MASONIC BODIES

of the

ONONDAGA

CAYUGA - TOMPKINS

CORTLAND - MADISON

OSWEGO DISTRICTS

Circulation 1,750

Vol. 51, No. 10

Published by EMESBE Service Bureau Inc., P.O. Box 242, Liverpool, NY 13088

June 2025

### **EMESBE**

Hello, Brothers. Please—Secretaries, Treasurers and WMs—make sure your payment is submitted for your word subscriptions. We need them all in before you go dark for the summer. To those who have mailed them in already, a huge thank-you.

Do we have any attorneys who can help us become tax exempt? Please contact us if you can or know of someone. Of almost 1,700 Masons who get the paper, no one responded to our plea last month.

I was in and out of the hospital a lot in April for multiple procedures so I did not do much traveling around to Degrees or anything. As I am writing this I am on my way to Alaska for some much needed fresh mountain air and the smell of salt. On my trip I visited Al Aska Shrine Temple in Anchorage, Alaska, which was pretty awesome. Some great Nobles there were selling onions grown in Georgia as a fundraiser. I could not get to a Blue Lodge there as I was with some non-Masons and could not leave them. My next journey out there may include that.

St. John's Day will be bigger and even better than last year. I have spoken to Mother Nature and we have an understanding that it will be sunny and 70, not too hot or cold. Look for more info on the Onondaga County Masonic FB page. I am sure there will be something posted there.

A big thank-you goes to a close Brother from Konosioni who was able to obtain 150 sets of personal hygiene articles for veterans. He does not want to be named.

I have heard that Brother Tim Page is doing much better. We have not been able to touch base with each other. God bless.

EMESBE see page 5

This article is shared at the request of the Valley of Syracuse, AASR—Editor.

## Remembering the Battle of Bunker Hill

Jeffrey Croteau, Director of Library & Archives

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill and the 200th anniversary of the laying of the Bunker Hill Monument's cornerstone. To commemorate this event, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library's Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is featuring a small exhibition in its reading room with objects related to memorializing the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The Battle of Bunker Hill took place on June 17, 1775. Despite the name of the battle, most of the action took place on nearby Breed's Hill. Combatants fought the battle to solidify which side controlled Boston Harbor. To this end, the hills in and around Boston were tactically important to both British and colonial forces. The Americans' newly formed Continental Army sought to limit the supplies that the British army could bring into Boston via the harbor.

Objects on view in "Remembering the Battle of Bunker Hill" include a nineteenth-century scale model of the original 1794 monument erected by King Solomon's Lodge of Charlestown, Massachusetts. Lodge members dedicated the monument to the memory of Revolutionary War hero and organizer

**Shrine** 

Hospital

Nobles, two things struck

me about the April Patient

Presentation to the Board,

which involved one of our

international patients who

suffered an electrocution in-

jury in his home country.

First, we are lucky to live in

a country with strong build-

ing codes and safety regula-

tions. Second, virtually ev-

ery prosthetic we fit to a child

is a full-on custom design

fered a severe electrocution

injury when he was about 10

years old. He was playing

with some friends and came

into contact with high volt-

age electric lines which, to a

10-year-old kid, looked like

some rope. The current went

in one hand and out the other

causing severe electrical

burns and stopping his heart

as it crossed his chest. The

accident happened at his

apartment complex and luck-

ily one of his neighbors was

a nurse who was able to per-

form CPR and re-start his

both hands were so severe

that he lost four fingers on

his left hand and three on his

right. The only finger on his

left hand was his index fin-

ger but nerve damage left it

immobile. His right hand

fared somewhat better. He

was left with a thumb and index finger which were both

The electrical burns to

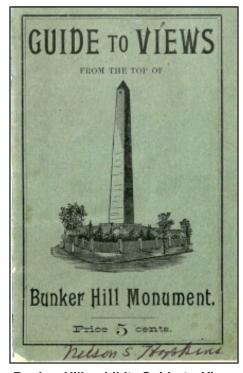
heart.

functional.

This month's patient suf-

requiring a custom fit.

Battle of Bunker Hill see page 2 ...

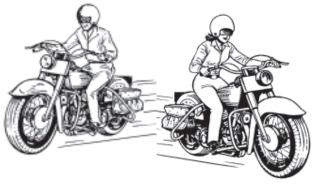


Bunker Hill exhibit. Guide to Views from the Top of Bunker Hill Monument, 1892. Gift of Nelson M. Hopkins, F62.3.B9 1892.

## Benefit Ride For Children's Dyslexia Center of CNY

sponsored by:

## Valley of Syracuse, AASR July 27, 2025



- Open to Scottish Riters, Masons, and Friends \$20 per person all cycles welcome!
- Destination Ride to Children's Dyslexia Center Campus at: 8280 State Route 69, Oriskany, New York 13424
- Put together a small group and plan your ride to arrive at approximately 1:00 p.m.
- -Non-Bikers Auto Guests available @ \$20 per person
- Entry fee includes Food hamburger/hotdog, salt potatoes, soda courtesy of Jim and Sharon Swan
- "Iron Butt" Award for longest distance traveled (by motorcycle) for this event
- DJ on-site to provide music following a short program on the work of the Children's Dyslexia Ctr.
  - Dyslexia Center Tour
  - Pre-registration Required

Name:\_

3	

Email:

(To be used for Event and Weather Updates only)

Phone:

Approximate Starting Point:

(For "Iron Butt" Award)

Mail Registration to:
Central City Bodies-AASR,
648 Centerville Pl., N. Syracuse, NY 13212

Payment: \_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_ Credit Card

(Checks payable to: Central City Bodies-AASR)

### **Mentor**

Name on Card:

Hello, Brethren. Before we break for the summer vacation I would like to share a few thoughts about some strong features of Freemasonry: Self-improvement, Fellowship, Masonic Historical Studies and Service. Many Brothers joined the Craft and remain members because of them.

When we join our Institution and go through its three main Degrees, we learn many valuable lessons from its symbols and legends. The working tools, especially the trowel, teach us to create and spread brotherly love. We learn that harmony is the most important requirement to keep an organization working smoothly. We only compete to see who contributes the most. We start our labors by invoking and requesting the Deity's assistance. And we pledge allegiance to one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. We meet at the level and give no special considerations to wealth or class. We part by the square with integrity and we act by the plumb with dignity. All the above characteristics surely constitute a great self-improvement course.

Fellowship is about interaction, within and without our Lodge, with a group of friends we call our Brothers. In these days of extreme individualism, having such friends is important.

Masonic history, philosophy, jurisprudence, poetry, landmarks and symbolism constitute important studies that some brethren pursue individually or in specialized Lodges and journals. For these Brothers *the word* publishes valuable articles selected from *The Builder* magazine.

Finally, Service is about putting all of the above tenets to work, especially within our local communities. Contributing to foster harmony and rational interaction among conflicting factions in our country is a valuable contribution that will not occur unnoticed. Developing activities that recognize the good work and qualities of everybody, both friends and foes, promoting respectful and open exchanges of points of view, in particular of those we dislike, contributes to creating a community that remains cohesive in its diversity and, by extension, an equally cohesive nation. Opening our Lodges to community activities that operate under our rules of respect and tolerance for the opinions of others, or finding speakers that examine the concepts over which there is controversy because they are poorly understood, may help lower the level of disharmony.

Mentor see page 2 ...



Scottish Rite News - Page 9

Shrine Hospital see page 6

### **ONONDAGA** DISTRICT

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

### **DDGM**



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

Greetings, Brothers. We are winding down our Masonic year. I am planning to do Official Visits along a timeline similar to last year's, so that, if things go as planned, the visits will conclude before the end-of-year holidays.

We are considering a District Table Lodge in the fall. We would like to bring the cost of the Table Lodge down so potentially more Brothers could attend. Stay tuned for more details in the September word article.

Grand Lodge is behind us and it was an interesting meeting. A number of proposed (allegedly controversial) changes to the Constitutions were tabled until next year. The changes to the Constitutions that were voted on and passed were more of updates to how Grand Lodge is currently doing business. The Grand Master was opposed for reelection but easily won.

The Investiture service was at Tully Lodge on May 29. Contact one of the AGLs for details.

I think we had a productive year. I look forward to meeting everyone on the level or wherever our paths cross.

**Toby Shelley** 

#### the word (USPS 050-170) (Published Monthly Except July and August) by Masonic $\sqrt{\mathbf{G}}$ Service Bureau Inc. **EMESBE** of Central New York 400 Alder St, Liverpool, NY 13088 PERIODICALS Paid at Liverpool, N.Y.

Len Hass, Chairman Brian Courtney, Ex. Dir. (Home) 315/447-2104

Advertising Rate Column 1 Time \$4.40 \$33.00 Subscription Rates Per Year

Group Rates \$60.00 Individuals \$8.00 (Rates subject to change)

News Deadline: 12th of the Month Editor: Stephen L. Zabriskie

zabled@aol.com POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "The Word" P.O. Box 242, Liverpool, NY 13088

### STAFF OFFICER



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

Greetings, Brethren. As we approach the conclusion of our Masonic Education Spring Semester, the Masonic Development Course and the Road to the East courses have been successfully completed. We will finalize our sessions with the Master's Chair classes on June 28 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. Kindly mark this date on your calendar and notify me of your intention to register.

Furthermore, I would remind you again of the various resources available from Grand Lodge. The Livingston Library, Masonic Culture Classes, Maxwell Leadership and Craftsmen online are just a few. Find them at https:// nymasons.org/.

Additionally, I invite your input on past training sessions or ideas for future programs. The educational needs of our District are a priority and any suggestions are valid. Reach me at my contacts above with your ideas or with any questions. Adam Novak

Hosted by the Onondaga

& Oswego Masonic Chari-

ties, this year's Grand Mas-

ters Tournament will again

have an event within the

event. The low aggregate

District score will win the

District Cup. All surround-

ing Districts are invited to

come and enjoy a great day

of fellowship on Saturday,

July 19 at The Wood Golf

Club, 7439 Canton Street,

Baldwinsville. Tee time is

10 a.m. and, as usual, the

format is a 4 player Captain

& Crew. Men, women and

children can make up a team.

contests: closest to the pin,

longest drive and a skins

game. We will have liquid

refreshments on the course

and hot dogs and chips at the

turn. An Italian dinner will

be provided at the end for

the great price of \$70 per

person. Please bring an extra

\$20 per team for the skins

Charity relies on your sup-

port whether as hole spon-

The Onondaga District

pot.

