



February 14



Feb. 2



Washington's Birthday

February 22

Lincoln's Birthday

February 12



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

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February 2022

Camp Turk registration open to all children



It's a new year and we are getting ready for another great summer at Camp Turk. Registration has officially opened and our mission this year is to fill the camp. Do you have children, grandchildren, friends, family or a neighbor who has a child between the ages of 8 and 16 and would love a fun-filled summer at camp? Our camp is open to all children.

We ask that each Lodge send a camper to Camp Turk this summer. We are offering from one to four weeks at the amazing price of \$500 per week. We don't necessarily mean that your Lodge should pay for camp; just find a camper from your area who would benefit from the summer experience. Check with the Masonic youth groups in your area. Many of these children don't even know about camp and would love the opportunity to attend.

Camp Turk is located in the Adirondack Park in upstate New York and is one of the Masons' jewels. Camp contains over 1500 acres on a private lake. We offer more than thirty activities for campers to enjoy. There are many benefits to summer camp for kids—exploring new talents and interests, increasing self-esteem, learning responsibility, unplugging from technology, etc. We offer financial aid to families in need. Contact our office for a scholarship application. If you would like to make a donation to help families who need extra help, you can do so by sending a check to Camp Turk and earmarking it for the Scholarship Fund.

Several Lodges have helped support children at-

tending camp throughout the years. We would like to suggest that rather than pay the full amount for one child's summer camp, you divide your Lodge support amongst several children.

For 2022 our schedule looks like this: registration opens January 1 and the financial aid application deadline is May 1. Camp Turk boys camp runs from July 3 to July 9 and from July 10 to July 16. A coed camping option is available from July 17 to July 23 and from July 24 to July 30. The girls camp is July 31 to August 6 and August 7 to August 13. All tuition is due by June 1.

Camp Turk is also looking to hire staff for the summer. Do you know a college age student, teacher or retired person who would be interested in spending seven weeks at camp? We have several openings for life-guards, nurses, general counselors, area directors and more. Room and board and meals are included.

Would you like a Camp Turk information night in your Lodge or District? Give us a call and we will send a Committee member to your area for a presentation.

Are you interested in renting a cabin after the Camp Turk season? Please visit www.masonichomeny.org and click on "Round Lake Camp" for further details. Direct any additional questions to Mollie Denslow at 315/392-2081 or email campturk@campturk.org.

The Fraternity is truly blessed to offer such a great facility as Camp Turk to our youth. Help us fill camp and give a child a gift that will last a lifetime.

The following is excerpted from a long essay, itself a part of a very long study, of which it is installment number seven, with one more remaining as conclusion. This is found in the November 1919 issue of The Builder.—Editor.

Roman Catholicism and Freemasonry

by Bro. Dudley Wright, England

Part VII

ON SEPTEMBER 25th, 1865, a further culmination against the Freemasons was launched by the Roman Pontiff, Pius IX, an Allocution delivered in a Secret Consistory, the document

Roman Catholicism see page 2

Mentor

Hello, Brethren. Following up on my article of January 2022, I want to propose a program that can become a powerful recruiting tool: the development of Zoom and community talks or meetings to help foster Civility. Freemasonry, with its known tenets of Tolerance and Brotherly Love and its obligations of Love of Country and Service to Humanity, is well positioned to contribute to this end.

Useful services that Lodges are already undertaking in our communities include manning food drives and food banks, building ramps for the handicapped, giving toys for Christmas and organizing egg hunts in Easter. But for brethren interested in contributing to lower the tone of public discussions and to bridge our country's divisions, this new project is of significance.

Such a project is in line with MW Grand Master Kessler's *Empire State Mason* article (Winter 2021) and PGM Russ Charnovia's *Excelsior Lecture on Civility Mosaic* (<https://vimeo.com/661808284>) at NYCOD/AASR-NMJ on December 28, 2021. PGM Charnovia several years ago organized a group that created the website <http://MasonicCivility.org> to show how Freemasonry can help foster Civility.

Last year, after the riot and invasion of the US Capitol, I started a Zoom group to read *The Federalist Papers*. This year I want to restart this effort with a different approach. A link was sent to DDGMs and leaders of Appendant Bodies of the Districts covered by *the word* for two short Zoom meetings on Fridays, January 14 and 28 at 7 p.m. to work on planning. If all goes well we will continue meeting monthly, every second and fourth Friday at 7 p.m.

We began with a brainstorming session to decide what to do and how to go about it. We will look at events that contribute to increase divisions in our country, the bitter nature of debate and what Freemasonry can do to help—from a non-partisan, non-political point of view.

The task can take several forms: presenting topics with one speaker, two speakers debating, or a panel. Finding an appealing and attractive format is important to enhance participation.

The Media, currently wildly polarized, has to bear a responsibility in exacerbating our divisions and the toxic tone of our debates. Providing non-partisan, factual information may help improve things.

For example, much debate goes on about voting procedures, gerrymandering, filibustering, the house-senate reconciliation process, etc. Does everybody know and understand what these concepts involve? What were the initial objectives pursued by these measures? What alternatives are available? What are the consequences if they are modified? Providing neutral, technical explanation and information about such concepts may help decrease the toxic level of debates.

We can start by organizing several internal group discussions, to verify that they are civil, interesting and informed. If so, we may want to open them to the public. One way to promote them is via partnering with other groups: Rotarians, public library, VFW and Legion, etc. By opening our deliberations to the public this project can become an excellent recruiting tool, for, some of our friends and neighbors may want to attend. It is one thing to listen to a pundit talking about an issue and quite another to hear it from somebody closer to home. This may give our Craft more exposure, sending an important message: Freemasons care. By becoming more relevant and better known in our communities, we may attract new members and improve our relations.

It sounds good on paper but will it work? Implement as an engineering project: prototype first (Lodge, District). If it fulfills its goals, learn, fix and expand. Finally, adopt and replicate.

Jorge L. Romeu

EMESBE not immune from increase

For quite some time the Directors of the EMESBE, publisher of *the word*, have resisted raising subscription rates. This nonprofit does as best it can with current income from Lodges, Concordant Bodies and advertisers. Significant losses for the past few years necessitated dips into reserves to pay bills. Costs of postage and printing, especially paper, have increased dramatically. It costs \$1570 per month to produce *the word*.

The EMESBE Directors in October reluctantly decided to increase the cost per subscriber to \$5 for the ten issues per year. The new fee takes effect for 2022 and invoices have already been sent to the host organizations for the benefit of their members. The price is the same for those who receive a physical paper and those who prefer electronic copy.

Clearly, the fewer papers printed and mailed, the lower the cost for paper and postage. Any members who would like to try the digital copy of *the word* may notify their Secretary, who will send the email information to Ben Lees, Executive Director. Choose one method or the other. We are committed to providing both options.—Editor.

CT Staff Officer plans training

The first session of the MDC (Masonic Development Course) will be given on Saturday, February 5 via Zoom, beginning at 10 a.m. All new Brothers and Lodge Mentors are encouraged to attend. This course is intended to give the new Mason, through discussions, an overview of the symbolism, rituals, traditions and history of each of the three Degrees in Freemasonry. The course session will last approximately two hours. It might be advantageous for members of Lodges to meet as a group at their own Lodge, or another location with Internet access, to accommodate those without access.

Note that this will be a

trial run for this type of training session. I'm still working out the details.

Confirm to me by February 1 your intention to attend: 315/283-6705 or dabbcr@aol.com. I will send you contact details upon confirmation. There are three sessions involved in this course. There is a \$10 fee, which covers the cost of a certificate and pin upon completion. The certification becomes part of each Brother's permanent training record and is also credited towards future requirements for obtaining Grand Lodge Office positions. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Dave Barnello



Summer Fellowship Program

Be a part of something great this summer by applying for MMRI's Summer Fellowship today. The program is offered to undergraduate, graduate, and medical school students pursuing degrees in science, who wish to further increase their knowledge outside of the classroom.



The ten-week program is designed to educate and guide youth in career-making decisions. The fellowship is a great step towards a successful future, offering hands-on experience, networking opportunities and a plethora of transferable skills.

The application deadline is February 15, 2022. Visit MMRI.edu for access.



ONONDAGA DISTRICT

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

DDGM



RW Daniel Campis
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dancampis@gmail.com

Greetings, my Brothers. As I write this, COVID cases are surging all around us. Unfortunately, it appears we are slipping back into some form of restrictions and distancing, a necessary observance to create a safe environment for all. Due to this, many of my visits in January were either rescheduled or moved to Zoom meetings. Though I am disappointed not to be able to meet together in person currently, I support the decision to be as cautious as possible.

The rise in COVID cases also derails some of my plans for us to get together to enjoy each other's company. Rest assured that I am still committed to see these plans through; they may just need to wait a little longer than I would like.

To try to give a little good news in the face of the bad, I am excited to announce that the Onondaga District Team has been working behind the scenes to pull together a District-wide Degree in a unique place. Some years ago a Degree was held at the top of Song Mountain, which I still hear about more than twenty years later. My hope is that we can identify an equally thrilling location to hold this event so it can foster a similar memory.

DDGM
see 3rd column

STAFF OFFICER



VW Rick Miori
gls@onondagadistrict.org
315/254-1671

Greetings, Brethren! We will be holding our next Masonic Development Course starting Sunday, February 20. Our recent class was great. It is our goal to have these sessions go even better this time around. The meetings will be a combination of electronic, virtual and hopefully, in person. Reserve your spot now by email or phone to get your name on the list. There are only a few spots left at this point. I will send you a confirmation email with specific details about the course.

Remember that the MDC is for all Brother Masons, starting as early as Entered Apprentice. This course takes you step by step into the finer details of each of the three Degrees leading up to and culminating in Master Mason status.

Our next program slated to start soon is the RTTE course at the end of March. This course is offered to all Master Masons. It is phenomenal training for officers or future officers of the Lodge. If you wonder what the letters RTTE stand for, contact me and I will give you all the details.

At the Official Visits we discuss the many educational courses that are available from the Grand Lodge. We will soon be introducing the newest program in the Grand Lodge arsenal, which is the "Maxwell Leadership Program." This program may very well be in a class by itself and an excellent opportunity for all Master Masons, especially our future Masonic leaders.

Feel free to contact me at any time about any of these courses. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Rick Miori

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS



VW Tim Conover
agl@onondagadistrict.org
315/263-5717

Brethren! Well, it happened. Winter finally reared its ugly head. I realize it was only a matter of time, but the single digit temps can go away. There still isn't much snow for those of us who enjoy winter sports but hopefully, there will be soon. The Winter Olympics will be starting on February 3, for those who like winter sports but not the cold.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has once again tightened its grip on us, just as we thought things were becoming manageable. Some

DDGM
from 1st column . . .

In the search for this location, we came across a space few of us were aware of. It is an Outdoor Lodge room at Masonic Gardens in the White Chapel cemetery in Dewitt. As I have conducted my Official Visits I have mentioned this location and have found that the large majority of Brothers in our District are unaware of this very unique space right within our borders. I took a trip out there and while I was amazed by what I found, I was also discouraged by the deterioration of many of the adornments of the structures in the space. We are initiating talks with cemetery management to inquire about getting involved in fixing up these structures, if for nothing more than doing our appropriate duty as Masons to preserve our Brothers' memories.

I look forward to announcing more in terms of an effort to fix up the area



VW Toby Shelley,
TobyShelley@yahoo.com
315/427-6961

Lodges are going back remote but at least we can still have some sort of fellowship.

As always, your ritual team is here to help and answer any questions pertaining to the ritual. The current ritual book is available and full of information. There is no time like the present to practice a part you have performed or even learn a new one. Check it out and note any changes; there have been some made.

