



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

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October 2023



DGM Steven Rubin; Brendan Cowzer, MM from Ireland; MW GM Richard Kessler; and WM Brian Courtney at the Tri-District Table Lodge.

## EMESBE: Little satisfactions

Traveling the District with our Irish Brother Brendan Cowzer, we attended a Third Degree at Lake City Lodge No. 127. As usual, WM Pat Fasulo was exemplary in his Degree work. It is always a pleasure: his smile can make a dark room shine.

On this occasion Oswego and Onondaga Districts worked together to Raise five Master Masons. Pat Fasulo and Russ Beckwith were the respective Masters. Twenty-one Master Masons on the sidelines included Brother Cowzer who participated in the Degree. (When I was in Ireland last year I participated in a Third Degree at his Lodge, Temple No. 51).

Brothers from Hiram, Lake City and Crossroads United were Raised. Congratulations go to Brothers Russell Crapser (a third-generation Mason), Nathan Heitmann and Nicholas Heitmann (second-generation Masons) and Josh Roberts and Christopher Pitcher. The ladies of Lake City Victoria Chapter 205 OES and Ilderim Temple 15 prepared a delicious lunch.

We also went to the Tri-District Table Lodge, with GM Richard Kessler and DGM Steve Rubin in attendance. Brendan got to meet them, just as I did the GM of Ireland.

Brendan was at Callimachus Lodge No. 369 and witnessed the officer installation while sitting in the East. He was very pleased to be part of my installation as WM.

We participated in building a wheelchair ramp for a Phoenix resident. Doing things outside of your Lodge building is what Masonry is all about. It was a great thing to help someone through ARISE of Oswego County.

Brendan has so far visited three Lodge meetings with seven or more planned, an American Legion meeting and a County American Legion meeting. He is getting a workout: tonight, Scribathen Hannibal, Crossroads United and Tigris Shrine. Interesting to hear Brothers say they have no time to join Shriners when we have a Brother from Ireland as a member.

I hope this account of our

summer activities might encourage you to get out and visit other Lodges, get ideas and bring them back home for your Brothers. Have you looked into ways of getting new members? Have you participated with other Lodges to help them out?

Hopefully, all of the WMs and officers who did not put in an article last month have done so this month. I thank those Lodges and Bodies for sending me membership changes as they occur, adding and deleting people from your roster.

The EMESBE Directors want to help promote your Lodges and Concordant Bodies. My phone is always on and I would love to speak to anyone with questions. We thank those who regularly help this organization put out an excellent newspaper. We are actively looking for more participants. We meet only four times a year.

Are you interested in advertising in your newspaper? It is very inexpensive and is seen all over multiple (at least six) counties.

Please keep our Director Brother Norman Kruth in your prayers. He is going through some health issues.

Brian Courtney

## Survey for Assessing How Our Audience Reads “the word” Updated: IX/06/2023

Jorge L. Romeu

We are researching how our CNY monthly Masonic newspaper “the word” is used by our readers, in order to make it even better. We are interested in finding out which sections are most read, and what other material may be of interest to you.

This survey attempts to assess some of these issues. Please read the category questions and provide an estimate of the percent times you read the paper and specific sections.

This is an anonymous survey. Thank you for your help.

How do you receive “the word?”

Examples: via hard copy or email

Receive: \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you read “the word?”

Always (A); Frequently (F), Seldom (S); Never (N)

Def: Frequently = more than half of the issues; Seldom: less than half of the issues

Frequency \_\_\_\_\_

Which “word” Sections Do you Read?

Answer all the questions below either with A, F, S, N:

Your own Lodge letter ( A, F, S, N)	Lodge	_____	_____
Your own District DDGM/Staff letters ( A, F, S, N)	DDGM	_____	_____
Other Lodge letters ( A, F, S, N)	Lodges	_____	_____
Other District DDGM/Staff letters ( A, F, S, N)	DDGMs	_____	_____
The Special Readings Selected by our Editor (A, F, S, N) E.g. Old Articles reprinted from “The Builder”	Readings	_____	_____
Editor’s Prerogative article ( A, F, S, N)	Prerogative	_____	_____
Mentor article ( A, F, S, N)	Mentor	_____	_____
EMESBE article ( A, F, S, N)	EMESBE	_____	_____
Masonic War Vets article ( A, F, S, N)	War Vets	_____	_____
Calendar of Events ( A, F, S, N)	Calendar	_____	_____
Scottish Rite section ( A, F, S, N)	Scottish	_____	_____
York Rite Bodies section ( A, F, S, N)	York	_____	_____
Shrine section ( A, F, S, N)	Shrine	_____	_____
Eastern Star section ( A, F, S, N)	Eastern	_____	_____

Do you want to suggest a new section? Describe it:

Please provide some information about yourself, below:

Member of (check all appropriate):

Blue Lodge \_\_\_\_\_  
Scottish Rite \_\_\_\_\_  
York Rite \_\_\_\_\_  
Shrine \_\_\_\_\_  
Eastern Star \_\_\_\_\_  
Years in The Craft \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender (M/F): \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return Your Survey to:

“the word”/EMESBE  
400 Alder St.  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
Or by email to the Editor:  
RW Stephen L. Zabriskie  
Email: zabled@aol.com

## MWV43

My dear Brothers, our participation in flag presentations is in full swing, with special events at Lodges and in conjunction with DDGM Official Visits. Please contact me with your availability to assist in our responsibility to perform this important duty.

The October meeting will be on Saturday, October 14 at Scriba Lodge 414 in Constantia at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow the meeting. We will need a quorum to conduct the business of the evening so please try to attend. As always guests are very welcome.

Please be sure that you are up to date with your dues. You cannot vote unless you are in good standing. If you know of anyone in need of our aid or sympathy, please let me know.

On a personal note, apples and honey is a traditional Rosh Hashanah dish to ensure a sweet and healthy year. Please join with me in following this tradition as I wish for all of you that the Great Architect of the Universe will provide the same for you and your family.

Norm Kruth

## Mentor

Hello, Brethren. This month I would like to talk about charity and about doing the right thing. Personally, I prefer the word “solidarity” in lieu of “charity.” To me, it sounds much kinder.

There are at least two types of Masonic charities: institutional and local. And both have strong features and advantages. Institutional are those organized and directed by the upper ranks of our organizations (Grand Lodge or Appended Body). For example, the Brotherhood Fund and the Masonic Medical Research Institute are operated by Grand Lodge. And the Dyslexia Centers are managed by the Scottish Rite, NMJ. They all provide a valuable service to our society.

Projects such as those mentioned could not be organized and supported by a local Lodge or a Valley, as they require a level of capital and manpower way beyond their means. However, I ask myself sometimes, How many people out there are really aware that these projects are maintained by Freemasons? For these projects operate far away from most people’s own communities.

The other types of projects are local ones. These are operated by local Lodges or Valleys in their own commu-

nities, and we have excellent examples here in Central New York: pantries are filled with donations, sometimes distributed by Lodges; ramps for the disabled are built at their homes; Easter Egg hunts and Santa parties are organized at Lodge premises; the Child ID project, conducted at the State Fair; college fairs for High School students; blood donation drives, etc.—all are free in our communities. The advantage with local projects is that our friends and neighbors know us and connect these efforts with Freemasonry. They are also excellent promotion and recruitment tools.

The other issue I wanted to bring up is doing the right thing. The problem with this proposal is that the right thing can be different for different people. For example, one person may support candidate A while another may support candidate B, because they like their proposed programs.

Freemasonry has an excellent tool to deal with such apparent contradiction: Tolerance. One can strongly disagree with someone else’s point of view and still have a

Mentor see page 2 ...






# ONONDAGA DISTRICT


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

## DDGM



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

## STAFF OFFICER



**RW Rick Miori**  
glso@onondagadistrict.org  
315/254-1671

Greetings, Brethren! I write to you on the heels of a tremendously successful Tri-District Table Lodge on September 1. Most of the Grand Line was with us as we united the Cayuga-Tompkins, Oswego and Onondaga Districts in celebrating the start of the Masonic year. Our ladies joined with us and enjoyed great food and beverage from Barbagallo's and good fellowship. Both DDGM Tony Tabone and DDGM Chris Reis agreed that we should make this an annual tradition. I want to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event a wonderful success. If you missed it this time, we hope to see you at the next one.

Official Visits have begun around the District, starting with Crossroads on the 21<sup>st</sup>. I will say it is a bitter-sweet feeling embarking on my official travel around the District for the last time. My Official Visits will end with a Homecoming to Fayetteville-Central City Lodge No. 305 on March 5. I look forward to bringing you our Grand Master's address and updates from around the District on our numerous endeavors.

As of this writing I am close to securing the location for our Outdoor Degree.

**DDGM**  
see 3rd column

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**VW Toby Shelley,**  
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315/427-6961

Greetings, Brethren. October finds us preparing for the Grand Lecturer's Convention on October 27. The convention theme is the Master Mason Degree and will require significant participation. Please take note: we plan to have dinner at 6:00 p.m. and start the convention promptly at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see everyone on October 27.

The tentative cast of volunteers: Drama portion: Narrator—Gary Hartman; KS—Dave Jones (Carlton Jackson, back-up); HKT—Brian Courtney; HA—Pat Wallace, JA—Jack Dombrowski; JO—Robert Clement; JM—Todd Platten. The 1<sup>st</sup> C—Adam Novak; 2<sup>nd</sup> C—Eric Driscoll; 3<sup>rd</sup> C—Tim Page; Guard—Jon Lorber; Sea Faring Man—Chris Rhea.

### DDGM from 1st column . . .

I have made some announcement of what is to come but hope to have dates and more details in time for my next word article.

The entire Onondaga District Team and I look forward to again traveling to you and participating in as

The Obligation will be divided by the ten paragraphs: 1—Sonny Schloop; 2—Russ Beckwith; 3—Hank Havener; 4—Andrew Milebonis; 5—John Rapp; 6—Andrew Blair; 7—Tim Page; 8—John Briggman; 9—Jim Nelson; 10—we need a volunteer.

For the Raising—Russ Beckwith; Ruffians: 1—Andrew Blair; 2—Tom Warnock; 3—Larry Olivia; H Abiff—Pat Wallace; Sr. Deacon—Dave Jasper; Working Tools—Tim Page. Walking Charge/Harris Prayer—looking for volunteers.

Did not see your name? AGL's made a mistake? Please contact us. This convention has a lot of moving parts; we need your help.

Toby Shelley  
Tim Conover

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### Past Grand Master

Carl J. Fitje  
Sponsor

### Event schedule, Oct '23

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

Oct 1	.....	Scriba—BBQ
Oct 2	.....	Marathon—OV
Oct 3	.....	Warren Salem Town—OV
.....	.....	FayCC—BBAF
Oct 4	.....	Pulaski—2°
.....	.....	Pulaski—OV
Oct 5	.....	Erie Canal—OV
.....	.....	TriValley—OV
.....	.....	Auburn—"Lodge Rededication"
.....	.....	Konosioni—Table Lodge
Oct 6	.....	Callimachus—Fish
.....	.....	KT25
Oct 7	.....	Pulaski—BBQ
.....	.....	Nortrip—Adopt-a-Highway
.....	.....	TriValley—MDC
Oct 7-8	.....	Lafayette Applefest
Oct 8	.....	Erie Canal—Pancakes
Oct 9	.....	PhoenixEliz—Long Form
.....	.....	MornStarOES
Oct 10	.....	Fidelity-Hobasco—OV
Oct 12	.....	Memorial—2°
.....	.....	Nortrip
.....	.....	LkOnTRAM
Oct 12-14	.....	OES GChapter
Oct 13	.....	Callimachus—Fish
Oct 14	.....	Pulaski—BBQ
.....	.....	Auburn BBQ
.....	.....	MWV43
Oct 16	.....	Trumansburg—OV
Oct 17	.....	Sylvan—OV
.....	.....	FayCC—Dinner and Petitions
.....	.....	Cortlandville—OV
Oct 18	.....	Cazenovia—1°
Oct 19	.....	Auburn—"Fervency & Zeal"
.....	.....	Erie Canal—2°
Oct 20	.....	Callimachus—Fish
.....	.....	OnonOES—Assoc. GPatron
.....	.....	KT25
Oct 21	.....	LkOnTRAM—Hands Across Border
.....	.....	Cazenovia—BBQ
Oct 23	.....	PhoenixEliz—Crazy Socks
.....	.....	MornStarOES—Elect
.....	.....	Scriba—OV
Oct 24	.....	CCRivRAM
.....	.....	OnonOES—Line Officers Group
Oct 26	.....	Osw GLect Convention
Oct 27	.....	CT Awards Dinner
.....	.....	Onon GLect Convention
.....	.....	Callimachus—Fish
Oct 31	.....	Halloween
Nov 1	.....	Callimachus—OV
Nov 8	.....	CT GLect Convention
.....	.....	Hannibal—OV
Nov 14	.....	CCRivRAM—Elect
Nov 16	.....	CrossroadsU—DGMaster
Nov 29	.....	OnonOES
.....	.....	Reception GChapter Officers

### Mentor from page 1 . . .

civil exchange of ideas. We should try to understand where people are coming from and what are their strong and weak points; for usually issues are not totally right or totally wrong. This should help us find a middle ground where all of us can function together. After all, each of us is here for the duration.