We will have the usual

### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS**

### **VW Rick Miori VW John Bromka**

Greetings, Brethren! As always, there was new information given this year at Grand Lodge. Moving forward, we look forward to seeing new ideas in our District.

With four AGLs on our team, we were able to attend many of the District Degrees and some rehearsals as well. We were also able to conduct a few School of Instruction sessions. The topic we focused on was Masonic Memorial Services. These instruction sessions are something we will be continuing as we start up again in September. We will also hold different sessions on multiple topics.

Recently, we held a successful Investiture at Tully

### **VW Carlton Jackson VW Todd Platten**

Lodge No. 896 on Thursday, May 29. It was great to see all of the new Lodge Masters for the next Masonic year. The Onondaga District Team was very proud and excited to have had RW Oscar Alleyne as our keynote guest speaker. He is a great, dynamic speaker and an awesome Brother Mason.

Brothers, on behalf of the Onondaga District AGLs, I wish you and your families a safe, fun and exciting summer. We will be happy to answer any questions or schedule events early for our next Masonic year.

> Rick Miori, Todd Platten, Carlton Jackson, John Bromka

### Mentor from page 1 . . .

We have many well-qualified Brothers who can talk about different topics. Each District can create a list of such Brothers, including a short bio and description of their topics. At Investiture, Masters take an obligation to present, in every session, a talk. This feature fulfills that. We need to attract more community members to our Lodges if we really want to increase our membership.

Developing effective community efforts requires frequent and connected activities that have good promotion. For the latter, Lodges need to pool efforts, exchanging ideas through MWD (Masters, Wardens and Deacons) meetings that organize multi-Lodge joint activities.

During the last fifteen years our Craft has lost many members to death and attrition. A chart (https://msana.com/ services/u-s-membership-statistics/) describes this story in

Community Service might well be one of the best recruiting effort strategies we can pursue. Recently, MWGM Rubin launched the Community Service Initiative. Through it, Lodges can receive activity matching funds of up to \$500 for Educational or Youth-focused projects such as a fundraiser, an award night, mentorship and workshop programs. All of these we have explored before.

By becoming an asset to our communities Lodges may begin to achieve both objectives—conferring a valuable service to humanity and fulfilling our own membership needs. Men usually want to join proactive organizations.

Jorge Luis Romeu

### **Event schedule, June '25**

The reader should consult each organization to check the

status of these events. June 3 ...... OnStar—Initiation ..... FayCC—Install June 4 ...... Skaneateles—Install June 5 ...... Centerville—MMs ...... Auburn—Scholarship/Service Awards ..... CentSq ...... CrossroadsU—Install June 6 ...... GMatron/GPatron at Greenview CC June 7 ...... Osw Masonic Charities Golf ...... GMatron/GPatron at Cicero American Legion ..... CentSq—BBQ .....Pulaski—BBQ June 8 ...... Centerville—125th Anniversary ...... Auburn—Lafayette Celebration ...... Skaneateles—Lafayette Celebration June 9 ...... Scriba—1° June 11 ..... PulaskiRAM—OV ...... FayCC at Twin Trees Too—DSA June 12 ..... ErieCanal—1° ..... KT25—Install ..... Memorial—Install June 17 ..... OnStar—Fathers ..... FayCC—3° June 18 ..... Skaneateles—Dinner Cruise June 19 ..... Centerville—Life Members ...... Auburn—Public Installation ...... CentSq—Install/Awards ..... CrossroadsU June 21 ..... Mark's Beach Buddies—Bingo at BonaFide ..... CentSq—BBQ June 24 ..... KingHiram—3° June 25 ..... Callimachus—Picnic/Awards June 26 ..... KT25—Asil's Pub ..... Memorial ......Steak Bake June 27 ..... LkCityVic—Birthday Party

July 12 ..... CentSq—BBQ ...... CrossroadsU—Picnic

July 18-19 OES Bazaar at Oriskany July 19 ..... Onon/Osw Grand Masters Golf

June 28 ..... Master's Chair @ Memorial

June 29 ..... ErieCanal—Golf Tournament

...... Mark's BeachBuddies—Skaneateles Cruise

July 26 ..... CentSq—BBQ July 31 ..... CT—Master's Chair

Aug 5 ...... CT—Stations & Places Aug 7 ...... CT—MDC Aug 9 ...... Scottish Games Aug 12 ..... CT—RTTE

Aug 14 ..... CT-MDC August 16. Auburn—BBQ

### **Battle of Bunker Hill** ... from page 1

Joseph Warren, who was

killed in the battle. Other objects on view include two pieces of sheet music related to dedicatory events sur-**Grand Masters Tournament** 

> sors, cart sponsors or players. You enable us to contribute to the relief of distressed Brothers and Sisters and also support our other Masonic Charities. Hole sponsorships are \$100 and cart sponsorships are \$50. Please encourage your Lodges and organizations to get involved with a sponsor-

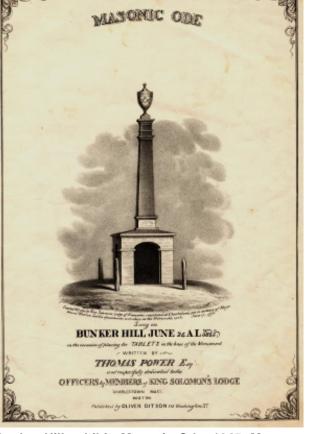
Golf is great fun, and meant to be enjoyed, but being able to participate in helping others is the greatest privilege given to mankind. Our Masonic Institutions in all eras have been leaders in supporting our society at large. We thank you for your help. Please make checks payable to "OMDC," and send to Garry Campbell at 300 East Ave., East Syracuse, NY 13057.

We hope to see you in July. For more information you may call, text or email Brother Garry Campbell: 315/385-1170 gcampbellk950@gmail.com. Garry Campbell rounding the Bunker Hill Monument, including a "Masonic Ode" composed in 1845, as well as seeds used in the Masonic cornerstone laying ceremony for the Bunker Hill Monument in 1825.

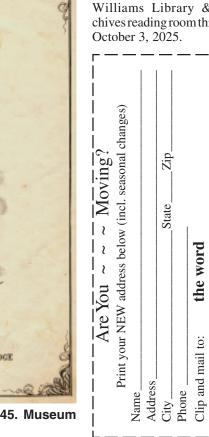
While still a memorial to the battle, the Bunker Hill Monument also functioned—and continues to do so today—as a tourist attraction. A climb up its 294 steps affords visitors expansive

views of Boston, Charlestown, Cambridge, Malden, Chelsea and Lynn. Two nineteenth-century booklets, both intended for tourists visiting the monument, are also on view in the exhibition.

"Remembering the Battle of Bunker Hill" will be on view in the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives reading room through



Bunker Hill exhibit. Masonic Ode, 1845. Museum Purchase, 85-126.



Memorial 648 (ON) 648 Centerville Place N. Syracuse, N.Y. 13212 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/458-5560

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

Summer is nearly here and I want to wish a great season to everyone. Please enjoy the season and keep it a safe one. Before we take off on vacation or the golf course we have a bit of Masonic business to finish in June and a quick review of May.

On May 8 we elected officers for the ensuing year. Congratulations are due to all these incoming officers, especially to Brother R. Micheal Brooker. The membership has great confidence in his ability to lead as Worshipful Master of our Lodge. That confidence extends also to all other elected and appointed officers. Our second meeting on May 22 was a fun time with Past Masters in every chair. Worshipful Tom Duskee was in the East. Special thanks go to Tom who was still recovering from hip surgery.

June 12 will be the installation of officers for the 2025-2026 year. Our incoming Master has requested this to be an open meeting and wishes everyone will bring family, friends, neighbors and colleagues to witness this event. The ceremony of installation will commence at 7:30, preceded by a cookout for all at 6:30. Our final meeting before we go dark until September is June 26.

I conclude this message with my heartfelt thanks to all the Brothers who have pitched in to help make the past year a success. Many Past Masters have stepped up to lend a hand. Past Masters Rich Torrey, Ed Sinay Jr., Jim Swan, Peter Rompf, Tom Duskee, Kevin Parker. Pat Pacini, Carlton Jackson and Fred Greene have all helped me through the year with support and advice. All who have led a Lodge know it is not possible without a great team of officers. To all, a big thank you. Special recognition goes to a worldclass Secretary, RW Gary Hartman—one of the very best.

Karl Parker

Crossroads United Lodge 93 F.&A.M. 780 Woods Rd.

Solvay, N.Y. 13209 1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/487-0596

WM David DeOlden II, wife Karen 315/400-7909 deoldend@yahoo.com



Hello, my Brothers. As another year is drawing to a close, it was a very successful one for us. We Raised two Master Masons and Affiliated three.

In May we had election of officers and VW Todd Platten held a school of Masonic education on the Masonic burial service. This year is the first time that we marched in the Solvay Memorial Day parade, which will continue in the future.

June brings the installation of officers on June 5 and June 19 will be our last meeting of the year to conduct business. During June we are repainting the dining room and we will have new curtains up before September. July 12 is our picnic in Gertrude Park, 900 Woods Road

I hope to see all in Lodge. We have a lot more planned for next year. If anyone needs assistance getting to Lodge, please let me know.

David DeOlden

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

WM Dan Campis

Greetings, my Brothers. I want to first thank the Brothers for their confidence in my leadership in giving me another opportunity in the East. This year there are a lot of plans in the works to revitalize the Lodge and address a downward trend in both participation and membership, in general. I am extremely confident in the line officers for this year and each has committed his efforts to strengthening the Lodge. I am extremely excited and encouraged by all of their ideas and collective energy for this ensuing year.

I do want to take a moment and acknowledge a Brother's contribution to this Lodge that cannot be overstated. In May, RW Craig Cobb decided to step down as Secretary of Fayetteville-Central City Lodge after many, many years of faithful service. As all Masters who have served with Craig know, his wisdom and mentorship are one of the main reasons we are able to make it through each Masonic year. He ensures our new candidates are contacted, prepared and introduced to Masonry; he has handled our meals before Lodge; planned our social events; and ensured we have maintained relationships with our Brothers from afar. These are but a few of his contributions.

 $I\,want\,to\,personally\,thank$ Craig for his years of service to our Lodge as Secretary. His steady leadership is always counted on and he will be sorely missed in that capacity. Craig was the first member of the Lodge to greet me as an interested candidate back in 2010. His warmth, generosity and knowledge convinced me that I was making the right choice in seeking membership. Craig opened the door of Masonry to me and was the first faithful friend who stretched forth his hand to me in what has become an incredible journey for me. For that, Craig, I will be forever grateful. We as a Lodge will celebrate Craig's service in the appropriate way this year, so please stay tuned for more information.

