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EMESBE-

From one Irishman to all of you, Happy St. Patrick's Day! Spring is right around the corner: down the street, turn left at the oak tree, go past the silo with the cow decorations (there are more than one silo) and it is just a month away.

By now, Secretaries, you have received your subscription invoice in the mail. Please do not hesitate and get those checks in the mail to us as soon as possible. If you have questions, give me a shout, please.

Mother Nature has thrown a lot at us over the last couple of months. We

hope all of you have fared well through the temperature changes and snowfall. Even some Brothers who headed south got some hometown weather there. We are glad we could share some snow and cold.

The Lodges that were Dark will be looking for more light in Masonry shortly. Travel to see Degrees or help out with them where you can. Maybe the webmaster for our FB page can post Lodges that are doing Degrees. There has not been any new information on there since November 22. Send him details of your Lodge activities so

the rest of the District can participate. Knowledge and information keep us moving forward.

As Potentate in 2024 I conceived an award for someone who has invested in Tigris day in and day out for years and years. The inaugural Tigris Shrine Lifetime Achievement Award went to 2024 recipient Noble Vern Stephens. (See pictures on the York Rite page.)

Eighty percent of the

Nobles at Tigris do not even know who he is. Vern attended almost every meeting for more than forty years as a Shriner. He was the financial wizard for many years, contributing to the success of the Shrine Circus until we had to cancel it. Vern never wanted to be an officer; he wanted to be in the trenches and raising money for our Shriner Children's Hospitals. Vern is what every Noble should strive to be.

Everything Vern did was with his wife Beverly at his side. At age 83 he took on full-time care of Beverly when she became ill. After five years Beverly entered advanced stages of Alzheimer's and passed away on February 9. We

made a plaque of Vern with Beverly at a Shrine event so he can look at her every day. Those of you who know Vern, please reach out and let him know you are think-

EMESBE see page 2

Shriners Children's New England

Nobles, this month I would like to spend some time talking about a report that is shared with the Board. It shows contributions to Shriners Children's New England that can be tracked back to one of the seventeen Shrine Temples in the catchment area for Springfield and Boston. The report is called Temple Transactions and seeks to identify all contributions that have been induced by a particular Temple. Amounts on this report may be contributions from the Temple, from units within the Temple, memorial contributions for a deceased Noble (whether made by a Shriner or a member of the general public) and community fundraisers that are sponsored by or supported by the Temple. I am very pleased to say that for the second year in a row Tigris's contributions to Springfield have exceeded \$5,000. Contributions attributable to Tigris in 2023 were \$5,375 and in 2024 were \$5,199.

Before we get too complacent about our level of giving I should point out that the total amount raised by all seventeen Temples in 2023

was \$812,901 (average of \$47,818 per Temple) and in 2024 was \$890,130 (average of \$52,361 per Temple). Looked at in this light, Tigris is hovering around 10% of the average Temple giving in our area. Note that these numbers are only for Springfield and I recognize that we also support the hospital in Boston

I highlight these numbers in the expectation that they will be seen as a challenge to our Nobility to participate in opportunities to raise money for Springfield and Boston. One such opportunity is to participate in selling CDs and other merchandise at a Foreigner concert happening in Verona, NY later this year on September 20. In addition, I challenge our Nobility to think of other ways we can raise money to support the great work being done by Shriners Children's. Each month at the Board meeting I hear about all the great ways Temples are raising money to support this cause—sponsoring all-star football games for graduating seniors, running concession stands at a local motocross track, running a silent auction, partnering with local retailers to designate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of a particular product on a given day to Shriners Children's. I know we can raise our level of giving.

By now you have all heard that the medical transport that crashed outside of Philadelphia in early February was carrying a young patient who had been treated in Shriners Hospital-Philadelphia. The patient, her mother, medical attendants and flight crew all perished when the transport crashed shortly after takeoff, also causing a fatality and several injuries for those on the ground. I would ask that our Nobles take a moment and offer a brief prayer for everyone who is touched by this tragedy.

Bill Toth

MMRI — Masonic Legacy in Medical Research

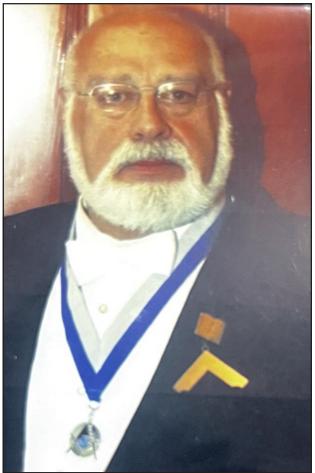
Dear Brothers: Greetings! As one of the newly appointed MMRI Ambassadors in New York I am honored to help shine a light on a true hidden gem, one which no longer will remain hidden. The Masonic Medical Research Institute (MMRI) is launching a campaign to share its past, present and future with the public and our Masonic family.

In case you were not aware, MMRI is the only medical research institute in the world that is founded by, governed by and supported

by Freemasons. This is a legacy we should all take great pride in, and one that deserves our full support.

I will be reaching out to the Secretary and Master of your Lodge to arrange a presentation on MMRI's mission and how you can support its vital efforts. I would love the opportunity to speak with you and your brethren about this incredible cause. My contact information is here: 315/436-0997 and Rbowles1@twcny.rr.com.

Bob Bowles



Norman Kruth left us on February 14 at 0330 hours.

Mentor

Hello, Brethren. We just witnessed a peaceful government transfer: we have a new President and Congress. Transfers are the most important features of a political system, for they establish the successor. In countries ruled by autocrats, these govern until they die or are deposed by another autocrat. In the US, if people do not like election results they wait four years and try again. The stability such a system fosters has made it possible for the American republic to last 250 years.

We still remain, however, seriously divided. Some still view political competitors as enemies and their ideas as threats and dangers to our system. The media is analogously divided and it contributes significantly to this discord. Such disharmony only hinders the country. Civil society including Freemasons, can work toward improving the social harmony by providing venues and by sponsoring respectful and open discussions of the major issues between differing groups.

Another issue: at *the word* we have been working hard to save our Masonic newspaper. We believe that it greatly increases interactions among brethren, Lodges and Districts. We believe that future Masonic researchers will examine our newspaper to learn what Masons were doing during these uncertain times. Perhaps more importantly, *the word* represents the independent and locally owned and operated American newspaper—an endangered species rapidly disappearing.

The current issue of *the word* has an ad: "300 Years of Freemasonry: Its impact on Civil Society." It has a link to a one-hour-long Livingston Library presentation, available in the web: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31rUnNsOIfk&t=1999s. Its PowerPoint version is in the web at https://web.cortland.edu/romeu/AnnivMasonsLivLibGLNY2018.pdf. Both discuss the new and revolutionary ideas that our Institution brought forth in the XVIII Century England: religious tolerance, evalua-

tion on merit instead of on class or wealth, election (instead of heritage) of the leadership, and democratic operating rules, among other ground-breaking ideas for their times.

The Craft was a school of leaders who participated in civil life without taking a partisan side (the Ancient Landmarks do not allow this). The Craft provided a forum for candid discussion. It still has a role to play: to soothe attitudes, to clarify arguments and convince divergent sides to debate them, publicly and with civility. We are the institution of brotherly love and tolerance.

This is what we have been considering in our Lodge-Community Zoom meetings: how to enhance further our current interactions. Our Lodges have always done things for the community such as blood drives, food collection for pantries, Christmas and Easter events for children. There are also social projects such as building ramps for the disabled. But in our Lodge-Community Activities Zooms we are talking about contributing to help lower the current levels of political disagreement by providing Lodge premises and conducting meetings that foster open and civil discussions.

We finish with a more orthodox topic: we presented a District-wide NorthStar Project Zoom workshop to all Onondaga District Lodge Masters and Secretaries. For those unable to attend, we emailed a PowerPoint with the main points of the program. The two most salient issues are: (1) NorthStar is not a strait jacket but a framework that you adapt to your style and candidate; and (2) NorthStar's main purpose is to clarify to potential candidates what we are and what we are not, and to assess whether these candidates can become good Lodge Brothers. This exercise saves a lot of time and effort, both for candidates and Lodge officers. NorthStar will help ensure that the new candidates not only join us but also remain in our organization for the duration.

Jorge Luis Romeu



Scottish Rite News - Page 9

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. Old Man Winter definitely has a strong grip on us this season. However, as my great-grandfather (who would be 135) used to claim, a hard winter brings a nice summer.

Of late I have been suffering from the ruthlessness of ignorance orchestrated by a press with an agenda. Our Country sure could benefit from more Masons in politics. Our Masonic Ritual teaches us many lessons, especially how best to get along.

Degree work seems to be the main work in our Lodges at the moment. I recently attended a Fellowcraft Degree where Bill Toth was the Master and John Covell did the Middle Chamber lecture. Not one word was missed just exceptional ritual.

Soon I will be in Tully Lodge to watch another Ateam of ritualists. The Grand Master's visit to Crossroads Lodge is still on schedule for March 6. Grand Lodge is around the corner.

The Onondaga District is in great shape because of the caliber of the District membership. I am proud to serve as your DDGM.

Toby Shelley

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STAFF OFFICER



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

Dear Brethren, last month I had the privilege of attending three Degrees within our District, specifically at Tully, Skaneateles and Jordan Lodges. I extend my gratitude to those brethren who dedicated their time to performing the rituals, fostering camaraderie within our Craft and building a future in Masonry for our newest brethren. I would also like to express my appreciation to those who participated in the Masonic Development Course (MDC 1) held last

The next session, MDC Session 2, is scheduled for March 15 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. Classes will take place on Saturdays, commencing at 9 a.m. and concluding around 12 p.m., unless otherwise communicated. I highly encourage new Master Masons to enroll in the Masonic Development Course to further their pursuit of knowledge. Please be attentive to upcoming emails that will include schedules and course materials.

If you are interested in attending these classes or know of any brethren who may wish to participate, please reach out to me to reserve for the courses you would like to join. Additic ally, if you have any suggestions or feedback regarding previous training sessions or ideas for future offers, do not hesitate to contact me. I am committed to meeting the educational needs of our District and your candid input is greatly appreciated.

My contact information is provided here. Should you have any questions or require assistance, please feel free to get in touch at novakadam14@yahoo.com or 315/200-0886.

Adam Novak

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

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

VW Rick Miori VW John Bromka

Salutations, Brethren. This writer was witness this last month to a pair of remarkable Degrees in the Onondaga District. First was an EA Degree at Crossroads United to bring an extra candidate up to level for a February FC Degree in Skaneateles. The participation from throughout the District (and beyond) was outstanding. One of the finest moments was the Working Tools, presented by a young FC from Crossroads: strong delivery and such boldness and initiative to jump right in and try this thing as Fellowcraft.

February 5 was the Fellowcraft Degree in Skaneateles. Again, there was excellent participation from throughout the District and great talent and dedication for all the ritual, speeches and lectures. It looks as though the District really does have the workings of a Degree Team on call. And that includes not just the Degree officers and lecturers but sideliners as well. Yes, that cloud of witnesses is very welcome and necessary.

A special treat at the Skaneateles Second was Musician W James Nelson providing piano and organ music for not just the three Lecture examples but accompaniment for much of

VW Carlton Jackson VW Todd Platten

the Degree work, as well. It was this writer's first time to be party to such a Degree. It was something like the grandeur of Grand Lodge.

Speaking of which, here is a reminder that Crossroads will be hosting that special prime rib dinner for the Grand Master on Thursday, March 6. Yours Truly (John Bromka) will be playing some rare old music with wife and partner Sondra Bromka during the pre-dinner greeting time. Yes, it is an open meeting. (Please see Crossroads for more details.)

The Grand Master will continue on to the Utica Campus for the weekend, where AGLs from around the State will participate in training sessions for the Friday and Saturday. We look forward to sharing the fruits of these labors. And the AGL Team is working on a training program for the end of March.

We thank you, Masters and Secretaries, for your invitations to Degrees and practice sessions. It is our pleasure and honor to be there with you.

Remember that March 4 is no Ordinary Tuesday. It is Mardi Gras. And Happy Spring!

> John Bromka Rick Miori, Todd Platten, Carlton Jackson

EMESBE ... from page 1

ing about him. I hope Tigris continues this award every year to honor our long-time devoted Nobles.

As Masons we took an oath to care for our widows and orphans. It seems that most of our older Brothers feel neglected. They were there before us and we should be looking out for them. As a young'un I was taught to take care of my elders; that is why I look out for my Lodge Brothers as best I can. Attending Lodges in Ireland, I saw how they care for their widows and Brothers and they do a much better job than we do, in my humble opinion. Your Lodge may do better at this and kudos goes to you guys. I will never write to hurt anyone's feelings, just trying to improve Masonry in general. If a Mason in your Lodge is up there in age, reach out, offer a ride to Lodge, take him to lunch or dinner or a weekend event at your Lodge. They pay their dues, make them feel a part of it.

