



Masonic Times

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

Monroe
Genesee-Wyoming
Livingston
Ontario/Seneca/Yates
& Wayne Districts

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF OF THE MASONIC TIMES JAN, MAT, DAVE, BARB, BEV, HERB & SKIP

Ill.: Robert P. Zabel, 33°
September 20, 1920 ~ November 16, 2008



*He walks with us down quiet paths,
And speaks in wind and rain,
For the magic power of memory,
Gives him back to us again.*

November 16, 2008, was a day of deep sadness for our Masonic Fraternity when Ill.: Robert P. Zabel, 33°, was Raised to the Celestial Lodge.

Ill.: Robert P. Zabel, 33°, has had a long and exemplary journey in Freemasonry. Ill.: Brother Zabel was Raised in Wakan Lodge No. 1054 (currently Wakan-Hubbard No. 154) in 1950 and served as Master in 1960. He served as District Deputy Grand Master in

1967-1968. From 1982 through 1989, Ill.: Brother Zabel was a member of the Library and Museum Committee. He also served as Assistant Grand Lecturer and as Regional Assistant Grand Lecturer.

Ill.: Brother Zabel has been an active member of York Rite Masonry - Hiram (formerly Ionic) Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, where he served as High Priest; Doric Council, Cryptic Masons; and Cyrene/Monroe Commandery, Knights Templar. Other memberships include Damascus Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Royal Order of Jesters, Red Cross of Constantine, St. Mark's Conclave and Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Rochester Forest No. 133.

Ill.: Brother Zabel joined Germania Lodge of Perfection in 1952. He served as Thrice Potent Master of Rochester Lodge of Perfection in 1957-1958. In 1962, he served as Most Wise Master of Rochester Chapter of Rose Croix. Also in 1962, he was conroated an Honorary Member (33°) of the Supreme Council. He served as Commander-in-Chief of Rochester Consistory from 1970-1972. In 1982 Ill.: Brother Zabel became Secretary of the Valley of Rochester.

The Masonic Service Bureau is honored to have had Ill.: Brother Zabel's service on the Council and Board of Directors for a number of years. He served with great dedication.

His wife, Doris, three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren will remember his dedication to life and the Fraternity. May your tears become rainbows when you remember your loved one.

Monroe District Welcomes Grand Lecturer

By V.: W.: Hugh Woodside
Grand Lecturer's Convention

I thank all the Brothers in the District who attended the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Fairport-Flower City Lodge on October 28th. I am happy to report that everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the Officers and Brethren of Fairport-Flower City Lodge for their great hospitality, as they once again treated us to a fabulous Steak Dinner. I believe they served a record number of nearly 100 people, and I am pleased to report there were more than 135 Brothers in attendance for the evening's work. Thanks are also due to the Officers of Craftsman Robertson Lodge and Unity Lodge for performing the evening's work.

Congratulations to Unity Lodge for winning last year's School of Ritual Attendance Banner, and to Fairport-Flower City Lodge for winning the Grand Lecturer's Convention Attendance Banner once again. Congratulations are

also due to the four Lodges in the District who qualified for the Howard Potts Award - Unity, Fairport-Flower City, Webster and Oatka. Great job!

Personal Note

At the Grand Lecturer's Convention, I was honored to receive a Warrant from the Grand Master announcing my appointment as one of the Monroe District's two Assistant Grand Lecturers, and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve you in that capacity. I was especially pleased that my father, W.: William W. Woodside, Jr., was able to travel from New Jersey to be with us for the evening. It was particularly special that the Grand Lecturer ordered both of us to be escorted to the East and asked my father to assist in the presentation. It was a moment for both of us to treasure and I now hope I can serve as one of the District's Assistant Grand Lecturers in a manner that will make him proud.

As Assistant Grand Lecturers, V.: W.: DeHollander and I

Robinson Acclaimed at Interfaith Service and Brunch

The 67th Annual Masonic Interfaith Service and Brunch was held at the Country Party House in East Rochester on October 19th. Officer Moses Robinson received the Distinguished Community Service Award at the Brunch which followed the Service.

The Service

M. Donald Darrohn, President of the Masonic Service Bureau welcomed everyone.

On a theme of "love," Richard Friedman, representing Brothers of the Jewish Faith, delivered the message. Assisting him were Father William Amann and Reverend Paul Gleason.

Father "Bill," retired Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, represented the Roman Catholic tradition and read the Scripture Lessons. The prayers were offered by Reverend Gleason, profess-



Moses Robinson (left) holds plaque presented to him by R.: W.: Donald Darrohn, President of the Masonic Service Bureau and R.: W.: Richard Friedman, Vice President, General Chairman and Master of Ceremonies for the event.

ing the Faith of Protestant members of the Fraternity.

Brunch

The James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post No. 12 Color Guard presented the Flag of our Country. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by one

verse of the Star Spangled Banner, with accompaniment by Beverly Murray.

Everyone ate well and enjoyed good conversation during the tasty repast provided

Continued on Page 3

New DVD Showcases Your Masonic Care Community

The Masonic Care Community has a new marketing tool available to all Masonic Lodges. We have produced a DVD that shows our history, our Campus and our Children's Summer Camp on Round Lake. It features five chapters on the disc. They include Acacia Village, Wiley Hall, the Health Pavilion and Camp Turk.

This presentation can be used to show your Brothers the beau-

tiful facilities available at our Utica site, as well as the opportunities for you to help children enjoy a premier Summer camp experience on Round Lake in Northern Oneida County.

We are endeavoring to distribute copies of this DVD to all Lodges in New York State. Please contact Kathy Contino-Turner at (315) 798-4768 or by email at:

continoturner@mccny.com

have the important task of working with the Lodges in the District so we all can better understand the Standard Work of our Ritual. Everything that is important to our Craft is somewhere contained in the Ritual

we all hold so dear. As Masons, we have a responsibility to ourselves and to the Craft to do our best to learn and understand the Ritual. We are all somewhere along the continuum of learning the Standard Work. New Broth-

Continued on Page 3



V.: W.: Hugh H. Woodside (right) receives his Warrant as Assistant Grand Lecturer from R.: W.: Charles Toombs, Grand Lecturer. Hugh's father, W.: William W. Woodside, Jr., Past Master of Congdon-Overlook Lodge, Bernardsville, NJ, watches.

What's Inside?

Editor's Corner	2
Genesee-Wyoming	8
Grand Master's Tribute	24
Hot Numbers	27
Jackson Award Nominees	2
Lalla Rookh Grotto	25
Livingston District	6
Looking Ahead	27
Masonic Service Bureau	2
Masonic War Vets	5
Memorials	27
Monroe District 9-12, 19, 20	26
Order of Eastern Star	26
Ontario/Seneca/Yates	6, 7
Scottish Rite News	21-23
Secretaries Seminar	3
Shrine News	13-18
Taxes, Taxes, Taxes	26
Wayne District	7-8
York Rite News	24

Damascus News see page 13

Dated Material



Editor's Corner

This is my annual thank you to all of them, and to all the Sisters and Brothers who have taken their time to write about the activities of their Organization and submit it for publication. That, too, is no small task. I hope you will express your appreciation for their diligence in keeping you informed. And, if you want the responsibility, I'm sure, in some cases at least, she or he will be happy to designate you as the Correspondent.

The next issue will complete six years for me as Editor of the *Masonic Times*. It doesn't seem possible! Throughout my tenure, I have had the loyal and able assistance of Mat Gingold and Dave King. I have also had great help from, first, Barbara Goodrich, who continues to assist with proofreading, and now, Janet Porter, who receives the input, responds to you that we have received your material, formats it for the paper, proofreads your submissions, writes articles and prepares those eye-catching ads we publish to promote your events.

Beverly VanHuben, Herb Spencer, and occasionally Linda Zahn, are amongst others who are volunteer proofreaders. I should keep track of the number of hours of their time they contribute, but I have a few other things on my feeble mind.

While it doesn't seem like much to say thank you, I don't mean it to be trite. I really need everyone involved, and more would be helpful. We enjoy what we do. I'm proud of the paper we turn out each month (OK, some ARE better than others!) and we work very hard to make it a publication you want to pick up and read.

I'm sure you have noticed that we now include the *Damascus News* as an insert. I extend my thanks also to Brenda and Erwin Newell for their guidance with articles in that section. The wonders of the electronic age allow us to email text to them in Florida, they proofread and return it to us in a matter of a few days. That helps assure proper treatment of information and is a big help to us.

Thanks for reading

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of Greater Rochester, NY Inc.

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Traditions

We all have them. Most of us anticipate them. And as members of a Fraternity or other similar organizations, we have great respect for tradition.

Whether it's Hanukah, Kwanzaa or Christmas, this is the Season of those traditions and celebrations of joy that we look forward to each year.

How many of you say, as I find myself doing - "I remember when ..." aren't the memories, celebrations and festivities of this time of year wonderful! It's the joy of family and friends along with our desire to share the fellowship, harmony and glad tidings that make this time of year so special and become those traditions.

Our Masonic Service Bureau staff has worked tirelessly to continue a long tradition of support for the Greater Rochester Area for both Masonic and Community functions. I hope you'll remember to extend your appreciation to all the staff for a job well done.

I want to mention another tradition that has become near and dear to my heart - the Masonic Care Community (MCC) in Utica. Many of you know I also serve as Trustee for the New York Masonic Hall and Home. The MCC has a tradition of caring for the Members of our Craft that is superior and second-to-none. I know that, should I ever need such a facility, I would want to go to Utica! The relationships, care and compassion for the individuals there are most meaningful.

Traditions are important for each of us. We can all reflect on our shared Masonic traditions and recognize how significant they have been. May this Season bring to you and yours memories of those traditions you hold most precious. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Valley of Rochester Invites Nominations for the 2009 Thomas Jackson Award®



By William Lindsay

The Valley of Rochester, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, invites you to submit nominations for those who may be eligible for this unique award. Candidates will be considered based on the following:

- May be a man or woman who is not necessarily a member of the Craft.
- Must have taken the Message of Freemasonry and transformed it into an educational inspiration at the State, Regional or National

level. These messages and inspirations must be considered to be above and beyond normal conversation to generate a high impact on society.

• Nominations for this award may be submitted by any Scottish Rite Mason and must be received at the Scottish Rite Office by February 1, 2009.

This prestigious award will be presented at the College of Freemasonry on March 28th and 29th, 2009. This year's theme is: "Freemasonry, The Ancient Landmarks and the Symbolism of our Craft's Vision."

A committee composed of five members and advised by the Deputy's Representative III.: Stephen R. Whittaker, 33° will review and evaluate applications prior to the presentation. All Letters of Recommendation must be submitted without the applicant's knowledge.

Letters of Recommendation or further inquiries can be emailed to secretary@valleyofrochester.org or mailed to:

Valley of Rochester
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320
Rochester, New York 14618

3165 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road Rochester, NY 14623
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Lalla Rookh Grotto Damascus Shrine Valley of Rochester and York Rite Bodies

present

7th Annual All Masonic Bodies CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 13th
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TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Interfaith Service and Brunch

Continued from Page 1



Members of the Masonic War Veterans Color Guard (from left), John Ponschock, Greg Ludwig, Heinz Gunkel and Bill Frenenburg wait to present the Colors prior to the Brunch.

by the staff of the Country Party House.

Rich Friedman served as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the distinguished members at the head table, and called upon Reverend Paul Gleason for the Invocation.

Rich spoke of the credentials of our recipient and read a let-

ter from the head of University of Rochester Medical Center, further expounding on the value of his commitment to rehabilitating youth.

The Distinguished Community Service Award was then presented by Don Darrohn and Rich Friedman to Officer Robinson. He selected as his



Moses Robinson speaks after accepting the Distinguished Community Service Award.

charity of choice, Teen Empowerment, to which a check for \$500 was donated.

Moses Robinson then spoke on his programs, the effort involved, the reasons he specifically is involved and what he is attempting to do. He travels across the nation to teach this



Officer Robinson holds check payable to Teen Empowerment, his charity of choice for the cash portion of his Award.

program to other Law Enforcement agencies.

Our sincere thanks to all who participated and contributed their time, talent and treasure for the success and enjoyment of this annual event.

Special thanks to Beverly VanHuben and her late husband, Leon, for help with reservations and tickets; Linda Zahn for bulletin covers and flowers; Ramona Dimino for

ushers and offering; John Dudley, Terry Wihlen, Sr. and Joy Woodley for help with ushering; Mathew Gingold for hosting the Past Recipients Table; Michael DiCataldo and Angelo DiCataldo of NYRA Trophies and Awards for the plaque; Barbara Goodrich and Janet Porter for help with the programs and ushering; and all who attended, for their dedicated support of this event. "

Grand Lecturer

Continued from Page 1



R.W. Charles Toombs congratulates W. Thomas Goodrich, whose Fairport-Flower City Lodge Brothers secured Convention attendance banner.

ers learning the "Questions and Answers" have just been introduced to it, and we hope to leave them yearning for more Light. Officers beginning to go through the Chairs take on a somewhat greater responsibility of learning to present the work, and every Brother has a responsibility, to himself, to seek out the lessons of our Craft and find ways to implement them in his daily life. We are all somewhere along the continuum of learning, and



R.W. Derek VanHouten, District Deputy Grand Master of the Monroe District and Chairman of the Grand Lecturer's Convention for the District recognized the Active Duty Military Brothers present at the Convention.

I look forward to continuing to learn with you together as Brothers. For if we do not strive to learn and understand the Work, we will not be able to effectively communicate the lessons contained therein to the good men who come well recommended to knock at the Inner Door.

School of Ritual

As we continue our quest of learning, I remind you that our next School of Ritual is sched-



Unity Lodge won School of Ritual Attendance Banner, accepted by W. John Jamele.

uled for January 27th, at the Damascus Shrine Center. It will begin at 7:30 p.m., and will be hosted by Valley-Simes Lodge. We are compiling the program for the evening, and more information will follow in the January 2009 edition of the *Masonic Times*. We look forward to seeing you there!

Compliance with the Grand Master's Edict

All Lodges in the District should be familiar with the Edict issued by Grand Master Fitje in 2002. The Edict states that "... annually, each Lodge, employing its own Officers and Brethren (emphasis added), shall confer at least one Masonic Degree in its entirety, either upon a Candidate or an exemplar to be observed by the Grand Lecturer, Assistant Grand Lecturer, or another designee to be appointed by the Grand Lecturer." The Edict further states that "...each Lodge shall choose the Masonic Degree that it will perform, and in each succeeding year the Lodge shall confer a different Masonic Degree, so that the Lodge shall have exhibited its proficiency in all three Masonic Degrees within each three year period."

While there seems to have been some confusion in the Craft concerning the Edict dur-

ing the past two years, V.W. DeHollander and I have verified that the Edict remains in effect as written in 2002 and that there have been no changes to the quotations cited above. For practical purposes, this means that Lodges may not confer the same Degree two years in a row to comply with the Edict and that they must use members of their own Lodge to the fullest extent possible to fill the chairs for the Degree. If you have any questions concerning the Edict, you are invited to contact either V.W. DeHollander or me at your convenience.

There are a few Lodges in the District who have yet to schedule a date for one of the Assistant Grand Lecturers to observe a Degree in order for you to comply with the Edict. I encourage the Masters of those Lodges to contact one of us as soon as possible to schedule a visit. Time is short, and it is important to us that all Lodges in the District are able to comply with the Edict. We are required to make a report to the Grand Lecturer concerning the Edict. Please don't put us in a position where we are required to state that your Lodge was not in compliance. We appreciate your cooperation, and look forward to hearing from you. "

Secretaries' Seminar a Success!

By R.W. Herbert Spencer, Coordinator

To all who attended the Seminar on October 25th, I say thank you for coming to support the effort of many Brothers who worked hard in making this event a success. I hope everyone went away with some extra knowledge of what the Secretary's job entails.

I extend a sincere thank you to the following individuals and groups:

W. Mark Menard for coming to Monroe District with his Assistant, Ken Crandall, and presenting a super Seminar. I believe we could have continued on for another hour or two.

R.W. Gilbert Savitsky, Grand Secretary, for his words of encouragement and teaching.

Joy Woodley, Scottish Rite Valley of Rochester and Masters and Wardens for the Breakfast.

Webster Lodge for use of their facility and setting up the Dining Room.



Brother Mark Menard addressed issues with the MORI System to the Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Masters and other interested Brothers. Nearly fifty people attended.

District Deputy Grand Masters - R.W. Derek VanHouten of Monroe District; R.W. William Jones of Wayne District; R.W. John Gallant of Livingston District; and R.W. Ronald Galens of O/S/Y District - all who persuaded the Secretaries of their District to attend.

The Masonic Service Bureau who helped me prepare the CDs we distributed and for promoting the event in the *Masonic Times*.

The reward I received for coordinating this event was the attendance in numbers. I believe there were about fifty participants. "



R.W. Gilbert Savitsky, Grand Secretary, addresses the Brothers in attendance at the Seminar.

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Claude H. Wright

 President

GRAND LODGE ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED ID PROGRAM ...

New York Masonic Safety Identification Program

Here is important news regarding the expansion of the highly successful Child ID Program that should be brought to the attention of every Lodge in every District in our Grand Jurisdiction.

In New York State alone over 20,000 people turn up missing each year; of these approximately 10% are in the age group considered a "Child". The reluctance of children over the age of 12 taking part in the Identification Procedure that labels them as a Child means that the Child ID Program was excluding the individuals in most need of the ID Procedure. The Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, the Most Worshipful Edward G. Gilbert, directed that the Child ID Program be expanded to reach all who could be considered at risk.

The Grand Master's directive also included providing take-home safety information appropriate to the age of the individual undergoing the ID Procedure. The Grand Master agreed to change the name of the program to eliminate the connotation that the program was for young Children only. The New York Masonic Safety Identification Program is intended to encompass every age group.

The new Program contains all the following features of the Child ID Program:

- Contains all pertinent information on person undergoing ID Procedure.
- Fingerprints of all fingers.
- Photograph, showing full face and both profiles with ears exposed. If individual undergoing ID Procedure wears glasses, an additional photo is taken without glasses, or if they wear contacts it is noted in the "Other Notes and Considerations" Box. A single full-face (with glasses if they are normally worn) photo is selected for the printout.
- A printout with all the above information. From the printout the ID Card is cut-out and laminated.
- A CD is burned containing all the above information, in addition it contains the FILES intended to protect a child.
- All information is provided to Parent, the only information retained by the Masons is the Permission Slip.

The intention of the Masonic Safety Identification Program is to provide safety information specific to the particular age group undergoing the ID Procedure. To achieve the selection procedure the Computer Program does the following:

- When the year of birth is entered the Program will select the ID Card appropriate to the age of the person undergoing ID Procedure as follows:
 - 1) 1 Day to 12 years; Child ID
 - 2) 13 to 17 Years; Student
 - 3) 17 to 25 years; College Student
 - 4) 25 to ?? Years; Adult
- The Computer Program will burn to the CD the above personal information indicated as well as the age appropriate safety files for the age of the person undergoing the ID Procedure.

In announcing the expanded mission of our New York Masonic Safety ID Program, Grand Master Gilbert is asking all Lodges and Districts to raise their sights and aim to renew their efforts to expand this new program into their communities. We are also asking renewed efforts to coordinate and partner in this effort with FASNY, the Firemen's Association of New York.

For further information, contact Chairman, Don Elliott.
NYCHIP1@nychip.org

Attention, Masters! Looking for a Program?

If you ever need a program to augment a meeting, we would love to visit your Lodge and give a short presentation about *The Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America*.

The Tall Cedars is about the wood used to line the inside of the Temple of Solomon and the relationship of Hiram, King of Tyre, in his assistance to King

Solomon in this endeavor.

To schedule a visit and presentation, please contact one of the following people to set up a date:

Don Bell - 259-0647
Don Brugger - 458-6125
Don Wright - 621-5764

We wish you much success in your upcoming year and hope to join you and your Lodge some night.

TOYS FOR TOTS

... Did You Know?

Excerpts from U.S. Marine Corps Reserve 2009 Calendar

The first toy donated to Toys for Tots was a Raggedy Ann doll, handcrafted by the wife of Toys for Tots founder, Marine Colonel Bill Hendricks.

The American Challenge

Today, over 13 million American children live in poverty - one out of every five children. These children are frequently characterized by low self-esteem and little hope for tomorrow. Each has a choice of two paths to the future. One path leads to a productive life as an adult who is an asset to the community. The other path leads to a life of dependency on the community for support.

A miracle is not needed to raise a needy youngster's self-esteem and steer him or her toward the right path. Any influence that offers a ray of hope for the future has the potential to do the job.

Children make up 25 percent of our Nation's population. They are our most precious natural

resource. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders - social, business and civic. Any action that has the potential to help in the development and proper steering of today's children is a worthwhile pursuit.

Personal Reflection

Please take a moment to reflect on your own life and recall what it meant to receive a toy at Christmas. You quickly realize the positive impact a new toy had on your life. You can also imagine how devastating it would have been to receive nothing when your friends received new toys. What about the pain a childhood friend experienced when he or she received nothing at Christmas because his or her parents were going through a period of hard times? These reflections highlight the importance of a program such as Toys for Tots to needy children and their families.

"Toys for Tots" & All-Masonic Holiday Parties *

Friday, December 12th
 Shrine Center
 Spaghetti Dinner & Setup
 Social ~ 5:30 p.m.
 Dinner ~ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 13th
 Shrine Center
 All-Masonic Holiday Party
 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Open to All Masons and Their Families
Admission Price: One New Unwrapped Toy

Saturday's Party Activities for Kids:

- "Make Your Own Cookies"
- "Make Your Own Birdfeeder"
- Face Painting
- Photos with Santa
- "Special Delivery" Mailbox for Letters to Santa

* Co-sponsored by AASR-Valley of Rochester, Lalla Rookh Grotto and Damascus Shrine.

Masonic Veterans Service



R. W. Thomas M. Paglia
 Committee Chairman
 84 Grand View Lane
 Rochester, NY 14612
 227-2046

Grand Lodge Military Outreach Program Activity from the Rochester Area



(l to r) Cora Paglia, Patti Ciancaglinia (VA Staff), Allen Fox (VFW Representative), Kevin O'Hagen (Canandaigua VA Outreach Coordinator) and Jim McDermott (VA Volunteer Staff).



(l to r) Gill Gellasch, John Ponschock, Jr., Gordon Palmer, Frederic Cornell, Jr., Robin Johnson (VA Volunteer Program Coordinator), Vance Collum, Jr., Emil Schirano, William Fredenburg, Cy White, Tom Paglia and Dennis Finucane.



Volunteers serve and assist patients at a monthly birthday party.

James A. Hard/ Wayne Charter
 Post No. 12

Commander Dennis Finucane
 586-6937
 dkfinucane@aol.com



Adjutant Vance R. Collom, Jr.
 217-9817
 vancollom1@juno.com

Thank You

In October, I had the opportunity to attend the monthly "Birthday Party Celebration" at the Canandaigua VA Hospital. This is a joint venture with the Legion of Honor and our Post. If anyone would like to participate, contact Tom Paglia, Co-chairman of the Military Outreach Committee (227-2046) or Moe Schirano, PC (265-3932); Fred Cornell, PC (352-6477); Vance Collom, Adjutant (217-9817); or myself. It was rewarding to see how well the patients enjoyed our visit. I will be attending the birthday party again with the regulars who go every month to serve ice cream and cake. We had ten Brothers who attended the birthday party for the vets. Well done to ALL.

The War Veterans Color Guard has been Posting Colors at several functions. We even led off the 2nd Annual Columbus Day Parade in Downtown Rochester on October 11th. We had three Brothers

who marched the whole route while I rode in the car with Brian Bills, who brought his trailer with the large Masonic Square and Compasses, followed by Moe Schirano's car with our Adjutant, Vance Collom. Some of the guys were pictured in the Sunday paper.

