March 28

of the **ONONDAGA CAYUGA - TOMPKINS** March **CORTLAND - MADISON OSWEGO DISTRICTS** 

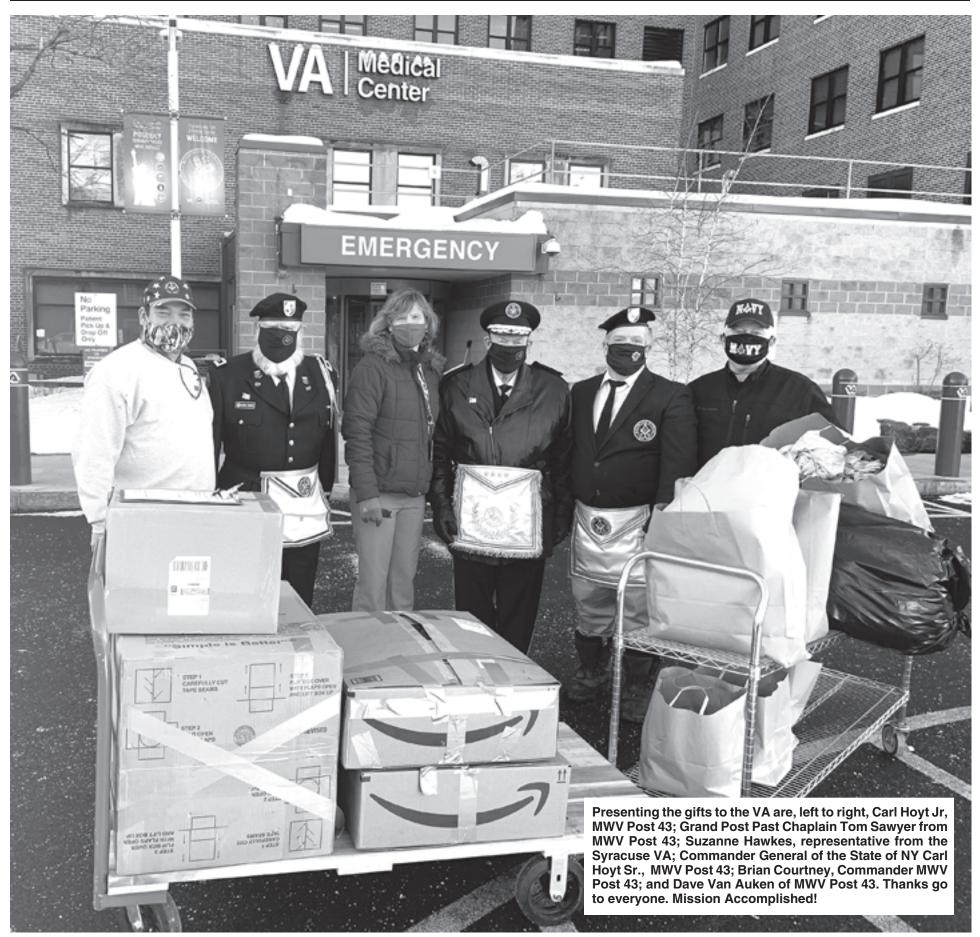
Circulation 2,250

**MASONIC BODIES** 

Vol. 47, No. 7

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

March 2021



## Plug for the EMESBE

with the help of our Executive Director's annual report and some investigative research on my part, here is where the EMESBE (Masonic Service Bureau) stands. We have been in the negative for the last two years and project a loss for 2021. We are running a deficit of money coming in and what we are paying out. Prices have increased for everything and we have kept the prices the same for quite a few years.

From my perspective, possible solutions include increasing subscription fees to Lodges. But with dwindling Lodge members across the Districts, is that the answer? Could we convert everyone to the email version? That saves on postage but isn't quite the answer. Some don't have computers; and I am sure the price for layout would inprint. It seems like putting a band-aid on a bleeding artery.

What we can do is help get more ads for the paper. It is asking a friend, family member or boss who has a business; and promote your own. Most of the current ads are from Masonic organizations or Masonically owned businesses. The cost, depending on the size, would average between \$100 to \$200 per year. That is less than your National Grid bill for a month.

Scan this issue for the businesses or patrons and sponsors who support us with ads.

If you can utilize their services, please check into it.

Brothers and Sisters all, crease if there are no copies to Tell them you saw their ad in the Masonic periodical they subscribe to. Let them know they are getting a return on their dollar.

You can reach Executive Director Ben Lees at oldbanker60@yahoo.com or 315/457-3549 or Editor Stephen Zabriskie at zabled@aol.com to get a quote for and place your own ad. Besides our obligation to bring members into our Lodges and Chapters, we have to support our paper. I thank the other Directors of the EMESBE for their years of service to keep our paper afloat.

Brian Courtney

### Mentor

Hello, Brethren. Las month I wrote in my word column that "Freemasonry is not just another club but an Institution based on certain key core principles including Love of Country, Tolerance and Brotherly Love." I said that we needed to do something regarding the January 6 events. I proposed developing a series of Zoom presentations based on The Federalist Papers document that discusses the main concepts of the American Constitution.

Mentor see page 2



#### **MWV43**

Brethren, it is so great when a well-planned movement goes as scheduled. On Friday, February 5 Masonic War Vets Post No. 43 was finally able to secure the VA and get some needed items to our Brothers in Arms there.

> MWV43 ... see page 2



## 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 Jack G. **Dombrowski** 315/395-1255 (c) 315/409-4929 (h) **bdombrowski** @twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Brethren! The month of March brings us closer to the end of winter and also closer to the Grand Lodge communication. It has been published that the Grand Lodge Session on May 3, 2021 will be a reduced session. Further information and directives will be published on this matter as soon as they are available. However, all Lodges will be able to hold their elections and installations after this session.

Please remain flexible to the changing directives due to the ever-changing pandemic requirements. Currently, in-person meetings and pandemic ritual Degrees can be held as long as the Lodges are adhering to the local protocols issued by local governments and Grand Lodge. Remember, masks are always required; no group pictures without masks; we all have to maintain the 6-foot distancing requirement; Lodges must be closed by 10 p.m.

Masters must determine and adhere to the maximum safe capacity of their Lodge room. Should your Lodge need help conferring a Degree you can obtain outside

> **More DDGM** see 2nd column

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

Paid at Liverpool, N.Y.

Len Hass, Chairman Bruce D. King, Secretary (Home) 655-8257 Ben Lees, Ex. Dir. (Home) 457-3549

Advertising Rates 1 Time \$4.40 \$33.00

Subscription Rates Per Year Group Rates \$3.50 Individuals \$5.00

(Rates subject to change) News Deadline: 12th of the Montl Editor: Stephen L. Zabriskie PO Box 119 Aurora, N.Y. 13026 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "The Word"

P.O. Box 242, Liverpool, NY 13088

#### STAFF OFFICER



**RW Dan Campis** 732/241-0606 dancampis@gmail.com

Greeting, my Brethren. Good news has arrived, as of this writing. Lodges have been cleared to resume inperson meetings with maximum attendance not restricted to ten, depending on size of venue. While I expect that many Lodges will continue to use Zoom meetings of some sort in their meeting schedules, I am also encouraged by the prospect of some Lodges already electing to resume limited in-person gatherings.

As I have mentioned in previous posts, Grand Lodge continues to work on an effective method for conducting courses remotely. But perhaps with the opening of Lodges, we will be able to also get together for in-person classes. Fingers crossed.

Unfortunately, as far as we know at the date of this writing the Grand Lodge Session for May 2021 will again be postponed/cancelled. Recently the Grand Master communicated that a hybrid model was discussed but found to be too cumbersome without the guarantees of a successful voting structure. I am sure I join with many of you in disappointment that we will be unable to resume much of the important work carried out during the Grand Lodge Sessions in May. But these deliberations are ongoing. Pease do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

**Daniel Campis** 

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

assistance but are still required to adhere to the safe capacity of the Lodge room. The main thing to remember is to be safe by adhering to safe-distancing protocols and stay within your safecapacity numbers.

Please maintain contact with your Lodge members who choose to not attend the in-person meetings for safety reasons. Also, maintain contact with your Lodge's Surviving Spouses. We are all in this together. The safety and wellbeing of all our

**More DDGM** see 3rd column

#### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS**



**VW Rick Miori** rickmiori@gmail.com 315/254-1671

Greetings from your Assistant Grand Lecturers. Webster's New World Dictionary defines "Lecture" (for our purposes) as: "to give an informative talk."

In the month of March we find Daylight Saving Time on March 14 and the Vernal Equinox and the start of spring is March 20. The Vernal Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere occurs when the sun crosses the equator and starts its northern journey. The dates for both Passover and Easter are derived from the equinox and the moon. Passover begins on the first full moon on or after the equinox. Easter begins the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox. A couple of famous Masons born in March are Sam Houston, first President of the Republic of Texas, and magician Erik Weisz, aka, Harry Houdini.

The start of spring is also a time of renewal and a perfect time to renew our obligation to the Craft, our ritual



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



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

and our Brothers. COVID has created opportunities for us to learn from the hardships and rebuild friendships. As we begin to move to a more normal time and start Degree work, feel free to reach out for assistance. Our team is your team.

> Rick Miori Tim Conover **Toby Shelley**

### Mentor from page 1

I checked with several Grand Line and Scottish Rite officers and received no concerns from any of themjust a nice compliment. I obtained a Zoom reservation for Monday, February 1 at 7 p.m. to launch the first meet-

I wrote to the officers of the four Central New York Masonic Districts covered by the word and asked them to circulate our invitation and Zoom link among members of their constituent Lodges. Several DDGMs sent out the invitation and its link. We also sent the information to Logia La Fraternidad, a Hispanic Lodge in NYC that I often work with.

On Monday, February 1 we had our first Zoom meeting, with twelve participants from NYC and CNY. I stated that the events of January 6 revealed we had a problem but it also uncovered an opportunity. Losers get fixated in the problem; winners seize the opportunity. As Freemasons, we needed to address such opportunity using our core principles. We surely include supporters of all current political currents in our organization. But Masons hold a strong feeling of tolerance and love for each other, setting an example of Civility for society at large. After that, I read the Introduction.

We learned—or reviewed—how the Federalist Papers comprised eightyfive newspaper articles written and published in New York City by Hamilton, Madison and Jay between 1787 and 1788. Their objective was to convince readers to support the new American Constitution, soon to be ratified. Jay later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Madison, President; Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury in George Washington's cabinet. The Federalist Papers constitutes the best written account of the US Constitution, which is the document that governs how we operate as a Nation.

Afterward, we had a short organizational meeting. It was decided to meet via Zoom on the first and third Mondays of every month at 7 p.m. In our next meeting, on February 15, Brother George Reed read Paper #1, which outlines the plan of the entire Federalist series. I secured and sent again to the DDGMs the Zoom link invitation that appears below:

"Jorge L. Romeu is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7

Join Zoom Meeting Link: t t p s : / / syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/ i/94173064005.

Meeting ID: 941 7306 4005; No ID or Password necessary. Just click on the link and enter."

With this issue the above link is outdated but new links will look just like that. Invite your friends and neighbors and share the Zoom information and link with your local library. It becomes an implicit recruitment activity. Remember the Saint Francis preaching anecdote:

St. Francis invited a young priest to preach the Gospel. They left their Monastery early and spent all day walking up and down the main streets, praying with their rosaries. After several hours in this, they returned to the Monastery. The young priest timidly asked: "I thought we were going to preach." To which St. Francis replied: "What do you think we have been doing all day?"

fer. "Communication is the

then leadership is beyond

you."—Unknown.

"If serving is below you,

Brian Courtney

key to everything we do."

Jorge L. Romeu

#### DDGM from 2nd column . . .

members and Surviving Spouses is paramount. We all must do our part.

My Brothers, stay informed of rapidly changing dates and COVID directives

and requirements by visiting the Grand Lodge website. Pay attention to emails and reach out to your District team with questions. Thank you for your patience and your dedication to Freemasonry. I hope to see you around the District and Re-

Jack G. Dombrowski

## MWV 43 from page 1

Over 700 articles of clothing and personal items were donated, courtesy of MW William Sardone, Grand Master of Masons, Grand Lodge of NY, and RW Donald Kunego, Chairman VA Military Hospital Outreach Committee. We thank them for their continued assistance.

Huge thanks also go out to Tigris Shrine, especially RW Ralph Haney Jr. and his wonderful wife Anne. They procured a donation from Tigris and purchased huge amounts of clothing and personal hygiene items for the female veterans up there. Thanks again go to Brother Ralph, who always comes through when the going gets rough.

Brother Dick Arthur, Brother Dave Van Auken and the Moose Club in Solvay donated money towards gift cards for the females to get diapers, formula and other needed items that we wouldn't know to purchase. Suzanne Hawkes at the VA was instrumental in letting us know what was

needed up there and we couldn't have done it without her. She is a wonderful person to work with. (See photo.)

We hope to see all of you who couldn't attend this time—God willing—at Thanksgiving 2021. As Commander, words can't express my gratitude to everyone who helped out. Times like this really make you feel the Brotherhood of Masonry—working with veterans for veterans.

In the last word article I made a mistake. Imagine that! I said that anyone can be an Associate Member. Well, not anybody can be. Here is the exact description. "Associate members shall be those who, at the time of the inception of their membership in the Post are already members of some other Post of Masonic War Veterans of the State of New York, Inc. Such members shall have no right to hold office but shall in all other respects possess all rights of Post membership." I apologize for the misinformation.

We have a Facebook page. If anyone wants to view it it is "Masonic War Veterans." It has been out for quite some time. Thanks go to Brother Nick Lettieri for starting it. The "Onondaga County Masonic District" Facebook page is another way to get information on what is going on in Masonry. All it takes for either is for someone to send me a story to post.

The Post has hats, patches, knives, berets, window stickers, magnetic patch holders for jackets and aprons for sale. See the pictures and if you are interested let me know.

Under sickness and distress, CG of Masonic War Veterans of NY Carl Hoyt is doing much better after his surgeries. My mother has had some setbacks, which has caused me to be out of town a few times. I haven't heard of anyone else. If there is, please let me know.

We also have three new Brothers to vote on and con-

Are You ~ ~ ~ Moving?	Print your NEW address below (incl. seasonal changes)		S	State Zip		id mail to: the word	P.O. Box 242	Liverpool, NY 13088
	Print y	Name	Address	City	Phone	Clip and mail to:		

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

WM Matt Gregory

Spring is on the way. A new beginning is coming soon. The snow is melting and the sun is higher in the sky. It appears that in-person Lodge meetings will start in the month of March. Attendance will be limited to twenty-five Brothers.

