



# Masonic Times

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Monroe  
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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*From the Staff of the Masonic Times*

## Benefit for Local Ronald McDonald Houses Begins January 31st at Area Malls

2009 "Have-a-Heart" Campaign  
"Families Helping Families"



By George Foehner  
District Chairman

This year's Campaign will be a little different than in the past.

We've established a theme - "Families Helping Families." In other words, we want you to bring your family with you when you work the "Have-a-Heart" Booth at your local Mall. Make it a family outing; let's show everyone that we are not only good men, but also good women with great kids who are willing to spend their time helping the Ronald McDonald House.

On Saturday, November 29th your Masters and Wardens

sponsored a lunch at the Ronald McDonald House for "Have-a-Heart" workers and their families so they could see, first-hand, the results of our hard work. Many thanks to the Andersons for our guided tours. Hopefully, everyone will get a chance to see this wonderful facility next year.

### New Dates

Saturday, January 31st -  
Sunday, February 15th

### Times

Monday thru Thursdays  
3 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday  
12 Noon - 9 p.m.  
Sundays  
12 Noon - 6 p.m.

We are working hard again this year to bring more Lodges from outside our District into the fold. Participation letters have been sent to all Lodges and Concordant Bodies early in December so they will have enough time to prepare. Thanks to Gary Sanford for getting this done early. Remember this is a Western New York Event. We need plenty of help to make this a success.

We are looking forward to seeing each and every Brother, Sister and family in February. Let's make 2009 the best year for the Ronald McDonald House. "

## Grand Lodge Announces Implementation of Expanded ID Program ...

*New York Masonic Safety Identification Program*

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 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 the 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. Child ID - 1 Day-12 years
  2. Student - 13-17 years
  3. College Student - 17-25 years
  4. Adult-25-?? Years

Continued on Page 3

## Community Foundation Grant to MMRL to Enhance Training Program

By Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development & Communications

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) is pleased to announce it has received a Scientific Equipment Grant in the amount of \$42,500 from The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc.

Since 1960, the MMRL has recognized the importance to encourage talented young men and women to pursue a career in science or medicine. The Laboratory is dedicated to offering challenging and exciting educational and training programs, such as our Summer Fellowship Program, for young bright and talented individuals to stimulate their pursuit of careers in science or medicine.

The grant is for the purpose of updating equipment used by the students and purchasing state-of-the-art equipment that will enhance and increase the

capacity of MMRL's programs to educate and train future scientists and clinicians.

"We are delighted to receive this grant from The Community Foundation," said Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, executive director. "By staying at the forefront of medical research technology the Laboratory can offer our summer fellows and other trainees the tools necessary to advance their knowledge and generate research studies that will stand as testament to their exceptional abilities and those of our world-class institute. This experience will serve them well in competing for positions at institutes of higher learning, in their ability to compete for jobs and may even entice them back to our region in applying their training and skills. It is critical to the scientific, medical and healthcare industries to have a consistent and steady influx of

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## Schools of Ritual

### Livingston District

January 12th -

Avon Springs Lodge, 7:00 p.m.

January 20th -

Livonia Lodge, 7:00 p.m.

### Monroe District

January 27th -

Valley-Simes Lodge -

Shrine Center, 7:30 p.m.

# Damascus News see page 11





### Editor's Corner

As we begin a new calendar year, on behalf of all of us at the *Masonic Times*, I extend to you and yours all good wishes for health, happiness and prosperity. Health, that you may remain relatively free of ever-increasing health care costs; happiness, that you may go through day-to-day activities and events with joy and a smile... forgiving those who may cause pain and angst; prosperity, that your obligations are fulfilled and your assets go in the opposite direction from the downturn during 2008.

In my opinion, GREED to the Nth Degree is the root of the problems which exploded last year, though it has been ever thus. That has been hashed and re-hashed again and again. I have no solution. Allegedly, smarter individuals than I are in control. Apparently, they are not above temptation.

I can assure you there is no Golden Parachute connected with the Editor's function or the Executive Director's position at the Masonic Service Bureau. Our Directors are not compensated for their loyal attendance at our monthly meetings. Their goal is to see that operations of the Masonic Service Bureau are continued for the benefit of the Masonic Fraternity and the surrounding Communities.

A new Administration in the Federal Government will take over later this month. The President-Elect has campaigned on the promise of change. The Country...the World...is in desperate need of reforms. I would hope and pray that such things occur as jobs for the unemployed, health care for the sick and infirmed, assistance for people still suffering from the effects of hurricanes, tornados, floods, mud slides and other natural disasters, and continued financial support for organizations assisting the poverty-stricken and at-risk youth.

A change of attitude from, "what's in it for me?" back to, "how can I help you?" would be a great start. Then maybe a year from now, I can write of the powerful turn-around we have created and listen to positive reports on the airwaves.

Thanks for reading.

**Masonic Service Bureau**  
of Greater Rochester, NY Inc.

979 Bay Road, Suite 2  
Webster, NY 14580-1736  
Tel: 671-9730; Fax 671-8390  
Email: bmasonic@rochester.rr.com

**President**  
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**Vice-President**  
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**Secretary**  
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By M. Donald Darrohn

Happy New Year! That's the cry most of us made on the evening of December 31st. It's usually about that time of the year many of us will make New Year's Resolutions.

I recently received an email from a Lodge Brother that kind of put New Year Resolutions in a different perspective! Captain Dan Fletcher is about to return from his Tour of Duty in Afghanistan. I want to share with you some of his thoughts because they say so much about hope and this Season of Peace.

"... The snow has finally come to the mountains and they look quite beautiful when they are 'dusted' this way. We also had another successful visit with the orphans. We played Frisbee, soccer and volleyball with them and served them lunch and dessert. Afterward we gave each child (both boys and girls) a toy that my sister and some of you sent in the form of care packages. Oh the smiles! Nice to be part of such a noble service and it was a lot of fun for us as well as the orphans. We really like the kids. Not only does it make

you feel that you are part of something great but the kids mean peace. In other words, if we roll into a town and the kids and women are out, then life is good. If the kids and the women are running for cover, bullets and bombs come next.

"Couple of things I have learned from my experience in combat and Afghanistan I would share with you all of you." Dan goes on to list some 57 items of which only the few I selected follow.

- 1 Sometimes it is better to take a chance on the paradise around the corner than stick with the devil you know.
- 2 War is an ugly nasty business; but some wars need to be fought to protect the innocent from the predations of the evil.
- 3 It is really nice to go to bed every night with a clear conscience and no fear of tomorrow.
- 4 A good hot shower is a wonderful thing.
- 5 There is no better place to view the stars than Afghanistan.
- 6 A good cry over a fallen comrade (human or canine) is good for combat stress.
- 7 Mail is the most important thing in the world.
- 8 A good night's rest with no guard duty or rocket or mortar attacks is a gift from God.
- 9 The "Flagpole" (headquarters) is the most undesirable place in the world in a combat zone.
- 10 Enlightened people discuss different viewpoints. Not so enlightened people keep screaming until only they are the ones left talking and/or standing in the room.
- 11 Incoming 107MM rocket fire has the right-of-way.
- 12 A positive work environment that includes good people and laughter is a gift from God!

"I appreciate all that many of you sent to me in the form of

cards and packages! If any of you would like to send various items (candy, pens, toys, blankets, toiletries etc) to the guys who have replaced me and continue to perform this great mission for the Afghan people, please send them to the following:

John Strain  
2/1/203 ETT (FOB Vulcan)  
FOB Ghazni  
APO AE 09354

"He is the First Sergeant here and a wonderful person who will make sure they get to the right places.

"I have seen the worst of mankind here and also the best and from it all I have cause for hope. As I have said before, we turned our backs on these people once before and paid a heavy price for our negligence (9-11). They have their problems as all nations do but many here are very dedicated to moving forward. There was once a small nation (the new United States) that desperately needed help, and a larger nation (France) came to assist sending money, material and its sons and daughters. Can we do less? ... They say war changes a man and I pray I have changed for the better.

"An old Native American Legend (so I'm told) stated that when a man dies and he truly regrets the things he has done and said wrong in this life, he gets to go back to the times in his life when he was truly happy. I pray when it is my turn to go I get to go back and spend time at Vulcan."

I hope Captain Dan Fletcher's message inspired you as it did me; when you reflect upon your New Year's Resolutions perhaps you should consider sending a package to someone in our military overseas. I know, I will!

Happy New Year to all!

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Staff

Editor	Charles Waterstreet
Associate Editor	David King
Office Manager	Janet Porter
Production Assistants	Mathew L. Gingold Barbara Goodrich Herbert Spencer Beverly VanHuben

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**Masonic Service Bureau**  
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M. Donald Darrohn	..... President
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### Expanded ID Program

Continued from Page 1

- 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 Don Elliott, Chairman, nychip1@nychip.org.

#### Monroe District Contacts

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.

### MMRL Grant

Continued from Page 1

bright career professionals. Science and medicine have extended the length and quality of our lives and this demonstration of support conveys both organizations' commitment to educating and retaining our youth in the Mohawk Valley."

The Summer Fellowship Program at the MMRL is in its 49th year and has been supported by the local community over this period of time. The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. has provided grant awards in support of two Summer fellows for over twenty years.

The Community Foundation has been a force for improving lives and promoting philanthropy throughout Herkimer and Oneida counties since 1952 and has made more than 3,800 grants totaling over \$26.8 million. Grants are generated by more than 240 funds that comprise The Foundation's endowment, established and advanced by area individuals and families.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory scientific achievements have earned it international prominence as a leading institute in the fight against heart disease. The MMRL is celebrating 50 years of service to humanity this year. Please visit www.mmrl.edu to learn more about the MMRL and its educational opportunities.

**Remember the Brotherhood Fund**

### Frank M. Totton Essay Contest 2009 is Now Underway...



2009 Topic...

*What am I Most Thankful For?*

Entries must be postmarked by January 10, 2009.

This Essay Contest is open to any High School Senior who anticipates entering an accredited college in the Fall of 2009 and who is the child or grandchild of:

- A Master Mason in good standing in New York State
- A member of his extended family
- Deceased Brothers are included as long as they were in good standing at the time of their death.

The Essay topic this year is "What Am I Most Thankful For?" Essays are to be postmarked no later than January 10, 2009.

Forms may be obtained through your Lodge Secretary, District Deputy or downloaded from the Grand Lodge Website, *Empire State Mason* magazine Website or the *Netnews*.

The First Prize Winner is customarily asked to read the essay the first day of Grand Lodge in May.

### Bees and Bugs Be-gone - 872-2040

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Dennis  
Finucane**  
586-6937  
dkfinucane@aol.com



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



Participants in the Veterans Day Memorial Service were: (front row, left to right) Alexander Arthur, Jr.; Alfred Pulcino III; and William Fredenburg. (Back row) Donald McDill, Cy White, Greg Ludwig, Dennis Finucane, Brian Bills, Heinz Gunkel and John Ponschok.

several new legislation pieces concerning Veterans. One of the key points was new entitlements of Educational Aid for the returning Combat Vets and their families. I urge all returning Vets to check this out at their VA Centers or go online.

**Canandaigua VA Party**

The November Birthday Party at the Canandaigua VA Hospital was a success! We had ten volunteers who served cake and ice cream to about 30 patients. Everyone had a good time.

**Veterans Day**  
On November 11th, Veterans Day Services were held at the Rochester War Memorial and we were represented by ten Brothers of the Masonic War Veterans. After the ceremony, we had a luncheon at the Clarion Riverside Hotel with several guest speakers. One of the speakers was Congresswoman Louise Slaughter. She spoke of

The next morning several of the War Vets attended the Pearl Harbor Service held at Rochester Yacht Club. In attendance were Brian Bills, Greg Ludwig, Bill Fredenburg and myself. There were five survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack present.

**Pearl Harbor Memorial**

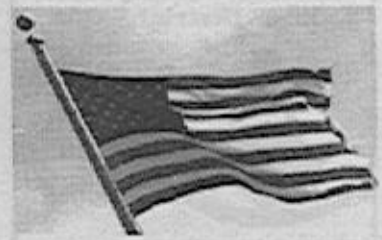
On December 6th, we held our Annual Christmas Party with the Legion of Honor at Fairport-Flower City Lodge Hall. The Brothers and their ladies enjoyed a fun evening with dinner and our gift auction.

**Community Service**

On November 28th, we were at The Mall at Greece Ridge ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. Although there were only Brian Bills, Heinz Gunkel, Frank Ghyzel, Jim Toogood and myself, we had a good time collecting for the Salvation Army. Thanks, guys, for the help on a cold, windy night!

They spoke and placed a wreath in the water, along with several other Veterans Organizations from Monroe County. Also, The Coast Guard had a platoon of men in uniform to honor the fallen servicemen of the Pearl Harbor attack.


Our next meeting will be February 26th, 6:30 p.m. - Dinner, 7:30 p.m. - Meeting.  
Happy New Year!



**Visit a Masonic  
War  
Veteran**



**Masonic  
Veterans Service**



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



tours of duty, etc., Tom Paglia was surprised to learn there was an Army man who served on Attu in the Aleutian Islands during World War II at the same time he was stationed there. When attending these "stand downs," you never know who you will meet. When you do, you start to re-live those days and memories return.

I told him I had returned to Attu for a reunion two years ago

and he wanted to know if the Island was still the same. Still with winds blowing 60-80 miles per hour and the sun never really going down; daylight more than 23 hours; rain belting you like BBs; cold that lasts for hours. This is during the month of August. Just think what it's like during the Winter months, when the same wind and snow make it hard to see ten feet in front of you.

**Stand Down for Veterans**  
Another "Stand Down for Veterans" was held November 3rd at Jordon Health Center. Cora Paglia (fourth from the left) assisted. At this time, health information was distributed along with hats, mittens, lap robes, bottled water and backpacks. Any Veteran could register for a VA checkup, have their pulse and heartbeat recorded, be informed how they could get their VA identification card for future VA assistance and other types of information they may need. When talking with the Veterans, asking the usual questions such as their branch of service,



Cora Paglia presents a \$1,000 check to Patti Ciancagliina and Susan LaRosa, on behalf of the Officers of the Chief Petty Officers Club. Tom Paglia is a life member of the Chief Petty Officers Club, which has been in existence for more than 50 years.

**Military Outreach Program**

Attention Greater Rochester Veterans...

Veterans, Do You Suffer from Lower Back Pain??



By Tom Paglia

**Back Pain Study for  
Younger Veterans**

If you are at least 18 years of age and have been suffering from low back pain for more than three months, you may be eligible to participate in a federally funded research study for eight treatments of your low back pain at no cost to you! This study is evaluating the effectiveness of spinal manipulative therapy and active exercise therapy. Therapy takes place at the VA Rochester Outpatient Clinic.

If you are suffering from lower back pain, live within the Rochester area and are interested in learning more about the study, call (585) 463-2674.

**Chiropractic Management  
in Older Adults**

VA Rochester Outpatient Clinic has recently started enrolling patients in our "Chiro-

practic Management of Chronic Lower Back Pain in Older Adults" Research Study. For this study we are looking for 100 Veterans over 65 years of age who are suffering from low back pain and have not seen a Chiropractor in six months. It is comparing two types of treatment for chronic back pain. Treatments are at the VA Rochester Outpatient Clinic. You will be reimbursed for time and travel.

Call Pamela DePuyt or Dorian Savino at (595) 463-2674, Ext 32673, for more information to see if you qualify.



Cora Paglia gets a hug from Santa at Faris Pharmacy. Must be she's been a good girl! This Santa, aka Oscar Reber, is usually a Shrine Clown who wears a white jacket and stethoscope.

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A check of \$100 for the Executive Committee Christmas Fund was presented to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center by (l-r) Larry Hood and Cora Paglia to VA Staff Members Susan DeRosa, Fred Lesinski and Patti Ciancagliini. The presentation was made by Larry Hood, representing the Craftsman Robertson Lodge Master. The check will help supplement gift purchasing for the residents at Canandaigua VA.

**Remember the Brotherhood Fund**

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**Claude H. Wright**  
President

**HAVE  
YOU  
OBTAINED A  
NEW MEMBER?**



## 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 Huie (315) 789-2985 Clayton Ruggles (315) 548-3573

### District Deputy Grand Master Ontario/Seneca/Yates District



R.: W.:  
**Ronald Galens**

(315) 548-3453

rungalensosy@yahoo.com

I hope all had a Merry Christmas and a safe Holiday! December was a very busy and exciting month. January and February look even busier.

December started out with my last Official Visit at Garoga-Sincerity Lodge. The Homecoming was joyful. There are thanks to be given. The Eastern Star Chapter ladies served dinner for the evening and, as always, did a great job. I think they have a good time doing so.

A special thanks to John Walti and Officers of the Lodge for organizing the event. You went above and beyond and it is really appreciated.

Thanks to all who turned out on such a cold night. R.: W.: John Cook and R.: W.: Wayne Patridge from Genesee-Wyoming District and R.: W.: William Jones from Wayne District. Thank you for supporting the O/S/Y District.

Degree work is going well in the District; we will confer several more in January and February. (See Schedule below.)

The Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.: W.: William Valois will be starting his visits shortly. If there are any conflicts, please let him know ASAP. Please plan on attending your Lodge to show support. He has a lot of information and programs for all Brothers.

Information is being sent out about our Grand Lodge trip in May. We have rooms at the Milford Plaza Hotel. Reservations for 2009 should be made ASAP so I can make sure we have enough rooms for all. Looking ahead, we have rooms at the Hotel Edison for 2010.

I'm looking forward to visiting all the Lodges again this Season. If you have any special events coming up and you would like the GDC or myself to attend, please contact us.

#### Brotherhood Fund

In these tough economic times, benevolence to those less fortunate reaches new heights. Please contribute as liberally as your circumstances permit.

Have a safe and warm month and may God bless.

#### Dates for the New Year January

7th - O/S/Y Meeting at Seneca Lodge  
 8th - GDC Visit Milnor Lodge  
 9th - O/S/Y Charities Dinner and Meeting at the Sons of Italy in Geneva

13th - Pocahontas Lodge; 2nd Degree

13th - GDC Visit Eagle Lodge  
 19th - GDC Visit John Hodge Lodge

21st - Ark Lodge; 2nd Degree

22nd - Milnor Lodge; 1st Degree

29th - District Table Lodge at Garoga-Sincerity Lodge. Reservations are required. Our guest speaker is the R.: W.: James Sullivan

#### February

2nd - GDC Visit Canandaigua Lodge

3rd - GDC Visit Garoga-Sincerity Lodge

9th - GDC Visit Dundee Lodge

12th - GDC Visit Geneva Lodge

17th - GDC Visit Farmerville Union

18th - GDC Visit Ark Lodge

19th - GDC Visit Seneca Lake Lodge

24th - GDC Visit Pocahontas Lodge

Our monthly Spaghetti Dinner for January will be on the 15th. The dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, coffee or lemonade and dessert for only \$5. How can you beat that! If you can help during the dinners, contact Ken Milner. We would love to see everyone there for dinner, especially fellow Brothers from other Lodges.

The first meeting in February is a regular meeting and R.: W.: Terry Leonard will be presenting a program on "Freemasonry and the American Revolution." Visitors are always welcome.

I thank all our Brothers for working with and supporting our Fundraising Committee Chairmen, and a well-deserved thank you to the Chairmen. W.: Brother Gary Warren has our Brotherhood fund well underway. W.: Brother Ken Milner did a great job with our Fruit Drive in December and W.: Brother Tom Shafer worked hard in selling Entertainment Books.

### 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 14548

My Brothers, welcome to the New Year!

Our January 8th meeting will be the visit of the R.: W.: William Valois, Grand Director of Ceremonies, who will be accompanied by our DDGM and other Masonic leaders. He will speak about Masonic Education and the courses offered in the O/S/Y District. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Our January 22nd meeting will be the Conferral of the 1st Degree, please contact me if you can assist.

Dues receipts have been very good so far. If you have not sent yours in, please take a moment to do so now.

Contributions to the Brotherhood Fund have not been so good; given the current economic times, please share what you can to assist others not so fortunate.

### Garoga-Sincerity Lodge No. 200



1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Master V.: W.: John Walti

(315) 548-9670 jwalti1@rochester.rr.com

Secretary R.: W.: Clayton Ruggles

315-548-3573 cruggle1@rochester.rr.com

67 Ontario Street, Phelps 14532

As we enter into a new year, we continue to make improvements to our Lodge Hall. New batteries have been installed in all of our emergency lighting systems and all fire extinguishers have been checked and approved. We will also be installing exhaust fans in both bathrooms.

This, my Brothers, is just a small portion of the much-needed work that must be done to maintain our Lodge Hall in good working order. It costs your Lodge money to do these projects. I know times are hard

but donations are needed to help offset these costs. Dinners alone are not enough. I am asking all Brothers to make an effort to help support our Lodge in these tough economic times. Your check payable to the Lodge or cash donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

#### Official Visit

At our first meeting in December, we were honored to have our District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: Ronald A. Galens, make his Official Visit. He represented the Most Worshipful Edward G. Gilbert, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, and delivered the Grand Master's message. We had a wonderful turnout for his Homecoming with 41 Brothers present. Royal-Garoga Eastern Star Chapter prepared a dinner. Thanks to Worthy Matron, Donna Gibbs, and her staff for preparing such a fine meal.

Don't forget Game Nights at the Lodge. They are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. until further notice. All are welcome; just bring a snack to pass. Also, Lodge meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month with the first meeting featuring a pot luck supper (dish-to-pass) at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge and I hope everyone has a healthy and prosperous New Year.

#### From the Secretary's Desk By Clayton Ruggles

#### News of Passings

We note with sadness the passing of Brother Elmer Smith on October 18, 2008 and Brother Aaron Dell on October 21st.