Freemasonry is more than just some good men improving themselves and forming lasting relationships. Some of such improved men may also want to help improve their surroundings. Freemasonry provides these brethren with an outlet to help them pursue this work.

Jorge L. Romeu

Are You ~ ~ ~ Moving?

Print your NEW address below (incl. seasonal changes)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Clip and mail to:

**the word**  
P.O. Box 242  
Liverpool, NY 13088



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

WM Dave Jones

As the leaves begin to tumble down to a glorious few, please join your brethren for a good time of fun and fellowship. October 3 will be a Brother Bring a Friend event. Pizza will be served at 6:30 p.m. Invite a friend who may have shown interest in joining the world's oldest Fraternity. Guests eat for free; members pay \$10. Please make your reservation with Craig by October 1. Thank you.

A pulled-pork dinner will be served on October 17 at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. Reserve with Craig by Sunday, October 15. Petitions will be read and interview committees appointed.

Remember the Brotherhood Fund. Our Ladies of the Lodge luncheon will be held sometime soon. Stay tuned for future announcements.

Please support your new line of officers. They are working hard to make our Fraternity continue to go and grow in the coming days. See you in Lodge.

Dave Jones

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

WM Chris Rhea  
Christopherrhea44@yahoo.com

Greetings, Brethren. Our first meeting, on September 7, was a success. We had a really nice turnout that night and I would like to thank all the Brothers who helped fill the sidelines. We had a nice discussion on the legacy of all the Past Masters and Brothers from our beloved Lodge.

We also discussed the importance of ritual in our

ancient Craft. Our ritual books contain a vast amount of wisdom that has been passed down throughout the ages and it can apply to our lives today. I asked the Brothers present to go home and start reading it again—perhaps starting with the working tools of their favorite Degree.

We also discussed the K950 retreat at The Pines. This year it has been renamed the K950 Hoot Memorial Retreat in honor of our dear friend and Past Master Hoot Fink. As I write this article I really look forward to a big turnout this year.

I have a correction concerning Table Lodge. It will be held this year on October 5 at Bella Domani on Taft Road in North Syracuse. It has been there the last two years and is a great spot for fellowship and fun. Remember that Table Lodge is a Brother Bring a Friend night. Bring somebody who has interest in joining our ancient Craft.

Chris Rhea

**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 Russell Beckwith  
315/882-9846  
genurus6749@yahoo.com



Hello, Brethren of Crossroads. On receiving this issue, we have already had our Official Visit with District Deputy Grand Master Daniel Campis and an honored guest from Ireland, our friend and Brother Brendan Cowzer.

We are preparing a First Degree for our new candidate and finishing up with the Third Degree for our remaining two Fellowcrafts. Brothers Nicholas and Nathan Heitmann received

their Third Degree at Lake City Lodge in Oswego in August.

We have the honor of hosting Deputy Grand Marshal Peter Unfried and Deputy Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin for dinner and a talk on his future vision for Grand Lodge. The date is Thursday, November 16, with a 6 p.m. arrival time and dinner served shortly thereafter. Reservations will be necessary as further information is released. Crossroads United 93 hopes to see Brothers from across the District as well as travelers from other Districts. Let us come together and help us welcome them. Contact Secretary Jon Lorber or me for details. Happy Halloween!

Russell Beckwith

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

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

Greetings, Brethren. I hope all is well with the brethren of Tully Lodge and elsewhere. I have been busy with the garden this late summer/early fall. Mrs. WM and I have been doing a lot of freezing and canning.

We also had a wonderful time at the Tri-District Table Lodge hosted by the Onondaga, Cayuga-Tompkins and Oswego Districts on September 1. It was well attended and many of our Grand Line were present.

We are still looking for volunteers to hang our sign and paint the barn. Meanwhile, planning is underway for the 2023 Applefest in Lafayette to be held on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October. We need all Tully Brothers, and District Brothers if possible, to commit to helping for this worthwhile cause. There will be

shifts to set up and tear down the booth as well as shifts to cook, serve, etc.

We have Wi-Fi in the Lodge to enable Zoom meetings. As soon as things are set, I will share the details. The Wi-Fi name is TullyLodge896 and the password is FreeMasonry 13 State. As far as other ventures go, they are in the works. If you have ideas to grow our Lodge and have some fun, please contact me.

Let us all keep the Mason in Masonry. I encourage all Brothers from Tully Lodge and elsewhere to attend our Lodge meetings every second and fourth Thursday at 1930 hours. Contact me if you need anything or just to say, Hi: [jrapp126@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jrapp126@twcny.rr.com) or 315/569-5203.

John Rapp

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

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

Brethren, summer has come and gone in a flash but much was accomplished. We had the parking lot repaved and exit stairs inspected and painted. We held a clean-up day in June, as Brother Harold Lanning came down with his tractor. We removed a lot of trash from the wall along Main St. and cut down a large larch tree. Many other small projects were completed.

In April we did the roadside cleanup. I spoke to the County DoT and we will be getting new signs. We removed fifteen bags of trash from the road, starting at the rail bridge to the village line.

In June we participated in a village-wide garage sale, with much success. At the June picnic our District Deputy RW Dan Campis was in attendance. We presented many awards and fifty-year aprons to fellow Brothers.

I attended the Tri-District Table Lodge on September 1 and met with MW R.J. Kessler. His message of brotherhood in Freemasonry was inspiring.

Our first meeting of the year was on September 18. Brother Jim Mooney had surgery and is doing well.

I leave you with this quote from former president John F. Kennedy. "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Apply that to Masonry.

L.J. Howard

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

WM Todd Burns



Welcome, my Brothers, to the 2023-2024 season of Nortrip Lodge. I am sorry I missed last month's issue but summer got the best of me. I am seriously looking forward to seeing all our brethren under one roof again. It will be good to get back in the swing of things.

We ended last year with a very successful Steak Bake, where we had an open gathering of friends and family. It was nice to have a well-attended event like that. Please keep that same spirit in mind going into this year. All our open events on the Trestleboard should be just like that.

In mid-summer we had a wonderful Lodge picnic at the Lafountains home. It is always a great time with good people and food. I thank Mark and Sharon again for hosting (and for their dedication in getting Utica Club on tap).

Our first meeting was casual—no suits—on September 14. We started off with a reuben dinner followed by our regular Lodge meeting. This year will be all meals-first, with Lodge afterwards.

Todd Burns

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

**Past Senior**  
**Grand Warden**  
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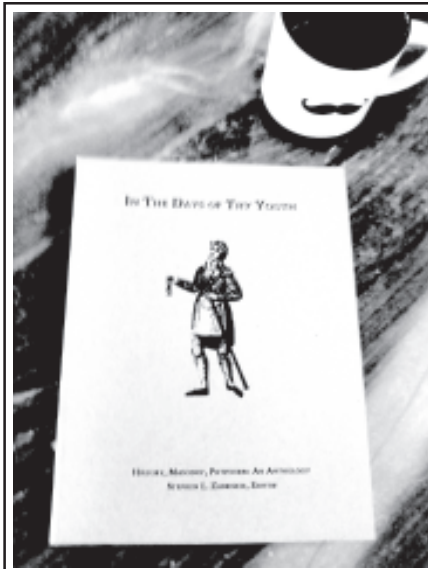


Memorial Lodge No. 648  
**W.: Alfred W. Ferguson**  
Centerville Chapter No. 185, OES  
**Patricia H. Ferguson**

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Brother Ed Stone celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 4 and Masonic War Veterans Post No. 43 helped. We think Konosioni Lodge's Brother Ed is the last survivor in Onondaga County of the horrific bombing at Pearl Harbor. Happy birthday wishes go to Ed from his Masonic Brothers and his Brothers in Arms.



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

## Not What It Seems

In a mailing from the New Amsterdam History Center are several topics of interest—historical, logically. One reviewed a recent walking tour through the northern portion of Central Park in New York City, once a part of the New Amsterdam territory. Conducted by a woman who had been official photographer of the Central Park Conservancy and its historian for almost thirty years, this tour resembled an archeological dig, without disturbing today’s ground. She pointed out the 140-foot rocky lookout used by both General Washington and the British; she knew where taverns had sat alongside an earlier Indian trail, a trail that served the Patriots as well as the Hessians and Redcoats in the movement of troops; she knew the stories of Dutch families in the area in the mid-1600s and the convent and school in the mid-1800s. Without seeing the original topography it is hard to visualize the early land use and, in the words of one historian on the tour, “...we lose sight of its natural terrain and how it was used before it became a park.”

In a second story a modern artist wanted to create a painting of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Fort Good Hope, on the Connecticut River in Hartford. “No one living today,” he says, “knows what Fort Good Hope...looked like.” There is some reference in contemporary material but no detailed description. A Dutch explorer made several trips to the New Netherland settlements and in 1639 wrote about the West India Company’s small fort, the House of Hope. He described “a plain on the margin of the river, and alongside it runs a creek to a high woodland, out of which comes a valley, which makes this kill [water channel]...” He mentions the little fort or redoubt but does not further describe it. In 1969, 330 years later, a writer published a detailed depiction of that Dutch explorer. In the context he gives clear descriptions of the layout of the fort, its guns, a large blockhouse, some gardens and so forth. The artist laments that there are no footnotes identifying source material, and so, he cannot rely on this account for his model.

Further, other than a few old, old maps, one cannot really pinpoint that land called Dutch Point under today’s ugly commercial and industrial Hartford waterfront. In the end, though, the artist has produced a striking and appealing conception of a Dutch settlement around a small fort, some sailing ships at anchor and a boat with four men at oar and one on tiller, an appropriate scene in the 1600s.

In my simple village things seem mostly undisturbed from the primeval. Well, slight exaggeration. But apart from the structures and local development it is fairly easy to imagine a setting uncontaminated by settlement. Think trees. In 1797 Major Seth Sherwood was charter Master of Scipio Lodge. When he moved the next year from Aurora to the little clearing a few miles east and uphill, a settlement that took his name, he followed a blazed trail through woods—which long ago yielded to agriculture.

Yesterday my wife drove past a young couple pushing two shopping carts, with two dogs. Two hours later she again met them farther along the highway. She pulled over to investigate and found that they were walking, from Watkins Glen, NY to Mexico, NY and, no they did not need any help. They were attractive—non-threatening, anyway. Would she have stopped if they had presented a different appearance? Yes. But she would have been wary.

In some areas around the world people regularly burrow into the earth and expose things ancient. What lies beneath can often surprise: surface inspection may not offer clues to terrain or character. We cannot see what has shaped the landscape of the people we encounter; even, really, those who share the beliefs and practices of our organizations.

We need the eye of the photographer and the imagination of the painter to dig through the accumulation and discover the real foundation. In a sense it is like the reminder that all distinctions belonging to the material world are left at the door to the Lodge room. Our interactions, therefore, begin with the benefit of the doubt, a reliance on trust and just treatment. Because we think that what is at the core is what unites all of us.

Stephen L. Zabriskie  
zabled@aol.com

Another offering from The Builder and another from H.L. Haywood; February 1923.—Editor.

# A Short Sketch of the Life of Confucius

BY THE EDITOR (HL Haywood)

A MAJORITY of Chinese words are ideograms; they are a symbolical picture of the idea for which they stand. Confucius may be called the ideogram of China. In his own life he gathered up into a single focus the history and meaning of his nation so that he who understands the great teacher can understand the great empire.

Long before Confucius was born China had climbed to a very high level of civilization. That development may be said to have culminated in him; just why it should have stopped then we may be able to see as a result of the study of his life. That it did stop, there is no question, for the arrest of civilization in China is one of the most astounding of the phenomena of history, and utterly destroys the popular theory about necessary progress. “The compass was known,” says one authority on the subject, “some twenty-six hundred years before Christ, but the Chinese never became a maritime nation. Gunpowder has been known in China some seventeen hundred years before Christ, but the Chinese have never become a warlike people. Paper was manufactured some two hundred years before Christ and the art of printing by block types was known two hundred years after Christ, that is, twelve hundred years before Gutenberg. Despite these advantages probably not over five per cent of the entire population of China could read and write in 1900, and Chinese writing has not advanced even to the alphabetic stage.”