We will move forward again with plans for a First Degree. April 6 will be our target date for the First Degree. No meals will be served prior to our meetings at this point in time.

March meetings will start in person at 7:30 p.m. on March 2 and 16.

Please contact your Secretary Craig Cobb at 315/ 446-0625 cobb3@verizon.net with any questions. Stay safe and warm. May God bless.

Matt Gregory

#### Memorial 648 (ON)

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

> WM Carlton P. Jackson carltonjackson88@gmail.com, 315/863-6630

District Deputy Grand Master Jack G. Dombrowski's Official Visit in October was our last in-Lodge gathering before the mandatory shutdown. That hardship gave us the opportunity, with the help of our Senior Master of Ceremonies Buddy Belonsoff, to go from physical to virtual meetings. And that opened the door for members who have moved across our great Nation to join in, get reacquainted and meet new Brothers of the Craft.

On February 11 we returned to Lodge, doing business that could not be done in the world of Zoom. Social distancing, temperature checks and washing hands define the new norm. That's what was done and will continue to be done as long as is necessary to sustain the safety and growth of our members and our beloved Fraternity.

Carlton P. Jackson

Seneca River 160 (ON) Liverpool Masonic Temple, 608 Oswego St. Liverpool, N.Y. 13088 3rd Tues. of Sept., Oct., Nov., Mar., Apr., May www.sr160.org

WM Robert Tyrrell, 315/416-3320

Greetings, Brethren. As we get closer to spring with each passing day, I look forward to greeting each and every Brother at our next meeting on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Our featured speaker for the evening will be RW Bill Edwards from the Rochester area.

I am hoping to have a live meeting but leave open the possibility of doing a Zoom meeting if necessary. More details concerning the meeting will be forthcoming as we get closer to the meeting date.

I will see you at Lodge. Remember to "stay observant."

Bob Tyrrell

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

WM John Bromka



Greetings, Brethren. We hope you are all well and have weathered February intact. On February 1 we voted via Zoom to re-open Lodge to in-person meetings. Thus, on February 9 we had our first Tuesday morning coffee (from 9-10 a.m.) in three months. It was a glorious sight to have brethren there, good and pleasant, "like the precious ointment upon the head." And so we looked forward to Lodge open on February 15, March 1 and continuing.

At this point most of you are probably aware we had a heating pipe disaster in the apartment portion of the building, discovered by W Mark Kulik (Master of Skaneateles No. 522). Mark has been assisting us with placing a building supervisor(aBrotherMason)inresidence in the apartment. Not a moment too soon!

As it was, the free-flowing hot water and steam did an amazing number on the apartment. You should've seen the plywood paneling, warped and twisted like something from the early 20th century Barcelona architect Antonio Gaudi. Commendations go to RW Bill Toth, W Harold Lanning, DSA, and Brother Tom Lathrop, DSA for jumping to action with insurance, demolition/rehab and arrangements for plumbing repairs.

Back to Gaudi: Was there any chance he might have been a Freemason? Though there is nothing conclusive, you can read some interesting articles on the Internet. especially regarding his unfinished cathedral, Sagrada Familia. Here is a magic square from the Passion Fa-

> 14 14 4 7 9 6 11 10 10 5 8 13 2 3

In a magic square all rows, columns and diagonals add up to the same sum. Here the number is 33. For a good Catholic, that is the age of Jesus at death and Resurrection. For a good Freemason, that is indeed a Degree number to which to aspire.

Together let us build! Happy Primavera, Passover and Palm Sunday.

John Bromka

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 rapp126@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Brethren. Good morning. It is frigid out. I am so thankful for a warm house and office to shelter in on days like today.

All seems to be well with your Worshipful Master and his lovely bride. We are waiting patiently for our COVID vaccinations. Hopefully, this will all be behind us very

Dues notices have been sent out. It is the same amount as last year. I am currently learning the Lodge upgrade to MORI. Many of our transactions will be accomplished electronically—hopefully very soon.

We will be planning several fundraisers this year to help keep our coffers full. We will provide notice once dates are set. As always, your help and participation will be much appreciated.

As previously mentioned, we have been selected for a \$35,000 repair and beautification grant from the State of New York. We continue to hold fundraisers to help with the \$12,000 that we need in order to qualify for the grant. The money will be used to fix the western roof, the columns, for new windows, paint, etc. Since the Apple Fest was cancelled this year, we need to continue to raise funds to keep our building open.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything or to just say, Hi. My door is always open. Get in touch with me through email: <u>irapp126@twcny.rr.com</u>, or by phone at 315/569-5203. John Rapp

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

WM Adam Novak, 315/200-0886 yahoo.com Secv Joe Maslak 315/491-1410



Fraternal greeting, Brothers. I am happy to report the success of our annual Super Bowl chicken barbecue. We had great support from the community and the proceeds of the event will help with some much-needed Lodge maintenance and upkeep.

With the lifting of NY COVID restrictions, we have begun in-person Lodge meetings. This is good news as we have a considerable amount of work to catch up

As we move into the spring and summer months, it is our hope to have our Degree work completed in time to bring on six new Master Masons into Jordan Lodge for the fall season. Please stay safe and healthy. Adam Novak

> **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 Brian Courtney, wife Patti WMCRU93@gmail.com. 315/447-2104 Secv Jon Lorber. bisco302@gmail.com, 315/657-4068



Bráithre, Sláinte agus Sonas. In English: Brethren. Health and Happiness. I am not perfect as a human and especially as a WM. Many will attest to that. The thing I have going for me is my character and my compassion for others, no matter who you are.

As per our by-laws we were dark in January and February and Masonic work never stopped, even during the virus. Brothers, your dues are needed to help keep the Lodge open. We appreciate those who have paid. You can pay online now, as some have requested. We are meeting your needs so you may fulfill your obligation. Please get dues in as soon as possible or speak to me personally if there is an issue.

In this COVID era there is so much information out there some may feel overwhelmed. Please, if you need someone to talk to, your Brothers and I are always here to listen to your concerns and possibly get you the help or information you need. We have resurrected the Onondaga Masonic District Facebook page. We are promoting anything and everything going on in the District.

Guess what? If your Lodge doesn't send something to me to post, you lose. If you don't pass on the information to us there is no reason to keep the effort going. Give me anything Masonic-related and we will post it Tordan's chicken bake fundraiser had almost 857 hits in eleven days and ten shares to other pages; and they sold out. If that isn't success, I don't know what is. It's a nice job, as always, by Jordan Lodge and John

Meixner. Crossroads United Lodge No. 93 at 780 Woods Rd., Solvay will be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage fundraiser. It will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. This will be take-out only. The cost is \$8 per adult; children for \$4; and a family of two adults and two children for \$20. You must call or email to reserve the number of dinners and the time you will be picking up. We need to know how much to pre-

Reservations are due by March 14. Call 315/447or email: WMCRU93@gmail.com. The menu is corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and rolls. It will be another great meal and is the beginning of an annual event, a fundraiser for the Lodge to contribute to the community for worthwhile causes. We are limited to the number of volunteers so contact me if you are interested, as masks and social distancing are also adhered to. Brothers Steve Zabriskie and Ben Lees: this is your second formal invitation, my treat. I owe both of you. Call

or email if you are interested. Happy-Birthday wishes go to the following March Brothers. Martin Benedict Sr. has fifty-three years in Masonry; Jonathon Miles, four years in Masonry; Gary Pugh has ten years; and RW Ron Waterbury is a thirtyfive-year Mason. We hope these Brothers have a wonderful day. If I missed someone, let me know and I will fix one of many mistakes I've made, I'm sure.

Easter is April 4, which means spring is around the corner. Mother Nature has full control over that, though. Over the last two years we have tried contacting our

Surviving Spouses, with no return calls. Either we do not have your telephone number or it's been changed. Call or email me, please, if you are local. We would like to deliver flowers to you in remembrance of your husband our Brother Mason, to show we still think about him. If we don't hear from you with an address and telephone number we will just go with the assumption you are not interested and will take you off the word mailing list.

Our next meetings are March 4 and March 18 at 7:30 p.m. You will receive notice if that changes. Daylight Saving starts on March 14. The Corned Beef and Cabbage fundraiser is Saturday, March 20 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The Annual Syracuse St. Patrick's Parade has been cancelled. The Solvay Masonic Association meeting is being scheduled; you will be notified.

Good Friday is April 2. Easter is April 4. I like dark chocolate and peanut butter in anything, just in case anyone wants to know.

Please keep the following in your prayers: Brother Josh Heitmann is recovering in rehab and has had minimal physical contact with his family in more than six months. I spoke to him personally. Brother Russ Beckwith had eye surgery and another one was scheduled for mid-February. He's doing as well as can be expected with a patch over his eye. RW Ron Waterbury had health issues before Thanksgiving and had his gallbladder removed and is doing better. I just got off the phone with him and he sounded awesome. My mother has had some setbacks, which has caused me to be out of town a few times. Keep all of them in your prayers, please. If anyone else is sick or in need of our help, please contact Secretary Jon

Lorber. Because we have to put our articles in a month ahead of publishing time it is curious how we have to describe the world as we perceive it is going to be. Right now, I see it as sunny in Syracuse—70 degrees, the Lodge filled with all my Brothers, everyone healthy, all back to the weight we were a year and a half ago, clean-shavencluding Dan Campis. And I wish we had back those we lost in the last year. R.I.P.

It has been tough for ev-

eryone to make Lodge meetings (when they were open) or concordant body meetings, with all the changes. I actually found it hard to make virtual meetings as there have been so many of them they seemed to run into each other. Thanks go to Brother Lanny Schantz for setting up Zoom meetings for the Lodge. Having my mom living out of state, and trying to help my brother with her care, isn't easy. She is suffering from dementia and other health issues. I wouldn't wish this disease on anyone.

I get my chops busted for my articles being kind of sort of lengthy but if I give

all of you some information and some jocularity at the same time, my job is complete. I've said this before and I'll say it again: I am just the WM, I don't run this Lodge. It is team work and we have really great Brothers for me to work with.

We have a full kitchen, a large dining room and a wonderful Lodge room in Solvay. If any Lodge or organization is interested in renting space for meetings or to host parties, we would love to hear from you. We may be perfect for your needs.

Memberships: If anyone is interested in becoming a Shriner, just ask me for an application. If any veteran would like to join Masonic War Veterans Post No. 43, contact me.

I love this quote by Brother Heath to those interested in Freemasonry. "Becoming a Mason isn't just wearing the badge, it is earning and respecting the right to wear that badge and knowing wherever you go, you always have a Brother nearby.

God bless you, my Brothers. And Happy St. Patrick's Day!

**Brian Courtney** 

Konosioni 950 (ON) 116 E. Genesee St. Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066 1st & 3rd. Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/637-6431

WM Garry E. Campbell H 315/214-4435, C 315/385-1170



Hello, Brothers. As 2021 is upon us, so too are the COVID vaccines and the hope of herd immunity. I hope each of you who wants the vaccine will be able to get shots in a timely fashion. I have heard the second round is what brings on some ill feelings, so I pray that everyone who gets both shots remains happy and healthy.

We are still meeting virtually on the first and third Thursdays of the month, now on Zoom, so stay tuned week by week. I will share the link via Facebook, email and text. At our February 18 meeting we hosted VW Rick Miori as he lectured on the concordant bodies of Freemasonry.

I ask that you continue to support our charitable endeavors such as the Easter Basket Fund and St. Baldrick's by donating to our PayPal account: klodge950@gmail.com. Also, it is that time of year to donate to our Brotherhood Fund. In the effort to save some money on postage, I will have Secretary John Buckley send out the Brotherhood Fund letter and donation card via email. If you still want a letter and donation card mailed directly to you, please reach out to me.

As always, if any Brother needs assistance or knows of a Brother in need, please contact me. I hope each of you had a happy Valentine's Day with your partner. Please continue to wear your mask and make healthy choices for the safety of yourself, family and community. May the Great Architect of the Universe be with you.

Garry E. Campbell

### **Editor's Prerogative**

#### Getting back on the horse

It seems to me that, while purely anecdotally based, we and our fellow citizens are searching for answers. It is not just fellow Americans but worldwide citizenry; and it is not simple solutions but life-changing and life-preserving and life-advancing answers. Call it light. We are looking for the key to make sense of this confusion, disarray, Babel-like mess—the stuff that has us scratching our head every day and wondering, WTF?

On February 11 I was invited to a new adventure on the Craftsmen Online site, the Reading Room. I registered but was disappointed not to be able to keep the appointment. The work was "Freemasonry in Relation to the Ancient Mysteries" and it is an excerpt from W.L. Wilmshurst's *The Meaning of Masonry* (published sometime, I think, in the early 1920s). I have read his work previously, and enjoyed it. The premise of the Reading Room features a panel discussion of a pre-assigned, downloadable reading and opportunity for participants to participate. Here is a big bit pulled from that assignment. It seems a good starting point for puzzling out meaning.

"We of to-day pride ourselves upon being wiser and more advanced than primitive humanity. We assume that our ancestors lived in moral benightedness out of which we have since gradually emerged into comparative light. All the evidence, however, negatives these suppositions. It indicates that primitive man, however childish and intellectually undeveloped according to modern standards, was spiritually conscious and psychically perceptive to a degree undreamed of by the modern mind, and that it is ourselves who, for all our cleverness and intellectual development in temporal matters, are nevertheless plunged in darkness and ignorance about our own nature, the invisible world around us, and the eternal spiritual verities. In all Scriptures and cosmologies the tradition is universal of a 'Golden Age,' an age of comparative innocence, wisdom and spirituality, in which racial unity and individual happiness and enlightenment prevailed; in which there was that open vision for want of which a people perisheth, but in virtue of which men were once in conscious conversation with the unseen world and were shepherded, taught and guided by the 'gods' or discarnate superintendents of the infant race, who imparted to them the sure and indefeasible principles upon which their spiritual welfare and evolution depended.

"The tradition is also universal of the collective soul of the human race having sustained a 'fall,' a moral declension from its true path of life and evolution, which has severed it almost entirely from its creative source, and which, as the ages advanced, has involved its sinking more and more deeply into physical conditions, its splitting up from a unity employing a single language into a diversity of conflicting races of different speeches and degrees of moral advancement, accompanied by a progressive densification of the material body and a corresponding darkening of the mind and atrophy of the spiritual consciousness. To some who read this the statement will probably be rejected as fabulous and incredible. The supposition of a 'fall of man' is nowadays an unpopular doctrine, rejected by many who contend that everything points rather to a rise of man, yet who fail to reflect that logically a rise necessarily involves an antecedent fall from which a rise becomes possible.'