#### Dues

Dues Notices have been sent. Brothers are reminded to do their utmost to remain current and not put themselves in danger of being dropped for Non-Payment of Dues.

#### Birthday Greetings

December (belated) birthday greetings to Brothers John Bowles (1st), Brian Walti (7th), James Piper (13th), Gary Yancey (14th), Jerome Phillips (17th), Everett Grimsley (21st), Ronald Galens (22nd), William Lally Jr. (25th) and Ernest Day (30th).

January birthday greetings to John Walti (7th), Elliott Schocken (15th), Tim Piper (17th), Dave Smith (21st), Bruce Andrews (22nd), Tom Hudson & Stephen Leroy (26th) and Scott Upchurch (31st).

#### Masonic Anniversaries

The following Brothers were Raised in December:

1947 - John Record  
 1952 - Frederick Gifford  
 1956 - Howard Burgess  
 1960 - Bernard Dell  
 1961 - Robert Lannon  
 1962 - William Goodman  
 1969 - John C. Carney  
 1975 - William Tatro  
 1978 - Charles Anderson

1986 - Craig Andrews  
 1990 - David Mowers and John Sherman

1994 - Perry Adams

1995 - David Smith

2002 - Gordon Campbell

2006 - Nicholas Day, Douglas Galens, William Hargrove and William Lally, Jr.

The following Brothers were Raised in January:

1975 - William Amber and Kenneth Overslaugh

1996 - Robert B. Taylor III and Barney Wandell

1997 - William Sergeant

2002 - Carl Carlson and Todd Ruggles

2004 - Stephen Durso and Brian Walti

## Ark Lodge No. 33, F. & A.M.

3rd Wednesday

Master

W.: Thomas Smart

(315) 536-3013

tsmart5276@aol.com



Secretary

V.: W.: Lance R. Ward

(315) 789-4411

lrward@tcll.com

3394 Sutton Road

Geneva 14456

A New Year often brings a renewal of effort and thought in the form of New Year's Resolutions. The "To-Do List" may include healthy lifestyle changes, getting to unfinished and new projects or simply making more time for what is important in our lives, such as our families. Please include Ark Lodge on that "To-Do List." If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, make a Resolution to get to one during this Masonic year. Call a Brother and come together.

#### Degree Work

We have several Entered Apprentices who will, hopefully, be passed to the 2nd Degree at our January 21st meeting. Rehearsal for the Degree will be held on Sunday the 18th at 7 p.m. in the Lodge Room. Please make an effort to participate in this Degree work, even if it is to simply be on the sidelines to help make a memorable experience for the Brothers becoming Fellowcrafts. If you can't get to the rehearsal, come Wednesday anyway - we can still include you in the Degree work.

#### Sad News

Unfortunately, it my sad duty to, once again announce the passing of a Brother. Joseph Michaels passed on November 22nd. Brother Michaels was Raised on June 18, 1983.

#### Masonic Anniversaries

The following Brothers were Raised in January:

1951 - Gordon Taylor

1956 - Max Kaufman

1982 - Lloyd Hilimire

I wish each of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Let's all try to do good things in the coming year. Keep in mind that only when it is shared can happiness be truly experienced.

## 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

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope your New Year brings you good health, happiness and prosperity.

On December 20th, Poinsettias were delivered to surviving spouses. Thanks to all the Brothers who helped with this. I know the ladies really appreciate the plants.

Plans for the new year are under way. On January 13th, R.: W.: William Valois, Grand Director of Ceremonies, is tentatively planning an Official Visit to our Lodge. This meeting is also our Annual Meeting. Before the meeting there will be an Officers' meeting at 6:30 p.m.

#### Meeting Schedule

Don't forget that, according to our new By-Laws, there will be no meeting the 4th Tuesday in January or February. If the weather does not permit a meeting the first Tuesday of the month, we do have the option of meeting the 4th Tuesday.

## Spaghetti Dinner

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# 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

## Grand Steward Wayne District



R.: W.:  
**F. Edward "Ted" Powley**  
 H: (315) 483-2745  
 W: (315) 483-6944  
 Ext. 11801

[soduspowleys@msn.com](mailto:soduspowleys@msn.com)  
[ted.powley@mizkan.com](mailto:ted.powley@mizkan.com)

Although Winter weather arrived early this year, I can tell you my heart is warmed by the wonderful support for the present *Masonic Development Course* in Wayne District. Fifteen (15) Masons from five different Lodges are enrolled and participating in this class. Enthusiasm is high and we're having a great time together. Our final Session will be on January 15th at 7 p.m. at Sodus Lodge. I guess the real test will be when I ask if anyone wants to use my money-back guarantee!

W.: Andy Richardson welcomed the Masters and Wardens to Humanity Lodge on December 11th after a delicious dinner served by the Humanity Chapter, OES. Both Humanity and Drumlin Square Lodges had four members present. Humanity Lodge won the tie-

breaker for the Traveling Gavel. W.: Mike Boone discussed his progress in setting up a tax-deductible account for receiving donations to purchase equipment for our program in Wayne District. "Freemasonry and the Fabric of America" by Lee Sherman Dreyfus, was the program for the evening. W.: John Krest, our Masonic Care Community Counselor, advised us of a new DVD available and encouraged us to make a trip in the Spring to see the Utica Campus and all that it offers. Our next Masters and Wardens meeting will be January 8th at Clyde Lodge.

Wardens and Junior Officers, the *Road to the East Course (RTTE)* will be offered in Wayne District beginning in February. This course covers everything you need to know to run a Lodge successfully. I will be asking what Saturday mornings best fit our current Officers' schedules. A Session typically lasts 3-4 hours in order to cover the material in three Sessions. Please start looking at your calendars now. It's a lot of work for the presenters so we want to encourage as many as possible to attend.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first six months as your Grand Steward and look forward to seeing you at the many events going on around our District. Be active.

## Membership and Member Retention

By Joel A. Falbo, Chairman  
[dsmasons@hotmail.com](mailto:dsmasons@hotmail.com)

My Brothers, one of the tasks that's been put before me is Member Retention. My hope is to get every able-bodied Brother back into the Lodge and involved in the operation and growth of the Lodge. This has been the goal of every Brother who has been in my position and will be the goal of every Brother who will fill this position in the future. What I propose is my attempt at causing a change for the benefit of our Brothers and the benefit of our Fraternity.

I have the lofty hope of seeing the attendance of each Lodge in this District increase by at least fifty percent by the end of my appointment. I know this is possible without even taking on one new member. This is due to the fact that almost every Lodge in this District has a large enough member base to fill every Chair in the Lodge on any given night. Not every Brother can attend every Communication and some simply cannot attend at all due to medical reasons or location at this point in their lives. But, I am also sure many do not attend for other reasons. These other reasons are of interest.

Email or just plain mail me your reasons for attending or not attending Lodge. I am looking for honest answers that can be used to make changes that will increase Lodge attendance. For example, are Lodge meetings too long or too short, is more education needed, has it been too long since you attended Lodge and have forgot-

ten what to do. The final result of this will be to compile the comments that have been received (no names will be used) and produce a report to be submitted to the District Deputy Grand Master to distribute as he sees fit.

Each Lodge will benefit from existing members returning to the Lodge... active Lodges attract new members, inactive Lodges do not. Every Brother is very important to his Lodge and you are missed when not in attendance.

Thank you for your help and I look forward to hearing from you. Email: [dsmasons@hotmail.com](mailto:dsmasons@hotmail.com); Mail to 424 West Ave, Newark NY, 14513.

## Drumlin Square Lodge No. 1180



**Master**  
 W.: John P. Krest  
 315-597-5060  
[jkrest@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jkrest@rochester.rr.com)  
**Secretary**  
 R.: W.: William C. Jones  
 315-986-9150  
[wjones@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wjones@rochester.rr.com)

1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
 Palmyra Masonic Hall  
 161 East Main Street 14522

Of the approximately 115 Members who received a ballot regarding the Temple Association and Looking/Obtaining land for a new building, there were 60 Brothers who responded. On taking steps to dissolve the Temple Association, 73% said "Yes," 14% said "No" and 13% were "No Response." A motion was made, seconded and approved to have our Trustees request a motion be made at the next Temple Association Meeting for the Association

to dissolve and turn over operation of the building to the Lodge until a decision can be made as to the status of the building.

On investigating available property and obtaining a suitable site for a new facility, the response was just 56% in favor, 24% opposed and 20% had No Response. The response of the Brethren was outstanding and proves that, while active membership is sparse, our Brothers are sincerely interested in what is happening within the Lodge. I am thankful for their response and appreciate their comments. We now have to consider, with our heads and not our personal feelings, what course of action we are to take and evaluate the pros and cons of each and every step we take.

It is a new year and we must ensure we do all we can to encourage attendance, make our actions visible in the Community and encourage others to follow in the path of Masonry. This year also marks the 200th Anniversary of when General John Swift, the Founder of Palmyra, NY, and original Charter member of Mount Moriah Lodge, became Master. Some means of celebration has to be considered. After all, our Lodge roots include the oldest Lodge in Wayne District.

Our District Deputy visit went extremely well with distinguished visitors from O/S/Y and Livingston Districts, as well as Wayne District Staff.

If you can attend the next Masters and Wardens meeting, I'll be glad to see you in Clyde on either the 8th or 15th of January. More details in Lodge. See you there.

# 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](mailto:hooter95@rochester.rr.com)

First, thanks to the Masters of our 13 Lodges for successfully completing all of our Official Visits with the courtesies shown to us as we criss-crossed the District from September to late November. We enjoyed breaking bread with all of you and hope the messages conveyed the Grand Master's desire to engage in Cathedral Thinking and Getting Back to Basics in an informative way.

### District Programs

The Grand Stewards, Mike Nohle and George Todd, have completed the *MDC* Program and are gearing up for the *Road to the East* Program, which will be held in February. Also in February will be the Annual "Have-a-Heart" Campaign at the the Eastview, Marketplace and Greece-Ridge Malls, under the direction of W.: George Fohner.

The turnout for the *MDC* was not that good and we want to encourage those who are heading for the East, either now or in a couple of years, to consider taking this class. Besides the great amount of practical information you will receive, the "24-Inch Gauge" will be a wonderful resource guide for you in the years to come and you will get to know many Brothers from other jurisdictions. The quality presenters during the program will do their best to provide you with the most current information and their personal experiences in bringing the course material to you.

### Q & A ... Let Me Assist

I wanted to turn briefly to the Constitution and By-Laws as a couple of questions have come up that you may encounter in your Lodge. There was a question asked recently inquiring about having a Brother, whose signature is on the Petition as the Presenter, serving on an Investigation Committee. Sections 530-535 of the *Handbook of Masonic Law* are relevant to Investigating Committees. There is no express prohibition to a Presenting Signer of a Petition also serving on the same Investigating Committee Sec. 530, as supplemented, states that any by-law requiring that no member of an Investigating Committee be related to an applicant, is contrary to the Constitution,

Sec.352. So technically, there is no prohibition of having a Brother who has presented a Petition on a Committee investigating the same Candidate he is recommending. As a practical matter, it smacks of a conflict of interest. Thanks to Brother Phil Hurwitz for his expertise in Masonic Law on this question.

We wish all of you the very best in 2009 and are here to assist you in any way we can. Please contact any of us as the situation merits. Continued good luck to all of you.

## Grand Steward Monroe

R.: W.:  
**Michael Nohle**  
 265-4922

[mikenohle@aol.com](mailto:mikenohle@aol.com)



Welcome to 2009. It seems like a new dawn has arrived. I hope for you and your families the Holidays were joyous and fulfilling. Hopefully, you are rested and refreshed. There is much work to do, which will require our good health and vigor. I look forward to seeing each of you in the Quarries of Masonry throughout the coming year. Together we can build, learn and grow. My excitement about our Fraternity, especially the Lodges in our District, continues. I am seeing big classes in several Lodges and look forward to the Raising of many new Master Masons. Let's continue

to properly educate them about the principles and ideals of our great Fraternity through good mentoring and training. As always, your leadership team is here to help, aid and assist you. All you need do is contact us.

### Key Word - Edifice

The word Edifice (noun), according to the Encarta Dictionary, means an especially large, complex and/or impressive building. Examples of material or physical edifices are our Masonic Halls, municipal buildings, churches and cathedrals. In our Ritual we are taught that, in our Masonic lives, we should work to build our spiritual edifice or hall.

The symbol of King Solomon's Temple serves as a symbol of a near-perfect edifice. Our spiritual edifice should be spacious and magnificent. It should be beautiful and ornate. Each individual stone should be hewn and squared to be as near perfect in shape as is humanly possible. King Solomon's Temple is our most important Masonic

symbol because all of our other symbols indicate how and why we should work to construct as nearly perfect a spiritual edifice as we are able.

It should be the goal of each of us that, when we move on to the Celestial Lodge above, we leave behind a spiritual monument which causes amazement, astonishment, admiration and wonder among our surviving Brothers, families and neighbors. Such a lasting impression of us is how we truly can make the world a better place and so have a place in human history.

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Monroe



R.: W.:  
**George Todd**  
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The Holidays have come and gone. Once again a time of sharing with family, friends and good eats. The last Session of the *Masonic Development Course* will be held at Eunice Lodge, 3141 State Street, Caledonia, on January 14th.

Plan to attend the *Road to the East Programs* scheduled for February 7th, 21st and 28th; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Eunice Lodge in Caledonia.

The District Staff Officers have completed all of the required Official Visits. I personally thank all the Lodges who provided great hospitality, food and Brotherhood during these visits. Don't be surprised if you receive a call asking what's going on at your Lodge because I would like to visit. This time we visit because we want to ... or you can always invite us.

At the beginning of my tenure as Grand Steward, I promised the Brothers of the District to promote education. We, as a team, have done that in a variety of ways - some formal and some informal. I have used my column to impart a little information about this great Fraternity of ours. I hope the information we have provided has been of use to you. If there is any way we can assist, feel free to contact either one of us.

The following was written by the Worshipful Master of Tullahoma Lodge, W.: Steve Gilbert. Hope-

fully, you will receive some inspiration from his words.

"Freemasonry is a way of life. It is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, resistance toward the wicked, pity and concern for the unfortunate, help for the weak, trust in the strong, forgiveness for the penitent and, ABOVE ALL, LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER WITH REVERENCE AND LOVE FOR GOD. If we are to prosper, we must lay the groundwork now for those who will follow.

"Speaking to Brothers who do not attend Lodge regularly, has taught me that we need to develop ongoing programs that will create interest and participation in the Lodge (Grand Master Gilbert has asked that we do the same). We must get more involved in the Lodge and community. We need to create an atmosphere of what we are going to do next, instead of "are we going to do anything this year?"



"Realizing there is always some resistance and pessimism in starting something new, there is a large group of new Master Masons who are young and excited about being a part of our great Fraternity. Let's not dash that enthusiasm. I would rather be hearing 'I wish I had time to do more' instead of, 'I don't have time or can't.' Brethren, we are all busy, but if we just budget a couple of hours a week to this worthy endeavor, it will pay benefits to all of us and all that follow."

As always, if we as District Officers can be of assistance to you or your Lodge, feel free to contact any one of us. We are willing to attend your programs, Lodge meetings, etc. We only ask not to 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. x

**ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS DISTRICT**

**MONROE**  
V.: W.:  
Hugh Woodside  
248-2106

**MONROE**  
V.: W.:  
Harry DeHollander  
244-2615

[hwood@rochester.rr.com](mailto:hwood@rochester.rr.com) [ny4harry@aol.com](mailto:ny4harry@aol.com)

By V.: W.: Hugh Woodside

#### Happy New Year

V.: W.: DeHollander and I extend to you and your families our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We hope that you had a happy and safe Holiday Season, and trust you took a moment to reflect and be thankful for those "manifold blessings and comforts which surround us."

#### School of Ritual January 27th

I remind you that our next *School of Ritual* is scheduled for January 27th at the Damascus Shrine Center. It will begin at 7:30 p.m., and will be hosted by Valley-Simes Lodge. The program for the evening is expected to cover parts of the Standard Work, which involve interactions with Candidates for the Degrees. All of the hard work we do learning how to deliver the Ritual may be lost without also focusing on the *italics* in the Blue Book, which provides us with this information. A key factor in making your Degree successful is to focus on making sure the Candidates have a good experience that evening. We look forward to seeing you at the Shrine to talk about ways in which we can help ensure that new Brothers have a good experience going through the Degrees.

#### Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar for the following events that will be coming later this Spring. Details on both events will follow in fu-

ture editions of the *Masonic Times*.

The March 2009 *School of Ritual* will be held on March 31st at Oatka Lodge.

The Joint Investiture Service is expected to be on May 29th at Fairport-Flower City Lodge, with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. We expect a dinner will be served that evening, for which reservations will be required.

#### Compliance with the Grand Master's Edict

As a reminder, the AGLs need to submit our report to the Grand Lecturer concerning your compliance with the Grand Master's Edict by the beginning of April, 2009. There are a couple of Lodges that have yet to schedule dates with us to observe your Degree for compliance with the Edict. Please ensure that your Lodge has taken the necessary steps to ensure fulfillment with the Edict. If you have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### Due to the Lateness of the Hour...

Let's pretend for just a minute. Here you are reading the *Masonic Times*. You pay Dues to your Lodge. The Lodge sends a check to the Masonic Service Bureau each year to ensure its members receive a copy of the *Masonic Times* each month. Sitting down to read your copy of the *Masonic Times* this month, you open up to the section of the paper, which contains your Lodge's article. Much to your surprise, it states the following: "Due to the lateness of the hour, the Officers of your Lodge have chosen not to submit an article this month."

How would this make you feel? Disappointed? Upset? If it happened more than once, perhaps you would feel a little angry? You have the luxury of knowing you missed out on something, and you may not have important information about your Lodge's activities.

Just as the Master of your Lodge has the responsibility to ensure that the Lodge has submitted an article for the *Masonic Times* each month (regardless of who writes it), he also has the responsibility to ensure the Standard Work is performed *as written*. As a member of your Lodge, you should demand it. Nowhere does the Standard Work include a passage suggesting that a portion of the Ritual for any Degree may be skipped "due to the lateness of the hour."

There are three reasons why I can see that one might try to justify that a portion of the Ritual not be performed "due to the lateness of the hour." While all three are completely avoidable, we do recognize that emergencies exist from time to time.

The first reason, simply put, is laziness. You have already learned the work, and probably already delivered the work in question during the 1st Section of the Degree. As a result, you rationalize that the new Brothers "just heard it" and don't need to hear it again. They DO need to hear it again ... again, and again, and again. That is the only way they will learn the work. By choosing not to do it, you are not really saving much time and you have shortchanged the new Brothers.

The second reason is because a Lodge may not have someone who knows a particular Section of the Standard Work. There are two options here. The long-term solution is that someone from your Lodge should learn that piece of work. On a short-term basis, please ask for help. Please contact one of the AGLs if you need help finding someone who can fill a role for your Degree.

The third situation is, of course, an emergency or unexpected complication that prevents the Brother giving the work from attending Lodge on the evening of the Degree. While this can be solved by having a backup, it is not always possible. If you need to put off a particular Section of the work due to an emergency, you must ensure that it is presented as soon as possible.

In all cases, it is important to the new Brothers to have the Degrees presented in their entirety. Although they obviously can't know what they are missing, YOU know they will be shortchanged if some portion of the Standard Work is not being presented "due to the lateness of the hour." Not presenting a piece of work "due to the lateness of the hour" impairs the new Brothers' ability to learn the work, and is generally unacceptable. It should be unacceptable to each of you as well. We have a responsibility to the new Brothers to ensure we do everything we can to help make them good Masons. Fulfilling this responsibility begins in the Preparation Room, and doesn't end. x

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**Member Development**  
R.:W.:  
**Joseph Privitera**  
Monroe District

**Membership Retention**

Well, here I am listening to Christmas music, with a cup of hot tea, and a vision of a very happy Christmas in my immediate future. Although I have three grandchildren in Texas whom I won't be seeing this Christmas, I will be seeing them, and playing in the play dough, at the cottage this Summer. I still have three grandchildren here, spoiling them rotten and a phone to talk to the other three. Life is good. When you read this it will be about a week after Christmas, but we still have the memory of a good and joyful time and times to come.

At the Lodge Christmas party I sat on Santa's knee. I thanked him for the elevator but then asked him if we could please get that updated kitchen we have been asking for. He said it was a little too big for his bag but maybe he could get his elves to work on it.

**Trestleboards**

We are at the beginning of a new year. However, we are also in the middle of the Lodge year. I imagine that Trestleboard for the year looked real good in September, but now may appear a little ragged around the edges in January. It may have a few holes in it. There are plenty of ideas out there to fill these holes and still have an interesting Winter and Spring. Look in the "24-Inch Gauge" for ideas. You can also show sections of the LSOME Program. Don't forget some social functions.

Whatever updates are made, that Trestleboard does little good if you keep it locked up in that computer. Print it, copy it and mail it or email it. We have Lodge Brothers out there who pay their Dues and they want to know what is going on.

A happy and great year to all. I hope to see you in Lodge or somewhere in the future. ✕

**Monroe District**

**Child ID**

R.:W.:

**Donald Tubman**  
Co-Chairman

889-4725

[daturban@yahoo.com](mailto:daturban@yahoo.com)

**Rick Downs**  
Co-Chairman

[rcdowns@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rcdowns@rochester.rr.com)

**Tom Perrone**

Training Co-ordinator

352-6932

[tewtaul@aol.com](mailto:tewtaul@aol.com)

By Don Tubman

Rick Downs, Tom Perrone and I wish you a very Happy and safe New Year!