Tim Conover
Toby Shelley

PM
Liverpool Lodge
Jorge Romeu
Sponsor



Event schedule, Feb '22

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

- Feb 1 OnStar
- FayCC/Nortrip—3°
- Feb 2 Nortrip—Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Skaneateles—2°
- Feb 3 Auburn—Peculiar Stone
- Feb 5 CT MDC
- Feb 8 LkCity
- Feb 10 LkOntRAM—Install
- BonaFide
- Memorial—Ladies
- Feb 12 Osw MDC
- Feb 13 Jordan—Super Bowl BBQ
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 OnStar—(Weather Date)
- FayCC—Valentine's Dinner
- Nortrip—Valentine's Dinner
- Feb 16 Skaneateles—Fletcher Prouty/Vietnam
- Feb 17 Auburn—GCollege of Rites
- Centerville—Initiate
- Konosioni—OV
- Feb 17-27 Syr Winterfest
- Feb 20 Onon MDC
- Feb 22 CCRiv70
- LkCity
- Feb 23 CHPLatt
- Feb 26 LkCity—George Washington Banquet
- Mar 2 Pulaski—Rehearse 3°
- Mar 7 Jordan
- Mar 9 PulaskiRAM
- Mar 3-5 GChapt RAM
- Mar 16 Pulaski—3°
- Mar 17 Auburn—March Madness

Roman Catholicism ... from page 1

being known from its first two words, *Multiplices inter*. It was worded as follows:

"Venerable Brethren: Among the numerous machinations and artifices by which the enemies of the Christian name have tried to attack the Church of God, and sought to shake and besiege it by efforts superfluous in truth, must undoubtedly be reckoned the perverse society of men called Masonic, which at first confined to darkness and obscurity, now comes into light for the common ruin of religion and human society. Immediately that our predecessors, the Roman Pontiffs, faithful to their pastoral office, discovered its snares and frauds, they considered there was not a moment to lose in holding in check by their authority, and in striking and lacerating by an admonitory sentence as with a sword, this sect pursuing crime and at-

tacking holy and public things. Our predecessor, Clement XII, by his Apostolic Letters, proscribed and rebuked this sect, and dissuaded all the faithful not only from joining it but also from promoting or encouraging it in any manner whatever, since such an act would entail the penalty of excommunication, which the Roman Pontiff can alone remove. Benedict XIV confirmed by his Constitution this just and legitimate sentence of admonition and did not fail to exhort the Catholic Sovereign Princes to devote all their effort and all their solicitude to repress this most immoral sect, and defend society against a common danger. Would to God these monarchs had listened to the words of our predecessor! Would to God that in so serious a matter they had acted less feebly! In truth,

Roman Catholicism
see page 4

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Editor's Prerogative

Life's classroom

"For thousands of years, people around the world have been aware of a mysterious force that lives inside us all. The Druids, Egyptians, Sumerians, Inca, Maya and countless cultures before them saw this divine power as a doorway to self-discovery—that connects us with our higher selves.

"It has been called the heart of healing, the origin of intuition and the mother of manifestation. I'm talking about The Sacred Feminine. What did our ancestors know that we have forgotten?"

In an extended search for light, beyond our usual Masonic quest, during the forced solitude of the past couple of years I explored a number of webinars that focused on some more esoteric themes than I am used to. "Esoteric" is a good word for these offerings. A couple of synonyms are "impenetrable" and "occult." It also suggests "forbidden," which I think presents a tantalizing "Come along!" when we go into the arcane reaches of Masonic and other history and teaching.

It is a fascinating area of study in general, the tracing of ancient influences on our Masonic symbology. The literature is voluminous on every conceivable belief system that holds the promise of a life after, and encouragement on the experience of the now, and the means to go deep within and connect to Universe, Source—however it is defined in your comprehension—and how Masonry evolved or adapted, and now trains its disciples. More than the history and connections, trying to grasp the concepts and methods of personal transformation in any or all of these other systems and grant them credence should be the object of our study. In other words, there is no one path and no preferred guidance. I think it possible and preferable to pick and choose or blend.

I am a fair ritualist and I love our language and the phrasing is never far from me. I see and hear things that ring familiar bells and make me remember our teaching. And vice versa. I was thinking of a passage the other day from our First Degree Lecture and I was thinking of the energies of the Universe and how they flow within us. We are told that "...our Mother Earth...alone of all the elements has never proved unfriendly to man." While bodies of Water deluge with rain, oppress with hail, drown with inundation; while Air rushes in storms and prepares the tempest; while Fire lights up the volcano, Earth is found ever kind and indulgent.

At the same time these elements have their positives—in a Hermetic sort of way. When one is prepared to receive it, "The rain falls gently on your creative soil." The Air carries the life process in oxygen and carbon dioxide, and conveys sounds in frequencies that allow communication and enjoyment of music. Fire, while it can destroy, also gives warmth. As the Pot of Incense glows with heat, our hearts glow with gratitude to the Creator.

Energy. It is crucial and so much involved in so many measures of physical life and spiritual life; it is all. The theories of energy combine physics and metaphysics and, sometimes, a belief in Fairies and crystals. Think electromagnetics and electric currents and Schumann resonance; think hertz and megahertz and brainwaves and sound frequencies; think of Earth's frequency and what it means to be grounded. Think Kundalini and think of opening your internal energy flow to connect with Source.

Back to the top: I received this invitation from the organizer of one of last year's workshops to join in further exercise to explore my connection to Inner Wisdom, however derived. I will not participate in this session; after a while they are just too time consuming. But I remain open to probing around in the Mysteries.

Stephen L. Zabriskie
zabled@aol.com

Roman Catholicism and Freemasonry ... from page 2

neither we nor our fathers would then have had to deplore the many seditious movements, the many incendiary wars which have set the whole of Europe in flames, nor the many bitter misfortunes which have afflicted and still afflict the Church. But the rage of the wicked being far from appeased, Pius VII, our predecessor, struck with anathema the sect of recent origin, Carbonarism, which had propagated itself, particularly in Italy, and inflamed by the same zeal for souls, Leo XII condemned, by his Apostolic Letters, not only the secret societies we have just mentioned, but all others, of whatever appellation, conspiring against the Church and the civil power,

and warned all the faithful to avoid them under penalty of excommunication. Nevertheless, these efforts of the Apostolic See have not had the success expected. The Masonic sect of which we speak has not been vanquished or overthrown; on the contrary, it has so developed itself that in these troublous days it exists everywhere with impunity, and carries an audacious front. We have, therefore, thought it our duty to return to this matter, since, perhaps from ignorance of the guilty intrigues clandestinely carried on, an erroneous opinion may arise that the character of this society is inoffensive, that its institution has another object than that of succouring men, and assist-

Cayuga-Tompkins from page 8 . . .

CAROLINE 681

P.O. Box 72
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Slaterville Springs, NY 14881
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.
April - December;
Dark for January - March

WM Raymond Ink,
wife Harriet,
607/539-7819,
hrink@frontier.com
Secy R. James Gleason,
secretary.caroline681@gmail.com

The Lodge hosts a coffee and donut gathering every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.—COVID and weather permitting. Call Ray Ink if attending.

Under Sickness and Distress, Brother Jim Klinge's mother passed away in the middle of December. May our thoughts and prayers be with all of our Brothers who have lost loved ones.

Our best wishes go to continuing recovery for Brother Sheldon Clark and Shawn Kelly (Tri-Town Brothers). May our thoughts and prayers be with healthcare workers all over the world.

At our December 3, 2021 regular meeting RW Steve Zabriskie delivered the Third Degree Historical Lecture to our newly Raised Brothers. Many thanks go to RW Steve for an eloquent and instructive lecture. Twelve Brothers were in attendance, with guests from Tri-Town Lodge, WM Herb Gregory and Brother Ed Henry.

December 18 was our Caroline Lodge Christmas Dinner (see photos). Twenty four were in attendance, including W Herb Gregory and wife Sandy. Some Brothers chose carry-out due to COVID concerns. After dinner, Brother Ben Hogben entertained with a medley of Christmas songs which was enjoyed by all. Reverend Brother Ben plays and owns many instruments, including guitars, banjos, violins, dulcimer, and accordion. One of our Brothers is in the process of giving Brother Ben a piano. (Note to Sue Hogben: I hope you can find room without displacing your dinner table.)

Ray Ink



Caroline Lodge's newest family members include the Nizipolis, from Turkey.

The dinner was held at the West Creek Road House, which is owned and operated Sally Partridge and family. Sally is the widow of W Brother Bryce Partridge, who passed away in April 2021.

As of January 1, 2022 Brother Nizipoli became a joint member of Caroline Lodge and Hazar Lodge 238 Istanbul, Turkey. We welcome our new Brother.

Our Charitable Committee, led by Brother Hogben, oversaw the purchase of twelve books that were donated to the Caroline Community Library. Monetary donations were made to the Slaterville, Brooktondale and Danby Volunteer Fire Companies.

Many thanks go to Brothers Zabriskie and Lees, of *the word*, for the additional copies of the January issue. These were requested by members of the Van Arkle family.

Here are my 2022 wishes: May COVID subside; may the Supreme Architect of the Universe bestow Solomon-like wisdom and restraint upon the leaders of the world. And may we all learn to love and respect each other.



Caroline's Ben Hogben offers a Christmas entertainment.

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

WM Rob Fragoman
Secy Gary Mowers

Brothers, I hope your holidays went well; also, that you and your family are staying safe from COVID. And that yields a perfect transition: Due to an influx of COVID cases, pancake breakfasts and in-person Lodge meetings will be canceled for the month of January. We will regroup in the following weeks and plan out February.

A sad tidings announcement: Our Brother Michael Molloy passed away on December 15. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. A Masonic Service was held at our Lodge. I thank all the Brothers and family who

were in attendance.

Dues notices have gone out to all of our Brothers. We have two important pieces of information on the notices. The first is the creation of a Building Fund. We are in the midst of replacing our thirty-five-year-old boiler and there are some other building investment items. We are setting up the fund to help with these current expenses and help plan our future expenses. We also inserted a small questionnaire so we can update MORI with applicable information.

In the late spring or early summer we are looking to hold an open Table Lodge. I'm praying for good weather, better health and that it will be well attended. I hope everyone stays healthy and safe.

Robin Fragoman

Roman Catholicism from 4th column

"Venerable Brethren, we feel pain and bitterness to see that when it is requested to rebuke this sect according to the constitutions of our predecessors, some persons show themselves indulgent, almost supine; whereas, in so grave a matter, the exigencies of their functions and their charges demand that they should display the greatest activity. If these persons think that the Apostolic Constitutions, fulminated under penalty of anathema against occult sects and their adepts and abettors, have no force in the countries where the said sects are tolerated by the civil power, they are assuredly very greatly in error. As you are aware, Vener-

able Brethren, we have already rebuked, and now anew rebuke and condemn, the falsity of this evil doctrine. In fact, can it be that the supreme power of pastoring and guiding the universal flock which the Roman pontiffs received from Christ in the person of the Blessed Teacher, and the supreme power they must exercise in the Church, should depend upon the civil power, or could they for any reason be constrained and done violence to thereby? Under these circumstances, for fear lest youth and unthinking men should allow

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see page 5

Catholicism see 5th col.

Roman Catholicism and Freemasonry ... from page 4

themselves to be led astray in principle, and for fear our silence should offer any opportunity of protecting error, we have resolved, Venerable Brethren, to raise our apostolic voice, and confirming here in your presence the constitutions of our predecessors, on part of our apostolic authority we rebuke and condemn this Masonic society and the other societies of the same description, which, although differing in form, tend to the same end, and which conspire overtly or clandestinely, against the Church or legitimate power. We desire that the said societies should be held proscribed and rebuked by us, under the same penalties as those which are specified in the previous constitutions of our predecessors, and this in the sight of all the faithful in Christ, of every condition, rank, and dignity, and throughout all the earth. There remains now nothing wanting to satisfy the wishes and solicitude of our paternal heart than to warn and admonish the faithful who should have associated themselves with sects of this character to obey in the future wiser inspirations, and to abandon these fatal counsels, in order that they may not be dragged into the abyss of eternal perdition. As regards all others of the faithful, if they wish solicitude for their souls we strongly exhort them to be upon their guard against the perfidious language of sectarians, who, under a fair exterior, are inflamed with a burning hatred against the religion of Christ and legitimate authority, and who have but one single thought and single end, viz., to overthrow all rights, both human and divine. Let them well understand that those affiliated to such sects are like the wolves which Christ our Lord prophesied would come disguised in sheep's clothing to devour the flock; let them understand they are of the number of those whose society the apostle has also forbidden to us, eloquently prohibiting us from even saying unto them - Hail!

"May the All-Merciful God, hearing our prayers, grant that with the aid of His grace the insensate may return to reason, and those who have gone astray be led back to the path of justice. May God grant that after the suppression of the depraved men, who, by the aid of the above-mentioned societies, give themselves up to impious and criminal acts, the Church and human society may be able to repose in some degree from such numerous and inveterate evils!