Stephen L. Zabriskie zabled@aol.com



#### **SWEET-WOODS MEMORIAL CO.**



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Robert Bowles, Liverpool-Syracuse Master, and RW George Anderson III and 60 years.

Liverpool Syracuse 501 (ON) 608 Oswego St. Liverpool, N.Y. 13088 1st & 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m. 315/451-7524

> WM Robert D. Bowles 5431 Tourmaline Dr. Clay, NY 13041 315/436-0997 Rbowles1@twcny.rr.com Secy Gary L. Heinmiller garylheinmiller@gmail.com

Greetings, Brethren. I hope to find you all in good health as this new year marches on. Now that things are looking bright we will be having our in-person meeting on March 3, and forward, at 7:30 p.m. We will be opening on the First Degree so our EA may attend.

We have lots of work ahead of us. We still will be following the Grand Lodge guidelines and ending by 9:30 p.m., wearing masks and social distancing. Remember, if you are feeling under the weather, do not bring it to the Lodge.

While we were not meeting, we were still able to

present the Dewitt Clinton Award to Sky Harris via Zoom. This was posted on our website and Facebook page. If you have not seen it already, please go and check it out.

Our Past Master and DSA recipient William Schuetz and I were able to meet two very upbeat Brothers to present their years of service award. Brother Richard E. Rosenberger was presented his sixty-five-year certificate and RW George A. Anderson III received his sixtieth. It was a pleasure to visit and listen to two extremely healthy and active Brothers.

Brethren, let's have a strong showing on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dust off your blue book and be prepared to put COVID-19 behind us.

Any Brother in need of assistance should reach out to our Secretary or to me. Remember, Brethren, "Make each day your masterpiece."

Robert Bowles



Liverpool-Syracuse WM Robert Bowles and Brother Richard E. Rosenberger, 65-year member.

Nortrip 998 (ON) 116 East Genesee St. Fayetteville, N.Y. 13066 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 315/637-6431

WM Kevin Ingalls kingalls1652@gmail.com 315/380-4303

Secy Tom Mitchell tmmitche@twcny.rr.cor 315/687-9551



Warm greeting, Brothers. Hopefully, March will bring warmer days because as of this moment it is beyond freezing. Enough so that I didn't mind at all a virtual meeting this week. For those who didn't know, we are on every other meeting rotation: the second Thursday is virtual, the fourth Thursday meeting is at Lodge. This is the planned schedule through April and we will plan more from there.

In January we had Nortrip's Official Visit. Though this was not the typical Official Visit event, we did manage to complete and fulfill the required reports and heard the message from the Grand Master. Our second meeting was opened on the First Degree, which is not only healthy ritual but also allowed our Entered

Apprentices to attend.

February's meeting was our usual sweetheart night, and for our virtual meeting we shared some wedding photos, which I truly enjoyed. February's second meeting was focused on our community involvement and how Nortrip Lodge has and will continue to be an active participant in our area. Especially during these trying times there is need for our Masonic voices to be heard and to care and give assistance to those in need.

March's first-meeting agenda has us virtually checking on homebound or distressed Brothers. The following meeting will be at Lodge and we will have our annual Move-up Night.

A second and final mailing has gone out for the Brotherhood Fund. We are over 60% participation but I hope to improve. At Nortrip we typically do better than this. I wish Brothers might respond, if you haven't already. It's the thought that counts.

Please do your best to stay safe. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Kevin Ingalls

## **Event schedule, Mar '21**

Mar 1 ...... MornStar—In Lodge

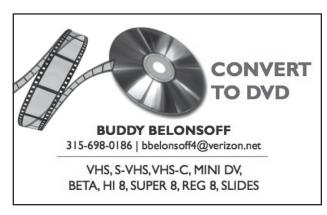
The reader should consult each organization to check the status of these events.

Mar 2	rayCC—in Louge
Mar 3	Pulaski—Zoom
	LivSyr—In Lodge
Mar 4	CrossroadsU
Mar 6	GChapter RAM—Convocation
Mar 10	CC13—Royal Master <sup>o</sup>
Mar 13	Dyslexia CNY—Zoom Gala
Mar 14	Daylight Saving Time
Mar 16	Cortlandville—1°
	FayCC—In Lodge
	SenecaRiver—Edwards
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
	Pulaski—In Lodge
Mar 18	Centerville—Ample Form
	CrossroadsU
Mar 19	KT25—Videos
Mar 20	CrossroadsU—Corned Beef
	Spring
Mar 21	ErieCanal—Breakfast
Mar 23	CC Riverside RAM
Apr 4	Easter
Apr 8	LkOntRAM—Zoom
Apr 21	CayugaCouncil90—Table Council
Apr 27	CC Riverside RAM—OV

PGMs Calvin G. Bond Bruce W. Widger: Thanks

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This discussion continues (and concludes) an examination earlier excerpted in the word.

This piece appeared in the March 1921 issue of The Builder.—Editor.

#### **MASONS' MARKS AND MARK MASONRY**

#### BY BRO. CHARLES A. CONOVER, MICHIGAN (CONCLUDED FROM THE JANUARY NUMBER) OLD GUILDS AND THEIR MARKS

I WILL close this series with a very interesting lecture delivered before the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, in 1912, by Companion Waterman S. C. Russell, of Springfield, which follows:

If we turn to almost any history of Masonry, we shall find illustrated in it one of the old monoliths of Egypt. There will be a line beneath it saying that when the foundations of the old Needle of Cleopatra were dug up there were found upon the stones the emblems, engraved four thousand years before Christ, of the Masonic Order. That is the myth, and the legend. It was there, and it was there for some purpose.

I propose, with this preface, to take you for a little while through one or two of the old cities on the other side of the water, and ask you to review with me, if you have seen these things before, what has recently come to my mind. I remember the week I spent in the ancient city of Bruges, and I thought of all the history and the terrible struggle that had centered there; of that wonderful man, William the Silent, who labored in the Low Countries. Then I sought out some of the old guilds, for that was my special mission at Bruges. Having tried to enter some of the guild houses in Brussels, and failing, I set my face toward Bruges and there I found, after several days of searching, a man who belonged to one of the guilds, and who was also a Mason; and in a mixture of broken English and broken French, we succeeded in getting along very well together.

I want to take you for a few moments into one of the guild halls, but before we enter the portal let us take a moment in review of them. The guilds in the ancient days were nothing more nor less than trade unions, exactly the same as we have today. We find them in England, back long before the Conqueror; far back to the sixth and the beginning of the seventh century. We find that they were divided on exactly the same lines, and for about the same reasons, that our trade organizations are today. Then a little later we find them on the Continent, and there they spread with great rapidity. Throughout that busy section, Holland and the Lowlands, after the great strife with Philip when the Dutch Republic rose, we find that the trade unions, or the guilds, became the center of the trade activities which rebuilt that demoralized country. So, if we should stand in the city of Brussels, down in the old square in front of that fine old Hotel de Ville, looking around on three sides we would see the old guild houses; one erected for archers, another for mariners, another for bakers; in fact, nearly every trade and line of shopwork that we can find in Boston today. When we step over to Bruges, to Amsterdam, or any of the old cities, we find the

Entering the old hall of the archers, I was impressed with its antiquity; with the large number of portraits of its presiding officers for past centuries upon its walls, but particularly with the form of gavel used: an iron ring hanging in front of the presiding officer's chair, and down in the center of the hall a triphammer over the altar. As he took hold of the ring and pulled it, it corresponded with the use of the gavel with us. I was impressed with the fact that that old ring, originally over an inch in diameter, had been worn down in the lower part where the hand was placed so that it was less than half its original diameter; evidently worn with use and the action of perspiration upon it. I examined the old furniture there, and then, while my companion was busy examining the pictures, I took occasion quietly to get behind the great tapestry that hung behind the king's seat, for the presiding officer was called the king. There was a space behind there of some ten or twelve feet, with a fine old fireplace, long disused. On exploring the fireplace, I found a board perhaps five feet long and two and a half to three feet wide. I pulled it out of its dusty corner, took it to the light, where I could look at it, and this is what I found in that old guild house; painted in pictures about 10 x 6 inches, in rows clear across the top from side to side of that old board, I found every position at the altar that you and I are familiar with in the Blue Lodge. I found practically every picture represented on that which is illustrated to us in the various lessons that are taught in all three of those degrees. Pushing it back into its dusty place, with just half the chance to look at it that I desired, I came out from behind the curtain and walked down the side. There I examined the charter of that guild, written in French, and, with but one or two exceptions, the Grand Lodge of this state would sanction it for any subordinate

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lodge. I will not detain you with those exceptions. Permit me to say, however, that the man who applies for membership in that particular guild (and I was told by one of the guildmasters that it was true of them all) must literally serve his apprenticeship, after having his first degree, for not less than three years. You see from whence our apprenticeship came. In the ancient days of the guilds a man actually served an apprenticeship of seven years. One black ball deposited against a candidate settled, once and for all time, his admission to that or any of the allied guilds. There was no six months of grace for a reconsideration, and the hope that somebody might be absent; it was settled. Questioning my friend upon the use of the ballot, I found that if he represented the men of whom he was talking there was a far greater spirit of charity shown in the reception of a candidate through the ballot than sometimes has been displayed in our American Rite of Masonry.

There are many other things connected with those old guilds which time will not permit me to touch upon, which show that out of those ancient days came our speculative Masonry. You know that in our histories of Masonry we can go back comparatively few years; to a very short time, indeed, before the Revolution, when we can find anything in the shape of a ritual; anything in the shape of work that is recognized today, and while we claim to go back to the days of Solomon, we sometimes, after we have said it, wonder if it is true. Speculatively, we are sure of telling the truth when we say it.

Away back in the time of the building of the old abbeys in England and in Scotland, we have always had a legend that those structures were built by the Masons, and this Mark degree that we have spoken of so many times seems to tell us that there was an origin for these Marks. We know, for instance, that every workman in England and Scotland today, whether he belongs to the Masons or not, has a private Mark which he places upon his tools in his bag. I presume many of you have seen the same thing in this country. We also know that in the old days in Scotland every man must have a Mark before he could partake of the communion. I examined this summer several hundred of those old pewter checks which were hanging on the wall and had been collected industriously by someone. I mention these two things only. They have a connection with our Mark degree, if we had time to trace it.

Now, for a moment in one or two of these great buildings which were built by these unknown men. I have not come to dwell tonight upon the beauties of Melrose in its ruins, or upon that wonderful fabric just a little way from Edinburgh, old Roslyn chapel; nor that greater ruin of old Dryburgh. Nothing have I to say about its pristine beauty in the early days or what it represented, but only to call to your memory a few things. We stand there tonight and you who have entered the west gate of Melrose have been impressed, if but a little, with the sombre beauty of that old pile. You, fellow Masons, have wondered about the lives that toiled there; why they did it; and then, when you have gone away, if you have drunk in a little bit of the wonders of the scene, you have said, "At least they wrought well who wrought here."

"If thou would'st view fair Melrose aright,

Go visit it by the pale moonlight."

So said the great Sir Walter Scott, himself a Mason and at one time a member of this old Kilwinning Lodge of Melrose. There, within the chancel window he sat and mused upon these things. I was told by the Secretary that he did a large amount of work in investigating along the same line. I would give days of my life if I could get into some of the old papers in Sir Walter's library, locked up there, where he put down his notes of his Masonic findings. I believe it is due the Fraternity that the Grand Secretaries of some of the bodies over there ascertain just what Sir Walter found.

An old tradition lived for many years in Melrose that the first Masonic lodge in that little town was instituted at the time when Melrose Abbey was built. The townspeople said it was a tradition; many other people said, "It is a tradition," and I can cite a Masonic history which says it is a tradition. It was said that the first man who was Master of this lodge was John Morvow or Murdo, or two or three other ways in which it was spelled. Now it chanced but a very short time ago that a portion of the facing of the old wall inside one end of the transept fell out, and there was exposed to view an old

inscription in ancient Anglo-Saxon. While I have the Saxon here, I will read what perhaps some of you have already read, the inscription that stands upon this wall:

JOHN MORO: SUM TYME: CALLIT: WAS: I: AND BORN: IN PARYEE: CERTAINLY: AND HAD: IN: KEPPING: ALL: MASON: WORK: OF: SATAN: DRUYS: YE: HYE: KYRK: OF: GLASGU: MELROS: AND PASLEY: OF: NYDDYSDAYLL: AND: OF: GALWAY: I: PRAY: TO: GOD: AND: MARY: BAITH: AND: SWEET: ST: JOHN: KEEP: THIS: HALY: KIRK: FRAE: SKAITH:

and then with a square and compass about ten inches long crossing in due form between that inscription and this one which is to follow, we find this:

SA GAES YE COMPASS EVEN ABOUT, SA TRUTH AND LAUTE DO BUT DOUTE. BEHALDE TO YE HENDE Q JOHN MORVO.

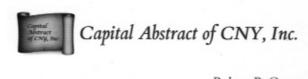
When the casing fell away and they found the old inscription, the Masons in Melrose said, "Surely Melrose Kilwinning Lodge is as old as the foundations of Melrose Abbey." If this inscription which I have called to your attention tonight is worth anything, as inscriptions of the past are, and you remember that Melrose was founded in 1136, we have carried the use of our operative Masonry far back. We have also carried our speculative Masonry far back by means of these recently discovered inscriptions.

I had the extreme pleasure this summer of going into that old lodge one evening with the Secretary, when there was no one present but my traveling companion, who is also a Mason, and the Master of that lodge. He opened the old iron chest, and took out the old records for my examination. I could not read them all; many of them were in that transition period of Latin and Anglo-Saxon, and they had passed into a very bad condition, but I recall one that impressed me wonderfully; an old scroll of parchment at least eighteen feet in length and twelve or fifteen inches wide. What do you suppose it was? It was the roster of the Masons who were captured at the fall of Quebec, and those prisoners were taken to Melrose and there kept for many months. In that day they had an army lodge, and the Melrose Lodge opened to them its own doors. You know how prisoners were held in those days in the army, but these prisoners were allowed free access to the little village of Melrose and the use of this lodge, and over against every one of those names was

I have just a word or two to say about the Mark, and that is that practically every stone in that building, with the exception of the main window in the chancel, called the Apprentice's Window, has a Masonic Mark of some kind upon it. My first examination of the abbey, three years ago, led me to a little skepticism, but last year, when I went down into the old crypt under St. Wilfrid's shrine in Hexham and visited the crypt, also in the old Glasgow Cathedral, and began to think about these things and to get a little bit of the history of the church, I became as thoroughly convinced that those Marks were placed there by the men who wrought the stones as I am that you are listening to me at the present time.