A few short weeks ago I went down to participate in Grand Lodge. Much was discussed, especially in regards to the contents of our forty-six page call letter. Many of the constitutional amend-

ments were tabled due to time constraints, which I personally believe was for the best. Whenever changes to our governing documents are being proposed, I believe we should be extremely deliberate, careful and considerate in making such changes. Ample time should be set aside to discuss, understand and research these changes. In my opinion, a few weeks falls woefully short of this necessary care. I can only hope that the items tabled will not disappear from the conversation over the next twelve months, but that the Grand Master provides opportunity for the brethren of the entire Jurisdiction to discuss and give feedback on the proposals in advance of their next presentation.

In addition to these discussions the Grand Master brought forth troubling information regarding apparent mis-management by the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home over the past few years leading to serious financial and long-term consequences for our Craft. More investigation into these accusations must be done in a transparent manner to discover the truth behind these alleged actions. When close to \$75 million dollars of our money is alleged by our Grand Master to have been squandered through questionable management decisions, nothing less than a full investigation should or can be accepted by the Craft. These accusations are not insignificant and cannot be ignored. I hope you join me in pushing for full account-

ability in the coming months. My Brothers, much is to come in the coming year but it will take time to fully flesh out all of the ideas the other officers and I have on the Trestleboard. I expect by September's word article to have a better sense of the year ahead, so please keep an eye out for that. For now, to finish out June here is what we have to look forward to: June 3 at 7:30 p.m. will be our Installation. June 11 at Twin Trees Too at 6 p.m. will be Brother Gerry Hoag's DSA Dinner. Reservations are due to Craig by June 5. June 17 at 7:30 p.m. will be our Third Degree. We will use the Lodge email list to communicate Lodge activities over the summer, so stay tuned.

I look forward to a productive and fun year in store for us over the coming months. I thank in advance all of the Brothers who have already stepped up into positions for next year. We are going to accomplish great things. Until next time, I will see all of you on the level.

Dan Campis

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

> WM Bradley Fetes 585/530-0969 fetesbg@gmail.com

I have come to realize there is an idiom—or maybe more a quiet truth—that feels truer with each passing year: life is just saying, "I can't believe it's [whatever day it is]!" every week, every month, until at last we lay down our working tools. And as I write this final edition of *the word* that sentiment resonates more than ever.

A Master learns many lessons during his time in the East but for me, none has proven more enduring than the importance of this Brotherhood. While I may not have put pen to paper—or fingers to keyboard—as often as I should have, whenever I did it was met with grace, support and genuine enthusiasm. Brothers gathered for fellowship nights, donated books to our Lodge library, lent their voices and presence to our Degrees. When the word goes out, Brothers from this District and beyond listen, answer the call and gather in unity.

I am sure the Brothers of Jordan Lodge would be pleased if I devoted this article to our Earth Day cleanup. It was a fine day of labor and fellowship. Or perhaps they would like a mention of the great privilege we had in welcoming a new Brother to our ranks, for Degrees are the lifeblood of our Craft. Maybe our plans for Memorial Day, Grand Lodge or the summer ahead warrant a proper write-up. And while each of those moments holds its rightful place upon the Trestleboard of memory, none match the lasting impact these last two years have had upon me.

Adam Novak guided me through my first year, ensuring a seamless transition from his leadership to mine. Brothers like Todd Platten, Sonny Schlupp and Steve Baird took me under their wing, making sure our ritual was faithfully preserved and properly executed. Gale Mitchell, DSA, was ever at the ready with wise counsel when I struggled with the proper course forward. Steadfast Brothers like John Meixner, John Pickney and Bruce Chilton showed up whether for practice, Degree work or a simple gatheringeven without a specific part to play. My fellow officers, Larry Olivia, Rick Rohmer, Jeff Jay, Lenny Howe, as well as countless other Brothers not mentioned here worked diligently to build up the Lodge while I, all too often, accepted the credit.

And there were Brothers who have laid down their working tools. Dave Baird, Dick Platten, Ed Bailey left behind not just Masonic wisdom but also life lessons that still guide me.

I am not from Jordan, NY. I do not live in Jordan, NY. And yet, this Brotherhood has claimed a part of me. I spend three or so days a month in this town, and there are few places I would rather be on a Monday evening than within the tiled walls of Jordan Lodge. I owe a debt of gratitude to every Brother who has mentored me over these last ten years. They are lessons that extend far beyond the square and compasses.

Jordan Lodge will not go dark this summer. We are a Lodge that says, "I can't believe it's [whatever day it is]!"every day, until the next gathering. We have candidates to prepare, summer cookouts to enjoy and, yes, the Traveling Gavel awaits a bold Lodge to come claim it. Our doors are open and we look forward to welcoming you in the coming months...before we darken yours this fall.

**Bradley Fetes** 

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

WM John Covell



Brothers, I was in New Hampshire with my family and was unable to attend our May 7 Lodge meeting. I thank Past Master Shawn Plourde for sitting in the East for this tiled meeting. It is my understanding the annual reports were given without any controversy or problems and the election of officers was completed and the entire elected line was reelected. RW Toby Shelley was reelected to another three-vear term as Trustee. I must have done something right this year, as I was honored to be elected as Master again for the 2025-2026 Masonic year.

Our May 21 Lodge meeting was the Past Masters and Awards night. An open meeting, our wives and family were encouraged to attend. One of our master chefs, Brother Tyde Richards, prepared his prime rib dinner for the evening's meal.

Our June 4 meeting will be our last tiled meeting this Masonic year. Any end of year business will be concluded at that time. I anticipate a motion for the Master and Secretary to be empowered to conduct the Lodge's business while dark in July and August. We will then proceed to the installation of officers for the 2025-2026 Masonic year.

On June 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Skaneateles Lodge, Skaneateles Historical Society and the Lafayette Trail Association will be cohosting the bicentennial celebration of the Marquis de Lafayette's visit to Skaneateles on June 9, 1825. This event will include a social hour and tours of the  $Lodge\, and\, our\, museum\, from$ 1:00 to 1:45. We will then adjourn to the Lodge room for a public opening, introduction of distinguished guests (Deputy Grand Master Hogan is coming), some short lectures about Lafayette with a concluding video and talk by the Lafayette Trail Association. We will then adjourn to the porch/lawn/sidewalk for the unveiling of the Roadside Marker commemorating Lafayette's visit to Skaneateles.

Our June 18 meeting will be the end of year Dinner Cruise on the *Judge Ben Wiles*. Brother Mark Kulik is again in charge of this event. Talk to Mark about your reservation for this event. I think the boat casts off at 5:00 p.m.

John Covell

### NEW YORK STATE – WIDE

Stephen C. Greene, Jr., Esq. NYS License #2831444

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- Real Estate Deed \$500 \*Plus Recording Costs

Phone: (315) 342-3191 stephengreenelaw@gmail.com

Lafayette Celebration - June 8, 2025

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

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

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

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

Bruce Babilot

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### **Editor's Prerogative**

### "Show me what you're working with"

I am proud of the regular submitters to this paper and its readership. Theirs are thoughtful communications that show effort and sincerity and a love for what we do. They respect the audience and they convey something of each writer's core. This is a far better publication than it was twenty years ago, far better than its failed companions around the state.

I hope each subscriber takes note of some particular articles in this issue—Jordan Lodge, for one, Erie Canal, for another, Fayetteville Central City for another. Or there is the account of the Honor Flight program for our veterans and the invitations to several golf tournaments. These and others teem with passion and deep appreciation for this Masonry thing. They make me want to drive around a couple of Districts and play with these guys. If you, too, get a little spark of enthusiasm, grab a Brother and make a trip.

I think also of a couple of demonstrations of pure emotion on this year's dais at Grand Lodge. Some Brothers, to include the Grand Secretary, were so overcome with what their association with Freemasonry has meant to them in the guiding and shaping their path through life they could barely read their report. What a testimonial! How can we keep the power of this meaning a secret? It is like the physical hand of the Almighty under our heart. How can we forget that in our own life? How can we not shout it to the civilians in our circles?

This is a thing that is such a big part of the belonging in this Fraternity. Hard to quantify and a little different for each but we know it is true. Remember? They told us, Wherever you go in the world you will find a friend. Well, turn it around. Begin with a couple of friends at your side and take Masonry into the world. Explore the many new offerings from the Grand Master's vision and bring something into your Lodge. Be the organizer and start small. Ignite something in your Lodge room. It begins with one.

We can float on the surface of this Masonic existence and enjoy the visible, obvious benefits and beauties of our membership, and that is fine. And we can let go, sink beneath into deeper and darker levels, into the depths of the history and mystery, like a true baptism, absorbing and imbibing, internalizing and finally becoming. And then it is our job to share. Want to be a Jacques Cousteau?

Stephen L. Zabriskie

Ft. Brewerton 256 (ON) 451 Main St. Phoenix, N.Y. 13135

2nd & 4th Fri., 7:30 p.m. 315/676-4324 WM Scott Magill.

315/632-8165, <u>bluenavyguy@yahoo.com</u>
Secy David Childress, big08fish@aol.com

I am writing this article on Mother's Day, the sun is shining and it is going to be a great day. It seems as though it has rained for 40 days and 40 nights before we finally had this great week-

We have had a very busy month since our last article. As previously mentioned, we hosted our now annual Mountain Goat Water Stop on May 4. Even though it was rainy and cool, we had a good time and great fellowships. I would like to thank all of the Brothers who were able to help: Brother Chuck and his son Charlie, W Scott and his wife Sam, Brother Kim and my daughter Sarah. Please see attached action photos.

Also, we earned some limited-edition t-shirts proclaiming the illustrious title "Goat Herder." We do have a few extra t-shirts left. If there is interest we would be willing to part with them for a small donation.

The 2025-2026 officers have been duly elected and installed. Refer to the photo from the installation: for Secretary, David Childress; Worshipful Master, Scott Magill; Tiler, Roger Paolini; Treasurer, Kim Magill. In the back are Junior Warden Adam Strizak and Senior Warden Charles Limmer.

Brother Kim and I competed in the Onondaga Dart League tournament Saturday. We have improved over the past few years in the dart league and finished better in the tournament than last year. good fellowship that we have with our other Brothers in the District. My thanks goes to Brothers Dan and Dan for coordinating the League and

But the main thing is the tournament for the past two so we can pay our bills.

I want to thank everyone who supported our Lodge by purchasing one of our raffle tickets. It provides funding

That is all for now. Have a great summer. I will see you in Lodge.