The Child ID Program, now called the New York Masonic Safety Identification Program, ALWAYS needs your help. We reach out to you to have great events throughout 2009! A new year brings new hopes.

We hope to become more efficient and useful. The NYMSIP Team is looking at more ways to bring Masonry and the program to the forefront and fill voids in existing systems. This should help children and senior (sea-

soned) citizens be identified so the authorities can rescue them if they stray. We look to each of you for help with this program in 2009 in the traditional way of identifying opportunities for us with children.

I have been in discussion with several nursing home operators about the possibility of going into the homes to assist them with identification opportunities. We look for a busy 2009. Masonically, I would request that, when we reach out to you either by email or telephone, you get back to us as soon as possible so we are not wasting your time or ours.

Remember your Masonic obligations when we ask for help. Many are asked, but few are chosen. After several months, we now have a Lodge Chairman from each Lodge, which can only improve our efficiency:

**Clio** Gordie Smith (392-9261)

**Craftsman Robertson** Kenneth Schumacher (224-6129)

**ERAC** James Jenerson (436-1964)

**Fairport-Flower City** Rick Downs, Co coordinator (615-5918)

**Fame** Doug Jones (406-1164)

**Northfield** Dave Adams (739-6913)

**Oatka** Don Tubman, Co-coordinator (889-4725)

**Seneca** Ken Nelson (383-0997)

**Union Star** Gary Sanford (425-4240)

**Unity** Tom Perrone, Training Director (352-6932)

**Valley-Simes** Mike McBride (722-7714)

**Wakan-Hubbard** Sean Brown (355-9682)

**Webster** Warren Patterson (352-1532)

As I write this, I am praying for a successful event December 13th. at the All-Masonic Bodies Holiday Party. If life plays out properly, we will have collected a few hundred toys as well as trained the Chairman, picked up new members to the team and maybe recruited some new Masons!!!

I hope you participated in the "Toys for Tots" event and we filled you with spaghetti and meatballs and enjoyed a great Holiday Party.

**Share Your Ideas**

In 2009, we would like to schedule as many events as possible and team with fire departments, the police and of course all the Lodges and Concordant Bodies. We hope to reach those children who are not involved in the school Child ID Programs and probably most at risk. 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 Child ID event, feel free to contact us.

**Visit Website**

Information about the Masonic ID Program is available online at <http://nychip.org/>. We are always looking for Volunteers to help with the program. We can be reached most easily by email to schedule an event at:

- [daturban@yahoo.com](mailto:daturban@yahoo.com)
- [rcdowns@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rcdowns@rochester.rr.com)
- [tewtaul@aol.com](mailto:tewtaul@aol.com)

You can contact Don Tubman at 889-4725. ✕



By Erik Loepker, Chairman

Let me take a moment to welcome you all to 2009. Not that I got here ahead of you; with but a few infinitesimal variations by our relative positions on the globe, we pretty much arrived here in the same moment. I'm sure some of us are a little worse for wear for the transition, having been intemperate in our celebrations. I sincerely hope that however you greeted Baby New Year (whether asleep or Rockin' away with Dick Clark and Ryan Seacrest), it was in a manner that you best enjoyed, and that this year presents you with wonderful opportunities.

And, say, I know one such opportunity that is ready made! Think of it as a New Year's Gift! It's something you can acquire and share with others! It's something that provides hours of interaction with people close to you! It's something you can put in your Lodge and, in fact, is something that every Lodge should have!

Now stop that ... I already see you jumping ahead. I know you are filled with yet more excitement, but I really must caution you to restrain yourself.

But, you know what it is already, don't you?

Yes! It's the Traveling Gavel! Imagine going to Northfield Lodge with some of your Brothers. Enjoying a bowl of soup or chili (Northfield's usual fare in the Winter), going through Ritual together and then being bestowed the Gavel with good-natured banter. Then, afterward, with bellies full of food, and hearts full of good cheer, retiring for some Fellowship, then departing for bed.

It's practically a Norman Rockwell painting or Clement Clark Moore poem in the making. And it's waiting for you! Let's not allow this symbol of Fraternity, to which there is connected such cheer, to linger in languor. It's there! It's waiting! You know it should be yours.

Northfield Lodge is located at 17 Church Street, Pittsford. They meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, except for Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter). For details, call their Information Line at 586-2976 or look up their Lodge website at [www.northfieldlodge.org](http://www.northfieldlodge.org). ✕

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

Master  
W.: Ronald Lalik  
377-0097  
[ronlalik@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ronlalik@rochester.rr.com)

Secretary  
W.: Donald C. Bell  
334-7768  
[don\\_bell@hotmail.com](mailto:don_bell@hotmail.com)

1822A Penfield Road, Penfield 14526

By Jon P. Getz

Happy 2009! On behalf of W.: Ron Lalik, we wish every Brother and his family a Happy and Joyous New Year. As we look forward to a fantastic New Year, we continue to work towards making our great Lodge better. We continue to strive in making improvements to the Lodge Hall and hope to have even more op-

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Tuesday, January 6th  
1:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.  
at Clio Lodge  
287 East Avenue, Hilton  
Sponsored by Clio Lodge  
For information, call Gordon Smith 392-9261

Saturday, January 24th  
9 a.m. — 2 p.m.  
at Webster Lodge  
30 Orchard Street, Webster  
Sponsored by Webster Lodge  
For information, call Peter Bowers 265-2526

To make an appointment, Dial 1-800-GIVE-A-LIFE

portunities for the Brothers to enjoy each others fellowship.

**Building Update**

The Lodge continues to address building concerns and is pro-actively looking for a tenant to occupy the prime Four Corners space in Penfield. While the economy hinders some ventures, we are optimistic that a new tenant will take the space soon. Any Brother interested in working with the Building Committee is encouraged to do so. Remember, the building is not only an Historic Landmark, it is also a Lodge Hall.

**Lodge Happenings**

On December 6th, Wakan-Hubbard Lodge, in conjunction with the Town of Penfield, hosted a warming station for families to get warm and listen to caroling as they did some shopping and watched the Christmas Tree lighting at the Four Corners. While there, we took the opportunity to share a little history of the Lodge as well as information about Masonry. W.: Angelo DiCataldo and the Master, W.: Ron Lalik acknowledge and thank "all of the Brothers" who participated in greeting the walk-ins at the Lodge's "Warming Station." V.: W.: Hugh Woodside and W.: Ron Lalik thanked Brother Jon Getz for his public relations work with the Town in setting up the Lodge's participation in this event. We hope to continue such community events in the future.

The December 8th meeting was quite successful as the Brothers work towards making sure the financial foundation is on the Square. We continue to look for any opportunities to strengthen our Lodge and this was confirmed in the December 8th meeting. Special thanks to Don Bell and V.: W.: Hugh Woodside for their hard work in providing the Brothers with this important information.

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Ill.: Robert Zabel passed on to the Great Architect on November

16th. While a wonderful tribute was provided in the December *Masonic Times*, the Brothers at Wakan-Hubbard wish to pay special tribute to our Brother.

Bob is survived by his wife of 65 years, Doris Lee Zabel; son, John (Sheryl Stribrny) Zabel; daughters, Carol Lee (Ralph) White of FL, and Suzie (Frank) Markos of MA; 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and cousins.

An active Mason, Bob was a Past Master of Wakan-Hubbard Lodge, he was Past Commander-in-Chief in the Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite, was coronated a 33rd Degree Honorary Member of the Supreme Council and was Secretary Emeritus. He also belonged to: Damascus Shrine; Germania Lodge of Perfection; Hiram Chapter (RAM); Doric Council; Cyrene-Monroe Commandery (RSM); St. Mark's Conclave Red Cross of Constantine; Royal Order of Scotland; Royal Order of Jesters and Tall Cedars of Lebanon. Bob was a Past District Deputy Grand Master and Past Regional Assistant Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of the State of NY; and a Past Director of the Masonic Service Bureau.

Mrs. Bernard (Nancy) Andrews passed away on December 6th.

The Lodge wishes to let Edda Tijou, wife of R.: W.: John Tijou, know that she is in our prayers.

A special thank you to Brothers Angelo DiCataldo, Syd Curran and John Rees as they visit Brothers who are in sickness and distress.

**New News**

As we plan for 2009, we will continue to keep the Brothers posted about events and happenings. We encourage Brothers to provide any stories about our Lodge history to include as part of our news. Keeping memories helps to keep focus on the future.

If anyone should have stories to share or news to pass along, please contact Jon Getz. Again, we welcome anyone who would like to contribute to do so! ✕

**Remember the Brotherhood Fund**

**Wright Wisner**  
3165 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road Rochester, NY 14623  
(585) 427-2880 FAX (585) 272-1216  
**Claude H. Wright**  
President

**BILL & EARL'S**  
AUTO MAINTENANCE, INC.  
Complete foreign and domestic auto repair  
235 WINTON Rd. N. (585) 288-3210



**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

We have been told that W.: Richard DeCroce's wife, Jeanne, underwent heart by-pass surgery September 26th. She had some problems but is coming along very slowly. Jeanne and Dick, our thoughts and prayers are with you - get well soon! Cards, emails and phone calls are in order. Call R.: W.: Richard Snyder at 342-2419 or myself for info.

It was great to see George Bundoc and Sharon at our Annual Holiday Party; Bill Scheer was there also and seemed under full steam (Congratulations on your 45 Years of Service Award again, Bill).

Chuck Skopinsky's mother passed away and a number of our Brothers attended the Memorial Service. Our hearts and prayers are with you, Chuck, as well as with your father, Bernard.

Vern Saunders missed our Awards Ceremony because he's having problems. Howard and Virginia Belt are getting me more information on Vern's location and we'll be taking his 50 Years of Service Award to him.

My Brothers, please help us with phone calls, visitation to the Brothers you know, and communicate back to the Lodge. Brothers, if you're in sickness or distress, please let us know. Even if you're feeling good and haven't had a chance to get to Lodge, give us a call or drop a line just to say "hello." We'd be glad to hear from you!

#### Holiday Celebration & Award Ceremony

We had our Holiday Celebration and Award Ceremony on December 9th with about 67 people in attendance. The Award Recipients were listed in last month's *Masonic Times*. Wally Wagner was in attendance (in the photo with his wife Beth and me) receiving his 60 years of service award, Bill Scheer received his 45 years of service award, Nelson Bertch and Glenn Stahl received awards for 35 years of service, Gary Burke received his 30 years of service award. I had the honor and pleasure to present each of these. I've learned a lot from each one of them over the years (and am still learning).



Wallace Wagner holding Certificate (center) receives congratulations from Worshipful Master Michael McBride for 60 years of membership in the Fraternity as wife, Beth, watches.



Rita Snyder (right) co-ordinated the Toy Collection for patients at the Shriners Hospital for Children-Erie. Held in conjunction with the Holiday Celebration, she presented them to Damascus Recorder, James Slocum, with Richard Snyder's help.

In addition to recognizing years of service, we opened our Lodge of Remembrance for our Brothers who have passed on to our Heavenly Father this past year:

Robert Geiwitz - 12/14/2007  
Carlton Pigage - 2/12/2008  
Robert Miller - 3/22/2008  
William Metcalf - 6/6/2006.

We also recognized all who have died fighting for our country and all Brothers who have gone on before us. We were fortunate to have as our guests, Mrs. Robert Geiwitz (Edna) and her son James Geiwitz. Both extended their appreciation for the invitation to join us in our celebration and ceremony. It was great to have them with us!

We gathered gifts, donated and purchased from Lodge funds for the benefit of children spending the holidays in the Shriners Hospital for Children in Erie. Enjoy the picture from the event and hear more about it from Rita and Richard Snyder! Many thanks to Rita and Richard for all the efforts in purchasing and collecting the gifts! Rita started this last year and it's now a tradition I'm glad to support again and again! Our thanks to Dave Mura and his wife, Pat, who also helped with decorations and table setups. Rita and Richard also brought in some gifts for the Ladies, paper goods, some of the desserts, most of the hors d'oeuvres and the Christmas tree and ornaments! Norma Gingold and Rita made gifts for the Ladies that were distributed with joy. Thanks, Norma!

Again we enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by our own Chef, Chuck Skopinsky! It was great ... and no one went away hungry! Many thanks, Chuck! Our Junior Warden, Mike Hueston, kept our reservations straight, ensuring we had enough food for everyone. Thanks Mike!

We had a very successful 1st Degree last month. Congratulations to Mike Hueston for a superb job in the East. Senior Deacon, Mike Bailey, who is one of our newest Brothers, did magnificent work and is very proud to have met everyone's expectations! He asked me to extend his heartfelt thanks to everyone involved with the Degree, particularly those who helped coach and support him ... Nelson Bertch for coaching and Nelson's wife, Sharon, for the hospitality in their home during our many rehearsals! Thanks to Pat Mulrooney for his excellent presentations and to everyone in the Degree cast and support group as well as the Brothers who attended in support of the Lodge and our two new Brothers!

Join us on January 13th for our 2nd Degree. John Faro will be in the East and is also directing the Degree. Come and show continued support for our two new Brothers!

On January 27th we will be hosting the next *School of Ritual*. Please join us for these important events. I hope to see or hear from you soon!

#### Toys for Erie Hospital

You did it again! Our "Toys for the Shriners Hospital for Children - Erie" was a winner. We, I mean you, sent them a total of eighty-eight new toys. Each child who receives treatment from the hospital is sent home with a new toy and this year was the most needed yet. Congratulate yourselves for sending a lot of kids home with big smiles on their faces. The Damascus Shriners will deliver the toys to the Hospital.

#### From Your Secretary

By R.: W.: Herbert Spencer  
Membership

Currently Lodge Membership is 129. For increased membership this Calendar Year, we Raised two Brothers, restored one and affiliated one. Reduced membership included the loss of three Brothers to the Great Architect, one for Non-Payment of Dues and one Dimited. There are two Brothers waiting to take their 2nd Degree at the January Meeting.

#### Brotherhood Fund

To date, the Lodge has contributed a little over \$1000 from 24 Brothers. My Brothers, we are now starting the second half of this Campaign. It would be nice to see the Lodge participation increase in the number of contributors. You can either send your checks to me in the amount you can afford or, if you wish, send directly to Grand Lodge. Last year Valley-Simes was #1 in the District for a dollar amount,

but nowhere near the top in the number of members who donated. Lets do it. Checks should be made out to the "Masonic Brotherhood Fund."

#### Dues

I am glad to report that over 50 percent of the Brothers have sent in their 2009 Dues. However, we still have five Brothers who have not paid 2008 Dues. It looks as though we will have one NPD for 2008.

#### January Birthdays

Congratulations to Brothers with January birthdays. We have two very special birthdays to mark - Brother Howard Minsky will be 95 on January 21st and Brother Irving Schuth will be 92 on January 28th.

Robert Guilfoil and Douglas Spencer (1st), James Woodruff (5th), Martin Suter (7th), Jose Diaz (12th), Robert Stear (14th), David Braun (19th), James Thomson (23rd), Joseph Holt, Jr. (25th), Robert Bishop (26th), William Babcock, Jr. (27th) and Melvin Corson (29th).

#### Masonic Anniversaries

The following Stephen Moore, Charles Fornataro, Adam Jurzyniec and John Rogalski were Raised in the month of January. We wish you many more years in our glorious Fraternity.

#### About Reservations

Reservations for dinners are requested. Remember, "A reservation made is a reservation paid". Your contacts for reservations are:

Jr. Warden, W.: Mike Hueston  
509-0606  
mph0523@frontiernet.net  
or W.: Michael McBride  
michael.c.mcbride@kodak.com  
H - (315) 904-4024  
W - 722-7714  
C - 747-4978

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

The Holidays have come and gone along with all the wrapping paper. I hope you found everything under the tree you were looking for. I spent a lot of time with family and enjoyed every minute. I hope you were able to spend lots of time with the family.

#### Have-a-Heart Campaign

With the start of January comes planning for the "Have-a-Heart" Campaign. I hope to

see a good turnout, so check our scheduled times and plan now to participate. The Campaign begins January 31st and runs through February 15th. I'll be bringing my family and hope to see yours there, too.

January's second meeting is our 1st Degree; if there is a part you would like, let me know.

Kudos to Dave, Dan, Don, Bob, Frank and Keith for a smooth Officers and Trustees meeting.

#### Looking Forward

Brothers and families please come out January 15th for our first Jazz Concert Night at SOTA, starting at 7 p.m. I'm looking for a date for Lacrosse or Basketball, too.

#### Craftsman Robertson Lodge No. 969

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



Master  
W.: Kenneth  
Schumacher  
436-2076

Secretary  
W.: Ralph Jurgens  
(315) 524-3686

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

By R.: W.: Skip Waterstreet

May I first extend best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you. We have much to look forward to in 2009, and I hope it will all be in a positive direction.

We have four new Initiates to Raise this year. The original Trestleboard called for the 2nd Degree to be on February 17th and the 3rd Degree on April 7th. We will contact you if there are changes in the schedule. Meanwhile, we could use your participation in these ceremonies. Please contact the Worshipful Master, Ken Schumacher, or W.: Ralph Jurgens, Secretary, if you can help.

Now that you have a new calendar, please mark down three dates, in addition to our regular meetings: January 13th, March 10th and April 14th. Plans are for a dinner with the Ladies again on both January 13th and March 10th, although this is subject to change as adjustments are made to the schedule. Then, plan to attend the Fellowcraft Club Annual Dinner at Rick's Prime Rib House on April 14th. This is a stag event. We will have more details in the next couple of months.

#### Sickness and Distress

I learned that Brother Ken Mertz had been hospitalized briefly for surgery. He was out to the December Party with Barbara and looking good.

Brother Phil Cissell had surgery a couple of months ago, but no one let us know. He is recov-



390 Years of Service - R.: W.: Derek VanHouten and Fame Lodge Master, W.: Doug Jones, congratulate Brother Richard Eggert (far left) - 60 years, W.: Keith Moore - 55 years, Brother Doug Hunt - 60 years and W.: John Foster - 55 years. Not pictured - Brother Howard Topel - 55 years, Brother James Vanderbeck - 55 years and Brother Merlin Blakley - 50 years.



ering slowly but surely, according to Brother Leroy Forbes. We extend our best wishes to him for good health.

Speaking of the December Party, Denny and Her Escorts provided our musical entertainment again, much to the delight of those in attendance. Our new Brothers and their wives enjoyed hearing their performance for the first time.

**Happy Birthday**

A joyous celebration is wished from all your Brothers to the following: John Sanna (1st); L. Edward Walker (8th); John Bardo (9th); Franklyn Morse (13th); Royden Guess (13th); Robert Stewart (17th); James Clark (20th); Jim Greene (21st); Kenneth Skidmore (24th); William Wimberly (28th); and Robert Ogden (26th).

**Dues are Due!**

By now you should have received your Dues Notice. Many of you have already sent in your Dues and, as Treasurer, I thank you. W.: Ralph thanks you as well, as it means he is able to get much of the detail work recorded in the MORI System. Incidentally, we have discovered that a few Brothers did not have their Dues payments recorded in the MORI System and, consequently, were billed more than they should have been. Did this happen to you? Please let Brother Ralph know if we have to make a correction. We are new to the System and are still on the learning curve. Don't take it personally. If you have not yet sent in your check, won't you please do it now? Thanks, again.

The names of four Brothers who are in arrears were read at the December 16th meeting.



Entertainment for the Lodge Holiday Party, arranged by Brother Warren Doerr, was, once again, Denny and Her Escorts. The trio provided the audience with delightful renditions of traditional Christmas music and other favorite tunes, bringing a touch of nostalgia to the evening. Our next Ladies Night out for Dinner is January 13th.



They are two years in arrears and were to be dropped from our membership roles as of December 31st. Hopefully, payment was received before then. Allow me to plead here, my Brothers, for your help. If you are ill, in a care facility or in financial difficulty, please let us know. It is not in your, or our, best interest to expel delinquent members.

If you don't wish to be a member of the Fraternity any longer, please pay your obligations and request a Dimit. You leave with a clean slate. If you are unaware,

each Lodge pays a \$30 assessment per member per year to Grand Lodge. If you wait the two years to be unaffiliated for non-payment of Dues, the Lodge has already incurred \$60 in expenses. We are not financially strong enough to continue to operate this way, and later this year I will be proposing some By-Laws changes, including one to reduce the time limit on Dues payments. Call me, or another Officer, if you wish to discuss this issue.

See you in Lodge.

Recently, the schedule was changed to twice weekly but each session is a half-hour longer than the previous ones. This does give him one more day a week without the inconvenience that goes with the treatment. Our best wishes to Brother Norm Gauch.

Best wishes to all for a happy, safe and prosperous new year.

**TEMPUS FUGIT!**

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
 Friday, January 2nd  
 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
 at Webster Lodge Hall  
 30 Orchard Street  
 Adults - \$7      Children - \$4

**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

We had a very successful Brother Bring-a-Friend Program the evening of December 4th. A very tasty Ham and Scalloped Potatoes dinner was prepared by Brothers Haldoupis and Clapp, while yours truly and Brother Cronk set up the Dining Room. Several gentlemen were introduced to the Craft by the able efforts of our Chaplain and Senior Warden. Brother Bill Gross was unexpectedly called upon to give a brief synopsis of his experience as a new Master Mason. Although initially startled when asked to speak, he handled the task with remarkable composure, and delivered a very impressive message.

Webster Comfort Care was the beneficiary of our Charitable Spaghetti Dinner in December. While not quite a record, we served a handsome 194 meals on December 5th.