In Confucius’ day China was not yet an empire but occupied only about one-sixth of its present area and was divided into some hundred and fifty separate states. Each state was ruled by a petty king or duke or marquis who in turn paid tribute to the more powerful rulers; in short, the ten or fifteen million of the Chinese were then living in a state of society very similar to that of feudal Europe. Just as there

was culture in feudal Europe so in that ancient China art, music, literature and social etiquette were highly developed. But in the course of time all the political divisions and jealousies bit down deep into the people’s life, and a period of decadence set in during which such conditions obtained as are impossible to describe.

When Confucius appeared it seemed that the breath of the creative spirit was blowing over the whole world. The Jews built their second temple and laid the foundations of that national religion which remained in full vigour down to Jesus’ day; Buddha set rolling the wheel of his law over India; Pythagoras founded his so influential sect among the Greeks; and Confucius’ own

robust son he decided to marry again at seventy. So he sought out a friend in a neighbouring clan who had three marriageable daughters and asked for one of them. He was given the youngest, a girl of seventeen, and it was from this ill-assorted union that Confucius sprang. Heih died when the lad was three years of age, leaving the family in rather destitute circumstances so that Confucius himself afterwards explained his ability to do many things by saying that he had been obliged to do much work when a boy.

At fifteen Confucius was seized with a passion for learning, and steeped himself in writings of the poets and sages who had lived before him. At nineteen he was married, a son being born to

Confucius became a teacher, not of boys but of young men who desired instruction in the conduct of life. There is no question but that he proved to be one of the greatest pedagogs that ever lived, and he soon gathered a large company of students about him. Two members of a royal house were enrolled in his circle after a time. During his visit to the court of these noble students Confucius had an interview with Lao Tsze, the founder of Taoism, and one of the greatest men that has ever lived, a mind so profound, endowed with such a genius for religion, that his writings, in many portions, sound as if they might have been written yesterday. But the pragmatic mind of Confucius was not equipped to understand

“When Confucius appeared it seemed that the breath of the creative spirit was blowing over the whole world. The Jews built their second temple and laid the foundations of that national religion which remained in full vigour down to Jesus’ day; Buddha set rolling the wheel of his law over India; Pythagoras founded his so influential sect among the Greeks; and Confucius’ own fellow countryman, Lao Tsze, created Taoism, a religion that numbers more adherents today among the Chinese than any other.

fellow countryman, Lao Tsze, created Taoism, a religion that numbers more adherents today among the Chinese than any other. But, as Mencius said, conditions were bad in ancient China: the central government was very weak and corrupt; polygamy of a debased type prevailed; murder was common, and everywhere it seemed that the ancient order was breaking down.

**BIRTH OF CONFUCIUS**  
It was during the Chow dynasty, third in the history of the people, that Confucius was born, supposedly in the year 550 B.C. His real name was Chin K’ung, but this was later changed by his followers to Pu Tse K’ung, which means “The Master K’ung,” a title that Jesuit missionaries latinized into “Confucius.” No Chinaman ever sprang from a grander lineage than he. His father was a public official of great courage and such physical powers that if one were to describe some of his exploits a reader would not believe the tale. His name was Heih and he had nine daughters and one crippled son by his two wives. Desiring a more

him in his twentieth year. Of this boy little is known except that, like Buddha’s son, he became an obscure member of his father’s sect. Two daughters also were born to him and these also sank into oblivion as women almost always do in that land which has been so deficient in its appreciation of womankind.

At this time Confucius was appointed keeper of public stores and superintendent of parks, the latter as thankless a job as it is at the present time. His mother died when he was twenty-four, and her death almost broke the heart of her son, who mourned her in such a way as makes the one supremely human and likeable event in his history. For immemorial ages the Chinese had levelled the graves of their dead, but Confucius, conservative that he was, raised a large mound over his mother’s grave in order, so he said, that whatever happened he would never lose sight of her resting place. For three years he mourned for her, not even playing his flute, to which he was devoted, during that whole period.

In his twenty-second year

a mystic like Lao Tsze and the two never drew very close together.

In 517 the state of Lu, in which Confucius resided, fell into such disorders that he and his disciples went elsewhere seeking a home. But, judged according to the standards of his time he was so peculiar and he held up so high a standard for men and monarchs, that nowhere was he warmly welcomed; so after many wanderings he and his friends returned to Lu where he remained a private teacher during the next fifteen years.

Becoming more and more influential he was finally made chief magistrate of a city and later on the minister of crime in a province. According to all accounts he was wonderfully successful in public office. He was so successful, indeed, that he made of his state the best governed in the land. At that a neighbouring province or two became jealous and alarmed, fearing that the state of Lu might grow to such

Life of Confucius  
see page 5

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# A Short Sketch of the Life of Confucius .... from page 4

strength as to absorb their territory. Accordingly the Marquis of Ts'i determined on a peculiarly Chinese method for weakening the strong state. Instead of declaring war on some pretext or other as a less crafty ruler would have done, he sent around a troop of beautiful dancing women and a number of fine horses to the ruler of Lu. Much to Confucius' disgust this potentate fell into the trap and soon forgot all the sage's counsels in his infatuation with the girls.

Very much chagrined and humiliated Confucius resigned his offices, gathered a group of disciples about him, and left the country. It is an open secret that he hoped his leaving would arouse the Marquis of Lu to send for his return, but that did not happen. The state soon lapsed into its old corruption.

## IN VOLUNTARY EXILE

Confucius was fifty-six years of age when he embarked on this voluntary exile. He had been cherishing a Carlyle dream of a fatherly and kingly ruler and went everywhere seeking for such a man. For thirteen years he sought in vain, everywhere received with respect but nowhere given a position of power as the counsel of a sovereign, the post that he most desired. Many interesting events occurred during that itinerancy but there is not here space to tell of them.

After this wandering he returned to Lu and went again into private life, refusing the public offices that were then offered to him by the new Marquis. He contented himself with teaching his disciples, who now numbered some three thousand.

His wife had died many years before but he had ordered the young men and the family not to mourn for her. Confucius' family life evidently had meant little to him: there is even a tradition that he divorced his wife but no real proof for this has been discovered. He did not even mourn for the death of his son who died shortly after the last return to Lu. The death of a favourite disciple at this time, however, shook him profoundly.

He himself died in 478, being then 74 years of age. His passing was not such as to awaken in us either much reverence or admiration. One day he was seen by a disciple standing at a door leaning on his walking stick and crooning to himself:

"The great mountains must crumble

The strong beam must break,

The wise man must wither away like a plant."

To a disciple who overheard this lament he said, "No intelligent ruler arises to take me as his master. My time has come to die." Shortly thereafter he took to his bed in which he lingered for seven days. He made no signs of emotion, and seemed melancholy, embittered and disillusioned with life.

His disciples buried him with great pomp just outside the city of Kuifow where his tomb may be seen to this day marked by a tablet on which is inscribed, "The resting place of the great perfection." His disciples built huts in the neighbourhood and lived three years mourning his passing. Some 40,000 or 50,000 of the sage's descendants still live in the neighbouring city.

News of his death went thru the whole empire, awakening the people, when too late, to a sense of their loss. They discovered that a truly great man had been living in their midst unappreciated. His sayings and the books that he had edited began to be circulated everywhere. To this day every applicant for official position in many parts of China must pass an examination in the Confucian classics. Confucius living sought in vain for recognition from his empire; Confucius dead passed into the spirit of his people where he today lives with growing power. Of such an influence as his one might write in the words which Emerson used of the memory of Burns:

"I am afraid heaven and earth have taken too good care of it to leave anything to say. The west winds are murmuring it. Open the windows behind you, and harken to the incoming tide, what the waves say of it. His teachings are the property and the solace of mankind."

## HIS INFLUENCE

How did Confucius come to wield so wide an influence? I must confess that I have sought in vain for an answer to that question. He is to me the greatest puzzle I have ever studied. To an Occidental who has sat at the feet of such men as Lincoln and Emerson this eastern sage makes almost no appeal at all. They are flame and life; he is ice and a dead perfection. He had self control and a quiet kind of courage but in those qualities which appeal to the imagination he was almost wholly lacking. The accounts of his life tell how he dressed, and how he sat in all circumstances, and how he liked his rice cooked, and his meat cut, and what clothes he wore, and that he would not talk after he retired for the night. He was punctilious, was cautious in his own meticulous fashion, but of passion, of chivalry, of force and verve he had almost nothing. I know of no modern book so much like the story of Confucius as Herbert Spencer's Autobiography wherein the English sage devotes whole pages to the shape of salt cellars and the manner of carving a roast. There may have been passion and life behind the exterior; his long and passionate mourning for his mother and his fondness for music might seem to indicate that; but if there was, he reposed it and concealed it.

How he came to wield such an empire over so great a portion of the human race

is still a mystery to us; but there is no question that he has been a power in the world, a greater influence, perhaps, than any other moralist who has ever lived.

When he appeared, as Mencius said, he found the existing order in danger of dissolution. How to preserve it against destruction became his life work. Not being a great original thinker, not having the insight into the roots of things himself, but being, according to his own words, "transmitter rather than creator," he naturally turned to the past. It was there, in the teachings of the ancient sages and in the deeds of the ancient rulers that he found his guidance. He did not write any books himself but gathered out of the past such matters as he felt would best conserve his nation, and he gave these in volumes to his disciples.

But in choosing from the ancient leaders he ignored all that might be of a religious element, and preserved only the secular. In religion he was apparently an agnostic, though this is said with some reservation inasmuch as Confucianists themselves are divided on the question. But the very fact that his own followers cannot determine whether he believed in God or not shows that for him what we call religion was a matter of no great importance. To this day Confucianism is not in our sense a religion but a code of ethics of such a character that one may remain a Confucianist while believing in some other religion, as in the case with a multitude of Chinamen who are Confucianists and Taoists or Buddhists at the same time. His one concern was to make this life as healthy and happy as possible, improving the conduct of the people, and teaching them etiquette. In short, as Wu Ting Fang has put it, "Confucius' aim was to show how to go thru life like a courteous gentlemen."

His ideal of character he called "The Superior Man." Those who believe in Nietzsche's doctrine of the Superman will do well to ponder this fact. The first virtue of this Superior Man is to be loyalty, not loyalty to his own conscience or to his ideals but to the past, for all of Confucius' ideals are but the shadows of the dead. Of progress he had no conception. He was undoubtedly the world's greatest conservative.

## CHINESE CONSERVATISM

It is this conservatism that has enabled China to maintain her integrity of race and nationality during all these centuries, for Confucius taught her to conserve her material wealth, her vitality, her scholarship, and her more.

To Confucius the state was a creation of nature no more to be changed than is the structure of the beehive. A benevolent despot was to rule over an obedient people. Confucius hoped that if fa-

therly and strong rulers could be developed and if the people would prove loyal to them an ideal political government might sometime be developed. Indeed, he seemed to hold a dream of a kind of paternally socialistic state like that of Plato or of the old time communists. So important did politics seem to him that he gave it almost the value and dignity of a religion, a modern scholar saying that he would have served the world greatly had he done nothing more than "Sublimate statecraft."

He built his ideal of the state on the theory of the family because to him the family relationship lies at the basis of all social life. In this

he was wise, far wiser than many of the impetuous reformers of our day, and there is no country where the relationships between brothers and sisters, parents and children, and the husband and wife are of a more enduring character than in China. There is much lacking in the finer qualities of the home, its poetry, its religious element and its spontaneous love; but in spite of these defects the Confucian family is enduring.

Much has been made of the fact that Confucius taught the Golden Rule; he did teach it in a negative form a world apart from the golden rule taught by Jesus. According

to Jesus we are TO DO to others what we would that others would do to us; the Chinese sage taught that we are simply to refrain from doing evil to others. Of this, one writer who has long lived in China observes: "The Chinese are really addicted in a wonderful and commendable way to letting others alone; they are neither obtrusive or officious. But an act of pure chivalry is seldom to be beheld among the four hundred millions. Foreigners who have lived among them for tens of years have never seen a chivalrous soul dash out to rescue a suffering captive, nor save a stranger who was in peril."

*One of our favorite contributors in The Builder gives some illumination to a familiar symbol. This is from the January 1923 issue of the magazine.—Editor.*

# THE TRESTLE BOARD

BY BROTHER H.L. HAYWOOD, IOWA

In the French town of Caudebec, which stands on the Seine River, is the grave of one "Guillaume Letellier, master mason of the church, who had the conduct of the works for thirty years and more, and erected the choir and chapels." On the grave stone of this long forgotten Masonic brother who was once a master builder is an inscribed drawing the plan of a building. It was the custom of builders in those days to have their tools engraved on their grave stones, just as knights and lords made use of their heraldic devices. Brother Letellier chose to be remembered as one who made designs for buildings and therefore selected a building plan for his own during remembrances.