November has been busy, starting with the Veterans Memorial Day Service, which was held on the 11th. We had a great turnout and everyone looked sharp in the uniforms.

On November 16th there was a Memorial Service held at Damascus Shrine Center for Leon VanHuben. We presented the flag to his wife, Beverly. Thanks to Brian Bills, Greg Ludwig, John Ponschock and Heinz Gunkel for the great job on the Flag Ceremony. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Beverly and her Family.

November 28th started the ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army at The Mall at Greece Ridge. We appreciate all those who did and can help.

December Events

December 6th we will have our Annual Christmas Dinner with the Ladies at the Fairport-Flower City Lodge with dinner promptly at 6:30 p.m.

On December 7th, there will be a Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance at the Charlotte Pier. It starts at 7:30 a.m. The Color Guard will assemble at 7 a.m. at the Pier.

Our next scheduled meeting will be February 26th. I wish you all Happy Holidays.



Members of the Masonic War Veterans Color Guard who led the Columbus Day Parade included (from left): Dennis Finucane, Commander; Moe Schirano, PC; John Ponschock, 1st Lt; Greg Ludwig, CG; William Fredenburg, CG; Vance Collom, Adjutant; and Heinz Gunkel, CG. Photo by Brian Bills, PC.

Additional Donor

The Masonic Service Bureau gratefully acknowledges a contribution from Frank Sassone through the United Way Campaign. His name should have appeared in the listing in the

September issue of the *Masonic Times*, but through an error the gift was not credited to the Bureau. When Frank didn't see his name, he questioned us and, in turn, the United Way office, and had the issue resolved. Once again, we thank all our con-

tributors who support our operations. Our Annual Appeal is in progress right now. If you haven't sent in your donation, won't you consider doing so now? Thank you.

Charles Waterstreet
 Executive Director

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 Military Outreach Program Committee
 Masonic Veterans Service Committee
 Co-Chairmen Tom Paglia and David Crawford

To those of you who have been generous with donations to the Veterans Christmas and Holiday Gift-giving Fund ...

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Happy Holidays

and a Very Healthy, Happy and Enjoyable

2009 New Year

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Livingston District

District Deputy Grand Master - John Gallant 624-9629

Grand Steward
Joseph Shanks
582-1028

Assistant Grand Lecturer
Roy Moses
346-5117

District Deputy Grand Master Livingston District



R.: W.:
John
Gallant

624-9629

kgallant@rochester.rr.com

On behalf of R.: W.: Joseph Shanks, R.: W.: Roland Stanley and myself, thank you to the Brothers from the Livingston District and our visitors from the surrounding Districts for joining us at our Livingston District Apron Presentation. We were deeply honored to have so many of our Brethren, family and friends there. The feeling of friendship and Brotherly Love was overwhelming and the entire evening was unequalled in the fun and excitement we all shared.

We have special congratulations to extend to W.: Rick LaFave on his completion of one of the Livingston Masonic Library reading courses. R.: W.: Joe Shanks presented Rick with his Certificate of Completion at the November meeting of Eunice Lodge. It was a very pleasant surprise. If there are other Brothers interested, these reading courses are very informative and with a progression

of 12 different courses, there is something for everyone!

This Veterans Day, I had the privilege of attending a Veterans Appreciation Dinner put on by W.: Jim Smith and the Brothers of Union Lodge. There were over twenty veterans in attendance. R.: W.: Roy Moses presented, as part of the dinner, a very solemn ceremony titled the "Missing Man Table." The dinner, camaraderie and stories made for a very memorable evening. I heartily recommend that other Lodges consider honoring their local Veterans in a similar manner next year.

The Entered Apprentice Section of the *Masonic Development Course* series was fun and well attended. I know everyone who was there learned something. The Fellowcraft Section will be presented on December 10th. If you have any questions, please contact R.: W.: Joe Shanks.



Gallant family members present at the ceremonies were (from left): Robert Sussman, John, Debbie Gallant, Stephanie Gallant, Joseph Gallant and Daniel Gallant.



R.: W.: Charles Roberts, Grand Chaplain, (right) administers Charge to Livingston District Grand Lodge Officers (from left) R.: W.: John A. Gallant, District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Joseph Shanks, Grand Steward, and R.: W.: Roland Stanley, Jr., Grand Representative of Piaui Brazil. In background is R.: W.: James Sullivan, Past Senior Grand Warden.

I extend my kudos to W.: Dennis King and the Brothers of Phoenix Lodge on their Master Mason Degree and in welcoming the newest member into their Lodge. It is always special to give out a Livingston District Pin! I know from talking with him, he will be a welcome asset to our Fraternity.

Congratulations also go to the Brothers of Livonia Lodge and Geneseo Lodge on the completion of their combined Fellowcraft Degree. Both Lodges did an outstanding job and it truly exemplifies what can be done when we work together. I

look forward to when they put on their Master Mason Degree; I have more pins to give out.

I also had the distinct pleasure to participate in another Eastern Star Livingston District event, the Reception of the 2009 Grand Lodge Officers. My best wishes go out to Rt. Wthy. Mary Jane and Rt. Wthy. Sheldon Ford, the new District Deputy Grand Matron and District Grand Lecturer. Good luck to you both and I look forward to the opportunity to visit together during the upcoming year.

The month of December looks to be a bit more relaxed than the



Roland's appointment as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Piaui, Brazil, near the Grand Lodge of New York was applauded by Ann Stanley.

last few months. This will be good, as the weather will certainly make traveling a bit more of a challenge. We have a couple of visits planned to Wayne and Geneseo/Wyoming Districts. I am sure there will be a few other events we'll attend in the District.

District Reminders

There will not be an Association meeting this month. The meetings start up again in January and don't forget the Fellowcraft MDC Session.

Finally, in closing, I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday this month and a very Joyous New Year. I hope everyone has a good and prosperous 2009. x



R.: W.: Joseph Shanks was supported at the Apron Presentation Dinner by (from left): Ray Guck, Darlene Guck, Joe, Audrey Shanks and Brad Shanks.

Grand Steward Livingston District



R.: W.:
Joseph
Shanks

582-1028

showtime8@rochester.rr.com

The advertisement for the *Masonic Development Course*

made the front page of the *Masonic Times* last month. Thank you, Mike Nohle, for putting the plug in for our venture. The first session of the *MDC* went very well. We wish we had more Brothers attending, but we might see more participation next year.

The *Road to the East* classes will be on February 7th, February 21st and February 28th. They are all Saturdays and will start at 9:00 a.m. It's not too early to sign up, Brothers.

Thanks for all your support. x

Gallant, and our Grand Steward, R.: W.: Joseph Shanks, received their Aprons. Also receiving Aprons were R.: W.: Roland Stanley, Grand Representative to Brazil, and R.: W.: Roy Moses, Assistant Grand Lecturer of Livingston District. The Guest Speaker was R.: W.: James Sullivan, Past Senior Grand Warden. The Ceremony took place at The Geneseo River Restaurant in Mt. Morris and was an enjoyable evening with our Brethren and their families.

Upcoming Tradition

Coming up at our December 16th Meeting will be our Traditional Oyster Stew Night. There will be other dishes to enjoy also.

Sickness and Distress

Our Brother (and Secretary), R.: W.: Gerald Hussong, had surgery and is recovering at home.

As always, stop in and see what's happening at your Masonic Lodge! x

Union Lodge No. 45

2nd & 4th Thursdays
7:30 p.m.

Master

W.: James
Smith
208-4854
jim@w2jrs.com

Secretary

R.: W.: James
Slocum
367-2425
jbs@frontiernet.net

Lima Masonic Hall
1891 Rochester Street
Lima 14485



I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration! I planned to watch the Thanksgiving Day Parade on television. Holiday gift advertising has replaced the political commercials, so all is as it should be.

District Deputy Grand Master Ontario/Seneca/Yates District



R.: W.:
Ronald
Galens

(315) 548-3453

rongalensosy@yahoo.com

Seasons Greetings, Brothers! I hope all had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

October and November have been exciting and interesting months. Official Visits are almost over and I've enjoyed learning the structure and

It was a wonderful evening on November 1st as Union Lodge members R.: W.: John Gallant, District Deputy Grand Master for Livingston District, and R.: W.: Joe Shanks, Grand Steward, were presented their Purple Aprons for their 2008-2010 Term. Congratulations, Brothers!

This year's *Masonic Development Course* kicked off November 12th at Eunice Lodge in Caledonia. The next two sessions will be Wednesday, December 10th and Wednesday, January 14th. Be sure to mark your calendar!

Our Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, December 11th. Remember, Brothers, it is at this meeting that we conduct our Annual Fiscal Business for the Lodge. We'll review Reports

from the Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees and discuss and approve the Lodge Budget for 2009. I'll appoint a committee of three Brothers at this meeting to examine and report, in writing, at our next Stated Communication. So, with so much going on, be sure to attend!

The Holiday Season is upon us and it's my hope that each of you are able to spend as much time as possible with your loved ones. This time of year centers around family, friends and taking part in Holiday traditions. This time of year we also give thanks for the many blessings we have received and reflect on how grateful we are for our friendships. I am grateful and thankful for your friendship and support. x

Nunda Station Lodge No. 682

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: Robert P. Cox
468-5066
robertpcox56@aol.com

Secretary
R.: W.: Gerald J. Hussong
476-2739

The last month has been busy with the National Elections and Veterans Day. Now we can look forward to the Holiday Season with our Families.

Purple Aprons Presented

On November 1st the Livingston District had a Purple Apron Presentation for our Grand Lodge Officers. District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: John

Ontario/Seneca/Yates

District Deputy Grand Master - Ronald Galens (315) 548-3453

Grand Director of Ceremonies
William A. Valois III
(315) 568-2000

Assistant Grand Lecturers
Bruce Huic (315) 789-2985
Clayton Ruggles (315) 548-3573

events of the Ontario/Seneca/Yates District.

Degree work is going well with more coming. Brothers have assisted in helping Lodges other than their own, and it's great to see "Harmony within the Fraternity." If Degree work assistance is needed, please let the AGs or me know.

The GDC, R.: W.: William Valois, held a *Masonic Development Course* and it went well. He is planning to have another one

soon. The more Brothers who participate, the more fun it is. He is also planning a *Road to the East Course* to be held after the first of the year; more to come on that. His Official Visits are starting in January, so if you have any questions or suggestions, please have them ready.

The O/S/Y Study Club met at the end of October and some very interesting information and history were discussed. Our next meeting is March 31st. Lo-

cation to be announced. Please try to attend. Again, the more, the merrier.

We have a very nice website for the O/S/Y District:

<http://www.osydistrict.org>.

The webmaster, R.:W.: Ken Hall, will place any date or event on the website for the benefit of the District. Please send him input at:

webmaster@osydistrict.org

December Events

2nd - Official Visit at Garoga-Sincerity

4th - Trip to Perry for Official Visit of Genesee-Wyoming

5th - O/S/Y Charities Dinner and Meeting at Canandaigua Lodge @ 6 p.m.; Bring a Dish-to-Pass.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday! Remember our Veterans and under-privileged over the Holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

(along with how many) by calling (315) 536-3013 or emailing to: tsmart5276@aol.com.

Masonic Anniversaries

The following Brothers were Raised in December:

1989 Thomas Fountain
1994 William Dobbin III
1997 Thomas Ess, Sandy Wagner and Frederick Warder II

My wishes for a Joyous and Blessed Holiday Season go out to all Brothers of Ark Lodge. May we be ever mindful all year, and especially during this Season, of those who may not be as fortunate as we or who may be alone for the Holidays. Small acts of kindness and caring can do wonders for those for whom the Holidays may not be as joyful as they should be.

Eagle
Lodge No. 619

2nd & 4th
Tuesdays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: George Romanyshyn
Secretary
W.: Kenneth R. Milner
346-6018
kemilner@frontiernet.net

4994 County Road 36
Honeoye 14471

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! Let's have a very Masonic New Year!

Eagle Lodge meets (unofficially) for breakfast around 8 a.m. every Saturday morning at Ace's Restaurant in Honeoye. Anyone is invited to stop in to eat, have coffee or just to visit.

I encourage our Brothers who are not regular attendees to come to meetings. If anyone has trouble getting there, call me (229-2786) and one of your Brothers will be glad to provide transportation. It would be great to see a room full of Brothers again. If you have any comments or ideas, don't hesitate to call. If there is something you used to particularly enjoy that we no longer do, call me and we'll see about doing it again.

By-Law Change

Our Lodge has met every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, except in June, November and December, when we meet only on the second Tuesday. We do not meet during July and August. Recent by-law changes mean we will continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays for most months, but in January and February we will be meeting only on the second Tuesday. (If we cancel this meeting because of weather, we will have the option of meeting on the fourth Tuesday). Also included in the By-Law changes is that we will meet the second Tuesday of August.

Our Lodge will soon have a new heating system. We will be switching to natural gas. While the initial cost might be considerable, the future savings should be substantial.

**Fundraisers
Fruit Sale**

We have been selling Florida fruit as we always do this time of year. Delivery of the fruit will be on December 13th and 14th. Please be sure to pick up your orders promptly.

Spaghetti Dinners

Don't forget our monthly Spaghetti Dinners. They are on the third Thursday of each month. Come for dinner and visit with all your Brothers, friends and

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neighbors, and we would also appreciate your help.

Upcoming Events

December

9th - Regular Meeting
18th - Monthly Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

January

13th - Regular Meeting
15th - Monthly Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

20th - No meeting as per new By-Laws

From the Secretary

My Brothers, in the first week of December, the Dues Notices and Lodge Summons, along with the new By-Laws, will be sent to you. Our Annual Meeting is the first meeting in January, according to the By-Laws; not at our December meeting as in the past.

Please note ... According to the new By-Laws, we will only have one meeting in January and February - scheduled for the **second Tuesday** of the month. It is the prerogative of the Master to change the meeting as he deems necessary, with due notice given to the Brethren of the Lodge. This will be done via the Calling Post. Also to note, there will now be a Stated Meeting scheduled for the **second Tuesday in August**.

I extend a most enjoyable Holiday Season, from my family, to yours.

Milnor
Lodge No. 139

2nd & 4th
Thursdays

Master
R.:W.: Eldon White

Secretary
R.:W.: Kenneth R. Hall
289-3801
gsosy@rochester.rr.com
12 Canandaigua Street
Shortsville 14545

It's that time of year again and by now everyone should have received their 2009 Dues Notice and Brotherhood Fund request envelope. Your prompt response will be very much appreciated. Over the past few years our Lodge's contribution to the Brotherhood Fund has eroded; please pay particular attention to your contribution and give generously. Thank you.

Chicken and Biscuits

Corky and Joyce Thon will provide a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner at our meeting on December 11th with all proceeds going to the Brotherhood Fund. They have done this for a number of years. We owe them a large debt of gratitude.

At this meeting we will view a DVD program on the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA.

Save the Date!

Please save Saturday, February 7th, for the Milnor Lodge Annual Turkey Dinner. As our membership declines, we get older and several of our Brothers spend the Winter in warmer climates, it is imperative that everyone help who is able. This is the principle fundraiser for our

Lodge. Either fundraisers or a large Dues increase will be necessary to keep from dipping into capital funds. If we are to have a new permanent Lodge Hall, we must grow our funds and not use them for operating expenses. Tickets are available and would make an excellent Christmas gift. Please contact the Secretary.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wayne District

District Deputy Grand Master - William Jones (315) 986-9150

Grand Steward F. Edward "Ted" Powley (315) 483-2745	Assistant Grand Lecturer William Benedict (315) 524-3597
---	--

**District Deputy
Grand Master
Wayne District**

R.:W.:
**William
C. Jones**

(315) 986-9150
wjones@rochester.rr.com

learn about the Three Degrees of Freemasonry.

Hopefully, with completion of this Course it will help to rejuvenate the direction this District will take in the future, and stimulate more to enroll in the *Road to the East* Course, he hopes to provide at later date. Our phone numbers and email addresses are at the top of our articles, should you want or need more information.

More information can be obtained at the newly revised Masters and Wardens Association. This Association meets on the second Thursday of each month, and moves around the District. Dinners are at 6:45 p.m. with the meetings starting at 7:30 p.m. It is open to all Master Masons, and your input is needed. It is a place to ask questions, learn what is going on in the District, and an opportunity to socialize with your Brothers from other Lodges. Contact your Lodge Secretary as to where the monthly meeting will be held.

I have applications for the 2009 Frank M. Totton Essay Contest, open to high school Seniors who are sons, daughters, grandchildren, or a member of the extended family of a Master Mason in the State of New York. Keep in mind, this must be postmarked no later than January 10, 2009, and include a 200-350 word essay. If you have a child who meets the criteria, contact me for an application.

Mary Lou and I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and Prosperous 2009.

The last Official Visit in the District will be held December 3rd at Drumlin Square Lodge; Dinner 6:30 p.m.; Communication 7:30 p.m. Contact W.: John P. Krest, Master, for dinner reservations no later than November 26th at (315) 597-5060, or email jkrest@rochester.rr.com.

A special thanks to R.:W.: F. Edward "Ted" Powley, Grand Steward, for taking the initiative to promote the *Masonic Development Course* for the first time in many years, within Wayne District. At this reading, the First Session was completed on November 20th, with the Second Session being held on Thursday, December 18th. The Third Session will be held Thursday, January 15th. All Sessions are to be held at Sodus Lodge and to start at 7 p.m. Should some Brother need to make up the First Session, due to not receiving proper information, I believe Ted or I can make arrangements to see that you are accommodated. One is never too old, nor too young, to

**Grand
Steward**
Wayne District

R.:W.:
**F. Edward
"Ted"
Powley**

H: (315) 483-2745
W: (315) 483-6944
Ext. 11801

soduspowleys@msn.com
ted.powley@mizkan.com

One last Official Visit for this year remains. It will be the Homecoming of R.:W.: William C. Jones at Drumlin Square Lodge on Wednesday, December 3rd. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; reservations would be appreciated.

ated by W.: John Krest at (315) 597-5060. I have enjoyed visiting the Lodges of the District, seeing old friends and meeting new Brothers and Officers.

Spirits and enthusiasm have been high. The *Masonic Development Course (MDC)* has been well received with a dozen Brothers from five different Lodges participating. The Second Session will be held at Sodus Lodge on December 18th at 7 p.m. The 2nd Degree will be our study subject. You are welcome to attend since each Session looks at a different Degree.

The Masters and Wardens meeting will be on December 11th, at Humanity Lodge in Lyons - Dinner at 6:45 p.m.,

Continued on Page 8

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Ted Powley

Continued from Page 7

Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All Master Masons are welcome to attend these meetings.

I am very happy to announce we have new Brothers taking advantage of the Reading Programs offered by the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Library. Brother Lloyd Sears of Clyde Lodge and Brother James Champagne of Wayne Lodge were recently awarded Certificates of Completion for reading courses they completed in October. Congratulations! The cost is simply the return-postage for the books.

W.: Michael Boone, DSA, of Sodus Lodge and District Chairman, announced the Child ID Program has been renamed the Masonic Safety ID Program. It includes senior citizens as well as children, and has added some preventive and educational materials. Mike has been addressing other organizations to gain monetary support for buying a computer system of our own for Wayne District. Feel free to contact Mike to speak at your Lodge meeting about the new program.

Marilyn and I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you a blessed Christmas Season! Remember the Brotherhood Fund. Ask a good man to become a Mason.

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Drumlin Square Lodge No. 1180

Master
W.: John P. Krest
315-597-5060
jkrest@rochester.rr.com
Secretary
R.: W.: William C. Jones
315-986-9150
wjones@rochester.rr.com
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Palmyra Masonic Hall
161 East Main Street 14522

The Election craziness of 2007/2008 has finally ended and we have a new President-Elect who will be our President for the next four years. May he guide this Country in a direction that will begin to resolve the many issues that face us all.

We had an excellent turnout for Masters and Wardens Night and I hope to see you all on December 11th at Humanity Lodge.

December 3rd is the night of our Official Visit, so please plan to attend. I'm sure our District Deputy will make the evening enjoyable. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.; the Meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. Contact Bill Jones or me to make a reservation for dinner.

Whether you call it a Bereaved Spousal Dinner or a Widows Dinner, let us remember our obligation and honor our Ladies at our Annual Widows Dinner at Lori's Secret Garden on the 7th of December. The cost is \$25 for either Salmon, Chicken or Prime Rib. Contact me for your reservation.

Our Annual Christmas Auction will be held on December 17th. This event raises funds for the next year's Bereaved Spouses (politically correct) Dinner. Bring a gift for either a man or woman, not exceeding \$10 and let's raise enough money so we can continue our long-standing tradition.

Grow the Lodge

Have you thought about a neighbor, co-worker, friend or

son who would make a good Mason? Have you talked to them about becoming a Mason? Would you like me to send them an invitation to come to an open meeting? Let us all do what we

can to keep our Lodge and Masonry alive and growing.

In closing, may we all enjoy this Season of Joy, Love and Renewal. Merry Christmas to you all and a Very Happy New Year.

Genesee-Wyoming

District Deputy Grand Master - John F. Cook 237-2427
Grand Steward Wayne Patridge 493-5296
Assistant Grand Lecturer Dennis Parmerter 535-0595

Oakland Lodge

No. 379, F. & A.M.
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
(Jan., Feb., Mar.: 1st Tuesday only)



Master
W.: Kenneth E. Smith
768-7731

Secretary
W.: Richard L. Smith
493-5408

134 South Main Street, Castile 14427

My Brothers, I must start by apologizing for not getting an article in the November issue of the *Masonic Times*. I take great pride in getting an article in every month, but work obligations had me out of town for three weeks in the month of October. I just didn't get the time allotted in my work schedule to submit an article. Hopefully this will not happen again this year.

Oakland Lodge had a good representation at the Grand Lecturer's Convention, but fell two Officers short of qualifying for the Howard Potts Award. I truly believe we would have qualified if it wasn't for leg surgery to our Senior Deacon, W.: Robert Kemp. A fun evening was had by all in attendance as we performed the Ritual of the First Section of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Hopefully, the Officers will be able to qualify next year for the Howard Potts Award.

Plans are underway for two new programs in Lodge this year. The first being a Christmas Dinner at our December 16th Communication. I thought it would be nice to change this a little this year and have a Christmas dinner for the members and their families at the last Communication of the year. This will be an informal meeting.

The members of Oakland Lodge have decided to host a Child ID Program during this Masonic year. We have made contact with a local pre-school program that is very interested in letting us get our feet wet with them. More details and information are to come in January's issue of the *Masonic Times*.

Masonic Anniversaries November

Congratulations to the following Brothers who were Raised during the month of November:

1949 - Frank Walkley
1969 - Donald Robinson Jr. and Robert Robinson

1980 - William Massett
1995 - Kenneth Smith

December

1972 - William Wallace
1974 - John Wahl
1981 - Donald Kemp

Brotherhood Fund

The Brotherhood Fund is in full swing and the donations from members of Oakland Lodge are starting to roll in. Thanks to all members who have already made a donation

to this program. The best place to make your donation is at our Monthly Communications. For those Brothers who are unable to make our Regular Communications, please forward your donations to our Chairman, Kenneth E. Smith, 137 Lake Street, LeRoy, NY 14482. If you are making your donations via mail, please include the area of designation in the memo portion of your check.

I hope this article finds my fellow Brothers enjoying a happy and healthy end to the Fall season and the start of Old Man Winter. I'm sure it won't be long before we start to see that white stuff accumulating on the ground. May we all say a prayer for the change our Nation is about to undergo and those who have fought, and are still fighting, to keep us free and safe. May we all enter the next year with an open mind on our country and those who were chosen to run it.

May the blessing of heaven rest upon all my fellow Brothers and their families wherever they may be throughout the world.

Olive Branch Lodge No. 39, F. & A.M.