Dave Childress



Members of Fort Brewerton Lodge manned (and woman-ed) a drink station during the 47th Mountain Goat 10-mile run in Syracuse. Team members sported appropriate t-shirts.



Masons are diligent about clean-up. Kim Magill on the stick.



Fort Brewerton No. 256 elected and installed officers for 2025-26. In the front row, left to right, are Dave Chidress, Secy; Scott Magill, WM; Roger Paolini, Tiler; Kim Magill, Treas. In the second row are Adam Strizak, JW and Charles Limmer, SW.

### Nortrip 998 (ON)

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

WM Mark LaFountain

May has been a busy month for our Lodge. On May 7 we honored the widows from our Lodge and they were our guests for dinner at Vito's Italian Restaurant. This has been a long-standing tradition the members look forward to each year.

On Saturday May 10 we cleaned up the highway by Green Lakes State Park. At our May 8 meeting we had two special guests in attendance. W Dann Ladd and his son Nathan traveled from Virginia to attend a memorial service for Dann's sister, so he took the opportunity to join us for dinner and our meeting. It was certainly great to have Dann back at Lodge. Maybe the next time he visits he will bring his tuba and provide some entertainment for us. Maybe we could convince W Kevin Ingalls to dust off his saxophone and accompany him.

On May 8 we held our annual election and chose officers for the 2026 Masonic year. May 22 was Past Masters Night with a lasagna dinner at 6:15.

Make sure to mark your calendar for June 26. This will be our annual steak bake, which marks the end of our Masonic year. Also that evening, we will be presenting the Grand Master's Com-



On May 7 Nortrip honored the widows of the Lodge with a dinner at Vito's Italian restaurant. Here are a few Brothers and ladies.

munity Service Award to Mr. Hugh Gunnison, a resident of Fayetteville.

Mark LaFountain

### EMESBE ... from page 1

On a recent trip I pulled off the thruway at the Mohawk exitto see the statue of US Marine Adam Leigh Cann and his canine Bruno. See the pictures here and read the story for yourself. The Brothers of the Mohawk Valley and citizens are fortunate to have that there. Semper Fi, Marine and thank you for your service.

We would like to welcome Media Shrine to our paper. As the Shrine Center assigned to Oswego County they cover territory from Oswego to Watertown up to Massena and elsewhere.

They are responsible for the transport of patients in Oswego County, and in other counties they are assigned to bring children to the clinics and hospitals of Shriners Children's Hospitals. Just email Media Shriners Recorder at mediashriners55 @gmail.com or go online to BeAShrinerNow.com. Last month's word featured a great article from Past Potentate Scott Elliott.

Is anyone interested in buying an ad for your business? Contact the editor.

Brian Courtney

This tribute to US Marine Adam Leigh Cann and his canine Bruno is off the Mohawk exit of the NY State Thruway. It is a touching memorial. Photo by Brian Courtney





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### **OSWEGO DISTRICT**

### **DDGM** REPORT



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

No News Received

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

WM Bob Boutell

Salutations, Brothers. The meetings this month are on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. At the first meeting we will be talking about the upcoming events and Degree schedule. The dress for the evening will be a Masonic shirt. The second meeting will be installation and awards. Dress for the event will be suit and

We are in barbecue season. The upcoming dates are June 7 and 21, July 12 and 26. Also, the Scottish Games are on August 9. As always, we need as much help as possible. Many hands make light work.

This is the last word until

**Central Square** see 2nd column

### STAFF **OFFICER**



**Grand Steward** RW Kenneth D. Sterling 315/283-6562 kenneth.d.sterling @gmail.com No News Received

### **Central Square** from 1st column . . .

fall. Please remember our oaths and look for some light. Be good men, good Masons and good Brothers.

**Bob Boutell** 

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

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren. We have been busy at Scriba Lodge 414 with our chicken barbecue. It was very well attended by the Brothers and members of the community, with great fellowship had by all. It was a cold, windy day

> Scriba see 3rd column

### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS**

**AGL Garry Visconti AGL Bob Boutell** No News Received

from 2nd column . . .

but we managed to sell out

We also had our awards banquet for the members of our Lodge. It was very well attended with around fortytwo people, made up of Brothers and family members. The great meal was catered by Buckingham's Market. It was a lot of fun as we honored Brothers with sixty-plus years of service to five years, and many in-between.

We have two candidates for whom we will have a First Degree on the 9th of June. Our Lodge is growing.

The Brothers of this Lodge will also be hosting the Oswego County Masonic charities golf tournament-"The Masters"—on the 7th of June at the Greenview County Club. See the advertisement in this edition of the word. We would hope to see many sign up this year from other Lodges and Districts. We raised over \$6000 last year for the charities and hope to do more this year.

The officers and brethren would like to wish the following Brothers a happy birthday. We hope they make it a special day with family and friends. They are Brother Ronald Chapman, Brother Hawley Evans, Brother Carl Shaw Jr., Brother Christopher Tuff and Brother Patrick Violando. Happy Birthday, Brothers. Be safe, and check on some of the older Brothers of your Lodges.

Charlie Tuff

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

WM Michael Faulkner

Tidings, my Brothers. Our new Master is VW Michael Faulkner, elected and installed last evening. Mike has served as Master several times previously. I offered to cover the word article for him to help out, so here I go.

We are fortunate that he has stepped in, as he is Albion Town Supervisor and that keeps him very busy. He thanks each Brother who has filled a chair. Without that sort of commitment we would not have a brotherhood to continue.

Looking forward to weekend activities, our first barbecue was Saturday, May 10. The next will be for the Warriors Against Cancer on June 7. We are always looking for more helpers. Just show up at the South Park at 7:00 and let the fun begin. That being said, we have new royal blue chicken-flippers t-shirts in many sizes.

It has just been announced at the Vatican that there is a new Pope. May our God give him the strength to carry on with his work as the leader of the Catholic church.

Not to disappoint, I will leave us with the words of Dionne Warwick. "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of...No not just for some but for everyone." See you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

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

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

Brothers near and far: Our Secretary, RW Garret Wikoff, and I just got back from the 2025 Grand Lodge session. This was my first Grand Lodge and my first time in New York City, the Big Apple, Sin City. It was interesting, to say the least.

Those of you who were at our May 7 meeting will have heard the session report. For the rest of you, the two items that may be most interesting are a \$2 per year increase in per capita starting in 2027 and the release of a new, large print, Masonic Monitor. Hint: it has new stuff but do not toss your old one.

We are fast approaching the end of the Masonic year and it is a tradition at Callimachus to have a picnic in June. This year it will be held on Wednesday, June 25. As in the past, the Lodge will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages; you bring a dish to pass. Something different: we will be holding our awards night at the picnic. Grand Lodge has selected one of our members to receive a Dedicated Service Award, the DSA. This is only the third DSA given to one of our Brothers this century, so come on out and help him celebrate. I hope to see you soon in Lodge.

Sam Sweet

### Oswego Charities golf event

Greetings, Brethren. We are coming into better weather and that brings the opportunity to golf. The Oswego Masonic Charities Golf Tournament was very successful last year and we are hoping to build on that success again this year.

The tournament is open to everyone, Masons and  $non\hbox{-}Masons, just as it was in$ 

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

the past. Please see the flyer in this edition; should you have any further questions please reach out to Brother Kevin Neary or Brother Shawn Tuff. Our contact information is in the flyer.

Kevin and Shawn again want to thank Melissa Ingerham for designing the flyer. As previously confessed, she is way more artsycraftsy than Kevin and me.

We hope that many take the opportunity to register early. Join us in a great cause. Of course, the fellowship is free but is also priceless.

Shawn Tuff



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### **Shrine** Hospital ... from page 1

fitted with the typical body powered hook type prosthetic on his left hand. At the time, a myoelectric prosthetic, also known as the "Hero Hand," was not available. Even now it is not a viable option due to the nerve damage caused by the electrocution. However, prosthetic technology has advanced significantly over the years and we are now able to fit this patent with a partial mechanical hand (see photo).

Molds were taken of the patient's injured right hand and this custom prosthetic was designed and built to enable his functioning thumb and index finger to be complemented by the mechanical fingers on the prosthetic. The individual mechanical fingers can be manually positioned in various configurations. They can be released either individually with a release button on the back of each knuckle, or by manually closing the fingers into the palm. Either action releases the mechanical fingers to an open hand position. While all this sounds cumbersome, in practice the patient was surprisingly adept at manipulating the fingers. We saw a video of him trying out a prototype version. He was able to position the fingers to hold various objects and then release the fingers using the prosthetic on his left hand or by using convenient objects such as a chair or table to close the fingers into his palm, releasing the grip. The video closed with him swinging a pelican case and grinning to know he would be able to carry his own lug-

we learned that electrocutions in third world countries are not that uncommon. Worker and public safety regulations are mostly nonexistent or weak, and enforcement is lax if it occurs at all. Conversely, in the United States electrocutions rarely occur and the few that do are typically with utility workers handling high voltage lines on a daily basis and often under adverse conditions while repairing downed lines and recovering from storm damage. Strict building codes, enforcement of electrical codes by building inspectors, Unions advocating for worker and public safety, and standards promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other government agencies have combined to provide an incredibly safe electrical grid.

During the presentation

The patient is now 17 and will shortly age out of the Shriners Healthcare System. It is hard to convey the elation on this young man's face that his treatment at Shriners has given him a shot at a fairly normal life. Nobles, I cannot say it often enough: you should be incredibly proud of the work we are able to accomplish in this System.

Bill Toth



June 2025 the word Page 7

## CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

### DDGM REPORT



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

Greetings, Brethren! Staff Officer Wade and I just got back from the 243<sup>rd</sup> Grand Lodge Communication and here are a few highlights. First, the Grand Line was reelected for a second term. Congratulations go to MW Steven Adam Rubin, Grand Master; RW Robert L. Hogan, Jr., Deputy Grand Master; RW Mark J. Loughran, Senior Grand Warden; RW John Haslam, Sr., Junior Grand Warden; RW Alberto G. Cortizo, Grand Treasurer; and RW Richard T. Schulz, Grand Secretary.