We do not need to be told how important in the work of Operative Masons was the making of a plan for a building. "What has the Master on his trestle board?" was a question often asked with keenest interest by the workman. And because of this importance the trestle board, which represented the whole labour of making plans, came to be used as a symbol, just as we found Brother Letellier using it as a symbol his own life's work. When Masons ceased to be Operative Masons, and turned their attention to the building of men in fraternal life, they retained the trestle board as a symbol.

The trestle board in Speculative Masonry is a symbol of that which we call an ideal. One should not be frightened by the use of this word. It does not refer to something visionary, or far away, or, as our slang expression has it, "highbrow." Quite the contrary!

Before we go on a journey we plan our travels, our railway connections, our stop-overs, and our destination. Before we undertake to erect a building we are so careful to have a plan that often we pay an expert to make one for us. It would be equally wise if each of us were to have a plan similarly for his own life. A plan for

one's life is what we mean by an ideal. It is a plan for doing things.

Also, an ideal is a plan for improving actual conditions. If our lodge room were too small, or is badly ventilated, or inadequately lighted, or the members quarrel among themselves we might feel very unhappy because of such conditions: and some of us might put our heads together in an effort to better conditions. We would say, "Let us do this, and that, and the other thing, so that we can be happier in our lodge work." Such a plan for bettering unsatisfactory conditions would be an ideal. It is something that we would draw, to speak figuratively, on the trestle board of our lodge. Such an effort to better actual conditions would not be "highbrow"; on the contrary it would recommend itself to men of sense and sagacity.

We Masons believe that conditions could be improved in our human world. We are too busy to dream impossible dreams about mankind: we are too practical to wish to waste time and energy on unattainable aims. We do not try the fantastical. But we know there are some things to be improved by plain common sense efforts, and we are leagued together and solemnly sworn to assist in such endeavors. This program for improving conditions among men is what we mean by the Masonic ideal; it is what the Fraternity has drawn upon its trestle board.

For instance, we Masons believe that much of the unhappiness in the world is due to ignorance, and we believe that if all men were well educated they would be happier than they are. We Masons, therefore, wish to do all we can to uphold and improve the whole public school system, and to try to make it possible for all the children of all the people to have all the enlightenment that is possible under the circumstances. Brethren, let us each as individual Masons put that down on our own pri-

vate trestle board.

Another example. Those of us who are acquainted with any community know that men and women very seldomly live as happily with each other as well as might be. We are all bound up together. We are compelled to live in neighbourhoods. We must live together whether we choose it or not. Is it not wise, then, for us to learn how to live happily together? The effort to bring men and women into harmony with each other is the great aim of Brotherhood, and this practical, common sense, hard-headed effort to organize human neighbourhoods into human happiness, that is one of the great purposes of our Fraternity. It is on our trestle board.

A final example. Nations, like individuals and families, are also compelled to live together: there is no escape from that! But unfortunately, nations have not as yet learned how to live happily together. Ever so often they go to war, and then men and women suffer the most terrible unhappiness known to our race. How can we eliminate war and do away with national antagonisms is a difficult problem; the ways and means cannot be discussed here. But we men, we Masons, know that it can be done, and we are dedicated to the effort to do it. How to bring nations to live happily together, that also is on our trestle board.

None of these things are impossible dreams. The more experience and wisdom and common sense a man has, the more hard-headed he is, the more will he wish these things to be. They, and the other plans we have for improving conditions, will give us more prosperity, more money, more health, and more happiness. It is to such an ideal that Masonry is dedicated. Brethren, let us ourselves become dedicated also. Let us make such an ideal the symbol of our lives, just as did the good Master Mason, Brother Letellier, long ago!



# OSWEGO DISTRICT

## DDGM REPORT

RW Chris Reis

Greeting, Brethren. I hope everyone is well and anxious to get back to work in the quarries.

The first Official Visit will take place at Pulaski Lodge on October 4. Scriba Lodge's visit is on October 23.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention is on October 26 with dinner at 6:30 p.m. The Callimachus Lodge Official Visit is on November 1, Hannibal Lodge is on November 8 and we visit Hiram Lodge on December 6.

We had our first cross-District Degree on August 26. Our first Tri-District Table Lodge with Onondaga, Oswego and Cayuga-Tompkins was September 1. The Grand Master and some of the Grand Line were present. A great time was had by all but we could have had more people from our District.

Chris Reis

**LAKE CITY 127**  
765 E. Seneca St.  
Oswego, N.Y. 13126  
2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m.  
315/207-0127  
www.lakecitylodge127.org

WM Patrick Fasulo,  
Wife Tracey  
315/760-7676

Greetings, Brethren! Get ready for the excitement. On Thursday, October 26 Lake City Lodge will be hosting the Grand Lecturer's Convention.

This is guaranteed to be a learning experience as we will be working on the Third Degree. Dinner is paid for by the Lodge, so get ready to eat a great meal prepared by the Lake City Victoria OES at no cost to you.

That is: Thursday, October 26. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., the convention at 7:30 p.m. Our Grand Lecturer, RW Richard Friedman, will bring his enthusiasm for and knowledge of our ritual to this annual event that will be sure to educate and motivate all. I will see you at Lodge.  
Pat Fasulo

## STAFF OFFICER



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

Greetings, Brethren. Welcome back to the quarries. It is time to get back to work. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer spending time with family and friends. It is hard to believe that September and now October are here already. Where does the time go?

I look forward to working with the three-District training team again this year to put on the Masonic Development Course (MDC), the Road to the East (RTTE) course and the Master's Chair. Please be on the lookout for location, time and dates.

Great news: the first steps in the return of the Masonic University of New York, known as MUNY, have come to fruition with the new MDC. Built with the student in mind, the MDC is centered around the experience. It is not just reading a booklet and answering a few questions. It is a serious self-reflection, social learning, and even more exciting, the team will be using HIRAM, our new online learning system to deliver it to you. It is a very exciting time, my Brothers. Please keep an eye out for the time and dates.

Masters, please contact me if you are looking for some extra education on a meeting night. Maybe some Masonic Etiquette is in store for newer members or just a

**Staff Officer**  
see 6th column

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS



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

### AGL Bob Boutell

Greetings, Brethren! It is that time of year when we welcome RW Richard Friedman, our Grand Lecturer, into the District for some ritual education and motivation.

The Oswego District will be hosting the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Lake City Lodge No. 127 on Thursday evening, October 26. Dinner will be paid for by your Lodge, so you need bring no money for this event. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the convention will start around 7:30 p.m.

The Third Degree will be the work of the evening and you should have received and cast your respective Lodge parts. Please study hard and be ready for a fun, educational and motivating evening. Please make a reservation with Brother Mike Regan at [secretarylakecity127@gmail.com](mailto:secretarylakecity127@gmail.com). And we will see you there.  
Pat Fasulo  
Bob Boutell

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

WM Bob Boutell

"Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in."—Michael Corleone.

Greetings, Brethren. When this comes out, the Applefest will be over. Hopefully, the weather cooperated and we had a successful fundraiser.

**Central Square**  
see 4th column

## Central Square from 3rd column . . .

Our first meeting of the month will be an open meeting to complete anything that is required. Right now the dress for this meeting will be Masonic shirt.

Our second meeting will be a charity night. Please bring something for our Thanksgiving/Christmas events. This might be non-perishable food stuffs, a new toy, etc. We will also be discussing our overall charity strategy and what type of projects we want to start and/or continue. The dress for this meeting will be jacket and tie.

October 26 is the Grand Lecturer's Convention. This year we will be going over the Third Degree, to include the obligation. The new ritual books (2019) have many changes and the Grand Lecturer has some interesting ideas for the presentation to make it meaningful for the new Brother. It will be a good time.

Please keep in contact with your Brothers. A call or visit can make someone's day. If you or a fellow Brother is in sickness or distress, please let the Secretary or me know.

Bob Boutell

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

WM Fred Dashnaw



Tidings, my Brothers. Now that the heat of summer is behind us, may we be invigorated to keep Masonry alive and well at our historic Pulaski Lodge.

We had all chairs with elected and appointed in their places, save one. Our Brother Chaplain was recovering from a fall. He is bruised and sore but is recovering. We are wishing Bill a speedy recovery.

Our next meeting was a full-on practice for the Fellowcraft Degree. If it went well, another may not be needed. It is hoped that for our October 4 meeting we can confer that Degree.

**Pulaski**  
see 5th column

## Pulaski from 4th column . . .

We have much work ahead to finish out our barbecue season. We can always use more help in this effort.

My Brothers, we have pamphlets about Masonry in our building. Have one with you and share it with a man of good character who might become a new Brother. Help us to build a spiritual building not made with hands.

Today is 9/11—a day when countless lives were forever altered. Our country was attacked at home. Let us never forget.

Please keep our police and first responders in our thoughts and prayers. Our continued support is so important.

To a more upbeat topic: It has been a while since we did our hot dog roast for trick or treaters. If there is interest in this, let me know.

May we always be respectful of others; be willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. May our Great Architect watch over our gentle Craft and bless it and our nation. See you on the level.

Fred Dashnaw

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

WM Charlie Tuff



Greetings, Brethren from Scriba Lodge 414. It looks as though we are going to close out the summer with some pretty hot temps but it is still better than the rain we got during August.

We got back to work in the quarries with our first tiled meeting. It sure felt good to see twenty of our brethren and visiting brethren in Lodge. We had a beautiful dinner served by our in-house chef—we all know who that is—with a great dessert from the Mrs. Again, I say this all the time, if you want to come to one of our meetings for the meal and great fellowship put it on your list of things to do.

Our meeting went very

**Scriba**  
see 6th column

## Scriba from 5th column . . .

well, with a lot of new officers in their new stations and places. Scriba as a Lodge is very proud of what we do and our Brothers are not afraid to continue in different chairs in the Lodge without having to ask them. We had some new prospects come to dinner and meet the brethren, so it looks as though we may be going to be very busy this year with Degree work, which will be performed in our Lodge.

We will have our first chicken barbecue of the fall session on October 1. We will be taking preorders and our plan is to do 250 half chickens. The sides will be Rosie House's secret-recipe coleslaw, salt potatoes and beans. Dinner includes all three sides for \$14 or a half chicken for \$8 and \$2 for each side.

All the officers and brethren of Scriba Lodge want to wish the October Brothers a very happy birthday. May your day be all it should be, Brother Daniel Buck, Brother Jeffery Bush, Brother Frank DiPino, Brother Paul Hoyt, Brother Raymond Main, Brother Lawrence Reagan and Brother Randall Shaw.

Brothers, I hope all of you have a great rest of the year. Stay safe.

Charlie Tuff

## Staff Officer from 2nd column . . .

refresher for the entire Lodge.

Brethren, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Official Visits. Stay safe, everyone.

John Pierce

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

WM Brian Courtney  
40thSPVet@gmail.com  
315/447-2104

Hello, Brethren. It is my honor to be your WM for the ensuing year. I am grateful to be part of your Lodge and to help train the next WM, Sam Sweet.

I volunteered to help at your fish dinners last year to learn how to start them at Tigris Shrine. I enjoyed myself so much and, urged by W Dave VanAuken, I joined your Lodge. Every Lodge has its own personality and yours fits me. Plus, PMs John and Scott Colbert are former US Marines. I get to bust their chops. Their Brother Steve, like me, scored high enough on the ASVAB test

**Callimachus**  
see page 7 . . .



WM Scott Colbert, with Brendan Cowzer to his left, and new 33rd Degree SR Brother Garrett Wikoff as Installing Officer at Callimachus Lodge No. 369.



**AUBURN SHRINE CLUB**  
Auburn, NY  
An Affiliate of Damascus Temple  
A.A.O.N.M.S.  
1st Shrine Club  
in America  
Auburn Shrine Club  
Supports Our Hospitals



# CORTLAND-MADISON DISTRICT

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

Brethren, as we begin this busy month after returning to our labors in the quarries, please remember to travel to other Lodges as the Official Visits begin. Marathon Lodge No. 438 will be Monday, October 2, Tri-Valley Lodge No. 148 is Thursday, October 5 and Cortlandville No. 470 is on Tuesday, October 17. Degrees are also in the works with First, Second and Third all needing to be conferred within the District.