The paper in February saw only five of the eleven Onondaga District Lodges send an article; Oswego had four out of seven; Cayuga-Tompkins had three out of ten; Cortland-Madison District had one out of four send in an article. This does not address those Concordant Bodies that have not put in an article. There were more Eastern Star articles than our own Concordant Body posts. Congratulations go to our ladies. Brothers, how do your members find out what you are doing? How do you get help or participation from other Lodges? How do you get new members? Do you not want to send pictures so everyone knows what you are doing? I am asking for your members who are not speaking up. I see Lodges losing members left and right. This may have something to do with it. You have to get your Brothers involved, give them something for their money.

We are here to help any way we can. Your Masonic success is our success. Every Concordant Body is losing members every month. Growth is important. Your monthly article promotes your business. Remember, it must be submitted by the 12 of each month for the following month's news (March 12 is the deadline for the April word). Email to Stephen Zabriskie: <u>zabled@aol.com</u>. If you are interested in receiving your paper by email, notify Stephen and me by email. You will receive your paper days sooner, the pictures are in color and the copy can be enlarged.

If anyone owns a business or a not-for-profit or wants to personally support the paper, contact Brother Zabriskie for an advertising quote. More than 1900 readers receive the paper across six CNY counties and beyond. You cannot beat it for the price.

As previously noted, we have some people in need of prayers. Jemiell Graham from Crossroads is still waiting for a kidney transplant; RW and Past Potentate of Tigris Shrine Gerald Roberts, from Morning Star, is at The Syracuse Home in Baldwinsville. Remember Margaret McManus, wife of PP Bob McManus, and Vern Stephens: remember Norman Kruth of Morning Star and Liverpool Lodges in your thoughts and prayers.

As of this writing, VW Norman Kruth has been given two to four weeks before the Great Architect of the Universe welcomes him with open arms. Norm is now in hospice care in Auburn. In my opinion, we Masons use the word "Brother" like we use "and" and "the." It is supposed to be a sign of love and respect towards each other. We need to do better with our older Brothers. Visiting Norm after his surgery, while in the nursing home for rehab and the hospital all the times he was rushed there, I could see in his face and hear in his voice the heartache that hardly anyone had contacted him. His Brothers in Arms at Baldwinsville American Legion Post, however, have been by his side.

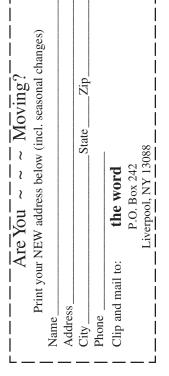
Norm has two brothers locally and his children live out of state. We are his family. I do not know if he will see this published; what I hope is that after the news was out Norman received visits from Masons out there. Thanks go to Fred Dashnaw and Pulaski Lodge for keeping in touch with Norm, and to Frank Mancini, Bill Toth and a few others who called or stopped by. He appreciated it immensely.

May "YHWH" look over Norman on his path to Heaven. His paratrooper motto, "Rendezvous with Destiny," fits him perfectly. When his time comes may he R.I.P., truly loved and missed by many.

Keep our military, law enforcement and first responders in your prayers. And pray for our leaders in government.

Brian Courtney

Postscript: VW Norman Kruth died in the early morning on Valentine's Day.— Editor.



Event schedule, **Mar '25**

The reader should consult each organization to check the						
status of these events.						
Mar 1 Auburn—BBQ						
KingHiram—Euchre Tourney						
Mar 2 OnonOES Past Grand Officers						
Mar 4 FayCC—BBAF						
OnStar—MMs						
Mar 5 Pulaski						
Callimachus						
Mar 6 CrossroadsU—GM and Library Exec Dir						
Auburn—2° Proficiency						
Centerville—Ample Form						
CentSq						
Mar 7 Callimachus—Fish Dinner						
Mar 7-8 GL Officer Training, Utica						
Mar 8 BonaFide—Meatloaf Dinner						
Mar 11 KingHiram—1°						
Mar 13 BonaFide—Ample Form						
Tully—Tri-meeting w/ Memorial, Nortrip						
Mar 14 LkCityVic						
Mar 15 MDC 2 @ Memorial						
Scriba—Cornhole						
Tully—Shamrock Shuffle						
Mar 18 FayCC—Corned Beef						
OnStar—PMs/PPs						
Mar 19 Skaneateles—3° with CrossroadsU						
Mar 20 Auburn—March Madness Fellowship						

Apr 1 FayCC—2° Apr 5 Auburn—3°

..... Centerville

Mar 27 Memorial—3°

..... CentSq

Apr 8 Scipio—GA Clugston Night Apr 10 BonaFide—OV

...... CrossroadsU—Walkabout

Mar 26 OnonOES Officer Group

Mar 29 BonaFide—Spaghetti Dinner

Apr 15 FayCC—Awards

...... OnStar—Raffle Drawing Apr 19 WarrenSalemTown—Easter Egg Hunt

..... MDC 3 @ Memorial Apr 26 BonaFide—Calendar Party

Skaneateles Lodge and company Passed four candidates on February 5. The Lodge will again host on March 19 and confer the Third Degree.

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, deoldend@yahoo.com



Greetings, Brothers. I hope the month of February was a good one for you. In February we had our new windows installed and the dining room painted and cleaned up in preparation for spring events.

February also had us visit Skaneateles Lodge No. 522 to help them with a Second Degree. Our Entered Apprentice was passed to Fellowcraft, along with three Entered Apprentices from Skaneateles (see photo with Skaneateles article).

In March we are hosting the Grand Master of the State of NY and the Executive Director of the Robert R Livingston Library on the 6th. This will take place at Crossroads United No. 93. It is an open meeting and tickets are still on sale at \$40 per person. Please make checks to the Lodge. We will have music before the prime rib dinner at 6:30 p.m.; the presentation is at 7:30 p.m.

We are putting on a joint Third Degree with Skaneateles Lodge on March There are five Fellowcrafts to be Raised to Master Masons. Come out and support the newly Raised Brothers. I do believe dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

At our next meeting, on March 20, we will have Masonic education walkabout) in our Lodge. We still have our raffle for our grill going on. Anyone who wants a ticket should contact Jonathan, our Secretary, or me. Prices are \$10 for one ticket or \$25 for three. The drawing will be held in May.

Ihope to see you in Lodge. If any of you needs help getting to Lodge, please do not hesitate to call.

David De Olden

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

WM Joseph Flanagan

Greetings, Brethren. We hope that all is well and that you and your family are en-

Fayetteville-Central City see 2nd column

Fayetteville-Central City from 1st column . . .

joying the approach of spring. March 4 is a Brother Bring a Friend Night that will take place at 6:30 p.m. A pizza dinner will be served. Guests are free; members pay \$5. Reserve with Craig by March 2.

On March 18 we will enjoy a corned beef dinner, serving at 6:30 p.m. This cost is \$10. Again, please contact Craig for reservations by March 16 at 315/446-0625 or cobb3@verizon.net.

Our Second Degree is scheduled for April 1. Awards Night is April 15 and Move-Up Night is May

The Annual, Summoned, Meeting is May 20.

Do not forget your donation to the Brotherhood Fund. I will see you in Lodge. Joe Flanagan

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

315/685-8297 WM John Covell



On February 5 twentyseven Master Masons and one Fellowcraft from seven Lodges in the Onondaga District Passed three Brothers from Skaneateles Lodge and one from Crossroads United Lodge to the Degree of Fellowcraft. RW Bill Toth presided as Master for the Degree and as usual Brother Bill's performance as the Master was flawless.

I felt the entire Degree was very good and special thanks go to all the Brothers who pitched in to make this happen. Brothers from Skaneateles, Crossroads United, Morning Star, Jordan, Fayetteville Central City, Memorial and Ft. Brewerton Lodges were present and helped confer the Degree.

Special thanks go to W Jim Nelson for providing music for the event. I was very pleased with piano accompaniment as I had never done the Middle Chamber Lecture with a musician and it made this Degree particularly special to me. Also, thanks are due to VW John Bromka for leading the singing of the Masonic Doxology during the Middle

> **Skaneateles** see 3rd column

Skaneateles from 2nd column . . .

Chamber Lecture. Present for the Degree were DDGM RW Toby Shelley, Staff Officer Adam Novak and three AGLs: VW John Bromka, VW Carlton Jackson and VW Todd Platten.

Skaneateles now has three Fellowcrafts and Crossroads two. It was decided at the February 5 meeting that we would do the Master Mason Degree together on March 19 at Skaneateles Lodge. Crossroads Master W Russ Beckwith and I will work together to cast this Degree. We again expect to have Master Masons from around the District helping to present this Degree. Expect phone calls or texts recruiting for this Degree. Our meeting on February 19 was a readthrough and first practice for the Master Mason Degree.

Crossroads United Lodge No. 93 is hosting MW Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin and the Executive Director of the Livingston Library, RW Michael LaRocco, on March 6 at 6:30 p.m. There is a prime rib dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the Executive will have a program following. The cost is \$40 per person and guests (wives) are welcome to attend. Contact Jon Lorber, Secretary at Crossroads, to register for the dinner. His number is 315/657-4068. After discussion at the February 5 meeting we decided to cancel our March 5 meeting and instead attend the banquet at Crossroads in honor of the Grand Master on March 6.

We had another 5 inches of snow in Skaneateles last night and I now have over two feet on my property and it has been above freezing here only once in the past month. I think I will run out of firewood before winter is over if this continues. Best wishes go to everyone for getting through this winter. I will see you at the Lodge.

John Covell

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

> WM Lynn Howard 315/420-5042 howardlynn13@yahoo.com

Brethren, it is a sad note to report that Brother Norm is not all that well. He has been moved to a hospice facility in Auburn, yet he re-

> **Morning Star** see 4th column

Morning Star from 3rd column . . .

mains upbeat. Please try to go see him. Rich has the ad-

Brother Lanning and Yours Truly have been under the weather. All is good now.

I traveled to Pennsylvania to see Brother Dave Chapman and present him his fifty-year apron and plaque. Brother Dave was very pleased that we took the time to see him. We also assisted Skaneateles Lodge in getting their Second Degree done.

There are many educational classes coming up. I encourage all brethren to at-

The Lodge is moving into the 21st century by having Internet installed this month. This will enable the Lodge to do video conferencing and have access to training.

Sadly, the wife of Brother Stephens has passed. Our condolences go to him and his family.

L. J. Howard

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

We are getting close to spring now but a quick review of January and February is in order. Our January 23 meeting was a great success. The approximately sixty-five Brothers, Sisters and friends were excited to hear from our guest speaker of the evening, Dr. Samantha Le Sommer. The information and education she brought to us was enlightening to all and gave a much better understanding of what is happening at the MMRI. Special thanks go to RW Jim Swan for organizing and hosting such a special evening.

On February 13 we Passed six Brothers to the Degree of Fellowcraft. Brother Mike Brooker did a great job in the role of Worshipful Master. All officers did a very fine job.

On February 27, RW Adam Novak paid us the honor of presenting a program concerning Masonic education and concordant bodies. Lodge was open on the Fellowcraft Degree so our six Fellowcraft Brothers

> Memorial see 5th column

Memorial from 4th column . . .

could enjoy and learn from the evening's program. Thanks again go to RW Brother Adam.

The meeting on March 13 will be the annual Trimeeting with Tully and Nortrip Lodges. The meeting will be in Tully. We will carpool down from North Syracuse. This is always a fun meeting night so please make an effort to attend.

Our March 27 meeting will be the Sublime Degree of Master Mason with W.M Karl Parker in the East. Let us show our support for this large class of new Brothers by filling the sidelines and extending our right hands in friendship and brotherly love. See you in Lodge!

Karl Parker

Tully 896 (ON) 13 State St., POB 896 Tully, N.Y. 13159 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/696-8252

> WM John Rapp 315/569-5203 jrapp126@twcny.rr.com

It was another cold winter day today. However, it was sunny. The Days of Winter are upon us. But we have a lot to look forward to with the coming of warmer days.

> Tully see 6th column

Tully from 5th column . . .

RW Toby Shelley and I are planning for him to give a lecture to our Lodge this year. I will keep everyone informed. The formerly announced Spinning Class has begun at our Lodge and seems to be going well. Additionally, we will have educational opportunities available both online and in person. It is my hope that these will help strengthen and grow our Lodge and Masonry. The Annual Shamrock Shuffle falls around the 15th of March. Brother Tim can provide details.