"In order that our vows may be heard, let us also pray to our Mediatrix with the All-Clement God, the Most Holy Virgin, that Mother Immaculate from her birth, to whom it has been granted to overthrow the enemies of the Church and monstrous errors. Let us equally pray for the protection of the blessed apostles, Peter and Paul, by whose glories built this noble city

has been sanctified. We have confidence that with their assistance and aid we shall the more easily obtain what we ask of the Divine bounty."

It is problematical whether Pope Pius IX would not have stayed his hand, or his pen, if he had possessed the foreknowledge of the storm of criticism, satire, derision, and ridicule which his puerile denunciation aroused in all sections of the public press throughout the land, but infallibility is not a term inclusive of foreknowledge. Courteous attention is always accorded the opinions of the heads of all religious bodies by the members of the "fourth estate," even when they travel beyond the bounds of reason, but here there was a general consensus of opinion that, in common parlance, the Pope had made himself "look silly," and many papers did not hesitate to express this opinion in the plainest possible language.

The *Times* in a leading article wrote:

"The telegraph informed us a few days ago, as much to our surprise as to our satisfaction, that the Pope, in Secret Consistory, had delivered an allocution denouncing all secret societies, and particularly the Freemasons and the Fenians. Although we knew that the Roman Catholic clergy were uniformly hostile to the Fenian movement, we could hardly have expected that the Pope himself would come forward with such vigour and promptitude to render us a service at such an opportune moment. The text of this unexpected allocution has now reached us, and will be found today in another column of our impression. It will be seen that though it does not denounce the Fenians by name, it is directed against all secret societies 'by whatsoever name called, which conspire against the Church and civil power.' There have been few secret societies which answer to this description more exactly than the Fenians; and the Roman Catholic clergy, it has been amply proved, had as much reason as any other class of the community to assist in the suppression of this disorderly brotherhood. We may, therefore, congratulate ourselves on having for once the cordial assistance of the Pope in our Irish policy. We cannot but be very much obliged to so exalted a personage for thus going out of his way to support us against the machinations of Mr. Stephens and Mr. John O'Mahoney. We are, indeed, somewhat afraid that these conspirators and their American allies will derive more satisfaction from the dignity of being by implication made the subjects of a Papal allocution than they will be afflicted by the tremendous denunciations which are launched against them. Nevertheless, it cannot but be well, as far as it goes, that the head of the Roman Catholic Church should have formally supported his subordinates in

denouncing these foolish and wicked conspiracies.

"We cannot but ask ourselves in simple astonishment - what does all this mean? Is the Pope inspired or frenzied, or is he merely practising his Latin so as to keep his hand in for the Emperor Napoleon when he commences the withdrawal of his troops from Rome? The Pope, we know, in Secret Consistory, talks neither English nor any other modern language, and it may be that this astonishing fulmination is only his way of saying that he disapproves of Freemasonry. We are all more or less familiar with the Freemasons. We know that they have an elaborate organization, and call each other long names, that they wear upon occasions very strange aprons, that they preserve certain antiquated ceremonies, and, above all, that they give very good balls and excellent dinners, and are generally a very hospitable and liberal set of men. We know, again, that the Freemasons profess to take certain solemn oaths, and to be in possession of some secrets which explain the whole mystery of political society upon architectural principles, or something equally magnificent. But as to assertions that they devote themselves to 'unheard-of atrocities of penalties and chastisements in case they should break their oath,' we feel pretty sure the Pope must be misinformed. We have never observed that they were oppressed by any such weight as would necessarily hang over their minds if they were at all times conscious that a single inadvertence would expose them to such tremendous danger. It would require, in fact, even in a Roman Catholic, a very strong faith in the infallibility of the Pope to accept his description of this Society. Indeed, we sincerely condole with the Roman Catholics if they are to be absolutely debarred, for the future, from enjoying Masonic hospitality. Must the faithful, as a French journal inquires, immediately cut their Masonic friends, and refuse them even a distant bow? Freemasons, so far as we know anything about them, are neither revolutionists nor atheists. If we are not mistaken, Lord Palmerston himself is one of their number, and the late Marshal Magnan, one of the pillars of the new French regime, was the head of the Order in France. What can the Pope be thinking of to select this innocent and convivial association for these tremendous denunciations? If he had simply consigned all the Fenians, in so many words, to eternal perdition unless they, immediately repented and revoked their wicked errors before the nearest priest, the allocution might have appeared to possess some point, some justification. But what have the Freemasons done to provoke such a demonstration? It is said that the Archbishop of Paris lately gave great of-

fence at Rome by attending the funeral of Marshal Magnan. The Archbishop was probably profoundly ignorant of the wicked devices of the Marshal and his fellow Masons, and ordinary observers must avow themselves equally in the dark. In truth, it reminds us of Jupiter thundering in a clear sky, to witness these rattling thunderbolts let loose upon so unobtrusive a society as the Freemasons. Jupiter, like Homer, must, we suppose nod sometimes, and the Secret Consistory must, one would think, have gone to sleep, and this allocution must have been delivered and have been listened to in a dream.

"We have, in short, often had occasion to remark, that the Papacy is either greatly above or greatly below the level of commonsense. In the present instance, we have not much hesitation in deciding in which category the papal allocution is to be placed. We can only explain such an uncalled for burst of pontifical wrath on the supposition that the Pope is profoundly ignorant of the circumstances of modern life and society. In Italy, indeed, where the excessive jealousy of the Church tends to invest even the most innocent combinations of men with a political meaning, it is possible that even Freemasonry may assume some definite character of antagonism to the papal pretensions. But that the Pope can think it worth this violent allocution only proves how completely he is in the dark as to the real influences which are actuating men's minds. It is not Freemasonry, nor any other secret society, which has withdrawn from Catholicism so much of the intelligence of Italy and all Europe, and has robbed the Papacy of its ancient possessions. It is simply that general advance of free thought and of personal liberty which has exposed at once the unfounded character of the papal claims and the injurious nature of their assumptions. Ridiculous, in some respects, as are such exhibitions, it is impossible not to feel a certain melancholy when we behold the Papacy thus fighting in the air. In former days it at least knew in what direction to strike, and its blows were as well aimed as they were vigorously delivered. At the present day it appears to have lost at once its sagacity and its vigour. It is blind to its real danger, and its language is as impotent in its violence as its blows are feeble and misplaced. It lives in the world of four centuries ago, and judges alike of men and of events by a medieval standard. If the Pope could but leave the Vatican for awhile, and place himself in one of the real centres of modern life, in London or Paris, or even in Florence, he would discover at once that he had been living, writing, and speaking entirely in the clouds. Such societies as the Freemasons may have been formidable a few centuries

ago, but they are of about as much importance to the course of civil and religious life as any other of the now extinct associations of the middle ages. With a similar blindness to his real position, the Pope is said to be firmly convinced that the French troops will never be withdrawn from Rome, and he obstinately refuses, therefore, to come to terms with the only government which, when that inevitable event takes place, can afford him any effectual protection. He and his Church resemble nothing so much as the city to which they cling. A new world has grown up all around them, and they remain venerable but decaying monuments of an ancient but now overthrown empire. The very foundations of Catholicism are sapped, its temporal and spiritual dominion is passing away, and the Pope vaguely conscious of some impending danger, summons a Secret Consistory and launches his excommunications against Freemasonry!"...

The *Gloucestershire Chronicle* prophesied an early downfall of the Papacy, based upon an estimation of its apparent effete and decadent condition:

"There are some constitutions," the writer said, "which, when about to break up through old age or some heavy infirmity, betray traces of their earlier vigour by bursting forth at times into paroxysms of passion as impotent as they are ridiculous. This seems to be the case with the Pope, who, some time ago, in a secret consistory held at Rome, delivered an allocution, or, more properly, an anathema, chiefly against the Masonic Society, and also against 'all other societies, of whatever appellation, conspiring against the Church and the civil power.' Europe is rather astounded; it can hardly believe its eyes when the explosive document is thrown before it. Various reasons are assigned for the papal thunder in a clear sky, for the revival of absolute dictation to the governments of the world, as though the spiritual power of the papacy were this day an acknowledged fact, in full supremacy, when the truth is it is nothing more than a feeble voice issuing from a throne both spiritually and temporarily shaken almost to dissolution.

"Some allege the Pope takes this left-handed way of administering a heavy blow to the Emperor of the French, because he is about to withdraw his troops from Rome, and has also countenanced Masonry in France; in this manner revenge the Emperor's withdrawal of his military protection and planting a spiritual thorn in the bosom of his subjects. This has always been the subtle policy of Rome, to make mischief between sovereigns and subjects; she scatters a few religious seeds of discord, and rejoices to set a spiritual at variance with the temporal allegiance. A small

spite this, now, especially in our age; but the allocution is full of little cat-spittings, so to speak. Again, it is said, the Archbishop of Paris stands rebuked for having attended the funeral of Marshal Lamoriciere, who was formerly the Grand Master of Freemasonry in France; also that Dr. Manning, being desirous of obtaining the Pope's denial of any sympathy with Fenianism, suggested a denunciation of all secret societies, thus believing the net would be large enough to haul in the Fenians together with Freemasons and Carbonari; lastly, it is stated the allocution is a sort of protest against the decline both of the faith and influence of the Church in Italy, as though the falling-off were to be traced, not to the inherent weakness and corruption of Rome herself, but to the 'perfidious nature of sectarians, who, under a fair exterior, are inflamed with a burning hatred against the religion of Christ and legitimate authority and to have but one single thought and single end, viz., the overthrow of rights both human and divine.' It is possible some truth may underlie every one of the motives thus suggested; at any rate, 'Rome has spoken,' and if all the world attended to Rome's senile mutterings, every Freemason would be excommunicated, in the blessed company of Fenians, Carbonari, bandits, and brigands.

"The holy horror of the Pope at Freemasonry is depicted in very strong language, with a remarkable display of ignorance, and a total unconsciousness of history. He describes it as 'that perverse society of men, vulgarly styled Masonic, which at first confined to darkness and obscurity, now comes into light for the common ruin of religion and human society.' He calls it 'a most immoral sect.' At its door he lays 'the many seditious movements, the many incendiary wars, which have set the whole of Europe in flames; as also the many bitter misfortunes which have afflicted and still afflict the Church.' He speaks tremblingly of 'Clandestine meetings,' 'rigorous oaths,' an unheard-of atrocity of penalties and chastisements to be inflicted upon the perjured Mason; and he winds up with an emphatic conclusion: 'A Society which thus avoids the day must surely be impious and criminal.'

"We could add a few more choice specimens of papal eloquence, but these are sufficient for our purpose, unless, indeed, we might be tempted to give our Masonic readers the opportunity of knowing what a disgusting, outlawed, and excommunicated set of vagabonds they really are, as seen through the infallible microscope. 'Let them well understand that those affiliated to such sects are like wolves, whom Christ our Lord prophesied

OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT

Greetings, Brethren. I hope you all had a great New Year and hope that all is well with you and your family.

To the Worshipful Master: I will be doing Official Visits by Zoom unless you feel comfortable with the guidelines of the Grand Master's dictates. I will be calling all Masters and scheduling and I will meet with all Secretaries, one on one.

The District has some decisions to make and I hope it is favorable. I am sorry about not submitting previous articles. I look forward to working with all of you until my term is up.

Chris Reis

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2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m.
315/207-0127
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WM James Rizzo,
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Brethren, early January saw winter assert itself for the first time in strength. We had a good-sized snowfall and serious low temperatures for the first time this season.

The pandemic seems to get worse instead of better. Record numbers of those afflicted with COVID caused us to meet on Zoom last month. We had a welcome visitor in our first meeting: RW Harry Frazier, Past Master and Past District Deputy. It was great to catch up on our Brother's new life in Indiana.

The brethren enjoyed our time on Zoom so much we resolved to add an additional meeting a month exclusively on Zoom, once we go back to meeting in person. This way, some ailing Brothers and those far distant can enjoy fellowship with us.

Coming meetings are on Tuesday, February 8 and Tuesday, February 22. We begin with a 6:30 p.m. dinner at a cost of \$10. The meetings will open at 7:30 p.m. If these meetings end up going to Zoom we will invite the entire District as well as the many friends of Lake City statewide, including the Grand Line.