By this time, you should have received the annual mailing from the Brotherhood Fund. There are several separate charities to donate to. Of course there are the traditional choices of the Grand Master's Allocation, MMRI, Masonic Care Community, Military Outreach Program, Masonic Youth, Livingston Library, Camp Turk and the Masonic Benevolence Endowment Fund. There are three newer selections: MW Carl Smith Tompkins Chapel Organ Restoration; R. J. Kessler Battle Within; and the Joanne Kessler Children's Dyslexia Center. I encourage everyone to donate; no donation is too small. There are also gifts available for you at the various donation levels.

The District Officer Selection Committee is beginning the process of choosing the next District officers. If you are interested in becoming a District officer in the near future or it is something you are interested in later, please let me know.

Hopefully, you are extending your Masonic education by participating in the Livingston Masonic Library reading courses. I will see you soon. Remember the older Brothers and widows of your Lodges.

Wade A. Caler

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

WM Walter J. Boronow  
walterisagenius@aol.com  
315750-5985



Brethren, I am inspired by the hard work which the

**More Tri-Valley**  
**see 2nd column**

**STAFF OFFICER'S REPORT**  
**RW Richard G. Reed**  
**607/591-1301**  
**rgreed13045@gmail.com**  
**No News Received**

**Tri-Valley from 1st column . . .**

officers of Tri-Valley Lodge put into the recent Degree work and the business of running the Lodge. I am also grateful for the assistance we have received from our District as well as the Oneida and Onondaga Districts.

On September 9 we Initiated a new Brother. We were assisted by many members of Cazenovia Lodge No. 616; W Tom Whitney and a Fellowcraft Brother from Cortlandville Lodge No. 470; VW Ross Stolz, AGL from Oneida District; and W Russ Beckwith, Master of Crossroads United Lodge No. 93 in Onondaga.

Our Official Visit by the DDGM will be on October 5. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting is at 7:30 p.m. The OES Silverstar Chapter 21 will be preparing the dinner, consisting of meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, carrots (buttered with orange zest), rolls and butter, dessert of apple crisp and coffee, tea and cold water. Your \$15 reservation may be made with W. Boronow at 315/750-5985 or email by October 2.

On October 7 at 4 p.m. we are pleased to host our Grand Lodge Staff Officer, RW Richard G. Reed, who will present the MDC—either in full or in part. Please look for email updates in this regard.

Officers meetings will continue on third Thursdays. They have been very productive. We have used this time to share ideas and build our Lodge with greater input. We have most recently used this time to practice Degree work. We are making great progress on catching up with old business.

The Lodge is planning a Family Night on an upcoming Saturday for an early evening dinner with festivities. Notices in this regard will be sent by both email and snail mail.

Traveling is a must. I will be traveling both near and far. Come join our traveling team. Let us journey together

**More Tri-Valley**  
**see 4th column**

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS

**RW Kim Dellow**

**Clint Brooks**

Brethren, I would like to thank VW Walter Boronow for his last two years serving as AGL. This year Clint Brooks will be his replacement. We are here to help you with the ritual.

The Grand Lecturer's Convention will be at Auburn Lodge on November 8. We are joining with the Cayuga-Tompkins District. Our part to do is the obligation of the Third Degree. We need ten people for the "furthermores" and someone for the rest of it. Let me know soon if you want a part.

Kim Dellow  
Clint Brooks

**Tri-Valley from 2nd column . . .**

and broaden our horizons. If you have not been to Lodge in a while, we miss you. Please do not hesitate in contacting me. It is my cheerful duty to update you on the recent changes and acclimate you back to Lodge.

If you or someone you know is in need of our aid or sympathy, please contact the Lodge. The great care of Masons is ever-present.

Walter J. Boronow

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

WM Michael A. Hayes

Greetings, Brothers, from Cazenovia Lodge No. 616. As summer ends and fall approaches (where did the summer go?), Cazenovia Lodge is looking forward to completing a few projects

**More Cazenovia**  
**see 5th column**

**Cazenovia from 4th column . . .**

before winter sets in.

I would like to thank Brother Tom Whitney of Cortlandville Lodge for all his hard work for the Water Buffalo Degree. It was a great time and a fun Degree.

The Nelson Creamery closed as of September 17. The plan is to re-open in mid-April 2024.

Brothers from the Valley of Syracuse Scottish Rite attended our September 6 meeting. W Bill Brush and I were presented gavels from the Brothers. W Brush will receive his when he returns from Florida.

The First Degree that was scheduled for September 20 has been moved to October 18. We now have a second candidate for the Degree.

October 21 is our chicken barbecue. If you have not had some, get there right at 11 a.m. It sells out quickly and for good reason.

**More Cazenovia**  
**see 6th column**

**Cazenovia from 5th column . . .**

As some of our Brothers spread their snowbird wings and head south for the colder months, let us wish them safe travels and a safe return in the spring. Be well my Brothers and until next we shall meet.

Michael A. Hayes

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

WM Kim C. Dellow

Brethren, we have not done much yet this year. At our next meeting we will discuss what we want to do during the year. We need to do some traveling to support our District officers.

The first Official Visit is to Marathon Lodge on October 2. Then Tri-Valley is on October 5 and the next is Cortlandville Lodge on October 17. Let us have good turnouts. See you in Lodge.  
Kim Dellow

## Oswego from page 6 . . .

**Callimachus ...**

to be US Air Force. This is what Military buds and Masonic Brothers do to each other.

A huge thank-you goes to Worshipful Scott Colbert for serving as WM for five years. His service to the Craft is very much appreciated by all of our Brothers.

Congratulations go to Secretary Garrett Wikoff for receiving his 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree in Scottish Rite. The Lodge is very proud of him.

Members of the Lodge helped build a wheelchair ramp for a resident in Phoenix with the help of ARISE. It was a nice job by the Brothers; see picture.

Our fall fish dinners started on September 15. They run from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. every Friday till October 27. You will not get a better fish dinner anywhere. It is broiled and fried fish, shrimp, scallops, French fries, rolls, chicken, cole

slaw, beverages and dessert (while the orders last). It is a team effort and everyone pitches in. If you cannot be there to help, please be there to support by purchasing a meal. The fish dinners were started by the Colberts' dad, who was a member of the Lodge, also. Check out the Onondaga and Oswego District FaceBook pages for more information.

Callimachus Lodge also has five new Brothers wait-

ing for Second and Third Degrees. We look forward to those Brothers finishing that work and attending meetings.

We are planning a Table Lodge in December so please stay tuned. This will include significant others, as well. Lots of events are coming up. Please keep posted or call one of us. If anyone needs any assistance, please contact Secretary Garrett Wikoff.

Brian Courtney



Callimachus Lodge constructed a ramp for a Phoenix resident. Brian Courtney, Dave VanAuken, Brendan Cowzer and Steve Pecoy pose with the finished product. This effort was part of ARISE of Oswego County, for whom Steve Pecoy works.



Tri-Valley



# CAYUGA-TOMPKINS DISTRICT

## DDGM REPORT



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

Welcome back to the quarries, Brothers! This is the time in our Masonic calendar when most Lodges shake off the cobwebs of a well-deserved summer dormancy, dust off our working tools and get to some serious work for the betterment of our Fraternity and ourselves. My continued hope is that the task does not prove daunting, but exhilarating.

Very soon Lodges will be lining up their Trestleboard with candidate interviews and balloting, to be followed soon by our coveted Degree work—Freemasonry’s unique storytelling exercise. There is nothing like a good story. Stories can be entertaining, relaxing, even challenging. Sometimes stories are a comedy, sometimes a tragedy but they are always in some way instructive.

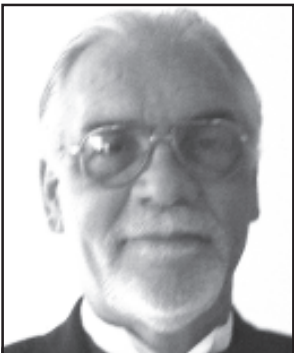
Freemasonry tells a good story, one about personal growth, self-reflection, about man’s pursuit of his proper role in the world and his relationship with other people and with Deity. Think about it. Every Degree is a story. Each involves a traveler on a quest, a journey. He is searching for some thing or some place. Sometimes the Degree ends with a destination having been reached, as when we ascend to the highest step of the winding stairs. Sometimes it ends when a new, enlightening thought enters our mind. Sometimes a Degree concludes with some accomplishment or achievement, or even sometimes with a tragic event.

But Freemasonry’s stories always end with a lesson, some instruction. That instruction is often a question, such as, “What do I do now?” Now that I have completed a Degree, how should my life change, how should my conduct be modified? And sometimes the question is simply, “What just happened to me?” (A lifetime can be spent figuring out “what just happened to me” in the second section of the Master Mason Degree).

In any event, I hope you agree with me that the Degrees of the Symbolic Lodge never fail to tell a good story and that we should see them regularly. As we inscribe our Trestleboard with what we

**DDGM**  
see 5th column

## STAFF OFFICER



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

Greetings, all. All Lodges are back in the quarries and work resumes. I am looking forward to traveling around the District with RW Tabone as we make our way to your Lodge for an Official Visit. This month the train stops at Warren Salem Town, Erie Canal, Fidelity-Hobasco, Trumansburg and Sylvan.

Degree work continues around the District and as a reminder, please let your District Team know of your plans. Include us in all your Lodge’s programs so we may support and share in your experiences. Think of us as an extension of your Lodge membership.

I also urge your Lodge leadership or representative(s) to become actively involved in our District Masters, Wardens, & Other Lodge Officers Association and Charities Corporation. These organizations are in need of your input to help plan and make District events successful. We are now meeting both live and via Zoom to make participation less of a burden for those who might need to travel, sometimes long distances, to attend meetings. It also gives a wider group of Brothers a view of the District outside your walls and can be used as a gateway to future involvement at the District level.

The Cayuga-Tompkins District Annual Dinner will be held at Tritown Lodge this year on Friday, October 27, beginning at 6 p.m. Hopefully, you have all seen the information on the event and have set aside the time to attend and spend the evening with Brothers and friends from around the District. Please send in your reservation to Tommy Ostrander.

The cycle of Masonic Leadership and Education Courses will resume this fall and into spring. Your Lodge Secretary and Master will be contacted with a schedule of dates, times and locations of the courses. Be safe and do good things.

Dave Barnello

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

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

**Jeffrey Lampman Jr.,**  
315/406-8050,  
jefflamppost@gmail.com  
*No News Received*

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

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

We have now begun a new year of Masonic activity. In September we reviewed our Trestleboard and conducted a field trip on the 19<sup>th</sup> to the gravesite of Salem Town in the Village of Aurora, NY. Grand Lodge dedicated a magnificent monument and gravesite to Salem Town and his family. What a special meaning for our Lodge!

Our Official Visit from the Cayuga-Tompkins District Officers is scheduled for October 3. It is always fun gathering the required documents! But it is a healthy process for the operation of our Masonic Lodge.

Due to the ever-increasing expenses we have had to raise the rent on our commercial storefront. This will be effective January 1, 2024.

It is a lonely Birthday Corner this month. We wish a happy birthday to Brother Arthur Smith on October 14.

Warren Albrecht

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

WM David Barnello;  
Wife, Ann;  
315/283-6705  
Secy Gary Mowers;  
315/246-7029

Greetings, all. September was another busy month for the Lodge. We began the month on a sad note as we said goodbye to our Brother RW Dick Nuhn. Dick was an integral part of our Lodge over the years, as well as other Lodges and organizations in the Cayuga-Tompkins and Onondaga Districts. We will miss his laughter and his presence, both in the Lodge and in the kitchen.

We had our fall clean-up day and completed some of the projects on the list. Our rental of the facility continues and has become a great asset for us and the community.

We held another successful pancake breakfast. Thanks go to all who have been involved with the work. We also had a good turnout for our Table Lodge. Our neighbors from Jordan Lodge joined us and Brother Bruce Chilton served as MC. Thanks go to Brother Bruce Christopher for his work making this event happen and to all who supported this endeavor.

Looking to October, the DDGM Official Visit is scheduled for Thursday, October 5. Dinner is at 6:15, with Lodge open at 7 p.m.

At our monthly pancake

**More Erie Canal**  
see 4th column

## Erie Canal from 3rd column . . .

breakfast on October 8 we will be featuring half-price breakfast for all First Responders. On Thursday, October 19 we will confer the Fellowcraft Degree on our two new Brothers, beginning with refreshments at 6:15 and the Degree to follow.

The month wraps up with the District Dinner and Awards at Tritown Lodge on the 27<sup>th</sup>. And oh yeah, Trick or Treat! I hope to see you, in and out of Lodge.