The Fellowcraft Club enjoyed a nice meal at Streppa's Bistro on Saturday evening, December 6th. Following a delicious and generous meal with our ladies, we struggled through an Election of Officers for the 2009 year. The incumbent President, Bob Passino, narrowly beat out all challengers for the position of President. Undoubtedly, his strength helped carry incumbent Brother Jim Pray to the Office of Vice-President. Since Brother Hank Libera was not able to attend, he's in as Treasurer! Since I've pledged my al-

legiance to Brother Passino, I'll continue on as Secretary. Whatever your thoughts are about the Fellowcraft Club, you may be surprised to find out that we do much to maintain and analyze problems at the facility and complement the Trustees with their responsibilities. Occasionally, there is time for some wine of refreshment, and a lesson of Euchre.

Since January 1st falls on the first Thursday of the month, we will **not** have a Communication that evening. That will give everyone a chance to rest up for the Spaghetti Dinner on the 2nd of January. Many of you may have the day off, which will enable you to help out at the preparation and/or cleanup of our Spaghetti Dinner. By all means, do come by and enjoy the dinner.

It is my desire to have a Walk-About on January 15th. This is mainly for the benefit of our newly Raised Brothers. However, it is received well from those who are less familiar with the responsibilities of the different Stations and places in the Lodge, and informative enough to hold the interest of the seasoned Brother.

Masonic Education is very important to me, and should be to all of us. We have an opportunity to attend the *School of Ritual* on January 27th at the Damascus Shrine Center. Valley-Simes Lodge will fill the Chairs at this School. It is my desire to earn the attendance banner this year so it can be displayed in our Lodge next year. Please attend the School and **be sure to sign in on the Webster Lodge attendance sheet upon arrival.**

As we look forward to February, please reserve some time to support the "Have-a-Heart," Campaign at Eastview Mall for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House.

Happy New Year to all.

**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

**Good News**

Brother and Captain Dan Fletcher is wrapping things up at FOB Vulcan in Afghanistan and is getting ready to rotate. He should be home soon. We are looking forward to seeing Dan again and having him back in Lodge.

Our Marshal, Rob Buchanan, has announced there will soon be another little Buchanan in the neighborhood. Congratulations to Rob and Kellie.

Our Senior Deacon, Tom Perrone, has landed a new job in Albion. Congratulations, Tom.

**Sad News**

Our sympathy and condolences to Brother Colin "Bud" Baker whose wife, Gladys, died November 15th at age 85. Bud and Gladys had been married 65 years. A memorial service was held November 23rd at Adams Basin United Methodist Church.

**Sickness and Distress**

W.: Andy Alvarez slipped on the snow and sprained his knee. He is in a brace and will need to use crutches for a few weeks.

**Recent Events**

Unity Lodge sponsored a Blood Drive on December 3rd; sixty units of blood were collected.

**Upcoming Events**

Our 1st Degree will be January 12th. We have two Candidates in waiting. The 2nd Degree will be February 9th and the 3rd Degree on March 9th. Assignments are being worked out now and will be communicated by email and telephone.

**Dues are Owing**

Everyone should have received their Dues Notice by now. Please make a point of sending in your Dues as soon as possible.

**Brotherhood Fund**

At the same time, please consider making your Brotherhood Fund Contribution. Remember, it's not how much you contribute, but **that** you contribute. Every single dollar is important.

**January Birthdays**

Please note that the MORI system, maintained by Grand Lodge, defaults birth dates to January 1st if they don't have the exact date. Please let us know if your listing is not correct.

Best wishes to these Brothers who are celebrating birthdays in January: Robert D. Allen, Dwight H. Andrews, Ronald J. Arndt, Edward A. Bosco, Harold V. Boughner, George R. Burke, Charles D. Cork, Charles E. Daycock, George D. Deichert, Richard D. Felgner, William T. Hart, Donald L. Jacobs, F. Stanley Johnson, Richard Kern, Leroy Lester, Jeffrey A. Liebenow, Charles Markham, Frank J. Murrer, Rolf W. Schelle, John R. Seaman, Ralph H. Smith, Floyd H. Vick (1st); Ernest J. Kirkpatrick and Nelson G. Wolford (5th); William Allen and Leslie Armstrong (10th); Albert W. Kyler, Ralph H. Maibohm and Alan J. Widrick (11th); Millard D. Fairley and Bruce R. Palmer (12th); Karl F.

Janson (13th); Ferman E. Bailey (14th); Gordon F. Williams (15th); Colin R. Baker (19th); John J. Sywulski (25th); Dayle O. Martin (26th); Leonard Mack and Leon B. Randall (27th); Warren Dewitt (28th); Chad E. Kyler (29th); Salvatore C. Angelo (30th) and James F. Bauer (31st).

**Masonic Anniversaries**

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

1941 - Norman E. Gauch

1964 - Dana R. Spencer

2005 - Chad E. Kyler, Pablo Lopez, Jr., Anthony Marotti and Rick Randolph

2008 - Salvatore C. Augello and John S. Lemke

Brothers, if you discover any discrepancies or inaccuracies in the dates for birthdays or Raisings, please let us know.


**Norman E. Gauch, DSA**

Brother Norman E. Gauch, DSA, was born June 28, 1919, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason January 20, 1941, in John A. Robertson Lodge No. 1032. Norm is the second longest-serving Brother in our Lodge. He received his 65-year Pin and Certificate at our 2007 Awards Night. He has distinguished himself by his faithful attendance at Lodge. He had occupied most of the Chairs in the Line and received the Distinguished Award while at John A. Robertson. Norm was slated to become the last Master of John A. Robertson Lodge before the merger with Craftsman, but the schedule for the merger was advanced and took place before the Elections so he never made Master. Norm has been on dialysis for the past couple of years, going three times weekly.

Gravesites available at  
**White Haven Memorial Park**  
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
 For information, contact the  
**Masonic Service Bureau**



**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



Master of Northfield Lodge, W.: Dave Adams, dropping off donations for the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

planned a Family Sledding Event on January 24th (if the notoriously fickle Rochester weather enables us to do so).

To tickle your fancy, dust off your best manners for a presentation regarding etiquette by R.:W.: John Zabel on February 5th.

While this article is shorter than my usual efforts, I take this opportunity to remind you that all of our latest information can easily be found on our website at [www.northfieldlodge.org](http://www.northfieldlodge.org) or by calling our Information Line at 586-2976.

**Let me repeat that ...**  
 Call the Information Line at 586-2976. It is an important number, and Brother Jim Deasey has been taking pains to ensure the information is consistently current and informative.

Happy 2009, everyone; may it shine brightly for all.

**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

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa (or whatever you celebrate) and may your New Year be happy and full of joy. I know we are all mumbling about the state of the economy, but we should all be thankful for what we have - our families, our health, and our Fraternity. I believe this difficult period is a great time for us all to reflect on the true meaning of this Holiday Season. It is not just a time for getting presents and riotous celebration, it is a time of remembrance and renewal of our faith.

**New Brothers**

Before the Holidays began, we had a busy night on December 10th. This Communication marked our 3rd Degree Ritual and attendance was great. Brothers James Davenport, Dan Footer, Michael Shultz and John White were Raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. This is a very eager group of new Brothers who are extremely interested in learning as much as they can about the Fraternity. They are also very excited about pitching in on Lodge events. It is so refreshing to see such enthusiasm.

A delicious Lasagna Dinner, prepared by W.: Tim White and his family, preceded the Degree work. It was also our Christmas dinner (since we do not meet again in December) and provided an opportunity for good camaraderie.

Several guests attended this Degree Night. One guest was very special for Brother Dan Footer as it was his brother-in-law from Maine, Brother Gene O'Neill. Brother Gene assisted in the Hiram Legend and Raised Brother Dan to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brother Rob Heintzelman from Wayne Lodge also assisted with the Raising of the Brothers and the Hiram Legend. Furthermore, the AGLs, V.:W.: Harry DeHollander and V.:W.: Hugh Woodside visited the Lodge, which made the evening quite extraordinary.

Even though we have completed this set of Degrees with these new Brothers, we have at least two more Candidates and expect to begin the Degree work on January 28th.

**Fundraising Dinners**

The Spaghetti Dinner for December 27th was cancelled due to its proximity to Christmas. However, advanced ticket sales for the January 24th Spaghetti Dinner are available. Please contact me at 278-7389. We plan to have this event on the fourth Saturday of each month this year. While help is always appreciated, your efforts to get people to attend is most important. Therefore, call for tickets and sell them to friends and family. The meals are eat-in or take-out, so if a person has an advanced ticket, they can come and get their dinner then go home to enjoy it if they want.

**Sad News**  
 On a more somber note, Brethren, it becomes my sad duty to announce the death of Brother Eric Thomson who was initiated October 26, 1977; Passed January 25, 1978; Raised March 8, 1978 and At Rest December 12, 2008. A memorial service was held at Pierce Memorial Church on Buffalo Road December 16th with a Masonic Service held at Oatka Lodge December 17th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Eric's family during this most difficult time.

Blessings to all for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

that happen. No hard sell, just information.

As the days shorten and our roads become narrower due to snow banks, please remember those Brethren who might forego a meeting out of concern for possible driving challenges. Consider car pooling and calling those who might not venture out when weather threatens. If you find yourself in a position where you would like a ride or helping hand - give a call.

Please apprise us of any widows or elderly Brethren who might benefit from some Brotherly assistance. A smiling visitor's face or a shoveled walk may go a long way to brighten a Winter's day. In such cases, you may find everyone benefits from these experiences.

**Sickness and Distress**

Two deaths were reported - Brother Philip Kates died on November 24th and Brother Joseph A. Klein died on December 2nd. The Lodge extends our sympathy to the families.

Brother Easton "Kel" Kelsey was absent from the last meeting at his doctor's recommendation.

**Masonic Anniversaries**

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


- 1960 - Seymour Kopen, Henry Shulman and Morey Waltuck
- 1968 - Bernard Weltman
- 1999 - James Lindstrom

**January Birthdays**

January birthday wishes go to Brothers Leonard Simon (1st), Robert Cameron (4th), Thomas Green (6th), Harold Feinberg (9th), Ruby Baker (11th), Gregory Hampton and Ronald Weber (16th), Leonard Fulmer (17th), Glenn Schaefer (18th), Ronald Freeling (22nd), Joseph Lynn (24th) and Morey Waltuck (29th). Best wishes for the year to come!

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

**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

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season in the tradition of your faith. January starts with a bang. The Master Mason Degree will be conferred on our two new Brothers on January 12th. I welcome volunteers to participate in the 3rd Degree. You could become a Masonic Ritual star by helping now and in other Degrees that will follow. Please let me know of your interest and you could be on your way to your "fifteen minutes of fame." Many hands make LIGHT WORK.

The meeting on January 26th will be a Brother Bring-a-Friend Night. Is there a son, work associate, neighbor or friend you would like to introduce to Masonry? Now is the time to make

**Monroe District Lodge News  
 Livingston District News  
 and  
 News from  
 Genesee-Wyoming District  
 continues on Page 16.**

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By Erik Loepker, Jr. Warden

However you may have felt or thought about 2008, it's now behind us ... in the past, but not forgotten. After all, our Brethren undertook some significant year-end activities, and these should be mentioned.

First, we doff our collective hats to the Brothers of Fairport-Flower City Lodge for allowing us to insert our Entered Apprentice into their 2nd Degree Ritual. We thank them most sincerely for their Fraternal spirit.

Northfield Lodge ended its Food Drive in December, dropping off the last of the stored foods and paper goods to the Food Cupboard. W.: Brother David Adams and Brother Erik Loepker made the final run. In its place, Northfield will be starting up a Toy Drive for Children.

The year ended on a good note with our usual Family Holiday Event; we missed everyone that could not make it.

**Mark Your Calendar**

Looking ahead in 2009, we have a 3rd Degree on January 15th. We have also (tentatively)



Brothers, family and friends of Northfield Lodge warming up to bring Seasonal Carols to the widows of Brothers and shut-in Lodge members.

**Northfield Lodge #426**  
 Christmas Caroling for Lodge Widows  
 December 12, 2008



Doris Weick



Barbara Brown



Ruth Stone

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# Damascus News

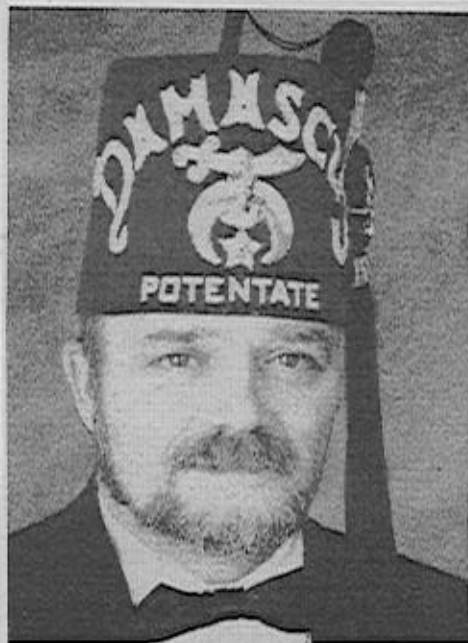
Damascus Shrine Center No. 2

January 2009

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

**Website**  
**[www.damascusshriners.org](http://www.damascusshriners.org)**

**Shrine Office Hours**  
**Monday — Friday**  
**9:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**



**BRUCE CHILTON**  
**POTENTATE-ELECT**

The first thing to communicate is my thanks to all of you for the faith and trust you have demonstrated by honoring me to serve a second term as your Illustrious Potentate. A question many of you probably have asked, along with my wife, is "Why would I want to?" I will answer that later in this article.

**Sincere Thanks**

But first, thanks to Illustrious Sir Larry Canfield and his Lady Ellie. Larry and Ellie overcame a lot of obstacles to do the best job they could as Potentate and First Lady of Damascus Shrine Center. Larry made a lot of tough decisions. He did what he felt was best for Shrinedom and Damascus. Together, Larry and Ellie attended most Club and Unit functions, and he made himself available for whatever was going on. That is an act that in 2009 I can't and won't attempt to duplicate.

Ellie was very successful at raising money for the Hospitals and, in spite of the previously mentioned obstacles, she didn't give up. She kept her head up high and rose above. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for all they accomplished. I wish to thank both of them publically and would ask that the next time you see them, you do the same.

**A Repeat Challenge**

I accepted the position of Chief Rabban because I was asked to by my dear, departed Brother, Bill Kuehne. The "Coons" (as I lovingly called him) was called by the Great Architect of the Universe on June 8th of 2008 and I had a decision to make. Do I continue and go on as Potentate or do I step down?

The decision to go on took many months and I second-guess it every day. Bill thought the Line was inexperienced and could benefit from having the guidance of an active Past Potentate. I countered by telling Bill I wasn't going anywhere and I didn't need to be in Line to mentor him or anyone else who truly wanted any help I could give them.

Bill adamantly disagreed and said it wasn't the same as having me on the Divan and in the "thick of things." When he told me that he felt so strongly he wanted me on the Divan with him, that

he would be willing to stay at Assistant Rabban and allow me to go to Chief Rabban and then to Potentate, I knew I couldn't say no to him. That is why I've accepted this position and, in Bill's memory, I promise to try and accomplish what my Brother thought I could.

**"Change"**

"Change" is a word I heard way too much of during the Presidential Election Campaigns. It was a word that was bantered around constantly and, in my mind, ultimately influenced the outcome of the Election. Whether or not we really see any change, or any change we do see is for the better, is yet to be determined. But Damascus Shriners in the coming year **WILL** see change.

**New Officers**

You have voted in a new Oriental Guide with your Election of Oscar Wilson. Although Oscar isn't a new face, he is a new face to the Elected Divan. I have always described Oscar as a horse. He is always there and gives his all to everything he does. We will all benefit as he progresses through the Shrine Divan Line.

**Recorder**

You have also chosen a new Recorder with the Election of Bill Gross. Bill is a relatively new Mason and Shriner and will have an extremely busy plate, but he is up to the task. He has already taken personal time from his full-time job to start the learning process of becoming the Recorder. That kind of dedication shows you have made a solid choice. Bill's task is not insignificant. He brings with him a bounty of knowledge and skills. His task is to update and modernize the heartbeat of the Temple, - the Office. I am pleased that Bill, a fellow member of my Lodge (Webster), the Wheelers and a Harley rider, was elected to this task. I take pride in the fact that Bill approached me at an "Ugly Run" with the question, "How do you become a part of this organization?" The rest is history. It will be a pleasure to work alongside Bill in his first year of, hopefully, many as the Recorder of Damascus Temple.

**Treasurer**

Another new and important Election result is in the Election of Terry Wihlen, Sr. (alias the Grand Master) to the position of Treasurer. I am absolutely thrilled Terry agreed to take this position because of his capability and the fact that he is one of my closest friends. Terry, Rich Friedman and I were Grand Lodge Officers together in 1992-1994 and have remained extremely close throughout the years. For those who KNOW Terry there is NO doubt of his ability and perseverance. (Is that a nice word for stubbornness?) Terry will apply that to this job and the fact he has more integrity than anyone I know will be an asset to Damascus. You can rest-assured that if something isn't right, regardless of what Rich or I say or do, it will be corrected. When Terry agrees to do a job, his integrity comes first. You have chosen the right Noble for this position.

**Appointed Divan**

The members of the Appointed Divan will be: Steve Sill, Eric Lubberts, Sean Noonan, Ken Milner, Andy Rueby and Lee Coller. I look forward to working and laugh-

ing with the whole Team. This job should, and will be, fun!

**Colonel of the Units**

Due to health reasons, Carl Mason has elected to step down as Colonel of the Units after serving since I asked him to in 2004. We all thank him for his diligent service to that position over the years. I am also thrilled to tell you that Ed Wihlen has agreed to fill that position. I didn't know it at the time I asked him, but he has family experience in the job. His father, John Wihlen, Jr., also was, at one time, Colonel of the Units. We welcome Ed and look forward to working with him.

**Trustee**

Craig Josephson was voted in as a new Trustee. Craig is a new Shriner and the current Treasurer of Wayne Lodge. Craig is a War Veteran and also a member of the Wheelers. He resides in Ontario with his wife, Cindy, and son.

**Membership**

Membership will be Chaired by Gary Burke and Co-Chaired by Eric Lubberts. I have high hopes for this Committee as our Membership is our **MOST** important asset. Gary and Debbie, Eric and Jeanine and I all went to Tampa for the Membership Seminar. They were, and are, very excited from the training they received. They are in the process of planning for the ensuing year with the goal

of finally achieving a plus in our numbers for the first time in many years.

As the Region 11 Membership Chairman I share their enthusiasm. In 2009 we will have TWO Ceremonials and will obligate no one other than in those Ceremonials. Membership in Damascus is a privilege and those desiring membership will have to wait until the Ceremonials. Both Ceremonials will be held on Saturdays and will have many aspects from a Red Rose Ceremony for the new Nobles' spouses to the exciting Fez Presentation, with the Fez being placed on the new Nobles' heads by their spouses or significant others.

**Public Relations**

More great news as Paul Kolecki has agreed, with enthusiasm, to take the position of Public Relations Chairman. Paul is exactly what Damascus has dreamed of in qualifications for this position. Paul owns his own DJ service called Lazer Sounds. In addition to that he is the General Manager of the Public TV Station in Fairport and has recently started as a DJ on LEGENDS 102.7 FM radio. I have had MANY people tell me they are seeing and seeing professional Shriner membership and Hospital Public Service Announcements on TV and radio. That is a result of Paul already starting (with the Potentate's approval) his 2009 position.

Continued on Page 12



Presented Years of Service Pins at the November Shrine Meeting by Illustrious Larry Canfield (right), Potentate, were (from left) Nobles Dean Faro, H. "Fritz" Friedrich, Harry Steinforth and Dr. Frederick Halik. Pins were for 50 or more years as Shriners.



Presentation of 50 year Shrine Pin and Certificate to Noble Richard Felgner by Ill. Bruce Chilton, Potentate-elect, and Rich Friedman, Assistant Rabban-elect, on December 13th. They were accompanied by Nobles Terry Wihlen, Sr. and Tom Grape.



## SHRINE LUNCH CLUB

By Jim Toogood

Shrine Lunch Club will meet Mondays at noon at the Fairport Village Inn, 103 North Main Street in Fairport in January, February and March.

## DIRECTORS STAFF

The Directors Staff had a good year in 2008. We thank our Director, Lee Coller, Sr.; President, Ron Edwards and all the Club Members and guests who came out to support the Club making last year another successful one. The Officers hope you had a good Holiday and everyone is wished a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

### New Officers

Our Club Officers for 2009 are  
President **Ron Edwards**  
Vice-President **Al Mallaber**  
Secretary/Treasurer **Vance Collom**  
Director **Lee Coller, Sr.**

The Directors Staff joined the Geneva Shrine Club Holiday Party again and it was a memorable time for all. The Geneva Shrine Club hosts a great party, a real class act, and they planned something for everyone.

We are looking for a new restaurant to hold our Monthly Dinner Meetings. The Lehigh Valley Restaurant had a large menu selection and good prices, but was very noisy with multiple TVs operating in the bar.

Our President has scheduled our next meeting for Wednesday, January 28th, at Cheap Charlie's: 8 Elm Street, Bloomfield, NY. Social hour is at 5:30 p.m.; Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Everyone orders dinner off the menu. All nobles and ladies are invited.

### Directions to Cheap Charlie's

Go South out of Victor on Maple Avenue/County Road 3 for 5.6 miles. Cheap Charlie's is on the East side of CR 3, which turns into Elm Street in Bloomfield. If you get to the traffic light at Routes 5 and 20, turn around and go back a mile.

Until next time, God Bless.

## BRUCE CHILTON

Continued from Page 11

Paul also is the Noble responsible for the idea and the coordination of the *Cruise Nights* that we held at the Temple. We are VERY fortunate to have Paul as a part of our Team. If you see or hear a spot, let Paul know and thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

### Upcoming Events

There are lots of things coming up in 2009, but I'll just highlight some of the most immediate dates.