We are still planning a George Washington Banquet on Saturday, February 26.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the social hour will go on until 6:30, when we will be seated for dinner. The Keynote Speaker has yet to be announced but we are selecting from a very celebrated list.

The dinner price will be \$20 per person and reservations are required. This is a public event; so bring spouses, significant others, family, friends. But beware:

Lake City
see 2nd column

STAFF OFFICER



John Pierce
Central Square 622
585/610-8772
jpierce13076@gmail.com

No News Received

Lake City from 1st column . . .

this is all COVID dependent. Reservations go to our Secretary Mike Regan at secretarylakecity127@gmail.com. You may also reach him at 315/591-3827. To check on availability, call the Secretary at the above number.

In closing, here below is presented an inspiring quote from a Brother Mason:
"No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right; not asked as a favor."—Third Annual Message to Congress, December 7, 1903; Brother Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States.

James Rizzo

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, Brothers. As we start our planning for a new year it's hard to predict what trials and difficulties may confront us. We must always put our trust in God. To borrow a verse from Frank Sinatra, "Regrets, I had a few, but then again, too few to mention."

That being said, we have begun our Brothers breakfasts on the third Saturday each month. After breakfast, those who are able stay and work on the Hiram Legend.

Also, we are looking ahead to our chicken barbecues. These are held in the South Park in the Village of Pulaski. We need to set up what dates work best. These fundraisers allow your Lodge to provide scholarships to three local schools.

Our first tiled meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, when we will con-

More Pulaski
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS



Patrick Fasulo
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ptfasulo@yahoo.com

AGL Bob Boutell
No News Received

Pulaski from 2nd column . . .

for the Third Degree. Prior to that we will practice on Wednesday the 2nd of March, weather permitting.

For our Brothers who are

Roman Catholicism and Freemasonry ... from page 5

would come disguised in sheep's clothing to devour the flock; let them understand they are of the number of those whose society the Apostle has also forbidden to us, eloquently prohibiting us from even wishing them god-speed."

"Now, these are truculent expressions which are sufficient to raise the hair on the head of those benevolent gentlemen - there are thousands of them - who, thinking no harm, sit down to dinner after the labours of the lodge are concluded, and drinkings; a glass of wine to all good brethren scattered over the face of the globe, believe they are friends with the world. What a dreadful portrait has the Pope drawn of them, in revolutionary costume, eager to slay, burn, and destroy! Now, none would imagine after reading the allocution, that at the close of the eighth century, the popes conceded to the Masons of Como the exclusive monopoly of erecting churches; they were associated as a craft or brotherhood; they were invested by papal bulls with extensive privileges; they were subject only to their own laws, and were untaxed. 'The lodges of the north' built Strasbourg and Cologne cathedrals; they were encouraged and protected by ecclesiastical authority; Europe abounds with their labours, and the marks of their secret craft are still upon the stones, just as they are Masonically accepted this day. William of Wykeham and Waynefleet, both Bishops, were Grand Masters in England; several of our own Bishops, both past and present, have been Masters of lodges. What then becomes of the Pope's history, and of what force are his denunciations? Masonry has always remained the same; its principles are unchanged; the symbolical teachings were the same in the Como lodges as they are this day in

Companions: Pulaski Chapter 279 will hold a convocation on March 9. There will be a covered dish dinner at 6:30, meeting to follow at 7:30.

If anyone needs a petition please let Marvin or me know so we can get it to you. Please keep our Masonic family in your thoughts and prayers until we meet again on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

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

WM Bryan Morse
315/414-9547
bmorse90@gmail.com



Brethren, I thought I would change up things a bit from the usual column. I can't promise I will always do this; but I was speaking with a Brother this morning and he told me he likes seeing the word column. So why not give it a shot?

Sometimes our daily

grind gets in the way of many other things and those other things are pretty important. This is most certainly one of them.

Born Wednesday, June 7, 1922, making him 99 years, 7 months and 3 days. That was not a leap year; it was in the star sign of Gemini and he is part of the greatest generation. Initiated in Cleveland Lodge No. 613 on June 18, 1943; Passed on July 2, 1943; Raised on July 16, 1943. On December 27, 1985 Affiliated with Scriba Lodge No. 414. That is 28,696 days as a Mason, committed to making each and every one of us better.

I certainly didn't have the pleasure of sitting in Cleveland Lodge with him but I did have the pleasure of sitting with him in Scriba Lodge. After Lodge he would come to me and say "Shawn, that was good but you missed this part and you got this word wrong. I always looked forward to hearing how I did. Sometimes, I think, I would do it on purpose just to see if he would

catch it; but the key thing is, I never forgot what he told me.

He wasn't the only one who corrected me. There were many. Since our ashlar are never perfectly smooth there are always rough spots.

He served in the Navy as a Fireman in WWII and has very fond memories of his training in Sanford. If you are a Brother of the Oswego District you most certainly know this man.

Brothers to keep in your prayers: Worshipful Donald E. Lord is battling again with pneumonia and has become weak due to it. Worshipful Alfred G. Gerisch's wife Maryann is struggling getting around. Birthday wishes this month go to Ronald B. Darrow, Kyle H. Guppy, Michael H. Vaughan and Thomas M. Ward. From all the officers and Brothers of Scriba Lodge, Happy Birthday!

Brothers, please be safe in your travels. Remember, those other things are important, too. God bless.

Shawn Tuff

its members; armed with this neutrality the Freemason will listen without hatred to the invocation of saints to come down and extinguish the institution; he will only be sorry that such an excess of mistaken zeal should be so uncharitably exercised; for we read in the news-papers the assemblies of Freemasons are already disturbed by ignorant Roman Catholic mobs, who are ready to back the Pope's mild language with any amount of physical assistance.

We know a considerable amount of prejudice exists against Freemasonry even in this country, perhaps chiefly because feminine curiosity remains unsatisfied, or because an exclusive law shuts out the public. For its harmlessness and innocence we might summon the testimony of the many eminent characters in the world who have sanctioned its proceedings from manhood to old age with their countenance; for its benevolence, we can only point to the noble charities sustained from year to year with unostentatious munificence; for its influence we can appeal to the friendly understanding among Masons, and to their kindly offices one towards another. We are told by those who have pursued the real symbolical science of Masonry that it is a fascinating study, demanding the fullest exercise of the mental faculties; that it applies the old scriptural system of instruction by emblem and figure to the acquisition of moral and scientific truths, which are grouped together, engage the memory and captivate the imagination. This, we believe, is the real work of Masonry, and, no doubt, where people have the requisite gifts, nothing can be more lofty or improving, but, in the absence of such qualities, the general body of Masons is content with superficial knowledge; the brethren know enough to

come in and out of the lodge, they are ready with their money for any emergency; they will give to good fellowship; there is a freedom of thought which delights them when they are confident they are speaking in the bosom of the family where there is no skeleton and no misinterpretation of the language used. This is the English aspect of Freemasonry - a set of open-hearted, good-humoured, charitable fellows, brimming over with benevolence, thinking no evil, somewhat mystified with signs and words, but on the whole merry and wise. How different from the Pope's idea! Slouched hats, dark clothes, daggers, manifestos shrouded in vapour, conspirators deadly against popes, and kings and saints, and churches."

The scathing and adverse comments were by no means limited to English newspapers.

More expository from the Masonic point of view was the criticism of the *New York Reporter* in which paper the following article appeared:

"Freemasonry has been denounced and suspected, in consequence of its being a secret Order. Secrecy in all things, where secrecy is maintained, is not only consistent with innocence, but is also imperatively enforced by necessity, as well as demanded by every consideration of policy. The direct benefits flowing from Masonry are, of course, intended for, and should be participated in, only by its members - by those who have been regularly initiated into its mysteries and contribute to its support. They are secured by a knowledge of universal language, which is used as a test of brotherhood. This universal language (universal to Masons) is, under no circumstances, communicated to the world

Roman Catholicism
see page 12

CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT

Wade A Caler
hipper62@yahoo.com
607/423-2669

Brethren, greetings and Happy New Year! This greeting is a bit late, I know, and I apologize for missing last month's article.

Once again, the COVID-19 issue has returned with vengeance and is affecting our meetings. Guidance at this time from the Grand Master is basically: If Lodge membership is willing to meet in person, you should do so following Federal, State and local safety guidelines. If the core membership is not willing to meet in person, please make an attempt to do so virtually. No significant business should take place except in-person, where all members have the ability to weigh in to vote, until the current crisis has passed. "Significant business" includes balloting on petitions, voting on by-law amendments, conferring Degrees, voting on unaffiliations and voting on large expenditures. Basically, use common sense and good reason in the governance of the Lodge.

Although at this time it seems early, please remember that applications for the Grand Lodge Educational Assistance Program are due soon. The Grand Lodge Educational Assistance Program was established in 1996 by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home. The Education Assistance Committee of the Grand Lodge annually presents over \$500,000 to sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Master Masons in good standing in Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York. Applications should be completed online via the Grand Lodge website; more information or answers to questions can be obtained by emailing Education@MasonicHallNYC.org.

Also available on the Grand Lodge website is the Grand Lodge of New York Educational Funding Resource Guide, which provides information on other Masonic organizations providing educational funding resources. It is a 34-page pdf file showing where and how to find financial assistance from Masonic organizations.

Camp Turk is another program that the Grand Lodge and the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home provides for boys and girls ages 8-16. Located on 1500 private acres on Round Lake in Woodgate, New York in the Adirondacks, Camp Turk is a safe environment for campers. Several programs and activities include swimming and hiking, arts and crafts, computer, music and theatre, field and waterfront.

DDGM see 2nd column

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

RW Richard G. Reed

Greetings, Brethren. I join my fellow Brother Masons in expressing my condolences to our Grand Master Kessler at the untimely passing of Lady Joanne. We must all do what we can, in work and in prayer, to support our Grand Master in this dark and difficult time.

Last month I encouraged all of us to travel about the District and attend Degrees and Lodge meetings. This month I have to back up a bit. The Omicron variant of the Coronavirus has created a surge that is once again threatening the health and safety of our populace. So some Lodges are suspending meeting together until the surge is over. Others are meeting with caution. All of us are praying that this plague will soon be over or at least manageable and no longer life threatening.

Caution. That is a word that we Masons are familiar with. We are taught to be cautious concerning Masonry when in the company of non-Masons—especially those who may not be friendly toward Freemasonry. Yet Caution and Precaution are important in other ways for us as Masons. I wonder if sometimes we take our freedoms so for granted that we forget to exercise our caution. Our freedom is sacred; our caution helps us keep it in balance. As Masons we enjoy our God-given freedoms, and we take seriously our responsibility to secure the same for our Masonic Brothers and Sisters, for those around us, for our communities and our world.

Let us be cautious to remember the needs of others, demonstrating that Masonry means more than just an apron and a handshake. Kindness, care, a helping hand, a donation, a prayer: These distinguish us as upright men. These are qualities that make us Masons in Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Be well. Stay well.

Richard G. Reed

DDGM from 1st column . . .

Dates are available for boys, girls and now coed between July 3 and August 13. The cost is \$500 per week and scholarships are available.

Applications for scholarships are due by May 1, while applications for camp are due June 1. Camp Turk also has a wish list of needed items and welcomes individual or Lodge donations. See the Camp Turk announcement elsewhere.

Continuing with the Youth theme, there are three Masonic youth groups. For girls aged 10 to 21 there is the Organization of Triangles

DDGM see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

RW David R. Walter
hydevilles1116@gmail.com
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VW Walter J. Boronow

walterisagenius@aol.com
315/750-5985

Brothers, during the month of January our Lodges took a more cautious approach in the way we assemble. On January 7 Grand Lodge issued an updated COVID-19 guidance to address the sharp spike in cases. Certain meetings and Degrees have been postponed throughout the Cortland-Madison District. We can only hope that the grip it holds on us will loosen in February and beyond.

This month's article from your District AGLs is again overshadowed by the resurgence of the pandemic. We find our travels hampered and our work together interrupted. Sadly, this is not new for us but the well-being of our brethren is our first concern. We've also come through the most deadly days of the pandemic and still found ways to safely perform Degree work and build together.

Our ritual is the lifeblood of our Fraternity. Continue to study at home and attend Lodge regularly, as permitted. Prepare for the Degree work before us so the Brothers in waiting can be properly advanced. Practice the open and close for the chair you hold, previously held or aspire to.