We might well take lessons from the way those men recorded their Marks. I am aware that you have in your

Masons' Marks and Marks Masonry... see page 7



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## **OSWEGO DISTRICT**

#### **DDGM** REPORT



Leon A. Bulriss 315/668-6521 (h) 315/720-4798 (c) Ibulriss@aol.com

Greeting, Brethren. With Grand Master Sardone's webinar broadcast on January 28, followed by his letter on January 29, we received some long-awaited news. I will summarize the webinar broadcast and several recent emails from Grand Lodge for our Brothers who may not have computers and access to email. The Grand Master was pleased to report that the result of several of his programs, which included selling COVID masks, bricks for the Greenhouse patio, the Telethon and others had brought in \$100,000 for the Brotherhood Fund. He went on to say that due to COVID-19 the Brotherhood Fund Annual Drive is in need of your support more than ever. If you haven't made a donation yet please do so. We have many Brothers in need of our help during these difficult times.

The Grand Master stated on the webinar and also wrote in his letter of January 29 that he was lifting the tenperson limit for Lodge meetings. Each Master can now determine the maximum number of Brothers he can have in a Lodge meeting, following all the usual COVID rules and restrictions. These were words we were all waiting to hear and it will now make it possible to perform Degrees, under the Grand Master's Approved Guidelines by the Custodians of the Works. It goes without saying that masks must remain on at all times; and "No group pictures with masks off even for a few seconds.'

The crux of the Grand Master's broadcast was the 2021 Grand Lodge Annual Communication. This too is discussed in his letter. "There will be a reduced Grand Lodge Session on May 3, 2021," with a second session to be determined when conditions dictate it to be safe to do so. "Additional information will be forthcoming through an official announcement." He ended the webinar reminding us not to discuss our Masonic business on social media. "Think Twice Before Speaking

> **DDGM** see 2nd column

#### **STAFF OFFICER**



Shawn Tuff Shawn.tuff@gmail.com No News Received

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

Once."

In Grand Master Sardone's Official Announcement Letter, dated February 5, to the brethren of New York, he goes into great depth. After consultation with the Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Masters committee, the Chairman of the Convention Planning Committee, Masonic attorneys and others, he was able to come to his final decision on how we can best move forward and stay within the boundaries of our Masonic Constitution. Grand Lodge will be opened on May 3, 2021 and then go to Labor and Refreshment. Grand Lodge will then reopen as soon as the State's gathering parameters permit. Constitutionally, this will allow our Lodges to hold their elections and installations following the May session. He stressed that this was not a unilateral decision and the bottom line was the welfare, safety, and the health of all our members and focus on our Lodges. In yet another a letter dated February 8, correspondence from the Grand Lodge Committee of Jurisprudence expressed their full agreement and support of the above decisions made by

What a difference a month makes! We can almost feel things slowly getting back to normal and that light at the end of the tunnel becoming brighter. With restrictions beginning to lift some on our Lodge activities we must remember the need to stay vigilant in all we do to maintain the safety and health of our families, Brothers and neighbors. This is the best way we can all help get our lives back to the old normal. We should not hesitate to give wise counsel to a Brother. You may save a life.

Grand Master Sardone.

You may have noticed as I have in my area, the increase of COVID cases within our own neighborhoods. They have become more prevalent now than any time in the past year. Our own District Staff Officer RW Shawn Tuff and several members of his family had

> **DDGM** see 3rd column

#### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS**



**Patrick Fasulo** 315/760-7676 ptfasulo@yahoo.com

**AGL Bob Boutell** No News Received

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

COVID. Shawn who was in the hospital for several days is now doing well. I was told by Shawn that I could tell anyone who wasn't convinced how serious this disease is to contact him and he would be happy to relay his experience to them. With that said, things really are getting better but each of us must continue do his part to be safe and not cause the spread of this disease any further. Please, seriously consider getting the COVID vaccine shot when it becomes available to you.

I have been doing a great deal of thinking of late about stress. We seem to hear so much about stress these days on the boob tube and how it is affecting men, women, children and even our pets. I decided to do some selfanalysis and try to find out what causes the most stress in my life. I feel pretty lucky, after all I am retired, reasonably healthy for my age and have been happily married to the same lady for nearly fifty-five years. All of which should eliminate the biggest causes of stress in one's life. Why then do I still feel stressed out at times? Could it be the pandemic, cabin fever, am I bored? I don't think so. What, then? What, where and when do I feel the most stress and anxiety?

After an extensive study, much data gathering and hours of consultations with my therapist (my wife), the analysis pointed toward my over-indulgence in TV news broadcasts. Not so much the local news but the other stuff. You know: the stuff that causes nail biting, verbalizing with the TV and I can't leave out the late night talk shows. I concluded that I needed to go on a TV news show diet. At first it was difficult. I kept feeling I was missing out on something important but I persevered and it became easier as time went on. To make a long story short, the result of my study was that the news show diet was a success. Although this diet had not done anything to reduce my body mass it has taken an enormous of

> **DDGM** see 4th column

#### **DDGM** from 3rd column . . .

weight off my mind. I wonder if a cell phone diet would also work? As Forrest Gump would say, "That's all I have to say about that.'

The Children's Dyslexia Center of Central New York is holding its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala fundraiser on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. This year's virtual celebration is titled "Reading Can Be an Illusion." It presents Leon Etienne, nationally acclaimed Illusionist and Magical Arts Performer. Again this year there will be the always-popular Basket Raffle, each basket full of great items and surprises. To purchase tickets for the Basket Raffle, to make donations or for further information call the Children's Dyslexia Center of CNY at 315/736-0574. Tickets for the virtual show may be purchased by credit card at the Valley of Utica AASR website, www.aasruticany.com. Deadline for the show tickets is March 4. This is sure to be a great night of entertainment, for an even greater cause. All this is viewed from the comfort of your own

Brothers, stay safe and healthy. We are heading in the right direction together. Leon A. Bulriss

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

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



Greetings, Brothers! I hope you and your family are doing well during this winter. I apologize that I haven't sent a word article in a while.

A couple of Brothers gathered at the Lodge on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January to make meals for some of our older members. It was good to get together and catch up. I would like to do something similar before winter is over.

Again, Brothers, I hope you and your family are doing well. If you ever need something please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Bryan Morse

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

WM Duane Crapser



Guess who Raised new Masons? Hiram Lodge, that is who. What a great evening! This is the second time Hiram Lodge has used the Social-Distanced Degree format. Once again it was a success. Given the latitude to give explanation during the Degree has been a great way to enhance the learning. Thanks go to all who participated and congratulations to our new Master Masons.

One of the things I love Hiram

see 5th column

#### Hiram from 4th column . . .

about life is listening to oldtimers talk about the past. I have so many memories of sitting with family, friends and even some of my patients listening to the stories they share. The most impactful stories are the stories with lessons. As when the person was watching something, or someone, and was able to chime in, whispering good advice. This is teaching a lesson and watching how the advice played

Are we taking the time to give advice and standing back to watch it play out? Or are we pushing so it is done the way we would do it? Are you guilty of the most-spoken words in Masonry? Have you said, "That's not how we did it!" or something to that effect, implying that way—your way—is the better option? In fifty years will a Masonic meeting play out like this?

Back when I was Master we had Brothers in Lodge who would tell us how they did it. I had ideas of my own but that was the way they did it. That is, if we have Masonry in fifty years.

Even as we were planning our recent Third Degree with Grand Lodge Guidelines in hand discussion was tense as to if we should even be doing the Degree. Luckily, cooler heads prevailed, and using the words of our handy GL guidelines. (In order to facilitate a better understanding of the Degree Ritual by the candidates, the Master and other appropriate officers as authorized by the Master shall be free to make informal explanations within the bounds of propriety and good taste as to what would ordinarily take place and what will happen in the al-

As always, I am open to discussion as to what is the best to way to secure the future of Freemasonry from the ways to maintain the foundation that is the lessons taught during Degrees to the delivery of those messages in a way all are receptive to. Remember that it was not long ago that radio stations were refusing to play Elvis Presley and Rock 'n Roll because people feared what would be next. Of course, some of the changes that came probably could have been avoided, like disco, but think of a world without Janis Joplin, Jimmy Hendrix, Elton John, Michael Jackson or even Garth Brooks. Their music wasn't the way the old-timers did it but they brought joy to the ears of millions. All of it secured the path forward that secured the foundation of Rock 'n Roll. Do we have it in us to change while securing the foundation of Masonry? Time will

Duane E Crapser

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

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, Brothers. At this point in the year February is nearly over, days are getting longer and hopefully, restrictions are letting up. We have planned to do a Zoom communication for March 3. Then our next on March 17 will be opening in our Lodge room. Brother Marvin has determined that we can accommodate up to twenty Brothers within distancing rules. It will again be nice to see your smiling faces in person. We will have to determine if Brother Junior Warden is allowed to oversee refreshments.

I know February 22 has passed but nonetheless would like to share some insights to one of our most famous Brothers. George Washington was born at Popes Creek, VA on February 22, 1732 on a plantation known as Wakefield. At the age of seven his family moved to a farm in Fredericksburg, VA. When young George was eleven his father passed away. Shortly thereafter he went to live with his half- brother Lawrence at Mount Vernon. Lawrence had inherited the estate on his father's pass-

George joined Masonry at the age of twenty, receiving his Degrees at the Lodge in Fredericksburg. On November 4, 1752 he paid two pounds and three shillings to join. We have tried to relate that to today's dollar and though not exact, it probably was something like \$550, maybe more.

We believe because of his rugged upbringing and strong character and Masonic beliefs he was able to endure severe hardship of many battles and ultimately win our victory as a free nation. As our first President of these United States he started this country on a path as one of the greatest nations in history. His Masonic beliefs helped him to endure any obstacle laid before him.

After the war he returned to Mount Vernon where he returned to farming until his death on December 14, 1799. There are many Masonic artifacts at the Mount Vernon historic site.

May the Great Architect watch over America. And watch over our Masonic family until we meet again on the level.

Fred Dashnaw



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Auburn Shrine Club Supports Our Hospitals March 2021 the word Page 7

## CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

#### DDGM REPORT



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

Welcome back to the quarries, Brothers! Now that we are once again allowed to meet, under "reasonable precautions," it is time to shake off the Couch-Potato Blues, roll up our sleeves and get our Lodges up and running on all eight cylinders. Remember, it has been about one and a half years since most communities have been in a normal lifestyle. Unless they or a close family member is a Freemason, the populace may well have relegated us to Things from the Past. Do something to get out there and be seen. Have a chicken barbecue, throw a corned beef and cabbage dinner, do something so you can be seen-and do not forget to advertise it locally. Do not be just in the community, be part of the community.

Grand Lodge will convene this year. The Jurisprudence committee has come out in support of the Grand Master's plan to open Grand Lodge on May 3 of this year. Using a quorum formed of Lodges in the City, after opening they would go From Labor to Refreshment and reconvene at a time and place deemed, where all Lodges could be present, and conduct business then and there. I received a call from the Grand Master the day before the Jurisprudence Committee released their letter. The Grand Master's and Committee's major concerns with the use of satellite locations had to do with voting and allowing Brothers to voice concerns over the issues at hand.

At the present time Cortlandville is planning a First Degree on the 16th of March with as many as seven new candidates. Tri-Valley is planning on a First Degree in April with as many as three. I have heard rumblings that Cazenovia has a few and Homer keeps telling me they have three in waiting. Now is the time, Brothers. Now is when we need the growth. Let these good men learn how to become better men, husbands and fathers through Freemasonry.

It appears that we are coming out of that long tun-

More DDGM see 2nd column

## STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT

No News Received

**DDGM from 1st column** 

nel called COVID-19. People are getting ready to and are socializing again. People have questioned whether being alone is enough, and overwhelmingly found the answer is no! If we are not ready for the cream as it rises, somebody else will skim the cream and leave the whey.

Moe Skinner

TRI-VALLEY 148 611 Stone St. Oneida, N.Y. 13421 1st Thurs., 7:30 p.m.

WM Chuck Toombs, 315/687-5783, ctoombs@twcny.rr.com Secy Walter Boronow, 315/495-2855 H 315/750-5985 C, walterisagenius@aol.com



Hello, Brethren. I trust you're well. As we prepare to open Lodge again I can appreciate going dark in the winter months. I look forward to putting the cold weather travels and all its associations behind us. I also look forward to putting this dreaded COVID behind us in short order.

We have three candidates patiently waiting for their First Degree. Preparations are being made to hold a Degree in April. There have been more postponements than I care to mention but we remain intent on resuming our work making Masons.

It's encouraging to have communications within our District where our respective Lodges build together in Lodge and in fellowship. These are clearly new times but our ritual will sustain us as we build and pass the torch to a new generation of Masons. There's much hope for Tri-Valley Lodge as we navigate this path forward.

Only time can tell us how life will be this coming spring and summer. Lodge emails will inform you of Degree work and other matters of great importance. These are indeed difficult times for us all. If you are in need of our aid or sympathy, please contact the Lodge.

Chuck Toombs

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

WM Tom Whitney
Brethren, greetings from
a cold and snowy February.
I am pleased that Grand
Lodge is going to allow us to
work back into our Lodges. I
think my initial reaction is
Hooray! Give me everything
Masonic right now.

I look forward to getting back to work in the quarry, as I know many of you do. However I think we will work back in on the hybrid side and figure out offerings for those who want to come out and those who wish to re-

#### ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

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

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

No News Received

Cortlandville from 2nd column . . .

main out. Cortlandville is going to continue on the path laid before. We will return to Lodge and we will also figure out a way to involve our Brothers who wish not to risk it but to be involved.

Our District has made great strides in coming together over this virtual break. We need to continue on this path, as well. I hope to see another meeting soon for discussion. We have so many ideas and plans to be laid.

I look forward to seeing everyone and working with all of you. We will be on the path forward, starting now. Ritual work must be done, now that we can, to get our new members going. This break we had may prove to be helpful, as people will want social interaction again. Are you ready to make good on our core values?