1st Wednesdays
7:30 p.m.
Master
W.: Nevin A. Brick
768-6473

Secretary
W.: Douglas S. Poole
584-3601
dspool@frontiernet.net

10 North Avenue
LeRoy 14482

I can't believe it is time for the December article already. Another year is flying by. The Lodge is hoping Santa comes and brings us a new building. Right now most of our things are packed in a 48-foot trailer. Of course, everything we really need is in the very front of it. When we packed it, we thought we would be in a new location by now.

A year ago I was sure this month's article would be talking about the Dedication of our new Olive Branch Lodge. We never had any idea how many issues can pop up in this process... or the economy would go in the tank so quickly. All these problems have quite an impact.

As we have learned, trying to rush this is not the way to go. It can get very costly to assume you will get approvals, and have completed plans that become useless. We are taking our time and carefully studying our options. It has been great to hear from many in the local community afraid we would move away.

We currently have three Candidates. Before the first of the year they will be Master Masons. These three young men will be a much-needed addition to our Lodge. Though I must admit, it does seem funny to not be the youngest Lodge member any more! My hope is for a larger class in the Spring.

Here is a bit of trivia from the early days of this Lodge. Back in 1822 we held a 1st Degree on Christmas night. That was in keeping with the New England Puritan tradition not to celebrate the Holiday, and most of our early members were from that Region. Christmas didn't become a popular holiday until the 1850s. They would have wished you a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year. In 2007 we will do the same.

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Monroe District

District Deputy Grand Master - Derek VanHouten 247-2920

Grand Stewards

Michael Nohle 216-9016

George Todd 964-5809

Assistant Grand Lecturers

Harry DeHollander 624-1717

Hugh Woodside 248-2106

District Deputy Grand Master



Monroe District

R.:W.:
Derek E.
VanHouten
247-2920

hooter95@rochester.rr.com

The days slowly slip by as the daylight hours grow shorter and evenings are quieter as the silent white crystals fall to the ground. Meanwhile, families will be gathering around festive trees in warm homes as Winter once again graces our landscape.

Many times we don't acknowledge our Lodge Secretaries and the many hours given to perform their duties. On October 25th, over 45 Secretaries from five Districts gathered at Webster Lodge to learn the very latest information about the MORI System from Brother Mark Menard and Grand Secretary, R.:W.: Gilbert Savitzky. This all happened because of your Lodge Secretaries' interest and the efforts of R.:W.: Herbert Spencer. We were pleased that every Lodge in Monroe District was represented, either by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary or Master. This is very commendable as they gave up their personal time in order to serve you better. When you get a chance, let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

Official Visit Observation

On our Official Visits, we have noticed (in a couple of Lodges) they do not have an up-to-date copy of the "24-Inch Gauge." At one Lodge, the book was still in the wrapper and dated 1998! How is this supposed to assist your Lodge or an individual Brother who might be seeking the latest on, say, Bring-a-Brother Night? What if he wants to attend the *Road to the East* Program, which will be coming up in February, and the Lodge loans him this copy? Every Lodge must have the correct informational material, as it will reflect on the education of all your members.

Recently a situation presented itself when a Master indicated the Senior Warden was out of town, the Junior Warden was sick and the Master was sick, too. What to do? All Lodges are required to have the blue book, *Masonic Law of New York*, which includes the Constitution. Once you narrow the subject down, look in the index and it

will lead you to the section, which relates to the problem. In this case Section 630, page 164, spells out, in detail, what to do if all three Officers are indisposed.

In part, "a Lodge cannot be legally opened in the absence of the Master and both Wardens." If there is a program or dinner associated with the meeting, it can be held, but Lodge cannot be legally opened. A Constitutional Officer must be in attendance, such as one Warden, or the Master. I realize most of you "senior" members know this, but for reference, I wanted to mention it.

We would encourage all to browse through each issue of the *Masonic Times* as it is a great source of what each Body is doing for the month. In addition to the meetings, there are dinners, parties, socials and other great events to place on your calendar. A lot of effort by the Staff at the *Masonic Times* goes into each issue.

As an example, I am writing this in October for the December issue. I find when the creative juices are running it's best to write the thoughts down and submit them. For most issues, I write two or three articles. Please don't wait until the last minute. I try to get my thoughts together a couple of weeks before and, if something comes up at the last minute, Jan Porter can possibly add it to your article.

Child ID Team

As you know, R.:W.: Donald Tubman and Brother Rick Downs handle the Child ID Program for the District. Recently a third member has been appointed to join them in their efforts. Brother Thomas Perrone, from Unity Lodge, will be part of the Team for the District. It's imperative that enough manpower is available for each event and it has not been the norm recently. They are asking one member of each Lodge to act as a contact person for future Child ID functions as they are identified.

If any Lodge will be having an Awards Service and would desire me or the Staff Officers to be present, please get in touch with me so we might make the proper arrangements.

Happy Holidays!

Speaking on behalf of the entire District Leadership Team, we wish all of you a most Happy and Glorious Holiday Season. I know, from experience, that the "man in the red suit" is around somewhere and he will come to town around the 25th of the month. If you see him, let him know that one of his apprentices said to say hello. ✪

"On The Square"

My Brother, in the Courtyard;
Each one of us have stood
Outside the tiled Temple door
Awaiting as we should.

Take heed, thou young Apprentices
The Word emblazoned there;
To meet upon the Level
And part upon the Square.

My Brother, at the Altar
Each one of us has knelt
With solemn Oath and Brotherhood
The Mystic Tie we've felt.

Take heed, my Brother Fellowcraft
The Word emblazoned there;
To act upon the Plumb
And part upon the Square.

My Brother in the Temple
Each one of us were Raised
And on receiving further light
Into the Light we gazed.

Take heed, my Brothers, Masters all
The Word emblazoned there;
To Live within the Compass
And part upon the Square.

Author Unknown

As always, if we (as District Officers) can be of assistance to you or your Lodge, feel free to contact one of us. We would be willing to attend any of your programs, Lodge meetings, etc. We only ask you not wait until the last minute. Our calendars are fairly full and we would need time to schedule your requests. Until next month see you in the Quarries. ✪

Grand Steward

Monroe



R.:W.:
Michael
Nohle
265-4922

mikenohle@aol.com

By now we have completed our thirteen Official Visits for 2008. Thanks again to all of you for your warm hospitality and attention as we have conveyed the Grand Master's Message and presented the educational programs available to you. This has been a very rewarding experience. I can't even begin to express how impressed I am by the quality of the Lodges in our District, the enthusiasm of the Brethren, the deep history and traditions we enjoy and how much dedication to our Craft I have witnessed.

Collectively, we are so much greater than the sum of our members. There truly is a force that surrounds us, created by the combination of the energy we each possess when we come together as Masons. This force has touched me deeply. More than ever I have come to appreciate how strong and vibrant our Fraternity is in the Monroe District. My optimism for our future has increased considerably from getting to know all of you. I am confident we will continue to grow and prosper as time moves forward.

Grand Lecturer's Convention

Congratulations to our District Deputy Grand Master and our Assistant Grand Lecturers for a hugely successful Convention held October 28th. I believe the head count was 133 Brothers with 12 of 13 Lodges repre-

sented. Several Howard Potts Awards were earned. I have never been to a Grand Lecturer's Convention that was anywhere near as well attended. If this isn't an indication that Brothers are pumped up about Masonry in our District, I don't know what is. Let's keep it rolling!

Lodge System of Masonic Education

I am pleased that the *LSOME* Program is being presented in most all of our Lodges. R.:W.: George Todd and I have successfully increased awareness of the availability of this essential program and the importance of it being presented to our new Brothers. I consider this to be a "Home Run" for your leadership team. I'm sure, as you view the DVD, you are realizing the worthiness of *LSOME*. Please remember we are available to assist you in implementing this training.

Masonic Development Course

I believe this is another significant success story. Our first *MDC* Session was held November 12th and, although as of this writing this had not yet happened, I'm certain it was a success. We have a pretty good turnout from our District and the other Districts participating have filled up these classes.

Key Word - Dedication

One meaning of the word Dedication (noun) according to the *Encarta Dictionary* is "the quality of being devoted or committed to something." I have seen this word exemplified by exhibit in our Lodges. Dedication to our Craft, Ritual, principles and ideals is apparent among us. We must so inspire others and it seems we are, by example. I am dedicated to being the best Grand Steward I can be.

I hope you are dedicated to being an upright man and Mason and to protecting, nurturing and advancing our great Fraternity. Our work continues. ✪

Member Development

R.:W.:

Joseph Privitera
Monroe District

Dues

It is that time of year when your Lodge sends out those pesky Dues Notices. For those of you who are current with your Dues, your Lodge thanks you for your support. This writing will focus on those who are two years behind in their Dues.

Your Lodge Secretary is required to notify you that you will be dropped from membership for Non-Payment of Dues. Previously, you received what I referred to as a "nasty gram." Things have changed over the years. The letter is still sent, but should be preceded, come with, or followed by some kind of contact making you aware of the situation and several ways to resolve it.

If there is a problem paying the Dues, then something can be arranged. I want you to call your Lodge Master or Secretary and talk to him. The phone numbers for the Lodge Master and Secretary are located in this publication above the Lodge article. If you have difficulty in doing this, then call me. My phone number is also in this publication, in the "Hot Numbers" Section, under Membership Retention.

In these financially bad times, if you have to make a choice to pay your bills or pay your Dues, obviously you should pay the bills. However, we do not want to lose you from our membership. We have a remittance program where Dues can be remitted with Lodge approval. Some Lodges have life memberships for members with a certain amount of years of membership. Your Dues should be remitted if you are on active duty in the military. Bottom line is this; something can be worked out, but first you must let someone know what is going on.

If there is something else causing this situation, I would like you to call and speak to someone to see if you can discuss the situation. Again, the last thing we want to do is lose your membership in this Fraternity.

Happy Holidays to all of you, from my home to your home. ✪

Grand Steward

Monroe



R.:W.:
George
Todd
964-5809

gatodd@rgta.com

Several things have happened by the time you read this article. Thanksgiving has come and gone. A time of sharing with family, friends and good eats. The first class of the *Masonic Development Course* was held November 12th. Along with our Ladies, R.:W.:s Derek VanHouten, Skip

Waterstreet and I attended Eureka Lodge's 83rd Thanksgiving Ball. We were shown grand hospitality and the food was great. Thank you to the Brothers of Eureka Lodge.

Mark Your Calendar

The remaining *Masonic Development Course* sessions will be held at Eunice Lodge, 3141 State Street, Caledonia, December 10th and January 14th. As in the past, this will be a joint District venture. The cost for the School is \$20, which includes refreshments. Recently Raised Master Masons (and those not so recent) should avail themselves of this training.

If interested, please call me at 964-5809 (h), 298-0852 (w) or 654-0253 (w) or email me at gtodd1@rochester.rr.com; or Mike Nohle at mikenohle@aol.com, 216-9016. It would be a wonderful thing if the Monroe District outnumbered Livingston and Genesee/Wyoming Districts in attendance.

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News from the Purple Club of the Monroe District

By G. Thomas Grape, Secretary

At our September 27th meeting, 24 Brothers, who are normally active, were contacted by phone following a mailed meeting notice. Fifteen said they would attend; only ten of those showed up. We were surprised by three walk-ins who had not indicated attendance.

Proposed By-Laws Change

Brother Joseph Privitera proposed that our By-Laws Article IX, Section 1, Quorums was too high a number (11 members in good standing) in the face of diminishing attendance. Joe proposed the number be reduced to nine. Jim De Lorenzo seconded this motion.

While not in writing, this proposal was accepted as the first step in the reading of a By-Law change, per Article XI, Section 1. It will be re-read and voted upon at our next regular meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd in the Lalla Rookh Grotto Office within the Damascus Shrine Center. Our meeting will begin at 5 p.m. and should take no longer than 30 minutes.

Meeting Notice ... Purple Club of Monroe District Wednesday, December 3rd 5 p.m.; Shrine Center

Monroe District

Child ID

R.:W.:

Donald Tubman
Co-Chairman

889-4725

datubman@yahoo.com

Rick Downs
Co-Chairman

rcdowns@rochester.rr.com

Tom Perrone
Training Co-ordinator

352-6932

tewtaul@aol.com

The Child ID Program (CHIPS) ALWAYS needs your help! We reach out to you to sponsor events in December and January.

We are lining up a CHIPS event December 13th at the "Toys for Tots Holiday Party." Come and help us decorate on December 12th; bring a new unwrapped toy and the AASR will feed you Spaghetti and Meatballs. On Saturday, December 13th, bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., with a new unwrapped toy and participate in the "Toys for Tots" event. This is your Holiday Party, Brethren, and your CHIPS Program makes IT work!!!

Be Part of the Team

We lined up Unity Lodge to help Barnard Fire Department on October 12th. Depending on your outlook, Brother Tom Perrone had a very good day BY HIMSELF. He processed over 100 kids at the event.

In order to remedy another such "solo" situation, each Master of Monroe Lodges has been asked to provide a Coordinator to help us with manpower. We also did a CHILD ID at the Town

of Greece Public Safety Event on October 21st where W.: Mike DiCataldo, with several Officers of the Greece Special Police, processed a number of children. If you would like to help us with future events, contact Don Tubman or Rick Downs, Committee Co-Chairmen; or Thomas Perrone, who has been appointed CHIPS Training Coordinator by R.:W.: Derek VanHouten, based on his participation with the program this Fall.

In 2009, we would like to schedule as many events as possible and team with fire departments, the police and, of course, all Lodges and Concordant Bodies. We want to reach those children who are not involved in the school CHIPS Programs and are probably most at-risk. (The Monroe County Sheriff's Office and Rochester Police Department have an aggressive in-school CHIPS Program.)

Dues are Payable

I will collect Dues that evening. My records show 14 of our 58 active members are in arrears, seven of whom owe for multiple years. I shall be contacting you individually to collect the Dues owed. If you wish to become inactive, without further direct contact with the group, for health, business or personal reasons, please contact me at 854 Latta Road, Rochester, NY 14612-4016, by phone at 621-5282, or email ggrape@rochester.rr.com.

of Greece Public Safety Event on October 21st where W.: Mike DiCataldo, with several Officers of the Greece Special Police, processed a number of children. If you would like to help us with future events, contact Don Tubman or Rick Downs, Committee Co-Chairmen; or Thomas Perrone, who has been appointed CHIPS Training Coordinator by R.:W.: Derek VanHouten, based on his participation with the program this Fall.

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Identify Possibilities

Please think of opportunities where this can be done. If you are holding a Health Fair at your Lodge or your community is hosting a festival where you feel we could implement a CHIPS event, feel free to contact us. They are not just a local Lodge event, but a District and Grand Lodge event. It is a great recruiting tool for new members.

Lodge Coordinators

We have not heard from each of the Lodges regarding who their CHIPS Lodge Coordinator is. Can you please do this, so when a request comes in for an event in your area, we know who to contact and rely on the Lodge Coordinator for help. FASNY in Monroe County has

been notified through the Monroe County Fire Coordinator's Office of our desire to help them with this program.

As time permits, we would like to offer our program to Senior Citizens in nursing homes. Some nursing home administrators have identified the need to us.

Information about the Masonic ID Program is available on-line at www.nychip.org. To volunteer for working at an event or to schedule an event, contact:

- Don Tubman (Ph: 889-4725), email: tubman@yahoo.com;
- Rick Downs email: rcdowns@rochester.rr.com;
- Thomas Perrone email: tewtaul@aol.com.

Masonic Benevolence

V.:W.:
Hugh Woodside
248-2106

The Committee on Masonic Benevolence was established in March 1949 and charged with the responsibility of assisting Lodges and Districts in providing help, aid and comfort to distressed Masons, their widows, orphans and families. The Committee is also charged with assisting the distressed in seeking additional relief from government, community, private and Masonic resources.

Assistance provided by the Committee can be arranged under three basic categories:

- 1) emergency financial assistance;
- 2) situations which require a need for permanent planning, such as institutional care or long-term planning, from an appropriate agency; and
- 3) requests for assistance of an advisory nature.

While the Committee has some flexibility, the following policies are in place to facilitate granting of assistance to those in need:

- Financial aid will only be given to Master Masons, their wives, widows, orphans and dependent minor children;

- Individuals seeking assistance should contact the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Masonic Lodge that they or their family member is affiliated with to make their situation known;

- The Worshipful Master should appoint an Investigating Committee charged with visiting the distressed Brother or family member, and helping them to complete the necessary application for assistance. The report of the Lodge's investigating committee must indicate that the distressed Brother or family member is in need of and worthy of assistance. The report of the investigating committee is critical in assisting the Committee in its decision making process.

- In cases where financial aid is granted, the Committee will seek the cooperation and participation of the District and the Lodge. It will be the policy of the Committee to recommend utilization of all available resources from government, community and private agencies that may have funds or services available to meet the needs of a particular situation.

If you are a Brother in need, or know of one, you are encouraged to contact the Master of your Lodge and share that information. We frequently find that those in need of help are hesitant to ask for it, but this doesn't diminish their need for assistance. Worshipful Masters and Secretaries of Lodges in the Monroe District knowing of a Brother or family member in need are encouraged to contact V.:W.: Hugh Woodside at 330-5886 or via email at hww@rochester.rr.com if they have questions or require copies of any applications for assistance.

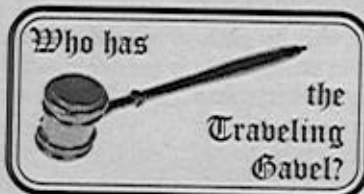
some kind of existential ping-pong with it; batting it between the two same Lodges *ad nauseam*. That's almost worse than having it sitting in one Lodge utterly neglected. The true prize of the Gavel is the experience of going someplace you usually don't go and meeting great friends whom you didn't know you had. The fact that you get the Gavel is simply an invitation for another set of friends (Brothers) to go somewhere they've never been (your Lodge) and meet great friends they never knew they had (YOU!).

Is it really so difficult for you to reach out and meet other Brothers? Ask yourselves how many times your Lodge has hosted the Gavel - has had that open invitation to other Lodges. Some Brothers may demur claiming there is no point as they wouldn't be able to hang on to it as long as some Lodges have. That's really not the point. Other Brothers may find it tiresome or troublesome to get together on a night that isn't their regular Communication just to go sit at another Lodge. But, that defeats some of the strength of the Fraternity.

The Fraternity exists because of the strength of our bonds. I've only been a Master Mason a short while, but in that time, I've heard and read some amazing stories about the interactions between Brothers. Those stories and experiences can only exist when our ties to one another are strong. Exercising those ties strengthens that basic element that allows us to look each other in the eye, and not see some guy there, but to see a Brother - someone we can trust and enjoy being around.

Every Lodge I've visited has left me with good feelings. Each has its own personality, and the Brothers have their own special qualities. You will be doing yourself a good turn to go out and meet them. Don't wait for special events like Grand Lecturer's Conventions or St. John's Day to do this. The real Brothers you'll meet are best found when they're just doing their normal routine.

I hope to meet you soon.



By Erik Loepker, Chairman

The Traveling Gavel has been claimed by the Brothers of Northfield Lodge! They are located at 17 Church St., Pittsford. Their phone number is 586-2976. They meet the first and third Thursday of each month, except for Maundy Thursday (which is the Thursday before Easter). They have a dinner at every meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m., and their meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. After each meeting, they have a Fellowship Gathering (a social, fun gathering). For more information, check out their website at:

www.northfieldLodge.org.

Quite sincerely, however, the Brothers at Northfield do not want to hold onto the Gavel. Last year, if you recall, the articles for Northfield were filled with witty banter and playful challenges that begged, pleaded, nay, even cajoled for anyone to come and relieve it from them. The Brethren of Valley-Simes Lodge obliged. They usually do. If you look at the tally chart of time spent in each Lodge that comes with the Gavel, Valley-Simes is in the top slot, and Northfield isn't far behind.

But, honestly, the intent of the Traveling Gavel isn't to play

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, December 3rd

1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Ogden Community Center

Town Meeting Room

269 Ogden Center Road; Spencerport

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For information, call Tom Perrone 352-6932

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 Master
 W.: Kenneth Schumacher
 436-2076
 Secretary
 W.: Ralph Jurgens
 (315) 524-3686
 979 Bay Road, Webster 14580



Brother Rene VanDeVeire received the Symbolic Blue Lodge Award from the Valley of Rochester. (From left): R.: W.: Bruce Renner, Senior Grand Warden; W.: Ken Schumacher, Master; Ill.: Peter Semiac, Deputy for New York; Rene; and Ill.: G. Michael Morris, Commander-in-Chief, Valley of Rochester.



W.: Kenneth Schumacher, Lodge Master, listens as W.: Kenneth Skidmore expresses his thanks upon receiving his 55-year Certificate.



A 25-year Certificate of Service was presented to R.: W.: Derek Van Houten, DDGM of Monroe District, by Worshipful Brother Schumacher.

Service Awards

Several Brothers received Service Award Certificates and Pins at our October 21st Meeting, including our District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Derek VanHouten, who was recognized for 25 years in the Fraternity. W.: Clyde Siverd, DSA, received his 25-year Certificate and Pin at the November 4th meeting, as he was unable to attend the October meeting. Others who could not attend should have received, or will receive, their awards in the mail.

An additional surprise was accorded Worshipful Ralph Jurgens, as his Past Master's Apron finally arrived and was presented to him as a part of the festivities.



W.: Ralph Jurgens displays his Past Master's Apron, also presented on that night.

Birthdays

We have only a few Brothers born in December. They are John Smith (18th), Richard Gundry (23rd) and John Auer (30th). Happy birthday!

Sickness and Distress

Just as this article was being written, I learned that James Jurgens lost his battle with cancer. W.: Ralph had visited his brother the week prior to his death, having been informed the end was imminent. The condolences of the Lodge were expressed to the Jurgens family.

It is with great sadness I inform you of the sudden passing of Brother John Hughes at the age of 56. The medical profession was unable to stop a viral infection that was too aggressive to recover. Our deepest sympathies to his family.

I am pleased to report that W.: David King is back on his feet. While not completely up to snuff, he is trying to get back in good health. He has frequent doctor appointments to check his condition.

W.: Bill Hook has attended several functions, as has his brother-in-law, Brother Rene VanDeVeire.

I wish all my Brothers and their family a wonderful Holiday Season. May you have a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year with continuing good health and prosperity.

See you in Lodge.

FAME Lodge No. 722
 2nd & 4th Thursdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: H. Douglas Jones
 406-1164
 bldogz@rochester.rr.com
 Secretary
 W.: David Foster
 244-0194
 dnfvog@rochester.rr.com
 979 Bay Road, Webster

By Doug Jones

It was a great turnout for Brother Bring-a-Friend Night. John Zabel talked about New York Masonry and its roots. This was a great program and was enjoyed by all in attendance – especially the prospective Brothers.

November was Awards Night. Brothers were presented with years of service Pins and Awards. It never ceases to amaze me the dedication the Brothers have for our great Fraternity.

Thanks to all the Brothers and their families who came out for our Turkey Dinner.

Upcoming Events

December 11th – Pasta Dinner for \$8

December 25th – Merry Christmas! May your hearts and minds be filled with Spirit of the Season!

January 8th – Meatloaf Dinner for \$8; Rehearsal for 1st Degree Happy Holidays!

Union Star Lodge No. 320
 3 North Main Street
 Honeoye Falls 14472
 2nd Mondays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: George Fohner
 586-5255
 gfohner@unionstarmasons.org
 Secretary
 R.: W.: Gary R. Sanford
 27 Freshfield Rise, Fairport 14450
 ggsanford@aol.com

Looking back at the last three months, we at Union Star were very busy – with picnics, School of Ritual, Award Programs, Official Visits, Grand Lecturer's Convention, Degree work, food and most of all, good Fellowship. A very good start, for a great Masonic year.