The tenets of our Fraternity are exemplified in our ritual. They're just as important today as they ever were. Only Masons can know these bonds of friendship and brotherly love. Our counterparts here and around the world continue to build. We have the tools before us. Your AGLs stand ready to make the most and the best of the work we have ahead together.

Walter J. Boronow
David Walter

DDGM from 2nd column . . .

(www.ootny.org) and International Order of Rainbow (www.nyior.org). Both promote leadership and service. Boys aged 12 to 21 may join the Order of DeMolay (www.NYDeMolay.net). These groups can always use our assistance—directly volunteered time or through monetary donations to the Masonic Youth Foundation through the Grand Lodge Brotherhood Foundation.

Also, please remember that your Lodge can sponsor the presentation of Scouting and Youth awards. The General Douglas MacArthur Award is presented to non-Masons, men, women or organizations for "exemplary and voluntary" community service to youth. This award promotes our interest in the youth of our communities.

The Daniel Carter Beard

DDGM see 4th column

DDGM from 2nd column . . .

Masonic Scouter Award is a national recognition approved by the Boy Scouts of America. It may be presented to any Master Mason who has made significant contributions to youth through Scouting.

The Masonic Girl Scout Award recognizes Girl Scouts who have been awarded the Gold Award Girl Scout Certificate, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. The Masonic Eagle Scout Award is a distinctive and prized award bestowed upon Eagle Scouts in recognition of their dedication to Scouting pursuits and achievement.

Hopefully, this article has provided you with information on the resources that are available to you and our youth through the Grand Lodge of New York and other Masonic organizations. Be safe. I will see you in Lodge soon.

Wade A. Caler

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

WM Kim C. Dellow

Brethren, I hope when you are reading this everything is well with you and your family. We also hope you had a nice holiday. Not a lot has been going on at the Lodge.

Some sad news: our Grand Master's wife passed in December. Let's keep him and his family in our prayers. Also, our AGL David Walters is having some health issues.

As for our future meetings, our Secretary Rusty Perkins will keep you informed. With the COVID problems in the area, cases are on the rise. I have talked to some of the officers on when we will have our meeting. If we have an in-person meeting we have to insist on face mask and social distance. My next question is: If we do not have it in person, do we want a Zoom meeting? I ask that Brothers weigh in. Please let our Secretary know.

Please stay safe. See you soon in Lodge.

Kim C. Dellow

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

WM Tom Whitney

Brethren, I look forward to this wonderful year ahead of us. I am not really very happy about the beginning, as none of us should be with COVID showing its ugliness yet again.

We have had a wonderful 2021, despite the circumstances. We were able to do several things including barbecues and family life events

and we conferred a few Degrees.

In 2022 we look to do much of the same and hopefully, get back to 100 percent, full swing. I will be having a special Zoom lecture at some point this year with a speaker from UGLE (United Grand Lodge of England) at Lodge. That could be a fun event and details will follow.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the quarry. Let's make this 2022 and not 2020, too.

Tom Whitney

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CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



RW Anthony J. Tabone
thats1happitooth@verizon.net

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity.” I’ve always enjoyed this line from Psalm 133. It brings to light our genetic makeup as Masons to want to abide with our fellow brethren. Admittedly, in these times it is becoming increasingly difficult to find solace in this otherwise joyous passage. As of this writing, the Omicron variant has begun its much anticipated surge across our land.

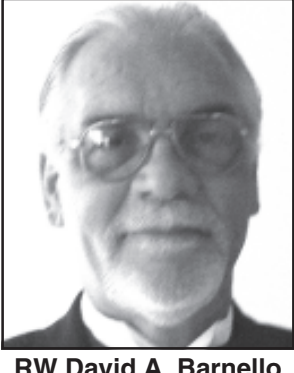
While I am as COVID-fatigued and sick and tired of hearing of it all as you are, there is no debate about the latest wave and its disruptive nature. While early data seems to suggest that Omicron is less deadly than previous variants, with fewer hospitalizations and casualties (relatively speaking), it is living up to its reputation as a highly communicable strain that is affecting our daily life and work. My office alone is currently fielding four to five cancellation calls per day relating to COVID. There is also some literature that states that from a diagnosis standpoint, Omicron is unable to be differentiated from the flu with the detection tools we have at our disposal at this time.

Brethren, as Masons we are called to be stewards of a great many gifts and graces provided to us by our Creator, one of them being our health. We are also afforded a great deal of freedoms granted us as citizens of this great Country. This freedom does not include a call for recklessness, as the two terms are incompatible with each other.

While there is no directive at this time to curtail our various Masonic activities, local circumstances must be our rule and guide as we attempt to navigate this latest test. If your Lodge is considering going dark due to COVID-19—or for any other reason—please remember that you must notify the DDGM of your plan to do so. Alternatively, if you are planning to carry on with your Trestleboard, I implore you to maintain vigilance and employ all the COVID recommendations that we have in the past, including mask

More DDGM
see 2nd column

STAFF OFFICER



RW David A. Barnello
Grand Director of Ceremonies
dabbcr@aol.com
315/283-6705

Greetings all. I hope everyone is in good health and staying out of trouble.

Speaking of trouble: It’s not too early to be thinking about that certain girl in your life and how you should be celebrating that special day on February 14. Sweet treats and/or flowers go a long way. Jewels or a get-away weekend are sure to make it even better. Just sayin’.

Around the District, the first session of the MDC (Masonic Development Course) will be given on Saturday, February 5 (see the announcement elsewhere). All new Brothers and Lodge Mentors are encouraged to participate. Any other Brothers interested to join in are invited to take part in the course, as well.

Right now, I am looking at a possible hybrid meeting due to the COVID situation. Lodges have been notified as to time and place and hopefully, have got the word out to their membership. Please call or text me with your confirmation by February 1 so I can send meeting details to you. Additional course scheduling will ensue as we go forward in the Masonic year.

That’s it for now. I hope to see you soon, in or out of Lodge. Be safe and do good things. Dave Barnello

DDGM
from 1st column . . .

wearing and social distancing, and use best judgment on whether to have dinners or other social functions.

I can tell you with the utmost certainty that this particular variant is no joke and it is spreading like wildfire, affecting people I never thought would succumb to it. Be careful out there.

As you all are aware by now, the Masonic Service Association of North America has issued an appeal for donations for the relief of those affected by devastating tornadoes that ripped through the State of Kentucky (actually a Commonwealth) just prior to Christmas. As Masons, we are bound to provide relief to worthy distressed Masons and their family. Please consider helping out by making

More DDGM
see 3rd column

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

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

No News Received

DDGM
from 2nd column . . .

a donation. The Masonic Service Association of North America is a recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your attention to this appeal is greatly appreciated and if you have any further questions please contact me. RW Barnello has expressed a willingness to head a response to this tragic event and he may be contacted, as well.

Masonically speaking, the District’s tentative schedule was to complete our remaining Official Visits by mid-January (pending conditions on the ground). We also had our Masters Wardens and Other Lodge Officers (MWOLO) meeting on January 27. This is a monthly meeting for the benefit of our Lodges and can be attended either in person or via Zoom, for the convenience of those who cannot venture out or are concerned with travel. I encourage each Lodge to enlist a representative to join us for these meetings. They allow us to stay apprised of the things going on in our District. They also give the opportunity to tell the District about functions and events happening within individual Lodges so we might disseminate the information District-wide to garner better interest and attendance.

Brethren dwelling together in unity still has a nice ring to it, wouldn’t you say? Continue to reflect on those who mean the most to you. Reach out to them and let them know they are on your mind and in your prayers. We are not promised tomorrow on this Earth but we are promised an eternal life after we live this one. Be kind to one another and let happiness and humbleness fill your heart, for our Great Architect is watching. And may He bless us all.

Anthony J. Tabone

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

G. Scott Harris
gsc00th09@gmail.com
315/406-4646
Secy Tom Ostrander,
tostrander7948@gmail.com,
315/224-0940



Brothers, here’s hoping your holidays went well, with you and your family in good health. The Brothers in Auburn are all doing well, according to my information.

Our condolences go out to MW RJ Kessler on the loss of his wife Joanne and to the family of RWJ. Ralph Young, dad to RW Jim Young, PDDGM. Elsewhere in the District we lost three Brothers recently: Brother Mike Molloy, Erie Canal; Brother Will Schwarting,

Warren-Salem Town; and W Fred Moochler, Scipio 110. Masonic Services were held for all three and were well attended.

On a good note, we welcome Brother Pete Tanner who has affiliated with Auburn from Naurashank Lodge No. 589. We also congratulate Chris Howard for being named *The Citizen* Runner of the Year and Rachel Howard, named to the President’s List at SUNY Potsdam. They are the children of RW Steve Howard, PDDGM.

On January 6 our Official Visit by DDGM Tony Tabone and GDC Dave Barnello went very smoothly. Dinner was eggplant parmesan by Paula Ostrander, with garlic bread, salad and Swedish meatballs. RW Barnello spoke on Education and Membership Retention. RW Tabone carried MWRJ. Kessler’s message, which touched on Membership, the Brotherhood Fund and his project “The Battle Within.” This supports our veterans and brings awareness to the loss of so many each year.

Auburn Lodge is now working on donating a memorial bench to support this cause with the City of Auburn. The bench will be located at the Cayuga County Veterans Park in Auburn, hopefully by Memorial Day. Donations for this effort are more than welcome from any Brother or family. Checks should be made to Auburn Lodge 124 designating the Memorial Bench fund and mailed to me at 118 N. Hoopes Ave., Auburn, NY 13021.

The January 20 meeting had a program by WM Harris on Officer Mentoring. On February 3 the program will be The Peculiar Stone; on February 17, The Grand College of Rites. Coming on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, we are again hosting March Madness, this year at Lodge. The details will be revealed.

Recently, I sent out a request for donations for Lodge supplies. The response has been very good with checks received and supplies dropped off. But we can still handle more. We are in need of paper towels and bifold towels, along with heavy duty plastic plates and bowls.

Sometime in February or March we will again have our winter chicken barbecue. Stay tuned. That’s all for now. Take care, God bless and I hope to see you in Lodge.

Tommy Ostrander

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 wish the new year could have started on a better note. However, Brothers Leonard Defendorf and Willard Schwarting have laid down their working tools of life. They were both outstanding members of our community and we mourn their loss. Our altar has been draped.

In December we dis-

cussed becoming more visible in our community by funding projects in the Village of Union Springs. Four of us met on January 3 with Mayor Bud Shattuck to discuss potential projects. They have been working with Cayuga County to develop a Waterfront Improvement Program and there are several unfunded projects in their overall plan. Last night W Tim Carmon authorized the creation of a Special Finance Committee to discuss the amount of money we’re willing to invest and which project(s) are the best to fund.

We also learned that Kentucky Masons are seeking Masonic items to replace those destroyed by the recent tornadoes in their state. Since Warren Lodge and Salem Town Lodge were consolidated, we plan to inventory the paraphernalia in storage and offer it to the Kentucky Masons.

Finally, we hope to conduct our Masonic Recognition Night in February. We have obtained permission to hold the event at the Walter T. Conley Post #1107.

In the Birthday Corner, we send Happy Birthday wishes to these Brothers. Richard Hodges celebrates on February 9; Brother Warren H. Albrecht on February 13; and Richard Anthony on February 21.

Warren Albrecht

KING HIRAM 784
186 Main St.
Newfield, N.Y. 14867
2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m.
607/564-9930

WM Steve Yaple,
607/351-3616,
syaple@newfieldschools.org
Secy Tom Szebenji

Greetings, Brothers. Hopefully, everyone is surviving winter weather and this article finds you all in good health. With the latest rise in COVID the Grand Master has put the status of live meetings in the hands of the local Lodges, giving us the power to hold meetings as we feel works for us. While several Brothers have had COVID, all of them have recovered and are now healthy. Master Steve Yaple has been trying to keep live meetings and we are still meeting in person unless conditions warrant doing Zoom meetings.

January has been busy, with the Brothers working hard to keep the four newest candidates working through the Degrees. Barring complications we planned on doing the Second Degree in January and the Third in February. Watch for communications on the Lodge information page to follow what’s going on. If you aren’t getting that information please let me know and I’ll get Brother Tom to sign you up.