Tom Whitney

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

WM Clifford Kostuk, ckostuk@cortlandschools.org

Brethren, The Beat Goes On! Just like the 1967 Sonny and Cher top-10 hit, the COVID-19 situation continues. However, the numbers—by whatever metrics you choose to look at—are improving. Infections, positive test results and hospitalizations are declining as immunization rates increase.

As of the writing of this article, the Grand Master has allowed in-person meetings to continue with as many Brothers as can safely social distance in the Lodge room. All other safety protocols remain in place. Possibly, reopening is around the corner as safety continues to improve.

If you have not yet paid your dues please do as soon as possible. If you are in need of anything or know a Brother in need please contact any of the officers.

Wade A. Caler

Past Grand Master Carl J. Fitje Sponsor

#### Masons' Marks and Marks Masonry from page 5 . . .

was uncovered and there they

found a stone. I speak now to

chapter rooms, as we have in Morning Star, magnificent Mark Books. They are works of art; picture galleries. Everything that a man can think of in the way of ornamentation which is a little bit different and perhaps a little bit better, he gets an artist to inscribe upon that page. How many of you can sit down now and put your Mark on paper and have it anywhere near like the Mark in the lodge book? What is the Mark for, if it is not to identify our work? We found that most of the Marks on the stones in Melrose, and in fact all the cathedral stones, consisted of a definite number of points; three, five, seven,

I want to talk to you about one particular Mark, and it is a peculiar thing. You will remember that Pompeii was destroyed in 79 B.C. You will recall, also, that David the First of Scotland, over a thousand years after the destruction of Pompeii, founded Melrose Abbey. Isn't it wonderful that when Pompeii lay beneath the ashes there were Marks recorded on the stones in Melrose and Dryburgh that are exact duplicates of those drawn upon the old stones in the foundations of Pompeii, as since discovered in the very recent excavations? Isn't it wonderful? Certainly there is connection between the use of those Marks, because their very form shows they were not mere accident; they were definite designs. If we study the Marks in one of the abbeys and classify them according to their points, we shall arrive at other conclusions relative to the importance of the rank held by the men who wrought the stones.

I hope that I have said enough about this old abbey, as far as its stones are concerned. I want to take you for just a moment to Dryburgh, another ruin. There I wish to call your attention to an old chapter house, all that is left of that ancient ruin. There is a roof upon it and the Grand Lodge of Scotland met there three years ago, and the remarkable thing about that meeting, showing the great progress that has been made during these years, was that the altar used was an ancient Druid stone; on which the Druids offered the blood of human sacrifices long before Christianity reached that land, but now re-consecrated to the living God by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

There is another wonderful thing. About two years ago, in widening the excavation a little bit about the wall of the old abbey, a portion that had never been dug over the Sir Knights. You know in those old days the gravestones were laid flat, rather than standing. There was the name, the insignia of rank, and there were two swords in the position with which our Sir Knights are so familiar, all deeply engraved upon the stone, telling just the position he held when in Jerusalem with the Order. The spade has much yet to reveal to us in the ruins of those old abbeys. There is one other lesson to be drawn from them, and that is this: I found that all the stones which were rejected by the overseers, as well as the keystone, are put to some good use. I have not time to draw the moral: that will suggest itself to you; but the old crypts and the foundations of the outer buildings were all built of the rejected stones. If you wander down into the old sacristy of Melrose, where the candles were kept, and see the old stones that were rejected and find the Marks there, if you examine those stones, you will see that they were never cut for the place where they were put. Then if you look at the pillars, finally at the top of the great pillar in the corner, which is not as ornate as the others,. you will find the same Mark recorded, and nowhere else in the building. Let us hope that the man who brought his first work, which was rejected, finally wrought so well that his work was placed in that wonderful cappiece many feet above the ground, where it has stood, holding the great springing groin, as it has done for centuries. I will not moralize upon it; I will leave that to

Just one more word. I want to take you for a moment to another dream in stone, Roslyn Chapel, and if you are Blue Lodge Masons, Chapter Masons, Council Masons, if you stand at the entrance to Roslyn Chapel and look down to the far end, to the high altar, you will see figured in the various arches there the progress of Masonry from the Entered Apprentice clear through to the end of the degrees, each arch rising more beautiful than the preceding. There is a progress in ornamentation; there is the whole Masonic work wrought in stone; so plain that he who knows may read. You know the story of the 'Prentice Pillar and the Master's Pillar. The Craftsman a short time ago printed one version of it. I presume all of you have read it. While it differs in some respects from some of the other versions, it is in the main true. Doubtless all of you have seen photographs of that wonderful 'Prentice Pillar. I will not stop to relate the story. I want you to remember that right at the foot of the 'Prentice Pillar there is a stairway leading to the vault below. If you descend that stairway by three, five, seven, and nine steps, as you will find them between the various platforms, you will eventually reach the old crypt. We have that in another way in the Royal Arch degree. I cannot tell you anything about the council representation other than what some of you see I have suggested, but don't ever go to Edinburgh, no matter what you go there for, without going out the seven miles to Roslyn and seeing the only piece of masonry that was left unharmed by Cromwell; the only perfect stone chapel that remains from the ancient days.

So I might take you through all these various chapels and cathedrals; down into their crypts, and we would find everywhere the Marks of the Mason. We would find them not only there, but we would find them all the way up the columns, into the groinings of the highest arches. We would find that Masons' Marks had been left there

Now, companions, in closing, may I say one word? The brevity of time has made it necessary for me to skip very quickly from point to point. If I have left with you the idea that our Order perhaps does have a definite foundation in the past, not only operative but speculative, and if I have led you to think that we are in the line of progress, that on that foundation laid so well have we been building, then I have succeeded in my mission, because you will not be content until you look a little deeper into the foundation of our Masonic ritual. Let me say that there is nothing in the world that I know of that gives me such pleasure as the study of our chapter ritual. That is why I have been searching, spending my hours and my days when I might have been doing something else abroad, in delving in these old ruins, that I might establish in my own mind this dream, this legend, and practically make it real.

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## **CAYUGA-TOMPKINS** DISTRICT

#### **DDGM** REPORT



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

Greetings, all. The days are getting longer, which means we are on the downhill side of winter. We have seen another mild winter season with several above normal temperature periods.

Don't forget to set your clocks back as Daylight Saving Time begins on the 14th. Other dates in March to remember include St. Patrick's Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>; the 20<sup>th</sup> begins the first day of spring; on the 27<sup>th</sup> Passover begins at sundown; and Palm Sunday is the 28th.

Here are a few fun facts: St. Patrick was not Irish! The Shamrock (three-leaf clover) is not a symbol of luck but the less common four-leaf variety is. The turning of the Chicago River the color green has been a tradition of more than fifty years and can only be done by direct descendants of the Butler and Rowan families who began the tradition. The first NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in 1762. Typically, 3 million pints of Guinness Beer are consumed in America on St. Patrick's Day, 13 million pints world-

As of this writing the restriction on Lodge attendance has been loosened and we can meet in larger numbers, per local guidelines. Masks, social distancing and all COVID protocols still need to be observed. Some of the Lodges in the District have begun meeting again. The choice to physically meet is up to individual Masters. Lodge visitation is still restricted. Even with the lower number of positive cases and the increase of vaccinations, we are still at risk. Degree work can be done, but only per the COVID instructions. Please notify me if your Lodge is planning to hold a Degree. For those holding virtual meetings, please send out an invitation to me and your Brothers. We can visit electronically. When appropriate, invite your prospective members who are waiting in the wings.

Masonic Education courses will be offered online this year. RW Tabone is working with the Education Committee and will be noti-

> More DDGM see 2nd column

#### STAFF **OFFICER**



Anthony J. Tabone thats1happitooth@ verizon.net No News Received

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

fying Lodges with details once they become available. The planning of the District Memorial Service has begun and we are looking at April as a possible time for this event. More info will be coming to your Secretary

As you have seen and heard, the holding of the Grand Lodge Session this year is still not definitively decided. As the plan unfolds in the upcoming weeks, all will be notified.

There is still time to make a donation to this year's Masonic Brotherhood Fund Drive to help with the costs of many Masonic programs. Closer to home, if you know of anyone in our communities in need of assistance, please contact me with details. Let's see if we can help them through our Masonic Charities Corp.

I hope to see you all soon. Until then, stay safe and do good things.

Dave Barnello

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

WM Tim Carmon wift Kelly

We remain at very limited Lodge activity. However, there are some things worth reporting. Our annual American Red Cross blood drive was conducted on Wednesday, February10 at the Union Springs Fire Department. We sponsor the event along with the US Lions Club. The blood drive was very successful and the units collected are extremely helpful during this period of a heightened need for blood. Thanks go to all who do-

We continue to receive notes of appreciation from our Widows. We made contact with them through our Christmas poinsettia outreach event.

With a somewhat relaxed set of COVID-19 restrictions, we had our first Table Lodge in many months. Brother Steve Hunter prepares the meal. As usual, din-

More Warren Salem Town see 3rd column

#### **ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER**

Jeffrey Lampman, 315/406-8050, jefflamppost@gmail.com Anthony Vaughan, 607/351-6872, aqvaughan56@hotmail.com No News Received

#### **Warren Salem Town** from 2nd column . . .

ner was at 6 p.m. on February 16.

Several Brothers continue work on a project to preserve our historical heritage. It involves obtaining a picture of each Past Master, placing these in 5X7 picture frames, noting their years of service as Master, and mounting them on a progressive board. At this point we have pictures of all but three or four Past Masters. Everyone has been contacted; and this is a reminder for Brothers to submit a picture. As soon as we label and mount all the pictures we will be pursuing pictures of Past Masters to develop a progressive board for Salem Town Lodge.

In the Birthday Corner there are five Happy-Birthday Brothers. Brother Wesley Daggett is a March 22 baby; Brother Clair Morse is March 23; Brother Pete Russell, March 24; Brother Paul Schenck is near monthend on the 29th, while Brother Richard Palmer closes out the month on the 30th.

Stay safe, Brothers. Happy St. Patrick's Day! Warren Albrecht

#### **ERIE CANAL 141**

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

WM Mike Lees, Secy Gary Mowers

Greetings, Brothers. Hopefully, the winter is in our rearview mirror. Daylight Saving Time begins on March 14 and the first day of spring is March 20. We are going to celebrate by holding a drive-through breakfast fundraiser on March 21. This will be pre-order only. Call 315/840-0391 or message to Erie Canal Lodge # 141 on Facebook.

Other fundraisers include barbecue chicken dinners on Mother's Day and Father's Day, Our annual Golf Tournament is currently scheduled for June 27—if the pandemic is under control and the state authorizes an event of this magnitude. We are planning new and interesting features so mark your calendar.

Zoom video meetings are being extensively used by the Lodge to keep moving forward on Lodge business and fundraisers. Opening Lodge and doing Degree work is a high priority and we have been discussing the options. Again, the pandemic and concerns for the wellbeing of all have to take a high priority. Brothers, there is a lot going on with your Lodge. We need everyone to participate in the video

> **Erie Canal** see 4th column

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

meetings. The video meetings are accessible with your computer or by phone.

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

Gary Mowers

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

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



Brothers, all is well with our Lodge thanks to W Scott Harris and his staff. Scott has been superb during this crisis, always available and upbeat. I for one really appreciate his enthusiasm and that of SW Frisco, JW Sheppard and all the other Brothers who have supported our Lodge. I've been a Brother for fifty years now and can't remember a better team that steps up to the plate and performs when needed.

On the good news/bad news front, SW Jeremy Frisco is getting married and starting a new job in St. Louis, MO. But we are going to miss his smiling face and sense of humor.

Condolences go to RW Dan Lort, PDDGM, whose mom passed away. We send get-well wishes to the mom of RW Mike Miller; and MW Ed Gilbert, Past Grand Master, who is home from rehab; and to RW Rich Morley, Past Senior Grand Warden, who is also home recuperating.

Our February 4 meeting was enhanced by RW Mike Miller's presentation of the Middle Chamber Lecture to our Fellowcrafts. As always, he did a really great job and we give kudos to Mike. The February 18 meeting was regular business as we finalized plans for the February 28 drive-through chicken barbecue.

Again, our guys and gals came through by donating all products needed. We are pre-selling 150 dinners and right now are half-way home. I hope you kept selling. We also have had \$125 in cash donations towards the cost of the chickens, which is awesome.

We will be planning our Annual March Madness get-March. More information will be announced. We are allowed up to twenty-five members in Lodge by Grand Lodge, which includes any functions, also.

Last but not least, our dining hall has been completely redone. The walls and ceiling were painted by the Lodge Brothers and the floors were stripped and waxed by the Cayuga County Jail inmates, thanks to the blessing of Sheriff Schenck. It looks great! We give thanks to all who participated.

That's all for now. Take care, God bless and stay safe. Tommy Ostrander

#### **KING HIRAM 784**

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

WM Tony Cirulli, 607/280-9909, anthnycrll@aol.com Mike McLaughlin Mmclaug1@twcny.rr.com

Hello, Brothers. I hope these tidings find everyone in good health and spirits. We have been having our meetings via Zoom on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. While it's nice to be able to see each other and communicate, I long for the opportunity to be able to shake hands and greet my Brothers in person. Until we can meet in person we will continue to have Zoom meetings that start at 7 p.m. If you'd like to join us please let Master Tony Cirulli know so he can add you to the invite list so you can join in.

The Newfield Highway Department has partnered with our Lodge to put up our Christmas decorations, American Flags and most recently, banners recognizing graduating High School Seniors. The guys from the town have been hanging these up for more than thirty years. To continue doing this the town needed to purchase a lift and they didn't have the resources to purchase one. Our Lodge stepped up and helped the town purchase a lift so they can continue to

help us and serve the town's needs.

In addition to assisting the town we have been active with support of both the Newfield and Enfield food banks. These are both great organizations that do a standup job for our community and it's an honor to assist them. If any of you have a desire to get involved with a group that lives our Masonic creed, these groups could use your help.

The Lodge has also pledged support to the Newfield Historical Society, who will be renting a new space next to the public library. This group does a great job of preserving and presenting Newfield's history and we look forward to great things from this group this coming year.

If any of you are in need of aid or assistance, please let me know. My personal motto has always been, Smile every day. Of late, I've expanded that motto to be: Make someone else smile every day. In these times there are Brothers who are unable to get out and about. February and March have always been the cabin-crazy months; COVID has amplified that. Reach out to someone, make that phone call. You'd be surprised at how good you'll feel lifting someone else's spirits.