In January, we have the Shell-a-Buck and Installation of Officers.

The February meeting will feature Pete Bowers. For years Pete has Chaired the Transportation of Patients efforts for Damascus. Although Pete is behind the scenes, he does a heck of a job for us. I've never heard a critical word about Pete and what he does in our organization ... that says a lot! Come out and meet Pete and listen to some of the heart-warming stories he has to share; take a few minutes to thank him for all he does. This is a Nobles-only meeting as ALL meetings will be during 2009. There will be many other family events planned throughout the year.

I look forward to meeting and greeting you throughout 2009.



## PLAYERS ACCEPT INVITATIONS FOR 2009 EAST-WEST SHRINE GAME

Initial player invitations have been sent for the 84th East-West Shrine Game, scheduled for January 17th, at the University of Houston's Robertson Stadium in Houston, TX, and to date, 26 of college football's best have accepted.

### Acceptance List (12-3-08) EAST TEAM

Cody Brown	Coral Springs, FL	OLB/DE	University of Connecticut
Nathan Brown	Russellville, AR	QB	Univ. of Central Arkansas
Darius Butler	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	CB	University of Connecticut
Trevor Canfield	Cincinnati, OH	G	University of Cincinnati
Brooks Foster	Boiling Springs, SC	WR	University of North Carolina
Eric Kettani	Kirkland, OH	FB	United States Naval Academy
Jonathan Luigs	Little Rock, AK	C	University of Arkansas
Tyrone Mckenzie	Riverview, FL	OLB	University of South Florida
Kraig Urbik	Hudson, WI	G	University of Wisconsin
Otis Wiley	Flint, MI	SS	Michigan State University

### WEST TEAM

Ramses Barden	Altadena, CA	WR	Cal Poly State University
Michael Bennett	Houston, TX	DE	Texas A&M University
Rhett Bomar	Dallas, TX	QB	Sam Houston State University
Tom Brandstater	Turlock, CA	QB	Fresno State University
Travis Bright	Queen Creek, AZ	G	Brigham Young University
Jarett Dillard	an Antonio, TX	WR	Rice University
Pannel Egboh	Mesquite, TX	DE	Stanford University
Ray Feinga	West Valley City, UT	G	Brigham Young University
Anthony Felder	Seattle, WA	LB	University of California
Joshua Mauga	Fasson, NV	MLB	University of Nevada
Darcel McBath	Gainesville, TX	S	Texas Tech
Marko Mitchell	York, AL	WR	University of Nevada
Thomas Morstead	Pearland, TX	P	Southern Methodist University
Bear Pascoe	Porterville, CA	TE	Fresno State University
Jason Phillips	Waller, TX	ILB	Texas Christian University
Worrell Williams	Sacramento, CA	LB	University of California



## TWO OF THE BEST TO LEAD EAST VS. WEST

*Bobby Ross and Gene Stallings Take the Helm at 84th Annual East-West Shrine Game*

Two storied former NFL and college coaches, Bobby Ross and Gene Stallings, will be leading college football's finest at the 84th Annual East-West Shrine Game, January 17th, in Houston, Texas, 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 Shriners Hospitals for Children, an international health care system of 22 hospitals across North America.

Gene Stallings, who will lead the West team, brings 18 years of NFL experience to this year's game, as well as an impressive record as a college head coach.

"There is no question that I am looking forward to working with the young players, helping them showcase their abilities in front of important NFL scouts," said Stallings. "I also look forward to working with a great coach like Bobby Ross, coaching these talented athletes as they prepare to move on to the next level of the game."

Bobby Ross, who takes the helm for the East, also comes to the sidelines with an outstanding NFL and college football résumé, including leading the San Diego Chargers to Super Bowl XXIX.

"I am excited about the opportunity to get back on the field and work with the finest players in the country," said Ross. "The philanthropy behind the game makes it very special and it is a privilege to work on such an important game with a talented coach like Gene Stallings."

As a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization, Shriners Hospitals for Children relies 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 for Children and has helped inform millions of people about the mission of this extraordinary philanthropy.

**WHAT:** 84th Annual East-West Shrine Game

**WHO:** Top NCAA College Football Players

**WHERE:** University of Houston, Robertson Stadium, Houston, Texas Televised on ESPN2

**WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, 3 pm CST Kick-off

**HOW:** Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased online at the following Websites:

[www.shrinegame.com](http://www.shrinegame.com)

[www.uhcougars.com](http://www.uhcougars.com)

[www.ticketmaster.com](http://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.

**For More Information:**

[www.shrinegame.com](http://www.shrinegame.com)

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

979 Bay Road, Webster, NY 14580  
(585) 671-7701  
Fax - (585) 671-7702  
office@damascusshriners.org

**Larry K. Canfield**  
POTENTATE

**Bruce D. Chilton**  
CHIEF RABBAN

**Thomas Vasile**  
ASSISTANT RABBAN

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OUTER GUARD

**Lee L. Coller, Sr.**  
DIRECTOR

**Norris P. Shapiro**  
CHIEF AIDE

**Skip Waterstreet**, EDITOR  
(585) 671-9730  
masonictimes@gmail.com

**Andy Rueby**, WEBMASTER  
(585) 734-8524  
roadking03@frontiernet.net

## 2009 Membership Committee Information

The focus of your Membership Committee for 2009 will be - RETENTION, RESTORATION and RECRUITMENT. Your Membership Committee consists of Eric Lubberts and Gary Burke.

It is our pleasure to serve you and this Shrine Center for the next year. Should you have ANY questions regarding your membership, another Noble's membership, or need information for a prospective member, do not hesitate to contact us either through the Office at 671-7701 or at: [membershipchairman@damascusshriners.org](mailto:membershipchairman@damascusshriners.org). Or better yet, talk to us at a meeting. We'll be glad to assist.

Remember the benefits of belonging to Damascus Shrine - the savings plans of RARES and ShrineSavers programs. Through these two discount programs, you can save more than the cost of your Membership Fees annually. Check them out!

## Want to Save for Your Annual Dues?

[www.shrinesavers.com](http://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](http://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 Dave Bowman

Springside Inn, Holiday Inn, Hollywood Restaurant, Lakeside Country Club, Old Erie, Brenda's Diner, Auburn Lodge, the Salvation Army. What do they all have in common? Those were the many places we met in 2008.

Our November meeting was held at the Salvation Army. There was a tour of the facility and a wonderful meal.

We helped raise some cash that night to kick off the Annual Drive. There were also signups for "ringing those bells!" Yep, started out the first Saturday after Thanksgiving. Good thing it went well on Thursday, 'cause it was chilly on Saturday! Thanks to all who helped. Will Schwarting, Steve Hunter, Don Heath and Ken Freeze were ringing 'til the clappers got stuck. We surrounded Wal-Mart and raised, almost to the penny, the same at one end as the other. Larry Pritchard filled in all those time slots that were open. No wonder the deer don't stand a chance when Larry is out there. The man loves being outdoors.

### New Officers

Our Officers for the year are: John Cambareri, President for the coming year. Chuck Minster was willing to be Treasurer for us, while Ken Pollard stays the Finance Chairman. Dave Bowman (that's me) was re-elected Secretary. That just shows that you need to come to the meetings. You miss one, you get elected. I've got to make that November meeting next year!



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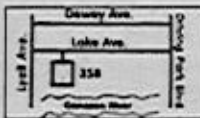
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**East Side Living & Rehabilitation Center**

62 Prospect Street, Warsaw, NY 14569  
585-786-8151

**The Greens of LeRoy**

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585-768-2740

## January Birthdays

Scott Barnard  
Culver Barr  
Donald Baylor  
Ronald Baylor  
Randall Beachner  
Neil Bedford  
Robert Cameron  
Thomas Clark  
A. Roger Clarke  
Robert Coleman  
Thomas Collier  
Donald Colvin  
Melvin Corson  
Ronald Curtiss  
Millard Fairley  
Charles Farrell  
Harold Feinberg  
Richard Felgner  
Robert Fisher  
Larry Francis

Ronald Freeling  
Leonard Fulmer  
Vincent Garner  
Manhal Ghanma  
Russell Gillett  
Joseph Gillotte  
Claude Gramse  
Thomas Green  
William Grow  
Willard Harris  
John Hart  
Anthony Henderson  
Charles Henderson  
Eliezer Hernandez  
Kenneth Howe  
John Hunt  
Lawrence Kilmer  
Wesley Kline  
Paul Lent  
David Leschorn

Harold Litz  
Eric Lubberts  
Howard Ludington  
Dorian Maracle  
Russell Marron  
Carl Mason  
Charles McDonald  
Joseph Mlayess  
Roy Moses  
Gerald Neeley  
Victor Nelson  
Earl Nichols  
Robert Ogden  
Roland Orbaker  
Robert Ossont  
Harrison Parson  
Robert Pedersen  
David Porter  
Kenneth Ratliff  
Donald Rose

William Sawyer  
Kenneth Skidmore  
Andre Smith  
Norman Snow  
Howard Stanley  
Gerald Stanton  
Lindy Vankouwenberg  
Mark Ward  
Ronald Weber  
Allen Widrick  
Edward Wihlen  
Gordon Williams  
Ronald Wilson  
Nelson Wolford  
Howard Wood  
Jeffrey Wright  
John Wright

## PERRY SHRINE CLUB

The Perry Shrine Club had another great meeting on November 19th. The speaker, Judy Nagel, Executive Director of the Genesee County Chapter of the American Red Cross, explained the many functions for which the organization is responsible. Most of us had no idea the areas they cover.

The always-popular Christmas Party at the National Hotel was a grand success and many gifts were distributed.

The January 22nd meeting will be held at the Lumberyard Restaurant in Perry. The speaker will be Mike Smith, a retired Corrections Officer, who will talk

about the Uprising at Attica Prison. As always, cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner starts at 7 p.m. Friends and spouses are always welcome.

### Perry Shrine Club 2009 Meetings

The following is the tentative schedule of meetings for 2009:

January 22nd, Lumberyard Restaurant  
February 26th, Hole-in-the Wall Restaurant

March 26th, Lumberyard Restaurant  
April 23rd, BW's Restaurant at Davis' Golf Course, 11070 Perry Road, Pavilion  
May 28th, Hole-in-the Wall Restaurant  
June 25th, Silver Lake Golf Club, Ladies Night

September 24th, Lumberyard Restaurant  
October 22nd, Hole-in-the Wall Restaurant

November 18th, Lumberyard Restaurant  
December 16th, Christmas Party

## A Message from the Membership Committee

Have you invited a friend to become a Member of the Fraternity lately?

Have you invited a Brother Mason to become a Member of the Shrine lately?

If not YOU, then WHO?

## 2009 Damascus News Boosters

Lucille Cooley  
Dan & Marie Emerson  
Delbert and Jean Fix  
H. Fritz Friedrich  
Franklyn Ghysel  
Russ & Mary Gillett  
John Henderson  
Charlie Howell  
Douglas Hunt  
Robert P. Hunt  
Donald & Winnie McDill  
Fred & Lynda McKinley

Joseph D. Nye  
In Memory of Eva M. Patterson  
Norris & Annette Shapiro  
Irving & Mary Spalty  
Ron & Mary Sterling  
Ted H. Tennant  
Jim Toogood  
Wayne W. Wagner  
Lance & Lynn Ward  
Skip & Diane Waterstreet  
John C. & Sandra Wihlen  
Terry & Jo Carroll Wihlen

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585-624-1120

59 Monroe Street  
Honeoye Falls, New York 14472

Shrine Hot Line for Reservations  
585 - 671-3565

## Calendar Winners for November

DAY	NO.	WINNER
11/1	071	Damascus Shriners
11/2	484	Damascus Shriners
11/3	708	Kathleen Pipher
11/4	528	Jeremy Rusco
11/5	002	Cynthia Anderson
11/6	355	Bruce Huie
11/7	630	Leigh Lattimore
11/8	937	Candy Hellaby
11/9	648	William Hudson
11/10	895	Michael Pratt
11/11	069	Kevin Faro
11/12	261	Wendy Salmon
11/13	023	Linda Vannozi
11/14	439	Jenna Burns
11/15	804	Henry Funk
11/16	397	Sharon Warner
11/17	580	John Hellaby
11/18	490	Bud Irish
11/19	777	Cindy Horn
11/20	047	Sarah Lamont
11/21	072	Melody Collier
11/22	940	Terry Blatchley
11/23	400	Damascus Shriners
11/24	658	Tim Cox
11/25	019	Lutgarda Houston
11/26	971	Mike Rusin
11/27	177	John Reed
11/28	968	Damascus Shriners
11/29	968	Damascus Shriners
11/30	845	Dave McCracken

## Damascus Legion of Honor Installation of Officers

January 14th

at Damascus Shrine Center  
979 Bay Road, Webster

Program - Necrology Service

Social Hour - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres  
Shrimp, Cheese & Crackers  
Cash Bar

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by Mr. Dominic's

Tossed Salad  
Eggplant Parisian  
Chicken French  
Roasted Potatoes  
Ziti ~ ~ ~ Vegetables  
Bread & Butter  
Sheet Cake for Dessert

\$14 per person

RSVP no later than

January 12th at 436-8216



# SHRINEABILIA

By Derek VanHouten

Once again, Noble Charlie White provided a unique item.

A booklet titled, "The Crescent," (May, 1929) contains interesting articles from several different Shrine sources. To name a few ... The Imperial Council Officers for 1929; Roster of Temples; there was a picture of Esten A. Fletcher, Imperial Chief Rabban from Damascus; two pages about the Marching Units at Los Angeles; "the Shrine Club of Geneva, NY, through its President, Noble B.L. Adams, recently sponsored a concert in the High School auditorium by the Chanters of Damascus Temple, Rochester."

An interesting sidebar ... an article talks about the S.S. Malolo, a cruise ship that sailed from Los Angeles to Hawaii. I placed the name into Google and up

came a video on *You Tube* showing the ship at sea and details of the ship. Amazing! On page 54, it shows the Medinah Athletic Club - a 42-story facility just for Shriners that opened on April 15th, 1929. Just a sampling of what was offered ... 3rd floor - men's grill, lounge and dressing rooms; 13th floor - men's swimming pool; 23rd floor - indoor golf course; 24th - 42nd floor - guest rooms, suites (some with two-story living rooms). Boy, they sure knew how to live it up in those days.

All together, there are 80 pages in this booklet describing the goings-on of most of the Temples (Shrine Centers) that held meetings, functions, parties, etc., in 1929.

Very interesting and thanks to Charlie White once again. If any Nobles or Ladies have historical items, give me a call and we will develop a story about them.

## Dedicated to the Memory of Nobles:

**Merrill E. Baker**  
November 28, 2008

**James R. Baroody**  
October 28, 2008

**Ronald I. Butler**  
August 9, 2008

**George Peter**  
August 10, 2008

**Robert P. Zabel**  
November 16, 2008



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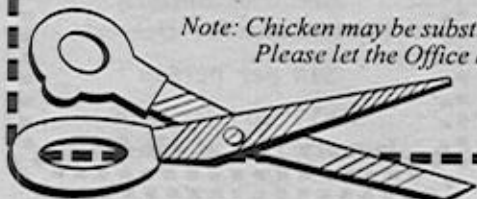
## Damascus Shriners! Clip and Save!

**2009 Dinners for the Wednesday Night Shrine Meetings**  
All dinners are \$10 per person; Reservations Required!  
Call the Shrine Office - (585) 671-7701  
Dinners include Salad, Coffee and Dessert

- February 4th - Roast Pork Loin & Stuffing
- March 4th - Corned Beef & Cabbage
- April 1st - Chicken Cordon Bleu
- May 5th - Beef Stew & Biscuits
- June 3rd - Stuffed Pork Chop
- September 2nd - Baked Ham
- October 7th - Chicken Parmesan
- November 4th - BBQ Chicken & Ribs
- December 2nd - Sliced Sirloin & Gravy

Note: Chicken may be substituted for those not eating the pork entrées.  
Please let the Office know when you are making the reservation if you want chicken instead of pork.

By Andy Rueby



Thanks to all who contributed to **Fill the Pig banks** and raise almost **\$5500** in funds for **Shriners Hospitals for Children**  
Larry Canfield  
Potentate



## Deadline for Reservations - February 2nd



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_





# Lalla Rookh GROTTO News

Legion  
Clowns  
Caldron  
Historian



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



**W. Jan Lughart**  
Monarch  
352-4698

## Grand Historian



**Kenneth Hutchinson, PM**

Home phone  
(315) 589-9021

Grotto office  
671-6320

[hutchkv@yahoo.com](mailto:hutchkv@yahoo.com)

Happy New Year to all and may we enjoy good health. Our goal this year is to increase membership. If you know a Brother Mason who would like to join the Grotto, let us know and we will see that he receives a Petition. Also, we would like to increase attendance at our Wednesday night meetings and other events, as well.

Many events are free, as are refreshments before meetings (6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.) and lunch after meetings. The building is a short distance from the parking lot and no stairs to climb. If anyone has suggestions for entertainment, let us know.

The All-Masonic Childrens Christmas Party was well received, including Santa Elves, Clowns and activities, such as bird food pinecones, cookie decorating craft projects and games.

Our website is:  
[www.lallarookhgrotto.com](http://www.lallarookhgrotto.com)

Ever wonder about that elusive goat you heard about when you joined any one of the Masonic organizations? I did, because I never saw the goat, nor did anyone else.

For well over 200 years, it has been something of a long-running joke within fraternal groups and secret societies that new initiates would be required to be blindfolded and ride a goat.

No one can really say where this concept came from for certain, but the legend has curiously wound its way through everything from social clubs and business associations to college fraternities and service groups.

First organized in 1918 at a convention of Rotary members in Buffalo, NY, the Ancient Or-

**W. Jan Lughart**  
Monarch

der of the Pink Goat was actually within the Rotary. While the majority of the group believed it was all in good fun, more than a few did not, and objected to the idea of a "secret" club within a club, as well as the association with an "evil" pink goat.

### Secretary's Column

By Kenneth Hutchinson, PM

The Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to renew the old and form new ties. They are a delight and pleasure.

#### In Remembrance

This year, again, a feature of the meeting was that of remembering our departed Prophets of the year. We purchased an Enchanted Lantern in the names of our departed Brothers Michael J. Eeckout, February 26, 2008; William J. Kuehne, June 8, 2008; and Leon VanHuben, October 8, 2008.

The evening started with a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. The Election of Officers for 2009 was held with the following results. The Installation followed immediately.

As we are about to enter a new year, I extend to each and all the right hand of fellowship and bid you a healthy and prosperous year.

### Caldron News

By Donna Laundry, MCO

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope you all had a joyous Christmas Season, with family and friends. The members of Lalla Rookh Caldron donated toys, games and stuffed animals for the local "Toys for Tots" Annual Drive in December. They were conveyed to the Shrine Center and included with donations from other Masonic affiliates.

#### Sickness and Distress

There has been a lot going on regarding the status of our members. Just before Thanksgiving we were saddened by the passing of Daughter Helen Nopper. She had joined Lalla Rookh in 1967 and was Mighty Chosen One in 1973. She was an active member for many years.

"Woodsmen" Drum Corps, which competed for many years at the Supreme Sessions in places like Atlantic City. He will be missed.

Remember, Rochester Forest is your Forest. Let's re-Member it. We'll see you at the stump.

Email **Masonic Times**  
[masonictimes@gmail.com](mailto:masonictimes@gmail.com)  
Phone: 671-9730

### Order of the Eastern Star

#### 2009 Special Projects

Monroe District...  
Camp Good Days  
& Special Times

Grand Matron...  
Shriners Hospital for  
Children-Philadelphia

Grand Patron...  
Wounded Warriors

Join a local Chapter this year!  
Call 671-9730 for info.

On December 2nd we did a Caldron funeral service for her at Crawford's Funeral Home. She will be missed.

Daughter Thelma Seuffert-Proper, who lives in Pennsylvania, lost her husband in December. Our condolences go out to her.

Harriet Rigg's husband, Jay, was hospitalized, but is recovering. Betty Rainey has been in and out of the hospital with congestive heart failure.

#### Activities

We had a rather successful Avon fundraiser just before the Holidays and were pleased with the proceeds.

At our January meeting, on the 8th, we will have a dinner preceding the meeting. That will be at 6:30 p.m. and the cost is \$8. This is a fundraiser.

In February, if the weather cooperates, Hilde DiJames will preside, as I will be in Mexico.

As the Winter progresses, instead of grumbling about the snow, try to look at the beauty of it. Friends are like snowflakes; no two are ever alike.

## Monroe District

### OES HiLights

#### DDGM

RW Christina S. Hampton  
247-5679



#### DGL

RW Kenneth R. Milner  
346-6018  
[kemilner@frontiernet.net](mailto:kemilner@frontiernet.net)

By R.W. Ken Milner, DGL

I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays. Now it is time to get back to work.

#### Official Visit

Our first Official Visit will be at Nolatka Chapter on January 6th at 7 p.m. The Chapter has elected to start earlier so everyone can get home at a better hour. Nolatka Chapter meets at Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Avenue, Rochester.

## O/S/Y District

### OES HiLights

#### DDGM

RW Mary Ruggles  
and  
DGL

RW Clayton R. Ruggles  
(315) 548-3573  
[cruggle1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cruggle1@rochester.rr.com)

The O/S/Y District Order of the Eastern Star enjoyed the Annual Christmas Gathering at Schooners' Restaurant on December 12th. A Winter theme basket was raffled to benefit the District Deputy Grand Matron's Project.