We presented a First Degree at our Lodge on February 13. The Onondaga County Degree Team, graciously set up by Brother Chris Rhea, took the gavel for the evening. Dinner that night was at 6:30 with the Degree commencing at 7:30.

The annual Tri-Lodge meeting is scheduled to take place at Tully Lodge on March 13. All Brothers are welcome to attend. Again, dinner will be at 6:30 and Lodge opens at 7:30. It looks to be a fun evening. I hope that all can attend.

Continue to remember our ailing Brothers. Pray for our Military, First Responders, Police and people on the front lines here and abroad. John Rapp





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Editor's Prerogative

Of shepherds and sheep and Bridegrooms

We had a peek in Chapel at some ancient customs as presented in Genesis and John's Gospel. The chapter of Genesis, number 29, has Jacob wandering from the west, traveling east. We are not here told why. But at length he encounters some shepherds with their several flocks of sheep. They are waiting at a well until all the other shepherds arrive, at which time they will roll away the large stone that covers the mouth of the well and all the animals can drink their nourishment. Which has a familiar ring in a premonitionary way.

Jacob makes inquiry, "Hey, do you guys know my uncle Laban?" and, lo and behold, comes the lovely Rachel, Laban's younger daughter, who is shepherding Laban's sheep to the well. Jacob, smitten, rolls aside the stone by himself, and then accompanies the girl home. The overjoyed Laban insists that his kinsman stay for a bit, until, loving his cousin, Jacob contracts to serve Laban for seven years in order to wed Rachel.

Now, lo and behold again, Laban has an older daughter Leah, who is described as "weak eyed" or "tender eyed" which seems to be euphemistic for not very attractive. On the night of Jacob's marriage to Rachel, after gathering all the men of the place for a huge feast, Laban sneaks daughter Leah into the dark wedding chambers and in the morning Jacob realizes the mischief. Laban explains that custom requires the eldest be married first; he bargains with Jacob to stay with Leah a week—seven days—and then he can have Rachel—in return for another seven years servitude. Jacob readily agrees because he so loves the beautiful Rachel.

We are next told that when the Great Architect "saw that Leah was hated he opened her womb." Leah went on to bear four sons and thought with each one that Jacob would love her; but it was not to be. And Rachel was barren.

The reading from John concerns another wedding, the feast at Cana and Christ's first demonstration. Our pastor advised us that tradition developed from the Jacob-Leah Affair, that it was usual for a wedding feast to last for seven days. This sounds like a reunion weekend at a fraternity house and seems unlikely to me, unless it was a tradition only of the high and prominent. With seven days of non-stop celebration how would anything get done? And what if there were three weddings scheduled for the same week, or even month? Surely there was no twenty-one-day nuptial leave. And who would have the resources to feed and wine the guests?

Now, I suppose he could have meant seven dinnertime parties in a row. But still, a lot of food and leftovers and a lot of wine.

And this is the situation Jesus found when He and four disciples had walked to Cana. We do not know if it was day two or three but the wine was gone. We also do not know if it was a huge party for many guests or a much more intimate celebration with close friends. Jesus's mother Mary was there and He was invited to travel there. But as the story develops there is reference to stones and water again. The host has six large stone jars out back that typically contain water for regular purification rites. The text says they hold two or three firkins each. This would be from eighteen to thirty gallons of water apiece. Jesus tells the servants to fill them to the brim with water, and then to dip it out and serve it. And that wine was of superior quality.

The magnitude of this supply suggests a very large number of guests. Shortly, He will feed the mob with loaves and fishes. Maybe that stands for corn and oil. The pastor told us that the wine was the wine of joy. I wanted to shout, No, no...the wine of refreshment, the oil of joy.

Whatever our religious persuasion, these stories are for all of us. There is distraction in a too-literal reading. What are the messages that we need to take? Where are our personal directions in the Rule and Guide? How do we walk in that way?

Stephen L. Zabriskie

Farewell to a Brother

On Saturday, January 25 members of Auburn Lodge No. 124 and representative Freemasons from throughout the Cayuga-Tompkins District came together to celebrate the life of RW Robert Coleman. A Masonic Service was held at the United Methodist Church of Auburn.

RW Coleman was a sixty-plus-year member of Auburn Lodge 124 and the original St. Paul's Lodge No. 124. Brother Bob had served as Master of both Auburn 124 and St. Paul's 124. RW Coleman further served the Craft as District Deputy Grand Master for the Cayuga-Tompkins District from 1994-1996. Brother Bob was also a longtime Treasurer and Trustee of Auburn Lodge.

W Craig Coleman, Bob's son, and W Steve Persaille, DSA, his son-in-law, both followed RW Coleman as Master of Auburn Lodge. Bob also served as mentor to many young Masons and "whispered wise counsel" to developing leaders of our Craft

Bob's presence in the "Grumpy Past Master's Corner" will be forever missed. "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Michael A. Miller

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! February was a month where the old and the new came together. Our Lodge had a program for our first monthly communication all about the classic membership program, the Brother Bring a Friend Night. We discussed how our Lodge could use this tool to find good men and start them on the path to a petition.

Contrasting with the traditional face-to-face method of sharing information, our second communication's program was an exploration

Erie Canal see 3rd column

Erie Canal from 2nd column

of our Grand Lodge's new Hiram online education system, which we hope to utilize to train our members and learn more about Masonry in a very 21st century way.

At our pancake breakfast, our Brothers got to interact with some of our newest volunteers, one of our Brother's sons and his friends. While these young menhelped clear tables and pass out orange juice they got to meet our Brothers, hear their stories and advice and maybe catch a spark of interest in joining them in the Craft someday.

We had an open house and Brother Bring a Friend event on February 22. It was a great opportunity for us to

> Erie Canal see 4th column

Cayuga-Tompkins from page 8 . . .



Warren Salem Town proclaims its location in downtown Union Springs.

Erie Canal from 3rd column

speak to the public, dispel some myths and show them that Freemasonry is alive, well and worth looking into. We are hoping that this will be the first of many more dialogues with the community and that we may get more Brothers to join us.

Erie Canal Lodge has a number of irons in the fire which we will be advertising shortly, including a Table Lodge, a Masonic escape room and of course our yearly golftournament. Keep your eye out for fliers and of course check our Facebook page by searching Erie Canal Lodge.

As always, our Lodge's stated communications will be the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Visiting brethren are always welcome.

Erie Canal Lodge will also continue to host a pancake breakfast on the second Sunday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This is all the food you care to eat for only \$12. Everybody is welcome.

Seth Molloy

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

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

Scipio Lodge has had two-way scheduling difficulties and has had a Fellowcraft Brother long in waiting for his Third Degree. We conferred the first portion of this work on February 25, following a supper at 6 p.m. We

> Scipio see 5th column

Scipio from 4th column

plan to join Auburn Lodge No. 124 on April 5 as they present a full Third Degree and our Brother will participate in the Drama portion.

Looking a little ahead, the Lodge is planning a G. Alan Clugston Appreciation night for April 8. W Brother Clugston was a devoted forty-two-year member of the Lodge who passed away in October of 2022. He was also a fan of good Scotch. The Lodge will serve light hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m., offer a bit of Scotch tasting, and then a program. We also hope to be able to present a fifty-year apron and certificate to a worthy local Brother.

Mark Jordan

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

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

We are back to conducting regular meetings. In March we will begin planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. We set up competitions for three age groups (8 to 10, 5 to 7 and 4 and under). Prizes are awarded to three children in each age group and it is usually a fun day for all.

We have some Brothers in Distress. W Tim Dodman had a knee replacement procedure in December. Unfortunately, he has experienced complications. He is undergoing tests for infection. Keep him in your prayers; we need him back for golf

Warren Salem Town see 6th column

Warren Salem Town from 5th column

season. W Warren H. Albrecht had total knee replacement on January 10. The surgery went well and he continues physical therapy as part of the recovery process.

Last month we reported that W Edwin E. Smith had been admitted to hospice care in the VA Hospital in Tucson, Arizona. Since then, Brother Ed has laid down the working tools of life. Brother Sid Gilmore attempted to find a local Lodge to conduct a Masonic Service. In the end, the family chose not to have a Masonic Service. Our altar has been draped in black.

In recent Lodge activities, RW Dave Barnello attended our February 4 Communication representing the Cayuga-Tompkins Masonic Charities. Unfortunately, our Brother needing support was not in attendance. But fortunately for us, Brother Dave served as Senior Warden and we were able to regularly open.

In January we authorized the purchase of a new lighted sign to mount over our entrance door. It removes the Eastern Star emblem, as we relinquished the Star of Cayuga No. 339 Charter several years ago. The new signage has arrived and I share a picture of it in place over our entrance.

In the monthly Birthday Corner we recognize the following. W Wesley Daggett celebrates on March 22; W Pete Russell on March 24; RW Paul Schenck has a birthday on March 29; and Brother Richard Palmer on the 30th. Happy Birthday, Brothers!

Warren Albrecht



March 2025 the word Page 5

The thoughts and points made by contributors 100 years ago continue to have validity for today's reader. This lengthy observation by Bro. Hughes appeared in the January 1925 issue of The Builder.—Editor.

Shall Grand Lodge Become a Nursing Mother?

BY BRO. DONALD HUGHES, California

"...BRO. HUGHES is a genial philosopher who has the knack of expressing his opinions with such good humor as to please even those who most violently disagree with him. We are hoping that he will let us publish three or four other essays about which he has been gossiping in a number of recent letters..."

LET'S philosophize a little! It is a harmless pastime with occasional utility, and seldomly does anybody serious harm, more especially if the so-called philosopher is as absent-minded and grandfatherly as myself. There is sometimes a little excitement to be had out of it, too; hardly anybody can ever tell what a philosopher is aiming at until he gets there, and then sometimes, as the Irisher said, it isn't the place at all but another. You remember Professor Huxley's gentle jibe at good Bishop Berkeley? He said the sainted metaphysician began his discourse with tar water and ended with the Trinity. Huxley added, it may be recalled irrelevantly for the sake of the fun, that the pages on tar water were much the better!

My friend The Editor has asked me to contribute to THE BUILDER a few of my lucubrations. I have warned him of my awful habit of digressing, of pausing by the way to gossip about this and that, of all my literary lapses, my ingrained garrulousness, and other faults, but he has insisted natheless; perhaps after I have once wandered all over the inside of the magazine he will recant. (Others have done as much.) Public taste in letters is all for speed and jazz. People want their literature served up in rapid little packages, like bullets. They have gazed so much on the face of the flapper that they have lost taste for gazing on the face of truth. The shop girl going to work attired in satin slippers, and a few other things, is setting the fashion for books. "Make it snappy!" is our motto. The bread of life has become gingerbread; the wine of life has become coca-

I am not comfortable in this atmosphere. To me it is a heresy to suppose that the history of the world can be crowded into an Outline, or that the poetry of existence can be expressed in five lines of vers libre, or that the drama of life can be presented in one act. I like the rigor of the game but, like Charles Lamb's Mrs. Battle, I prefer to play it with my friends in front of the open fire. The old-fashioned essay is my favorite literary form; its leisureliness pleases me, its winding in and about through its subject; the sense it conveys of plenty of time, as if the author knew well enough that we human beings may as well begin to practice the eternal life right now. You can make a machine as rapidly as you please, but you cannot make a human being that way; life grows, and growth takes time, under the patient sun and the unhurried rains, with time for doing nothing and for dreams. All that is as true in our lodge life as anywhere else. It grinds me to see the Third Degree rushed through, with candidates "initiated" in gangs, and everybody screwed up to the pitch of haste; we shall never teach our novices the lesson of immortality unless we take time for it.

Let that pass! What I started to philosophize about is history, among other things. Not history in general, in the sense of everything that has ever happened, but history as understood by Trevelyan, Wells, Robinson, Breasted, Macaulay, Greene, Hume, Hallam, Gibbon, Freeman, Bishop Stubbs, and all those disciples of Clio who write big books and organize themselves into learned societies.

Do their labored disquisitions have any value above the literary pleasure they furnish bookworms like you and me? Can one make any practical use of their chronicles? Can history be applied? Is there any method for plotting out the future on the strength of what we have learned about the past? Are Guglielmo Ferrero, Lathrop Stoddard and President Herbert Spencer Hadley warranted in telling us what America is coming to on the strength of what happened two thousand years ago in Rome? What these queries amount to, I believe, may be jammed into one short question of four words-is history a science?

HISTORY IS AN ART

For myself I agree with Mr. Trevelyan in his *Clio*, a *Muse*, where he argues that history is an art rather than a science because it is of the essence of any real science to permit its devotee to foretell the future, whereas the historian can do nothing of the kind, as anyone knows from the sorry failure that has attended every well meant effort of an historian to don the mantle of the prophet. The astronomer can tell you to the second when Halley's Comet will next put in its appearance because he knows when it has been here before, but no historian on top of Mother Earth can make any similar prediction. A thing can occur ten thousand times in the historian's realm and then never occur again.