Mike Mclaughlin



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#### **Consistory**

Greetings! Great news on the horizon: It looks as though the restrictions placed by our MW Grand Master William M. Sardone are starting to relax. We are planning a date for the 32° to be conferred in a hybrid form, approved last fall by Ill. David P. Spenser, 33°, Deputy for NYS. We have a nice-sized class, in waiting since last spring, to be Knighted Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret.

In the interim the class has grown, thanks to the Virtual Reunion program presented by the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. This program during this pandemic has brought in more than 1000 new members in the fall of 2020. This is according to the February 2021 article in *The Northern Light* Scottish Rite magazine. Congratulations go to Brennan J. Parken, 32°, for leading the program.

Mark your calendar for Monday, March 15. We plan to present the 23° as a "Radio Degree" via Zoom. To view this presentation please contact Valley Secretary James D. Swan, Jr. and look for the link in his email.

We are also hopeful that we can present the Feast of the Paschal Lamb live on March 27. Keep a look out forthe time to be determined. Many thanks go to the Knights of St. Andrew and Ill. Rick Powell, 33°, and Lady Marian for their virtual Robert Burns celebration on January 30. It was a huge success.

Warmer days are ahead. Stay safe.

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk

## Lodge of Perfection

Princes. Greetings, March brings hopes of a return to normalcy and thoughts of spring, warmer weather and longer days. It is our deepest hope we can start meeting again in person. During the February executive meeting we discussed going forward with the modified 32°. Many of our candidates have been waiting far too long. We also hope to host the Feast of the Paschal Lamb at the Memorial Center on March 27.

I want to give special thanks to Ill. Richard Powell and his lovely wife Marian for hosting an outstanding virtual Burns commemoration. Among the many Knights of St. Andrew from the Valley we also had Knights from NYC, Rochester and Binghamton in attendance. We had inspirational and funny videos, several Robert Burns poems, Scottish songs and many toasts, and the Address to a

Haggis by Steve Maddox, DSA. Brother Powell and his lady showed how a

little creativity mixed with a little effort can produce a virtual event with interesting and engaging content that captures the essence of excellence in Scottish Rite Masonry.

Reflecting on the craziness of the political and social climate in the United States these days, I present a little March trivia. On March 3, 1753 George Washington received his Fellowcraft Degree in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia. On March 6, 1775 several black men, including one named Prince Hall, were Initiated into Freemasonry in Boston. This marked the beginning of what became a huge movement in the United States known as Prince Hall Masonry, composed mainly of African Americans. These Masonic Milestones helped shape the philosophy and unity that made America the great melting pot of prosperity and home of the free. In these difficult times of segregated thought, may we never forget our Masonic philosophy and history and may we continue to spread our beneficent influence on all mankind.

Terry A. Byard

#### Hospitaler

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. I hope everyone is still healthy as we get ready to head into March. Dianne and I received our second shot of the Moderna vaccine in mid-February but we are not letting our guard down, as the variant strains are still a concern out there. It looks as though we will be wearing masks, social distancing and having Zoom meetings for a while longer.

If you are in need of some confidential assistance please contact us. We may be able to provide help. I know I sound like a broken record, but please keep using hand sanitizer and wear that mask.

Dick Freeman

#### **Rose Croix**

The Book of Life is sealed and Wisdom, now unequal to its task, yields to Folly. Strength, undermined by Evil, surrenders to Weakness; Beauty is overshadowed by Sin. We are reminded that mankind has often made the same mistakes over and over again, as the Book of Life reveals. The people seem to ignore the past and fail to learn from its pages. Man, therefore seeks a new Temple to the Creator but it is no longer built of stone or wood but within our hearts. New laws to govern our spiritual being are needed.

The Eighteenth Degree plays off the prior Degree,

searching for a way to open the sealed Book of Life. It teaches that our hearts will be the new Temple where the Creator is worshipped in Spirit and in Truth. The new law will be that of Love, that mankind may understand and practice. The Word is found and the Sealed Book is opened.

To get to the True Word and Light that will yield an understanding of love and hate, charity and selfishness, tolerance and acceptance, a reconciliation of opposites must take place. It is a balancing of beliefs in a Creator greater than one's self and fellow Brothers. The Brothers will learn that Masons accept all good men of whatever creed or faith and understand that Freemasonry may teach great Truths that do not exclusively belong to any one religion. Understanding this is necessary to live according to the New Law of Love.

From the book written by Arturo DeHoyos, Scottish Rite Rituals: Monitor and Guide:

"The Knights of Rose Croix practice Charity in all its aspects and they derive strength to labor in the cause of Humanity from Faith and Hope.

"...when the True Word is recovered, the Cubical Stone is changed into the Mystic Rose; the Blazing Star reappears in its entire splendor, the columns of the Temple are reestablished, and the working tools of Masonry are restored. The True Light will dispel the Darkness, and the New Law will rule upon the Earth."

Gary W. Hamburg

#### Princes of Jerusalem

Greetings, Sovereign Princes. As the days get longer and (hopefully) warmer, it is time to think about our next AASR year.

We would like to see some new blood in the officer lines. If you are interested, let the office know. We will be looking to fill one position in CPJ.

Something I have been thinking about is that the Valley of Syracuse doesn't get mentioned in *The Northern Light* that much. I want to see that change. We are an excellent Valley and do some wonderful things (when we can), so why not let the entire NMJ know about us? Submitting an article is easy and if you don't know how to do it I will gladly do it for you.

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

James McNeal

# Notes from the Children's Dyslexia Center CNY

By the time you read this we may have already enjoyed a virtual evening with Illusionist Leon Etienne. A great deal of effort and hard work by the special Board Committee and Gineal went into making the evening a success. We are very grateful

#### **COMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

Website: www.syr-aasr.org

March 2021

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

Mar 27 ...... Feast of the Paschal Lamb 2:30 p.m.

Exact event details to be sent from the Valley office due to COVID-19 meeting requirements.

April 2021

April 5 ...... Executive Committee Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Apr 26.....** Trustees/Executive Committee Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.

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

#### Allegiance

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Syracuse, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose officers are: Ill. David Alan Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Grand Lieutenant Commander; Ill. Richard W. Elliot, 33°, Grand Minister of State; Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°, Deputy for New York State

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK - Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Grand Lt. Commander, Grand Almoner, Past Deputy for New York; Ill. G. Michael Morris, 33°; Ill. Steven C. Stefanakos, 33°; Ill. David E. Barnes, 33° ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK - Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°; Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, 33°; Ill. Fredrick D. Greene, 33; Ill. Edward R. Trosin, 33°; Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, Past Grand Minister of State, Past Deputy for New York; Ill. P. Michael Nielsen, 33°; Ill. Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°, Past Grand Master General of Ceremonies

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

that the Board members stepped up to the task.

Meanwhile, back at the Center, we continue to work with our children and train our two scholar/trainees. We continue to be extremely diligent with the COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe. Perfect attendance (seldom achieved at any time) is out this year but we are thankful the tutors and families have been cautious and stayed home until assured that they are COVID-free. Gineal and I are well versed in taking temperatures and accomplished at disinfecting all surfaces. We continue to deep clean every week and we have access to a disinfectant fogger should we need

Our families thank us for our efforts and for giving their children the opportunity to be tutored in person. For some, their visits here are the only outings they get. As a whole, the children are doing well and making good progress, which is all that we can ask. Some of the children struggle with the virtual (home) and mixed-school (home and school) situations, as learning new things is often a struggle at best. We are attempting to give them a better base to work from.

This can only happen because of your support. For that we are eternally grateful. We hope for an on-site Recognition Ceremony this June. As with the GALA, we are trying to be flexible and may have to call on our Special Committee to make something happen in the virtual world. Stay tuned as we wend our way through this bold new world.

Linda L. Martin

## AASR seeks new members

Curious about the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry? Master Masons in good standing are encouraged to complete an application for Degrees. The application fee is \$110 and annual dues are \$83. Application forms are at the Masonic Memorial Center, 648 Centerville Place, North Syracuse or online at <a href="https://www.srnmj.org">www.srnmj.org</a>; alternatively, contact the Valley Secretary James D. Swan, Jr. at <a href="https://nyounded.org/nyoun

I am Chairman of the Valley Membership Action Team, whose members and responsibilities are as follows. Kenneth D. Sterling leads the Lodge Ambassador Program, which brings a Scottish Rite presentation directly to Lodge members for an evening program. Terry A. Byard heads the Rite on the Road Program. This takes Scottish Rite Degrees into a Lodge for those interested in joining the Rite. Earl L. Tuttle chairs the Membership and New Members Recruiting Committee, while William H. Toth II heads up the Members Mentoring Committee. I can be reached via e-mail at lwegnaczyk@verizon.net for any questions you may

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk

## Rite on the Road commences

The Central City Bodies, AASR, Valley of Syracuse invites you to a Masonic Lodge Outreach and Scottish Rite "Rite on the Road" Degree Conferral Program, coming to a Lodge near you. This traveling Scottish Rite Degree program will confer the 4°, "Builder." This is the first Scottish Rite Degree and begins a Master Mason's journey to become a 32° Scottish Rite Mason.

These programs take place in a Master Mason's home Lodge. Where? At a Masonic Lodge building in your community. When? At a convenient date and time chosen by your Lodge.

A Membership Team representative will contact your Lodge to ascertain interest. Anyone may contact the Valley of Syracuse Office for more information. Phone: 315/452-7976; email: ny017@twcny.rr.com.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual GALA—Virtual

Hello, Scottish Rite members in the Valley of Syra-

cuse. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Dyslexia Center Central New York GALA is going virtual this year. Our "Reading Can be an Illusion" fundraising event supporting the Center is on Saturday evening, March 13.

Thanks go to all who can virtually attend and support the 2021 GALA. If anyone desires to learn more about the Dyslexia Center, please contact Mrs. Linda Martin, Center Director, at 315/736-0574 or call the Valley of Syracuse Office: 315/452-7976.

The following email contacts are also sources: Children's Dyslexia Center, CNY: CentralNY@cdcinc.org; Linda Martin: LMartin@cdcinc.org; Jim Swan: ny017@twcny.rr.com;

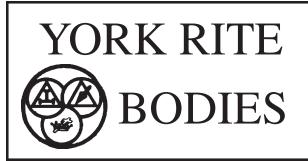
Sharon Fox: adminny@twcny.rr.com. Please contact us for assistance or information.

## Last call for Scholarship Apps

The application titled "2021-2022 Application for Scottish Rite Scholarship Aid Leon M. Abbott and/or NYS Council of Deliberation" is available at the Valley of Syracuse website <a href="https://www.syr-aasr.org">www.syr-aasr.org</a>. The deadline to submit completed applications to the Valley is Thursday, April 1. Applications received after 4:00 p.m. will not be considered.

The scholarships are open to graduating High School Seniors; members of Triangle, Rainbow and DeMolay; and students who complete the program at the Children's Dyslexia Centers in New York State. If your studies were interrupted during the 2020-2021 academic year due to the pandemic and you plan to return to school fulltime in fall 2021, please submit an application.

All information requested in the Instructions for Application Preparation must be included. Contact the Valley Office at 315/452-7976 with questions or for assistance.





#### ROYAL ARCH MASON

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

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

Companions, there are three major updates for March. The first regards Grand Chapter. The Grand Convocation will be virtual and will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 6. This will be a hybrid meeting. Due to COVID concerns the meeting is limited to twenty-five physical attendees. Only the Companions needed to open the Grand Chapter Session will meet in person, prior to the webinar being broadcast at 8:30 a.m. The rest of the Companions have been asked to register for the webinar/voting and will be able to join in to watch the hybrid Grand Session. The Zoom link is personal to the individual; please, no sharing of the Zoom webinar link you will receive. Otherwise, only the first person using that link will be able to attend. Chapter Secretaries should have emailed their Companions with this information in February.

As it is a webinar, you will be able to view the physical attendees. Your video will not be shared, however. The moderator will control any necessary voice participation from Companions on the webinar, as required. This will be explained during the webinar.

If you are a voting member of Grand Chapter you will receive the link for the separate secure voting system being used, should voting attendees need to vote. Chapter Secretaries should have submitted their annual return and per capita to the Grand Secretary's office so the Chapter might be entitled to vote. The registration deadline was Saturday, February 20 by noon.

During the webinar the business of Grand Chapter will be conducted, along with the election. The private installation of the Grand High Priest will follow, and then the webinar will close. At that point the Grand Chapter will then be closed. The webinar will reopen for the public installation of the Grand Chapter Officers. This part will be open to all who would like to join in. The public installation webinar link will be published closer to the time and Facebook live streaming is planned.

The second update regards in-person meetings of Chapters. The Grand High Priest issued an Edict in early February with new guide-

lines, under which our Chapters can meet until our Governor and Grand Master make suitable modification for the remainder of his term. Those guidelines are as follows:

- 1. Each High Priest will determine what Zone the Chapter is currently in, as designated by Governor Cuomo, and take the decision as to how many may attend, based on guidelines 2 through 5 in this Edict.
- 2. All Chapters not located in a designated Zone will be limited to twenty-five Companions.
- 3. All Chapters located in a "yellow" zone are also limited to twenty-five Companions.
- 4. All Chapters located in an "orange" zone will be limited to ten Companions.
- 5. All Chapters located in "red" zones will not be allowed to meet in-person.
- 6. Meetings must end by 9:30 p.m. and everyone must be out of the building by10:00 p.m.
- 7. All previous guidelines such as wearing masks, social distancing, etc. will still be in effect.

At the time of this writing on February 10 no Chapter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District is located in any designated zone as per the NYS website (<u>https://covidhot</u> spotlookup.health.ny.gov/). All may therefore hold meetings limited to as many as twenty-five Companions. I would recommend that each Chapter consider holding at least one in-person meeting as soon as possible to hold elections and installation of officers. Remember to request Dispensation to do so.

The final update is to introduce your new 12th Capitular District Team. I will remain as the DDGHP for this year, with Companion Jim Nelson coming on as the AGL. The AGL will be working with ritual only this year. For education, we have an Education Officer in Companion Bob Tyrrell. Finally, our Charities Chair is E Companion Ed Sinay, Jr. He has some excellent event ideas that he will be sharing in the future. Congratulations go to these Companions. Please reach out to them when you get a chance. Until next month, be safe.