#### School of Instruction

The O/S/Y School of Instruction will be held January 10th, at Phelps. Royal-Garoga Chapter will host both the School of Instruction at 9 a.m. that morning and the January District

## Attend Grotto Meetings

**January 5th**  
Board of Governors  
Meeting  
7 p.m.  
Shrine Center

**January 21st**  
Grotto Meeting  
7:30 p.m.  
Shrine Center

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Email **Masonic Times**  
[masonictimes@gmail.com](mailto:masonictimes@gmail.com)  
Phone: 671-9730

Saturday, January 10th, will be the Line Officers' Organizational Meeting at 9 a.m., followed by a complimentary lunch. Chris and I plan to keep these meetings on time and to-the-point so we won't take any more of your time than necessary.

#### School of Instruction

February 14th will be the School of Instruction. We will have coffee and donuts at 9 a.m. and the meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. sharp. The dress code for that day will be "street dress," preferably skirt or dress for the ladies (no dungarees); sport coat for the gentlemen. We will be instructing Draping of the Altar, Introducing Grand Officers, carrying of the Flag, Funeral Service and whatever else anyone brings to our attention. I look forward to seeing each of you that day. I also ask that you encourage any new members to attend this School.

Bring your Ritual books with you. This will help each of us if there are any questions or points that need to be addressed. If you have anything you have questions on at this time or would like to have addressed at the School, please call me at 346-6018.

OES Meeting in the afternoon. A Chili Luncheon should add some warmth to the gatherings.

#### Christmas with the Vets

By the time you read this, some of us will have already helped wrap and distribute gifts to Canandaigua VA patients. We hope the caroling will help brighten their day. This is the first of a number of volunteer activities that the District will be taking part in over the next several months. More information will be forthcoming as the events near.

Installation of the various Chapters' Officers was completed by December 15th. The list of each Chapter's and District events is being gathered at this point. It looks like we will have many opportunities to gather as fraternal friends and also support causes that are in desperate financial, material and physical need in light of the world's situation.

## Lalla Rookh Grotto

### New Officers for 2009

Monarch  
Chief Justice  
Master of Ceremonies  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Venerable Prophet  
Marshal  
Capt/ Guard  
Chaplain  
Orator  
Steward  
Inside Sentinel  
Outside Sentinel

Jan Lughart  
James Toogood  
Bernard Lazerson  
Kenneth Hutchinson  
Brian Bills  
Joseph Minas  
Richard Topel  
Michael Bell  
Richard Bull  
Ernest Swan  
Gregory Ludwig  
Franklin Ghyzel  
William Fredenburg

give us your input.

Our Election of Officers was not accomplished in November because of a mix-up in the meeting schedule. The nominations will take place at our January meeting along with the subsequent Installation of Officers. Consequently, the slate of Officers is not complete.

We are still looking for a Candidate for Junior Deputy GTC. If you are interested in joining the line of Officers, please contact me as soon as possible. The nominees, so far are: GTC, Cy White; SDGTC, Ted Powley; Scribe, Don Bell and Treasurer, John Zabel. We urge all to make an effort to attend this important January 28th meeting. If you need transportation, please call one of the Officers or me at 458-6125 or [djbrugger@juno.com](mailto:djbrugger@juno.com).

#### A Woodsmen Passes On

We are sorrowed to report the passing of one of our oldest members, Bob Zabel, and offer our condolences to his family. Bob was one of the original members of the Forest and the

## Rochester Forest

### No. 133

Tall Cedars  
of Lebanon  
of North America



4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Penfield, NY 14526

George Springett, GTC  
247-3557

Donald C. Bell, Scribe  
334-7768

By Don Brugger

The Tall Cedars gathered at Rick's Prime Rib House for their Annual Holiday Get-together. There were 27 in attendance, including many Lilac City Cedarettes. The atmosphere was festive and all enjoyed the socializing and conversation. We thank Marie Springett for her expertise in making this affair a great success. Our outgoing Grand Tall Cedar, George Springett, thanked all for their patience and cooperation during his tenure and urged support for the incoming Line of Officers. If anyone has a suggestion for a place for next year's party, now is the time to



**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

chance to catch up on some of our projects and start a couple of new ones as well. If you would like to help with this or just stop and say hello, it would be appreciated.

We have a new Brother in our Quarries, Brother Patrick Purcell, who was Raised December 16th and he is eager to begin his journey. Brother Pat has already taken a Petition for a friend of his. Congratulations and welcome.

**Sickness and Distress**

W.: Brother Jerry Jones is doing better after some outpatient treatments and is recuperating well at home.

If you know of someone in sickness or distress or in need of our aid or sympathy, please contact me. Take care and see you in Lodge!

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

our ladies know how much they are appreciated. Christmas is that special time when the whole world is thinking Peace and Good Will; too bad it only lasts a few weeks and then it's back-to-normal.

Speaking of back-to-normal (or should I say Masonic Business), January 2009 starts with our Annual Budget Communication on January 12th at 7:30 p.m. Prior to this meeting, we will have our Annual Saturday Morning Officers' Meeting on January 10th to work on the audit and budget. This is the second year I will ask for a balanced budget, as we had last year.

January 19th will be our 2nd Degree rehearsal at 7 p.m. The following Monday, January 26th, we will have our 2nd De-

gree with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the Degree at 7:30 p.m.

Once again I will be leaning heavily on Union Star for support of the 2009 "Have-a-Heart" Campaign, running January 31st through February 15th at Marketplace Mall. This year's Mall Chairman is Brother Mark Hutton and he will be contacting one and all for time slots and dates. Please support him in every way you can, as you have in the past.

The 3rd Degree has been changed to Monday, March 9th, with the rehearsal times to be determined.

See you in the Quarry.



I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Winter Cleanup**

As we did over the Summer, Clio is having a "Spring Cleanup" of sorts on Saturday, January 10th, at 9 a.m. This will give us a

I hope your Holidays were spent with family and friends. I know mine were, but it was hectic.

Many thanks to those who came to our 2nd Annual "Bring Your Lady" Christmas Party. This was a special night to let

**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  
 jgallant@rochester.rr.com

Our Second Section of the Masonic Development Course Series, the Fellowcraft Degree, was "more" fun and well attended. In attendance, we had two Fellowcrafts and our newest member from Phoenix Lodge. It is always interesting to review the many parts from the Middle Chamber Lecture and discuss the symbolism associated with the Degree. I always learn something new from the Brothers and I hope they did, too. The Master Mason Section will be presented on January 14th. This will be our last Session for this Masonic year. If you have any questions, please contact R.: W.: Joe Shanks.

If you are looking for an evening of fellowship, the Brothers of Geneseo and Livonia Lodges will be holding their Combined Master Mason Degree on January 21st. I invite the Brothers from Livingston District to join us at Livonia and welcome their two new members. I know both Lodges will do an outstanding job for these Brothers and I will have the privilege to give out two more Livingston District Pins.

Last month, R.: W.: Roy Moses, R.: W.: Joe Shanks and I completed our set of Cross-District visits by traveling to Wayne and Geneseo/Wyoming Districts to participate in their Grand Lodge Officers Homecoming Meetings. I know I can speak for all of us when I say that we had a spectacular time! In preparation of our visitation schedules for next year, we are hoping to work with all our neighboring Districts to do it again in a more organized manner. It is truly meaningful to be in the East for your Official Visit and have your fellow District Officers there to support you.

**Child ID**

I wish to present a heartfelt "Thank You" to R.: W.: Dick Trescott and the Brothers who have helped with the Livingston District Child ID Program. They have, once again, done an outstanding job with the Child ID program. This year alone, we have completed kits for 1,244 children in our District. We have done this program in conjunction with the Livingston County Sheriff's Department for over 15 years and have produced over 24,500 Child ID kits. It won't be long now before we are working with the children of the Child ID kits we started with so long ago. I am sure that when R.: W.: Gene Flint and Brother Ray Ellis kicked off this program, they did not imagine it would turn into the spectacular and successful program that it is today!

This month our Schools of Ritual are starting up again. R.: W.: Roy Moses is trying a new format for our meetings. We will be holding four different Schools around the District and each meeting will be organized for two Lodges to participate. The "work" of the evening will be the First Section of the Entered Apprentice Degree. It will be the responsibility of the Masters of the two Lodges to work together and organize the Degree work amongst their members. R.: W.: Roy Moses and I are looking forward to this new format and we have solid expectations for their success. For Brothers who may be interested in joining us, here is our current schedule:

**Livingston District Schools of Ritual**  
 Starting Time: 7:00 p.m.

<b>January 12th</b>	Host Avon Springs	Companion Eunice
<b>January 20th</b>	Host Livonia	Companion Union
<b>February 14th</b>	Host Mt. Morris	Companion Geneseo
<b>February 16th</b>	Host Nunda Station	Companion Phoenix

**District Association**  
 I am sending this reminder to our Masters, Wardens, Officers and Brothers that the Livingston District Association Meeting for January is on Monday,

**Livingston District Schools of Ritual**  
 Starting Time: 7 p.m.

Host Lodge	Companion Lodge	Date
Avon Springs	Eunice	January 12th
Livonia	Union	January 20th
Mt. Morris	Geneseo	February 14th
Nunda Station	Phoenix	February 16th

January 26th at 7:30 p.m. and is being held at Livonia Lodge. The Association Vice-President, W.: Rick LaFave, will need your attendance numbers for the Dinner at 6:30 p.m. It is important that you plan to attend to learn what the other Lodges in our District are doing... plus, we always have an excellent dinner!

I want to close this month's column as I closed my last one... I trust that everyone had very Happy Holidays spent with friends and loved ones. As we look back at the very tumultuous 2008, this was a year I am sure we all are glad is finally behind us. As we look forward to 2009, I know it will be a year filled with continuing hardships, but I hope for all of us that everything will get better as the year progresses. I wish to remind our Brothers that no matter how "crazy" things get, there is nothing as pleasant as an evening spent within the Fellowship of your Lodge. Please consider, as one of your New Year's Resolutions, to keep your Lodge meeting nights on your calendar and make an extra effort to join us!

**Grand Steward Livingston District**  
  
 R.: W.: Joseph Shanks  
 582-1028  
 jshanksglso@gmail.com

Seasons' Greetings, Brothers! I hope everyone had a great Holiday!

Session 2 of the Masonic Development Course was a little more enjoyable than Session 1. We had a lot more Brothers in attendance. Session 3 will be January 14th.

Next up, after the MDC classes are over, will be the Road to the East classes in February. Sign up, Brothers, and mark your calendar for February 7th, 21st and 28th.

Thank you, Brothers, for your support and also helping me fill up the MDC sessions.

**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  
 js@frontiernet.net  
 Lima Masonic Hall  
 1891 Rochester Street  
 Lima 14455

It's a new year Brothers; welcome to 2009! As we've just come through the Holiday Season and closed out 2008, I'm personally thankful for the fellowship we share at Union Lodge.

Thanks to the Livingston District Masonic Association for holding a Child ID Session at the Honeoye Falls-Lima Primary School in Lima on December 5th. Approximately 157 Kindergarten and 1st graders received our traditional packet containing finger and palm prints, dental impressions and a DNA swab. New this year is the addition of a plastic ID card with a picture and index finger prints, with online copies forwarded to Albany, which 147 students signed up for this year. This program is coordinated in the Livingston District by R.: W.: Richard Trescott, who has facilitated over 1,150 students through the program this year. Great work Richard!

December 11th marked our Annual Meeting for 2008. Thank you, Brothers, for your attendance and participation. While most of the year we try to make meetings fun and quick, this is the one meeting of the year where we focus on reviewing the business aspects of the Lodge. There are so many activities, many behind the scenes, led by various Brothers that keep our Lodge healthy. Our Annual Meeting helps remind us of all the things our Brothers do for each other. Thank You!

February 17th is Brother Bring-a-Friend Night. Please email or call me with the names and addresses of potential attendees ASAP so I can send personal invitations out in a timely fashion. This has been an evening of fun and fellow-

ship in years past, and we will continue the tradition this year. Remember the Grand Master's message that attendees should, in fact, be your friends. We're not looking for just young men, or sons and relatives. We're looking for your friends, because we know that, if they are your friends, they "are" good men!

We need Candidates! Our Spring Degree Sessions are scheduled to begin March 12th. Let's have a number of new members for these Degrees. Don't be shy about handing out Petitions, inviting potential members to Brother Bring-a-Friend Night and asking friends about their interest in joining. Recently I had someone ask me about joining another Lodge in our District, whose uncle is an active member. The nephew did not want to impose on his uncle by asking to join, and the uncle did not want to pressure his nephew to join. Both of them, being too polite, missed the opportunity to talk about the mechanics of joining the Fraternity. The lesson I learned from this encounter is that we can sometimes limit our membership potential by not talking up Masonry enough.

Brothers, it's time to think about our Officer Line for next year and beyond. Please think about serving in an Officer's Chair. Consider this an open invitation to talk to me about your interest in participating in the leadership of the Lodge. I don't want anyone to feel they have not been asked to get involved. Your Lodge needs you! Let me know of what level of participation you are interested and together we'll put a plan in place to make it happen.

Thank you for your support and friendship in 2008. Now that we've officially entered 2009, I can't wait to continue our momentum. See you in Lodge!

**Glen Cone**  
 Registered Representative  
 175 Corporate Woods, Suite 250  
 Rochester, NY 14623  
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**Nunda Station**  
**Lodge No. 682**  
 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Master  
**W.: Robert P. Cox**  
**468-5066**  
[robertcox56@aol.com](mailto:robertcox56@aol.com)  
 Secretary  
**R.: W.: Gerald J. Hussong**  
**476-2739**

**Passing of a Brother**

In November we lost one of our Brothers, Danny Mehlenbacher, who was called by the Great Architect on November 19th. A Masonic Service was held on

November 21st. Danny leaves his wife, Waneata, and two young children. Brother, you will be missed.

**Another Year Done**

The Holiday Season has passed through another year causing us to give thanks and reflect on the year past, to think about our family and friends. Remembering our loved ones who are gone that we only have memories of now, and look forward to a New Year ahead of us.

On January 6th, we will be having a dinner at our Lodge organized by the Brethren. It will be a Brother Bring a Dish-to-Pass Night. We always have a great dinner.

Happy New Year to all of you. As always, stop in and see what's happening at your Masonic Lodge.

day, January 6th. There will be a business meeting with further discussion and planning on the Child ID Program.

I hope this article finds all my fellow Brothers enjoying a Happy and Healthy New Year. May we all say a prayer for those who have and are still fighting to keep this great nation free and safe. Many times we forget the ultimate sacrifice some people make being away from their family and friends during the Holidays, helping to keep us free and safe.

May the blessings of heaven rest upon my fellow Brothers and their families wherever they may be throughout the world. Keep them safe and out of harms way.

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

**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**  
[dspoole@frontiernet.net](mailto:dspoole@frontiernet.net)  
 10 North Avenue  
 LeRoy 14482

**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

1998 - Thomas DeLude, Thomas Kemp

**2004 - Arthur Robinson Brotherhood Fund**

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

**Change of Plans**

I reported last month we were in the process of planning a Christmas Dinner that would include the widows of the Lodge and a Child ID Program. Due to the unpredictable weather of Western New York, it was decided we would not have a Christmas Dinner this year, but incorporate some type of Widows Program into our end-of-year Ladies Night Dinner.

Oakland Lodge is moving forward with plans to host a Child ID Program after the first of the year. We have found a local preschool program that is very interested in having it held at their facility. We are just trying to find a date that will accommodate both organizations.

Oakland Lodge has only one scheduled Communication for the month of January on Tues-

What a lovely Winter this has been so far. The Lodge is so glad to not have heating bills as in the past. Those \$1,500 gas bills are not missed one bit.

The hunt for a new Lodge location continues. With the current financial situation, we are being extra careful. There have been a few sites that would work if we could guarantee income from a tenant. With Wal-Mart building on West Main Road, the prices out that way are outrageous and they have yet to figure how much the taxes will increase.

Our major happening for January is three Brothers will be Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Once again, thank you to Warsaw Lodge for helping us out. There will be a dinner at 6 p.m. Please contact me ASAP for reservations as we are having the meal catered.

For the Winter months, we will only be meeting the first Wednesday night. Unless specially convened, we will let you know.

On a closing note: Molly, the Traveling Gavel (trophy), is still in LeRoy. She hasn't been here since 1992. So she seems to have a long stay in mind. She has a nice warm spot to stay.

**Taxes, Taxes, Taxes!**

By Thomas Michielsen

"Taxes are what we pay for a civilized society."

Supreme Court Justice  
 Oliver Wendell Holmes

**Gambling Winnings and Losses**

Your leisure time may mean a trip to the casino or the racetrack. What will you owe Uncle Sam if Lady Luck happens to be on your side?

Gambling winnings are fully taxable and must be reported on your Tax Return. You must file Form 1040 and include all of your winnings. Gambling income includes, among other things, winnings from lotteries, raffles, horse races and casinos. It includes cash winnings and also the fair market value of prizes such as cars and trips.

Anyone who pays your winnings or awards you a prize is required to issue you a Form W-2G if your winnings are subject to Federal Income Tax withholding or if your winnings are over a certain amount. However, all gambling winnings must be reported regardless of whether any portion is subject to withholding. In addition, you may be required to pay an estimated tax on your gambling winnings.

If your luck isn't always so good, you may deduct gambling losses. Losses may be deducted only if you itemize deductions and only if you also have gambling winnings. Claim your gambling losses as a Miscellaneous Deduction on Form 1040, Schedule A. But remember, the losses you deduct may not be more than the gambling income you report on your return.

If you want to deduct losses when you file your return, it is important to keep an accurate diary or similar record of your gambling winnings and losses. To deduct your losses, you must be able to provide receipts, tickets, statements or other records that show both your winnings and losses.

**Home Office Deduction?**

If you plan to run your small business out of your home, you may be tempted to "write-off" many of your household expenses. But how do you know what is deductible and what is

not? The Internal Revenue Service has some advice that may help answer the question: "Can I take a Home Office Deduction?"

Generally, expenses related to the rent, purchase, maintenance and repair of a personal residence are not deductible. However, if you use part of your home for business purposes you may be able to take a Home Office Deduction. Expenses that can be deducted include the business portion of real estate taxes, mortgage interest, utilities, insurance, painting, repairs and depreciation.

In order to claim a business deduction, you must use part of your home:

- Exclusively and regularly as your principal place of business, as a place to meet or deal with patients, clients or customers in the normal course of your business, or in connection with your trade or business where there is a separate structure not attached to the home; or
- On a regular basis for certain storage use such as inventory or product samples, as rental property, or as a home daycare facility.

In addition, if you work as an employee, you can claim this deduction only if the regular and exclusive business use of the home is for the convenience of your employer and the portion of the home is not rented by the employer.

"Exclusive use" means a specific area of the home is used only for trade or business. "Regular use" means the area is used regularly for trade or business. Incidental or occasional business use is not regular use.

Non-business, profit-seeking endeavors such as investment activities do not qualify for a home office deduction, nor do not-for-profit activities such as hobbies.

**Upcoming Due Dates**

January 15 - December Payroll Taxes

January 15 - Fourth Quarter IRS Estimated Tax

January 31 - W2s and 1099s mailed to recipient

If you have any tax questions, please forward them to:

[tmichie1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tmichie1@rochester.rr.com)

**Masonic Anniversaries**

I congratulate the following Brothers who were Raised or Affiliated during the month of January:

1995 - Daniel Hamilton



Paul Royce Jr., Master of Warsaw Lodge presented a check for \$50 to Commander Bill Wilkinson of Walter Klein Post No. 532. The funds were presented to assist the Legion Post and other Veterans organizations in Warsaw with shipping charges to send Christmas care packages to local residents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Children's Christmas Party Photos**



From Santa greeting guests and distributing gifts to Cookie Decorating to making Pine Cone Bird Feeders to Child ID to Toys for Tots, members and

friends of Lalla Rookh Grotto, Damascus Shrine, Valley of Rochester, Fidelity Triangle and a US Marine, were kept busy by the children present.







# Scottish Rite NEWS

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



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

## "Explore the Rite" Nights

The "Explore the Rite" (or Brother Bring-a-Brother) Night held on November 13th at Fairport-Flower City Lodge was very well attended. In all there were approximately 32 Scottish Rite members and 18 guests in attendance. The evening commenced with a dinner, followed by a program, which featured a presentation of the AASR Public Degree under the direction of Gary Burke, 32° MSA, and Gary Sanford, 32°. The Public Degree is designed to give our prospective members a glimpse into various Scottish Rite Degrees that will be conferred in the upcoming year. In addition, we played a newly released DVD that gives an excellent overview of the Scottish Rite - its history, organization and charitable activities. It was a nice evening and event!

Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts there were several prospective new members who were not able to attend ... but fear not and mark your calendar! The next "Explore the Rite" night is scheduled for Thursday, February 19th, at the Shrine Center. Social at 5:30 p.m.; Dinner featuring Chicken Cordon Bleu at 6:30 p.m.; and Program at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for dinner for guests and our members who bring a guest. Otherwise, the cost for dinner is \$12 each. Please make your reservations with the Valley Office by Monday, February 16th.

As a special perk, "first-line" signers on new member applications will receive an attractive "32° Mason" ball cap, and will be recognized in the Scottish Rite Section in the April issue of the *Masonic Times*.

## Membership Development and Retention - A "Contact Sport"

**Valley Goal** - Fifty members in this year's Ill. Charles O. Hancock, 33° Class! ... but we need your help to make it happen. We are asking each member of the Valley of Rochester to do four simple, but highly productive, things this year to support the Valley of Rochester:

1. "Re-Member" the 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;

3. "Reach Out, and Say Hello", and reactivate Scottish Rite Brothers who have been inactive;
4. Attend as many 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!
5. "Who's on Your List?" Take the initiative, pick up the phone, make the calls, and come join the fun and fellowship of the Scottish Rite!