Dave Barnello

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

WM Scott Ward,  
Secy Stephen L. Zabriskie,  
zabled@aol.com

Hello, friends! I sat down a day earlier than I usually do to prepare my article because I have so many things going on I need to wrap up a few so I can breathe again.

The Scipio Brothers stayed mostly active through the summer months as some Lodges went dark. But we had a hard time filling the sidelines, for sure.

So what was it that I had to say? What is my message this time? Well, as with most, I can report a bit about the Lodge project that is still inching along. I can report that our Official Visit will be tomorrow night, squeezing in before the impending upstate weather rears its ugly head. A light dinner of something or other and the Grand Master’s message will scratch off another thing on my list.

I can also report that for the first time in a while, at said meeting, we will be casting ballots on two potential candidates. Refreshing for sure; but that means coming Degree work just filled up the empty space on my plate. Rats! just when I was on a roll.

Today I had the opportunity to drive with another Brother to a very solemn and also enlightening ceremony. Along the way we discussed how sometimes a lot of these word articles sound the same, and wondered if anyone was listening. The whole world seems rushed these days. Who hears every word?

The ceremony today was a good friend and great Brother saying goodbye to his wife of sixty-some years. He and his family told stories about their lives together from the pulpit of a Latter Day Saints church, which I have never before attended. Their success, the Brother insisted, revolved around one theme: communication. His wife communicated and he listened.

Obviously, life is not always that easy and building the relationships in that loving family—as in my own—probably was not, either.

But I got the message. I dropped off my co-pilot and reflected on the million struggles we all face every day. I thought of my poor communication skills,

**More Scipio**  
see 5th column

## Scipio from 4th column . . .

mostly in the listening department. I realized how easy it is to become so wrapped up in checking things off the list, how exhausted you can become when your focus is just getting to the next step. But last and not least, I heard true love in a devoted family. Great success can and should take as long as rebuilding an old Lodge and I pray for at least sixty years.

I was listening, Richard. May you and your family be forever blessed. May your lovely wife rest till you need further directions. And may you, my Brothers, be able to hear and feel and see all the love that is around us and be able to communicate it with ease.

Scott Ward

**CAROLINE 681**  
P.O. Box 72  
Fuller Lane  
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881  
1st & 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.  
April - December;  
Dark for January - March

WM James Gleason;  
Wife Deb;  
607/898-5088  
Secy Ben Hogben;  
607/272-0216

Brothers: I was unable to submit an article for September due to computer failure (thank you, Frontier). Under sickness and distress, W Brother Harry Weldon is in the assisted living facility in Cortland, NY. Marian Goodrich (wife of RW Barry Goodrich) continues treatments for cancer in Arizona. Bea Clark, the wife of VW Brother Charles Clark, fell and broke her shoulder and sustained other injuries. Due to Brother Charles’s eyesight, they temporarily moved in with their daughter and now have returned home.

Our Secretary, Reverend Brother Ben Hogben lost his father in early September. And RW Howard Pidduck and his wife lost their long-time buddy, their dog. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of these Brothers and their families.

W Brother Elmer Van Arkle celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 28, 2023. Elmer is a 70-plus-year member of Tritown Lodge in Groton.

Our summer has been strange. In May we had no rain at all. Garden and flower beds had to be watered from our pond. For June we had 5 inches of rain; in July, 7 inches of rain; and in

August, 9 inches. The grass has been growing so fast you can hear it. Muddy tracks in uncut areas prevail.

**Caroline**  
see 6th column

## DDGM from 1st column . . .

plan to do, let this be one of our goals.

Please remember to keep in mind our upcoming District events. Our District Awards Dinner on October 27 and the Grand Lecturer’s Convention on November 8 are worthwhile events to attend for healthy doses of Brotherly camaraderie. I look forward to seeing all of you in the quarries.

Anthony J. Tabone

## Caroline from 5th column . . .

For the first eight days of September we have been dry and hot with temperatures of 87-91 degrees every day.

Thursday, September 7 was the Caroline Lodge Official Visit. The District Deputy RW Anthony Tabone and RW David Barnello, District Staff Officer, delivered the Grand Master’s message. Thirteen Brothers were in attendance, with three visitors from Tritown Lodge. The message was well received and refreshments followed the meeting.

We have a new address for RW Barry Goodrich and wife Marian. It is 354 East Harmony Avenue, Mesa, Arizona 85210.

Raymond Ink

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

WM Joe Sheppard  
Secy Tom Ostrander,  
tostrander7948@gmail.com,  
315/224-0940

Brothers, September kicked off really well. Our first meeting was very informative as our Worshipful Master gave a very nice presentation on the *Short Talk Bulletin*.

Under sad news, we lost W Harold Parker Sr., age 91 and a sixty-six-year member of the Craft. Harold was a 1965 Past Master of Auburn 431. Masonic Services were held at the Sennett Federated Church with nine of our Brothers attending. The Lodge altar will remain draped in memory of Harold for thirty days.

The Inter-District Table Lodge at Barbagallo’s in Syracuse on September 1 was very successful, with 120 attending.

Cayuga-Tompkins, Onondaga and Oswego Districts took part. MW R.J. Kessler was the guest speaker. RWs Tabone, Barnello, Howard, Bowman and Ostrander were present.

Events in the Lodge were and are as follows: on September 13 the Audit Committee met. September 14 was a Candidate Workshop. The September 21 regular meeting featured a program by RW Mike Miller, “The History of Auburn Lodge.”

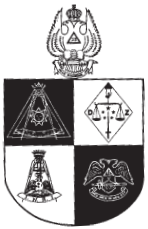
October 5 will see a dinner at 6:30 and meeting at 7:30. The program is on “Lodge Rededication” by W Brother Sheppard. October 14 is a chicken barbecue for the Auburn Music Boosters. We will serve from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$12 and you may reserve with me if interested. October 19 is a regular meeting with a program by RW Howard: “Fervency & Zeal.”

Some important District events included the September 12 DDGM visit to Scipio 110; the Vietnam Wall at Falcon Park on September 14; and the September 24 District Memorial Service. On September 26 the DDGM visited King Hiram 784. On September 27 the C-T GL Officers met in Moravia. September 28 was the

**Auburn ...**  
see page 12



# Scottish Riter



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

Hospitaler

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

Hello, Brethren. I hope this month finds you all fine. Please keep Commander in Chief Bill Toth and his wife Diana in your prayers, due to several health issues. We had a few Brothers and their families get COVID but all seem to be better now. I have not been notified of anyone else with issues, which is a good thing. If you need anything or know of someone in need please contact me.

Council Princes

Garry Visconti

Happy fall! The Valley of Syracuse Council Princes of Jerusalem will present the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree live on Monday, October 23. SPRS Michael Miller, 32° High Priest, Council Princes, is the Director of this Degree. A rehearsal will be conducted on Monday, October 7 at 7 p.m. We have both spoken and walk-on parts. This Degree is one of the highlights of our Valley. Please contact the Scottish Rite office at [ny017@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ny017@twcny.rr.com) for more information.

I am excited about the Veterans Recognition Dinner and a special program on Monday, November 13, with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. This is a family event. Do not hesitate to contact the Scottish Rite office at [ny017@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ny017@twcny.rr.com) for more information.

As a combat veteran I can say that the full house that night, with a presentation “Ring Around the World,” is a must-see in your Masonic journey. It would be wonderful to have some of our DeMolay/Rainbow/Triangle youth present for this evening. Any youth will be my guest. We always have room for you.

If you are waiting to be asked to join Scottish Rite, Brother, I would be honored to invite you. Do not hesitate to contact the Scottish Rite office at [ny017@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ny017@twcny.rr.com) for more information. We have space for you.

Jeffrey M. Cox

Consistory

Greetings, Brethren! Let me start with a personal prerogative: The last three weeks have been an absolute blur. Personal plans were made, changed and changed again, sometimes in a matter of hours. Some of you are aware that my wife suffered a stroke in the early morning of August 14. She spent three days in the hospital and about a week and a half doing in-patient rehab. Since her medical emergency became known I have been overwhelmed by the support and offers of assistance by my Masonic Brothers. Without

exaggeration, there have been well over 100 calls, texts and emails offering support and assistance. I am humbled by the outpouring of support and encouragement. This stroke has been life changing for Diana and me and we are still sorting out what the new normal will be. To each of those who called, texted, emailed or spent even a moment praying for Diana’s recovery I am incredibly thankful. She is home now and we are starting to settle into a routine.

Reflecting on the month past, we had a successful Fall Kickoff Event on September 11. Shortly thereafter we conferred the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Degrees. The room was packed for our White Hat Dinner on September 25 honoring Ill. Leon Bulriss; Ill. Garret Wikoff; Ill. Terry Byard; and me. I am sure I speak for all when I say that receiving the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree in Louisville was an incredible experience but our reception in the Valley of Syracuse was even more humbling.

On Monday, October 16 we have an Awards and Recognition Night with social time at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and a program in the Lodge room at 7:30. I hope you will make a special effort to show your support for those receiving awards and recognition from the Valley.

On October 23 the Council will confer the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Degrees. These are the only two conferred by the Council but they are an integral part of the Scottish Rite Degree system. Please come witness these important Degrees.

On October 30 we have a special KOSA program dealing with the transformation of a Rough Ashlar to a Perfect Ashlar by an Operative Mason. Please see Venerable Master Tim Page’s article for more information.

Before you know it, the holiday rush will be upon us. We have a relatively light schedule for November and December so you can spend time with your family. November 13 is Veterans Recognition Night and December 11 is our Holiday Celebration with our Ladies. There is also a Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 27 at Twin Trees III Restaurant. More information will follow in next month’s article and from the Scottish Rite Office.

William H. Toth II

Perfection

It was a pleasure to see four well-deserving Brothers from the Valley of Syracuse coroneted 33° Scottish Rite Masons in Louisville, Kentucky on August 29. Congratulations go to Leon Bulriss; William Toth II; Terry Byard; and Garret Wikoff. At the NYS dinner it was announced that DB

James Nelson, MSA, has been elected to receive the 33° in Indianapolis in 2025. The Valley of Excellence Program, when achieved, allows the Valley an extra nomination for a 33° candidate.

We are fortunate to have a motivated Brother, Dr. Timothy Page 32°, reaching out to Lodges showing interest in a Rite on the Road program. To make you aware, the Lodge of Perfection opens a meeting on an evening other than the regular Lodge meeting night. The 4° video is presented and, time allowing, other video Degrees can be presented. The requirement: Brothers must be a Master Mason in good standing, with an active-member dues card and initiation fee of \$160. Checks or credit cards are acceptable. Refreshments are provided by the Valley of Syracuse.

The Valley Brother to Brother program is again underway. Our Brothers appreciate getting a phone call and knowing we are interested and care about them and their current situations. Many have interesting stories to share.

Lawrence W. Egnaczyk

Rose Croix

Greetings, Princes. Last week I held a Zoom meeting with our Chapter Rose Croix (CRC) leadership to begin organizing for this year. These Zoom meetings are open to all. If anyone is interested, email me and I will send the link for our next one.

The CRC has three main activities this year, all after January 2024. They are the Caregiver’s Event, two Rite Degrees (one live), and the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. The CRC is actively looking for volunteer actors to work in the parts. Some parts are non-speaking, easy to learn. So join us. This is an excellent way for new Scottish Rites to become acquainted with our organization and its members. Contact any of our CRC leaders.

Last week I went to the State Fair. It reminded me of our Children’s ID program, headed by Bro. Hank Havener. This program created computer diskettes for the parents, with key information (photo, digital prints, health and address information). In the event the child got lost or was taken, it would provide the police the necessary information to find him. The program processed hundreds of kids every year during the State Fair. Freemasons paid the rent of the room and the electricity, rented computers and printers, and paid the Fair entrance fee for the volunteers who worked it. Costs continued to rise and the program was ended.

The Scottish Rite has six core values and each of our members has his preferences. Mine are Devotion to Country and Service to Humanity (especially our community). Whichever yours are, as a Scottish Riter, you get to know and befriend brethren from different Lodges and Districts who may also prefer your values. You may

## COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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

**October 2023**

**Oct 2** ..... Executive Committee Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Oct 16** ..... Awards and Recognition Event;  
..... Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./Program 7:30 p.m.

**Oct 23** ..... Confer 15° “Knight of the East” & 16° “Prince of Jerusalem”

**Oct 30** ..... Knights of St. Andrew Special Program 7:00 p.m.;  
..... “How to transform the Rough Ashlar into a Perfect Square”

**November 2023**

**Nov 6** ..... Trustees Zoom Meeting 6:15 p.m./  
..... Executive Committee Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Nov 13** ..... Veterans Recognition Event; Social 6:00 p.m./Dinner 6:30 p.m./  
..... Program 7:30 p.m.