The budget as presented in your packets was passed. The budget expenses are more than \$1M over income. The budget deficit is made up from investment reserves which is in part the necessity of raising Grand Lodge per capita dues by \$2/member over the next five years. That resolution passed the first vote and will be voted on again at next year's Grand Lodge Communication, as will a series of other proposed amendments to the constitution that were passed and will be up then for final vote. Watch for communication from Grand Lodge about which ones were voted

A fact that should be of concern to every Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction is that there are now just under 24,000 Masons in New York State. Brothers, we have to find ways to communicate who we are and why joining us will make a difference in the lives of our potential Brothers and in our communities. This is why during my Spring Visitation I have been asking members to think about what they want their Lodge's future to look like. Without a vision the people will perish (Proverbs 29:18). Our motto on the nymason.org website is: "Where Men Build Meaning." And it is up to our Lodges to offer the meaning in our Lodge programs, social gatherings and community service events.

From the Custodians of the Work comes a new Monitor. Grand Lodge will provide one copy to each Lodge

DDGM see 3rd column

### STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Brothers, by the time you are reading this we will be finally in the middle of our Road to the East education class. Hopefully, everyone has learned something new as well as passed along some information that helps the others. Once the Road to the East and Master's Chair courses are completed we will move on to the Masonic Development Course.

If any Lodge is interested in hosting a Lodge Room Walkabout please let me know. I will be glad to provide one at your invitation.

Even though some of the Lodges in the District go dark for summer, others remain open, as well as some in our neighboring Districts. Please take the opportunity to attend and visit.

Wade A. Caler



Tom Whitney
No News Received

DDGM from 1st column . . .

free of charge and Master Masons can order one through their Lodge Secretary at \$37. There is also a Large Print Edition available.

Finally, I communicate to you the Grand Master's order. Any Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction that is in arrears for per capita dues and not caught up by September 1, 2025 will have its charter suspended.

Many more things happened at Grand Lodge—more than I can relate here. Masters/Lodges, start putting aside money now and prepare for next year's Grand Lodge Session so that each of our Lodges can have at least one delegate in attendance. It is your voice for what happens in your Grand Lodge.

Richard G. Reed



Homer Lodge presented a number of service awards at a recent dinner meeting. Brother James Lewis shows his sixty-year apron and certificate.

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, we have been busy in May. We started with the fundraiser for the Homer Little League with a chicken barbecue and hotdogs. We cooked over 300 halves and 72 hotdogs. All the proceeds went to the program. We need to thank Cortlandville Lodge for some help and the McGraw Boy Scouts for the second grill.

We also had an Award Night at the Community Restaurant in Cortland. The following people got awards: Bros. James R Cox and George C Wood, seventyfive years; Brother James R. Lewis, sixty years; Brother Gary A. Evans, fifty years; RW Kim C. Dellow and Laurence M. Webster, fortyfive years; and W Mark E. Randolph, forty years. Brother Sean C. Conte, RW Russell O. Perkins and Brother Steven R. Thomas Jr. have thirty years; W Keith R. Fairchild is a twenty-year member; and Brother Andrew P. Kostuk, W Clifford P. Kostuk, Brother Jered D. Polanko-Baker, RW Richard G. Reed, Brother Bruce E. Tiger II and Brother Bruce E. Tiger III all have fifteen years. Brother William D. Wheeler is a proud five-year member.

Also, we have a new Homer Lodge Dedicated Service Award recipient—W Cliff P. Kostuk. This was announced at the award night.

We will be having election of officers this month. We will keep you informed on that. I hope everyone is well. See you in Lodge.

Kim C. Dellow

Past DDGM Oswego Dist. John F. Tanner This is a nice little message with a fun cadence. It appeared in the March 1925 issue of The Builder magazine. Its title may or may not be coincidence.—Editor.

### THE BUILDER

I built my house on the Sands of Time A house that I built to stay-But the tide came in—as the tide will come, And it washed the sands away.

Then my house fell down, as a house will fall, And hope went out with the tide But I built again, as a man will build, If he be a man of pride.

Then came the storm with the fierce whirlwind And my house was wrecked again.
And I stood and looked at my labor lost,
And it all seemed so in vain.
But I built again in another place—
Where the storm and the tide came not,
And I felt safe in my new strong house—
But one thing I forgot.

It was the flames with their red-hot tongues, That came in the still of night,
And they ate it up—as the flames will eat,
Though I strove with all my might.
And again I looked at the house that was,
Then knew it was not to be,
For a well built house won't fall three times,
When built for eternity.

Now why should I build a house three times, And why should it three times fall? Were it better I built a house that falls Than never to build at all? Then came a thought from the Great Somewhere, I had not followed the rules, For a well built house won't fall three times When built with the Master's Tools.

So I built again with the Master's Tools The Level, the Plumb and the Square Each ashlar hewn from the Rock of Faith Was polished and laid with care; And the plans I used were the Plans of Life And my house it faced the sun Now I dwell therein as a man should dwell When the Craftsman's work's well done.

—Bro. Herbert N. Farrar.

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



Grilling for the Little League, Homer Lodge 352 turned out the chickens and hot dogs.

### **CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT**



**DDGM** REPORT RW Ed Maassen

Greetings, Brothers. As promised in last month's article, RW Paul Schenck and I traveled to King Hiram Lodge on May 22 for their Second Degree. It was well done by everyone and was evident that the Brothers were well rehearsed. Tony Cirulli and Brother Carl Taber did outstanding work. Sylvan, Scipio and Trumansburg Lodges were also in attendance and helped out. Two Brothers were Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft. King Hiram's Third Degree is planned for June 24. Let Mike McLaughlin know if you are coming.

I travelled with RW Paul again on Wednesday, May 23 for a special apron presentation at Sylvan Lodge. I had the pleasure to present fifty-year aprons to Brothers Steve Jackson, Gary Hatfield, Bob Defendorf and (surprise) Paul Schenck. A sixty-year apron was presented to an equally surprised Brant Sherlock. The grand total is 260 years of Masonry.

I received a surprise myself that night from RW Paul and W Mark Jordan of Scipio Lodge. A lot of my Lodge Brothers know that I have been looking for a certain hay wagon wheel hub (three counties and three states and still searching). Paul and Mark presented me with a toy John Deere and wagon

The Grand Master is looking for District volunteers to head up the Brotherhood Fund, Public Relations, Retention and Youth programs. If anyone is interested, please give Tommy or me a call. Have a safe summer and I will see you in Lodge.

Ed Maassen

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

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

Greetings from Erie Canal Lodge! During our first communication in May, Erie Canal Lodge spent time discussing the proposals and candidates for elections sent to us in the call letter from Grand Lodge. It was so nice to see and hear everyone take part in the talks. While we often had different opinions,

> **Erie Canal** see 3rd column



STAFF OFFICER **RW Tom Ostrander** 315/224-0940

Brothers, RW Ed Maassen, DDGM, and I are gearing up for another successful year in the District. RW Ed is confirming our upcoming visits with all Lodges and when established we will get the dates out to you in hopes you will want to

Under Sickness and Distress, we lost several Brothers recently. Brother Elvin Dolph, age 93 and a sixtyyear Mason from Erie Canal 141, passed. RW Ed and I attended his Masonic Graveside Service on April 25. RW Dave Bowman, Grand Chaplain, performed the service. Also in attendance were RW Dave Barnello, RW Gary Mowers, W Mike Lees and Brother Dave Woodall.

Brother Gus Isaac, age 101, from Tritown 472, passed recently. Masonic Services were held on May 23 at the Lansing United Methodist Church, 32 Brickyard Rd., Lansing at 1 p.m. RW Dave Bowman, Grand Chaplain, RW Maassen and I attended.

Thanks to RW Mike Miller, PDDGM and Grand Lodge Leadership & Education member, the following training classes are planned. Any changes will be forwarded: on July 31, Master's Chair; on August 5, Stations & Places; on August 7 and 14, MDC; and on August 12, RTTE. All courses run 6 to 9

The Cayuga-Tompkins District Festive Board scheduled for May 17 has been postponed for lack of subscribers Set for Potters Farm to Fork, 1951 NY 31 in Port Byron, it had an elaborate menu for only \$40—glazed ham, oven-roast turkey, braised beef brisket, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, veggie, salad, rolls and butter. The event was to be sponsored by Erie Canal 141 in Weedsport and was created by W Seth Molloy, Master. Please support this well planned event when it comes around again. It also has the blessing of MW Steven Rubin, Grand Master.

The 2025 District Awards Dinner will be held at Tritown Lodge No. 472 on November 7. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be MI Donald Kunego,

> **Staff Officer** see 3rd column



**ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER** 

**VW Joe Sheppard** No News Received

Staff Officer from 2nd column . . .

Past Grand Master of Cryptic Masons and Past Grand Commander of Masonic War Vets. The meal will consist of roast pork, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, apple pie, etc. The cost is yet to be determined but is usually around \$20. Make reservations with me by email or cell by October 24, please. Program ads are also due by then. A full page costs \$75; one-half page, \$50; quarter page, \$25; one-third, \$10. Make checks payable to "MWOLO" and send to me at 118 N. Hoopes Ave., Auburn 13021. Cash is also accepted-honest.

Take care, God bless. I hope to see all of you soon in our District.

Tom Ostrander

### **Erie Canal** from 1st column . . .

we all had the same goalmaking the right choices to help our Fraternity continue into the future.

I had the pleasure of attending my very first session of Grand Lodge in New York City. It was an amazing experience to represent my Lodge and bring their voices into the decision making. During the breaks I was also able to explore our Grand Lodge and its many Lodge rooms, art and architecturesomething I have wanted to do since before I even petitioned for membership. From the moment I got on the train to the city until I finished my trip home I got to spend my time with new friends and cherished Brothers. It was a wonderful opportunity and I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend a communication at Grand

Lodge to do so. At our second communication of the month, Erie Canal Lodge received a report of my experiences at Grand Lodge. We also held our Lodge elections, as we always do the meeting after the Annual Communication. Congratulations go to our Brothers starting their terms in brand new roles and to our Brothers continuing to serve in the chairs they held. Our Lodge is proud of you and know that under your leadership we will continue to grow our Lodge and help

> **Erie Canal** see 4th column

**Erie Canal** from 3rd column . . .

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

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

Finally, our annual golf tournament is booked for June 29 with a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. It is a captain and crew format, with fourperson teams (\$100 dollars a person). There will be two flights and in each flight the first place team will win \$400 and second place team \$200. Entry fees include lunch, dinner, drinks, cart, greens fees, door prizes and favors. We will also be playing skins, double your dollars on the first and tenth hole and doing a closest to the pin contest. Please reach out to Gary to register at 315/246-7029.

This year we will also bring back our golf ball drop. Following the golf tournament, we will drop hundreds of numbered golf balls onto the practice green. Balls may be purchased at the rate of one ball for \$10 or three balls for \$20. The numbered ball closest to the pin will win \$500, it is \$250 for second place and \$100 for third place. Please reach out to our Secretary Mike for ball drop tickets at 315/753-

1392 And as usual, we are going to have our monthly pancake breakfast. We hold this breakfast on every second Sunday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with all the food you care to eat for only \$12. Veterans eat free with military ID. Everybody is welcome.