In December, we look forward to less work and more quality time with our Lodge Brothers and Sisters at our 2nd Christmas Party. It will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at Norton's Grill starting at 6:30 p.m. I hope to see one and all. Last year's party got rave reviews. But, most of all, I hope everyone can spend quality time with friends and family during the Holidays.

With that said, I wish everyone warm Holiday Greetings from Union Star Lodge to the Union Star family and hope 2009 will be a wonderful year for all.

Thanks, Chris, you're the best. See one and all in the Quarry.

NORTHFIELD Lodge No. 426
 Instituted March 1857
 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: David J. Adams
 739-6913
 W.: John A. Dudley, Secretary
 586-6426
 jdudley1@rochester.rr.com
 17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

By Erik Loepker, Jr. Warden

I'm sure you've all heard the epigram, "Masonry takes good men and makes them better." It's a good sound bite, but when examined it appears to some to be a bit pretentious and clumsy. Last year, I recall discussing this with someone (I wish I could remember who, so that I can give him proper credit), who quoted it differently, "Masonry affords all good men with the ability to improve themselves,

and those around them, with each other." I personally enjoy Émile Coué's formula, "Every day, in every way, I get better and better."

Very recently, Northfield Lodge had its Official Visit. R.: W.: Derek VanHouten, DDGM, R.: W.: George Todd, Grand Steward, and V.: W.: Harry DeHollander, AGL, all came and gave some very informative presentations. Space on these pages preclude me from encapsulating what they said, although I'm sure if you read their columns, you'll get the gist. If they haven't come to your Lodge yet, don't worry, they will. Each of these Brothers brings with them what the Ancient Romans called *dignitas*. It's more than just dignity...it's a bearing, a distinction, an esteem.

It's not something they lord over others; they often seem unaware of this quality. In fact, they crack jokes and smile with ease, share anecdotes with Brothers they've known for decades (R.: W.: William Spillane), and always appear genuinely delighted to meet new Brethren (Brother Jason Zona). But, they always exude that quality of wanting everyone to be at the top of their game, so to speak, so we are all playing on the same level. They, and many other Brothers like them, embody that quality of improving themselves and those around them – with us and each other.

So we, too, rise to the occasion and continue to improve ourselves. All types of opportunities are available, from the *Masonic Development Course and Road to the East*, to the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library, to simply perfecting our skills in our Ritual or improving our Lodge's conditions. It doesn't matter if this improvement comes in great leaps or at a baby's pace, every step forward is a step in the right direction. Now is a good time to reflect upon this, as a New Year is just around the corner. Time to break out the new Resolutions, eh?

Upcoming Events

December 18th – 3rd Degree (formal attire, dinner will be served)

December 20th – Family Holiday Party (always a pleaser)

January 6th – Brother Bring-a-Friend Night!

See you there! Remember to check our Website:

<http://www.northfieldlodge.org>



W.: Kenneth Schumacher, Master, presented Brother Warren Doerr with his 55-year Certificate.

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Wakan/Hubbard
Lodge No. 154
2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: Ronald Lalik
377-0097
ronlalik@rochester.rr.com

Secretary
W.: Donald C. Bell
334-7768
don_bell@hotmail.com

1822A Penfield Road, Penfield 14526

Important Lodge Meeting

On December 8th, a presentation and discussion about the Lodge's year-to-date Financial Status and the 2009 Budget will be on the agenda. As we know, this is an important meeting to attend so every Brother can provide his input and understand the financial foundation and planning required to make our Lodge better.

Building Update

As many of you are aware, we lost one of our tenants; the Boutique relocated to Pittsford. Pursuant to a vote by the Lodge, Re/Max is working with us to find a new tenant. We are hopeful to fill the space soon.

Holiday Happenings

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Holiday Visits to the Lodge's shut-ins. Anyone interested please contact W.: Ron Lalik via email ronlalik@rochester.rr.com, or telephone if you are able to assist in this rewarding opportunity. The gift of your time for this program is truly appreciated.

In conjunction with the Town of Penfield, the Lodge will be sponsoring part of an event for the Four Corners Holiday Celebration. The Celebration will take place from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th, and end with lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. We hope the community service provided for this event will demonstrate how we make a good town better. Please contact Jon Getz for further information or to help out at: jgetz@muldoongetz.com.

Thank You

On behalf of W.: Lalik, the Lodge thanks all of the Brothers who turned out for the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Fairport-Flower City Lodge on October 28th. Attendees included W.: Ron Lalik; W.: Tom Ward; Roger Lynch; Tom Keenan; Rick Yendall; Peter Derry; Sean Brown; W.: Don Bell, DSA; R.: W.: John Zabel; W.: John Rees, DSA; V.: W.: Hugh Woodside; Steve Xander; and W.: Angelo DiCataldo, DSA. Although we did not qualify for the Howard Potts Award this year, the attendance was strong and we should be able to qualify next time.

Bring-a-Friend to Lodge

On October 20th, the Lodge had a Bring-a-Friend to Lodge event. By all accounts, it was a very successful evening and the Lodge thanks and acknowledges R.: W.: John Zabel for his hard work on this program. It is this type of event that allows for men to get an understanding of the Brotherhood behind becoming a Mason.

New News

If anyone should have stories to share or news to pass along, please contact Jon Getz. Again, we welcome contributions from anyone who is so inclined!

It is amazing how quickly this year has gone by. As we

prepare for 2009, we hope everyone has a peaceful and joyous Holiday Season.

UNITY
Lodge No. 479
2nd & 4th Mondays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: John Jamele
637-5643
john1@jamele.com

Secretary
R.: W.: David Jones, 647-9896
djones02@rochester.rr.com
133 South Union Street, Spencerport 14559

Sad News

It is my sad duty to announce that Brother William E. Miller died November 7th, at the age of 94 years. He had been an active Mason since he was Raised in 1952, until recently when his health interfered with his activities. Bill was a fine gentleman and will be missed by all of us.

It is also my sad duty to announce the death of Brother George A. Burgess on October 22nd. He was Raised in 1961. Brother Burgess was the uncle of W.: Alvin Ingram, Past Master of Etolian Lodge. I did not have the good fortune to know Brother Burgess personally, but a letter accompanying a donation to the Lodge in his memory was very clear that he was also a fine and loving person.

Sickness and Distress

It was announced at our most recent meeting that Judy Gillot, wife of our organist and Past Master, R.: W.: Ed Gillot, was not feeling well and would be undergoing diagnostic tests. I am happy to report the results of the procedures were negative. I hope that means Ed will be back at the keyboard for our next meeting.

Richard G. Felgner, DSA

R.: W.: Tom Grape visited Brother Felgner on October 16th. He resides with his caregiver, Dianne Kirby, at 467 Westfield Street, Rochester, 14619-2101. Tom reports that Brother Richard is alert and was glad to see him. His recollection of his recent injury is vague, but it appears he fell and broke his hip. Tom, being an amateur physician, dosed Richard up with a Limburger and Onion Sandwich and a couple cans of beer to restore him to good health. Cards, calls and visits would be welcome, but for visits, it would be best to call ahead to arrange it. The phone is 647-3922. Well done, Tom!

Brother Richard Felgner, DSA, was born January 1, 1920, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1946, in Charlotte Lodge. He was awarded his 60-year Certificate and Pin at our 2007 Awards Night Ceremony. Our best wishes to Brother Richard.



Brother William J. Mitchell received the Symbolic Blue Lodge Award for service to Unity Lodge from the Valley of Rochester.

Recent Events

At our October 13th meeting, a presentation describing the program and activities of the 32° Learning Center was given by W.: G. Michael Morris. The Learning Center works individually with young people with learning disorders. It is a very worthwhile program; a great example of the things Masonry stands for and Masons should be proud to be supporters of such programs.

Special thanks to V.: W.: John Dyer who, on short notice, presided in the East as I was unable to be there.

On October 16th, W.: William J. Mitchell was presented the Scottish Rite Symbolic Lodge Award in recognition of his service to the Lodge. The presentation was made by Senior Grand Warden, R.: W.: Bruce Renner and by Commander in Chief, Ill.: G. Michael Morris, 33°. Congratulations W.: Bill.

Unity Lodge was well represented at the Grand Lecturer's Convention at Fairport-Flower City Lodge on October 28th. There were 18 Brothers present, the most, I think, of any Lodge. We qualified for the Howard Potts Award and received the School of Ritual Attendance Banner for another year. But, due to the weighting system in place, we were not enough to win the Grand Lecturer's Convention Banner.

Upcoming Events

Unity Lodge will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Ogden Community Center - Town Meeting Room, 269 Ogden Center Road, Spencerport, on Wednesday, December 3rd, from 1 - 7 p.m. For further information, call Tom Perrone at 352-6932.

Our Annual Lodge Holiday Party will be on Saturday, December 13th, at 2 p.m. Please bring a dish-to-pass and your own table service. Meat and beverages will be supplied by the Lodge. Reservations would be appreciated. For further information, call John Jamele, 637-5643.

December Birthdays

Best wishes to these Brothers who are celebrating birthdays in December - David A. Fraser (7th), Robert J. Borden (8th), Harry A. Gorman and George Simon (10th), Howard J. Smith, Jr. (12th), Earl G. Pearce (15th), M. Donald Darrohn and Ronald LaDue (18th), William J. Mitchell (19th), James P. Carpenter, Sr., David A. Sarver and Scott Simpson (20th), Dana R. Spencer (22nd), Brian R. Ferguson, Robert K. Humphries, Jr., Laurel King and John L. Reiss (24th) David E. Reeves and Homer H. Schantz (25th), William Tipton, Jr. (26th), James M. Simmons (27th), Howard F. Gleffe, Norman G. Rollo and Darwin C. Turner (28th) and Ray E. Man-

deville, William S. Mattern and Edwin B. Wicks (29th).

Masonic Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Brothers Raised during the month of December:

- 1942 Donald A. Dreher
- 1947 Dwight J. Andrews
- 1948 Bernard W. Johnson
- 1952 Donald L. Jacobs
- 1961 Howard J. Hall
- 1965 Robert F. Clark
- 1969 Harry H. Conover, Jr.
- 1970 Paul W. Griffith
- 1972 James C. McAtee
- 1973 Laurence C. Rendulic
- 1973 Thomas A. Friedo
- 1975 Curt R. Vallentin, Sr. and Martin T. Zillman
- 1986 Garry Hutchurson
- 1992 John D. Vertigan
- 1994 John M. Esposito and Scott A. Laundry
- 1996 William H. Schenk
- 1998 David A. Hagmeier
- 1999 Charles G. Harwell
- 2000 Thomas J. Brusso
- 2005 Albert W. (Bill) Kyler, David K. Olsen, Michael G. Roberts and Josue Traverzo
- 2006 Theodore S. Wolfley, Sr., Tyler Ekwel and Robert Songin

Best wishes to all for a happy and safe Holiday Season. Brothers, in the spirit of the upcoming Holiday Season, please remember our sick and distressed Brothers and those who are serving our Country with a phone call or a card.

O-At-Ka
Lodge No. 759
7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Master
W.: William
Flesher
436-3614
phdoc007@yahoo.com

Secretary
Erik P. Crandall
247-2791
epc_productions@yahoo.com
Mail to: 58 Overbrook Drive
Rochester, NY 14624-3418
5 Browns Ave, Scottsville 14546

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Rochester held its Annual Symbolic Lodge Awards Program on October 16th, which provides each Master the opportunity to name and recognize an outstanding contributor to his Lodge's operation in a multiple Lodge, public forum with other similar recipients. Each Master is allowed one nomination of his choosing each year. This outstanding program has garnered interest and participation from Grand Lodge and this year Brother Tom Nersinger was the honored recipient of this award for Oatka Lodge. Brother Tom has spent many tireless days and nights working hard to keep our Masonic Hall looking good. He has also taken pride in his duty as a Steward, faithfully serving the Junior Warden and tending to the Junior Warden's fund. Let us all congratulate Brother Tom and thank him for all his labors.



Brother Tom Nersinger of Oatka Lodge is awarded the Symbolic Lodge Award by the AASR, Valley of Rochester.

Our Regular Communication on October 22nd was an evening of significance for the newly initiated Brothers with the presentation of the Entered Apprentice Historical Lecture. With the use of the latest computer technology, the Lecture was presented in a narrated slide program, which proved to be well received by the new Brothers as well as the entire Lodge Membership present. As I reflect back on the day I received my Historical Lecture, a worthy Brother, who had memorized the whole program, used the large chart for the Lecture. It seems, however, that everyone is excessively busy with other commitments and memorization of such a beautiful program is restricted by the length of our Cabletow (and that includes yours truly). Besides, the large format chart is quite costly to purchase so technology has stepped in.

The first Pancake Breakfast of Oatka Lodge was held on October 26th. Turnout was minimal, but the plan is to continue having these events, to include breakfast on Sunday morning and dinner on Saturday evening once a month alternating between the two events. We hope these fundraisers will become a tradition at which the local community members can feel welcome, and join us for some good old-fashioned, down-home camaraderie.

As for the Breakfast, we discovered that the two churches to either side of the Lodge building are not done with services until 12 Noon and the church in our building finishes at 11:00 a.m. Therefore, we will move the breakfast to start at 11 a.m. and finish serving at 1 p.m. - more of a Brunch than a Breakfast. Both of the new Brothers are preparing signage for all of the roads leading to the Lodge, making it easier for visitors to our fine community of Scottsville to find the Lodge location. The plan was to have a Spaghetti Dinner on November 22nd, starting at 5 p.m. I hope there were more patrons this time and, of course, help with the work.

November 12th was our 2nd Degree and it was another wonderful evening of friendship and Brotherly love. We had a sumptuous meal beforehand, with a Turkey Casserole provided by W.: Brother White and his family. This meal was also our Thanksgiving Feast, as we do not have another Regular Communication in November. During the Conferral of the Degree, R.: W.: Dave Lathers presented the Middle Chamber Lecture, which is very stirring when it is performed so well. I am sure the new Fellowcraft were equally inspired.

Continued on Page 19



Damascus News

Damascus Shrine Center No. 2

December 2008

Shrine and Divan Meetings
Dinner Reservations Required
Call: (585) 671-7701 or (585) 671-3565

Website
www.damascusshriners.org

Shrine Office Hours
Monday — Friday
9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



LARRY CANFIELD
POTENTATE

This is my last article as Potentate of Damascus Shrine. My Lady, Ellie, and I thank the many Nobles and Ladies who have helped us this year. Our goal was to raise money for the Shriners Hospital for Children and offer a variety of programs that would appeal to a cross-section of our membership. We feel, in some small way, we were able to accomplish that goal. Sure we made mistakes along the way, it is not a perfect process by any means, but I cannot think of anyone who has been in this position who has not made any mistakes.

Summary of Events

Our events were well supported. The Circus was very well managed, but we just did not get the attendance necessary to make a profit. Over 200 Nobles and their Ladies helped out.

The Bring-a-Brother Night was well supported, along with the Table Lodge at which Imperial Sir Mike Severe was in attendance. The trip to Erie, Imperial, the Rodeo, Cruise Nights, Sportsman Raffle, Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, Genesee Country Museum, Potentate's Reception, Garage Sale, Winter Party, Irish Dancers and Harvest Dinner all added up to a full year for everyone. To all who worked to make these events special, a big thank you.

The Garage Sale to benefit the Hospital realized a profit of \$1,250, which will go to the Hospitals.

We still have not had ALL the PIGGY BANKS returned. PLEASE get them to us so we can get a final total for the year. Several ladies, stepped up and provided sheets and blankets, which were appreciated.

Distressing Reflections

We did have some sad times during the year. Before our Assistant Rabban, Bill Kuhne passed, we were able to present him with his Emeritus at a special ceremony earlier in the year. As a memorial, we named our classes of new Nobles in his name. The passing of Ron Bryant was also very sad. Our thoughts and prayers go to each and every one who has experienced a loss this past year.

Special Thanks

So many members pitched in this year, it is difficult to name everyone, but special thanks go to my Chief Aide, Norris Shapiro, who, along with his Lady, Annette, were so much help. Thanks again for all you did.

Additional thanks to Sue Collier, Rick and Sandy Ponticello and Cy Kloner; Erwin Newell for helping with Imperial Sessions; to Chief Rabban, Bruce Chilton, who kept me on the straight and narrow (for the most part) and for his help; Oscar Wilson for the Bar and Kitchen detail; Ken Milner for the Museum event; Rich Friedman for the Winter Party and the NBB Night; Andy Rueby for all his work; the Office staff for their help and a special thanks to Nicole for all she did this year.

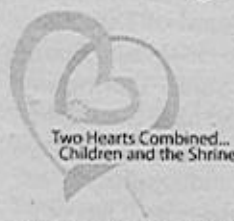
A special thanks to Rich and Bruce for updating the Ritual. It sure takes us into the here and now.

Thanks to Debbie Faro and her crew for working in the gardens. They, along with the Whilen Landscapers, now have the front of the Shrine Center looking great.

If I have missed anyone, I do apologize. I give my thanks to my Lady Ellie. She has been at my side all along and I have really appreciated all her help and support.

Remember our Elections in December and the Shell-a-Buck Dinner in January. I ask that you support the new Divan. Much needs to be accomplished and it cannot be done without your help.

First Lady's Program Champions Cleft Lip and Palate Care



First Lady Patricia Maxwell announces her fundraising program, "Two Hearts Combined... Children and the Shrine," which

will benefit the Cleft Lip and Palate Program at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

In 2005, in response to the needs of the approximately 5,000 children a year who are born with deformities of the upper lip and mouth, Shriners Hospitals added cleft lip and palate as an official care discipline. While the condition is relatively uncommon, it can be devastating to those affected.

Care for cleft lip and palate has often been difficult to obtain, or, at best, fragmented and incomplete. Treating cleft lip and palate is a long-term commitment; children require care from birth to adolescence, which fits Shriners Hospitals' mission of providing family-centered care until patients' 18th birthdays.

Treating cleft lip and palate often requires several types of surgeries, including lip and palate repair, nasal reconstruction, facial work and dental procedures. Children with this condition also need additional care and attention, such as speech therapy, psychosocial evaluations and orthodontic treatment.

Providing this level of care involves the expertise of several medical specialists, including surgeons, several types of dental specialists, speech and language pathologists, audiologists and psychologists, all of which Shriners Hospitals will provide. As First Lady Patricia explains, "At Shriners Hospitals, we don't just take care of the outside of kids, but the inside, as well."

Shriners Hospitals for Children is establishing programs that will fill the need for coordinated, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary care for children with cleft lip and palate, as well as provide opportunities for additional medical research on the condition.

As Imperial Sir Doug and Lady Patricia make their visits throughout this Imperial Year, they ask that in lieu of personal gifts, Nobles and Ladies make a donation to "Two Hearts Combined... Children and the Shrine." Donors will receive a specially designed lady's pin or scarf, or a man's tie for each donation of \$30.

Completed order forms can be given to the Imperial Potentate or his Lady, or may be sent with donations (made payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children) to:

Shriners International Headquarters
First Lady's Program
Donor Relations Department
PO Box 31356
Tampa, FL 33631

Canadian donations and order forms should be sent to:

Canadian Shriners Hospital
1529 Cedar Avenue
Montreal, Quebec,
Canada H3G 1A6

Additional order forms and envelopes can be obtained from the Donor Relations Department at Shriners International Headquarters by calling 800-241-4438 or by sending an email to:

donorrelations@shrinenet.org

Donations to the Program can also be made online at:

www.donate2shc.org/firstlady

Wednesday, December 3rd

Damascus Shrine Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Meeting — 7:00 p.m.
Social — 5:30 p.m.
Dinner — 6:00 p.m.

~ Menu ~
Chicken Parmesan
Baked Ziti
Vegetables
Christmas Cookies for Dessert

Damascus Legion of Honor

Holiday Party
with our Ladies
December 10th

\$10 per person

at Damascus Shrine Center
979 Bay Road, Webster

Social Hour — 6 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar

Dinner — 7 p.m.
Salad Meat Lasagna
Vegetable Rolls & Butter
Dessert

RSVP no later than
December 8th
671-3565

Notice of 2009 Elections

Article 25, §325.11
Election Regulations



a) **Electioneering.** The printing, publication, circulating or distribution of resolutions, letters, telegrams, tickets, email or other devices, by a Noble, suggesting, recommending, opposing or containing the names of proposed Candidates for Office in the Temple is prohibited.

b) **Violation.** For any violation of (a), the Imperial Potentate may suspend any offending Noble, and he may declare the Election of the Officers void and order a new Election.

c) **Notice.** At least one week prior to the Annual Meeting or any Election, the Temple Recorder shall mail to each member a notice thereof containing this Section.

James Slocum
Recorder

For Dinner Reservations
Call the Hotline - 671-3565
by Monday morning
of Meeting Week

GeoVest Advisors, Inc.
245 Willow Brook Office Park
Fairport, New York 14450
716-248-5050; 800-638-5050

Investment Advisors &
Institutional Financial
Consultants

Erie Shriners Hospital Administrator to Retire



Locally, Brzuz has served as a Loaned Executive of the United Way, President of the Rotary Club of Erie from 1994-95 and Assistant District Governor of Rotary District 7280 from 1996-99. He became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1995 with the Rotary Club of Erie. He has also served as Chairman of the Erie County Children's Health Insurance Program Coalition (CHIP), Chairman of the Emergency Response Group/Regional Counter Terrorism Medical Task Force of the Northwest Pennsylvania and is the current Chairman of the Disaster Medical Assistant Team Board of Directors. In his letter to the Erie Hospital's Board of Governors, Brzuz said, "During my tenure as administrator, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Board of Governors, medical staff and employees of this outstanding organization. It has provided me a tremendous learning experience that I will cherish the remainder of my life."

With 42 years of healthcare experience and after 22 years at the helm of the Shriners Hospitals for Children—Erie, Richard W. Brzuz has announced his intention to retire as Hospital Administrator, effective Friday, January 2, 2009.

A native of Oil City, PA, Brzuz, 62, was a Hospital Corpsman in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-70. Upon completion of his military service, he returned to Pennsylvania to begin studies at Gannon University while working in various positions at Hamot Medical Center from 1970-86. He became administrator at the Erie Shriners Hospital in 1986.

Brzuz earned multiple degrees from Gannon University and was named a Distinguished Alumni in 1994. He has been a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives since 1994 and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hospital Council of Western Pennsylvania. Brzuz has also served as Chairman and Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Hospital Council of Erie County and an ad hoc member of the Board of the Hospital and Healthcare Association of Pennsylvania.

According to Wayne J. Lachut, Chairman of the Board of Governors, the search for a new administrator is underway with the Erie Board working closely with Shriners Hospitals for Children corporate headquarters to interview qualified candidates. Lachut said he hoped the new Administrator would be selected prior to Brzuz's January retirement date.

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Geneva 2008 Christmas Party

All Welcome

Hosted by:

Wheeler

Auburn Shrine
Club

Geneva Shrine

Director's Staff

Annual Christmas Party

Saturday, December 20th

For All Shriners, Ladies and Their Guests

Club 86-Avenue E- Geneva

5:30 PM Hors D'Oeuvres - Personality Adjustment

7:00 PM Dinner Served

Prime Rib, Baked 1/2 Chicken or Broiled White Fish

All dinners include soup, salad and dessert
Coffee and Service

9:00 - 12:00 Midnight Music and Dancing with Nick Gilotte

10:00 PM Venetian Table

Price \$70.00 per Couple

Please Specify Your Dinner Choice -- Tables of 8 or 10

Send Checks to: Geneva Shrine Club PO Box 188, Geneva, NY 14456

Raffles and Prizes

Have Your Picture Taken with Santa!

Reservations by Monday, December 15th

WEAR YOUR FEZ!