There are obvious reasons for this, of course. Man is by nature an unpredictable being. The mere fact that he possesses such a thing as a history means that his world is always making new beginnings, new departures, new experiments; unforeseen factors irrupt into it; if it were everlastingly repeating itself there would be no news to tell about it, and hence no history, which is news about the past. Who foresaw the railway?the automobile?the aeroplane? wireless? What biologist can tell when human heredity will take a Mendelian leap into an utterly unexpected variety, with a new kind of blood, a new cast of human brain? Because the unexpected happens, nobody can tell what to expect, therefore there can be no prediction and consequently no science.

The historian is an artist. Like every other practitioner of that gild he picks and chooses among his possible materials for those which suit him, leaving out of account what some other artist may consider of first value, for the purpose of shaping its plastic substance into impressive forms that please him and may possibly please his readers.

In saying that the historian is an artist, I have in mind the large true sense of that word and not merely a painter of pictures. Now the one chief and all engrossing subject of all art is human nature. The artist's proper study is mankind. Even the art of architecture has man for its theme; a building takes its shape and structure not in order to reveal the geological nature of the stones but to exhibit the purpose and aspirations of the men who will live or work inside it. Every artist, in any possible medium, is out to show man something about himself, to reveal him to himself, to put him into completer possession of himself, so that he can the better shape and govern and enjoy his own life. This is as true of those forms of art which seem farthest removed from us as of the more immediate and intimate forms, such as lyric poetry. Art is a history of human life presented through the forms of the imagination; it may ignore facts but it cannot ignore truths. Our Ritual, which as I believe is one of the masterpieces of the world's art, is a history of the human heart in some of its deeper moods and more tragical moments.

I should like to say here that we shall never understand the art of fiction writing properly until we come to think of it as an attempt to give us this same kind of history. The notion that it is a novelist's business to construct frothy tales out of his fancy to furnish pastime to idle souls seems to me a libel on all the wise and true practitioners of that great art. Imagine a Conrad, a Willa Cather, a W. H. Hudson, a Balzac, a Henry James wasting his time at such petty stuff! It is ridiculous! Those and all others like them have in view the serious purpose of telling the truth about human life; when they deceive us by telling lies about it they cease to be great novelists. And that is the trouble in chief with so many of the poor novels that often become so popular (no need to mention any names); they mis-represent man's nature, and therefore practice deception on the unwary minds

that steep in their pages. CONRAD IS GIVEN AS AN EXAMPLE

Consider as in point here

Joseph Conrad's Lord Jim.

This admirable and heroic novelist cherished in his boyhood among the Polish plains far removed from salt water the dream of becoming a sailor on an English ship, and then lived out his dream against all the odds of race and language. That done he turned novelist and left behind him-he has recently passed into the Unseen—the most valuable body of fiction given us by any writer of this present day. The professional critic may value his books for the skillful managements of his themes, or for his sophisticated style, but others of us love them for their truth. Perhaps there was never a real Jim; never a young sailor who caved in when he believed his ship to be going down; never such a hidden and barbarous land as that in which he tried so nobly to bury his shame; but what does it matter? The story of this young "Tuan" is a transcript of human nature, true and revealing, and every reader is the wiser for having read it; wiser, that is, not alone because he understands others better, and the world better, but for knowing his own nature better. And what a mystery is this nature of ours! It is our own, but at the same time not our own, much of it lying outside our own self-grasp as distantly and strangely as the Malay Archipelago or the Indian Ocean, so that to have it laid bare to ourselves, and interpreted, is a great gift to our wisdom, and enables us to know and therefore to manage our lives the better. To write a novel, such as this, is as much a feat as to write a great history; in either event the purpose is a truthful unveiling of human nature. The historian makes his interpretation by means of known facts about the past; the novelist by means of truths won through the imagination. One is as valuable, for "serious," or any other purposes, as the other.

I have long believed that we make a great mistake in supposing that a historian is necessarily concerned with the so-called "dead past." For one thing, it is not a fact, as a rapid reading of the biographies of historians will prove. Some of them have been learned pundits completely divorced from the present, and more excited about the size of a stone in King Tut's tomb than about the living world; but for the most part (one recalls Macaulay, Gibbon, Mommsen and a score beside) they have been more interested in present affairs than the majority of men are, and for that very reason have become historians. For another thing, the past is not "dead," not much of it anyhow, but very much alive, most of it quite busily at work in our present day. For time, as Bergson made us see with

his persuasive eloquence, is a continuum, like the flow of a river, carrying with it into the future what it has gathered up in the past. Consider your own life! The experiences of your boyhood have not been left behind you, like stones lying inertly on a road; they continue functioning inside you, influencing you as much now, perhaps, or even more than at the time they occurred. To condemn history, which is literature dealing with old events, in the name of the urgent needs of the present is to be peculiarly short-sided about that same present. Almost everything that lives and moves in our own immediate world derives its momentum and its vigor from past genera-

tions. With this understanding of the matter we can easily see in what sense history, the record of times past, can be put to the service of the present and of the future. By knowing what men have been in the past, how they have behaved in certain conditions, what motives have moved them, what inspirations have drawn them along, what hopes have animated them, we are the better enabled to understand what is going on about us, and what we may reasonably expect will grow from present conditions in the future. This is the truth of Goethe's profound saying, already quoted, I recall, several times in THE BUILDER, that "men change but man remains the same." There can be no predictions of matter of fact but there can be anticipations; anticipations of the future based on knowledge of men in the past. For these reasons and in this sense I believe that Ferrero, Stoddard, Hadley and the others are safely within their province in warning usabout the trends in the present world from their knowledge of how we humans have behaved under similar conditions in past generations.

THE CITY IS A KEY TO OUR PROBLEM

A rapid survey of a number of such books as are represented by those of these authors—I have a stack of them on the table before me as I write—shows that the thing which bulks largest in their troubled view of our modern world is the preponderant place of the large city in our life, and of the industrial and economic system that has brought these huge towns into existence. There is no need here to go into a detailed analysis of the problem of the city as envisaged by them, for space is limited; it will be sufficient to quote an utterance, already become familiar, of James Bryce, who was as keen a critic of his own times as he was a keen historian, and who succeeded better than most in bringing the lessons of the past to bear on the difficulties of the present. He said these words to a group of Americans about to leave London for home, and they were directed at American cities, but their application is general:

"Go back to the splendid world across the sea; but don't you make a failure of it. You cannot go on twentyfive years more in your great cities as you have been doing. Don't you do it. If you do, you will set us liberals back in Europe five hundred years." (For this quotation, and for a striking work on the whole subject, see *The* Challenge of the City, by Josiah Strong; his statistics are now out of date, but his general treatment is as valid as ever.)

This problem of the city is the key to a number of the most perplexing problems of government. For consider. In a stable rural community an individual is buttressed and supported by the whole neighborhood; he is linked to his neighbors by a lifetime of associations, and to many of them by ties of blood. If he is out of work he doesn't need to appeal to some stranger in an employment bureau; if he loses all his money he isn't thrown upon "organized charity, scrimped and iced, in the name of a cautious statistical Christ": if he becomes ill the neighbors come in to help nurse him; and if he dies penniless he isn't buried in a Potter's Field. He has moral resources outside himself; his character has roots in the neighborhood.

Put the same man in a great city to live among indifferent strangers and nobody will care much whether he lives or dies. He no longer wages the battle of life upheld and assisted by a neighborhood but goes it alone, and as a result may very well become economically morally and physically bankrupt. The time comes when he is overwhelmed by his own sense of isolated helplessness.

And meanwhile the same industrial process that has thus herded him and his family into a roaring community of strangers has been reacting on those left in rural communities. A farmer no longer raises produce for a local market well understood by himself but for a distant city market over which he has no individual control; the mysterious juggling of prices by distant influences may cause it to turn out that a bumper crop will bankrupt him; and in the course of time he will very likely find himself mortgaged to money lenders sent out from the towns. What will men do under such circumstances? The historians tell us they will most probably do what they have nearly always done when similarly situated: they will begin to call loudly upon the government to help them out; they will ask it to guarantee wages for them, and prices; they will want all manner of sub-

Shall Grand Lodge ... see page 7

OSWEGO DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



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

No News Received

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, Brothers. So far, this has been a real old-time winter. It reminds me of when I was very young.

I am sure Pulaski has had at least 150 inches of snow

> Pulaski see 6th column

STAFF **OFFICER**



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

Greetings, Brethren. Hopefully, by the time all of you read this, spring will officially be in the air. If not, then that means winter has decided to stick around a little bit longer than we wanted it to. But fear not, we have plenty to look forward to once the weather finally breaks and we start to thaw out a little bit.

For instance, there is going to be some more in-person leadership training in Utica on March 8 and 9 for

> **More Staff Officer** see 3rd column

Oswego District 2025 GL Trip Form

The 2025 Grand Lodge Session will meet May 5 and 6 in the Grand Lodge Building, 71 W. 23rd St., New York City. The Oswego District has arranged for hotel rooms at the Hampton Inn Chelsea, a very short walk from the Grand Lodge building. We have been using this hotel for a number of years and find it quite satisfactory.

We no longer offer bus transportation due to the very high cost but suggest booking Amtrak for your transportation to NYC. Current pricing between Syracuse and Penn Station is about \$120 round trip.

Rooms will be held on a first come, first served basis. We rent the rooms as a nonprofit so you must be a member of Oswego District Masonic Charities to take part. If you are not a member, \$3 added to your remittance will cover you for the trip. Reservations received after April 1 will incur a \$30 late fee and will be accepted as space permits. Note that no refunds will be made for room cancellations after April 1. And note that we do not take reservations for the Grand Master's Dinner, which must be made directly with Grand

Send payment with this completed reservation form to: Garret Wikoff, 9494 Pendergast Rd, Phoenix NY 13135 Questions? wikoffg@windstream.net or 315/695-4271

Name:	
Address:	
Phone: Email:	
District: Lodge:	
Hotel info: The cost will be \$300 per person, \$600 per room	

two Oueen Size beds.

Your room preference: [] Room with 1 King Size bed or

1 1 Koom with 2 Queen 512	ic ocus.
Roommate preference if any	

Amount enclosed: \$_ (Make checks payable to: Oswego Masonic Charities) All surplus goes to the Oswego District Masonic Charities relief efforts.

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

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

Staff Officer from 2nd column . . .

the DDGMs and Staff Officers. So far this training, provided by the Grand Lodge Leadership and Education Committee, has been outstanding.

There have also been some training and updates to the Hiram Learning Management System on the Grand Lodge website, which means we will hopefully be able to have everything up and running by mid-March. This will allow for more education to be offered to our brethren in the District and across the State.

Last month we conducted

the first multi-District class of the Spring Masonic Education Semester. This class, which was the MDC Session 1, was held on February 22 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. What does that mean, you ask? Well, it means that this month we will be conducting the second session of the Masonic Development Course, the Fellowcraft, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15. This will once again be held at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. If you are a new Fellowcraft or Master Mason, I would encourage you to sign up for the Masonic Development Course. If you missed the opportunity to attend MDC Session 1 and would like to attend MDC Session 2, please reach out and let me know. I will be more than happy to set up a make-up so you can join the rest of the class for the semester.

The rest of the semester schedule is listed here. MDC Session 2 is on March 15 at Memorial Lodge in North Syracuse. The MDC Session 3 will be offered on April 19, again at Memorial Lodge. On May 10 the RTTE Session 1 kicks off at Memorial and RTTE Session 2 is on May 24. The Master's Chair course will run on June 28.

As I had mentioned last month, we are now in the process of accepting reservations for the Grand Lodge session scheduled for May 5 and 6 in New York. The reservation form can be found here and it has also been sent to all the Masters and Secretaries of the District. The deadline for reservations is April 1, 2025.

If you are interested in attending these classes or know of any Brother who is, please reach out to me and reserve for the classes you would like to take. This will allow us to plan accordingly with any refreshments and to ensure the Brothers attending have all the required materials ahead of time.

If you have any suggestions or feedback on previous training and what you

> **More Staff Officer** see 4th column

Staff Officer from 3rd column . . .

would like to see in the future at our training sessions, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know. I am here to serve the educational needs of the District and I cannot do that without your honest feedback. My contact information is below. If vou ever have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Kensterling33 @gmail.com or 315/283-6562. I am looking forward to our journey into the future together.