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





Brother Richard Hodges, Jake O'Connor Award recipient. This photo is from the Auburn Citizen dated May 11, 2025, by Kevin Rivoli.

### **Modest Mason merits acclaim**

Brother Richard Hodges, a fifty-one-year member of Warren Salem Town Lodge in Union Springs, was recently singled out for a distinctive award by the Union Springs School District. A feature article appeared in the Auburn Citizen on May 11 describing the public ceremony when Brother Dick received the Jake O'Connor Award from the District's Athletic Hall of Fame, for "contributions to athletics on and off the field." The Jake O'Connor Award is named for the popular longtime physical education teacher and coach who served the District for decades.

The award recognized Brother Hodges's contributions over a fifteen-year period coaching and helping his son coach a summer soccer program. He also served fifteen years as a member and President of the school board and promoted athletics in the District.

Brother Hodges, in his usual understated way, said of the award, "I was speechless, because my feeling on it was that I was the kind of individual to try to do things behind the scenes and try to promote other people, bring out what they had to offer....

"I was just there to morally support (son James) and do whatever I could on his behalf...I enjoyed the game of soccer and the kids enjoyed doing it. You saw their enthusiasm and interest as they developed over the years."

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

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

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was on April 19. Despite the rain, it did not dampen the spirits of the children gathering eggs and looking for a prize in their age group. All nine prizes were found and given to the winners. The Easter Bunny was present to greet and entertain everyone. It was a fun day for all.

Lodge Activities included our annual barbecue for Warren Salem Town Lodge No. 147 on Saturday May 17. During the Easter Egg Hunt, Chris Cummings-Shattuck made a video with W Dave Schenck which featured our Lodge. It provided some history and community involvement activities by Warren Salem Town Lodge No. 147. Christina is the founder and editor for our Village Happenings and used the video to promote our barbecue.

Recently, we identified those Brothers who are veterans and recorded their branch and dates of service with Grand Lodge. Out of respect for their service we voted to donate \$1000 to support the Veterans Flag project in our community.

Our Birthday Corner celebrates these members in June. Brother Dave Balcom on June 21 and W Tim Dodman on June 23. Happy-Birthday wishes go to these Brothers.

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

WM Paul Schenck

Sylvan Lodge No. 41 in Moravia, NY held a special recognition night on April 23 to recognize 261 years of Masonic Service by members. Five members were honored, four with fifty-year pins, certificates and special aprons. Brothers receiving their fifty-year pins were

Bob Defendorf, Gary Hatfield, Steven Jackson and Paul Schenck. Brant Sherlock was honored by all with a sixty-year apron as he celebrates his sixty-first year. Wendall Hatfield could not be present but he has seventy-one years with Sylvan Lodge.

We at Sylvan Lodge were honored as DDGM Edmund Maassen was on hand. He served prominently in the ceremonies. He also received an award of his own. Ask RW Ed about his Little Red Wagon.

I hope everyone has a great summer. See you in Lodge.

Paul Schenck

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

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

Brothers, under Sickness and Distress: Beth Bowman is home and doing well after a fall in Florida. My wife Paula Ostrander is also home

> Auburn see page 12



The featured guest at Warren Salem Town's egg hunt.

Warren Albrecht

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

### **Council Princes**

Recently, I had the privilege to sit with new Master Masons to talk about various options on their journey to further light. We looked at how to develop their personal Trestleboard.

In my own journey it was two to three years before I chose to add a Concordant Body to further my Masonic education. That body was the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, with its multitude of allegories and lessons. I have since included certain York Rite Bodies with their parallel Degrees and lessons.

Further, we discussed programs such as the Livingston Library reading courses. These courses offer several different topics regarding Masonry and personal interest.

The final option was the continuing opportunity to do exactly what we were doing: sitting with a Brother with greater experience, asking any questions on the mind of a young Mason, soliciting observations from their recent Degree experience. We all are, hopefully, continuing our journey for further light, at the same time encouraging our new Brothers along the way.

Michael A. Miller

### Consistory

Sovereign Princes, we have elected and installed our new Valley leadership and congratulations go to our new Officers and Trustees. I hope they will find their experience as rewarding as mine. The leaders of our bodies have been a consistent source of strength and support for our Valley and I know our new leaders and officers will continue the high standards of our Valley.

When I joined Scottish Rite almost forty years ago I was still relatively new to Upstate NY and had no family in the area. I was looking to expand my circle beyond coworkers and Brothers of Morning Star Lodge. I was intrigued by the possibility of witnessing twenty-nine additional Degrees and was soon talked into taking a chair in the Lodge of Perfection and eventually became Thrice Potent Master. Work responsibilities and a young family limited my Masonic activities, although I tried to participate in Degrees as often as I could. When I was approached to join the Consistory line and commit to progress to C-I-C, I took a long pause to consider whether I could make

that commitment. My stepmother had passed recently and my dad was in his 80s and 450 miles away. My wife had health issues and I was still working, with a long daily commute to Ithaca. I was assured the Valley operated as a team and did not expect any officer to carry the burdens alone; that the leadership team and all the members were driven to see everyone succeed; that if I faced challenges the Valley would assist me in my personal or professional life. How true those words have turned out to be! I am grateful for all the support I have received during my journey through the Consistory line. The two years I have served as C-I-C have been both challenging and rewarding. I thank you.

Though our usual activities take a pause over the summer months there are some fun events planned for July and August. On July 11 the Valley will have an outing to see the Syracuse Mets play. After a barbecue at the ball park the Mets play Lehigh Valley. A fireworks show closes out our evening of fellowship. On July 21 a Knights of St. Andrew event is planned. Watch for details.

The Motorcycle Ride for the Dyslexia Center is on July 27. A group of riders will depart from Masonic Memorial Temple parking lot about 11:30 a.m. You are encouraged to form a small group and depart from any convenient location. Time your ride to arrive at the Dyslexia Center by 1:00 p.m. The Ride is \$20 per person and includes hamburgers, hot dogs, etc., at the pavilion on the Eastern Star Campus in Oriskany. See the Cycle flyer elsewhere in this issue.

Golfers should keep August 1 open for the annual Teddy Bear Classic Golf Tournament at Vesper Hills Golf Club in Tully. Watch your email for details on cost, tee times, etc. Mark August 9 for the Family Life Outing and Picnic at Masonic Memorial Temple. Ill. Terry Byard has some surprises up his sleeve.

sleeve.

Two more dates for your calendar now: the Valley Kick-Off Event is scheduled for September 8 and the White Hat Dinner is scheduled for September 13. On this occasion the Valley will present a White Hat to our newest 33° recipients, Avery Wheelock and Richard Freeman.

William H. Toth II

### **Perfection**

Good day, Brothers! As I write in early May, I reflect upon an amazing year as TPM. I want to thank all of those who supported me, the Lodge of Perfection and all of the Degrees, dinners and programs. You helped make this year.

Being asked, I agreed to take this role for another year. If in a couple of weeks I am installed as such, I know we will be looking ahead to many more very pleasant evenings together.

With that, I hope to see you at the summer events we have planned as well as back at work in the fall. It is also my hope that you take some time to enjoy the summer with family. Be well.

### Hospitaler

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

Eric Driscoll

The sad news is that we need to console the family of Ill. Richard Powell. His mother's brother Ernie passed away and within a couple of hours his father's last remaining sibling Hilda passed away.

Other Brothers and families in need of prayer are Joel Scarson's wife Heather; Brother Harvey Eysman is having many health issues; Brother Jorge Romeu's wife Zoila is still undergoing treatment since September. My wife Lynn took a fall and injured her shoulder. We continue to keep Ill. Sandy Samson in our prayers as his health concerns continue.

Donations to any Brother may be submitted to the Hospitaler Fund, designated for that person. Keep the Valley informed of anyone in distress.

Garry Visconti

### **Rose Croix**

As we wind down another year for the Chapter of Rose Croix, I think about some philosophical facets of the Chapter and of Freemasonry. The Rose Croix Degrees—the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>—are grounded in both epistemological and metaphysical frameworks that reflect Enlightenment ideals and esoteric traditions.

Epistemologically, these Degrees emphasize the evolution of truth through personal reflection, moral inquiry and symbolic revelation. Rather than privileging dogma, they encourage the initiate to seek knowledge through reason, inner experience and allegory. This aligns with a Masonic epistemology that values gnosis-knowledge derived from spiritual insight—over mere intellectual assent. In the 18th Degree, Knight Rose Croix, truth is portrayed not as fixed but as something revealed progressively through symbols like the pelican and rose, representing sacrifice and spiritual

Metaphysically, the

### **COMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

June 2025
Jun 02 2025 – 2026 Organization Meetings 6:15 p.m./AASR Valley Trustees
Meeting 7:00 p.m./Executive Committee Meeting live, in-person.

Jul 11 (Fri) ... Family Night at the Mets Game. Details and ticket information coming ...... in June.Jul 27 (Sun) .. Motorcycle Ride to the Learning Center in Oriskany. Details coming in

August 2025

..... June.

July 2025

Aug 1 (Fri) .... Teddy Bear Classic"

Aug 18 ........ Trustees at 6:15 p.m., Live/Executive Committee at 7:00 p.m.

Please enjoy a happy and safe summer.

### Allegiance

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter of Rose Croix explores the relationship between the divine, humanity and the cosmos. It transcends orthodox religious boundaries by presenting a universalist vision of the divine, where the "Lost Word" symbolizes the ineffable source of all being - a metaphysical unity underlying diverse religious traditions. The death resurrection and motif central to the ritual reflects a metaphysical process of transformation, mirroring alchemical and mystical conceptions of spiritual ascent. The rituals convey that true enlightenment arises not from external salvation but from internal regeneration and harmony with a transcendent moral order.

Together, the epistemological pursuit of symbolic truth and the metaphysical vision of unity and rebirth underscore the Chapter of Rose Croix's role. That is, in guiding initiates toward a higher spiritual consciousness rooted in ethical living and esoteric wis-

Joseph W. Flanagan

### Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

As we close another

school year at the Central New York Children's Dyslexia Center, I reflect on the incredible journey this year has been. We have seen remarkable growth in our students' confidence, in their reading skills and in the strong sense of community that surrounds our center.