Directors Staff	Ron Edwards	(585) 394-3205
Wheeler	Rich Ponticello	(585) 723-0934
Auburn	Gerry Stanton	(315) 252-8985
Geneva	Lance Ward	(800) 448-0741

Accommodations Available with Special Prices for Shriners
Ramada Inn Lake Side, Geneva (315) 789-0400
Motel 6, Rtes. 5 & 20, Geneva (315) 789-4050

December Birthdays

David Benda
Hartley A. Bither
L. Kenneth Bliss
Clarence E. Bogardus
Mark K. Broyles
Geoffrey S. Buell
Dennis R. Carroll
Gerald M. Cooper
Philip A. Cox
Robert P. Cox
Allan O. Cragg
M. Donald Darrohn
Harold W. Davis
Daniel R. Emerson
Delbert D. Fix
Eugene E. Flint
Harry A. Gorman
Earl F. Gorton
Richard D. Green
Roy L. Hamilton
James S. Harding
Harold R. Herman
Daniel C. Lewis
Henry D. Libera
Richard B. Lippincott
David W. Locke
Frederick W. Ludwig
Robert Mattick
Donald J. McDill
Charles G. Montondo
G. Michael Morris
Harold J. Mueller
Robert B. Nephew
Donald D. Osborne
Earl G. Pearce
Kenneth E. Pollard
Bradley L. Rathbun
Gary A. Richardson
F. Murray Russell
Mark L. Scher
Robert W. Selbert
James W. Showman
George Simon
Timothy A. Slater
Dean L. Smith
Fred B. Smith
Frederick A. Stahl
Stanley Steinberg
Jay B. Stubbings
David W. Taber
John A. Thompson
David G. Upham
Thomas H. Vasile
Robert A. Verbridge
Lance R. Ward
Joseph W. Watson
Edwin S. Wittala
Russel F. Williams
William R. Williamson
J. Peter Yendell

SHRINEABILIA

By Derek VanHouten

Our Recorder, Jim Slocum, notified me that a large three-ring binder had been found under the stairs in the Office, which might be of interest to me. It contained a lot of material about the Shrine Circus. The binder is about two inches thick and contained Circus ads, along with information about some of the stars of the shows. Ticket prices ranged \$1 - \$3.

Pictures of several acts were also in the book. Right on the second page is an ad for the 1968 Circus with Burt Ward, who at that time was Robin in the Batman TV program. Further, the stars of Petti-

Official Publication of Damascus Shrine A.A.O.N.M.S.

979 Bay Road, Webster, NY 14580

(585) 671-7701

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coat Junction, Wagon Train, the Lone Ranger and Tonto were special guests of our Circus. There were several pictures of the War Memorial and the "full houses" that greeted the performers. In addition, there were pictures of the richly detailed Circus Wagons of another era.

The long gray line of 12 elephants was also present in 8 x 10-inch black-and-white photos. Damascus, at one time, had its own Concert Band under the direction of the late John Cummings and their pictures are there, too. Of course, no Circus would be complete without clowns—especially our own Damascus Clowns.

It's quite a wonderful pictorial collection of some of the history of our "good old days" of the Damascus Shrine Circus. We will display this in our history cabinet for viewing.



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

Want to Save for Your Annual Dues?

www.shrinesavers.com



Do you know that by utilizing the Shrine Savers Program, offered by Shriners International, you could save more than enough to pay for your Annual Dues? That's right! Just type the following website into your browser to learn all about this exciting program, all part of your membership in the Shrine.

www.shrinesavers.com

This program changes regularly, so check the website often to see what new benefits have been added. Currently there are eight (8) different categories for Nobles with some thirty-six (36) individual discount options. Check it out and start saving with membership in the Shrine.

AUBURN SHRINE CLUB

By David Bowman

I hope you were able to get to the November meeting of the Club at the Salvation Army. It is amazing what they are able to accomplish and how they are able to utilize all the possible resources they can. With the Holiday Season on the doorstep, we can only hope everyone can see the good in this organization and help in some manner.

The October Meeting was a blast! We met at Brenda's Diner in Port Byron for the first time. By my count, we had over 50 people in attendance. Like I said, it was a blast! I think it must be that endorsement from our friend, Burt Ward.

Our guest speaker was Cayuga County Sheriff Dave Gould. It took the format of an open "Question and Answer" session. The Sheriff did a great job and everyone had a chance to ask what was on their mind.

Sheriff Dave spoke while standing behind Ron Wilson. I believe there was a story about a football game, but you will have to ask Ron for the details. I am



Sheriff Dave Gould held a "Question and Answer" Session with the Auburn Shrine Club at the October Meeting.

so much younger than both of them, I can't remember it all. But I think Ron remembers it well.

It was nice to see Shriners from our neighboring Clubs. In fact, I ran into the Ken Pollards and the Bob McManus at the Springside Inn on the Sunday after. That is one long after-dinner drink you guys. It is always fun to talk to Don Dill and find out what is going on to the West of here. I come away with more knowledge (and everyone knows there is plenty of room in the ol' bucket for more knowledge).

Elections should be over by the time you read this. I understand some people have talked with Gerry Stanton about interesting speakers for the coming year. As soon as we sit down and "hammer" out the next 12 months, I'll get back to you.

Christmas Party

If you haven't signed up for the Christmas Party at Club 86 in Geneva, you should still have time. The reservations are due by December 15th. You can call Gerry at (315) 252-8985 or directly to Lance Ward at (800) 448-0741. Notices on this are probably somewhere on your desk. If you are like me, it might take a minute to find it, but it really is on the desk. This event is sponsored by the Geneva Shrine Club, Wheelers, Directors Staff and Auburn Shrine Club; so come on and have some real fun Saturday, December 20th. Maybe we can get Ted to lead us in some Christmas Songs. (By the time you fill up on appetizers and drinks, pin your date, get your picture with Santa, choose your flower, scarf up some of the decorations, have a huge meal, dance 'til your feet are screaming, and finish off with the multitudes of desserts, the \$35 per person seems like a good deal. Somehow the Clubs managed to keep the cost the same as last year! Oh yeah, I forgot the door prizes. WOW!

2009 is not far away. Be ready to flip your calendar and mark in the 3rd Monday of the month!

A rose between two thorns



A Rose Between Two Thorns: A strong supporter of Shrine Hospitals since her college days, Lisa Hares (center) holds Certificate of Appreciation from the Shriners Hospital for Children-Springfield for organizing the Tab Collection Program in the Moravia Central School District, where she is a teacher. Nobles Lew Hares (left) and Ken Pollard, Past Presidents of the Auburn Shrine Club, helped honor Lisa.



By Ellie Canfield, PQ

Year in Review

Another year at Zama Temple is just about over and here is a recap of our Queen Garda Houston's year.

Garda was installed on Sunday, April 6th. In May there was a Silent Card Party. We then had our Queen's Luncheon at Lakeshore County Club, which is a yearly send-off for the Queen before she goes to Supreme Session.

June was the Supreme Session in Seattle, WA, where our present Supreme Queen, Muriel Knapp, resides.

August 9th and 10th, Zama Temple teamed up with Damascus Shriners at their Rodeo, selling ice cream sundaes. Then there was the Carriage Show at Walnut Hill Farm, which is always a beautiful day with the showing of wagons, buggies and horses.

August was a very busy month because we had the First Lady's Luncheon and a Fashion Show, Chaired by Debi Burke, PQ.

September was our Supreme Queen's Official Visit with a Ceremonial and Dinner at Damascus Shrine Center. Betty Nohle, PSQ, Chaired this lovely event with help from several. Ill. Sir Larry Canfield gave his message about membership throughout the Fraternity and how we must all work together to further membership.

September 11th - 13th was Northeast Days, which I understand were interesting. On October 11th, Zama Temple participated in the Fairport Scarecrow Days

Zama Temple No. 14 Queen Lutgarda Houston

again by cooking and serving warm chili for all. Vicky Ball, PQ, and all her helpers sold next-to-new items, while Joyce Bernhardt did face painting. All who participated had a good time.

November Stated Session was observed as Founders Day.

December Events

Saturday, December 13th, at 10 a.m. will be our Regular Stated Session with a Ceremonial. After the Session and Ceremonial, we will retire to the Green Lantern Inn for a very special luncheon. It will feature a Holiday Celebration, including a social time, buffet and silent auction. The luncheon will be at 1 p.m. and is open to all Zama Temple Members, Spouses, Family members and Friends. Price for this event is \$17 per person. Make checks Payable to "Zama Temple No. 14" and mail to Carol Colegrove, PQ, Pr. Recorder. Reservations are required and must be made by December 8th. PLEASE look for complete information in a separate notice in this paper. On another note ... this luncheon is replacing the famous Nile Tea.

Also, on December 13th, we will be collecting for the CRF Christmas Fund for the Children. Remember to bring your items for the Shriners Hospital for Children - Erie. Should you have questions about items needed, please call Ellie Canfield, (315) 524-8729 or (315) 945-2569. Thank you.

Please keep in mind, there will be NO Session in January, but we will meet in February.

We say farewell to our "Snowbirds;" safe travels and please return to Zama Temple in the Spring. We will miss you.

Everyone at Zama Temple wishes everyone "Happy Holidays."

As I close this article I leave everyone with this message ... *One cannot be strong without love. For love is not an irrelevant emotion; it is the blood of life.*

Zama Temple No. 14

Holiday Celebration

Saturday, December 13th - 1 p.m.

Buffet Luncheon & Silent Auction

at the Green Lantern Inn

1 East Church Street, Fairport

There will be a Social Time with
Cheese & Crackers and Punch

\$17 per person

*This event is open to all Zama Temple Members,
Spouses, Family Members and Friends*

Note: This event will replace the "Nile Tea"

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Zama Temple Holiday Celebration

Reservations are required by December 8th

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Mail to: Carol Colegrove, PQ
8 Cynthia Drive
Geneva, NY 14456

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Amount Paid: _____

PERRY SHRINE CLUB

The October Meeting was very interesting. Our speaker was involved in answering questions all through dinner, before his formal presentation. Then many more questions were asked. David Markham told us about Alcoholism and Substance Abuse in our young people.

On November 19th, at the Lumberyard Restaurant in Perry, Judith Nagel is scheduled to tell us about all of the great work of the American Red Cross.

On Wednesday, December 17th, at the National Hotel in Cuylerville, we will all meet for our Annual Christmas Party. This is Ladies Night and always great fun.

See you all soon.

SHRINE LUNCH CLUB

By Jim Toogood

Ladies Day Lunch Club will be at the Nutcracker Restaurant, 2159 Empire Boulevard on Monday, December 15th. No reservations needed.

Football's Finest Hour Returns to the Bayou City

Houston to Host College Football's Best at
the 84th Annual East-West Shrine Game

January 17, 2009

Football and philanthropy are at the center of the 84th Annual East-West Shrine Game, which is set for January 17, 2009, in Houston, TX, at the University of Houston's Robertson Stadium.

The football match-up, which began in 1925, features many of the best college players in the U.S. and Canada, divided by region but coming together to raise money for the children receiving care at the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children across North America.

This year's event features two storied head coaches, Bobby Ross and Gene Stallings, who will be leading the teams for bi-coastal bragging rights.

Gene Stallings brings 18 years of NFL experience to this year's game, as well as an impressive record as a college head coach. Bobby Ross also comes to the sidelines with an outstanding NFL and college football resume, including leading the San Diego Chargers to Super Bowl XXIX.

The coaches aren't the only big names associated with the East-West Shrine Game. A total of 62 Shrine Game alumni, from Dick Butkus to Joe Greene to Gale Sayers, are featured in the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. And each year, the game adds football's future stars to its extensive roster.

"The East-West Shrine Game has always fielded college football's best and offered a great way for the talent of tomorrow to be showcased for the public, as well as NFL scouts," said Jack Hart, executive director of the East-West Shrine Game. "Last year's game featured 44 players who were chosen in the 2008 NFL draft. This is big-time football being coached by NFL pros, which, when combined with the wonderful cause of helping the kids in the Shriners Hospitals, makes this the most prestigious college all-star football game in America."

But, it's not just the list of players who have participated over the years that makes this game "Football's Finest Hour." The Shrine Game's true purpose - helping to support Shriners Hospitals for Children - is what sets this event apart from all others.

Since 1925, the Shrine Game has been played to raise money and to increase public awareness of Shriners Hospitals for Children, an international health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Children up to age 18 with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services at no charge - regardless of financial need. More than 865,000 young patients have received state-of-the-art care at Shriners Hospitals. Two of those hospitals are in Houston and Galveston, Texas.

Ralph Semb, president and CEO of Shriners Hospitals for Children, said, "This game is Shriners' "Window to the World." It is our moment of time each year to present what we are all about on national television, giving us the opportunity to create an awareness that will allow us to care for more children. It is a great venue to promote our mission of providing specialty health care for children, and at the same time gives our members a chance to become involved and have fun."

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Shriners Hospitals for Children rely on the generous donations of Shriners and the general public to carry out our mission and change the lives of children every day. To date, the East-West Shrine Game has raised millions of dollars for Shriners Hospitals and has helped inform millions of people about the mission of this extraordinary philanthropy.

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE ... Just in time for
the holiday gift-giving season!**

Will be televised on ESPN2; 3 p.m. CST Kick-Off

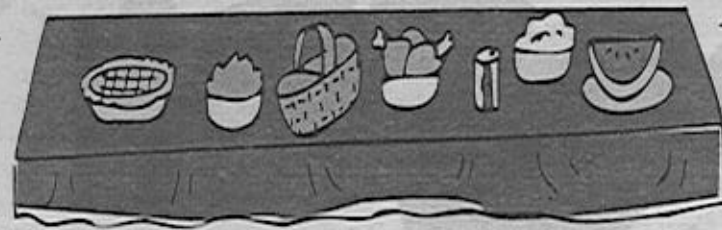
Tickets may be purchased online at the following Websites:

www.shrinegame.com
www.uhcougars.com
www.ticketmaster.com

Tickets may also be purchased by phone at (713) 462-6647 or in-person at the University of Houston Ticket Office, located at 3100 Cullen Boulevard, Houston, TX 77204.

2008 Damascus News Boosters

Bob & Betty Anderson	Dave & Edna King
Bob & Alice Anderson	Don & Winnie McDill
Bill & Diane Anderson	Joe & Barb Minas
Bryan & Cynthia Anderson	Joseph D. Nye II
Chapin & Jean Blake	Rose Paprocki
Stuart & Carol Brickman	In Memory of Eva Patterson
Ken & Mary Buckland	Warren & Gladys Pearse
Lucille Cooley	Norris & Annette Shapiro
Dan & Marie Emerson	Dale & Jean Shatzer
John Faro	Jim & Beverly Slocum
Fritz & Jean Friedrich	Irving & Mary Spalty
Henry & Shirley Funk	James & Annette Starky
Frank Ghyzel	Ron & Mary Sterling
Russell & Mary Gillett	Ted Tennant
John & Mary Henderson	Jim Toogood
Charles J. Holliday, Jr.	Wayne Wagner
Edgar & Mary Louise Hollwedel	Lance & Lynn Ward
Larry & Marge Hood	Skip & Diane Waterstreet
Lutgarda Houston	John C. & Sandy Wihlen
Robert Hunt	Terry & Jo-Carroll Wihlen, Sr.
Douglas & Ruth Hunt	



SNOWBIRD PICNIC SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$12 Per Person

at Charlotte Beach Complex
Port Charlotte

Menu ~ ~

Munchies
Delicious Marinated Chicken Breast
Potato, Macaroni and Three-Bean Salads
Baked Beans
Dessert ~ Camel's Milk and Soda

Enjoy Lots of Hospitality ...

Meet old friends; Make new ones!

Deadline for Reservations - February 2nd

Make Checks Payable to: **Erwin Newell**

and Send to: Erwin Newell
4959 B Equestrian Circle
Boynton Beach Fl. 33436

Please put your name and number attending on the check.

REVISED Directions - Traveling North or South on I-75, take Exit 167 (Port Charlotte/Charlotte Harbor). Go west towards Charlotte Harbor (you will be on Harborview Road). Go approximately 3 miles and you will come to US 41, which you will cross and the street then becomes Edgewater Drive. Turn left at the second traffic light, which is Harbor Boulevard (Approximately another 3 miles). Take this road to the end. You will be at Charlotte Beach Complex. Take the first left into the parking area and you will be able to see the pavilions straight ahead. There are two pavilions that are side by side.

Lyle and Rita Maldoon, Wayne and Ginny Engbreth and Brenda and I toured the facilities. WOW, they are really great! Besides the Picnic Area, there is a sandy beach, Bocce Ball courts, tennis courts, a fishing pier and a swimming pool.

Make Checks Payable to: **Erwin Newell**

and Send to: Erwin Newell
4959 B Equestrian Circle
Boynton Beach Fl. 33436

Please put your name and number attending on the check.

Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____

Damascus Wheelers Fall Outing Ride to Niagara Falls



DIRECTORS STAFF

By Vance Collom

There were 18 members and guests at our last dinner meeting at the Lehigh Valley Restaurant. Blessed gratitude to our Director, Lee Coller, for excellent support in providing the Invocation and Benediction at our meetings this year. A big thank you to our Director and to our many members who came out to put on skits at the last Hot Sands Degree. We did reduce the number of skits that were planned since there were only four new Candidates joining the Shrine that night.

Twelve members and ladies had a very enjoyable dinner at the Bristol Harbor Restaurant overlooking Canandaigua Lake. We had a chance to visit with Jay Daniels and presented him with a gift for his many years of dedicated service when we met at DiPacific's Restaurant. Jay reported nothing has changed at DiPacific's Res-

taurant because Walgreens/contractor has not been able to come up with financing to start construction.

Thank you to the dedicated members from the Directors Staff who helped out at the Garage Sale in November and to many more who came out in support of the sale and picked up some great bargains. We were all pleased that the sale cleared approximately \$1,250 for the children at the Shrine Hospitals.

I hope everyone has picked up your lotto calendars by now. The club members should be congratulated for their great support of the Calendar Program, plus \$1 goes to the Club for each calendar sold.

There will be no meeting at the Lehigh Valley Restaurant during December. We will be attending the Geneva Shrine Club Christmas Party in Geneva at Club 86 on Saturday, December 20th. Please contact Ron Edwards for your reservation and menu selection or send your reservation and check to the Geneva Shrine Club. See the ad elsewhere in *Damascus News* for information.

Wishing everyone a great Holiday Season and until next time, God Bless.

Calendar Winners for October

DAY	NO.	WINNER
10/1	798	Bill Pipher
10/2	614	Rose Collom
10/3	244	Mary Deland
10/4	828	Hal Mevec
10/5	424	Jane Kahn
10/6	575	Damascus Shrine
10/7	136	Ed Gilbert
10/8	058	C&R Vision
10/9	840	Tim Pritchard
10/10	786	Damascus Shrine
10/11	466	Doreen Samons
10/12	273	Lucille Cooley
10/13	496	John Smith
10/14	237	Deb Stanton
10/15	075	William Wright
10/16	758	Betty Burns
10/17	728	Robert Anderson
10/18	394	Erah Kilmer
10/19	262	Ted Powley
10/20	149	Phyllis Cram
10/21	766	Jim VanSickle
10/22	668	Jan Davin
10/23	755	Damascus Shrine
10/24	214	Mary Ann Passalacqua
10/25	015	James Bailey
10/26	533	John Buisman
10/27	408	Charles Ashley
10/28	121	Richard Day Sr
10/29	369	Edgar Hollwedel
10/30	159	Roseanne DeSain
10/31	943	Mark Murphy

Ceremonial Cast Members Wanted

You've now seen the Ceremonial twice this year. Would you like to become a part of a permanent Cast? It is our desire to put together a list of Nobles who are assigned to specific parts and who are willing to commit the First Section of the Ceremonial entirely to memory. Once we have a full Cast, we will have a few rehearsals to get lighting and sound down and then potentially video the Ceremonial to forward to Tampa for review and approval.

If you're interested, please call the Recorder's Office and let them know. If you have a specific part in which you'd like to participate, please let us know that as well. If you would like to volunteer to be the Ceremonial Director, let us know. Should you have any questions, feel free to call Gary Burke at 865-4940 (Home) or 455-5179 (Cell).

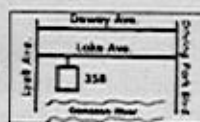
Evergreen Carwash

ALL SOFT CLOTH

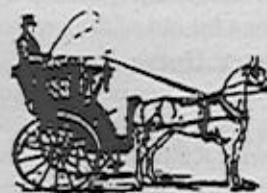
John Wihlen
358 Lake Ave. Rochester, NY 14608
254-3509

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585-223-3633

LeRoy Village Green
10 Munson St., LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-2561

East Side Living and Rehabilitation Center
62 Prospect St., Warsaw, NY 14569
585-786-8151

The Greens of LeRoy
One West Ave., PO Box 7, LeRoy, NY 14482
585-768-2740

Springfield Shriners Hospital Report

It is interesting to look back at the changes in the Shriners Hospital Program. As we look at the Annual Reports of the Springfield Hospital - 1925 versus 2007 - we see a big difference.

	1925	2007
Number of cases discharged	165	721
Number of deaths in the hospital	1	0
Average number of cases in Hospital	45.5/day	8.4/day
Average length of stay	65.8 days	3.9 days
Number of surgical operations	282	713
Number on waiting list	355	85
Number of new Patients seen in OPD	428	3,079 applications
Number of Visits in OPD	2,474	19,661

Regarding the types of patients in the hospital, in 1925 there were:

- 91 patients with infantile paralysis
- 17 patients with Tuberculosis
- 8 patients with osteomyelitis
- 4 patients with arthritis
- 14 patients with rickets
- 35 patients with congenital deformities
- 1 patient with obstetrical paralysis
- 26 patients with spastic paralysis
- 18 other cases

Springfield Hospital currently has over 50 patients who are waiting for treatment at our Hospital but are lacking the necessary transportation funds. We need transportation funds to bring these children to Springfield. Anyone wanting to help children needing our Hospitals can make a contribution to the Transportation Fund of the Springfield Hospital. Thank you.

The Staffs of our Hospitals are outstanding individuals. You cannot spend any time in one of our Hospitals and not realize that fact. An example is Springfield's own, Dr. Philip Stoddard, who was recently presented the 2008 Senior Physician of the Year by the Massachusetts Medical Society. This very prestigious award was presented for his long-dedicated service to the medical needs of his community and for his work as a volunteer physician. Dr. Stoddard, aside from treating children at the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, has volunteered and teamed with Rotaplast, an arm of Rotary International, to go to Tacna, Peru with a team of 32 medical professionals where they screened 135 children and operated on 92 in a six-day period. An aside - Dr. Stoddard grew up in Batavia, New York, and knows this area well. We are proud that Dr. Stoddard is on the Shriners Hospital Staff at Springfield.

Did you know our Hospital in Galveston, Texas, received severe damage as a result of the Hurricane that came through that area earlier this year. All the patients in both Houston and Galveston were taken to other hospitals before the storm hit so there were no injuries to our children. The total damage to that hospital is not known, but it will be very substantial.

Remember the purpose of the Shrine is to help children. Let's dedicate ourselves to helping those kids who need our help and are in their current situation through no fault of their own. Wear your Fez proudly.

A Variety of Shriners Events Raises Millions for Hospitals

Shriners throughout North America donate their valuable free time to hold a variety of special events each year to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children. These events provide an important contribution by helping to fund the hospitals and raising awareness about the Shriners Fraternity and its philanthropy.

In 2007 alone, 522 events held by Shriners Temples raised more than \$14.1 million for Shriners Hospitals. While some temples sponsored fundraisers like newspaper crusades, rodeos, dances, and golf and fishing tournaments, others hosted events that are a bit out of the ordinary.

Cutter Horse Races

For the past 36 years, the Jackson Hole Shrine Club in Wyoming, which is affiliated with Kalif Shriners, has held Cutter Horse Races to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children - Salt Lake City. During the two-day event, held each February, 40 teams compete in a series of races down a snow-covered track. A cutter is similar to a horse-drawn chariot, with two wheels on each side. One person sits on the cutter and directs the two-horse team during the race.