Ken Sterling

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

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren, from Scriba Lodge 414. Our Lodge is still dark and will be for another few weeks after you receive this edition of the word. I cannot wait to get back to the quarries and continue to move our Lodge forward for my last quarter as being a Worshipful Mas-

We finished up another cornhole tournament on February 1 and the 15th. It was very well attended by brethren and community members. We have one more scheduled for March 15 at the Cleveland American Legion. Our Secretary will post online as the days get closer for the brethren who would like to attend. It is very good fellowship between the brethren and community. Registration starts at 12:00 and the bags will fly at 1:00. Come on down!

The officers and Brothers of Scriba would like to wish the following Brothers a very happy birthday and we hope they find a way to make it special with their family and friends. For Bro. Matthew Gutchess, W Robert Harrington, Bro. Wendell W George Jones. McCormick, Bro. Joel Morse, Bro. Thomas Mutter Jr., Bro. James Wade and Bro. Paul Whitney: may your days be filled with joy!

Brethren, stay safe. Check on your Brothers and neighbors during this winter.

Charlie Tuff

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

315/668-3277

WM Bob Boutell

Salutations, Brothers. Hopefully, by the time this comes out winter has loosened her grip on us.

This month our meetings are on the 6th and the 20th. As I write this we have one petition in hand and one is still out and Degrees will dominate the upcoming meetings. It will be fun to welcome a few new Brothers into the Craft.

For the March 6 meeting we will be coming out of the fellowship room and return

> **Central Square** see 5th column

Central Square from 4th column . . .

upstairs. The dress for this meeting will be Masonic shirt. The Trestleboard for the evening will be planning of the upcoming Degrees.

If both petitions are received timely and favorably there is a good chance our second meeting will be the First Degree. If not timely we will practice some parts of the Degree to get ready. Dress for this March 20 meeting will be shirt and tie.

Please reach out to a Brother you have not seen recently. Spread some fellowship.

Bob Boutell

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

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

Brothers near and far: In High School I took Earth Science and we were taught by Mr. Ladd that January was normally the coldest month of the year. Well as I sit here it seems that February is giving the first month a run for its money. One positive is that the bald eagles are back in town. It is common to see them fishing when crossing the bridge in Phoe-

The Lodge has been Dark but on March 5 we will get things started again. It is always tough to get going in a new year but those of us who are regulars would sure like to see some of you Brothers who have not been around for a while. I guarantee a stress-free experience.

Two days after the first March meeting we will be holding our first Fish Dinner. They will run through Good Friday and being Lent, it will be very busy. So we can use all the help we can get on those Friday evenings. Customers usually start arriving about 4:30 so keep that in mind if you can help

Something I have not mentioned in a while is the Brotherhood Fund. One of the three Principal Tenets of Freemasonry is Relief. We all get a letter each year ask-

> Callimachus see 6th column

Callimachus from 5th column . . .

ing for a contribution to the Fund. If you have not done it yet, see if you can find the letter, put something in it and mail it out. There are many ways you can direct your gift. I feel sure you can find one that suits your wishes. If you cannot find the notice you can make a contribution online at: https://www. nybrotherhoodfund.org/.

Ihope to see you in Lodge. Be good.

Sam Sweet

Pulaski from 1st column . . .

thus far this year, with Parish and Mexico over 200 and the Tug and Redfield near 300 inches. I have already broken two shovels. And I have hours of shoveling off my roofs. Good times—ugh. New-fallen snow is at least beautiful and silent.

While your Lodge has been dark we still meet for our monthly breakfasts on the third Saturdays at 9:00. My pancake skills have much improved: just a nice and golden color.

One of our building improvement projects is completed. The center support beam in the basement has been replaced, it having dryrotted and crumbled. It is hard to believe the weight it carries. Instead of the 8x10 one-piece, we laminated 2x10s. It is probably stronger than the original solid one. My thanks go to Marvin, Smith and Rowlandgreatly appreciated. Also, thanks go to Charlie and Tanner for carrying the materials in. I do not think we could have done it without all of them

Our next communication is March 5 at 7:30. It is weather-dependent that time of month; you never know what to expect.

We have a Brother into comfort care. I hope he knows we appreciate all he has given to our Country and Craft. God bless you, Brother.

With all the fires and flooding the country has endured, please continue to help in any way you can. May the Great Architect continue to bless our Country and Craft. See you on the

Fred Dashnaw



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March 2025 the word Page 7

CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

DDGM REPORT



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

Greetings, Brethren! I cannot believe that it is already February—and nearly March.

Thank you, Lodge Secretaries, for getting your Secretary's Report to me. It is time for Lodge Annual Meetings, Lodge Budgets and Lodge Audits. Grand Master Rubin has ordered that each Lodge must have an Internal Audit, done by an Audit Committee. While he has designated who would compose the Audit Committee, the most important thing is that the audit get done. If your Lodge already has an Audit Committee in place, let them do their job. They do not need to be replaced.

The Masonic Brother-hood Foundation's 2025 Charitable Grant Program is available through the following link: https://nymasons.org/grand-secretary. These grants are for brick and mortar projects for groups with 501(c)(3) status. The maximum award value is \$10,000.

Staff Officer RW Wade is planning several educational programs this spring. I direct your attention to his *word* article for details.

Finally, Brethren, keep letting us know of Degrees, special dinners and programs and other news from your Lodge. I am very pleased that there has been some traveling about the Lodges and I pray that it may continue and grow. Peace and Light!

Richard G. Reed

Past Senior Grand Warden John R. Fuller Sponsor

Past Grand Master Carl J. Fitje Sponsor

PGMs Calvin G. Bond Bruce W. Widger: Thanks

STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Brothers, I am continu-

ing to plan for the long-delayed educational classes as information becomes available from the Grand Lodge Leadership and Educational Committee. The Masonic Development Course (MDC) and the Master's Chair are available now and the Road to the East (RTTE) will be available after the first of March. By Grand Master's edict the incoming Wardens and Masters will be required to have taken the RTTE and the Masters will also be required to have taken the Master's Chair prior to their installation. The courses will be a combination of inperson and online instruction. Although not suggested, they can be taken completely online. I will be contacting those Brothers who are in need of these courses to schedule a time. Yes, it will be a busy spring.

Switching to my other responsibility as a Brother-hood Fund Committee member, please remember to donate to one of the choices available. If you need any information on anything related to the Brotherhood Fund please feel free to contact me. I will be glad to visit any Lodge for a presentation, if interested.

Wade A. Caler

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

Tom Whitney

No News Received

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

WM Kim C. Dellow

Brethren, I hope everyone is doing well this winter and is in good health. It is the flu and cold season and we have had to cancel domestic meetings this winter.

I have not written much for *the word* this year. But we are still meeting at Cortlandville Lodge. Our HomerLodge project is coming along well. I believe the last thing on the list is the floors and they are working on that as I am writing this article. It looks great up there. Probably come June we will be having an open house to show it off.

We need to show our support to our District officers. Cortlandville will be having a Second Degree. Let all show up for that. Please read the AGL, DDGM and Staff Officer article. See you in Lodge.

Kim Dellow

Shall Grand Lodge Become a Nursing Mother from page 5 ...

sidies and grants from the public purse. The national government will become more and more complicated. adding bureau to bureau, until finally it becomes a despotism; and meanwhile the dependent and helpless groups and blocs will have become pauperized, because it is as plain as the nose on your face that a man who accepts money from his government is indirectly accepting it as a gift from those classes that have money wherewith to pay taxes. Once this process gets under way it automatically perpetuates itself; the very subsidies create new reasons for further subsidies, and so on ad infinitum. It is an old, old story!

For purposes of offering

tangible proof of these rather sweeping generalizations let me refer you to the last report of the Census Bureau, capitulated and summarized by Bradstreet's. In 1915 the average state in the Union increased its per capita tax on us from \$4.66 in 1915 to \$10.71 less than ten years later. In the same period the per capita net indebtedness for the average state increased from \$4.31 to \$8.12. The cost of government increased 158.7 per cent in the same years. There is only one possible interpretation of these stark figures: they mean that power, wealth and activity is rapidly pyramiding in government. It seems to me that this process is getting a strangle hold on our own government, and I am afraid that the deadly process has only just begun. So far as such things are concerned we face a melancholy future. We shall have not the "Great State" or the "Servile State" that so many publicists are writing about, but what is much worse, a Maternal State, a state that has become a mere nursing mother to its weak citizens.

WHY BREED WEAKLINGS?

It was this thing that poured so much rage into the sensitive soul of Nietzsche, who, whatever may have been his faults otherwise, saw into the core of this whole situation with clairvoyant clearness. "Why do we go on with a system," he demanded, "that automatically breeds classes of weaklings? Do we not know that when these weaklings have become numerically powerful they will pull everything else down to their own level? Strength will be submerged in weakness, and the foolish will govern the wise!" It perturbs me to see so many Masons swept into this habit of calling on their own central government, the Grand Lodge, in this selfsame manner. One might suppose, to

judge from a dozen indications, that the individual Mason and the individual lodge had lost all power or ability, the way they ask Grand Lodge to become a nursing mother for them. They want Grand Lodge to manage their charities, to superintend their new building enterprises, to look after them as if they were helpless infants; they even become afraid to ask a man into lodge to give a speech without first creating a Grand Lodge bureau to do it for them. What has become of the old sturdy independence of character by which our early brethren went out into the wilds beyond the frontier where there were no Grand Lodges? Has it all leaked out of our natures? It is idle to justify this steady centralization of activity on the score that we need discipline and order; you can't have discipline among sheep!

When I was a young man I was so much oppressed by the various and sundry social evils about me that I almost became a professional reformer. It seemed to me that one could find no better way of investing his life than in an effort to help tidy up and clean up and better organize our communal life; and I believed that much of that work could be accomplished without impossible difficulty if only "the people" could be brought to recognize the evils and to accept the methods. Like other members of the group in which I worked I devoured barrels of books. They were good books, and they are still to be recommended: books by Henry Demarest Lloyd, Josiah Strong, Professor Rauschenbusch, Elisha Mulford, and scores more like them. I distinctly recall what an excitement it caused when H. G. Wells first arrived on the scene; it seemed to some of us that we could never tire of his brilliant cataracts of words, his tireless preaching of a new "World

Order." Well, I remained as much interested in seeing our social life made more sound and beautiful as ever I was but somehow I lost interest in most of the reforms specifically advocated. In analyzing them in after years, I have come to believe that I lost interest in them because at the core of the majority of them I found an unconfessed. or half confessed, scheme to throw all the problems upon the shoulders of the State or National Government. The same thing is true, as I understand them, of most of the schemes being proposed today. (I am not discussing politics.) Your typical radi-

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cal wants things bettered but he usually wants them bettered by the State. He wants to shift the responsibility from the individual on Main street to some other individual in Washington. He loses sight of the patent fact that the individual in Washington has no more ability or wisdom or idealism than the individual on Main street; and that if the individual in Washington manages life for the individual on Main street, poor Main street will be worse off at the end than before.

I am not trying to break any lances against national or united effort in Masonry, least of all in the field of Masonic education, or for the sake of such concerted relief work as the project of a National Masonic Tuberculosis Sanitarium; but I do believe that we need to be on our guard lest we become a Fraternity governed paternalistically, which is the last way any real man wishes to be governed.

To my own way of thinking there is a very deep distinction to be made among all the programs of centralized Masonry. If such a program asks Grand Lodge to serve as a committee of the whole, and as an agency through which individual Masons and lodges can better perform their work, we can have general unity of action without pyramiding authority; unless I have misunderstood its methods the George Washington National Masonic Memorial project could be so described, for in most cases its money was raised locally and voluntarily, Grand Lodge being only a machinery of collection. But if in carrying out some such program Grand Lodge takes the place of the individual and of the local lodge; if it acts in lieu of men; if it takes money from its own treasury that should come from the member or his lodge; if, in short, it acts because individuals have failed to act, then it has become a paternalism.