## Veterans Night

We had a great turnout for the Veterans Night Program on November 20th. There were approximately 80 Veterans and Brothers in attendance. Special thanks to MWM John Faro, 32°, and the Rose Croix Line for the excellent program for the Veterans that evening.

We began with the soon-to-be-famous "Wurst" Dinner, featuring a variety of German sausages, German potatoes, and a special beer tasting of the "Brewery's Best," sponsored by the Rohrbach Brewing Company. The program included a presentation of the Missing Man Table by Thomas Paglia, 32° MSA; Presentation of the Colors and Pledge by the Masonic War Vets; "In Retrospect" and Service Recognition by John Faro, 32°; group photos; and Folding of the Flag and TAPS by Thomas Paglia, 32°.

A highlight of the evening was the "Iraq Prospective" remarks given by Valley of Rochester member, Major Ted Sargent, 32°, U.S. Army Reserve, who recently returned from his 3rd tour of duty in Iraq. Major Sargent received a standing ovation following his remarks.

Sgt. Charles Dutcher of the U.S. Marine Corp was also on hand to talk about the U.S. Marine Corp's "Toys for Tots" Program.

All branches of the service were well represented, but as you can see from the accompanying photos - the Army was particularly out in full force that evening! To all our Veterans - THANK YOU! Thank you for your service to our country and for the sacrifices made to protect our freedom and way of life. The citizens of this country owe you a great deal of gratitude and support for your service and sacrifice.



AASR Public Degree presentation held during the "Explore the Rite" Night.

## Degree Series Begins

This year's Scottish Rite Degree series began with the Conferals of the 4th Degree Master Traveler and 5th Degree Perfect Master on December 4th. Degree Directors were Joseph Bourcy (4th Degree) and Seymour Kopen and Joseph Bourcy (5th Degree). The casts did a great job in both Degrees. Cast members for the 4th Degree were: George Nasra, Pat Mulrooney, Eric Lubberts, Phil Hurwitz, Don Tubman, Angelo DiCataldo, Joe Bourcy, Rick Howe, Gary Burke, John Zabel, John Lemke, Warren Doerrer, Jim Pray, Gary Sandford, Craig Mullen, Joe Oelgoetz, Glenn Stahl and Bernie Lazerson. Cast members for the 5th Degree were: Tom Goodrich, Charles Roberts, Pat Mulrooney, Rick Howe, Tom Grape, Eric Lubberts, Angelo DiCataldo and Bernie Lazerson. Staging and Lighting - Rick Howe and John Zabel; Costumes and properties - Norris Shapiro and Jim Slocum. Thanks to everyone who participated in and contributed to the Degrees that evening.



## New Storage Location for Costumes and Properties

As many of you know, after moving out of the Downtown Temple Facility, the Valley of Rochester has been using a business called "Store-to-Door," for storage of its costumes and properties. It has been quite convenient, as they deliver and pick up the particular storage units directly to the Shrine Center on the evening of the Degree. Unfortunately, while convenient, it has also been rather expensive.

Now, we are entering a new era! We recently completed negotiations with Damascus Shrine to lease a portion of the basement in the Shrine Center to house all of our costumes and properties. We are currently in the process of preparing the space, and hope to be completely moved in by the middle of January. In addition to being a substantial savings to the Valley, this new space will allow us to organize and lay out the costumes like it was done in the old days by Frank Jansen at the Downtown Temple.

## Annual Programs & Operating Budget

The entire world economy has been turned upside down by the financial crisis that has developed over the past few months. Record loss of jobs, businesses have closed, entire industries are on the brink of going under, and retirement and investment accounts have experienced significant reductions in value.

The Valley of Rochester's investment accounts have like-

## Valley of Rochester Winter 2009 Program

**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 12th - "Have-a-Heart"**  
at Marketplace Mall; 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**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

**March 19th - 4th and 12th Degrees at Shrine Center**  
Social Hour and Dinner - *Reservations Required*

**March 22nd - Feast of the Paschal Lamb**  
at Shrine Center  
Dinner - *Reservations Required*

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

## AASR Valley of Rochester 2008-2009 Officers

Rochester Lodge of Perfection		Rochester Council of the Princes of Jerusalem	
Thrice Potent Master	Derek E. VanHouten, 32° DSA	Governor Prince	Dorland A. Tubman, 32°
Deputy Master	Patrick J. Mulrooney, 32°	High Priest	Phil Hurwitz, 32°
Senior Warden	George Fochner, 32°	Senior Warden	Michael Fazio, 32°
Junior Warden	Garry Crankier, 32°	Junior Warden	Michael McBride, 32°
Orator	Sy Kopen, 32°	Master of Ceremonies	Greg Ludwig, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	Warren Doerrer, 32°	Master of Entrances	Brian Bilis, 32°
Captain of the Guard	Gordon Hubbel, 32°	Tiler	Peter J. VanElzakker, 32° MSA
Tiler	Peter J. VanElzakker, 32° MSA		

Rochester Chapter of Knights of Rose Croix		Rochester Consistory	
Most Wise Master	John Faro, 32°	Commander-in-Chief	G. Michael Morris, 33°
Senior Warden	Thomas Goodrich, 32°	1st Lt. Commander	Joseph Bourcy, 32°
Junior Warden	Eric Lubberts, 32°	2nd Lt. Commander	Kenneth R. Howe, 32°
Orator	David Howlett, 32°	Orator	James De Lorenzo, 32°
Master of Ceremonies	David Taber, 32° DSA	Cancellor	Dana Cline, 32°
Captain of the Guard	William Jones, 32° DSA	Master of Ceremonies	Joseph Oelgoetz, 32°
Tiler	Peter J. VanElzakker, 32° MSA	Engineer and Seneschal	James A. Slocum, 32°
		Color Bearer	James Toogood, 32°
		Captain of the Guard	Michael Knotta, 32°
		Sentinel	Peter J. VanElzakker, 32° MSA

**Frank & Bette Paul 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children**  
3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 330, Rochester, NY 14618  
Office (585) 264-1690, Fax (585) 264-1692, Email: rochcent@rochester.rr.com  
Ms. Ann Kaczka, Learning Center Director  
John W. Paul, Chair, Board of Governors

## Allegiance

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Rochester, State of New York, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose officers are:

Ill. John William McNaughton, 33°	Ill. Jim Scott Deyo, 33°
<b>Sovereign Grand Commander</b>	<b>Grand Lieutenant Commander</b>
Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°	Ill. Peter J. Sarnec, 33°
<b>Grand Minister of State</b>	<b>Deputy for the State of New York</b>
<b>Active Members for New York</b>	Ill. David P. Spencer, 33°
Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°, Past Deputy/New York	Ill. Edward R. Trosin, 33°
Ill. Frederick D. Greene, 33°	
<b>Active Emeritus Members for New York</b>	Ill. Bruce Widger, 33°, Past Deputy/New York
Ill. James F. Niehoff, 33°	Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, 33°
Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°	

**Secretary** William R. Lindsay, 32° MSA  
**Assistant Secretary** W. Craig Wright, 32°  
**Treasurer** Ill. and Rev. Charles M. Roberts, 33°  
**Deputy's Representative** Ill. Stephen R. Whitaker, 33°  
3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320, Rochester, NY 14618  
Office (585) 264-1160, (800) 858-2320, Fax (585) 264-1161, Email: valleyofrochester@gmail.com

wise experienced a significant reduction in value. While, as history has demonstrated, having a diversified stock and bond portfolio is the best strategy to build value over the long-term, the question is: "What can/should we be doing in the short-term?" The answer is clear: (1) maintain our diversified portfolio of investments, and (2) minimize our short-term expenditures in order to maximize our financial base when the market does recover.

It is simply not financially prudent to continue to spend in accordance with the original Operating Budget that was generated last Summer. The Valley's

General Committee has been taking a hard look at this year's Annual Operating Budget and searching for ways to reduce expenditures. This review has forced us to make some difficult decisions.

## College of Freemasonry Cancelled

First, given the rather large costs associated with the College of Freemasonry (CFM) Program, scheduled for March, it has been decided to cancel the CFM Program in 2009. The CFM is a signature program of the Valley that has attracted national attention. Unfortunately, in its current format, it is expensive. Despite this short-term setback, we are plan-





place Mall on Thursday, February 12th from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are planning to have two shifts ... 3-6 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Ideally, we would like to have at least three to four people during each shift. Brothers, spouses, kids and friends are welcome and encouraged to participate. Make it a family affair! To volunteer to help with this year's Have-a-Heart Campaign, please contact the Valley Office to sign up for a time slot.

Thank you for your commitment and support for this important and worthwhile community fundraising event!

**Valentines Day with Our Ladies**

Brethren, we have planned a special "Valentine's Day with our Ladies" Dinner that will take place on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the La-Tea-Da Tea Parlor, located at the corner of Alexander Street and Park Avenue. Price - \$50 per couple. This is going to be a lot of fun! As you will see, La-Tea-Da provides a highly eclectic atmosphere. There are all kinds of different style hats for the ladies (and gentlemen alike) - we are guaranteed to get some fabulous photos! There will be live music and the food is excellent! Space is limited to 50 people, so if you are interested in attending, make your reservations early. For reservations, please contact the Valley Office.

**Valley of Rochester Reservations:**  
Phone: 264-1160 or email: [secretary@ValleyofRochester.org](mailto:secretary@ValleyofRochester.org)

ning to hold the CFM Program the following year in April, 2010. I thank the CFM Chairman, George Nasra, 32°, for all the time and effort he and the entire committee have contributed. Let us now use this extra time to figure out how we can make the CFM even bigger and better!

Second, as you may or may not know, the Valley has, over the years, provided significant subsidies to the members participating in its various events, including meal subsidies, underwriting program and entertainment costs, etc. In the short-term, we need to reduce the amount of those subsidies. The General Committee is currently in the process of analyzing how much can be saved by reducing (or eliminating) the subsidies in the various programs, and how best to accomplish this.

Third, we are looking at every possible way to reduce the Valley's monthly operating and infrastructure costs. Eliminating the large monthly storage fees for our costumes and properties, discussed above, will provide a significant savings, and there are other opportunities for savings that we are considering as well ... stay tuned. I will keep you informed as we work through this issue.

**Scottish Rite Degrees - A Call to Action**

I think we all know and firmly believe the old adage, "The more you put into something, the more you get out of it." It is certainly true with respect to your involvement in Masonry! Our 2nd Lt. Commander Rick Howe, 32° DSA, along with Ill. John Zabel, 33°, are making a concerted effort to "Raise the Bar" by improving the professionalism and overall experience of our Degree Presentations. You recently received a letter from our 2nd Lt. Commander. He noted that at the last New York State Council of Deliberation meeting (July, 2008), the Valley of Rochester received an "Outstanding Degree Presentation" Award for our work - our Valley is setting a benchmark in Degree work throughout the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Many Valleys, like ours, have left their temples with large auditoriums and now find themselves in this new era of having to adapt to new surroundings. Once we have learned how to do this efficiently, we will be able

to take our Degrees to the different venues and Districts within the Valley.

We are making an appeal to you, as a Scottish Rite Brother, to consider stepping up, helping out and participating in our Scottish Rite Degrees this year. There are many opportunities to assist with the Degree presentations:

- Staging - setting up and tearing down props
- Management of Lighting and Audio Visual Systems
- Help with our Degree Presentations - Degree Directors, Degree casts (speaking and non-speaking parts), extras and those who can help with costumes and makeup.

For your convenience, a Scottish Rite Degree Participation Form is included. Please answer the call to any part for which you may be able to assist. Thank you, in advance, for your help and support!!

**Upcoming Programs**

January 15th - Conferral of the 14th Degree will take place on Thursday, January 15th at the Shrine Center. Social hour at 5:30 p.m.; Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; Degree Conferral begins at 7:30 p.m. Joseph Bourey, 32° DSA, will be the Degree Director for the 14th Degree. Dinner will feature Stuffed Pork Chops w/Gravy, Buttered Salt Potatoes, Carrots, Tossed Salad and Apple Pie ala Mode. Price - \$12. Dinner reservations are required. Please call or email the Valley Office by Monday, January 12th.

January 29th - Conferral of the 15th Degree will take place on Thursday, January 29 (note new date) at the Shrine Center. Social hour at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Degree Conferral begins at 7:30 p.m. Joseph Bourey, 32° DSA, will be the Degree Director for the 14th Degree. Dinner on the 29th will feature Baked Lasagna w/ Marinara Sauce, Italian Meatballs, Green Beans Almandine, Spinach Salad and Lemon Sherbet w/ Sugar Cookie. Price - \$12. Dinner reservations are required. Please call or email the Valley Office by Monday, January 12th.

**Have-a-Heart Campaign**  
The Annual "Have-a-Heart" Campaign, to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House will be taking place from January 31st through February 15th this year. The Valley of Rochester has signed up to staff the Have-a-Heart Booth at Market-

**2009 Abbott Scholarships**

Named for Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921-1932, the Scholarship Program provides financial support for continuing education of young men and women from Scottish Rite families and Masonic-related youth groups. Since 1951, more than \$3 million has been awarded to students from each State in the Northern Jurisdiction.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Be a **currently** enrolled Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior at an accredited college or university with a **minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.** (Freshman scholarships will be distributed after an acceptable GPA is submitted following First Semester);
- Be a **child or grandchild** of a Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction **or**
- Be a member of a youth organization sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction or be a graduate of one of our 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children.

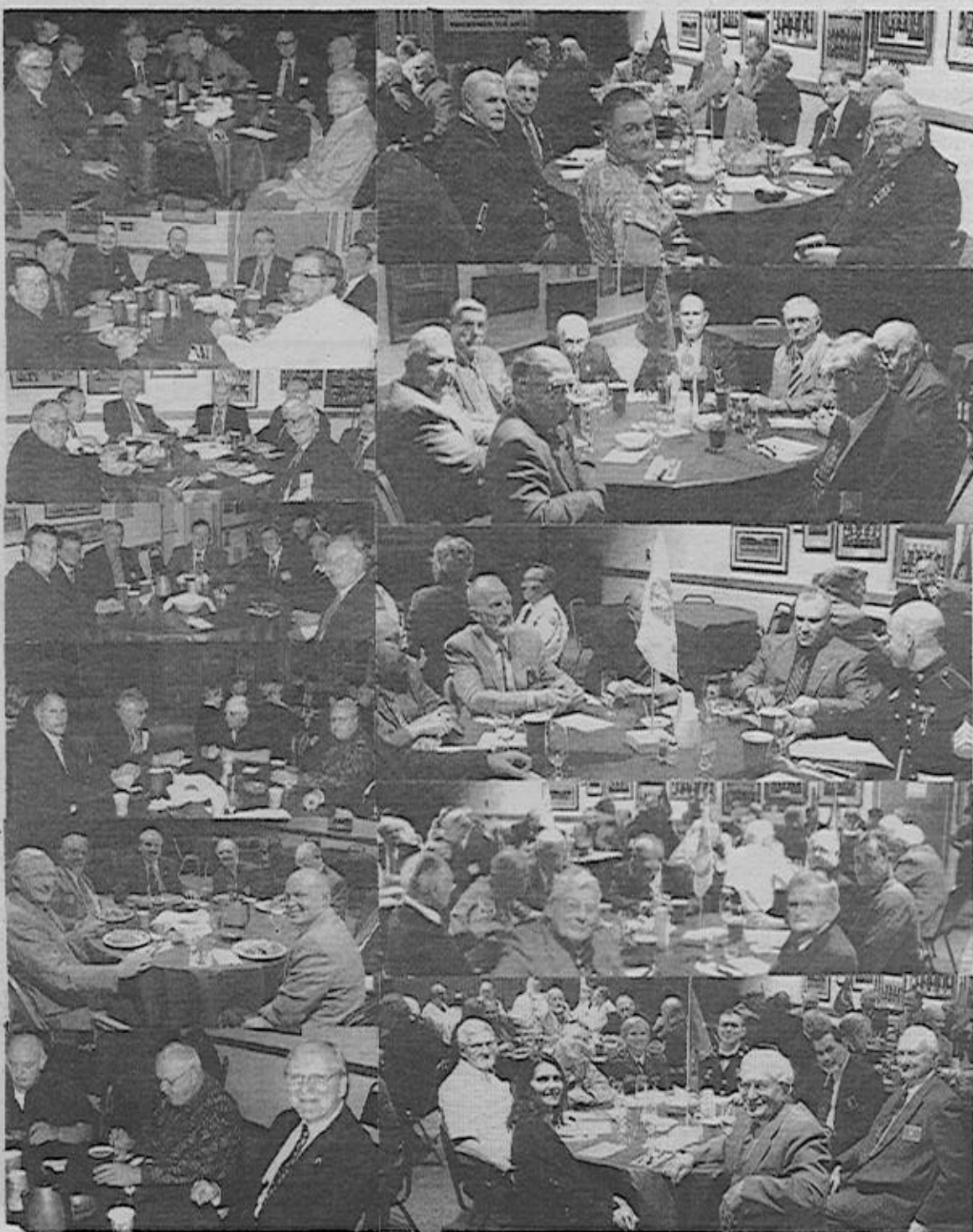
**Applications must be received by April 1, 2009 and must be complete for consideration.**

Forms are available at:  
[www.scottishriteonline.org](http://www.scottishriteonline.org)  
or may be requested from the Valley Office (585-264-1160). Completed forms should be returned to:

**Valley of Rochester, AASR  
Attn: Valley Scholarship Chairman  
3300 Monroe Ave. Suite 320  
Rochester, NY 14618-4617**

**4th° and 5th° Attendees**

**Veterans Night Dinner Guests**





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

# York Rite NEWS

York Rite College  
Judas Maccabeus

## Palmyra/Eagle Chapter No. 79

1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.



High Priest  
David R. Rising  
(315) 331-7337  
drising3@msn.com  
Secretary  
David W. Taber  
388-0629  
dwtaber@frontiernet.net

161 East Main Street, Palmyra 14522

## 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

## 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

By David R. Rising, High Priest

I guess you may consider this a late December or early January newsletter. I hope you all had a Joyous Holiday Season. I am going to try to bring you up to speed on what has been going on in Chapter since my last article in the *Masonic Times* in September.

My surgery on August 21st went well and I'm back to work and recovering well. I am still under the surgeon's care, but hope to be released soon.

Our November meeting was the Official Visit of DDGHP, R.:E.: Lee Collier, who brought and presented the message of M.:E.: Griffith Jones III, Grand High Priest.

Our December meeting was a Summoned Meeting for the Annual Meeting of the Chapter. I had informed the Chapter I had been High Priest for three years and would not seek the Office again.

After much discussion, it came down to the fact that no one was interested in taking the Office. Much discussion was had about turning in the Charter and dissolving the Chapter. I told the members present this was unacceptable and if this is what it was coming down to I would take the Office of High Priest another year to keep the Chapter going. Companions, we have got to get our three waiting Candidates into the Chapter and start showing some enthusiasm and pride in our Chapter or it will cease to exist.

Sir Knights, Attention! My sincere thanks to all the Sir Knights who helped make our Christmas observance on December 20th such a great success. Thank you for bringing spouses, friends and guests, and for participating in the readings and toasts. Also, my appreciation goes to SK and Rev. Charles M. Roberts for his outstanding message as we prepared for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. It was my pleasure to greet so many guests and visitors and the Grand Line of Grand Commandery again supported us well by their attendance.

Our attention at our January 17th Conclave will shift to preparing for our Annual Inspection and perfecting our Tactics and Ritual. Zone Commander and Assistant Zone Commander, SK William C. Jones and SK R. Stuart Smith, Jr., respectively, will assist us in the details. We have much experience and attention to detail in Sagoyewatha Commandery and I appreciate all the Sir Knights that counsel and assist us.

Seeing new members joining the Lodges and Chapters in our area encourages me. Although we miss some of our older members who aren't able to join us every month, it excites me to see new faces and new interest in Masonry. Keep up the good work! Join us for breakfast at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant about 7:30 a.m. on January 17th. I look forward to greeting you.

Companions, we have tried to have dinners prior to our meeting, but no one seems to care to come. We are lucky to have nine or ten Companions attend; I can remember when there were twenty or more at a meeting, I would love to receive some suggestions from you as what we can do to get Companions to attend.

At our December meeting we will decide when we will confer the Degrees. We could help Hornellsville Council by doing the Degrees as they have at least one Candidate. Why don't we have any?

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season and will make a New Year pledge to attend and support all the Masonic Bodies that they belong to.

Let us start the new year by helping our Council regain its greatness.

## Palmyra Council No. 26

Cryptic Masons  
1st Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.

Thrice Illustrious Master

David R. Rising  
(315) 331-7337  
drising3@msn.com

Secretary  
David W. Taber  
388-0629  
dwtaber@frontiernet.net

161 East Main Street  
Palmyra, New York 14522

After missing the last three months, I have returned. I hope everyone had a Joyous Holiday

Season. The last meeting, held on December 4th, was a Summoned Meeting for the purpose of amending the By-Laws.

The following were adopted ... Beginning with the February meeting, all meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. (instead of 8 p.m.) on the first Thursday of each month, except June, July, August and September. If January 1st falls on the first Thursday, there will not be a meeting.

The fee for the several Degrees shall be \$25 ... \$5 to accompany the Petition and the remainder to be paid before tak-

ing the Degree of Royal Master.

The Annual Dues shall be \$25 plus the Grand Council Assessment, payable on or before the Annual Election of Officers. Any Companion in arrears of Dues shall not be entitled to vote on any question, or hold any Office.