Each year, the races draw between 3,000-5,000 spectators and raise between \$17,000-\$20,000, said Bob Zimmer, President of the Jackson Hole Shrine Club. Funds to benefit the hospital are raised through Calcutta betting, an auction-style type of wagering where people continue to "buy" teams at higher prices throughout the event.

Zimmer, who is also the Teton County Sheriff, admits that organizing the cutter races each year can be time consuming, but

he believes it is well worth the effort. "When you see one youngster who has had the benefit of receiving care at Shriners Hospitals, it puts it all in perspective."

Duck Race

In Spokane, WA., El Katif Shriners race about 10,000 bright-yellow ducks down the Spokane River to raise funds for the Shriners Hospital in their city each year. The ducks aren't alive, though - they're plastic.

Members of the community sponsor the ducks by buying raffle tickets. Ticket numbers are affixed to the bottom of each duck. On race day, a crane lifts a container filled with the ducks high above the river and dumps them in all at once. The ducks float about a mile down the river to the official finish gate. Sponsors of the first five ducks to finish the race win prizes.

About 500 people attend the Duck Race every year, said John Robertson, an El Katif Shiner and coordinator of the 2008 race, which will be held on September 21st. Last year's Duck Race raised \$33,500. Since 1991, El Katif has donated a little more than \$533,000 in race proceeds to the Shriners Hospital in Spokane and to the temple's patient transportation fund.

Robertson has volunteered to work on the event since becoming a Shiner five years ago. "It's rewarding to me as a Shiner, because it shows the community that we are fortunate enough to have a Shriners Hospital in Spokane," he said.

Thanks to the efforts of Shriners who volunteer to work on events like these, more than 865,000 children each year receive one-of-a-kind medical care - at no charge - at the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Making a Gift On-Line to Shriners Hospitals for Children

Did you know you can make a gift on the Shriners Hospitals for Children Website? Giving on-line is simple and offers many options, including the opportunity to:

- Designate your gift to a specific hospital.
- Give a tribute gift in honor or memory of someone special.
- Participate in different campaigns, like the Voluntary Annual Gift Campaign and the First Lady's Program.
- Credit your donation to your temple.

Instructions for On-Line Gifts

Sounds great, but where do you begin? Below is the step-by-step process of making an on-line donation.

1. Visit the corporate Shriners Hospitals Website at www.donate2shc.org and enter the "How You Can Help" Section. Here, you'll find information about planned giving opportunities, special campaigns like the First Lady's Program and capital projects. Information about our commitment to excellent stewardship is also available on this section of the Website.

2. Take a few minutes to look around, then click on the "Donate Now" button (located in the left navigation bar) to go to our secure on-line donation form. Choose a hospital you would like your donation to be credited to, or choose "Shriners Hospitals for Children" if you would like your donation to be put where it is most needed. Then, enter the amount you would like to donate. If you would like to donate the same amount each month, click the "recurring gift" check box. Your gift will be automatically processed each month, and you can change the details of your recurring gift at any time.

3. The next fields are optional, but important. Donors can tell us how they heard about Shriners Hospitals by choosing from several options. Shriners can also give credit to their Temple by selecting it from the dropdown box.

4. Next, search to see if your employer participates in a matching gift program. Many companies will match your dona-

tion, effectively doubling, or even tripling, your gift. If this doesn't apply to you, skip this section and click "next" to move on.

5. On the following page, if you would like to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone, check the box for honor/memorial donations, and fill out the requested information. You can choose to send an e-card to the honoree or their family, print a special certificate upon completing your donation, or request that an acknowledgement of your gift be mailed on your behalf. If you don't want to make a tribute gift, simply click "next" to move on.

6. Then, enter your name, address and billing information. To make an on-line gift, you must also enter an e-mail address. At this time, you can choose to receive e-mail communications from Shriners Hospitals for Children, including our monthly e-newsletter with stories about our patients, research efforts and more. (Note: If you do not choose to receive e-mail, you will not be sent updates from Shriners Hospitals, but you will still receive your receipt via e-mail.)

7. Finally, once you've filled out your billing information, click "next" and carefully review the transaction summary page. When you are sure you entered everything correctly, click "submit." To avoid multiple charges, click the submit button only once.

Once your gift has been processed, an e-mail with your gift information for tax purposes will be e-mailed to you.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to our site and you will consider ways you can help children at Shriners Hospitals defy the odds. We rely on the generosity of donors - both Shriners and the general public - and we value your support! If you need further information or need help while visiting the Website, please call the Shriners Hospitals for Children Office of Development at (800) 241-4438.

Erie Shriners Hospital Tops in Patient Satisfaction

Patient satisfaction scores in the Inpatient Care Unit at Shriners Hospitals for Children - Erie, are the highest of all 22 Shriners Hospitals.

Press Ganey, which surveys patient/family satisfaction at more than 100 children's hospitals in the United States, including all Shriners Hospitals, announced that for the period of February-July, 2008, the Erie Shriners Hospital ranked in the 99 percentile in overall patient satisfaction, and scored in the 99 percentile in seven of the 11 in-patient survey questions. These scores not only place the Erie Hospital at the top of the Shriners Hospital system, but also at the top of all children's hospitals surveyed by Press Ganey.

Since Press Ganey began surveying for Shriners Hospitals in 2004, the Erie Hospital has consistently been at the top of the patient satisfaction list.



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Damascus News receives Honorable Mention

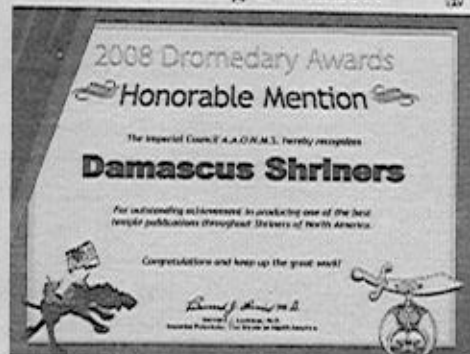
By Skip Waterstreet

Each year, Editors of Shrine publications are invited to submit samples of their work into a competition called the *Dromedary Awards*. Independent Judges rate the submissions and issue grades. These are tabulated and the Temple with the top rating is recognized at the Imperial Sessions. Other Temples get reports on their publication, as the judges made their comments.

Since we are incorporated into the *Masonic Times*, I was curious as to what the judges' opinion might be of our efforts. Much to our pleasant surprise, we received an Honorable Mention Certificate (see accompanying photo) for our class of publication (newspapers). Oddly, they gave us low marks on our photo montages, which is the one section of the *News*, according to responses we get, you like the most.

I've been waiting for some free space for the last couple of issues so I could pass this information along to you ...

You are reading a Winner!



Oatka Lodge

Continued from Page 12

I cannot lament enough over the loss of another Masonic Lodge building as headlined in last month's *Masonic Times*. I am sure the Brothers of Olive Branch Lodge are even more saddened. Unfortunately, the times are becoming ever more difficult for Lodges to maintain a building when membership declines and taxes and maintenance costs rise. I know, as we

here at Oatka have felt the pinch in our purses to keep our building going, as well. I have been in contact with the Master of Olive Branch Lodge to extend my condolences and a warm welcome for those Brothers to visit the magnificent Lodge room at Oatka for one of our Communications. We as Brothers in this Fraternity must hold out a hand for those in need of help, especially during these hard times. ✕

Fairport-Flower City Lodge No. 476
 2nd & 4th Mondays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Thomas G. Goodrich
 442-8725
 tgg13@yahoo.com
 Secretary - 383-1947
 W.: George R. Bracht
 geobracht@juno.com
 Fairport Masonic Temple
 87 South Main Street

There will only be one Communication in December. It happens to be the Master's birthday ... we will probably have cake for refreshments. The Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred on our two new Brothers. W.: Brother Sy Kopen, Senior Warden, will be in the East. Please say "Yes" if asked to take part or, better yet, volunteer.

W.: Brother Bernie Lazerson, Junior Warden, will host a Latke Party on December 22nd. This is a fun family time. Good fellowship and food will be the theme.

There is nothing to report under sickness and distress.

Masonic Anniversaries
 Congratulations to the follow-

ing Brothers Raised during the month of December:

- 1968 Harold Davis
- 1972 Herbert Hirsch
- 1974 Edward Goodrich
- 1986 Peter Swanson
- 1997 Kermit Moyer
- 2001 David Green

December Birthdays

We extend birthday wishes to Brothers Warren Reigelsperger (4th), Robert Robbins (5th), Harold Goodwin (6th), Alan Libglid (7th), Thomas Goodrich and Herbert Hirsch (8th), Ellis Hormats (10th), Gary Moore, Michael Morris, Murray Russell and David Taber (12th), Jay Stubbings (18th), Morton Stein (19th), Harold Davis and Stanley Steinberg (20th), Irwin Rosenbloom (22nd), Scott Clemons, David MacIntyre and Peter Moore (23rd), Harold Chait and William Gerber (24th), Carl Mosher (28th), Martin Lukacher (29th) and Bernard Weltman (30th). Best wishes for the year to come.

Happy Holidays!

The Officers and I wish each of you a warm and festive Holiday Season with your family and friends in the coming days.

I hope to meet with each of you around the Altar this next year. ✕

WEBSTER LODGE NO. 538
 1st & 3rd Thursdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Warren Patterson
 352-1532
 warrenp@rochester.rr.com
 Secretary
 W.: Bernard Russell
 872-1353
 Webster538@juno.com
 30 Orchard Street
 Webster 14580

The Rosslyn Chapel presentation on November 6th was a great success. W.: Bruce Horncastle was unable to officiate at the presentation due to a business meeting outside the country. However, he graciously prepared a written introduction and conclusion enabling the presentation to be shown in his absence. Forty meals were served prior to the presentation, and I believe there were around sixty present to learn about the Rosslyn Chapel. Brother "Dicky" Patterson continues to be hospitalized at Unity Hospital. Brother Bob Fisher is in Rochester General Hospital for elective surgery. He is doing well and his stay is expected to be brief.

Adopt-a-Highway

Wow! What a great turnout and teamwork from Webster Lodge! After coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m., we donned our vests and, using our pick-up sticks, completed our assignment by 9:25 a.m.

A very big thank you to Ron Soltzick, and his son Ben and daughter Kim, John Clapp, Jim Chancy, Dave Allen, John Ross, Warren Patterson, and Bob Passino. Our section of the highway looks really good and we can be proud of the service to our Community.

Again, thanks to all who participated and the large turnout definitely helped make it a short effort.

December Events

December 4th, a Brother Bring-a-Friend program is planned.

out to be successful and in the coming years it should become an even more profitable venture not only for our lodge but to get our faces seen by the public. Many thanks to all who helped and supported us in this event.

December 16th will be a 3rd Degree and, due to my work schedule, will be conferred by W.: Sean Noonan. If you would like to take part, contact Sean or me.

If you know of anyone in need of our aid or sympathy, contact me at 820-6023.

Merry Christmas to all! See you in Lodge. ✕

SPAGHETTI DINNER
 Friday, December 5th
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
 at Webster Lodge Hall
 30 Orchard Street
 Adults - \$7 Children - \$4



Webster Lodge Adopt-a-Highway Crew!

We continue our Community Service Charity, (Spaghetti Dinner) on Friday, December 5th.

The Fellowcraft Club Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on December 11th. The location for this gala event is expected to be at a location closer to Webster than last year and will be announced soon. Please remember that the ladies are invited to this event.

On December 18th, I expect we will Raise our class of seven to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brother Bradley Lewis will be in the East to con-

Masons to attend in support of our new class.

We will again distribute Poinsettias on the 24th, to those

shut-in Brothers who are unable to make it to Lodge meetings.

In the spirit of the Holidays, I ask you to remember those Brothers who do not drive, or do not drive at night. Please offer a ride to them, so they can attend Lodge. For those Brothers who wish to attend Lodge but need transportation, please let any Officer know you need a ride. We want to see you, and will be glad to make every effort to get you there ... and back home, too!

We are still looking for a fully functional organ to replace the faulty one we have.

Your Officers extend to you our very best wishes for good health, prosperity, a most pleasant Holiday Season and peace throughout the years ahead. ✕



Fairport-Flower City Lodge presented an American Flag to Girl Scout Troop No. 264. Participants were (from left): W.: Bernard Lazerson, MaKaela Kerxhalli, Megan Trapani, Caroline Hems, Abigail D'Angelo and W.: Allen Fowler.

CLIO LODGE No. 779
 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Jeffrey B. Ross
 720-0438
 jross@frontiernet.net
 Secretary
 W.: Sean Noonan, 392-8156
 snoonan@esl.org
 287 East Avenue, Hilton, 14468

Clio Lodge will now have its own website. This should be very interesting and informative and will make it pretty easy to keep up on all our upcoming events and affairs. I am very excited about this and look forward to the coming months to research our web page.

If you have any input or information that might be of assistance to Brother Mike, I'm sure it would be appreciated. Check us out at www.cliolodge.org.

Meatball Sub Sale

Many of our Brethren turned out to assist us in our Sub Sale at Hilton's Annual Apple Fest. Despite it being our first time doing this event, it still turned

Clio Lodge Website
 Thanks to the hard work and research of our Junior Warden and Webmaster, Mike Postilli,



Clio Lodge booth at Hilton Apple Fest



Brother Scott Mason visited with his Brothers during a recent spaghetti dinner before returning to Afghanistan.

Valley-Simes Lodge No. 109
 2nd Tuesdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Michael C. McBride
 (315) 904-4024
 michael.c.mcbride@kodak.com
 Secretary
 R.: W.: Herbert Spencer
 334-7493
 hspence1@rochester.rr.com
 979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

Sickness and Distress

Our condolences and prayers go to the family of Gladys Hatch, one of our long-time widows, who passed away on October 26th at the age of 93.

Also, we extend prayers and sympathies to the family of Captain Darron Spalty, son of W.: Irving and Mary Spalty.

W.: Gary Caswell's wife, Marcia, underwent back surgery the end of October.

W.: Bruce Harrison, who lives in Wheaton, IL, has been suffering from Alzheimer's Disease for several years. Although the Disease is progressing, he is still at home.

Lastly, W.: George Bundoc has had several bouts with illnesses and falls this past year.

Please send cards, call or visit these infirmed. If you, or any Lodge Brothers have issues, communicate back to us so we can get the word out. Just contact Herb Spencer or me - send an email, drop a line or call

Lodge Happenings

Eleven Officers joined together for the Grand Lecturer's Convention on October 28th, in

Fairport. Thank you to everyone involved. Those who couldn't attend missed a great evening of fellowship and education!

We hosted an Official Visit at our October meeting. Members from Northfield Lodge joined us and took the Traveling Gavel. We'll plan to get it back soon.

Our Officers have been working hard on their Ritual; many thanks to Nelson Bertch and his wife, Sharon, for hosting these rehearsals.

Holiday Celebrations

Join us on December 9th for our Annual Holiday Celebration, Awards Night and Lodge of Remembrance. Rita and Richard Snyder will also be collecting donations and gifts from the Lodge to give to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Erie. See the Flyer and Herb's note below for more information. Dinner will be catered by "Runds on the Ridge" and will be coordinated by our "Master Chef," Chuck Skopinsky, so you know it will be great! Herb Spencer, Dave and Pat Mura, and Richard and Rita Snyder are coordinating the rest of the event. The whole night will be great!

December 16th - Join us for the Holiday get-together at Glenn and Carol Stahl's.

Dues

By now you should have your 2009 Dues Notice. Included in that mailing was information on the upcoming December 9th event. On your Dues Notice there is a place for you to send a donation to the Brotherhood Fund. Kindly make that a separate check. The Brother-

Continued on Page 20

Valley-Simes Lodge

Continued from Page 19

hood Fund Campaign is on and it would be nice if the Brothers of Valley-Simes Lodge supported it. As of this writing, I have 11 contributors. It would be great if we had 85-90% of the Brothers making a contribution. I am not asking for 100%, nor am I asking you to contribute great sums of dollars. Your check in any amount is greatly appreciated and counts toward percent of participation.

LADIES, don't forget to read the back of the flyer including in the mailing. Here is an opportunity to get a free meal.

Degree Cast

Our 1st Degree Cast, November 11th, was

Master	Michael Hueston
Sr. Warden	David Mura
Jr. Warden	Michael McBride
Sr. Deacon	Michael Bailey
Jr. Deacon	Joseph DiTucci
Sr. MC	Frank Sackett
Jr. MC	Myron Dox
Stewards	Jose Diaz

G. Thomas Grape	
Marshal	Mathew Gingold

Hope to see or hear from you soon!

Birthday Wishes

Birthday wishes to Brothers for October, November and December. We wish you a very Happy Birthday. If you see any of these Brothers don't forget to wish them a Happy Birthday.

October (Belated)

Glenn Stahl (1st), Richard Snyder (5th), Donald Petersen (6th), Wesley Warren (9th), Myron Biggar (10th), Anthony Simonetti (11th), William Scheer (16th), Gerald Stahl (17th), Erich Postler (20th), Harvey Stiles (22nd), Ron Rogers (23rd), Norris Shapiro (26th) and Howard Belt (27th).

November (Belated)

Richard DeCrocce (1st), Joe Weber (2nd), Richard Lippincott (8th), James Moore (10th), Vernon Saunders (13th), Arthur Cohen and Harry Steinorth (21st), David Ogden (26th) and George Stear (27th).

December

David Long (1st), David Mura (14th), Frederick Stahl (24th), and lastly, Michael A. Robinson, William Miner and Joseph Gingold (31st).

Masonic Anniversaries

Our December meeting will be devoted to Lodge of Remembrance, awarding of the Years of Service Certificates and Pins and Holiday Celebration Festivities. Listed below are the Brothers who will receive their Certificates and Pins. Letters have been mailed to each of these Brothers with a special invitation to attend.

65 yrs - Samuel Bogorad

60 yrs - Litchard Toland, Douglas Torrance and Wallace Wagner

55 yrs - Gerald Merzke and Jack Palmer

50 yrs - Vernon Saunders, Solomon Shinder and Raymond Sterling

45 yrs - William Scheer

40 yrs - Robert Anderson II, George Gray and Stephen Moore

35 yrs - Nelson Bertch, Melvin Corson, David Long, Glenn Stahl

30 yrs - Gary Burke, Robert Guilfoil, Rob Steinorth and Martin Suter

25 yrs - Richard DeCrocce

5 yrs - Jeffrey Amering, Bryan Anderson, David Braun, Jonathan Spencer, Thomas

Steele, James Thomson and Joe Weber.

The Lodge recognizes additional Brothers who were Raised in October, November and December for their Years of Service.

Congratulations, Brothers, on your Anniversary: Carl Ester (62 yrs), Frederick Stahl, Wallace Roworth, Richard Vanzandt and Robert Anderson (57 yrs), Paul Wood and Harvey Stiles (56 yrs), Myron Dox (54 yrs), Roland Butler (53 yrs), Richard Snyder (49 yrs), Daniel Miller and James Moore (48 yrs), Robert Knyrim (47 yrs), Norman Gross and Guy Clark (43 yrs), Ronald Schiffler (42 yrs), Herbert Spencer and David Clarke (39 yrs), Joseph Bishop (34 yrs), Harry Coates and William Miner (33 yrs), Robert Bishop and Richard Giedd (32 yrs), Richard Crockford (29 yrs), Thomas Belt and Gary Caswell (27 yrs), Anthony Simonetti (26 yrs), William Carr (24 yrs), and Carl Robinson (17 yrs).

At the Lodge of Remembrance Ceremony, we will be remembering the following Brothers who joined the Great Architect of the Universe since our last Memorial - Robert Geiwitz, Carlton Pigage and Robert Miller and all those who went before them.

Reservations are required for the December 9th events, and should be directed to our Junior Warden, W.: Michael Hueston, at 509-0606 (c) or at email mph0523@frontiernet.net; or contact the Master, W.: Michael McBride, at 722-7714 (w); 315-904-4024 (h) or email: michael.c.mcbride@kodak.com.

I will not be at the December 9th Celebration and events. I am taking some vacation time and hope everyone has a Joyous Holiday Season. See you in January at the 2nd Degree. Love to all my Brothers and their Ladies.

From Your Secretary

R.: W.: Herbert Spencer
Brothers, how about a hearty round of applause to R.: W.: G. Thomas Grape who has stepped up and agreed to be the Assistant Secretary for Valley-Simes Lodge.

At our October 14th Official Visit, R.: W.: Derek VanHouten, DDGM, had W.: and Major Joseph Gingold escorted to the East and given Grand Honors as being one of our Masonic Brothers actively serving in the Military of our Country.

Visit a Masonic War Veteran



ERAC
Lodge No. 163

2nd & 4th Mondays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: James
Jenerson
436-1964
jenersonj@
yahoo.com

Secretary
R.: W.: Terry W. Whilen, Sr.
346-4380
twhilen@rochester.rr.com

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

During one of our past meetings, ERAC Lodge presented our first Class Recognition Award to Brother Steven Buckley. This Award is presented by the Worshipful Master and given to a Candidate from any Raised class of less than five years to encourage newly Raised Brothers and give them a sense of belonging by recognizing their accomplishments.



Brother Buckley was Raised in the Class of 2006. He was also the speaker for the night and did an outstanding job presenting his topic, "The Northeast Corner of the Lodge."

Brother Robert Kostin is doing an excellent job keeping all Brothers of ERAC informed via the new ERAC Website: www.erac163.org

There you will find photos of our recent Official Visit by our DDGM, R.: W.: Derek VanHouten. It was a wonderful event and well attended.

We also had a very special Brothers Giving Thanks evening with guest speaker, R.: W.: Paul Gleason. Look for photos on the website from that event, as well.

The Holiday Season will soon be upon us. Let us take time to remember those who may be in need.

New Business

We were gratified to hear that Brother D'wayne Simmons' father received an award (posthumously) on November 13th at the Hall of Justice for his service there and in the community.

ERAC Lodge is currently processing five (possibly six) Petitions for membership. We are looking forward to conferring the 1st Degree on December 8th.

Sickness and Distress

Our thoughts go to Brother David Caplin who suffered a serious health-related hardship recently. Please inquire in Lodge the nature of the issue for where and how to lend support.

Communications Corner

By Robert Kostin,
Communications Officer

Dinner menus are being posted on the new ERAC Website. We request that all Brothers use the RSVP email link featured on the Home Page to alert the Junior Warden of your intent to dine with us (for planning purposes). Remember to look at all features on our Website. Things are being added weekly, including photos from each event. You might be there. If the need arises to remove certain photos from the Website, donations to worthy causes will be accepted.

Shared by Brother Patrick Mulrooney, Junior Warden

My dear Brothers, in anticipation of our upcoming 1st Degree on December 8th, I wish to share with you a wonderful poem I came across in my travels some time ago. I hope you find it as heartwarming as I do.

They All Came Just for Me

Something big is going on here...
Or so I thought that night,
As the Masons came to gather 'round
The Great and lesser lights.

One from here and one from there
From places far and wide,
They came to do, I knew not what,
As they gathered there inside.

But from each man I was greeted
With a smile and voice of cheer.
One said, "so you're the Candidate...
The reason that we're here."

I scarcely knew just what he meant,
For this was my "first Degree."
There must be much for them to do
Before they got to me.

Surely these guys would not travel
For the sake of just one man.
Yes, there must be much for them to do,
Before my part began.

The "Brother Tiler" was my company
As I waited at the door
To step into this brand new realm
I had not known before.

They shared with me the three Great Lights
And some tools of the trade,
That I might learn a thing or two
Of how a man be better made.

When at last I had been seated
In this Brotherhood of men,
The Master then began to bring
The meeting to an end.

With all things then completed,
They stayed a little more,
To eat and drink and share a laugh
Before heading toward the door.

But as we left I understood
And then began to see.
That they all came for one reason...
They all came... just for me.