Allegiance

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

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

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

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

jointly develop some challenging project that fulfills your interests.

Let us keep our military and our country in our prayers. Keep safe.

Jorge L. Romeu

Notes from the Children’s Dyslexia Center CNY

It is October already and we are excited to begin the new year at the Center. September brought assessment for incoming students, Director training for us in Lexington, prepping for the arrival of our students and parent information nights.

We begin our transition as Co-Directors in a program run for nineteen and a half years by Linda Martin, a phenomenal Director and mentor. Linda has agreed to train the Practitioner 2s and mentor and guide us through the year. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve the children and the community.

This year we have one Practitioner 1 trainee and five Practitioner 2 trainees. Practitioner 2s, under Linda, are learning advanced material in upper-level morphology, comprehension, grammar and fluency. As Co-Directors we are training to be instructors of Practitioner 2, which is the last certification to achieve.

This year we will be serving fifteen children at our Center. That could not be done without your generosity and support.

For my introduction: My name is Alyssa Mittiga, pronounced A-lee-s-a (schwa on the first and last a). I am uncertain if my parents knew of the Alyssum flower that my name was derived from. It has been a challenge my entire life but I love that it is pronounced with a uniqueness of its own.

In 1999 I graduated from Syracuse as a dual major in Fine Arts and Education, and from SUNY Cortland in 2002 in Literacy. Holland Patent hired me in 1999 as an Art teacher for middle school. In 2004 I went to Maine where my husband Matt attended medical school. In Maine I worked as a Literacy teacher for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Matt and I have four children. Because of our second son Joseph I joined the Center’s training program in 2015. I could not teach my son to read, even though I was a literacy specialist. Through the Center I learned the valuable information that would alter my son’s life and my own.

In 2016 I continued to volunteer at the Center while Joseph received services and I continued private tutoring. In 2017 I took Practitioner 2, Supervisor and Trainer Training for

Practitioner 1s. Linda mentored me each step of the way. In 2022 I completed the Therapy Course and am currently working on Practitioner 2 Trainer Certification.

Also in 2022, I began

training five teachers at West Canada Elementary School in the Orton-Gillingham Multisensory Approach to reading. This was a wonderful opportunity to impact another level within a school district: children could get the services within the district and we added to the population of certified tutors in our area. Linda had already trained three teachers at West Canada, which established a foundation for an off-site practicum.

This year I am training nine teachers in the Holland Patent Central School District. The growth of knowledge within the public school system due to this training is a catalyst for more children to get what they need to be successful, without waiting to fail.

The impact that the Children’s Dyslexia Center has had in my life radiates out into the world. The education is phenomenal, the people are genuine, kind, generous and believe in the betterment of the children for the greater good of all. Differences are made here.

I extend my respect and gratitude to Linda for being such an exceptional teacher all these years, and appreciation that she will continue to mentor us in the transition. I am excited to embark on this new adventure with the Children’s Dyslexia Center and Marianne Jones.

Alyssa Mittiga and Marianne Jones  
[Amittiga@cdcinc.org](mailto:Amittiga@cdcinc.org),  
[Mjones@cdcinc.org](mailto:Mjones@cdcinc.org)



33° Conferred

At the 211<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Supreme Council 33° Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, four Valley of Syracuse members were coroneted Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, 33° Scottish Rite Masons and Honorary Members of Supreme Council 33° AASR, NMJ, USA. Join us in congratulating Illustrious Brothers Terry A. Byard; William H. Toth, II; Garret A. Wikoff; and Leon A. Bulriss (left to right in photo). Family, friends and Brothers and wives gathered on September 25 at the Masonic Memorial Center, North Syracuse. These deserving Brothers were presented White Hats. We say congratulations to our Brothers on this prestigious honor.



# YORK RITE BODIES

**ROYAL ARCH MASON**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District RAM**

DDGHP RE  
James Nelson

Greeting, Companions. I hope all is well with everyone as we continue our work in the quarry. We conferred the Most Excellent Master Degree at Charles H. Platt Chapter on September 27.

We hope to have a good turnout for the Hands Across the Border event on October 21. It will be held at Lake Ontario Chapter No. 165 with Companions from Canada joining us to have the Past Master Degree. Our host Lodge does a wonderful job putting together this gathering, providing opportunity for fellowship and getting to know Companions from up north. Details should be found in Excellent High Priest Ron Bond's newsletter article.

I look forward to seeing you at your coming Chapter meetings. We have work to do. We are builders, we will get it done.

Jim Nelson

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

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



Greetings, Companions! Welcome to the month of October. We have resumed our labors and have new candidates proceeding through the Degree cycle.

Our Annual Awards Night on September 12 yielded significant donations to Royal Arch Charities, along with many longevity awards to numerous well-deserving Companions. Central City Riverside Chapter No. 70 thanks all of the awardees for their continued support to our Chapter and the Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York.

A sincere thank-you goes to RE Ralph Haney Jr. and all who were involved with providing our awards dinner. The menu and service were superb.

Our next convocation will be Tuesday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m. For future reference our convocation on Tuesday, November 14 will be for the purposes of annual elections and annual reports. If you are responsible for an annual report please have it ready.

Remember to display your "Yes We Can" spirit and make our Chapter a

model for others to follow. I hope to see you around the 12<sup>th</sup> Capitular District soon.  
Jack G. Dombrowski

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

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



Greetings, Companions. I hope this article finds everyone well and doing fine. If not, drop us a line or give us a call and share things with your Companions. We may be able to help with some things.

We have not had a meeting this month of September and it will be Council's turn. We will be meeting on October 12 for RAM and we need to finish up the details for our Hands Across the Border event on October 21. We will be doing the Past Master's Degree and Charles H. Platt is presenting a Yellow Dog Degree. The Yellow Dog Degree is a fun degree done to raise money for charity. There is a ten-dollar donation to participate.

There will be a lunch at 12:00 p.m. to start the day's festivities. Around 2:00 p.m. the Companions head to the Lodge room for the Degree work and the ladies will have social time with some wine tasting. After the Lodge business is over our guests can go to their rooms and get dressed for the evening activities. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m., served by Lake City Victoria Chapter 205 OES. Following dinner and the cup program there will be some live entertainment to finish the evening.

Please make reservations with me at 315/963-7927. Alternatively, contact our Secretary James Rizzo. We are asking for a ten-dollar donation from our New York Companions; our Canadian guests and all our ladies are free. Please try to attend this event as it will be a lot of fun and great fellowship. Stay well and safe.

Ronald A. Bond

**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

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

Cmdr Robert L. Kimberly  
comet@twcny.rr.com  
315/935-4711  
Recorder Earl Tuttle,  
etuttle1@twcny.rr.com

Greetings, Sir Knights. It seems we have got off to a

slow start, having canceled due to one meeting falling on the same night as the Tri-District Table Lodge and the Grand Commandery coinciding with the next meeting night. Our first meeting was the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at SK Rick Miori's Studio.

We will be meeting this month on October 6 and October 20 in Liverpool. I hope to see all of you there.

Robert L. Kimberly



**Potentate Duane Crapser Recorder**  
**Ill. Ralph I. Haney Jr.,**  
**315/308-0410,**  
**office@tigrisshriners.com**

Welcome back. The summer has been full of fun and fellowship.

Bingo! Let us start off by saying thank you to our volunteers, from those who come in early to set up to those who stay till the end of the night to clean up. Our success depends on each of you. Of course, we cannot forget the Ladies who spend their Sundays supporting Tigris Shriners. Our doors open at 3 p.m. and Bingo starts at 6 p.m.

Over the years Tigris Shriners have worked hard to be where we are today, to be in a place we call home. We have had much success with events at 1121 Milton Ave. These include the first Potentate's Reception, weekly Bingo, concordant Bodies meeting, birthdays, wedding receptions and much more. All these events need organizing and the building needs maintaining. I have put in place a Hospitality Committee that will oversee the calendar of events. If you have experience in the Hospitality or Service industry, please become part of this committee by contacting the Shrine Office.

Part of a successful building is a successful maintenance schedule. Tigris is in need of a team that is able to do light maintenance. This team will also help identify large projects that are necessary. After identifying the needs, reports with quotes will be given to the Divan. This team is vital to making sure our home is here for the next 100 years. Once again, if you have maintenance experience please consider helping out on the committee.

After receiving our third consecutive year of Gold Status Award at Imperial Session 2023, we did not waste time building on our growing membership. At our

September meeting more Nobles were created and among the new Nobles was my dad. After his Raising at Lake City Lodge during the summer I went right to Beashrinernow.com to help my dad fill out his ePetition. Noble Russell Crapser is the oldest of the three generations of Crapsers at Tigris Shrine but with the least time as a Mason. I would like to congratulate all the new Nobles and urge each of you to get involved.

Tigris Shriners are in the planning stages of our 12 Days of Christmas Raffle. This is the third year High Priest and Prophet Joel Scarson has headed the team with the planning and execution of this project. Each year Joel has been able to put together a great list of prizes and this year is the biggest yet. We have an electric guitar autographed by the members of Foreigner, handcrafted Adirondack chairs and much more. A mailing will be going out soon with a prize list and

tickets to sell.

Before we know it the busy holiday season will be here. Please save the date for the Tigris Shriners Christmas Party. On December 16 from 2:00 to 7:00 we will celebrate the holidays together. Assistant Rabban Jordan Crapser and Lady Kimberly will be planning the event with First Lady Suzanne.

It was an honor serving all of NYOSA as the Region 11 Membership Director last year. I was happy to accept the appointment once again from Imperial Potentate Ed Stolze. Tigris has been very supportive of me as the Membership Chair for Tigris and as the Regional Membership Director. I thank all of you for your support.

Membership? What does membership mean to you? Does it mean you come to every event, meeting and parade? Does it mean you pay your dues and show up when you can? The answer is, Yes. It is up to you what you do. The important part is

being a Noble. When you become a Noble you contribute to the Mission of Shriners just by joining. Becoming a Noble is so easy—paper or ePetition.

Tigris Shriners still have a membership fund, headed by Assistant Rabban Jordan Crapser. This fund pays for your first year of dues and provides you with a Fez. Why wait? Why postpone doing your part to help Shriners Children?

As the year inches to a close I want to thank each of the Divan members. This year I have been blessed to have this team to work with. When the caterer canceled one week before the Beach Bash they did not miss a beat. So many times this year the Divan been there and functioned as a team. I look forward to supporting each of them next year.

Please come out and be part of the Shrine Experience. Your membership helps more than you know.

Duane Crapser



Brothers Brendan Cowzer and Brian Courtney raise money for Shriners Children's Hospitals at Watkins Glen Shriners 200 race. Being a member of Tigris Shrine has its advantages.



A Shrine family: from left to right are Duane, Jordan, Duane II, Austin and Russell Crapser.

Coming Soon !

## Tigris Shriners 3rd annual 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

For the first 12 days of December one lucky ticket will be drawn each day for that day's prizes.

Tickets are only \$5 each, and 1 ticket can win multiple times!

For more information, or to purchase tickets electronically (starting October 1st) go to [www.tigrisshriners.com](http://www.tigrisshriners.com)

some of the prizes are  
a Foreigner Autographed Guitar  
a 6-piece set of hand crafted Adirondack Chairs  
A Flight in an Airplane  
Cash and SO MUCH MORE !



# ORDER of the EASTERN STAR



## Order of the Eastern Star Onondaga District

Barb Brooker, DDGM  
barb\_brooker@me.com  
Hank Havener, DGL

Sisters and Brothers, it does not seem possible that the year is over. This month, at the 154<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Session, we will celebrate our new 2024 Grand Matron and Grand Patron. At the same time we will congratulate our 2023 Grand Matron and Grand Patron as they conclude their wonderful year.

As we start the 2024 year with our new leaders, both State and District, please continue to show support for each other. Think how wonderful it feels seeing sideliners during a special ceremony or, better yet, a regular meeting. Reach out to visitors and make them feel like they are among friends. Remember, a stranger is just a friend you have not met yet.

Here are the important Grand Chapter dates. October 3 is the deadline for Eastern Star Hall and Home Foundation dinner reservations. The theme this year is "100 Years of Disney." On October 13 there will be a meeting for Chapter Secretaries and Treasurers at 2 p.m. in the Serling Room. If you are coming for elections in the morning on October 14, be sure you are there before elections start. Once the doors are closed you will not be able to come in until elections are concluded. The installation of our new leaders will be on October 15, the combined reception of MW Deidre McCauley and MW Edward Mosso at the Doubletree.