Richard J. Powell

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

VE Brad Foil
Assistant Grand Lecturer,
12th Capitular District
Grand Chapter
State of New York,
Royal Arch Masons
315/391-2186

Greetings and Salutations, Companions in the Chapters of the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District. As of the composition of this article I, as the AGL for the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitu-

lar District, have just re-

ceived an encouraging email from our DDGHP Richard Powell that GHP David Raymond has given the goahead on holding Chapter convocations in person. We are not to exceed twenty-five Companions, and this assumes there are no NY State or local COVID-19 Zoning designations where the Chapter is located. This is news phantasmagoric!

When I communicated

with the Companions in leadership positions of the four Chapters of the 12<sup>th</sup> District, I found that only Charles H. Platt Chapter No. 247 would be holding an in-person convocation before the newly appointed AGL is to be sworn into office. My term as AGL will be ending in March when the NYS Grand Chapter holds its annual state Convocation. Normally at this convocation the newly appointed AGLs are administered their oath of office. Companion Jim Nelson presently holds the office of Captain of the Host in Charles H. Platt Chapter 247. He has been tapped to succeed me in the AGL's position for the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District for the ensuing year. It is anticipated that Companion Jim will be sworn in as the new AGL during this-or sometime close to this—convocation. I wish him all the best as he assumes this important and prestigious position. I petition The Great I Am for a better and healthier year for all so he may have the opportunity to actually discharge

the duties of the AGL.

I intended to attend Charles H. Platt Chapter's convocation of February 24 in both official capacities. To have predicted that this Official Visit was going to be a normal affair would have been a non sequitur. I went with the flow, adapting to the conditions and circumstances as they presented themselves.

Be safe, keep warm. And stay dry, Companions of the 12th Capitular District.

Brad Foil

#### WASHINGTON CHAPTER 29 RAM

Cortlandville Lodge Meets 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

EHP Andrew C. Reed

Companions, after basically keeping us on the sidelines for a year the COVID-19 situation seem to be improving. The Grand High Priest is allowing up to twenty-five Companions to meet, as long as it is safe within New York State guidelines. A decision will be taken at the end of February regarding meeting in March in some form. Grand Chapter will meet on March 6, in a hybrid style.

A full report will be passed along in the next article. If you have not paid your dues, please do as soon as possible to Recorder RE Bruce King.

The Cayuga Council No. 90 Cryptic Masons Table Council is still scheduled for April 21. It will be open to all Masons and guests interested in Cryptic Masonry.

The scheduled inspection for Cortland Commandery No. 50, planned for April 1, has been canceled for the year. I still would like to meet on that date to start planning the Commandery's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. It is scheduled at this time for Thursday, October 7. If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible to Recorder SK Kim Dellow, PC, DZC.

Wade A. Caler

#### LAKE ONTARIO CHAPTER 165 RAM

Oswego Masonic Lodge 765 E. Seneca St. Meets 2nd Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.

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



Greetings, Companions. First I hope everyone and his family are well and safe. I lost a young friend in January and my last living uncle last week to this virus. Many families are still feeling the consequences of this terrible virus and its after-effects. My wife and I are on a list for shots but were told it may be a two-month wait, or so.

We were going to have a Zoom meeting last night, February 11, but a technical issue wouldn't let members join online. A few Companions got through on their phone. We will reschedule next week. It was disappointing, as we had over a dozen Companions ready to join.

I still think June 10 will be our first in-person meeting and I will do everything I can to see that it happens. We will have a little business to do on that date. We will also need to vote on two petitions that night. So, Companions, start preparing your Degree work.

Grand Chapter session will be March 6. Most will have to attend online; watch your email for a link if you want to attend.

I don't know at this time if Council is having a Zoom meeting in March. I hope to have a Chapter Zoom meeting on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. I hope everyone stays well and safe

Ronald A. Bond

#### CENTRAL CITY RIVERSIDE CHAPTER 70 RAM

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

HP Eric J. Driscoll, 315/575-4470, Ericidriscoll@gmail.com Secy Bob Bowles, 315/436-0997, Rbowles1@twcny.rr.com



Good day, Companions! As you may have heard by now, we are going to attempt to have our in-person meeting on the 4th Tuesday this month, March, to square away any business we have-providing we are able. Our Official Visit is in the books for April 27 at Liverpool Lodge building, unless something changes again. Remember, too, that as of right now we are still on for July 11 for our 200th Anniversary event at Borio's.

I want to thank RE Chris Heberle for the educational lectures he has been putting together for us each Zoom meeting. If you have not attended one please be assured that whether we have the

meeting on Zoom or in person we will have some more light for you. I'm looking forward to seeing you.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Companions. Please stay healthy and safe. If any Companions or Brothers are in distress or in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Eric J. Driscoll

#### CHARLES H. PLATT CHAPTER 247 RAM

Skaneateles Masonic Temple Meets 4th Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

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



Greetings and Salutations, Companions of Charles H. Platt Chapter No. 247. March is not too far in the future to start anticipating the coming of spring. With that come our hopes and desires of renewal and rejuvenation, and some semblance of normalcy in our lives.

I have just received notice from DDGHP Richard Powell that GHP David Raymond has OK-ed in-person Chapter convocations. These are not to exceed twenty-five Companions and it assumes there are no NY State or local COVID-19 Zoning designations in the Chapter's location. By the time this article is published our Chapter will have held the election, appointments and installation of our officers for the ensuing year. And we will be caught up on such delayed business as annual reports, candidate petitions, committee reports, Degree conferrals, incoming correspondence and other business to be dispatched.

I anticipate being appointed to the Captain of the Host's position for a second time, while Companion Jim Nelson is expected to take the reins as Excellent High Priest of our Chapter. I wish him the best as he assumes this position of leadership. It is my sincerest desire and prayer that his tenure will be smoother than mine in this past traumatic and devastating year.

The planning for the Chapter's 150<sup>th</sup> (actually, 151st) Anniversary observance continues. Here again are the particulars: The public rededication ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 15 in the confines of the Skaneateles Masonic Temple located at 13 Genesee Street, Skaneateles. The celebratory reception is to be held at The Marietta House, NY State Route 174, Marietta. The cost per person is \$30. The social hour commences at 12:30 p.m. with the luncheon served at 1:00 p.m. Reservation checks are payable to Charles H. Platt Chapter No. 247, with "150th Anniversary" written in the memo portion of your check. Mail to P.O. Box 174, Skaneateles, NY 13152-0174. Reservations must be received by Friday, May 7. Kindly contact Companion Richard Torrey at 315/430-6527 for further inquiries.

We intend to have dis-

tributed the Chapter's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative coin to Companions in attendance—for a donation of \$5 per coin—during our February convocation. The \$5 donation covers the cost of the coin's manufacture and is a general fundraiser for the Chapter.

Our Chapter plans to honor GHP David Raymond for his outstanding service during this difficult, demanding and unprecedented period as the GHP. At the local level I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to the following: GHP David Raymond, DDGHP Rick Powell, King Harvey Eysman, Scribe Rich Torrey, Captain of the Host Jim Nelson, Chaplain Bill Toth, Secretary Earl Tuttle and the other unsung Companions for their tireless dedication and commitment to making our Chapter not only survive but also flourish during this most challenging and trying year.

Please visit the RAM Education area of the NYS RAM website (<a href="https://ny-royal-arch.org">https://ny-royal-arch.org</a>) for all kinds of information concerning Royal Arch Masonry. Articles and books on recruiting, Chapter management, RAM history and practice can be found there.

With the COVID-19 vaccinations becoming frequent now, it is anticipated life will become as routine as possible under these highly irregular circumstances. I am under no illusion that normal life's return will be around the corner. It will be a long time before this pandemic is behind us. Having realized this, we must, with the Great I Am's Grace and Love, plan, persist, persevere, prevail; and in the end, praise Him for the inevitable victory in His name. As always, Companions, stay safe, warm and

Brad Foil



#### CENTRAL CITY COMMANDERY 25 KT

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

Commander
Eric J. Driscoll,
315/575-4470,
Ericjdriscoll@gmail.com
Recorder Earl Tuttle,
etuttle1@twcny.rr.com



Good day, Sir Knights! This morning it was -6 outside on my deck. If that cannot wake us up from all of this, nothing will.

I trust that all of you are still doing well. As discussed in our last Zoom meeting in February, we will be having a video presentation on March 19, where we will be showing videos of the sword manual and other interesting pieces we have been permitted to do. I have hopes that we will be finished with our St. Patrick's day celebrations (safety first, obviously) and

Central City 25KT see page 12

# ORDER of the EASTERN STAR

#### Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. We are more encouraged this month than the previous several months as the vaccines are being rolled out and it is anticipated that everyone should be able to be vaccinated, hopefully by the end of the year, if not sooner. However, we should continue to be vigilant. Continue to wear masks, even if vaccinated, for the protection of others as the virus is still able to be transmitted by a vaccinated person and continue to social distance. We have all come this far, so let's all get to the finish line together.

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, the fact that not everyone has been able to get the vaccine at this time and the difficulties some Districts are experiencing with venues, the Grand Matron and Grand Patron have decided to cancel all 2021 state Official Visits. All Grand Officers will remain in place until October of 2022, unless other arrangements are made. More information about visitations and restrictions, as well as the feasibility of having a Bazaar in July and Grand Session in October, will be available later. Onondaga District's 2022 Grand Matron Official Visit is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2022

Chapter meetings are able to take place based on Federal, State, County regulations and with the guidance of the President of the Trustees for each Masonic Lodge. Matrons and Patrons are working on possible schedules with each Lodge and information will be made available to the membership at the appropriate time. When Chapter meetings do begin to take place, hopefully we will be able to attend District Official Visits at each Chapter. Right now, dates were arranged prior to the pandemic. If a date needs to be changed, just let us know and we are sure we can work out another date.

We appreciate everyone's patience. We know that Sisters and Brothers are reaching out to each other and we hope that you continue to do so. Remember, no matter how long the winter, spring is sure to come.

Deb Krackhardt

Karl Parker

#### Order of the Eastern Star Oswego District

Goodbye, February; hello, March and hello, all. Congratulations go out to Jana Casler of Sandy Creek for winning the four-piece buffet server with warming tray. Thanks go to all those who supported that project.

The Oswego District just finished their Easter Candy Campaign. Thanks also go to all the Easter Bunnies who supported it. For the rest of you, I guess you will just have to wait a bit longer to see if your Easter Bunny will be filling your basket this year.

Our District Leaders, Barb Foster and Earl LaFave, have received word from the Most Worthies Grand Matron and Patron that their 2021 Official Visit to our District has been postponed until Sunday, April 24, 2022. That's a long time away. Barb and Earl, however, hope that you will remain in touch with your Chapter membership frequently and join in at the District Zoom Gatherings as they are scheduled.

COVID-19 may stop us from gathering in person on St. Patrick's Day but we can still carry on the traditions. Call someone and say "Top of the morning," eat corned beef and cabbage—or as the Irish tradition started, eat ham, bacon and cabbage. Wear a shamrock pin and wear something green.

If green just happens to be your favorite color choice, it is said that you are typically down-to-earth and aware of what other people think of you, seeking acknowledgement and acceptance for the everyday things you do. Lovers of green are often said to be loyal, honest and affectionate.

Pinch me, I'm Irish. If you forget to wear green on St. Patty's Day don't be surprised if you get pinched. The wearing of green was popularized by Irish immigrants in the United States who believed that wearing green made them invisible to leprechauns, fairy creatures who would pinch anyone they could see (anyone not wearing green). The leprechaun is one of the most famous characters out of Irish folklore. Identified around the world as a mischievous creature of sorts, the leprechaun is a witted and highly intelligent being. Here is a look at some of the best Irish leprechaun sayings to know.

"A kind word never broke anyone's mouth."

"May all who love the Lord love you and those who don't love you, may the Lord give them a limp so you can see them coming."

"May the hand of a friend always be near you. And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

"May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty." And until next month, Lassies and Laddies, may your pockets always be heavy and your heart always be light.

Michelle Gogel

## Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

By the time you read this we'll have had our first meeting in the new year. Yeah!

Yes, our first meeting of 2021 was a busy one. We

elected and installed our new officers and heard some informative year-end reports. It was really great to see those who braved the cold evening air to be together to finally get our officers installed. It was a bit of a challenge trying to adapt to COVID rules and keeping everyone as safe as possible. It will be fun years from now trying to identify all our masked officers from the photo we took after installation.

Our March 18 meeting will be Ample Form, with rehearsal at 6:45 p.m. Looking ahead to April, we are excited to welcome RW Debbie Krackhardt, District Deputy Grand Matron, who will be making her Official Visit to our Chapter.

Centerville Chapter will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets as a Chapter fundraiser, with part of the proceeds going to the District to forward to the Grand Matron and Grand Patron for their special project. Tickets are available from any of our members. The drawing will be held at our June 17 meeting, so you have lots of time to buy and sell.

Feel free to try this at home. Did you know that a raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top?

Be safe, stay safe. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

k's Day! Cathy Barling

#### Pulaski Puritan 159

Got a little snow last night. The weatherman said, "Watch out! Lake-effect is headed your way." Boy, am I glad that doesn't mean what it used to. We didn't get that two to three feet, just 8 or 10 inches.

The groundhog saw his shadow so they say another six weeks of winter. But if you look, that's how many weeks there are before spring is here on the calendar.

It doesn't look that promising for starting back to Chapter on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. We'll see. Our Chapter isn't that great with this thing called Zoom or Skype—at least this gal isn't.

Ithink our feeling-crappy list has gotten better, except for Robin's son and Gladys's daughter. They have Lyme disease and believe it or not, Upstate New York is not up to date on this. Hopefully, these girls' families find a good doctor close-by to help. Prayers are headed their way. How about a "You got this" card to these beautiful ladies to pick up their spirits?

Don't forget to spring ahead on the 14th. And for the Irish out there, here's a couple of Irish jokes. I'm sure they are not as funny to read as hearing them from RW Earl.

Billy stops Paddy in Dublin and asks for the quickest way to Cork. Paddy says, "Are you on foot or in your car?"

Billy replies, "In the car."
"Well, that's the quickest
way," says Paddy.

One more: A sobbing Ms. Murphy approaches Fr. O'Grady after Mass. He says, "So what's bothering you?" She replies, "Oh, Father, I've terrible news. My husband passed away last night."

The priest says, "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Did he have any last requests?"

"Certainly, Father: 'Please, Mary, put down that damn gun.'"