Dear Brothers I pray every Lodge
Will make new ones like me,
Feel as welcome as these Brothers did,
When they held my First Degree.

Thank you, Brothers!

By Bro. Richard L. Jenkins, Entered Apprentice,
July 19, 2000, Cass Lodge #412 - Griswold, Iowa

Gravesites available at

**White Haven
Memorial Park**

For information, contact the
Masonic Service Bureau

**7th Annual
All Masonic Bodies**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 13th

11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**Damascus Shrine Center
979 Bay Road**



SIGN UP TODAY



Scottish Rite NEWS

Consistory
Chapter Rose Croix
Council of Princes of Jerusalem
Lodge of Perfection



**G. Michael Morris, 33°
Commander-in-Chief**

Symbolic Lodge Awards

If you did not attend the 20th Annual Valley of Rochester Symbolic Lodge Awards Night on October 16th, you missed an excellent meeting! The fellowship was absolutely fantastic. There were approximately 120 Brothers and guests in attendance, with 23 Symbolic Lodges represented from a six-county area. The remarks given by Ill.: Peter J. Samiec, 33°, Active Member of Supreme Council and Deputy for New York, and by R.: W.: Bruce W. Renner, Senior Grand Warden for the State of New York, were informative, inspirational and well received by all.

Let me again take this opportunity to congratulate all recipients of the 2008 Symbolic Lodge Award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions and achievements you have made to your Blue Lodge. Congratulations, my Brothers!

As additional recognition for their contributions to their Symbolic Lodge, each recipient of a 2008 Symbolic Lodge Award and the Master of their Lodge received a letter with a photograph of them receiving their Award. Those who are not currently members of the Valley of Rochester also received a special invitation to join the Valley, at no cost for the first year (which is approximately a \$100 value). We hope the Brothers who received this special invitation will take advantage of this opportunity to expand their knowledge of Freemasonry and their Masonic network.

Rochester Learning Center 11th Anniversary Gala and Fundraiser

A Tremendous Success!...

On Sunday, October 26th, 78 Brothers and friends of the Frank and Bette Paul 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children gathered at the Casa Larga Vineyards in Fairport, to celebrate the 11th Anniversary of the Learning Center for Children. The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children, which provides clinically-proven Dyslexia tutoring services, is the only nationwide program that offers two years of intensive, one-on-one tutoring in the proven Orton-Gillingham method, completely free-of-charge to the students and their families. The program offered at the 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children provides the most effective treatment of its kind in battling this reading disorder. We are, indeed, fortunate to

have one of the 59, 32° Masonic Learning Centers right here in our own community.

Good food, good fellowship, nice weather and spectacular views from the Vineyard set the tone for the Anniversary Gala. Everyone had a great time! The program highlighted the accomplishments and impact that the Learning Center has had on the children in our community. This impact was really brought to heart in remarks given by Hans Schuknecht, a current student in the program, and his father Frederick Schuknecht. Hans is an 11th-grade student, who is home-schooled. When Hans started the program at the Center, he tested at a low elementary-school level. However, at his last assessment in May, 2008, Hans was on grade level in comprehension. Hans and Frederick received a standing ovation following their emotional and moving testimonial about the impact the Learning Center program has had on their lives. Their remarks emphasized, on a personal level, what the Learning Center program is all about - "Making a Difference, One Child at a Time!"

Three tutors were honored for their service and dedication to the Learning Center - Shelly Rees (5 years), Paul Kromberg (5 years); and Karen Savino was recognized for the outstanding contributions she made towards the design and fabrication of the 2008 Learning Center Quilt for the 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children. Each received a plaque and a \$100 gift certificate to Tasting's Restaurant.

Everyone particularly enjoyed the live (as well as the silent) auction. I must say, Brother Dana Cline, 32°, (who, by the way, is a professional auctioneer), really brought the celebration to life! The auction raised over \$3,000 for the Learning Center.

A highlight at this year's Anniversary Gala was the drawing for the Learning Center Quilt and accompanying book documenting the design and assembly of the quilt, designed and made by the students and tutors of the Rochester Learning Center. The lucky winner of the drawing was Brother Bob Glace from the Buffalo area. The drawing for the quilt raised \$1,990 for the Learning Center.

In addition to the auction and quilt drawing, there were numerous contributions made to the Rochester Learning Center from individuals, corporate sponsors and Masonic groups. After it was all said and done, the net funds raised from the Anniversary Gala for the Rochester Learning Center totaled over \$20,000!

On behalf of the students and Learning Center Board of Governors, I extend a heart-felt "Thank you" to all those who (through their generous donations of time and money) have helped the Frank and Bette Paul 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children bring its valuable services to the children in our community.

December Programs

The Valley of Rochester's Degree series this year begins with the Conferrals of the 4th and 5th Degrees on Thursday, Decem-

ber 4th, at the Shrine Center. Social hour - 5:30 p.m., Dinner - 6:30 p.m., Degree Conferrals begin at 7:30 p.m. Joseph Bourey, 32° DSA, and Sy Kopen, 32°, are the Degree Directors for the 4th and 5th Degrees, respectively. Dinner will feature roasted turkey breast, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, mixed vegetables, tossed salad and pumpkin pie with whipped-cream topping. Price: \$10. Come join the fellowship and show your support for the members of Valley of Rochester's Ill.: Charles O. Hancock, 33°, Class! For dinner reservations, please call or email the Valley Office by Monday, December 1st - Phone: 264-1160; email: secretary@valleyofrochester.org

"Toys for Tots" and All-Masonic Holiday Parties - December 12th and 13th - Mark your Calendar and bring the whole family - especially the kids! The "Toys for Tots" and All-Masonic Holiday Parties will take place on Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th at the Shrine Center. This year's event is being co-sponsored by the AASR, Valley of Rochester, Lalla Rookh Grotto and Damascus Shriners.

On Friday evening we will have a home-cooked Spaghetti Dinner, prepared by our own Brian Bills, 32° DSA, which will feature his "soon-to-be famous" meat sauce. I tried to get the recipe for his sauce, but you know how those Masons are with their "secrets!" Social hour - 5:30 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner - 6:30 p.m.; Set-up Preparations for Saturday's All-Masonic Holiday Party - 7:30 p.m. Admission price is one unwrapped toy! An active-duty Marine Officer will be in attendance both Friday and Saturday to receive the toys on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program.

The All-Masonic Holiday Party will run from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th. The party is open to all Masons and their families - particularly their children and grandchildren. All kinds of children's activities are being planned, including "Make your own Cookies," "Make your own Bird Feeder," Face Painting, and you can be sure Santa will be there as well. (Parents and/or grandparents, who bring children to the event, are encouraged to bring a small wrapped gift for Santa to give to their child.) Photos with Santa will be available, and there will be a "Special Delivery" Santa's Mailbox to deposit your letters to Santa. Light snacks and soft drinks will be available. Admission price on Saturday is free, but if possible, please bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to the U.S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program.

Lastly, I know, and acknowledge, the pressure of societal correctness demands I wish all of you **Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!**

But ... for my Jewish Brothers - Happy Hanukkah!; for my African-American Brothers ... Happy Kwanzaa!; for my Canadian Brothers ... Happy Boxing Day!; for my Mexican Brothers ... Happy Our Lady of Guadalupe Day!; for my Moslem Brothers ...

Happy Islamic New Year!; for my Christian Brothers ... Merry Christmas!; and I pass along this special Season's Greetings internet link:

<http://www.jacquelawson.com/viewcard.asp?code=0212320003>

May God bless you and be with you and yours this Holiday Season!

60 Years of Service Robert Hunt, 32°

I recently had the pleasure to pay a visit to Sublime Prince Robert Hunt, 32°, at his home

in Canandaigua to present him a 60-year AASR Service Certificate. We sat and chatted for 30 to 40 minutes on a variety of topics - I really enjoyed the visit. Unfortunately, in August, Bob had a serious accident, which resulted in him having to undergo major foot surgery. After an extended stay in the hospital and physical therapy, he is now back home, in good spirits, and continues to get better every day. Brother Bob, our thoughts and prayers are with you.



G. Michael Morris recently paid a visit to Robert Hunt, 32°, to deliver his Service Award. Sublime Prince Hunt has been a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite for Sixty Years.

AASR Valley of Rochester 2008-2009 Goal

Our Focus is on Membership Development and Retention of 50 new Sublime Princes added to the Valley of Rochester Roster!

Who's on Your List?

We are asking each Sublime Prince and Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Valley of Rochester to do four (4) things this year:

1. "Re-Member" your Blue Lodge - Contact men, who you know to be of good moral character, and invite them to attend a Bring-a-Friend Program at your Symbolic (Blue) Lodge.
2. Contact your Brothers, who are not 32° Masons, and invite them to a Scottish Rite event. Prospective members are cordially invited to attend any of our Family Life Programs, or the next Brother Bring-a-Brother Night on Thursday, February 19th.
3. Reach Out and Say "Hello" and re-activate Scottish Rite Brothers, who have been inactive.
4. Attend as many the Scottish Rite meetings, programs and activities as your Cabletow will allow. Each meeting this year begins with a social hour and dinner, followed by the program. Come join the fellowship, renew old friendships and make new ones!

Quiet Heroes

EDUCATING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Scottish Rite Masons revere education and its power to transform lives.

The Abbott Scottish Rite Scholarships have provided over \$3 million dollars in financial assistance to thousands of students from Scottish Rite families and Masonic youth groups.

When you support our scholarships, you become one of the "Quiet Heroes" who guide our young people on an educational path to their future.

Please give.



**Leon M. Abbott
Scholarships**
A SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHARITY

Supreme Council Scottish Rite Masonic Charities

1-800-814-1432

33 Marrett Road ♦ PO Box 519 ♦ Lexington, MA 02420

Masonic Learning Center 11th Anniversary Gala

Photography by Robin Crawford



Photo Review of Symbolic Blue Lodge Awards Night



**Valley of Rochester
Fall 2008-2009 Schedule**

December 4th – 4th and 5th Degrees at Shrine Center
5:30 p.m. - Social Hour
6:30 p.m. - Dinner - *Reservations Required*; 7:30 p.m. - Meeting

December 12th (Friday) at Shrine Center
Toys-for-Tots • Holiday Decoration Party
Free Spaghetti Dinner for any Mason who brings a gift!
Reservations Requested

December 13th (Saturday) at Shrine Center
All-Masonic Children's Holiday Party
and "Toys-for-Tots"
Each person is asked to bring a gift for the US Marine Program
Reservations Requested

January 15th – 14th Degree at Shrine Center
5:30 p.m. - Social Hour
6:30 p.m. - Dinner - *Reservations Required*; 7:30 p.m. - Meeting

January 29th – 15th Degree at Shrine Center
NOTE: Date Change
5:30 p.m. - Social Hour
6:30 p.m. - Dinner - *Reservations Required*; 7:30 p.m. - Meeting

February 14th – Valentine Dinner with our Ladies
at La-Tea-Da Tea Room and Parlor
258 Alexander Street
Social Hour and Dinner – *Reservations Required*

February 19th – BBB Night at Shrine Center
Public Degree/ADAR Celebration
Social Hour and Dinner – *Reservations Required*

February 21st – Pancake and Sausage Breakfast
16th and 18th Degrees

**Make your reservations On Time!
At least 5 DAYS prior to any activity
(585) 264-1160 or 1-800-858-2320**

**"Toys for Tots" & All-Masonic
Holiday Parties ***

Friday, December 12th
Shrine Center
Spaghetti Dinner & Setup
Social ~ 5:30 p.m.
Dinner ~ 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 13th
Shrine Center
All-Masonic Holiday Party
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Open to All Masons and Their Families
Admission Price: One New Unwrapped Toy**

Saturday's Party Activities for Kids:

- "Make Your Own Cookies"
- "Make Your Own Birdfeeder"
- Face Painting
- Photos with Santa
- "Special Delivery" Mailbox for Letters to Santa

* Co-sponsored by AASR-Valley of Rochester, Lalla Rookh Grotto and Damascus Shrine.

24th, 25th, 27th & 29th Districts - RAM
8th Cryptic District - R&SM
Zones 11 & 12 - Knights Templar

York Rite NEWS

York Rite College
Judas Maccabeus

Doric Council No. 19 Cryptic Masons (Chartered 1861)

3rd Wednesday
Ill. Master
E. William
Whittaker
315-536-2525
migm01@roadrunner.com
John A. Dudley, Recorder
586-6426
jdudley1@rochester.rr.com
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

Cyrene-Monroe Commandery No. 12

Chartered 1993
3rd Monday
Commander
SK Joseph J.
Oelgoetz III
425-9969
Recorder
SK Lawrence W. Dunn
594-8053
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

We have completed the visits from the Grand Line Officer and the District Deputy. At this month's meeting we will plan our Degree work. If we do not have any Candidates we will exemplify the Degrees.

There will be a dinner before the meeting; reservations can be made with the Recorder by December 12th.

The Officers hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. ✽

Sagoyewatha Commandery No. 17, R.T. 3rd Saturday, 9 a.m.

Commander
SK F. Edward
(Ted) Powley
(315) 483-2745
soduspowleys
@msn.com
Recorder
SK David Taber
(585) 388-0629
dwtaber@frontiernet.net
67 Ontario Street, Phelps NY

Sir Knights, Attention! Thank you to all who participated in conferring the Orders in Hornell on November 1st. Eight new Sir Knights enjoyed the work that day. Assistant Zone Commander SK Stu Smith also thanks you for participating.

Our Annual Christmas observance will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 20th. Family members, friends and guests are welcome to join us as we celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. We will be asking for readers and toastmasters; please consider participating. As we agreed last year, when reviewing our budget, we will have simple fare for refreshments.

We will have breakfast at a later time than usual since our observance starts at 10 a.m. Please join us at 8:30 a.m. at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant.

In closing, thanks to SK Cy White for leading the Commandery at our November 15th Conclave and SK William Jones for taking care of refreshments in my absence. Hope to see you as we celebrate on December 20th. ✽

Merry Christmas!
"Therefore the Lord will give you a sign. The Virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14

Celebration of the birth of our Blessed Redeemer is here! Let this time of carols, gift-giving, decorating the home, festive parties, family gatherings and Christmas cheer be a time of reflection and prayer. First and foremost to thank God that he sent us his only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe in him shall not perish, but have eternal life, and to ask him to guide us during this most trying time of financial uncertainty and war.

Cyrene-Monroe Commandery will be holding its Christmas Toast on Monday, December 15th at the Pittsford Masonic Hall (Northfield). Plan to arrive around 7 p.m. for fellowship and cheer; the Toast will begin at 7:30 p.m. We are asking members of the Schicker Club and others to bring a dish-to-pass for after the Toast.

Upcoming Events

Our Annual Inspection is early this year. Normally we have it in April, but in 2009 we will be Inspected on Monday, March 16th. We will be Opening and Closing in Full Form. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Pittsford Masonic Hall. In preparation for this event, many of you have requested we go to Full Form Openings in the rest of our meetings leading up to this event. With that in mind, I have canceled our Thanksgiving event, and "George Washington Festive Board," scheduled for our February meeting.

Going forward, we will be having business-only meetings with Full Form Opening and Closing Programs. These meetings will be the work of Opening and Closing, as well as any business we need to conduct.

Saladin

Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub, better known as Saladin, was born into a Kurdish family living in Tikrit (Iraq) in the year 1138. Before his death in 1193, he

would become not only one of the greatest Sultans of the Islamic world, but also the most recognized rival of the Christian Knights during the Third Crusade in the Holy Land.

For a reason lost to history, Saladin's father, Najm ad-Din Ayyub was banished from Tikrit while Saladin was still a young boy. He moved his family to Mosul (Iraq) where he met and became involved in working for the Turkish Regent of Mosul, Imad ad-Din Zengi, the founder of the Zengid dynasty and at the time of their meeting, leading Muslim forces against the Crusaders in Edessa. In 1139 Imad ad-Din Zengi appointed Saladin's father the commander of his forces in Baalbek (Lebanon). Upon the death of Imad ad-Din Zengi in 1146, his son Nur ad-Din became regent of Mosul. As was custom for a son of a Commander in the military Saladin was sent to Damascus to finish his schooling. There, it has been said, that Saladin became more interested in religious than in military studies. His full time training in the military arts began when his uncle Asad ad-Din Shirkuh took him under his wings. Saladin's uncle was a major Commander under Nur ad-Din.

Saladin assisted his Uncle in the defense and transition of Egypt from Shiite to Sunni Islam. In 1169 at the age of 31 following Asad ad-Din's death, Saladin become Commander of all Syrian troops in Egypt and later named vizier of the caliph of Egypt, basically making him the most powerful individual in the area. Saladin is credited with revitalizing the economy of Egypt. He respected his Lord Nur ad-Din and did nothing to come in direct conflict with him.

Upon Nur ad-Din's death, Saladin began to put into action his desire to unite all the Muslim territories of Egypt, northern Iraq, Syria and Palestine. He achieved this via diplomacy and if need be, military action. Specifically, immediately upon the death of Nur ad-Din he marched with his army on Damascus and secured his legitimacy to the "throne" by the time honored way of marrying Nur ad-Din's widow.

While Saladin was consolidating his power in Syria he attempted to leave the Christian Kingdom alone. For the most part when he did come in contact with the Christians and there was military action he often won. One exception was the Battle of Montgisard on November 25, 1175, where he was defeated by a combined force of Baldwin IV of Jerusalem, Raynald of Chatillon, and the

Knights Templar. Only one tenth of Saladin's army made it back to Egypt.

Saladin spent the subsequent year recovering from his defeat and rebuilding his army, renewing his attacks in 1179 when he defeated the Crusaders at the Battle of Jacob's Ford, after which a truce was declared between Saladin and the Crusader States in 1180. However, Crusader counter-attacks provoked further responses by Saladin. Raynald of Chatillon, in particular, harassed Muslim trading and pilgrimage routes. Raynald threatened to attack the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. In retaliation, Saladin twice besieged Kerak, Raynald's fortress in modern day Jordan in 1183 and 1184. Raynald responded by looting a caravan of pilgrims on the Hajj in 1185.

In July 1187 Saladin captured most of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. On July 4, 1187, he faced at the Battle of Hattin the combined forces of Guy of Lusignan, King Consort of Jerusalem and Raymond III of Tripoli. In this battle alone the Crusader army was largely annihilated by the motivated army of Saladin in what was a major disaster for the Crusaders and a turning point in the history of the Crusades. Saladin captured Raynald de Chatillon and was personally responsible for his execution in retaliation for previously attacking Muslim pilgrim caravans. Guy of Lusignan was also captured but his life was spared.

That night, "with uncharacteristic cold-bloodedness," Saladin ordered the execution of the "hundred or so" Templar and Hospitaller knights among the prisoners. Because of their religious "devotion and rigorous training," they were the "most feared" of the Christian soldiers.

Jerusalem capitulated to his forces on October 2, 1187, after a siege. Before the siege, Saladin had offered generous terms of surrender, which were rejected. After the siege had started, he was unwilling to promise terms of quarter to the European occupants of Jerusalem until Balian of Ibelin threatened to kill every Muslim hostage, estimated at 5000, and to destroy Islam's holy shrines of the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque if quarter was not given. Saladin consulted his council and these terms were accepted.

Hattin and the fall of Jerusalem prompted the Third Crusade, financed in England by a special "Saladin tithe." Richard I of England led much of the Christian army during this period.

The armies of Saladin engaged in combat with the army

of King Richard I of England at the Battle of Arsuf on September 7, 1191, at which Saladin was defeated. All attempts made by Richard the Lionheart to re-take Jerusalem failed. However, Saladin's relationship with Richard was one of chivalrous mutual respect as well as military rivalry. When Richard became ill with fever, Saladin offered the services of his personal physician. Saladin also sent him fresh fruit with snow, to chill the drink, as treatment.

At Arsuf, when Richard lost his horse, Saladin sent him two replacements. However, the two men never met face to face and communication was either written or by messenger.

As leaders of their respective factions, the two men came to an agreement in the Treaty of Ramla in 1192, whereby Jerusalem would remain in Muslim hands but would be open to Christian pilgrimages. The treaty reduced the Latin Kingdom to a strip along the coast from Tyre to Jaffa. This treaty was supposed to last three years.

At the age of 55, Saladin died of a fever on March 4, 1193, at Damascus, not long after Richard's departure. Since Saladin had given most of his money away for charity when they opened his treasury they found there was not enough money to pay for his funeral.

His fierce struggle against the crusaders was where Saladin achieved a great reputation in Europe as a chivalrous knight, so much so that there existed by the fourteenth century an epic poem about his exploits, and Dante included him among the virtuous pagan souls in Limbo. Despite the Crusaders' slaughter when they originally conquered Jerusalem in 1099, Saladin granted amnesty and free passage to all common Christians and even to the defeated Christian army, as long as they were able to pay the ransom (the Greek Orthodox Christians were treated even better, because they often opposed the western Crusaders).

Notwithstanding the differences in beliefs, the Muslim Saladin was respected by Christian lords, Richard especially. Richard once praised Saladin as a great prince, saying that he was without doubt the greatest and most powerful leader in the Islamic world.

Seven centuries after his death, King Wilhelm II of Germany donated a magnificent marble sarcophagus to Saladin's mausoleum. Upon it reads: "A Knight without fear or blame who often had to teach his opponents the right way to practice chivalry." ✽

Grand Master's Tribute

The Grand Ballroom at the Buffalo/Niagara Marriott Hotel on Millersport Highway in Buffalo was packed on October 25th in honor of M.:W.: Edward G. Gilbert, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. The celebration was the Grand Master's Ball. Part of the ceremony included presentations to Grand Master Gilbert, including a framed tapestry from R.:W.: Robert Stack, Chair-

man of the Brotherhood Fund Campaign.

Addressing the throng of 500-plus guests in the audience, M.:W.: Gilbert emphasized his

program of getting back to basics and re-uniting the Brothers in the Fraternity to the basic Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. ✽





Lalla Rookh GROTTO News

Ronald J. Morthorst
Monarch

Legion
Clowns
Caldron
Historian



M.O.V.P.E.R.



Ronald J. Morthorst
Monarch
334-4196

As I write this, my final article for the *Masonic Times* as Monarch, I extend a big "thank you" first to my wife, and to our Prophets, as well as the many people in our Masonic circle who have contributed to make my year as Monarch a big success.

December is the Holiday Season for families to enjoy together. Your Grotto is involved in the All-Masonic Bodies Christmas Party with Santa on Saturday, December 13th, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Shrine Center. Our own Santa will be there. Call the Masonic Service Bureau and sign up - 671-9730.

Our December 17th meeting is for Election and Installation of your 2009 Grotto Officers, plus our annual "Free Turkey Dinner" at 6 p.m. You must make your reservation before December 10th with MC Jim Toogood (594-2189) if you plan to eat. The Grotto regular meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sickness and Distress

At this time, PM Bob Young is improving. Frank Ghysel is coming along.

Dave King is improving. Jan Lughart has had the flu. Ernie Swan has been under the weather.

If you know of a Brother who is sick or in need of our aid, please call the Office and let us know.

On Sunday, November 16th, a Masonic Funeral Service was held at the Shrine Center for PM Leon VanHuben, with military honors done by the Masonic War Veterans. We had an excellent turnout to honor Leon.

My final wish is that you and your families have a Holiday Season filled with joy and good food.

Grand Historian



Kenneth Hutchinson, PM

Home phone
(315) 589-9021

Grotto office
671-6320

hutchkv@yahoo.com

Annual Meeting

The next meeting of the Grotto, to be held December 17th, will be our Annual Meeting and Election Night. It is the duty of the membership to come out and cast your vote for the nominated candidates, who were listed in the October issue of the *Masonic Times*. This year we will have the Election, followed by a Closed Installation on the same night.