We also now have a fifth candidate who has petitioned for membership. This gentleman has been interviewed and voted on, so we will start his Degrees after we complete the current Degrees for the four Brothers in the pipeline. It feels nice to be adding members to the rolls; they will help insure our future.

I’m also working on building a text message group to let everyone send

out a mass text to keep everyone connected. If you’d like to get into that group please make sure I have your cell phone number. If you get a message from me and see someone missing please send those numbers as well and I’ll try to include everyone. This will not replace regular communication methods but will allow us to reach out to members when a quick notice or information is critical.

Mark your calendar for April 9. The Lodge will be sponsoring a Euchre tournament. This tournament is open to everyone and entry is free. Invite Masons, friends, men and women—all are welcome. It will run from 9:30 to 2 and will include snacks, lunch and prizes. There will be more information to follow in the coming months.

As always, if you are aware of any Brother in sickness or distress or are in need of assistance, please let me know. If you’d like to attend meetings but need a ride, please let me know. We’d love to see you at a meeting or get-together.

Mike McLaughlin

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

WM Edmund E. Maassen II,
Secy Stephen L. Zabriskie,
zabred@aol.com

Greetings, Brothers. I hope everyone had a great and relaxing holiday and, hopefully, recharged batteries. It seems like we are still locked onto this pandemic. From Grand Lodge, MW Richard J Kessler’s concerns about the Omicron variant are well advised. Lodge meeting decisions should be on an individual basis. That is to say, if you have concern for your or your family’s safety, stay home. Scipio Lodge is following Grand Lodge protocol and still have our meetings scheduled. We will see how that all goes.

Brother David Brooks and the wife of Brother Richard Bradley, Alice, are still on the get well list. We wish them both all our best.

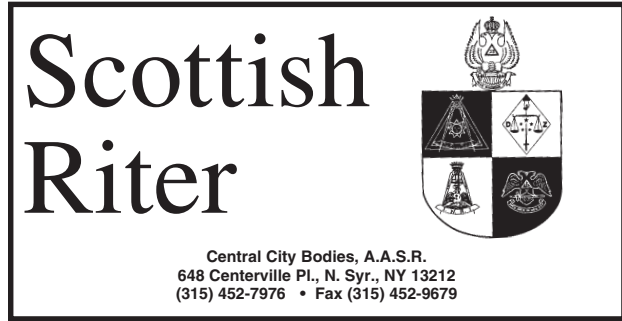
Claire Morehouse, our local Masonic widow, received a poinsettia plant for Christmas. She was very appreciative and considers herself lucky to still be a vibrant part of the community.

On a sad note, Brother Fred Moochler passed away at 84 years young on January 6. Masonic Services were held in Auburn on January 14. There were many fond memories by all the Brothers in attendance. We wish his family our heartfelt condolences.

On an up note, I had really nice telephone calls from Brothers Chuck Minster and David Timm before the new year. Both are doing well and attending Lodge in their respective areas, Chuck in Peru, NY and Dave in Boise, Idaho.

To the many Brothers I have the pleasure to know: stay safe and healthy. I’ll see you in Lodge. Ed Maassen

More Cayuga-Tompkins
see page 4



Consistory

Greetings, Sublime Princes. Please note the significant changes to our spring schedule in the Valley of Syracuse. Letters will come from the Valley office reminding of the new dates.

The February Trustees and Executive meetings will be via Zoom and the link will be sent out by the Valley Secretary. February 14 is our annual Caregivers event, so make sure to get your reservations in to the office in a timely manner. The caterers need an accurate count.

On February 21 we rehearse for the 32nd Degree at the Masonic Memorial Center at 7 p.m. The scheduled March 26 Degree has been moved to April 30 at the Valley of Utica to accommodate a conflict in that Valley.

We have fingers crossed that we can resume our programs without further interruptions from this nasty pandemic. First and foremost, we must do so in a safe manner to protect all our Brothers, Sisters and families. We have sworn to obey all laws, rules and edicts of the Grand Lodge so please follow the directives sent to us for the safety of all. May the Grand Architect of the Universe watch over us and bring us out safe and sound.

Lodge of Perfection

Princes: Happy Valentine's Day to all! We may not express it to our women as often as we should but we know they are the key to our heart and the reason behind our success as men and Masons. We are simply blessed to have them in our life.

February marks the time in the Valley for our Caregiver's Event. It is a time to reflect on our First Responders who give their time and efforts to others. In all humanity what greater gift can a man give than selflessly reaching out to provide relief?

February can also be a time of loneliness, especially as we fight the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions. Many aging brethren are shut-in, ill or unable to get out in the snows of winter and could use a friendly visit or call.

Two years ago I reached out to a shut-in Brother in his nineties. He was one who had a long list of Masonic achievements. He remained active in his Masonic endeavors until aging prevented it. The simple call from a Brother brightened his world. He had not heard from anyone in more than six months and he kept me on the phone for two hours of reflection on days gone by. That call left a deep im-

pression on me. It showed me the power and importance of Brotherly Love and Affection. I challenge each of us to reach out to a friend or Brother who could use some cheer during the winter season.

Terry A. Byard

Council Princes

Greetings, Sovereign Princes. I hope you all had a great holiday season. Events of interest for February include our Caregivers Night on the 14th and Scottish Rite at the Syracuse Cruch on the 25th.

As things have during COVID, these plans could change as well. Make sure to check with the office for the current schedule.

The Valley is doing its best to present Degrees and appreciates your input on which Degrees you might like to see and participate in. In February we also have Valentine's Day on the 14th. Remember to let your significant other know the level of your appreciation. With elections not far away, if you are interested in holding office contact the Valley office.

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

James McNeal

Hospitaler

Greetings, Brothers. Gary Kall continues to improve and is now taking phone calls at home. Other Brothers we need to continue in our prayers are Stephen Maddox Sr., Fred Greene, Gary Hartman, Jim Nelson and Grand Master Richard J. Kessler.

At the time of this writing COVID infections are on the rise in most Districts. Dianne just received an online order of N-95 masks and we wear them every time we venture out. Please continue safe habits outside of home.

Our Hospitaler's Fund is always in need. If you can, please send a check made to "Central City Bodies" directed for the "Hospitaler's Fund." And don't forget the Blue envelopes.

If you need confidential assistance contact Bob Tyrrell or me. We may be able to help.

Dick Freeman

Rose Croix

Sir Knights, I would like to reference the 18th Degree (2007 edition) to discuss symbols and meanings. During the 17th and 18th Degrees reference is made to a book known as the Sealed Book. This book symbolizes a record of mankind's existence and his failures. Its seal is broken by the virtues of faith, hope, charity and love of all men.

The symbol of the Lamb is that of sacrifice, with Jesus

being its supreme sacrifice. The Flaming Sword represents God's authority and omnipotence against evil. The Cross is an external symbol of conquest and sacrifice to overcome sin and death. The Rose on the Cross represents resurrection and splendor that awaits us in eternity.

The robes worn by the officers are white and have a red cross to indicate purity, sacrifice and reward. These symbols can be applied to any religion and its figurehead. I hope this information will help when you witness the Degree.

I invite all Brothers and wives to a dinner at 6:00 p.m. on February 24. We will be presenting plates for our Caregiver award and for First Responders that night. Entertainment will follow the dinner in the Lodge.

Richard E. Barrett

Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

Have you booked your spot at our GALA? Our 9th Annual GALA fundraiser takes place on Saturday, March 12 at Hart's Hill in Whitesboro. Our theme this year is Family Fun. We will have games, photo booth, music and dancing. A social hour starts at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00.

We are accepting donations of baskets for the Family Sponsored Basket Raffle as well as other prizes for raffles. Please consider donating if you can't attend. Information on tickets, sponsorships, etc., will be in the mail shortly. For more information, please call.

As always, we invite you to call and visit Monday through Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. We have children from 3 to 6 every day.

Linda L. Martin

Family Life outing at Crunch

Friday, February 25 is the Crunch Hockey Game Event. The cost is \$18 per person. Order tickets by Monday, February 21 from the Valley of Syracuse office at 315/452-7976.

Membership dues update

Thanks go to the 316 members who have paid their 2022 Member's Dues to date. If you have not made your payment you will receive a follow-up notice from Supreme Council shortly. Please respond to that request.

James D. Swan, Jr.

Valley announces schedule changes

Due to changing circumstances, plans for various Valley of Syracuse events must change. The one-day class originally scheduled for March 26 at the Masonic Memorial Center in North Syracuse is moved to April 30 and will be held at the Utica Masonic Center, 251 Genesee Street, Utica. The

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

February

- Feb 7** Trustees Zoom Meeting 6:30 p.m./ Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 14** Caregiver's Event with the Ladies: Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./Program 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 27 (Sun.)** Reception and Purple Hat Presentation Honoring Ill. Richard J. Powell, 33° Active Member 1:00 p.m.; DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton; Cash Bar reception/ Buffet Luncheon/Hat Presentation Ceremony. Details provided in a special invitation.

March

- Mar 07** Trustees Zoom Meeting 6:30 p.m./ Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 14** Feast of Tishri 6:30 p.m.; Ceremony and meal.
- Mar 21** C-R-C Rehearse Feast 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 26** **Consistory Degree Conferral Event RESCHEDULED to April 30.**
- Mar 28** Knights of St. Andrew Event 7:30 p.m. Refreshments to follow.

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. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Mark C. Roth, 33°, Grand Lieutenant Commander; Ill. Richard W. Elliot, 33°, Grand Minister of State; Ill. G. Michael Morris, 33°, Deputy for New York State.

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

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; Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°, Past Deputy for New York State
DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE—Ill. Robert M. Tyrrell, 33°

program for the day's events remains unchanged. Candidates must be present by 8:45 a.m. Coffee will be available and the activity will open at 9:30 a.m.

The new date for the 159th Annual Reunion is Monday, May 9. The new date for the Guard's Club Dinner and the Four Bodies annual meeting and election of 2022-2023 officers is Monday, May 16.

The public installation of officers is June 6 and the organization meeting for Trustees is Monday, June 13. Please watch *the word* as we progress into spring.

Scholarships for 2022-2023

Applications for the Leon M. Abbott and Council of Deliberation Scholarship Aid may be picked up at the Valley of Syracuse office or mailed to you (315/452-7976). They may also be accessed at www.syr-aasr.org under "2022 Leon M. Abbott Scholarship Application."

The deadline for submission is Monday, April 4. Completed applications must be in the Valley office by close of business on April 4. Please contact the office at 315/452-7976 or adminny017@twcny.rr.com with questions or for assistance.

This opportunity is open to graduating High School Seniors, members of Triangle, Rainbow and DeMolay and students who complete the program at the Children's Dyslexia Centers in NYS. Eight applicants from the Valley of Syracuse won awards last year.

Family Fun

9th Annual Gala Fundraiser
To Benefit
The Children's Dyslexia Center Central New York

March 12, 2022
Hart's Hill Inn
6PM Social Hour
7PM Dinner
Enjoy games, a photo booth, music and dancing.

For tickets call (315)736-0574 or email CentralNY@cdcinc.org by March 4, 2022

Valley of Syracuse SCOTTISH RITE Central City Bodies, AASR

Cordially invites you to a Luncheon Reception &

Active Member Purple Hat Presentation Honoring

Ill4" Richard J. Powell, 33°

Active Member of Supreme Council **Sunday February 27, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.**

Cash bar social

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton 6301 State Route 298

East Syracuse, NY 13057

Caesar Salad Buffet Luncheon @ 2:00 p.m. w/ presentation to follow

\$35.00 per person cash or personal check \$37.00 credit or debit card

Phone: 315/452-7976 Email: adminny017@twcny.rr.com

Central City Bodies AASR Purple Hat Luncheon

Name _____ Valley _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

____ Persons attending Total remitted \$ _____ Extra Names Below

Phone: _____ Email: _____

YORK RITE BODIES



12th Capitular District RAM

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

Greetings, Companions! As I write this on January 11 the temperature is in the single digits and we have been belted with some heavy snow, especially our Companions located north of Syracuse. Winter has certainly reared its ugly head...but we will shovel on.

