.

While this Chapter is still in the Covid-19 virus mode, this is a reminder that further education in things Royal Arch is always available on the RAM website. Its address is as follows: <http://ny-royal-arch/wp/royal-arch-education/>. As always, Com-

panions, stay safe, warm and dry.

Brad Foil



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

Commander  
Eric J. Driscoll,  
315/575-4470,  
[ericjdriscoll@gmail.com](mailto:ericjdriscoll@gmail.com)  
Recorder Earl Tuttle,  
[etuttle1@twcny.rz.com](mailto:etuttle1@twcny.rz.com)



Good day, Sir Knights! It is my hope that this day finds you happy, healthy and safe in this new year. As I write this I have many friends and family who have scheduled or have received the vaccination. We are on our way back from all of this.

I do remind you that if you are an officer of the Commandery, please keep fresh on your parts of opening and closing. When we are able to go back I am sure inspections and certifications will be soon to follow. As it stands the February 5 business meeting will again be on Zoom. I want to thank all of those who have continued to come to our Zoom meetings throughout these times.

If you are in need of uniform stuff, I do have some things for sale or available through the Commandery. Please do not hesitate to reach out if this is the case. And reach out if there is a Sir Knight, Companion or Brother in distress. Be well.

Eric J. Driscoll

## Auburn Shrine

This new year has started out with activities like we have never seen. Certainly, the actions that took place at our Nation's Capitol on the first week of January were not learned in our Masonic Lodges or our Shine Temples. To me, these unlawful activities show the importance of what we Masons and Shriners learned in our initiations and now represent and stand for. It is important that we teach our younger, upcoming young men the principles in which we believe.

As I was preparing to write this month's article I looked back at a recent roster of our members. I was surprised to note the number of good Shriners who are no longer with us—all good men and good friends who made a contribution to the Shrine and to our community. Think back to the good times we had with Bob Banker, Howard Colegrove, Ed Denton, Don Dill, Bill Grow, Lew Hares, Don Heath, Gerry Stanton, Ralph Talcott, Bill Rindfleisch, Ted Tennant and Sprague Wheeler. Add to this list those who have moved away from Central New York: Bob Anderson, John Cambareri, Harry Dainty, Joe Lorah and Charles Minster. Another addition is Buddy Rogers, whom I have tried to reach without success. If I have missed anyone, I apologize.

For the first Shrine Club in North America, this list is a big loss to overcome. Furthering the difficulty, the current COVID -19 virus

affects our Club's ability to meet and plan activities.

We have a rebuilding job to do when this virus is over; however, let's begin making plans for the future. Our hospitals are a shining light for the future. The future has never looked brighter for our hospitals. And I can add the Masonic Medical Research Institute in Utica. These are great programs, providing positive results and worthy of our support.

Our officers join in wishing you and yours Happy New Year. Stay safe, and remember the words of Frederick Douglas: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

Ken Pollard



**Potentate III.  
Duane E. Crapser**

Office: 315/478-0277  
31 New Street, Oswego NY 13126

## Tigris

Hey, Nobles, what are you doing to create a Shiner this year? Let me help you out. The 2020 program of Tigris buying the new Noble's Fez will carry over into 2021. This program was supported by the Tigris Shrine Units, who provide the funding to

help us gain members. Thank you for your help; let's bring in more Nobles this year.

As we wish 2020 a fond farewell let's focus on what worked. Our membership drive was a success, creating eight new Nobles who will enjoy their Ceremonial this coming spring. Our new Ceremonial Master Rob Myers will be planning that event. We look forward to the evening and we are at Rob's disposal to do what we can to help.

BINGO! This weekly event was a hit and a great fundraiser that will continue in 2021. Our license is ready, our masks and hand sanitizer have been purchased and our customers are waiting for the announcement when we will be back. With that being said, so are we. As soon as the county gives us the OK, we will be ready to start again. Stay tuned.

Our newly installed Divan—Chief Rabban Jimmy Santy; Assistant Rabban Brian Courtney; High Priest and Prophet Garry Visconti; Oriental Guide Joseph Stab; Recorder Ralph Haney Jr., PP; Treasurer Mike Gates; and Ceremonial Master Rob Myers—are ready to go with whatever 2021 throws our way. We currently have a sweetheart raffle going on. You can purchase tickets online or at the Shrine Center. For \$20 you will be entered into a daily drawing for the month of February. Each day we are giving away \$20. On February 14 and February 28 the drawing will be for \$100. The winning number will be posted on our website and Facebook page daily.

**More Tigris  
see page 4**