No man thinks more highly than I do of my fellow Prophets, as well as their abilities. Perhaps I should keep back my opinions at this time, for fear of offending. We are all of one thought and goal, that being the advancement and wellbeing of Lalla Rookh Grotto. We are of one mind with different opinions of how to reach that goal.

Entertainment

The Grotto has always been the extension of the Lodge with fun activities. We have been known as being family oriented, with group activities for all - family picnics, baseball games, trips with our ladies and many more things. We should think of getting back to this and newer ideas of group entertainment, i.e., dinner with our ladies, followed by the theater, hockey or baseball; a dinner cruise on the Canal, etc. Again, it matters not whose idea it is ... we must get back to entertainment at each meeting.

Let each and every one leave with a feeling of wellbeing and very glad they spent the evening in the good fellowship of fellow Prophets.

The Past Monarchs have the ability (and responsibility) to take action. It is my sincerest wish that you will be inspired to rise to new heights, so our Grotto will take from you a new measure of enthusiasm and go on to the greatness which it can eventually attain.

Election

The Monarch-Elect will announce the Appointed Officers after he is elected. A Closed Installation will immediately follow the Elections.

Let's start 2009 with a renewed commitment to the welfare of Lalla Rookh Grotto. Let's bring in those Masonic Brothers and show them and their families what the Grotto is all about. Don't forget to plan other events for family fun.

Secretary's Column

By Kenneth Hutchinson, PM

As President of E.S.G.A., Edna and I sojourned to Williamsport, PA, on October 19th for Zafar's Black Fez Ball. Monarch, Monte R. Temple, was the perfect host. It was held at their own building and catered by a local restaurant.

The Grotto String Band wasn't there, as they were participating in the yearly Williamsport Halloween Parade. The 20-member group has been in existence for thirty years. The afternoon ceremonial took in eight new Prophets, all tall strapping fellows. Zafar's membership stands at 414. Unfortunately, I was the only member from Lalla Rookh Grotto in attendance.

On November 7th, we traveled to Bradford, PA, for Orak Grotto Monarch's Ball, honoring Monarch David Gomes, held at the DeSoto Holiday House. There was the usual fine meal and courtesies of the Hospitality Room open to all.

Orak membership is 119; they are a member of the E.S.G.A. and P.G.A. Besides many familiar faces from the E.S.G.A., the P.G.A. President, Robert Lorenz, was in attendance. From Lalla Rookh, Monarch Ron Morthorst and PM Dick Topel were in attendance. It is disappointing more of our own Officers and Prophets didn't choose to attend the out-of-town activities.

Caldron News

By Donna Laundry, MCO

Lalla Rookh Caldron, of the Daughters of Mokanna, held its November meeting on the 20th. I am grateful for all those who agreed to be Officers and appreciate your dedication. We have a great group.

As a result of having toe surgery on November 4th, as Mighty Chosen One, I presided over my first regular meeting of the year wearing the "fashionable footwear" that goes with such an operation. We carried on, however, with a few modifi-

E.S.G.A. President Travels to Pennsylvania Events



Zafar Grotto Monarch, Monte R. Temple, is congratulated by E.S.G.A. President, Kenneth Hutchinson, PM, for the terrific food and fellowship at the Black Fez Ball in Williamsport, PA.



Posing for this photo with David Gomes, Monarch, at the Orak Grotto Monarch's Ball were Kenneth Hutchinson, PM, President of the E.S.G.A. (left), and P.G.A. President, Robert Lorenz, Jr., Past Monarch of Islam Grotto, Pittsburgh, PA.

cations, and were able to accomplish all we needed to do.

We're having an Avon Sale to benefit the Caldron, so if there are any products you need please call me at 964-2135.

December Activities

In conjunction with our December 11th meeting we will do some special activities. Since this is a difficult year economically, for many, I have asked our members to bring children's toys, games or stuffed animals to the December meeting, instead of a personal gift to exchange. The toys will be given to the Marines' "Toys for Tots" Program to help local families who may not be able to provide

these for their children this year. We will also have a Cookie Exchange for those who wish to participate.

Throughout this year, a group of our members will be practicing a dance routine our Caldron will perform at the Supreme Sessions in San Diego next September.

In January we will have a dinner at 6:30 p.m., preceding the meeting. The cost will be \$8 and the proceeds will go to our treasury.

Monthly Friendship Quote

"Friendships, like flowers, need tender loving care to bloom and grow."

Have a great Holiday Season.

The Time is Now ... Support Your Green Envelope Appeal! Masons Care and Will Always be There

By David C. Goodnow,
CNN Anchor/Editor (Ret)

Your help is needed for our hospitalized troops. When Masons come together in support of a cause, it can be a powerful thing.

I have the privilege of writing about how you can help today. If this were a news report, it would be a story about a vital effort: bolstering our Masonic network of support for wounded troops in our military Hospital Visitation Program. The Green Envelope Appeal is essential to the support of Masons volunteering their time and effort.

If ever a news story carried importance, this one does. It's an appeal to your generosity and patriotism.

Our Brotherhood has been the forefront of support for our wounded Veterans since the for-

mation of the Masonic Service Association in 1919. Masons have been volunteering to visit America's wounded troops during the intervening wars and we continue our presence in numerous VA and military hospitals. It's our way of letting these young men and women know how much we care for them and their sacrifices. We work to build their morale and sustain their resolve to mend and return to the society they have chosen to defend.

Brother Masons visit these hospitals to the tune of some 200,000 volunteer hours each year. Not every member of our Fraternity is able to be present in a hospital room, but each of us has the chance to be there in spirit by contributing to the

Green Envelope Appeal.

Masons at work coming together, supporting our troops and honoring their patriotism. Please take this important opportunity to help with a tax-deductible donation.

Make checks payable to:
Masonic Service Association
8120 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910

(Brother Goodnow is a member of Lodges in Indiana and Georgia. He also serves on the Masonic Information Center Steering Committee)

The Brotherhood Fund



Attend Grotto Meetings

December 1st
Board of Governors
Meeting - 7 p.m.
Shrine Center

December 15th
Legion of Honor
Call Brian Bills for details
388-0913

December 17th
Grotto Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Dinner - 6 p.m. (with reservation)
Shrine Center
Call Jim Toogood (594-2189)
by December 10th

December 25th
Christmas Day
Season's Greetings to all our
Prophets and their Families

CLIP AND SAVE!
Information
Hot Line
334-4196



ENCHANTED LANTERN



Order of the Eastern Star

Monroe District OES HiLights

DDGM

RW Christina S. Hampton
247-5679



DGL

RW Kenneth R. Milner
346-6018
kemilner@frontiernet.net

By Christina Hampton

New Grand Officers

Greetings from the 2009 Grand Officers. Grand Sessions was held in Saratoga Springs October 27-29th. Our new Grand Matron, Sharon V. Haase, and Grand Patron, Blake A. Buckner, were installed Wednesday evening as were all of the 2009 Family.

The new Monroe District Grand Officers are Christina S. "Chris" Hampton, District Deputy Grand Matron; Kenneth R. Milner, District Grand Lecturer; and Lois A. Hassoldt, Grand Representative of Scotland.

Grand Matron's Projects

The Grand Matron's special project this year is Shriners Hospitals for Children-Philadelphia. The funds raised for this project will be used to help support the operations and rehabilitation treatments necessary for the children in their care.

Buy a Pin!

I hope you will support this project by purchasing the Red High-top Sneakers pins for a \$5 donation. By doing so, you will be walking for those who can't walk for themselves.

The Grand Matron also requested we save the aluminum pop-top tabs from our pop cans, etc., which will be sold to a rec-

Change! ... Change! ... Change!!

O.E.S. District Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13th at 5 p.m.

at United Church of Pittsford
123 South Main Street, Pittsford
(See details in article.)

lamation center; the proceeds will be given to the Shriners Hospital.

"Wounded Warriors"

Our new Grand Patron has a special Veterans Project called "The Wounded Warrior Project." It assists the men and women of our Armed Forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world. The funds raised will be used to help support programs and services for those LOCAL service members who have been severely injured during conflicts abroad.

District Project

Our District Project will be Camp Good Days and Special Times. We respectfully request that, in lieu of personal gifts, a monetary gift be given, which will go towards our goal of purchasing something for the playground.

Rt. Wthy. Ken, Rt. Wthy. Lois and I look forward to the year ahead.

District Christmas Party Please Note Change!!!

I remind everyone of the District Christmas Party at 5 p.m. on **December 13th** at the United Church of Pittsford; 123 South Main Street; Pittsford. Chili will be provided so you need to bring your own appropriate table service. It is also requested that you bring either bread, salad or dessert. Join us for an evening of fun and friendship!

Finally, we wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and

look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Support OES Chapters

December 13th - Starlight Chapter is participating in a Craft Sale; Taylor Elementary School, Spencerport

Corinthian/ Fellowship

Chapter No. 322

Order of the Eastern Star
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Wthy. Marilyn Israel, Matron
Wthy. Robert Israel, Patron
461-3254

Rt. Wthy. Beverly VanHuben
Secretary - 647-1391
805 Blossom Road
Rochester 14610

By Marilyn Israel

December 10th will be our only meeting in December. It will be an Open Installation at 7:30 p.m. at which time Wthy. Marilyn Israel and Wthy. Robert Israel will be installed again as Matron and Patron. Please RSVP to Marilyn if you plan to attend.

Grand Sessions

Grand Sessions was a lot of fun and Saratoga Springs was a beautiful location. The Opening Session commenced with a beautiful video presentation to honor our Veterans and Masonic flags were brought forward in their honor.

Our own Most Wthy. Neil Laundry gave a highlighted presentation on the Membership Committee ... to survive - Hope. Our current generation of "Baby

Boomers," born from 1946-1964 is now between 44 and 62 years of age - 5 million in New York State alone. Today's lifestyle is very busy, but this group is extremely interested in community service. They are interested in volunteering and want to see real differences in the community. Some examples include education, environment, homelessness, poverty and crime. This is where Truth and Loving Kindness come into our Eastern Star discipline through our identity and traditions. If we could target local projects, perhaps this would help increase our membership as there is a lot of competition from Rotary, Elks, Moose and the Red Hat Society, etc.

Sickness and Distress

Betty Reisinger recently lost her brother. Please remember this Sister in your prayers.

The Memorial Service for

O/S/Y District OES HiLights

DDGM

RW Mary Ruggles

and

DGL

RW Clayton R. Ruggles

(315) 548-3573

cruggle1@rochester.rr.com

The Ontario/Seneca/Yates District, Order of the Eastern Star, will have a busy year under the wings of Rt. Wthy. Clayton and me. We have chosen an angel as our joint symbol. Our motto is "Maximum Fraternal Responsibilities Create Respectful Results."

District Project

Our District Project is to provide wish list items and financial gifts to Comfort Care/Hospice facilities within our District.

Grand Matron's Projects

The Grand Matron's Project is the Shriners Hospital for Children-Philadelphia. To help in

Leon VanHuben was very moving and well attended.

Happy News

Eugene Hutter received his 50-year Certificate this year; Barbara McMinn received her 25-year Certificate.

District Christmas Party

Please note a DATE CHANGE... Saturday, December 13th, 5 p.m. at United Church of Pittsford. This is a family event and should be great fun! Chili will be provided as the main entrée. To accompany this fare, bring an appropriate type of bread, salad or dessert as well as table service.

My Word - "Faith"

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith." By Franklin D. Roosevelt

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a very, very Happy New Year! ✕

that endeavor, each DDGM has a supply of Red High-top Sneaker Pins. For a donation of \$5, you receive a pin and the gratification that you have "helped others who cannot walk themselves."

The Grand Patron's Project is "Wounded Warriors." Rt. Wthy. Clayton has a Light-house Throw he is raffling to benefit that project and a second Lighthouse Throw to benefit the Canandaigua VA.

A Great Year to Come

We thank the District and, specifically, Eagle Star Chapter, Gah-A-Yan-Duk Chapter and our own Royal-Garoga Chapter for the wonderful Reception on November 2nd. In addition to our District Reception, we have attended those in Cayuga-Tompkins, Wayne and Monroe Districts, with visits to Broome-Chenango, Steuben, and Livingston Districts planned. We hope to share times together throughout our travels this year. Activities within the District and our Chapters will be reported when we know specific details. ✕

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes!

By Thomas Michielsen

The Holiday Season is fast approaching and everyone is scrambling to get their shopping and wrapping completed. We are attending parties and seeing family for the joyous occasion. May the Season bring happiness, joy and peace to you and your family.

Amending Your Tax Return

Oops! You've discovered an error after your Tax Return has been filed. What should you do? You may need to amend your Return.

The Internal Revenue Service usually corrects math errors or requests missing forms - such as W-2s or Schedules - when processing an original Return. In these instances, do not amend your Return. However, you should file an amended Return if any of the following were reported incorrectly, i.e., your filing status, your dependents, your total income, your deductions or credits.

Use Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, to correct a previously filed Form 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ or electronically filed Return. Be sure to enter the year of the Return you are amending at the top of Form 1040X. If you are amending more than one Tax Return, prepare a 1040X for each Return and mail them in separate envelopes to the Internal Revenue Service Processing Center for the area in which you live. The 1040X instructions list the addresses for the centers.

The Form 1040X has three columns. Column A is used to show original or adjusted figures from the original Return. Column C is used to show the corrected figures. The difference between the figures in Columns A and C is shown in Column B. There is an area on the back of the form where you explain the specific changes being made on the Return and the reason for each change.

If the changes involve another schedule or form, attach it to the 1040X. For example, if you are

filing a 1040X because you have a qualifying child and now want to claim the Earned Income Credit, you must attach a Form 1040 Schedule EIC to show the qualifying person's name, year of birth and Social Security Number.

If you are filing to claim an additional refund, wait until you have received your original refund before filing Form 1040X. You may cash that check while waiting for any additional refund. If you owe additional tax for 2007, you should file Form 1040X and pay the tax by the April due date to avoid any penalty and interest.

Generally, you must file Form 1040X within three years from the date you filed your original Return or within two years from the date you paid the tax, whichever is later, to claim a refund.

What To Do If You Receive an IRS Notice?

It's a moment many taxpayers dread. A letter arrives from the Internal Revenue Service - and it's not a refund check. Don't panic; many of these let-

ters can be dealt with simply and painlessly.

Each year, the Internal Revenue Service sends millions of letters and notices to taxpayers to request payment of taxes, notify them of a change to their account or request additional information. The notice you receive normally covers a very specific issue about your account or Tax Return. Each letter and notice offers specific instructions on what you are asked to do to satisfy the inquiry.

If you receive a correction notice, you should review the correspondence and compare it with the information on your Return or forward it to your Tax Practitioner for his review.

- Agree? If you agree with the correction to your account, usually no reply is necessary unless a payment is due.

- Disagree? If you do not agree with the correction the Internal Revenue Service made, it is important that you respond as requested. Write to explain why you disagree. Include any documents and information you wish the Internal Revenue Ser-

vice to consider, along with the bottom tear-off portion of the notice. Mail the information to the Internal Revenue Service address shown in the upper left-hand corner of the notice. Allow at least 30 days for a response.

Most correspondence can be handled without calling or visiting an Internal Revenue Service Office. However, if you have questions, call the telephone number in the upper right-hand corner of the notice. Have a copy of your Tax Return and the correspondence available when you call to help them respond to your inquiry.

Be sure to keep copies of any correspondence with your records.

Upcoming Due Dates:

December 15th - November Payroll Taxes Due

December 15 - Fourth Quarter Corporate Taxes Due

December 20 - September through November Sales Tax Due

December 31 - NYS Fourth Quarter Individual Taxes Due

If you have any tax questions, please forward them to tmichi1@rochester.rr.com. ✕

In Memoriam

Albright, Muriel Hill

On November 13th, the Lord took the hand of Muriel H. Albright, 76, and led her to Heaven. Muriel is survived by 2 children and a grandchild. She was a member of Corinthian-Fellowship Chapter, OES. A page in our book of memories is gently turned today.

Baroody, James R.

James Baroody, 79, passed away October 28th, leaving his wife, Connie; a daughter, grandson and great-granddaughter to remember his life. James was a 55-year member of Ark Lodge, and belonged to Scottish Rite and Damascus Shrine. May he find peace with the Lord.

Burgess, George A.

George Burgess, 96, lived a full life and entered eternal life in heaven on October 20th. George is survived by 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. A 47-year Mason, he was very active in his early years and belonged to Unity Lodge at the time of his passing. His Masonic Brothers and family will miss him.

Butler, Ronald I.

Ronald I. Butler, 74, a member of Shrine and Scottish Rite, passed away August 9th.

Hughes, John A.

John Hughes, 56, left his Earthly family on November 20th. His wife, Deborah and 2 children survive to remember him. John was a member of Craftsman Robertson Lodge. You left us with a garden of memories, sprayed with a million tears.

Mangurian, Harry T., Jr.

Harry T. Mangurian, Jr., 82, passed away October 19th, leaving his wife, Dorothy, 2 daughters, 4 grandsons and 2 great-grandchildren to remember his life of many accomplishments. Harry was a 58-year member of ERAC Lodge and belonged to Scottish Rite. There is a link death cannot sever, Brotherhood and remembrance last forever.

Mehlenbacher, Danny

On November 19th, the loving arms of the Lord embraced Danny Mehlenbacher leaving his wife, Waneata, and 2 children to survive him. Danny was a member of Nunda Station Lodge. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

Miller, William E.

At age 94, William E. Miller was Raised to the Celestial Lodge on November 7th. He was a member of Unity Lodge and leaves his companion, Anni, 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren to remember his legacy. Thoughts today; memories forever.

Mollon, Frederick L.

Centenarian, Frederick Mollon, died November 11th and will be missed by his Brothers of Unity Lodge and Scottish Rite. At age of 100, Frederick leaves 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren who will remember his long life of contributions. Fred was a World War II Veteran.

Noblett, Archie B.

On October 24th, Archie B. Noblett, 97, departed for his Heavenly Home. He will be remembered by 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Archie was a World War II Veteran and a member of ERAC Lodge, Scottish Rite, Lalla Rookh Grotto and Damascus Shrine. He labored hard for those he loved, then left us to remember.

Novoy, Joel E.

We have received word that Joel Novoy, 71, entered Eternal Rest on July 20th. He is survived by his wife, Marcia and children. Joel was a member of Webster Lodge. May he find peace in heaven.

Poleshuk, Michael

Michael Poleshuk, 82, went to the Celestial Lodge on October 10th. A son and 2 grandchildren survive him. Michael was a member of Webster Lodge and served during World War II in the US Navy. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

Todd, Raymond E.

Raymond Todd, 80, passed away October 28th. Ray was a member of Webster Lodge and very active in his community. He is survived by his wife, Mary, 5 grandchildren and family members. May our tears become rainbows when we remember our Brother.

Widows to be Remembered

Baetzl, Evelyn Rehbein, 94, widow of H. Warren Baetzl (Northfield Lodge), passed away October 31st.

Hatch, Gladys A., 93, widow of George Hatch (Valley-Simes Lodge), passed away on October 26th.



Remember the Brotherhood Fund

7th Annual All Masonic Bodies CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 13th 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Damascus Shrine Center 979 Bay Road



SIGN UP TODAY

Please call the Masonic Service Bureau 671-9730 to let us know you will attend.

Masonic Activities Looking Ahead

JANUARY

- 14th MDC - Eureka Lodge Hall-Caledonia
- 15th Scottish Rite - 14° at Shrine Center
- 15th MDC - Wayne District, Sodus Lodge
- 21st Wayne District Masters & Wardens, Location TBA
- 27th School of Ritual at Shrine Center
- 29th Scottish Rite - 15° at Shrine Center

FEBRUARY

- 14th Scottish Rite Valentine Dinner with Our Ladies at La-Tea-Da Tea Room and Parlour; 258 Alexander Street
- 19th Scottish Rite - BBB Night at Shrine Center Public Degree/ADAR Celebration
- 21st Scottish Rite - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast; 16° & 18°

MARCH

- 22nd Feast of the Paschal Lamb at Shrine Center
- 27th College of Freemasonry Dinner at Shrine Center
- 28th College of Freemasonry at Shrine Center

APRIL

- 25th Monroe District Widows Luncheon at Burgundy Basin

MAY

- 16th Oatka Lodge Cornerstone-Laying Celebration

OCTOBER

- 23rd Grand Lecturer's Convention

Hot Numbers

For changes or additions, please call the Masonic Service Bureau, 585-671-9730 or email: masonictimes@gmail.com.

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BIG CALLENDAR - DECEMBER 2008

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Deadline for the Masonic Times is November 10</p>	<p>1 Canandaigua - Shortsville RAM - Palmyra/Eagle KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p>2 Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson, Shrine Center Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps (OV) Nunda Station Oakland - Castile OES - Fairport, Notatka, Starlight</p>	<p>3 Livonia Dumlin Square - Palmyra (OV) Olive Branch - LeRoy Damascus Shrine Purple Club - Shrine Center OES - Lilac Star Unity Blood Drive, 1 pm, Ogden Community Center</p>	<p>4 Eunice - Caledonia Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford Webster - BBF RSM - Palmyra Council Scottish Rite - 4th and 5th, Shrine Center</p>	<p>5 Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. \$7 adult, \$4 Child 30 Orchard Street</p>	<p>6 OES - Rochester Chapter - Spencerport</p>	<p>7 <i>Daughters of the Nile, Zama Temple - Fairport</i> Children's Christmas Party, 11 am-1 pm, Shrine Center OES District Christmas Party, United Church of Pittsford, 5 pm</p>
<p>7 Clio Lodge Spaghetti Dinner Wed 10th 287 East Avenue, Hilton</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance - Masonic War Vets</p>	<p>8 ERAC - 1st, Shrine Center Fairport/Flower City - 2nd Union Star - Honeoye Falls Unity - Spencerport Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p>9 Eagle - Honeoye Seneca - Webster Valley-Simes, Shrine Center RAM - Dansville OES - Leah - Hilton, Mary Jane Holmes - Brockport</p>	<p>10 Oaka - Scottsville Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Corinthian-Fellowship MDC-Eunice Lodge, Caledonia</p>	<p>11 Fame, Shrine Center Minor - Victor Union - Lima Webster - Fellowcraft RAM - Hiram Lalla Rookh Caldron WYN - Masters & Wardens, Humanity Lodge</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 <i>Daughters of the Nile, Zama Temple - Fairport</i> Children's Christmas Party, 11 am-1 pm, Shrine Center OES District Christmas Party, United Church of Pittsford, 5 pm</p>	
<p>14 Eagle Lodge Eagle Chapter Spaghetti Dinner December 18th 4994 County Rd 36 Honeoye</p>	<p>15 Canandaigua - Sportsville KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto Legion of Honor Shrine Lunch Club - Ladies Day, Nutcracker</p>	<p>16 Clio - Hilton, 3rd Craftsman Robertson, 1st, Shrine Center Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps Nunda Station OES - Notatka, Starlight</p>	<p>17 Ark - Geneva Drumlin Square - Palmyra Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy RSM - Doric Council, Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto</p>	<p>18 Eunice - Caledonia Hesperus - Bergen Northfield - Pittsford, 3rd Webster - 3rd Scottish Rite WYN - MDC, Sodus Lodge</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 KT - Sagoyewatha-Phelps Geneva Shrine Club Christmas Party</p>	
<p>21 First Day of Winter Hanukkah begins at Sundown</p>	<p>22 ERAC - Shrine Center Fairport/Flower City (Lake Party) Union Star - Honeoye Falls Unity - Spencerport Wakan/Hubbard - Penfield Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p>23 Eagle - Honeoye Seneca - Webster RAM - Dansville, LeRoy OES - Leah - Hilton</p>	<p>24 Webster Poinsettia Delivery</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 First Day of Kwanzaa Boxing Day</p>	<p>27</p>	
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Events at Shrine Center or Shriners' Events in this typeface. See <i>Damascus News</i> Section for details.</p>			

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