The 225th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, State of New York Royal Arch Masons will be held March 3, 4 and 5 at the Delta Hotel by Marriott, 200 Genesee Street, Utica. There will be a Thursday evening buffet, a Friday luncheon and Friday evening Grand Banquet. Other details are yet to appear at this time. I will email the Chapter High Priests and Secretaries with the details as soon as I get them. I expect these officers will forward them to their Companions.

I would like to remind the Chapter leaders in the 12th 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. I have not seen one report yet.

Grand Master Kessler has issued some new COVID guidelines. With positive cases soaring, some new guidelines and reminders are necessary to keep everyone safe. If you have not seen these guidelines, let me know and I will email them to you.

This is my last month as the District Deputy Grand High Priest. It has been a great honor serving the Grand Chapter, despite the difficult times. In my March article I will introduce you to the new DDGHP and AGL. Until then, stay warm and be safe.

Richard J. Powell

12th Capitular District RAM

VE James Nelson
Assistant Grand Lecturer
12th Capitular District RAM
jnelson@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions. With Chapters having new elected officers, it means new ritual for those taking new positions in their Chapters. Everyone who has taken on a new role should be working to memorize his part. The sooner officers memorize the parts, the sooner they can concentrate on making the opening and closing of Chap-

ter meaningful. Sword work should be practiced as a group so everyone is consistent with the others, keeping it from being a distraction.

A concerted effort should be made for every Chapter to have Degree work planned, with a drive to gain candidates for your Chapters. Even if you do not have candidates to confer Degrees upon, every Chapter should plan to exemplify a Degree to keep in practice and to remind our members of the important lessons in our Degrees.

I hope that all are doing well, especially with the latest surge of new COVID throughout our District. Make sure you are following safety precautions when holding your meetings. If your membership is not comfortable attending in-person meetings due to the increased incidence of COVID, look to hold a virtual meeting. While this is not the same as an in-person meeting, you can at least meet and have the opportunity for some fellowship.

Jim Nelson

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

HP Ryan Hanlon
Secy Earl Tuttle
315/673-2213
etuttle1@twcny.rr.com

Companions, it was said to me with the adoration and wisdom that only a Past High Priest or Past Master would have, that the Trestleboard is but a guide and that it will inevitably change along the way. Unfortunately, due to the explosive transmission rates of COVID and my own personal contraction of it, our first specially convened meeting in January was cancelled (as was our Table Chapter on the 26th).

In lieu of our Table Chapter we held a stated meeting on the 26th of January to discuss the year ahead. We had a short program on the name-sake of our Chapter as well as a discussion on the proposed changes and amendments to the Chapter Bylaws.

Our February Chapter meeting will be on February 23, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the program at 7:30. The program for the evening will be the reading of petitions and a light rehearsal of the MM/PM Degrees.

We still have a very full Trestleboard and I intend to make it an interesting and engaging year for all. In the meantime, stay safe and spread the cement of Brotherly Love. Be the Companion and Mason you wish to see in your own Chapter and Lodge. I'll see you on the level.

Ryan W. Hanlon

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

HP Ronald A. Bond
rbondsr@twcny.rr.com



Greetings, Companions. As I write this article at the start of a new year, winter has arrived and it is snow-removal time again. We can't complain. As of now, we have had to plow only three times this winter.

Last night we had a Zoom meeting for Blue Lodge, as COVID-19 has everyone very concerned. We have it all around us and in our family, also. The Council meeting on January 13 was cancelled and right now I'm not sure we can safely have our RAM meeting in February. I'm hoping things get better but it is not looking good for an in-person meeting. If that meeting is cancelled, we will try to do a Zoom one.

I believe the dues notices were sent out for the new year and all other business is up to date. Right now, all we can do is try to stay safe and wait this thing out. I will keep you informed of any new developments. I will suggest that we all use our phones a little more to keep in contact with one another. As always stay safe and well.

Ronald A. Bond

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

HP Jack G. Dombrowski
315/395-1255
bdombrowski@twcny.rr.com
Secy Bob Bowles
315/436-0997
Rbowles1@twcny.rr.com



Greetings, Companions! I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all my fellow Companions who chose me to be your Excellent High Priest. Your trust, confidence in me, and your support will greatly enhance our work to grow our Chapter and move it forward.

I would also like to recognize our Past Excellent High Priest Eric Driscoll and all of our Chapter officers for their outstanding service during the pandemic and their previous terms of office. Job well done, Companions! I do look forward to serving with all of you again during my term of office as your High Priest.

With February upon us it is time to make a resolution to be more committed than ever to Royal Arch Masonry and the Craft of Freemasonry. No matter what Chapter or Lodge you may belong to, your regular attendance and support is of great importance to keep our organization strong and growing. Even throughout the pandemic we all stood strong and found ways to meet safely and keep things progressing.

Since we are able to travel and visit other Chapters and Lodges, we should all be more diligent in spreading the word of what New York

Royal Arch Masonry has to offer. Remember that the light of Royal Arch Masonry picks up where the Symbolic Lodge story ends. From our many charitable causes to our numerous educational resources available on the website; from the elevator speech, to Lodge talks, to Degree introductions and Degree Short Talks there are educational items geared towards non-Companions, new Companions and the more-experienced Companions. Remember that no matter how long you may have been a Companion you can always learn something new. Please visit the Grand Chapter website and browse all the resources that are available.

Much of our January meeting was dedicated to the long range planning for our Chapter, along with re-emphasizing the duties and responsibilities of the Chapter officer positions. Our next meeting will be February 22 and I look forward to seeing all of you there.

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

Jack G. Dombrowski

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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

Commander
William H. Toth
Recorder Earl Tuttle,
etuttle1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Sir Knights. As I write this article shortly after the New Year's weekend, the news channels are reporting that New York State has reported the high-

est number of new COVID hospital admissions over a single weekend. They are also reporting that Oneida and Onondaga Counties, in particular, are seeing a spike in the number of cases. Based on the foregoing information and feedback from the Sir Knights, I cancelled our meeting on January 7, when it became apparent that we would be unable to open. Unfortunately, I think we are again entering a time of uncertainty.

I am hopeful that the January 7 cancellation was necessitated by a post-holiday surge and that we will be able to resume the rest of our schedule. I will continue to monitor the situation and should in-person meetings become inadvisable we will meet virtually. In my opinion, all Masonic bodies exist for three primary reasons: to provide opportunities for fellowship, to provide varying levels of education and discussion and to confer Degrees/Orders. Should virtual meetings become necessary, we can at least engage in fellowship and discussion; and prepare for the opportunity to confer our Orders.

Please continue to review your parts for the opening. We need to have this committed to memory and be able to execute the floorwork and sword manual for our inspection. In my last article I summarized the ritual sections that must be recited during the inspection. I am looking for volunteers for the Red Cross, Sovereign Master's part beginning on page 39; Malta, Prior's part beginning on page 73; and Order of the Temple, Commander's part (first 1/2 of the Sword Lecture) page 146. All of the foregoing page references can be found in the 2019 *Ritual* (white cover) issued by the Grand Encampment. I am anticipating that inspection will be in March or April, so it is not too early to begin learning these parts.

Sir Knights, I encourage all of you to take appropriate precautions and stay safe. If you have concerns about the Trestleboard or meeting in person, I want to hear them. We will try to stay nimble and adjust our meetings and schedule as necessary.

William H. Toth

Tigris

To my fellow Past Potentates: When I first took to the podium two years ago I looked to the back of the room. For those who don't know or have forgotten, that back wall of the Shrine Center is where the Past Potentates' pictures hang. Year after year we put a new picture on the wall. That day was the day I was called Illustrious Sir for the first time. As I took my oath I was humbled. How did I earn the right to stand where only one man stands every year?

Did my journey to become Potentate start the day Jeff Dixie and I talked about why being a Shriner is so important? Or was it when Past Potentate Robert Valenson called to ask me to join his elected line? When the journey started is not important. The important part is the journey. The dedication that it takes is more than I knew. The financial commitment is not something that was budgeted, but we always found a way.

My path was paved by such Past Potentates as Ralph Haney, George Hotaling, Bill Nurk, Bob Kline, Bob Bennett, Bill Cianciola, Mike Gates, Bob McManus and so many more. Men like these stood up and gave of themselves. Their family felt the impact and their Lady stood by their side, as did mine.

I thank my fellow Cabri members. It is my honor to have served as you did. Did I complete all I set out to do?

Tigris
see page 12



Past Potentate Duane Crapser delivers his address to his Shrine family.

ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Deb Krackhardt,
dak2115@twcny.rr.com,
315/706-3259
Karl Parker,
karl.parker11@gmail.com,
315/427-1411

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. February has its share of holidays and events. The first Friday of February is National Wear Red Day for women to understand their risk of heart disease. The Syracuse Winterfest is February 17 to 27. Other notable observances are Groundhog Day, Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine's Day and President's Day. If there are other events you enjoy, get out and celebrate. As the COVID Omicron variant surges it is better to be outside even though it is mid-winter. If you are out and about for inside events, continue to protect yourself from this virus.

Chapters should continue to communicate to the other Chapters on any upcoming events. Make sure the word gets out, especially during February and possibly March, since there will be only one meeting per month.

The Onondaga District fundraiser for the Grand Matron and Grand Patron Combined Projects will be a garage sale to be held on Saturday, June 18. Setup day will be Friday, June 17. We would like the Onondaga District membership to help make this a successful event. Each member can start by saving plastic and/or paper bags of all sizes and newspapers and tissue paper. Please start putting aside gently used or new items. It would be very helpful to make sure each item is clean and in good-to-excellent shape.

If you would like to put a suggested price on the item, please feel free to do so. Also, if these items are placed in a plastic bin(s) rather than boxes, this too would be a huge help. Bins are much sturdier than boxes and easier to carry. Medium-size bins are better than trying to carry heavy, large bins. The test is if you can lift and carry the bin without straining your back or hurting any limbs. Announcements will be made over the next months as to where the items will be housed and prepped prior to the garage sale.

Please be sure to let RW Deb and RW Karl know of any events you are having in the future so we may get the events put in *the word* and other communications. Also, we would like to attend as many Chapter events as possible.

We have about six St. Jude Project pins remaining. Please contact RW Karl if you would like a pin. If there are more people who want the pin, we will check on whether Grand Chapter has more to sell.

Official Visits begin March 11 and the last one is June 11 at Nassau, Queens,

Brooklyn which is the Grand Matron's Homecoming. If you would like a copy of the schedule, please contact RW Deb or your Chapter Secretary. Onondaga District's Grand Matron's Official Visit is Saturday, April 23.

February is the shortest month but can feel like the longest. We wish everyone a February filled with love, peace and joy.

Deb Krackhardt
Karl Parker

Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

The Oswego District sends each of you Valentine's Day greetings. When the second month of the year comes around, we are starting to wish the winter season was coming to an end. It's not—so get that thought out of your head. Think some happy thoughts, instead. Think of Valentine's Day. Ponder this year how you could give love and not just receive it. Call a friend, walk your neighbor's dog, take your minister to lunch or thank a teacher. These are just a few ways to wish someone, Happy Valentine's Day. Doing nice things will not only warm your heart and that of others, it will also help pass a cold winter's day. Don't forget to treat yourself. There is nothing wrong with buying a box of candy for yourself. You deserve it.

Speaking of kind acts and love: even though this story took place during the month of December, it needs to be told. I was made aware of the details too late for last month's paper but wanted to share the beautiful story with each of you now.

Light Up Pulaski, an annual event, kicked off the holiday season on December 5 in Pulaski. It is a day when people, organizations and businesses work together to bring the holiday spirit to many. Participants enjoyed tree decorating and coloring contests, hot chocolate, craft events for the children and lots of other fun activities for people of all ages. Even



Santa and Mrs. Claus came to the event.

The Masonic and Eastern Star organizations of Pulaski also took part in the activities of the day. Oswego District congratulates the Masons and Star members who worked to make this a festive day and especially Charlotte DeGaetano, a dual member of Lake Ontario Chapter No. 124 and Pulaski Puritan Chapter No. 159, for her work with the Memory Tree.

Twenty-nine years ago Charlotte started the concept of a Memory Tree. People would give Charlotte the name of a deceased person whom they wanted remembered. With the name, the survivors make a memorial donation. Over the years, the list has increased and more and more people are being memorialized. This December Charlotte received 821 names. She posted those names on a Memory Board that stood beside the Memory Tree in the park. In a short ceremony Charlotte remembers those departed, after which the lights on the Memory Tree—with a very large star on top—are lit. From the Memory Tree collection this year, \$8,747 was raised and divided amongst five area food pantries. This charitable act of Charlotte's makes it possible for food pantries to buy and give more to many people in need. We give thanks to Charlotte for this true Holiday Blessing.