THE TRUE RADICAL IS DESCRIBED

If I find myself in a quarrel with many of my Masonic brethren on our own Main streets, it is because they are falling into this habit. They may call themselves "radicals" but at bottom they are not radicals at all. A radical should be fearless and daring, willing to fight alone with his back to a wall. All the efforts to have Grand Lodge become a nursing mother are not of that character; it is the timid, nerveless, half-scared individual who wants to be nursed and chaperoned through life. I believe that we need a new radicalism in Masonry, a radicalism that will boldly place responsibility exactly where it belongs, asking for no charity, with each individual Mason willing to stand the gaff in his own right, and not begging for help from outside. For that reason I was rejoiced to come upon a paragraph or two in Bro. Ashley A. Smith's Report on Foreign Correspondence in the Grand Lodge Proceedings of Maine for 1924. His words cap off my argument better than my own:

"The writer of this report would desire no higher praise than to be termed a Masonic conservator of the school of Josiah H. Drummond or a traditionalist of the type of Albro E. Chase, because in the truest meaning of the word these men of Maine were radicals of a vital type even though they are invariably termed conservatives. How far have we traveled from the original meaning of the word - radical, - may be seen when we consult the lexicon and find it to mean one who goes to the roots of truth. Surely no one thinks of a radical today in that way. The usual meaning of the word is quite different in the minds of the majority of men, and the type which comes before our vision when we say—radical—is that of the superficial doctrinaire, the irresponsible social agitator, the long-haired type of fanatical reformer with an easy panacea for all social ills and international maladies and disorders. Masonry seems to have few of that type of radicals, and in this sense it is a kind of misnomer to use the term 'radical Freemasonry.' This is not to say, however, that there are many who seem to us to have overstepped the bounds of a wholesale and radical conservatism The

Shall Grand Lodge ... see page 10

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Page 8 the word March 2025

CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT



DDGM REPORT RW Ed Maassen

Greetings, Brothers. Tommy "O" and I are off on another training session in Utica on March 7 and 8. We hope to bring back news from the Grand Master.

Newly minted Fellowcraft Brother Tyler Forsyth of Auburn Lodge was involved in a car accident. Please keep him in your prayers.

On February 6 two Brothers from Auburn and two from Tritown Lodge finished their Second Degree with an excellent Middle Chamber Lecture presented by RW Michael Miller. Four Lodges were represented, a nice turnout.

On February 25 Scipio Lodge presented the first part of the Third Degree to its remaining Fellowcraft Brother, with a supper at 6:00 p.m. Auburn Lodge will be conferring the Third Degree on Saturday, April 5, starting with a 6:30 a.m. breakfast. Part two of the Degree will follow a break for lunch. Our Scipio Brother will participate in this portion. If you plan to attend please let Tommy "O" know.

To all the Secretaries goes a big thank-you for sending me your annual Lodge reports. I appreciate all of your hard work and all you do for your Lodge. I will see you in Lodge.

Ed Maassen

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, as noted last month we lost a great Brother in December. RW Bob Coleman passed away and we held Masonic Services at 1st United Methodist Church on January 25. We had around thirty-five Brothers present, which was a great tribute to RW Bob, a sixty-one-year Mason.

We also just lost Brother Charles Masters a forty-fiveyear member of Auburn. Masonic Services were held for Charles at the Pettigrass Funeral Home and were well attended and received.

Auburn see 2nd column



STAFF OFFICER RW Tom Ostrander 315/224-0940

Brothers, RW Ed and I continue to experience enjoyable visits at your special occasions. Please continue to keep us in the loop.

As noted, the four-District training sessions have begun and will continue at Memorial Lodge in N. Syracuse. The remaining sessions will be held on March 15 (MDC 2), April 19 (MDC 3), May 10 (RTTE 1), May 24 (RTTE 2) and the Master's Chair will be presented on June 28. You may make reservations for each session with RW Ken Sterling at 315/283-6562 or by email

Kenneth.d.sterling@gmail.com.

Ed and I are really looking forward to our Lodge visits through the rest of 2025. On March 7 and 8 we will be in Utica for more training and we are eager to bring back and disseminate new information to all the Lodges.

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

Tom Ostrander

Auburn from 1st column . . .

One of our Fellowcrafts was recently injured in a car crash and is recovering at home. Beth Bowman, RW Dave Bowman's wife, was injured in a fall at Disney World and faces possible surgery for a broken arm. RW Miller's mom is in hospital but stable. Prayers go to all from the Lodge Brothers.

The Fellowcraft Degree on January 16 was very well done by SW Mike Stockmyer for two Entered Apprentices from Auburn and two from Tritown 472. Venison chili was provided by my wife and spicy mac-n-cheese by W Bennett, along with Italian bread and salad. We are great at Degree work and we eat well, too.

On February 6 RW Mike Miller presented the Middle Chamber Lecture. As usual, he was point on. Then on February 20 the LSOME (Lodge System of Masonic Education) program was presented by RW Mike Miller and RW Steve Howard. This is always informative and well done. Tritown joined us for both the MCL and LSOME.

Auburn see 3rd column



ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

VW Joe Sheppard

No News Received

Auburn from 2nd column . . .

On March 1 we are holding our annual chicken barbecue to defray Lodge expenses. Serving runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$12 for one-half bird, salt potatoes, baked beans and Italian bread. Make reservations with me at 315/224-0940 or email.

For March 6 the program will be Second Degree proficiency. On March 20 we will do March Madness with sports, food, raffles and refreshments. Masons and friends are welcome. Raffle tickets are still available from VW Joe Sheppard. Call 571/294-4237.

On both March 23 and March 30 we will hold rehearsal at 6 p.m. for the upcoming Third Degree. We will confer on April 5.

Ihope to see you in Lodge. Take care and God bless.

Tommy Ostrander

KING HIRAM 784

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

WM Paul M. Smith

Brethren, I know it has been some time since King Hiram has submitted an article to *the word*. We are going to be better in the future.

We have been very busy for the last few years doing Degree work, bringing in six new Brothers. Right now we are planning a First Degree for one candidate on March 11, with the possibility of another candidate in the works. The elected candidate is the son of one of our newest Brothers and brother

King Hiram see 5th column

King Hiram from 4th column . . .

of another, who were Raised together in 2023.

On March 1 we will be hosting our annual Euchre Tournament from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Brother Mike McLaughlin at 607/227-6766 by February 26. There is no entry fee and there will be prizes for the top four players. Lunch is provided.

We have been busy working in and around the Lodge building with small projects to keep our property looking great. We have done some grading out back to extend the barbecue pit base and also leveled an area behind the Public Library so the fence can be extended to fully enclose the property. Last

year we voted to purchase benches for the Newfield Town Park and we will also be placing one in front of our building honoring Frank Snyder. I will be updating you more next month on other projects we have in the works.

Lastly, we are in the process of changing our By-Laws. We will be moving our meeting time back from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the hope that we can get through with the meetings earlier and that it may entice some Brothers to attend our communications. Be on the lookout for the summoned meeting notice that will be sent out soon.

Paul M. Smith

More Cayuga-Tompkins see page 4



Auburn Lodge's RW Bob Coleman, left, with PGM Richard J. Kessler.



Auburn Lodge boosts soup kitchen

By recent count, the Auburn community has 128 displaced/homeless individuals and twenty-eight families living in local hotels. Saints Peter & John Church in Auburn operates a soup kitchen on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday providing meals to

those who have found themselves in these unfortunate circumstances. The soup kitchen has provided over 20,000 meals to date.

Through a Pass the Hat program initiated by RW Anthony Tabone, PDDGM, members of Auburn Lodge No. 124 have provided \$11,000 in donations in the last few years to various charitable organizations within our community. The Sts. Peter & John Church soup kitchen is the most recent recipient of a \$500 do-

nation. This amount will cover one month's operating expenses for the soup kitchen. RW Tom Ostrander, left, and RW Michael A. Miller paid a visit to the church to present the Lodge's donation.

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

In an effort to better meet the needs of its membership, the Valley of Syracuse has recently welcomed two new Scottish Rite Clubs. Under the leadership of Ill. Terry Byard, 33° - 1st Lt. Commander, the Jefferson-Lewis Scottish Rite Club has been meeting at various locations throughout the North Country in an attempt to accommodate present and future Scottish Riters. Following that model, the Cayuga-Tompkins Scottish Rite Club recently held its first meeting at the Auburn Masonic Center.

These meetings focus on discussion of any of the Core Values of Scottish Rite Freemasonry (Reverence for God, Devotion to Country, Integrity, Justice, Tolerance, Service to Humanity). They also examine the various activities for personal growth found within the Pathfinder Program; and viewing parties contemplate the Thursday Night at the Rite Degree presentations. The meetings are run on the semi-informal side and are not meant to replace such Valley activities as live Degrees. Instead, the goal is to enhance.

Any Scottish Rite member, regardless of home Valley, or Master Mason interested in Scottish Rite is welcome. Contact either Ill. Terry Byard, 33° or Michael A. Miller, 32° DSA for more information.

Michael A. Miller

Consistory

Sovereign Princes, March is a busy month for the Valley as we come out of our winter doldrums. We start off with a live presentation of the 11° on March 10. For one reason or another over the past few years we have been unable to present this as a live Degree and have had to resort to the video version. Thanks go to TPM Eric Driscoll for organizing this live presentation. The cast members have put in hard work to learn their parts and I hope we have a large turnout to show them you support live Degrees.

Our Five-Degree festival is fast approaching. If you have a candidate who is interested in joining Scottish Rite there is still time to get in the MW Jeffrey M. Williamson Class, which will be knighted in a live ceremony on March 22. All four Bodies will open at 8:30 a.m. and we should be ready to start the 4° by 9:00, to be immediately followed by the 5°, both via video. Around 10:00 a.m. we will take a short break to make final preparations and get into costume for a live presentation of the 14°. It is estimated that the 27° video will start at 11:00 to 11:15 a.m. and we will break for lunch afterwards. Depending on how well we stay on schedule, the 32° will begin by 1:30 p.m. Both the Allegory and Knighting Ceremony will be done live using the new 2023 version. We should conclude everything by 3:00 p.m.

For Monday, March 24 we have a New Member Orientation/Pathfinder Program. We invite all newly minted Scottish Riters in this year's class (and members of classes during the COVID years) to attend for an overview of how the Valley operates. That will be followed by a presentation on the Pathfinder Program. Pathfinder is a fun and engaging way to increase your knowledge about Scottish Rite Masonry. All are welcome to participate in the interactive presentation by Ill. Rick Powell and DB Jim Nelson. Plan to bring a smartphone, tablet or laptop as this is truly an interactive experience. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. and wrap up by 9:00. Light refreshments will follow the meeting.

I want to mention our Brother-to-Brother contact, an important Valley effort to stay in touch with all our members. Some may have already received a call, as we launched this effort in February, but throughout March, April and May a core group of Brothers will attempt to make personal contact with every member of our

Valley. We will try to reach you by phone but may have to resort to email if the numbers in our records are no longer valid. Our callers may leave a voicemail or a text if we have a cell number, but I want to assure you that this is not a solicitation call. You, like me, are probably inundated with scam calls. The call you receive from the Valley of Syracuse is legit. We will not ask for money. The callers may ask you to confirm the contact information in our files; if you are comfortable doing so I encourage you to update changes in your information. If you would rather not provide that information over the phone, please contact the Office directly.

William H. Toth II

Perfection

Greetings, Brothers! As I write this in early February, looking at the live 11° coming up, I am very proud that it looks as though it will be an amazing evening. Thanks go to those who have stepped up and joined in by taking parts or helping us get there. Know that your efforts are appreciated by all of us, as well as those viewing the

One of my favorite months is March and we will be having that Degree on March 10. Please come and enjoy this evening with us. Also, on March 22 we will have our Saturday Degree Day where we will confer the 4°, 5°, 14°, 27° and the 32°. This is typically a highly attended day of Masonic light, fellowship and celebration. The 2024/2025 class will be complete as they are Knighted. And thus begins their Scottish Rite journey. Congratulations in advance go to those who have chosen this path.

I will close by wishing everyone a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day. Slainte!

Eric Driscoll **Hospitaler**

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

Brothers and families in continuing need of prayer are Joel and Heather Scarson, Duane Crapser, Ill. Bob Crump, Ill. George Caswell and Ill. Terry Byard. We need still to keep Ill. Sandy Samson in our prayers.

We ask you to keep the Valley informed of anyone in distress. The Office staff sends cards on our behalf.

Garry Visconti

Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

March brings the first day of spring and marks the start of a fresh new season, a period of growth. Growth is what the students attending the Central New York Children's Dyslexia Center are experiencing. Growth in their reading, spelling and writing skills is evident as many of the students display increased confidence and parents report improved school performance.

Our 11th annual GALA is just days away and we expect another wonderful night.

Why do we fundraise? To provide the highest quality, state-of the art, multisensory tutorial reading and written language instruction to children with dyslexia—or those who may be undiagnosed but fit the profile of a child with dyslexia—free of charge. To train tutors in the art, science and practice of tutoring children using the Orton-Gillingham approach to multisensory teaching of reading, spelling and writing.

We are tutoring nineteen children at the center and have two Practitioner 1 trainees, two Practitioner 2 trainees and two trainees working on their Mentor/Supervisor certification and Instructor of Practitioner 1. There are twenty children on the list waiting to begin tutoring at the center.

That said, we need tutors. If you or someone you know holds a bachelor's degree and an interest in becoming a certified tutor, please contact the center for more information: 315/736-0574.