Other dates to note include the October 20 reception for RW Mark Heitmann, Associate Grand Patron. October 24 is the Onondaga District Line Officers Group Meeting with RW Patricia Tefoe, District Deputy Grand Matron, and RW Alfred Tefoe, District Grand Lecturer. November 29 will be the Combined Homecoming and Reception of the 2023 and 2024 Grand Officers from the Onondaga District.

RW Henry and I want to wish RW Patricia Tefoe and RW Alfred Tefoe a wonderful year as District Deputy Grand Matron and District Grand Lecturer. We know they are putting together some great plans and we look forward to seeing them put into action.

We also send our best wishes to the new Grand Officers of the Onondaga District and those who continue to serve out their terms. There will be exciting things happening as RW Mark Heitmann (if elected, as we expect, in a few short weeks) begins his journey to the Grand East. We again thank the Onondaga District for their support and friendship.

Barb Brooker  
Hank Havener

## Centerville 185 Masonic Memorial Center

Hello, Brothers and Sisters. It is great to get back into the Chapter room and catch up with our Sisters and Brothers.

Coming up in October we have a regular meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Grand Chapter Reports on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to Grand Chapter every year to see people we have not seen in a while and to support our outgoing and incoming Grand Officers from around the state.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of RW Sister Pat Haight who passed away on August 24. She will be missed.

Did you know that only eighteen out of 1 million Lego pieces are defective? The molds at the manufacturing plant at Lego are that precise and effective. That is out of the 20 billion pieces that are manufactured every year.

Cathy Barling

## Morning Star 289 Marcellus Masonic Temple

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. Remember to read the Onondaga article to learn what is going on around town.

I was remiss in not adding Sister Diana Toth to the under-the-weather list. She was hospitalized at Upstate and later sent to Loretto for rehab. We send our condolences to the family of RW Patricia Haight. RW Pat was a member of Bona Fide Hiawatha Solvay who recently passed away. Charity, truth and loving-kindness come to mind when remembering this true OES Sister.

Looking ahead, Monday, October 9 at 7 p.m. is a regular stated meeting. On Monday, October 23 at 7 p.m. we will have annual reports and election of officers.

You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.

See you in Chapter.

Margaret McManus

## Phoenix-Elizabeth 105

"Witching" you an awesome Halloween month! Pick out your costume, decorate the car for the local trunk-or-treat, buy multiple bags of candy to hand out to the ghosts and witches who fly past your doorsteps. Happy October and Happy Halloween from our batty Phoenix Elizabeth Chapter to yours.

Fifty years ago Thelma Visconti and her daughter, Linda Yager, joined Elizabeth Chapter No. 105 in Fulton, NY. In October of 2013 Elizabeth Chapter merged with Phoenix Chapter and became Phoenix Elizabeth Chapter No. 105, Phoenix, NY. As Worthy Matron of Phoenix Elizabeth Chapter 105, I had the honor to present both Right Wor-

thy Sister Thelma and Sister Linda with their Life Membership Certificate from our Chapter.

RW Sister Yvonne Hanshew, herself a former member of Elizabeth Chapter No. 105, reminisced about Thelma and Linda's Initiation and times at that Chapter. She presented each a fifty-year membership pin, gifts from Phoenix Elizabeth Chapter No. 105.

This celebration took place following the August 19 Right Worthy Club picnic. Later, RW Sister Cindy Sanders entered the dining room carrying a birthday cake as "Happy Birthday" was sung. Candles were blown out and we celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of RW Sister Janet Stewart.

On September 25 our Chapter and Lake Ontario Chapter No. 124 received MW Kenneth Wheeler as he made his Official Visit to our joint meeting. I will report and have pictures in next month's paper.

Our Chapter will open in Long Form on October 9. I ask all officers to attend that meeting so our opening will run smoothly. Formal dress will be the attire for the evening. If any officer cannot attend, I would appreciate a call from you one week in advance. It would be helpful if members who are not officers would attend to help.

On October 11 the Worthy Patron and I will be attending the Grand Matron and Grand Patron's Testimonial Dinner at Binghamton, NY. We will also be attending the Grand Chapter Annual State Meeting at Binghamton.

For October 23<sup>rd</sup> our Chapter will celebrate Crazy Sock Night. No shoes will be allowed in the meeting room. Members of other Chapters are invited to come and be a part of our shoeless night. Members are asked to find or make the funniest socks you can and wear them.

I am asking each of you, if you can, to bring a package or two of XL white tube socks that will be donated to the Syracuse VA Medical Center. A collection box will be placed in our social room. We also welcome donations from members of Callimachus Lodge and Fort Brewerton Lodge who meet at the Masonic Lodge Hall in Phoenix.

Did you know that October 5 is National Be Nice Day? I guess the intent of this national holiday is to force people to really commit to being kind and thoughtful. Good grief! Why do we need a day like that on the calendar? Should we not be nice every day?

Michelle Gogel

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

RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. It was September and time to return to our labors. Lake City Victoria Chapter held its first autumn meeting on Friday, September 8. Before the meeting, our esteemed Worthy Matron, RW Cynthia J. Sanders, assisted by RW Carla J.



Janet Stewart celebrates 90 years of life.

Salisbury, W Lillian Schute and Sr. Mary Babbitt, hosted a surprise dinner for the membership. The menu included delicious baked chicken, salt potatoes, corn on the cob and ice cream sundaes for dessert. What a wonderful way to open the season and enjoy some good fellowship! Thanks go to Cindy.

The Past Matrons' Association is also back in session. The Sisters held their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 5, at which time election of officers for 2024 was held. Elected were RW Cynthia J. Sanders, President; Sr. Mary Babbitt, Vice President; RW Natalie J. Woodall, Secretary; and RW Carla J. Salisbury, Treasurer.

Extending the celebration of 175 years of Freemasonry in Oswego City, RW Natalie J. Woodall presented an illustrated talk on Masonic mariners at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum on September 17. Among them, James Lee was a sailor on the USS *Kearsarge* during the Civil War. He won the Medal of Honor for valor on June 19, 1864 when the USS *Kearsarge* sank the CSS *Alabama* off the coast of France. On December 10, 1872 Lee was Raised a Master Mason in Oswego Lodge No. 127. On August 9, 1877 he succumbed to tuberculosis contracted in the Navy.

In conjunction with the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the members of Lake City Victoria hosted the Brothers of Lake City Lodge No. 127 on September 22. The evening began with *hords d'oeuvres* prior to the meeting. After the session, special refreshments were served.

RW Natalie J. Woodall entertained the assemblage with an illustrated talk on the life and career of Colonel Wardwell Greene Robinson, Commander of the 184<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Oswego's fifth contribution to the Union cause. Colonel Robinson was a noted attorney in Oswego City for fifty-eight years. He was Raised a Master Mason in Oswego Lodge No. 127 on April 29, 1856 and served as Worshipful Master in 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1868.

His ceremonial sword, presented by his Masonic Brothers shortly before he left New York State for Virginia, hangs near the Secretary's desk in Lake City Lodge.

The robins have departed for Florida and the geese are practicing their formations over the lake. Very soon those leaves will be falling and swirling all over the yard. Nights are longer and days

are cool. I predict that autumn is just around the corner (and when you read this, I will have been correct). Football season is upon us and the World Series will be played sooner than we think. Be good to yourselves and perform that random act of kindness frequently. In so doing, you will make two people happy.

Natalie J. Woodall



Standing RW Sister Michelle Gogel, Worthy Matron of Phoenix Elizabeth Chapter #105, presenting Life Membership Certificates to Sister Linda Yager, left, and RW Sister Thelma Visconti, right.



James Lee was awarded the Medal of Honor for his exceptional valor during the battle between the USS *Kearsarge* and the CSS *Alabama* on June 19, 1864. Lee later was Raised a Master Mason in Oswego Lodge No. 127 F & A M in Oswego, NY. Photo courtesy the H. Lee White Maritime Museum



OCTOBER											
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY					
1	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	2	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Warren Salem Town 147	3	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Kedar Khan Grotto Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522	4	Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Lake Ontario 32KT TriValley 148	5	Central City 25KT	6	7
8	Hamilton 120 Homer 352 Morning Star OES Onondaga Hill Club Scriba 414	9	Cortland 50KT E Caldwell OES Fulton 167 RAM Fidelity-Hobasco 51 King Hiram 784 Lake City 127 Scipio 110 Victoria OES Washington RAM	10	Cautious 726 Central City 13 CM Hannibal 550 Pulaski 279 RAM Tritown 472	11	Bona Fide OES Lake Ontario 165 RAM Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	12	Ft. Brewerton 256 Owaghena 303 RAM Triangle @ Mem	13	14
15	Jordan 386 Liverpool-Syracuse 501 Marathon 438 Morning Star 524 Trumansburg 157	16	Cortlandville 470 Fay-Central City 305 Hiram 136 Onondaga Star OES Seneca River 160 Sylvan 41 Warren Salem Town 147	17	Callimachus 369 Cayuga 221 Cazenovia 616 Daughters of the Nile Otselic Valley 659 Philo-Mt. Sinai 968 Pulaski 415 Skaneateles 522 Tigris Temple	18	Auburn 124 Caroline 681 Centerville OES Central Square 622 Crossroads United 93 Erie Canal 141 Konosioni 950 Watertown 11KT	19	Central City 25KT	20	21
22	Homer 352 Morning Star OES Scriba 414	23	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	24	Charles H. Platt 247 RAM Fulton 50 CM Hannibal 550 MWD's Tritown 472	25	Bona Fide OES Memorial 648 Nortrip 998 Tully 896	26	Ft. Brewerton 256 Triangle @ Mem	27	28
29	30	31									

The Builder Masonic Magazine in February 1923 presented this snapshot from our Grand Lodge.—Editor.

# The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York for 1860 contain a paragraph that speaks for itself: the “tornado” referred to was the Anti-Masonic Movement.

“At the commencement of the present century there were 91 lodges, with a membership of about 5000, in a population of 588,603. This was the era of Livingston, Morton, Hoffman, Astor, Jay and Van Wyck. In 1810 the lodges had increased to 172, with a membership of 8600, in a population of 961,888.

In 1820 there were 295 lodges (numbered to 128), and a membership of 15,000 in a population of 1,312,812. This decade witnessed the tornado which swept over the States, so that in 1830 the number of lodges, which in 1825 had run up to 480, with a membership of over 20,000 was but 82, and a reliable

membership was scarcely exceeding 3000, in a population of 1,918,131. In 1840 the institution began to exhibit symptoms of resuscitation, and brethren awakened from the blight and persecution of the ten preceding years as from a terrible dream. The number of lodges then was 79, —22 in New York, and 27 in 14 counties west of the Hudson River, with but about 5000 members, in a population of 2,428,921. The increase was slow, but steady, to the year 1850, when there were 172 lodges in the three Grand Lodges then existing, with about 12,000 members, and the population of the State then was 3,097,304. At the

present time (1860) there are 432 working lodges (numbered to 477), and a membership of over 30,000 and the population is computed at about 4,000,000. It will thus be seen that the ratio was in 1800 one to every 117 inhabitants; in 1810 one to 111; in 1820 one to 91; 1825, one to 80; 1830, one to 637; 1840, one to 485; 1850, one to 258; and in 1860, one to 133; and it should be borne in mind that there are computed to be in the State 5000 unaffiliated Masons, who are recognized as such, making the ratio now to be one to every 114 inhabitants - a state of prosperity fully equalling that of the best days of the Fraternity.”

## Cayuga-Tompkins from page 8 . . .

Auburn ...

MWOLO meeting at Auburn Lodge.


For October the DDGM visits Warren-Salem Town 147 on October 3. October 5 is the DDGM visit to Erie Canal 141 and October 10 is Fidelity-Hobasco No. 51. On October 16 the DDGM is at Trumansburg No. 157 and at Sylvan No. 41 on October 17.

The annual District Awards Dinner is on October 27 in Tritown Lodge No. 472, Groton. Dinner is at 6 p.m. with the meeting portion at 7 p.m. The guest speaker is RW Peter Stein, Junior Grand Warden. The cost is \$25. The dinner by the OES is roast pork, with the trimmings. Make reservations with me by October 13.

The Grand Lecturer’s Convention is on November 8 in Auburn, with a 6 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. meeting. Reservations may be made with me by November 1. The dinner will be baked macaroni, salad, Italian bread and dessert for \$10.

Our special-event fundraiser will be a Meat Raffle on December 9. The prize comes from Rosenkrans Market in Auburn. A \$20 ticket gives you twenty-eight chances to win. If interested, call me at 315/224-0940 or email me. This is the same day as our Lodge Christmas Party. All profits will support all the Lodge projects and only 200 tickets will be sold.

I hope to see you in Lodge. Take care and God bless.  
Tommy Ostrander



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