Each student brings a unique story and it is a privilege to watch them face challenges with courage and persistence. From learning new strategies to unlocking the joy of reading, their progress is a testament to the power of hard work, support and the right tools.

I extend heartfelt thanks

to our families, whose trust and partnership are the foundation of what we do. Our dedicated tutors' and staff's commitment and compassion inspire all of us. The generous donors and community partners make this work possible. Every contribution of time, talent or resources has a direct impact on the lives of the children we serve.

Looking ahead, we are excited to expand our programs, strengthen our outreach and welcome even more young learners into the center where they can thrive. With your contin-

ued support, we remain committed to empowering children with dyslexia to become confident, capable readers—more than that: to believe in themselves.

Marianne Jones

### Member's Annual Dues Notice

As we were reminded at our Annual Meeting on May 12, there will be a nominal dues increase for 2026 as the result of the four-years annual Member's Dues increase plan approved in 2023. Supreme Council and New York Council of Deliberation assessment increases were approved to begin in 2026.

I thank every member who is current in paying his annual dues for 2025. If you have not paid your 2025 dues, please remit them to the Valley Office as soon as you are able. Please contact the office if paying your dues is causing a financial burden. And contact the office at 315/452-7976 if you have any questions.

James D. Swan, Jr.



### Children's Dyslexia Center Central New York



Millions of school children with dyslexia endure frustration and demoralization on a daily basis as they struggle to acquire skills that many of us take for granted. If your child is struggling with reading and writing, how do you know if dyslexia is the cause? Where can you go for help?

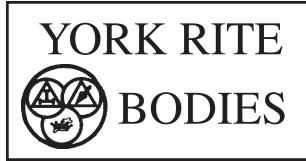
For over ten years, the Scottish Rite Masons, Northern Jurisdiction, have been national leaders in the effort to help children and their families overcome the painful obstacles of dyslexia.

At our Central New York center, located in Oriskany, the Children's Dyslexia Center tackles the challenge of dyslexia head-on, both by providing free tutoring for children with dyslexia and by training a growing cadre of highly skilled and dedicated tutors.

### Children's Dyslexia Center - Central New York

PO Box 638, 8280 State Route 69, Oriskany, NY 13424 Phone: 315-736-0576 Fax: 315-736-0575

Email: reception@cny32learningctr.org





ROYAL ARCH MASON

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

DDGHP RE James Nelson

Greetings, Dear Companions. I hope this communication finds all doing well and able to take advantage of the warmer (and hopefully sunny) days.

I should have held all of my Official Visits by the time you are reading this. We were honored and a little surprised by Most Excellent Mark Peerson, Grand High Priest, who made the long drive up to Liverpool to join us at my Official Visit and the Official Visit to our District by our Grand King, Right Excellent Jamie Kaim. It was a wonderful opportunity to share fellowship with the two highest Officers of our Grand Chapter. It was an honor and privilege to have these fine gentlemen at Central City Riverside Chapter—we all felt blessed by this demonstration.

On May 28 we Exalted possibly fourteen new Companions at Charles H. Platt Chapter in Skaneateles. Since this is written weeks beforehand, I do not know the exact number of those who made the date. But we are grateful that a large portion of those fourteen completed their Royal Arch Degrees. That is an impressive number of new Royal Arch Masons and we welcome them heartily and fervently to the beginning of their York Rite journey.

As always seems to be the case in Masonry, all of us have a very busy schedule through the numerous organizations within Masonry and it always increases as our weather improves through spring. I encourage all not to become overwhelmed. Enjoy these busy times with shared fellowship and sharing of the light. I am looking forward to all the times when our paths can cross and we can share moments of fellowship and strengthening of our bonds. I will see you in the Quar-

James Nelson

### CENTRAL CITY RIVERSIDE CHAPTER 70 RAM

608 Oswego St. Liverpool, N.Y. Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday

HP Timothy S. Hansen 315/378-5652 timothy.hansen@neardistant.net Secy Bob Bowles 315/436-0997 rbowles1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Companions! With summer approaching we have just a few meetings before we take our summer

break.

Over the past couple of months we had our great Convocation in Binghamton, for which we had a great turnout. I want to wish our new Grand Line officers a very successful year.

We also had our Official Visit from the RE James Nelson, our District Deputy Grand High Priest for our District. Other dignitaries included our very own RE Ralph I. Haney Jr., Grand Captain of the Host; RE Jaime J. Kaim Jr., Grand King; and ME Mark G. Peerson, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York Royal Arch Masons. The meeting was well attended and the topics presented were warmly received.

Royal Arch Masonary can succeed and grow but we know every Chapter needs its Companions to attend to open and work the Trestleboard. Ilook forward to the next several events, including the next Degrees done by the District and the several educational programs.

If any Companion or Brother knows someone in sickness or distress or in need of our aid and sympathy, please contact me. I hope to see you around the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District soon.

Timothy S. Hansen

### PULASKI CHAPTER 279 RAM

Pulaski Chapter 279 RAM will greet our District officer James Nelson on Wednesday evening, June 11. We will have a covereddish supper at 6:30. The communication will follow.

The Chapter looks for a fun evening of information and fellowship. Please join us to receive our new Grand High Priest's address.

Fred Dashnaw



### CENTRAL CITY COMMANDERY 25 KT iverpool Masonic Temple

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

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

Greetings, Sir Knights. Our election went well, with eleven Sir Knights in attendance.

I would like to congratulate Eminent Commander-Elect John Buckley and his officers. They will be installed on June 12. By the time this article comes out our Inspection should be behind us. Looking ahead, our last meeting before going dark will be a party at Asil's Pub at 6:00 p.m. Please reserve by June 12. Asil's Pub is at 220 Chapel Dr., Syracuse (Camillus).

Next September we will hit the ground running with our new Commander and our new home. Yes, we also will move our home to the Shriner's Hall in Solvay. I hope to see a good turnout.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for your support of me as the Commander for the last two years. It was fun and a great experience.

Robert Kimberly



Duane Crapser, Russell Crapser, George Hotaling and Carol Hotaling pose near the Lincoln Memorial.

### **Tigris**

### May 3 - Honor Flight, Mission 22

As I write this, Past Potentate George Hotaling and Noble Russell Crapser are opening mail provided by Honor Flight. Listening to them talk and read the letters has not only encouraged me about the future of our Nation but also made me realize the huge impact these men have made on the place I call home.

This day started at 3 a.m. after only 4.5 hours of sleep. I made my morning tea and Dad made his coffee for the drive to the airport. What I thought was early was the time the eager veterans and their guardians-for-the-day were waiting for. As we walked from the bus I stepped back and followed Noble Crapser (my dad) by a few steps. He was greeted with cheers and handshakes, something that many years ago were not to be found.

As we sat in the conference room we saw Past Potentate George Hotaling and his guardian Carol. I watched George shaking hands and talking with everyone as he walked through the room. George is not new to the excitement and energy of Honor Flight. He and Carol are well known to the community. Both have volunteered to provide the welcome these vets are getting today. As we waited for direction, the veterans shared stories, hugs and smiles as though they had known each other for years. What makes these interactions so special is that they do not know each other; but they shared experiences that only around 1% of our Nation will ever know. They served.

As we proceeded to security we were greeted by a Flag line, led by Noble Bruce Dauer from the Cicero American Legion. It was so nice to see our Tigris Shrine Community well represented.

With the busy day just getting started, the plane left Syracuse and soon landed in Washington, DC. More people greeted these men who deserved the hero's

welcome they received everywhere they had been so far today.

We stepped off the bus at the World War II monument and were greeted by tourists, kids on a field trip and members of patriotic groups. The organizers of Honor Flight make sure these veterans are given the respect they all deserve and earned. With visits to the Vietnam Wall, Nurses Memorial, Air Force Memorial and the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery, the day was packed with more than any individual could plan for himself.

On the plane ride back home each veteran was given mail from a mail bag. I watched George and Russell read the pieces of mail from locals and some from across the country. The looks on their faces said more than the words on the papers could ever say. This was a time that all of these veterans were able to read the words of a grateful Nation.

After landing back in Syracuse the heroes were truly welcomed home, the way they should have been so many years ago. More people from the Masonic and Shrine community were there for these men. Assistant Rabban Mike Barbato stood at the bottom of the escalator with so many others cheering and waving to the veterans. The community was there and united together. As the parade proessed there were more familiar faces and others from the Tigris Community, including Noble Garry Visconti, a very active veteran who retired from the United States Navy.

If you know a veteran who has served you might want to consider contacting Honor Flight of Syracuse. Be a volunteer or donate. The most important part is making sure these veterans know they are welcomed home. To be part of the Shrine Community visit Beashrinernow.com.

Duane Crapser



Noble Russell Crapser is greeted by Noble Bruce Dauer in the departure Flag line at Syracuse International.



Russell Crapser kibitzes with "General George S. Patton" at the World War II Memorial.

Past Grand Master Carl J. Fitje Sponsor Tom Ostrander, Sponsor Grand Steward Cayuga-Tompkins District 2012-2014. 2024-2026

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## ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



Onondaga Star 144 Masonic Memorial Center

WM Susan Cole

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. Here we are in June, the first day of summer is the 20th. Here is looking to a summer of sunshine and fun!

We had a fantastic time at our first Kentucky Derby party. I would like to thank my Sisters and Brothers who helped make this happen, especially my mom, Evelyn Blovat. We will have another one next year.

We did not have draping on May 6, as we had some members under the weather. It is postponed to a later date and we will keep you informed. On May 20 we honored Mothers and had a special meeting.

Our June meetings will be on June 3 for Initiation and June 17 when we will honor Fathers. We will then break for summer. Our first meeting back will be our annual meeting at the Spaghetti Warehouse on September 2.

The winner of the Kardia Mobile Red EKG personal EKG was a friend of a member, John Stever. The winner of the District ham raffle was our member Karen Button.

The Grand Matron and Grand Patron's visit will be June 7 at the American Legion in Cicero. Also that weekend, on Sunday, June 8, Centerville will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Chapter.

On June 21 Mark's Beach Buddies will hold a Bingo party at BHS from 1 to 3 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winners (no cash) as that is not allowed in the temple. This will go towards the Grand Matron's and Grand Patron's projects.

July 18 and 19 are the dates of our annual bazaar in

Onondaga Star OES see 4th column

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers: As I write this column the sun is shining brightly in Oswego for the first time in a week. Let us hope it is a harbinger of better weather to come.