Marianne Jones

Rite offers oneday ceremony

The Scottish Rite Valley of Syracuse invites Master Masons to submit a petition and become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason in the Central City Bodies, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. All re-

COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

March 2025

Mar 03 Executive Committee, virtual meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mar 10 11° "Sublime Master Elected" Live 7:30 p.m.; refreshments after meeting. Mar 22 Saturday Reunion: 8:00 a.m.—registration & coffee; 8:30 a.m.—Open 4 Bodies meeting; 9:00 a.m.—L-O-P Confer 4° "Builder" (V) & 5° "Perfect Master" (V); 10:00 a.m.—Break; 10:15 a.m.—L-O-P Confer 14° "Grand Elect Mason" (L); 11:10 a.m.—Open Consistory; 11:15 p.m.—Consistory Confer 27° "Knight of Jerusalem" (V); 12:00—Luncheon; 1:00 p.m.— Open Consistory; 1:15 p.m.—Consistory Confer 32° "Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret" (L) & 32° "Knighting Ceremony" (L); Short business meeting; Close meeting prior to 3:30 p.m.

Allegiance

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

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

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

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

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

quired Degrees will be conferred on Saturday, March 22.

To obtain a petition come to the Masonic Memorial Center, 648 Centerville Pl., North Syracuse; or phone the Valley Office at 315/452-7976; or go online to https://scottishritenmj.org or www.syr-aasr.org; or speak with New Member Committee Chairman Terry A. Byard on or before March 22, 2025.

You must be a Master Mason and member of a Masonic Lodge chartered or recognized by the Grand Lodge of New York. The petition fee is \$160. You will need to bring your current Lodge membership card when you submit your petition for membership.

Consider becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. You will gain more Masonic knowledge, meet new friends and enjoy Masonic fellowship with your Brothers.

James D. Swan, Jr.

AASR scholarship application

The single-form application for the Supreme Council Abbott Scholarship and NY Scottish Rite Education Financial Assistance funds is available online. Visit: www.nysccottishritemasons.org or www.syr-aasr.org.

Note that the application must be submitted to the sponsor's Valley of membership. The submission deadline is Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Office conversions in works

As of January 1 several changes have been made to the operation of the Valley Office. Sharon Fox retired; Sharon Swan is now Administrative Assistant; while James D. Swan continues as

Valley Secretary.

The office hours have not changed: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Anyone planning to visit the office is advised to call in advance.

For years the office used a USPS mailing permit to distribute mail, meeting and event notices. Due to excessive cost increases these notices will be sent electronically to your email address listed in our records. If you wish to change your personal email address or be added to the list, send an email from your current address or call 315/452-7976.

Note that these messages will come from a new email address: secretary@syraasr.org. The long-range plan is to discontinue use of ny017@twcny.rr.com for Valley Secretary communications.

James D. Swan, Jr.



11th Annual Gala Fundraiser - Saturday, March 08, 2025 Harts Hill Inn - 135 Clinton Street - Whitesboro, NY

> The Acme Mystery Theater Company Presents: "Die Another Death"

Social Hour - Dinner - Show - Basket Raffle 6:00 PM

Available Sponsorships:

Sponsor A Child - \$5,000.00 Sponsor a Scholar - \$2,500

Partner in Reading - \$1,000.00 Supporter - \$750.00 Patron - \$300.00

Basket Raffle: Please contact the Dyslexia Center for Donations to and tickets for the Raffle.

Individual Tickets

Adults: \$75:00 pp Child (5-12): \$25.00 pp

Sponsorship Descriptions:

Sponsor a Child: 10 Tickets – Leaf on SAC Wall at Dyslexia Center Individual Recognition at Gala

Sponsor a Scholar: 8 Tickets - Tree of Knowledge Gold Leaf*
Partner in Reading: 6 Tickets - Tree of Knowledge Silver Leaf*
Supporter: 4 Tickets - Tree of Knowledge Bronze Leaf*

Patron: 2 Tickets - Tree of Knowledge Green Leaf*
"Leaf on "Tree of Knowledge at Dyslexia Center

Visit the Dyslexia Center website at www.cnyck.org for more details. OR Call the Dyslexia Center Office at 315-736-0574.

If paying by mail—Please make checks payable to <u>CDC-CNY 103</u> and return by <u>February 21, 2025, to:</u>

Children's Dyslexia Center - CNY

c'o: Valley of Utica AASR - 251 Genesee Street - Utica, NY 13501

Reservations and direct payment by Credit Card can be made through March 1, 2025, on: The Valley of Utica AASR website at: www.aasruticanv.com - Gick on "Shop"

> Special Thanks to Our 2025 Annual Gala Major Sponsor:



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

Greetings, Companions! Winter has come in like a lion and I hope all are safe and warm.

Last month we confered the Most Excellent Master Degree upon several candidates in waiting. I want to thank Lake Ontario 165 for hosting the Degree and for the several parts covered by members from Charles H. Platt 247. I also want to thank our own Assistant Grand Lecturer VW Ed Sinay Jr. and our District Deputy RE James Nelson for their work in coordinating both the prac-

tice and Degree. This is a great sign that our Chapters in our District can work together and in collaboration to do Degrees and get several of our candidates in waiting to become full members of our Chapters.

I look forward to working with all the Chapters to get the final Degree confered. Binghamton. Royal Arch Masonry can succeed and grow but a Chapter needs its Compan-

Also, I look forward to our great Convocation in

ions to attend meetings so we can open and do the work on the Trestleboard. Let us embrace coming events, Degrees done by the District and educational programming. No matter how long a Companion, you can always learn something new.

If you have knowledge of any Companions or Brothers in sickness and distress or in need of aid or sympathy, please contact me. I hope to see you soon around the 12th Capitular District.

Timothy S. Hansen



The Tigris Shrine created a plaque depicting Noble Vern and Beverly Stephens at a Shrine event in the past. Regrettably, Beverly passed away in Febru-

Past Potentate Gerald Roberts has the stick in the last parade he participated

in. Keep Gerry in your thoughts and prayers.

Shall Grand Lodge from page 7 ...

whole point and purpose of this brief essay is to make clear that there is precisely this reality at the heart of Freemasonry, as we have this year and last year observed it throughout the world—a wholesome and radical conservatism. Several Grand Jurisdictions, which have our fraternal respect veneration and cordial good-will, incline in the matter of legislation, attitude and interpretation, rather too much toward the untried and even positively dangerous, while oth-

ers no less devoted to the ideal and progress of the Fraternity veer the other way, toward the old and tested and tried principles and ancient landmarks of the Order. Maine would unquestionably belong to the latter class. It would be both invidious and fraternally ungracious to point out examples of the former. It may well be that those who are inclined toward the untried and dangerous will keep the conservative from crystallizing and becoming moribund and pull them ahead, while on the other hand, the old fogyism of the Masonic mossbacks (the alleged conservatives) may exert their influence in a no less wholesome way in holding the aggressively dangerous (the alleged radicals) from going too far away from the welltried landmarks. In short, they may accomplish in this union, jarring as it often is what neither alone would do so well."

An interesting tale of military and Masonic overtones from Waikiki, as presented in The Builder Masonic magazine in January 1925.—Editor.

The Grave of Brother Lafayette

BY BRO. ED TOWSE, HONOLULU, HAWAII

U.S.F.S. *Philadelphia* rested big and bright from the wharves of Honolulu. The handsome unit of "white squadron" architecture was a striking picture from Punchbowl, from Roundtop, Tantalus or Konahuanui, or from beneath the palms at Waikiki beach. Capt. Henry Cochrane, U.S.M.C. (later major with a Spanish War record), had seated himself with his guests in the shade of the shelter of one of the heavy pieces of the port battery. It was near the gangway. Out on the other side we looked upon the odd little lighthouse, with the reef and surf and sea beyond. Along the opposite bend of the bay were the homes of the local clubs—Myrtles, Healanis, Leilanis, Alohas. The young men were getting

laughter were making running jumps into the bay.

Solely for the purpose of drawing out the veteran officer, one of his party had remarked that for even, full grace and genuine general charm the Hawaiian halfcaste woman was the superior of the daintiest thoroughbred of any kind or clime.

Just then a sergeant of marines, a fine, soldiery fellow, approached to make a report to his commander. As the man left the captain be-

"That fellow is the complete ideal of a living Bertie Cecil, stepped from Ouida's Under Two Flags. He's a marine and was with me in Paris."

Capt. Cochrane had a detail of thirty-two United States marines at the Eiffel

IT was one of the dozens out shells and barges or were Tower Exposition. I asked of Sunday mornings that the lounging or swimming. From the captain what sort of a sharp bow, high white sides a small wharf native men and showing they made with and revised masts of the women with shouts and samples of the other armies and navies. The captain now became unreserved, fluent and earnest; here is what he said, and how:

> "They were the best looking, best drilled, best dressed, best behaved, best paid, best fed and most intelligent lot of enlisted men there. Their allowance made them princes among their associates and I was proud of them and our country and its soldiery. Every wealthy American who saw them made them a present. They were in clover all the time and had furloughs and half a dozen honorable mentions in orders when they came home. I have a picture of the company taken at the grave of Lafayette.

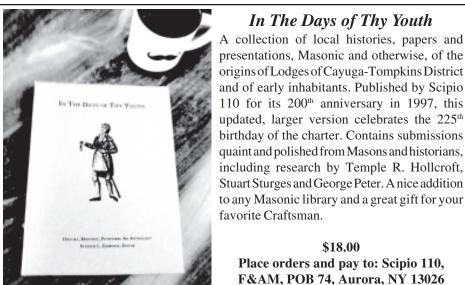
Grave Brother Lafayette See page 12



The first recipient of the Tigris Shrine Lifetime Achievement Award is Noble Vern Stephens on the left. He is celebrated here by Past Potentate Brian Courtney.

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

Past DDGM Oswego Dist. John F. Tanner



In The Days of Thy Youth

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

ORDER of the EASTERN STAR

Lake City Victoria 205 Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

My dear Sisters and Brothers: The snow keeps coming! Oswego City has not seen such high snowbanks in many years; but as the poet Percy Bysshe mused, "If winter come, can spring be far behind?" It cannot come too soon for me.

Our Chapter has said farewell to another Sister, Joanne Shafer Wilson, who died on January 26, 2025. Sr. Joanne was Initiated into Huldah Chapter No. 485 on April 28, 1959, sponsored by her father who was a Master Mason in Hannibal Lodge No. 550. She was a faithful and loyal member of the Order of the Eastern Star and we will miss her. The officers were privileged and honored to perform the Eastern Star funeral service for her on January 30 at Nelson's Funeral Home in Oswego.

This year marks the 120th anniversary of the organizing and constituting of our Chapter. Over the next few months I plan to write about some of the early members of Lake City Chapter No. 352, beginning this month with charter members Frances Amelia LaRock and her husband Edgar S.

Robinson. Early records pertaining to the Chapter are scarce and I have had to rely heavily on newspaper accounts. This necessarily has resulted in gaps and possible omissions in the narrative.

Frances LaRock was born in October 1858 to Felix and Margaret LaRock and was of French descent. Her father was a railroad engineer and the family moved several times during her youth. She married Edgar S. Robinson in Weedsport, NY on December 18, 1882 and bore her only child, Wilbur, in 1884.

Edgar S. Robinson, born in 1858, was the son of Edgar T. and Julia Robinson. He was orphaned in 1863 when his father and mother died within four months of each other. He lived with an uncle, Semelius Robinson, until he reached adulthood. After their marriage the couple settled in Oswego City.

In 1890 Edgar was hired as a letter carrier, a position he would hold for the next thirty-seven years. He became a member of the Oswego Branch of the National Letter Carriers' Association and held the office of president numerous times. While he was scheduled to retire in 1925, postmaster Ruth W. Johnson Mott arranged for him to remain for another

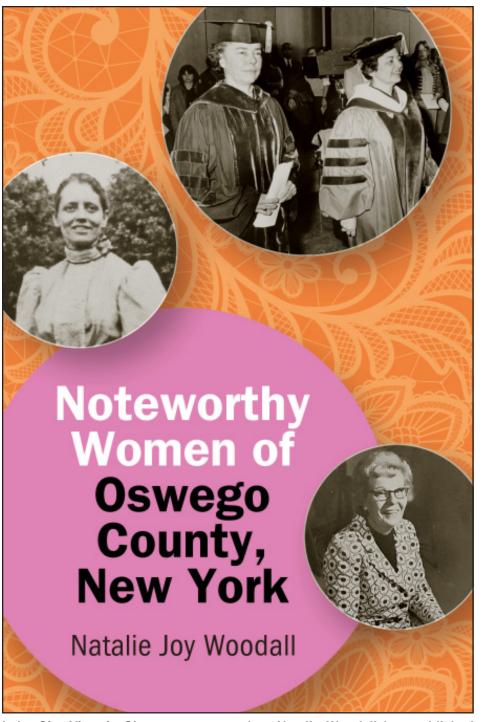
two years. He officially retired on August 20, 1927 and his retirement was celebrated with a banquet attended by many local dignitaries.