Michelle Gogel

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

Brothers and Sisters, January hasn't quite turned out the way that I know many of us had hoped. Due to concerns with weather as well as the rising cases of COVID, our January meeting was canceled.

We are planning on having our next meeting on February 10, where we will be celebrating Valentine's Day. I am excited about the prospect of this new year and hope that our members and friends stay safe and healthy in the future.

Annie Urban



RW Carla J. Salisbury, Worthy Matron, and RW Cynthia J. Sanders, Associate Matron, enthusiastically look forward to the activities of Lake City Victoria Chapter 205 in 2022. Photo by RW Natalie J. Woodall

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Dear Sisters and Brothers: As I sit here with a cup of coffee at hand to give me inspiration I can gaze out the window to see a blanket of the white stuff on my front yard. Yesterday's blizzard has enveloped all of Oswego City, slowing the pace of life but not entirely shutting it down. Perhaps, therefore, the snow can be considered a metaphor for what is occurring in the country in general.

The month of January is named after Janus, the two-headed god who looked both backward and forward, recollecting the past and anticipating the future. Such an image seems appropriate for a review of 2021 and a preview of 2022.

The country was in turmoil one year ago as the pandemic sickened and killed hundreds of thousands. In many ways it could be likened to that snow out on my lawn, overspreading and controlling our movements and activities. Looking backward to 2020 was saddening but looking forward to 2021 was less than joyful.

As we moved into February and March 2021 the virus, like the snow, continued to dominate but the development of vaccines caused the disease's power to become slightly less threatening. Like that snow, the virus was no longer supreme, controlling and directing our every move and decision. The return of spring offered hope that all would eventually be well.

There were setbacks, just as in April and in May we had to be on the lookout for late season snowstorms. Vaccines were in short supply and making appointments was sometimes frustrating. Some resisted the opportunity to help themselves, their families and their friends. All too often they paid the price for their foolishness with their lives or worse, the lives of loved ones.

By June not only were the flowers and trees opening but society as well. Lodges and Chapters cautiously began holding in-person meetings, dinners were served, parties held. Although life would never return to its previous

normality, the arrival of warmer weather and the melting of the snow mirrored the gradual, if temporary, disappearance of the virus. Smiles on faces of friends not seen in such a long time, warm embraces from family members, things so long denied returned. But for how long?

July and August passed all too quickly as people enjoyed outdoor activities while simultaneously and anxiously anticipating the advent of autumn. The change of season brought not only its own splendor but also a return of worries about that virus, and by extension, that snow. In November the snow was beginning to reappear and so was COVID. Omicron swept across the world in December just as yesterday's blizzard blanketed Oswego County.

So here we are in January once again. The temperature hovers at ten degrees this morning even as the sun bravely shines through the clouds. We huddle inside our houses, hiding not only from the snow but also from the pandemic. Coping with snow is similar to coping with that virus. Patience, prudence and preparation are essential, as are faith and hope. January looks back on the reality of dark days and unhappy times of 2021 but it also looks forward to the potential of brighter days and better times in 2022. Happy New Year.

Natalie J. Woodall

Pulaski Puritan 159

Well, here we are 2022. The weatherman says, Look out! Big storm coming—we're about to get 2 to 3 inches of snow. You know, I can remember when a good snowstorm was 2 to 3 feet. Times sure have changed.

As you know, we are closed for the winter so all I have to write about is nonsense. But I talked to Sister Charlotte. She said she has been doing the Memory Tree now for 29 years. This year she raised \$8,747 with 821 names. She really outdid herself this year. Kudos to her and thank you to all who helped her beat last year's record. All this is split between five food pantries.

We exchanged gifts at our Christmas party, along with the cookie exchange. I think I got the best gift ever. It was what I call a baker's delight.

The basket was filled with canned jelly and jams, homemade barbecue sauce, a loaf of homemade bread and a dozen homemade rolls. Yumm! Thank you, whoever you are, for the extra pounds.

Here is one more activity note. The money we make on the table rental at Light Up Pulaski goes for the summer reading program at Pulaski School.

Okay, folks, that's it. Now, a word from an ol' angel. In the blink of an eye everything can change. So forgive often and love with all your heart, take no one for granted for you never know what may happen tomorrow.

Happy Valentine's Day and Groundhog Day. I think we want him to see his shadow so we only have six more weeks of winter; but I know that might not be right because I do have a habit of getting those things messed up. Talk next month.

Diane Manwaring

Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

Hi, Sisters and Brothers. It looks as though winter has finally settled in with some snow and frigid temperatures. We hope everyone is staying warm and safe. We don't have a lot going on in the coming month but are excited to be welcoming a new member at our February 17 meeting.

Did you know that Antarctica is covered in a sheet of ice that's 7,000 feet thick? For reference, that's about nineteen football fields. The U.S. Antarctic Program also notes that if the ice sheet ever suddenly melted, it would raise the sea level worldwide an estimated 200 feet and submerge much of the Gulf and Atlantic coastal areas of the U.S. Pretty incredible.

Happy Valentine's Day! See you in Chapter.

Cathy Barling

Morning Star 289 Marcellus Masonic Temple

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. It's negative 2 degrees outside, the world is upside down once again with COVID-19 and we are still thinking about the future.

Our open house was held on January 22. Thanks go to

**OES - Morning Star
see page 12**

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Warren Salem Town 147	1 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	2 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT Tri-Valley 148	3 Central City 25KT	4 5
6	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	7 Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Victoria OES Washington RAM	8 Cautious 726 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown 472	9 Bona Fide OES Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	10 11 Ft. Brewerton 256 Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Liverpool	12
13	Hamilton 120 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Onondaga Hill Club Scriba 414	14 Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	15 Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of the Nile Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	16 Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	17 18 Central City 25KT	19
20	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	21 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	22 Charles H. Platt 247 RAM Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 MWD's Tritown 472	23 Bona Fide OES Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	24 25 Ft. Brewerton 256 Triangle @ Liverpool	26
27	Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	28	29			

Tigris from page 10 . . .

No. Did I fix all that needed to be fixed? No. Am I proud of my time as Potentate? Absolutely. If my term taught me anything it is to give; and when you have no more to give, reach down a little deeper because it's there. I have seen all my Shrine family do this and I hope you have seen the same in me.

My fellow Nobles, you have inspired me. We all are called to serve. Some serve and receive only one title. That title is more important than that of a Divan member, Illustrious Sir, Imperial Line or even Imperial Sir. That title is "Noble." You, my fellow Nobles, spend countless hours driving our kids to receive care; you give up your Monday nights to work Bingo and attend events. You are the ones I received cards from: Happy Birthday, Merry Christmas or just Thanks. You are why I am honored to step down as Potentate and get back in line as your Assistant Rabban. I thank you for inspiring me.

Where would I be without my Lady? Lady Suzy has been by my side from the day I put my name on the petition to become a member of Tigris Shrine. The day I handed my friend and fellow Noble Garry Visconti my petition was a time when money was tight. Garry, with his usual understanding, told me that joining should not become a hardship. He told me I could use a "loaner" Fez. Suzanne overheard and said, "I know how important this is to you and I want it to be right." She wrote the check for my Fez, which is now worn by Noble Jordan Crapser, my son, as he starts his journey towards Potentate.

Lady Suzanne knew the

importance of a Shrine Lady before she became one. She brings smiles and fun to everything she does. I was once told she would make a great First Lady and I can tell you she has—with the heart of a Shriner and the dedication of a Saint. I thank you, Lady Suzanne, my biggest cheerleader.

I have not listed all who played a role in my journey. So many have whispered wise counsel, called me out when I was getting off track and even walked away when it was for the greater good. I thank them and I thank those who have passed but still impact my days. Thanks for seeing the Shrine as I do.

This is bigger than one person standing at a podium to run meetings and break a tie vote. The Shrine is more than an elected officer or even an elected line. Bigger than you and me, Shrinedom is Family—dysfunctional sometimes but Family. Ohana at its finest.

I wish Illustrious Sir Jimmy and Lady Karen good luck during their time. Remember to dance. You will serve the Nobility representing Tigris. You will receive phone calls, texts, emails and any other form of communication we can come up with. You will work like you never knew but this is your song to dance to. It's your time to lead, follow and make those proud who are watching from above. I love you both and can't wait to serve in your Elected Line.

God bless all of you. Thanks go to all my NYOSA counterparts and leaders. Remember, it's not about one Shrine Center, it's about all Shrinedom. To my Shrine Ohana: Cheers!

Duane E. Crapser

Auburn Shrine

As this is written, the temperature is in single numbers, parts of the county have two feet of snow and the COVID-19 is affecting more of our citizens than it has in the last two years. Our Shrine Club has lost one of our longtime members, Willard Schwarting. Will has not been active in the past few years but longtime members will remember he was President of the Club for several years and active in Damascus Temple activities and many community organizations.

It has not been reported who has been named acting Hospital Administrator in place of retired Lee Kirk. Whoever it is will have very large shoes to fill. Lee has done an outstanding job during his time in Springfield—seven years. With all the changes taking place in our Shrine Hospital system, especially in the Springfield unit, whoever is named has a

big, big job. Even the name of the hospital has been changed, to Springfield Shriners Children's—New England.

As we look forward, it is good to note that our patient growth continues to progress. New referrals, outpatient encounters and surgery cases are all increasing in number. The cleft lip and palate program continues to grow under the leadership of Dr. Stoddard. Even with the COVID situation, progress continues.

President Bowman will be announcing future plans for our club shortly but in the meantime, stay safe and be positive. It will warm up, the snow will melt and hopefully this COVID will run its course. Meanwhile, remember the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Life is short... You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

Ken Pollard

Past Grand Master
Carl J. Fitje
Sponsor

Past Senior Grand Warden
John R. Fuller
Sponsor

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

PGMs
Calvin G. Bond
Bruce W. Widger:
Thanks

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all who attended. We are still following up with potential members at this time; let's hope there will be an Initiation soon.

The Worthy Patron and I were hit with COVID, basically shutting our lives down for a week. I cannot imagine what life would have been like if we had not had the vaccine. A few words of advice: wear your mask, wash

your hands, keep contact with others at a minimum. I have not heard of anyone else being under the weather.

Make sure you read the District article to see what's going on around town. I look forward to a time when we have more to put in our article.

Mary Perry
Larry Spencer

Roman Catholicism... from page 6

at large. The words and signs of it are secret; for to communicate them would at once destroy its utility. And, strange as it may seem to the uninitiated, our Society professes to have no secrets beyond these. There is little, very little, in the lodge to gratify the eye of the inquisitive. We do not tempt them with offers to unfold some mighty mystery; we can impart to them no superhuman wisdom; we possess not the elixir of life, nor the philosopher's stone, nor the spells of the Tarshun; we cannot and do not profess to be bound by any ties but such as are consistent with our duty towards ourselves and families, our neighbours, our country, and our God.

"About the general end of lodge transactions, every one can know as much, as any of its members; but fear of any apprehension on this subject, we would briefly state that nowhere are order and decorum more strictly enforced than in our lodges; our business there is charity and brotherly communion, the admission of candidates, and the transaction of such other matters as necessarily pertain to every association. Now, all this is of such a character, that it may with great propriety be kept to

ourselves. We are brothers - members of a large family - met for the purpose of transacting our own business, with which the world has no concern; and why should the world be permitted to witness its disposition? Does a needy brother receive assistance, it is not for us to vaunt it, and it might not be agreeable to him to proclaim his wants before strangers, or to have the fact of his being relieved published; and it would certainly be impolitic and uncharitable, by publicity, to trammel the discussion of character; and how could the announcement of the rejection of candidates for our confidence be otherwise than prejudicial to us, by exciting enmity and dissatisfaction in the world. We seek not coalition with the world, made up of a thousand creeds; our objects are few, and their pursuit is quiet and secret; and we have, as Masons, naught in common with the mass of mankind. We do not meddle with politics, nor the extension of the creed by proselytism; we seek only to cultivate the social virtues among ourselves, to benefit each other by deeds of love, and indirectly to benefit the world by our own improvement."



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