Lake City Victoria Chapter has been quite busy, of late. On Saturday, April 26 the Chapter performed the long-delayed Eastern Star funeral service for RW Nancy J. Costello, the Chapter's Treasurer-Emerita who died on December 3, 2024. Bad weather forced a postponement of the ceremony at that time. Among the many guests for the service were RW Nancy's children, Bro. Thomas Costello, Sr. Sharon McCoy and Mrs. Carol Sulpizio, and their spouses Theresa Costello and Jon McCoy. After the ceremony, friends and family gathered in the dining room of Lake City Lodge No. 127 for a light luncheon.

On Friday, May 9 the Chapter welcomed RW Yvonne Hanshew, District Deputy Grand Matron, who was making her Official Visit to Lake City Victoria. She was accompanied by RW Clinton Allen, Jr., District Grand Lecturer. They brought warm fraternal greetings from MW Marcia A. Pratt, Grand Matron, and MW Mark W. Heitmann, Grand Patron. A highlight of the evening was the skit put on by Chapter officers entitled "Our Jewel, Yvonne." After the meeting, all enjoyed the refreshments prepared and served by the Past Matrons' Association. RW Carla J. Salisbury, Junior Past District Deputy Grand Matron and Chapter Treasurer, won the raffle.

Lake City Victoria see 4th column

### Centerville 185 Onondaga State of the Masonic Memorial Center from 1st co

Hi, Sisters and Brothers. I guess time got away from me for the May article.

Our School of Instruction was very informative and gave us some good practice on our signs. At our May 1 meeting we draped the altar in memory of those who have passed in the past year. We were excited to welcome RW Pat Tefoe on her Official Visit to our Chapter where cardinal birds were the theme for the night.

On June 5 we will be honoring our Master Masons. For June 19 we honor our Life Members by starting out with a pizza picnic.

Do not forget that we will celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a chartered Chapter on June 8. This begins with a picnic lunch at 12 noon. All are welcome. I hope to see you in Chapter.

Cathy Barling

### Beach Buddies Bulletin

We will be continuing our projects right up to and including July on behalf of MW Mark. Many of those projects you are familiar with: A and H dollar bills are being collected by Sue Cole. Cathy Barling has the quarter cards. See Ann Pennock for the meat raffle tickets. They are \$5 for one and \$10 for three. The meat is from Spearas and is a nice assortment.

The money from the bottles and cans you turn in may be given to Sue Cole. Some sweat shirts are still available. For these, see MW Mark or Sue Cole.

One new project is a bingo party on June 21 from 1 to 3 p.m., to be held at Bona Fide. Another is a Skaneateles boat trip on June 28. Boarding takes place at 2:45 and the sailing at 3 p.m. A dinner is planned after the cruise.

Evelyn Blovat

### Onondaga Star OES from 1st column . . .

Oriskany and it will be a Beach Party theme. There is plenty going on to keep us busy and out and about to enjoy the summer weather.

Happy birthday wishes go to all our June birthday members. Also, big congratulations go to our members with a June service-year anniversary. I add my sincere thankyou for your years of service.

The next communication in *the word* will be September. I wish you all a happy, healthy, warm and fun summer—until we meet again.

Susan Cole

### Lake City Vistoria from 2nd column . . .

MW Marcia A. Pratt and MW Mark Heitmann will make their Official Visit to Oswego District on Friday, June 6 at the Geenview Country Club in West Monroe, NY. RW Cynthia J. Sanders is once again in charge of procuring baskets for the annual basket raffle. She reports that several have been pledged but more are needed. In the past two years this District project has garnered almost \$2,000 and it is hoped that this year's raffle will be equally successful. Persons having questions or concerns may contact her at 315/343-0097 after 7:30 p.m. or by email at angelswings1955@yahoo.com.

The Chapter officers performed the annual ceremony of draping the altar on May 23. We observed this in memory of RW Nancy J. Costello, Sr. Joanne Wilson, W Leo Monette and MW Ronald Charron, Past Grand Patron (2005).

In other news, the Chapter continues to cater Masonic dinners. On May 8 Fulton Cryptic Council No. 50 enjoyed a delicious turkey and biscuit dinner. On May 15 RW Cindy and her dedicated kitchen crew prepared a Festive Board dinner for Royal Arch Chari-

Lake City Victoria see 5th column



RW Yvonne Hanshew, District Deputy Grand Matron, displays some of the jewelry given her during the presentation, "Our Jewel, Yvonne." It was Official Visit night at Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205 OES on Friday, May 9. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

### Lake City Vistoria from 4th column . . .

ties. These dinners are in addition to the regular Blue Lodge meals served twice a month for the Brothers of Lake City Lodge No. 127.

Lake City Victoria has only one meeting in June and then will go dark until September. That does not mean, however, that the fun and fellowship will end. Our Worthy Matron is planning a Chapter birthday party on Friday, June 27 for members, friends and family. Anyone who has a birthday is invited to attend. Tentative starting time is 6 o'clock

p.m. Casual dress is the order of the day.

The arrival of summer and warm weather means more people will be on the highway. Do drive defensively and cautiously. We need everyone to come back safe and sound in September. Be good to yourselves and to those around you. Smiles cost nothing—spread them everywhere. On behalf of the officers and members of Lake City Victoria, I wish all a great summer.

Natalie J. Woodall



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> Cemetery Memorials and Bronze Mausoleums Cemetery Lettering Memorial Cleaning

and Restoration

Lake City Victoria Chapter No. 205 OES hosted the annual Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Matron on May 9. Shown here are W John Voetelink, Worthy Patron; RW Cynthia J. Sanders, Worthy Matron; RW Yvonne Hanshew, DDGM; RW Clinton Allen, Jr., District Grand Lecturer. Photo by Natalie J. Woodall

JUNE									
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
1	Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Cent City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT Tri-Valley 148	6	7			
8	Hamilton 120 <b>9</b> Homer 352 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Cortland 50KT Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Central City 13 CM 11 Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown Lodge 472	Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Lake City Vic 205 OES Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	14			
15	Jordan 386 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onon Star OES Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of Nile Otselic Valley 659 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	20	21			
22	Homer 352 23 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Central City Riverside 70 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Charles H. Platt 247 <b>25</b> Hannibal 550 Tritown Lodge 472	Bona Fide HS OES Central City 25KT Ft. Brewerton 256 Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Lake City Vic 205 OES 27 Triangle @ Mem	28			
29	30								

### Cayuga-Tompkins from page 8 . . .

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Auburn ...

doing well after cancer surgery. Bro. Art Thomas, a thirty-five-year Mason, passed on April 4. VW Fred Kruger's mother-in-law is also struggling with health issues. Our prayers go to all.

May was a productive month with nominations for officers. Officer elections and the Grand Lodge report by SW Stockmyertook place on May 15.

June 5 is our Scholarship and Service Awards night and it is open to the public. The scholarships will be announced soon. Service Awards will go to the following: VW Gordon Clarke, sixty years;, Peter Tanner,

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thirty-five years; W John Cambareri, twenty years; VW Nick Gould, fifteen years; W Rob Fragoman, VW Joe Sheppard, Bro. Bob Burdick and Bro. Jerry Jones stand at ten years. If unable to attend, these awards will be delivered or mailed. Two Brothers who passed were Charles Masters, with forty-five years and Art Thomas at thirty-five years. Their awards have been delivered to the family.

June 19 is the Open Installation of Officers for 2025-26. All are welcome to the public installation. Each of these nights begins at 6:30 and refreshments will be

served.

The recent chicken barbecue for Auburn Junior High was very successful. Our next chicken barbecue is on August 16 for our Auburn Rainbow Girls. More on that will develop over the summer. We are planning a summer Table Lodge and family picnic also; more news on that when the information is available.

Last but not least: Do not forget to pay your dues for 2025. If in doubt on what is owed, get in touch with me by email or my cell phone. I hope to see you in Lodge. Take care and God bless.

Tommy Ostrander

### Historial marker unveiling on June 8 for Lafayette and Masons

Brethren, on June 8, 1825, General and Brother Lafayette made a historic visit to the then-Village of Auburn. It was historic not only for his presence but for the fact that this was the only stop on his journey where he was publicly recognized by the Masonic Fraternity.

The Auburn welcome committee met him at the Cayuga Bridge, Montezuma. Several military officers on horseback and 200 Masons escorted him to the Western Exchange Hotel (current lo-

cation of Auburn Public Theater) where 8000 onlookers were waiting. Upon his arrival he was led to the second floor piazza. Two welcome speeches were given from the street level, one by Assemblyman Hulburt on behalf of the general public and the other by the Rev. D.C. Lansing, Grand Chaplain, on behalf of the Masonic Fraternity.

On Sunday, June 8, 2025 beginning at 10 a.m., Auburn Lodge No. 124 will host a reenactment of these historic speeches. Assemblyman John Lemondes and RW David Bowman, Grand Chaplain, will be our presenters. They will be preceded by a short presentation by the Owasco DAR Chapter. Following the ceremony there will also be an unveiling of a new historical marker commemorating Lafayette's visit and the involvement of the Masons.

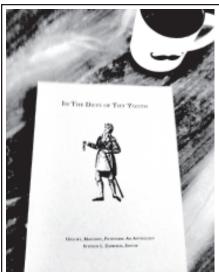
As members of the Masonic community, your attendance at this ceremony will only enhance the impact of the speeches. The Grand Master has enthusiastically approved a dispensation for all members of the Fraternity to wear Masonic regalia at this public event. Anything from a white apron to a Grand Lodge apron is appropriate. We will have spare white aprons available on site. We will plan to gather at the end of Exchange Street closest to Auburn City Hall.

For those who might be interested, and to continue the commemoration, there will be a further celebration at Skaneateles Lodge at 1 p.m. See the ad in these pages.

I thank you, Brothers. We look forward to seeing you at the ceremony.

Michael A Miller





### In The Days of Thy Youth

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

\$18.00 Place orders and pay to: Scipio 110, F&AM, POB 74, Aurora, NY 13026 PGMs Calvin G. Bond Bruce W. Widger: Thanks

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

Chuck Toombs
Past
Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu Past Master Liverpool Syracuse

### Benefit - Children's Dyslexia Center Central New York

Famous Brooks of Oneonta BBQ Sunday, August 10, 2025 - Noon- 3PM Complete Dinner includes half chicken, baked potato,

Complete Dinner includes half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll, butter, bottled water, and dessert.

Cost: \$15.00 per person

Where: Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany, NY
Drive thru: Enter from Route 69, Exit onto Utica Street

You MUST bring a copy of your EMAIL RECEIPT with you the day of the BBQ for Proof of Purchase ALL Preorders MUST be picked up by 2 PM For event updates and more details visit:

http://www.cnyclc.org Information is also available on our FB page - CNYCLC