Ruth and Edgar were active members of West Baptist Church. Frances, for example, was a member of the King's Daughters and the Philathea Class. Edgar was a member of the Baptist Brotherhood and in 1932 was elected treasurer. He was also an early member of Chonquen Tent No. 312 Knights of the Maccabees, which was organized in August 1894. On December 12, 1894 Edgar was elected Lieutenant-Commander of the organization for 1895.

Edgar was Raised a Master Mason in Aeonian Lodge No. 679, although the exact date is unknown. The earliest reference to his membership occurred in December 1894 when he was elected Junior Warden for 1895. He would serve two terms as Worshipful Master, the first in 1908.

It is unknown how Frances became interested in the Order of the Eastern Star but it may be surmised that Joseph and Nettie Park, who also worshipped at West Baptist Church, had a lot to do with it. Joseph Park, a professor at the Normal School, was a Brother in Aeonian Lodge. In fact, in 1909 he succeeded Edgar as Worshipful Master. Nettie was one of the driving forces

Lake City Victoria see 4th column



Lake City Victoria Chapter correspondent Natalie Woodall has published another historical study, this one titled *Noteworthy Women of Oswego County, New York*. Natalie is a careful researcher and reliable presenter.

Lake City Victoria from 3rd column . . .

in organizing an Eastern Star Chapter in Oswego and she served as Worthy Matron in 1906 and 1907. She declined a third term because she had been selected as the District Deputy Grand Matron for 1908. Frances, her Associate Matron, was elected Worthy Matron and Edgar, Worthy Patron for 1908. Frances subsequently held several Chapter offices and Edgar was re-elected Worthy Patron for 1912 and 1920. In 1909 he was appointed Assistant Grand Lecturer, the forerunner of the current office of District

Grand Lecturer.

In February 1914 Mary Patterson Court No. 50, Order of Amaranth was organized in Fulton, NY, the first such Court in Oswego County. Among the charter members was Edgar S. Robinson. Frances apparently joined soon thereafter, since she served as Royal Matron in 1920.

Edgar, who was at times called Edward, was again elected Worshipful Master of Aeonian 679 for 1925. His name frequently appeared in newspaper accounts of local and county Masonic activities. He was a delegate to Grand Lodge and served on various Masonic committees.

The Robinsons celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1932. On January 21, 1937 Frances died after a short illness. She was buried in the Robinson family plot in Rural Cemetery. On October 2, 1937 Edgar married Cora Touse Kerr. They took a honeymoon trip to California, decided they liked it there, and moved permanently to Los Angeles.

Edgar died in Los Angeles on September 24, 1945 after a brief illness. Eight days later, on October 2, Cora succumbed to pneumonia. According to their joint obituary, they were buried in Los Angeles.

And now for a few words of shameless self-promotion. My new book, Noteworthy Women of Oswego County, New York, was published by SUNY Press in January. Among the thirty-one biographies contained therein will be found the stories of three members of the Order of the Eastern Star. One, MW Rhea LaVeck, Grand Matron in 1968, needs no introduction to members of Oswego District. Armonella Marshall Devendorf, a Sister in Elizabeth Caldwell Chapter No. 141, was active in community affairs in Central Square for many years. Fanny Pearl Keyes, born in Williamstown, became a famous vaudevillian star and dramatist under the stage name of Una Clayton. The book can be purchased in local bookstores and on-line.

Our Chapter will reopen on March 14. Worthy Matron, RW Cynthia J. Sanders, has many exciting plans for 2025. Stay tuned.

Natalie J. Woodall

Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

Hi, Sisters and Brothers. Wow, how nice it is to enjoy the winters of yesteryear with plenty of snow and cold to go around!—said no one, ever.

March brings us back to two meetings per month. We are hoping to have another candidate to Initiate in March so March 6 is tentatively Ample Form and March 20 is tentatively a regular meeting. Stay tuned.

Our Grand Officers of Centerville are very excited to travel with MW Mark and MW Marcia this year on their Official Visits. It is always a great time to connect with old friends and make new ones. If you are able to go to an Official Visit, I highly recommend it.

Remember our 125th Anniversary celebration coming in June. Look through your photo albums to see if you have any shots we can use for a photo board. See you in Chapter.

Cathy Barling

Onondaga Star 144 Masonic Memorial Center

WM Susan Cole

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. By the time we read this edition we will be more than halfway through winter and headed for the first day of spring on March 20.

We were able to have our February 4 meeting, which was Ample Form. Everyone really did a great job. In March, weather permitting, we will be going back to two meetings per month. On March 4 we will honor Master Masons and for March 18 we will honor Past Matrons/ Past Patrons.

RW Sister Barbara Brooker is chairing a fundraiser for the Chapter. It is a chance to win a Kardia Mobile Red personal EKG. This is an FDA-cleared personal EKG. More information on the EKG can be found on https://store.kardia.com/ products/kardiamobile. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and the drawing is April 15. You can contact Barbara Brooker for tickets at 315/ 380-0413 email or barb brooker@me.com.

Happy Birthday wishes go to all our March birthday members. Also, a big congratulations goes to our members with a service anniversary in March. It was a long list so here is my sincere "Thank-you to you for your years of service."

Looking a little ways ahead, Onondaga Star is planning a Kentucky Derby party for May 3. Stay tuned for more information. We will also be having a raffle for a beautiful handmade piece of wooden furniture, made by our own Michael Brooker. I am awaiting more details before we can sell tickets. Stay tuned for this,

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

Susan J. Cole

Bona Fide - Hiawatha Solvay 567

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

The Worthy Matron wants to make sure everybody is aware of some dates that are coming up within the next month or so. She is planning to have two dinners in the month of March. The 8th will be a meatloaf public dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. On March 29 we will be holding a spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6. It is takeout service only for both dinners.

Ample Form is the order of the evening for March 13. The District Deputy Grand Matron's Official Visit is April 10. We hope you will join us to hear the message from our District leaders.

We are also planning a calendar party on April 26. If you would like to have a table, please let the Matron know. Presale tickets are available from any of our members.

Once again, if you would like to be at our meetings but cannot drive, please let the Matron or the Patron know. Arrangements can be made to help you get to our meetings.

The Grand Matron and Grand Patron are starting their Official Visits around the State of New York. In March they will be in the metro region. We look forward to the pictures. The website will feature all the visits downstate.

Mark W Heitmann

Beach Buddies Bulletin

We are a group of Sisters and Brothers who plan and carry out events and sales to raise funds supporting MW Grand Patron Mark Heitmann's projects. Currently, we are collecting A and H dollar bills. We also have quarter-a-day (\$.25) cards available. See Cathy Barling.

Plans are underway for a bingo party, guided by Sue Cole and Karen Button, as well as a meat raffle. Ann Pennock will soon have information and tickets available. Prices for this raffle will be one chance for \$5 or three for \$10.

If you need additional information on any of the above, please contact your Worthy Matron or District Deputy. I can be reached at 315/452-1437 or eblovat@yahoo.com.

Evelyn Blovat

CLASSIFIEDS

Compliments
VW Norman Kruth
W Joshua Kruth
VW Aaron Kruth

Chuck Toombs
Past
Grand Lecturer

Jorge Romeu Past Master Liverpool Syracuse

MARCH									
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
						1			
2	Jordan 386 3 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 4 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	7	8			
9	Hamilton 120 10 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Cortland 50KT 11 Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Washington RAM	Central City 13 CM 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	15			
16	Jordan 386 17 Liv-Syr 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 18 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	21	22			
23	Homer 352 24 Morning Star OES Phelon 105 OES Scriba 414	Central City Riverside 70 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES	Charles H. Platt 247 Pulton 50 CM 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 Triangle @ Mem	29			
30	31	Scipio 110 Washington RAM		Tany 550					

The Grave of Brother Lafayette ... from page 10

"It is certainly pardonable that I plume myself upon having instituted the custom of decorating the grave of Lafayette on the Fourth of July.

"Some sort of a patriotic inspiration suggested the plan to me. This was in the month of April. I, of course, thought of May 30 as the appropriate day for the ceremony. Mr. Whitelaw Reid, then our envoy to France, was at once enthusiastic. He said he knew a Lafayette, a bachelor member of the deputies, or some other legislative body.

"Mr. Reid, certain that his acquaintance was a relative of the man who made France and America such great friends, at once dictated a letter to him, setting forth fully the plan and indicating a day and hour at which both of us would call.

When we made the visit we were kept waiting perhaps an hour, when one of the most delightful of old gentlemen came in and offered in excellent English the excuse of detention on public business. Very pleasantly did he entertain us. He was the only living male descendent of the companion of Washington.

"His widowed sister and her daughter were mentioned with the assurance that they would co-operate in the proposed exercises. M. Lafavette, on condition that we should assume entire control and direction and the management of all details, consented to make an address in English.

"Mr. Reid was quite busy at this time and assigned me to the executive work, which included enlistment of a committee of prominent Americans. This was no trouble at all. Then, about May 5, I set out to have a look at the grave of Lafayette and mark a line of march and parade position.

"It was a most astonishing thing, but an actual fact,

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that no one seemed to know where the remains of this noble and famous man had been placed. I hunted for days, being aided by volunteers and paid men. Mr. Reid communicated officially with the Government and we learned that his inquiry was being referred from one bureau to another.

"Near the end of May all of us were well nigh hopeless. Then one day I ran across a young American resident who was married to a French woman. He was from Philadelphia, but was at home enough in Paris and with the language to be a very successful professional guide. Well, he knew where Lafayette's grave was.

"He was a Freemason, was intimately acquainted with the circumstances of the visits of Lafayette to his own lodge and that of Washington at Alexandria, Va. This guide told me that I might have made the quest simplicity itself by consulting members of the Supreme Council of Thirty-third Degree Scottish Rite Masons of France or any brother of a subordinate body of that great organization. He began to describe the location of the grave, but I took him right along with me.

"The tomb, very simply inscribed, was in a small cemetery in one of the most interesting sections or districts of old Paris. Near it was a large cemetery where there had been interred 1,300 victims of the Reign of Terror. This was told in a few lines on a weather-beaten sign over the broken gate. Overlooking both of these burial grounds was a convent made famous in Victor Hugo's Les Miserables. One could study French history and literature in that vicinity for a month.

"May 30 was now an impossible date for the ceremony and we fixed upon July 4. There was quite a gathering, though there was no intent to make it a general affair. We raised the Stars and Stripes and fired a salute. Then my men stacked arms and fell out. The color sergeant laid his flag on top of the rifles. The sister and niece of M. Lafayette, who were dressed in black, walked over to the line of arms, gently lifted a fold of Old Glory and kissed it reverently. That was a sweet and simple tribute to the United States and all were

affected.

"The floral offerings included some that I knew to be Masonic and of the Scottish Rite. There was a beautiful cross of red roses, a triangle with a Hebrew character in the center and an elaborate piece with a monogram displaying the letters 'L.F.E.' These, I was told, were for the initials of the words 'Liberty, Fraternity, Equality.' They surmounted the figures 33. Each Freemason present joined in a procession around the grave and at the final encircling of it dropped a sprig of green at the head.

"M. Lafayette's speech was a success beyond our most sanguine hopes excepting, perhaps, the very last sentence.

"He spoke of our country and his own, of our immortal forefather and of his own great ancestor, of our President and his President, of Mr. Reid and myself and of the occasion.

"Then came his peroration and his accident from lack of practice with English. As nearly as I can recall, he

" 'It is peculiarly fitting that this recognition of the distinguished son of such a thriving, busy Republic as France has become, should be at the hands of citizens of that great model and timetried Republic, that country of brave and brilliant and generous men, that country of such grand institutions and complete liberty, that country which leads the entire world in the march of scientific, mechanical and intellectual-mte-lectual-ah-ah go head.'

'Of course 'achievement' was the word he was after. The Americans repressed their laughter and were ready with compliments to the speaker. A few evenings later most of us met him at dinner and he then told the joke on himself. The custom of remembering Lafayette's grave continues and I hope it endure."

Afterwards Capt. Cochrane told of witnessing a Russian coronation and his recital of seeing two men guillotined in Paris gave at least one of his hearers more thrills than several legal hangings and a halfdozen lynchings witnessed in the Rocky Mountain country.

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