The winner of the buffet server with warming tray was Jana Casler, Pulaski-Puritan Chapter. Congratulations go to Jana.

Easter is the first Sunday in April. This year, hopefully, we will be able to have the pancakes with Peter. We couldn't do it last year because of the virus. But it sure did sound like a fun time; keep your fingers crossed.

I guess that's it, except for that dreaded word from an angel. "The measure of success is not whether you have a problem—but whether it's the same problem you had last year."

For some reason my little ditty book for March is all about diets. Could it be because we just left the holidays? We'll talk next month.

Diane Manwaring

Lake City Victoria 205

Lake City Lodge No. 127 Oswego

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

As I sat at my dining room table the other day, looking out the bay window and watching the snow fall, my mind turned to the friends I had been unable to see for so many months because of the pandemic. These musings then led me to recall numerous luminaries in Lake City Victoria Chapter and culminated with the following lookback.

Lake City Chapter No. 352 OES came into existence on June 1, 1905 when RW Ada Richardson, District Deputy Grand Matron, organized the Chapter on behalf of MW Florence Beattie, Grand Matron. Thirty-three applicants twenty-seven women and six men, took the obligation and became charter members. Jane M. Prosser was selected Worthy Matron, Nettie E. Park, Associate Matron, and Samuel Forsythe, Worthy

Originally the Chapter met at the Masonic Lodge in the Neal Block on East First Street. In the early 1960s that building was demolished and the group met in the Elks Club until a new temple, where Walgreen's now stands, was opened and consecrated by MW Rhea LaVeck on October 4, 1968. W Mildred Wood, now wife of W Edwin Miller, was the Presiding Matron. When that temple closed in 1997 the Chapter again moved, holding meetings in Grace Lutheran Church, Hiram Lodge and Hannibal Lodge. Our current home was consecrated by MW Ruth Howe on September 29, 2005.

It was customary in the early years to perform the floral ceremony for new initiates at their second meeting. A complete floral staff was annually appointed for this specific purpose.

The Past Matrons Association was formed soon after the Chapter was constituted. For a brief period,

there was also a Past Patrons group. Not until the 1960s were Chapters required to elect an Associate Patron. Harold Coe, Worthy Patron in 1962, was the first Brother to hold both offices.

Over the course of 115 years the Chapter has had its share of unforgettable personages. When most of us were merely twinkles in our father's eyes, formidable characters such as MW Harry Stacy and his equally formidable wife, RW Irene Stacy, kept the Sisters and Brothers on their toes. It was said that Harry never permitted an appointed officer to hold the same station more than one year. Irene was the first of only two members of this Chapter to be elected Commissioner of Appeals.

Many of us, however, were privileged to know RW Esther Mordaunt, W Eileen Batchelor and W Ruth Batchelor. W Mary Alice and W Howard Dice were long-time Chapter stalwarts. W Ann and W R. Samuel "Sam" Eason were Matron and Patron in 1976 when the nation celebrated the bicentennial.

Other Stars may be mentioned, all of whom labored tirelessly for Chapter and Order: RW Bruce and RW Jean Merritt, RW Nellie Feistel, W Ethel Danziger, RW Gladys Peck Geddes, RW Gordon Geddes, W Agatha and W Percy Payne, Sr. Louise Swanger and Sr. Edna Smith. W Donna Woodard presided at the organ for years and literally died in harness, succumbing to an aneurism which occurred during a meeting. W V. Jean Sanders has been Worthy Matron twice and Warder for many years. More recently, Sr. Benita Reynolds, Sr. Bethany Reis, W Leo and Sr. Bettie Monette, RW Carol Reed, Sr. Ruth and Bro. John Voetelink, and Sr. Michelle and Bro. Eric Hamilton have joined our ranks and become active members.

The Chapter has had many talented, dedicated leaders. Early Matrons and Patrons, such as Grace Johnson, Ina Smith, Winifred Ellithorpe, U. Z. Maltby, Edward Robinson and Harold Day, ensured that the Chapter would do all within its power to promote the Order's goals. MW Harry Stacy holds the record for service as Worthy Patron. He was in his twenty-fifth term when he died in February 1941. RW Earline Wood served as Matron seven times but she has been outstripped by RW Cynthia Sanders, who is now in her ninth term.

The Chapter has provided numerous District and state officers. Harry Stacy was Grand Patron in 1936. From 2014-2016 RW Rita DeLong was Commissioner of Appeals. RW Jean Merritt, RW Nancy Costello, RW Earline Wood, RW Norien Sweeney and RW Cynthia Sanders served as District Deputy Grand Matron. RW Alan Wood, RW Gordon Geddes, RWC. Thomas Costello and RW Grant DeLong were among the Chapter's male members appointed District Grand Lecturer. In 1977 RW

Robert Fadden became Grand Representative of Idaho, the first male OES member in New York State to hold such a position. Associate Grand Warders and Associate Grand Sentinels have included RW Erma Cota, RW Mary Mason, RW Carla Salisbury, RW Richard Stolp and RW Harold Cota. RW Mary Borland was Grand Adah in 1982, RW Eileen Esford, Grand Electa in 2005, and RW Cynthia Sanders, Grand Esther in 2020.

In 2006 Lake City No. 352 merged with Victoria No. 205 and became Lake City Victoria No. 205. Added to our ranks were the DeLongs, Sr. Lynn Grandjean, W Margo and W Clifford Herrick, RW Erma and RW Harold Cota and Sr. Mary M. Babbitt, to name only a few.

Members have been active in concordant bodies. RW Earline Wood was queen of Cairo Temple, DON. W Edwin Miller and RW Alan Wood served as Potentate of Media Shrine. RW Carla Salisbury currently holds the position of Princess Badoura in Ilderim Temple, DON. Most Worshipful Calvin G. Bond not only was Grand Master of New York Masons but also Grand High Priest of New York Royal Arch Masons. W Sam Eason was among the Brothers who served as District Deputy Grand Master for the Oswego District. Bro. Eric Hamilton is Junior Warden in Lake City Lodge No. 127.

On June 11, 2005 yours truly had the privilege of presiding over the Chapter's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The committee, composed of RW Nancy Costello, RW Cynthia Sanders, RW Mary Borland and RW Earline Wood, worked for two years to make the celebration a night to remember. And what a wonderful affair it was, complete with the attendance of the Grand Matron, MW Ruth Howe, and the Grand Patron, MW Ronald Charron. Among the highlights was the presentation of her fifty-year-pin to a very surprised RW Mary Borland, who was even more surprised when MW Ruth Howe made the presentation. Looking over the program for that evening I see that at its conclusion I posed several questions which are still relevant.

What lies ahead for our beloved Chapter? Will it survive for another 100 years, or 50 or even 25? Answering my own questions, I posited that we, the Chapter's present, could but offer our best efforts to ensure its future one year—one day—at a time.

So, I gaze out that bay window, missing my OES buddies and wondering when we will meet again to labor in the quarries and enjoy the special fellowship of kindred minds. I am grateful to the Sisters and Brothers upon whose shoulders we stand and hopeful that the legacy we bequeath to those who succeed us will be as memorable as that which our forebears left to us.

Natalie J. Woodall

MARCH										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
	Jordan 386 1 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 2 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 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	Central City 25KT 5	6				
7	Hamilton 120 <b>8</b> Homer 352 Morning Star OES Onondaga Hill Club Scriba 414	Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Victoria OES Washington RAM	Cautious 726 10 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown 472	Bona Fide OES 11 Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Ft. Brewerton 256 12 Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Liverpool	13				
14	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of the Nile Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 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	Central City 25KT 19	20				
21	Homer 352 22 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	Central City Riverside 70 RAM E Caldwell OES Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Pulaski OES Scipio 110 Victoria OES Washington RAM	Charles H. Platt 247 RAM Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 MWD's Tritown 472	Bona Fide OES Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	Ft. Brewerton 256 Triangle @ Liverpool	27				
28										

#### York Rite Bodies from page 10 . . .

#### Central City 25KT . . . .

will be ready for this on Friday night.

My sincere hope is to have a meeting in person scheduled for our building in April. Please watch your emails for updates as we go along. Also watch, please, for emails for the education pieces the Grand Commandery has been doing via Zoom. These have all proven to be amazing. I highly recommend attending them if you can.

Be well. If there is any Sir Knight or Companion or Brother in need, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Eric J. Driscoll

#### CENTRAL CITY COUNCIL 13 Royal & Select Masters

Liverpool Masonic Temple 608 Oswego St. Liverpool, NY Meets 2nd Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

Illustrious Master James D. Swan Jr. jdabjr@twcny.rr.com Recorder Earl L. Tuttle Etuttle1@twcny.rr.com 315/673-2213

Companions, I send you greetings. As I write this article February is here and Phil the Groundhog says we are to enjoy six more weeks of winter. Then comes spring and with some luck our world will start to open. Some meeting restrictions are being relaxed and we are moving to where we were in fall 2020, prior to everything being halted.

COVID-19 and its negative impact on everything Masonic continues. I cannot stress enough the importance of scheduling your receiving the vaccine. My humble opinion: this is the path to controlling the pandemic. Getting the vaccine is and can be frustrating. Please remain diligent and continue your efforts to obtain it. Are there reactions to the vaccine? Yes for some; rela-

tively minor or no to others. I am one of the fortunate ones: two shots received and minimal reaction to each.

Central City Council No. 13 plans to meet Wednesday, March 10, when we hopefully will be able to meet at the Liverpool Masonic Center and confer the Royal Master Degree upon our new Companions at 7:30 p.m. We cordially invite all Royal Arch Masons desiring to learn more about Cryptic Masonry to present a petition for membership to the Council Secretary and join us that evening for work and instruction.

Please note that I say, "We plan to meet." That statement is made based upon the news we hear today; news that may change tomorrow. We will keep you informed.

We will try to gather at 5:45 p.m. at the Retreat Restaurant in Liverpool for a Dutch treat dinner prior to the 7:30 p.m. Official Visit meeting. As March 10 approaches I will confirm the status of our plans and provide a confirming message to everyone. This will provide us the opportunity to socially greet our guests and members.

In an earlier message I announced that Brian Moore, DDGM, was scheduled to make his Official Visit to Central City Council on Wednesday, April 14. That date is now tentatively changed to May 12. The date will be confirmed as it approaches.

James D. Swan, Jr.

### Auburn Shrine

I hope this finds all of our members, their family and friends in good health as we start to think spring. All reports from the Springfield Shriner's Hospital for Children are positive and the staff is looking forward to a more normal year. Dr. Stoddard, head of the Cleft Lip and Palate program at our hospital reports that applications continue to increase and the program continues to do well. However, he is hopeful that the COVID-19 virus will become less serious so the program can increase the number of patients it can

Our Hospital Administrator, H. Lee Kirk Jr., is doing wonderfully in leading this medical facility. To think that just a very few years ago Shrine headquarters recommended closing the hospital. Now it is one of our shining lights.

A new need in our area is for a Pediatric Inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Center. The cost has been estimated to be almost one million dollars. There is an urgent need for this service in the northeastern part of the country to treat children recuperating from major surgery, severe car accidents, strokes, brain tumors, spinal cord injuries and other conditions. Our expert Pediatric Rehabilitation staff will provide daily

treatment for these children. The costs of medical equipment continue to amaze me. If you are looking to support a worthy cause, this would be a good place to start.

I was looking through

I was looking through some recent records. In November of 2000 the Auburn Shrine Club took in eleven new members. I remember the evening well, as Nobles Richard Hodges, David Wawro, Peter VanVlack, Burt Ward and Bruce Christopher-who are still with us—took their oath. Nobles who are no longer with us joined that evening also. They include Ralph Myers, Philip Buckhout, Gerald Stanton, Edward Denton Sr., David Wawro and Ted Tennant. That was a great class of Nobles.

It appears that this virus may be finally coming under control. We certainly hope and pray that it is and we can get back to something more normal as a society and as a Fraternity. I certainly miss our meetings and the good fellowship. I miss hearing about Bob Coleman's argument with the bees, Vern Stephens's efforts to control the Ontario lake level at his cottage, Bill Newcomb's sales pitch on how a new boat would help overcome the COVID-19 virus, Jim Kahn's plan to explore Tennessee; or on the serious side of life, how Mike Miller's mother was doing battling the COVID-19 virus. Mike's family has been in our prayers.

Think spring, stay safe and remember: You cannot build a reputation on what you are going to do. Henry Ford said it.

Ken Pollard



Potentate III.

Duane E. Crapser

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

The wheels within Shrinedom started to slow down during 2020, as did everything else. The beauty about being a Shriner is that we just need to remind everyone that being a Shriner is about having fun. Business meetings must be fun; finance meetings fun; Unit meetings fun; parades fun. Ceremonials—that reminds me: Rob Meyers (aka Ceremonial Master 2021) has a Ceremonial coming up this spring and that must be fun.

First Lady Suzanne has continued her Lego Project into 2021. She has been collecting Legos and money that will be used to purchase Legos. This coming fall we will make the trip to Springfield and Boston, MA to personally deliver these toys. For us, these are just toys; for the patients at our hospitals, they are used for therapy, tools that help refocus our kids and, of course, fun.

Please, if within your budget, contact me or our Shrine Office to donate.

After attending a recent NYOSA meeting I was happy to find some likeminded people who are seeking the unity that so many have found in the Shrine. We are working on plans to bring Divans together to hold a meeting on what works and where we can improve. This change in mindset is what I have been seeking in Blue Lodge. I am thrilled to find it in Shrinedom.

Last year we successfully requested that all Shrine Units purchase a Fez for a new member. That program has been carried into this year. Have you wanted to be part of the fun that is the Shrine? What are you waiting for? Now is the time. Tigris is looking for members who seek fun and fellowship that includes your whole family. Feel free to reach out to me and I will gladly hand you a petition.

We were hoping to jump right back into our Bingo fundraising but were forced to push our start date back to ensure we were following licensing and health regulations. I am looking forward to calling the winning Bingo numbers again very soon, with the new system and name games coming soon.

I am going to keep it short this month, even with all the pokers that are in the fire. More great things are coming soon. Be part of the fun: join Tigris Shriners.

Duane E. Crapser

#### OAKWOOD CEMETERIES, INC.

Oakwood - Morningside -White Chapel - Valley 315-475-2194 Juarez Lincoln Marti Intl. Ed. Project
<a href="http://web.cortland.edu/matresearch">http://web.cortland.edu/matresearch</a>
<a href="http://web.cortland.edu/matresearch">A labor of Love</a>