There being no Assembly in January (because it falls on New Year's Day), the next Assembly will be held February 5th in Shortsville with a dinner preceding at 6 p.m. at the Lehigh Valley Restaurant in Manchester. Remember the Assembly will start at 7:30 p.m.

## Genesee

York Rite College No. 25

(Chartered July 14, 1962)

Pre-Eminent Governor  
Thomas M. Paglia  
227-2046

Secretary  
Charles M. Roberts  
225-6533  
cholyone@rochester.rr.com

By Tom Paglia

On December 6th, a very festive event was held for the College at which many distinguished guests were present. The festivities commenced with a social hour at Hesperus Lodge in Bergen, where the table was set with a sampling of food to suit every taste.

A meeting followed and it went very well. Every now and then someone made a remark whereby everyone had a good laugh. Many important subjects and dates were discussed.

After the meeting, all went to the Viking Vahala Restaurant for the Annual Christmas Party

Dinner. As you can see by the picture, the restaurant was all dressed up for the Holidays.

After a great dinner was the moment the ladies were waiting for - distribution of a gift. All received a small token of appreciation (wrist watch) for their understanding, distributed by Mrs. Leslie Roberts. The men also received a gift with many small items. All in all, everyone had a great time!

There were about 29 Ladies and Companion Knights in attendance. Considering our group is about 70 members and many had other commitments, the turnout was great.

My sincere thanks to Mrs. Leslie and Rev. Charles Roberts and Cora Paglia who helped put it all together, to all who brought their special dishes to pass and others who were in attendance to make this a very special night.

### Upcoming Events

March 14th - Palmyra Masonic Hall at 2:30 p.m.

May 9th - Sodus Masonic Hall, at 3 p.m.

Remember to bring a dish-to-pass for each meeting.



## PHOTOS FROM VETERANS RECOGNITION NIGHT







## Dan Fletcher's Final Report from Vulcan, Afghanistan

By Dan Fletcher

Couple of final notes on the culture of the people of this land. It seems that there are two celebrations for "Eid" - kind of like their version of Christmas. The first "Eid" is at the end of Ramadan - the Muslim holy month of fasting - which ends about the third week of October and lasts about a week. The second "Eid" is during our month of December (theirs, based on the phases of the moon, are generally 20 days behind ours - date wise). This is the larger of the two celebrations and, like ours, involves feasting, dancing and gift giving. It seems they place great reverence in the Prophet Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God and the celebration of Eid has something to do with that. The second Eid also marks the end of the "Hajj" - or pilgrimage season to Mecca that all Muslims are supposed to attend sometime in their lifetime, if they can afford it. If they make the journey, they will then be renamed "Hajji" for their first name and will command great reverence and respect in their communities.



### Personnel

We recently identified a few new personnel around the Provincial Police Headquarters. It seems that there is one individual who is the "apex" or connection between the Finance and Administrative sections - a computer operator who consolidates the reports between the two sections. This is a very exciting thing for us as he is the head "numbers cruncher" who can assist us with identifying the bogus numbers reported that lead directly to the pay skimming and leading source of corruption in the Province.

We also identified the three Prosecutors or District Attorneys - they have three instead of one as in our system: one for the National Directorate of Security or "NDS" - the Afghan version of the FBI; the Military Prosecutor - kind of like the Bureau of Internal Affairs for the Police; and the Head Prosecutor for the Province. Note that none of them have ever graduated law school and were asking us for a Dari version of their own law code.

Nice enough gents. Whenever I see them I always sing the jingle, "We three prosecutors of Orient are. Busting Afghan crooks, we travel afar. Field and fountain, hill and mountain, following yonder star" (in other words the US).

### "Moments"

It was confirmed that the Polish and other NATO countries have very restrictive "Rules of Engagement" that prevent them from really going after our enemies here and they are very frustrated with it. It is a pity, as they are warriors the same as us and want to destroy the enemies of freedom, peace and all that is decent and sane, but are held back by their overly pacifist governments.

Another note is how some here have had close calls and had "come to Jesus" moments. Mine was when I was nearly hit by a couple of 107MM rockets in Khovst (pity, some General did not think it was dangerous enough to give me a "Combat Action Badge" - oh well). Another was when one of the Terps nearly blew my foot off when his weapons accidentally discharged - ouch. One Air Force lieutenant had one, when an RPG (anti-tank rocket) hit her up-armored HUMWV and impacted on her door window. The glass saved her life but she would not leave the FOB after that.

### Help

They have given me an assistant, "LT Fu." The guy is of Taiwanese decent, very young (24) and a computer genius (and a good photographer as well). He helps out a lot as I am a techno moron with a lot of good ideas. He also works well with the Afghans and has been a tremendous asset to my efforts to assist the ANP with their payroll, finances, attendance reporting, computers and other technology, administrative actions, education and recruiting.

I am also working to develop him as an officer. I think he has learned a lot and had a good experience working for me. He works like a horse on the various technology projects I give him and I think that can be owed that his talents are being utilized and appreciated. He is in a positive work environment and he feels the work and mission is worthwhile. He is also a good project manager. I can give him a project to manage a team of Afghans and walk away with confidence that the job will be done right.

I can't express enough how pleasant it is to have an assistant as I have worked a long time without one. He also helps out with other technology problems around the office and has made our lives, and the lives of our Afghan National Police counterparts, much easier with his ability to answer questions and come up with innovative solutions to any computer, report or information processing or office technology problems.

### Scenery

The ANA have an observation tower on their FOB and you can get a great view of Ghazni from the top. You can see for miles. It is interesting how similar Ghazni is to Heidelberg, Germany, with the mountains, ruined castle on a low ridge overlooking the town and all. The snow has finally come to the mountains and they look quite beautiful when they are "dusted" this way.

### Humanitarian Efforts

We had another successful visit with the orphans. We played Frisbee, soccer and volleyball with them and served them lunch and dessert. Afterward, we gave each child (both girls and boys) a toy that my sister and some of you sent in the form of care packages. Oh the smiles! Nice to be a part of such a noble service and it was a lot of fun for us as well as the orphans.

We really like kids. Not only does it make you feel as though you are part of something great, but also kids mean peace. In other words, if we roll through a town and the kids and women are out, life is good. If the kids and women are running for cover, bullets and bombs come next.

### Tour Over

Well my tour in Afghanistan is winding down. I will be leaving Vulcan and, to be frank, I am kind of sad. I really loved it here: the mission, the dogs, the people, the freedom to think, make arbitrary "on the spot" decisions and not get in trouble for it, manage my own time and come up with a great product and service - everything.

I thought about extending, but by the time I made up my mind it was already too late. I guess I will just have to find another "Vulcan" somewhere out there. I tell you there is nothing like working in a combat zone with a team that respects each other and relies on each other for their lives - the teamwork and decency is awesome!

All that is left now is to make up some certificates for the Afghans, write an award or two, complete packing my stuff (I am going to miss my B-hut room) and say good bye to the friends - US, canine and Afghan alike - that I have made here. So it is with a heavy heart that I prepare to leave Vulcan - the place where I have been the happiest I have ever been in my professional life.

### What I learned!

Some things I have learned from my experience in combat and Afghanistan that I would like to share with all of you:

1. Sometimes it is better to take a chance on the paradise around the corner than stick with the devil you know.
2. The trust and cohesion of a combat unit on a small FOB is awesome! Why can't we all treat each other with the same respect?
3. Extreme hatred, even against an enemy or antagonist that clearly deserves it, can blind you from opportunities you might have clearly seen under different circumstances.
4. War is an ugly, nasty business; but some wars need to be fought to protect the innocent from the predations of the evil.
5. Some people are truly evil - they are NOT normal. They need to be prayed for, ostracized, relieved when in command and, in extreme circumstances, relentlessly hunted and eliminated.
6. Bombs, bullets, IEDs, rockets, mortars, mines and the possibility of being shot or blown up is not nearly as scary as not knowing where you are going (either on the highway or in life), not being able to support your family or losing the respect of your peers and fellow soldiers.
7. It is really nice to go to bed every night with a clear conscience and no fear of tomorrow.
8. A good hot shower is a wonderful thing.
9. There is no better place to view the stars than Afghanistan.
10. Petting, giving treats to and playing with a dog at the end of a stressful day is really good for you.
11. Reading the Bible (scripture) helps to clean out the garbage in your soul and is great for combat stress.
12. Weightlifting is good for combat stress.
13. Running is good for combat stress.
14. Running with dogs is great for your physical and mental health!
15. A good cry over a fallen comrade (human or canine) is good for combat stress.
16. Cleaning your weapons with a friend while watching pointless TV is great for the "Blues."
17. Care packages from home are sacred and must not be thrown out under any circumstances.
18. Mail is the most important thing in the world.
19. It is nice to receive a letter from a friend or loved one in the middle of nowhere.
20. True friends forgive and do not respond to crazy e-mails you might send when you are feeling "down" or suffering from combat stress.
21. Why can't the whole world be like Vulcan? Trust, camaraderie, respect, generosity, laughter, brotherhood, caring and a clear and rewarding mission?
22. Muslims are people too - they just follow a different religion.
23. All governments are corrupt to a degree and all religions have their good people and nut jobs.
24. FOBBITS are clueless.
25. "Shower queens" (those who hog all the hot water) deserve to be humiliated, horse whipped and then shot.
26. The world is a lot wider than your house, hometown, business, office or cubicle.
27. A good night's rest with no guard duty or rocket or mortar attacks is a gift from God.
28. Fast internet service is a wonderful thing.
29. A decent boss who backs you and your ideas up is a gift from God.
30. Cats and three-foot-long monitor lizards are great if you have a mice or rat problem.
31. All flies need to be exterminated.
32. Almost everything you have read or heard about the Afghan people and the war over here through the American media is absolute rubbish designed to sell newspapers and get people to watch TV.
33. A little bit of caring and socialism is good for a society, as lack of concern for the environment, deforestation, greed and selfishness lead to environmental disasters like the one in Afghanistan.
34. Remember that the candy you throw today is going into the hand that is not going to be pulling the trigger trying to kill you tomorrow.
35. Smiles, a good sense of humor and genuine interest in the individual are universally well received.
36. A decent boss, co-workers and work environment where you and your words and ideas are respected and promoted with little or no silly rules, power plays or bureaucracy is far more desirable than all the amenities (consistent hot showers, big buffets, good toilets, etc.) in the world.
37. The "flagpole" (Headquarters) is the most undesirable place in the world in a combat zone.
38. Referring to the above - Camp Phoenix (Kabul) is little more than a concrete box with a "puzzle palace" built inside it. But they do have a nice coffee shop.
39. District Teams have a lot more fun and receive a lot more interesting training and experiences than the poor saps at "Provincial," but like anything, it depends on what you make of it.
40. You can get so much more out of people by treating them decently than you can by micro-managing them and using a "horse whip."
41. Enlightened people discuss different viewpoints. Not so enlightened people keep screaming until only they are the ones left talking and/or standing in the room.
42. Before you send an e-mail, imagine the face or faces of the person you are sending it to. If you can say what you are writing to their face and live with yourself; hit "send." If not, hit "delete."
43. Some of the best friends and finest people you will ever meet are found in a combat zone.

Continued on Page 22



**Dan Fletcher**

Continued from Page 21

44. People think they are always right and seldom admit when they are wrong - even when they are responsible for getting other people shot up and hurt.
45. Armies from pacifist-run nations are only here for show.
46. Incoming 107MM rocket fire has the right-of-way.
47. Cheap toys, software, bikes, cloths, electronics, etc., are made in the Peoples Republic of China. So are 107MM rockets, bombs, 81MM mortars, mines, IED explosives, recoilless rifles, RPG anti-tank rockets and AK-47 assault rifles that are "cheerfully" sold to both sides in this war - and they don't give a damn who gets hurt.
48. Sometimes you have to scream at people and set rigid boundaries in order to gain their respect.
49. "Love thy neighbor," as he might have more influence, bigger guns and more bullets than you.
50. A face washing from a three week old puppy is great for your morale.
51. Having an assistant is really, really, really - I mean really - nice and does wonders for your productivity.
52. A positive work environment that includes good people and laughter is a gift from God.
53. Organic suckers and Scottish Shortbread cookies are really tasty!
54. Afghan food is much better for you (and often better tasting) than American food.
55. Nobody works or studies harder than a Hazara.
56. If you are going to give out candy and pens to Afghan kids, you are better served to give them to an Afghan National - either an ANP, ANA or one of the Terps. The kids tend to get a little aggressive and know that we cannot hurt them. The Afghan National Security Force (or ANSF - the ANP or ANA or the Terps) do not have such restrictions and can yell at the kids in their own language.
57. Boots from "Blackhawk" with thick rubber soles are a Godsend with the stones on these FOBs and are much better than the Army-issue boots which are waterproof, but have no rubber.

**Shriners Hospital for Children - Springfield, MA**

We hope the Holiday Season is still in full swing in your home and that the new year will be a happy and healthy one for you and yours. We also hope that our hospitals will be able to help more kids lead a more normal and active life. That is the purpose of the Shrine.

In case you don't have the Shrine website address, here it is... [www.shrinershq.org](http://www.shrinershq.org). To check out the Member Benefits information - [www.shrinesavers.com](http://www.shrinesavers.com) or call (866) 725-7001 to obtain the latest savings and benefits available to every Shriner. Check these out and learn more about our great Philanthropy.

"Safe Kids Buckle Up" is a relatively new service our Hospital provides to the community. This is a program to ensure that child car seats are correct and properly installed. Research has shown improper or poorly designed car seats are a big cause of injury or death of children involved in an auto accident. We have six certified car seat technicians who have taken special training who regularly

carry out this community education activity. A driver brings his/her child/children, the car seat they are currently using, the vehicle owners manual and the car seat instructions. Our certified staff makes sure that all aspects of safety are explored and in place. The motto for every event is - Children Leave Safer than When They Arrived. The service is free, but if new equipment is required and available, a contribution is requested so additional car seats can be purchased and the program continued.

Keep saving the tabs. Last year we collected over \$2,000 from the sale of the tabs. This year will be a little below that figure as the price of aluminum has dropped a great deal. However, it is still worth the effort so keep the tabs coming to the Temple or to your Club or unit.

It was our pleasure, Steve Sills and mine, to take eight large bags of stuffed animals to our Springfield Hospital for the children from the Daughters of the Nile. This generous gift was appreciated

**St. Louis Shriners Hospital Moving to Washington University Campus**

In mid-April, the Joint Board of Directors and Trustees for Shriners Hospitals for Children approved building a new 247,000-square-foot hospital at the Washington University Medical Center campus in St. Louis. The new location will further enhance clinical care for patients and research opportunities at both facilities.

"This is truly a fantastic opportunity for Shriners Hospitals for Children, Washington University School of Medicine and, more importantly, the children we treat," said Ralph Semb, Chairman of Shriners Hospitals for Children's Board of Trustees.

Plans for the new hospital include 40 inpatient beds, four surgical suites and 30 clinic examination rooms. In addition, an entire floor of the new building will be dedicated to scientific research to maximize the hospital's and the School of Medicine's shared interest in investigating musculoskeletal conditions.

"The closer our Shriners Hospital is to the resources of the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis Children's Hospital, as well as the other facilities of the BJC Health-care organization, the more effective we can be in providing care to our children and more fully collaborating in the research and education that is the hallmark of this world-renowned medical center and the Shriners Hospitals sys-

tem," said John O'Shaughnessy, Administrator of the St. Louis Hospital.

The St. Louis Shriners Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine have been partners for decades, according to Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., Executive

by the Hospital Staff who is responsible for giving one out to "our kids." We know how much they are enjoyed. I may have the privilege of giving some of these out at this year's Christmas Party for the children on December 11th. Thank you so much, Sisters, for all your efforts throughout the year.

As we look at the reports as of the end of October, we see our Springfield Hospital is fourth among all 22 Shrine Hospitals in new patients this year (2500) and Erie is fifth (2300). Springfield is second in the number of outpatient visits and Erie and Springfield are very close in the adjusted expenses per discharge - about \$12,000 per patient. Each of us should be proud to the medical care our Hospitals provide. Outstanding medical care at no cost to the patient or his/her family.

Income to our Hospitals, to date, this year is down from 2007 and we hope that an end of the year will provide a surge in our donations. I am not proud of the fact that Damascus Shriners are in the bottom third of all Temples in the support of our Hospitals. Damascus has a proud heri-

**Thanks**

I appreciate all that many of you have sent to me in the form of cards and packages! If any of you would like to send various items (candy, pens, toys, blankets, toiletries, etc.) to the guys who have replaced me and continue to perform this great mission for the Afghan people, please send them to the following:

John Strain  
2/1/203 ETT (FOB Vulcan)  
FOB Ghazni  
APO AE 09354

He is the First Sergeant here and a wonderful person who will make sure it gets to the right places. Another guy is James Fluechtling, same address. He was one of the guys I gave gallon-sized bags of candy to (fits well inside the gun turrets) that I received from many of you. If you send it, please put it inside those same bags.

I have appreciated all the support you have given me in this tour - the cards, packages, kind e-mails or just reading my random thoughts. I have seen the worst of mankind here and also the best and from it all I have cause for hope. As I have said before, we turned our backs on these people once and paid a heavy price for our negligence (9-11).

They have their problems, as all nations do, but many here are very dedicated to moving forward. There was once a small nation (the new United States) that desperately needed help and a larger nation (France) came to assist, sending money, material and its sons and daughters. Can we do no less?

As for me, I look forward to exploring further the larger world I have discovered over here. They say war changes a man and I pray that I have changed for the better. But, aside from that, I leave you now with the following thought and look forward to meeting you all in person soon.

An old Native American Legend (so I am told) stated that when a man dies and he truly regrets the things he has done and said wrong in this life, he gets to go back to the times in his life when he was truly happy. I pray when it is my turn to go I get to go back and spend some time at Vulcan. ✕

tage going back for many, many years. Let's build back that reputation.

At a recent meeting of the Chiefs of Staff of our Hospitals it was learned that our Hospitals must plan for, AT BEST, a 0% increase in our budgets for the next several years. In order to do this, we must be prepared for radical changes in our Hospital program. It just is not possible to keep on the cutting edge of medical technology under these circumstances. To continue to carry on as we have in the past would be irresponsible. Our voting delegates at the Imperial session must be informed, knowledgeable and ready to make important decisions about the future of our Hospitals. Change is all around us in every segment of our society. Our Hospitals are no different.

Jean Cocteau said Shriners Hospital for Children - Springfield, MA said, "Of course I believe in luck. How otherwise to explain the success of some people you detest?"

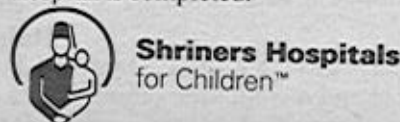
"Til next month, remember, - If you want life's best, see to it that life gets your best. ✕

Vice-Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine. A majority of St. Louis Shriners Hospital medical staff are faculty members at Washington University.

Shriners Hospitals bought the property, which includes a parking lot and a former Pepsi Bottling Co. facility, from Washington University. Construction of the new hospital is expected to begin in Spring 2009

and be completed in 2012. The architectural firm Gresham Smith & Partners will design the facility.

The current St. Louis Shriners Hospital, located at 2001 South Lindbergh Blvd., will be sold once construction of the new hospital is completed. ✕



A preliminary rendering of the new St. Louis Shriners Hospital that will be built on the Washington University Medical Center campus, expected to be completed in 2012.



# In Memoriam

## Baker, Merrill E.

On November 28th, Merrill Baker, 89, laid aside his Working Tools. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jean; 2 children and 4 grandchildren. Merrill was a member of Damascus Shrine, and Sodus Lodge. He was a World War II Army Veteran. He labored hard for those he loved, then left us to remember.

## Crabbs, John S.

At the age of 90, John Crabbs entered Eternal Rest, leaving a daughter, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren to remember him. John was a member of ERAC Lodge, was a U.S. Navy Veteran and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

## Dell, Aaron W., Jr.

Aaron Dell, 84, met his Maker on October 21st. Aaron was a member of Garoga-Sincerity Lodge. May your tears become rainbows when you remember your loved one.

## Hand, Francis L.

December 10th was the day Francis L. Hand, 91, set aside his Working Tools and joined the Celestial Lodge. Francis leaves his wife of 68 years, Jean, 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild to remember his life. Brother Francis was a long-time member of Clio Lodge. His nephew Jayson Hand was Raised last year in Clio. The Brothers remember Brother Francis driving around Hilton with his faithful dogs in the front seat of his pick-up and during the Annual Salmon Runs, Francis could be seen helping area kids haul in those 25-pound salmons.

## Kates, Philip

On November 24th, Philip Kates departed his Earthly family, leaving two sons and family to remember him. Philip was a member of Fairport-Flower City Lodge. Wishing you a garden of lovely memories.

## Klein, Joseph A.

On November 23rd, the loving arms of the Lord embraced Joseph Klein, 78, a caring, creative and generous friend. His wife of 58 years, Helen, 2 children and 4 grandchildren will miss him greatly. Joseph was a member of Fairport-Flower City Lodge. A memory is a keepsake of time that lives forever in the heart.

## Lay, Merton J.

Merton Lay passed away December 9th leaving his children and Brothers of Union Star Lodge to remember his life. There are special people in our lives who never leave, even after they're gone.

## Meyer, Renkert G., Sr.

Renkert "Renky" Meyer, Sr., 89, found loving peace in the arms of the Lord on December 14th. Five children, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren live on with his memories. Renky was a member of Unity Lodge and was an Army Veteran of World War II. There is a link death cannot sever; Brotherhood and remembrance last forever.

## Michaels, Joseph E.

Joseph Michaels, 87, passed away on November 22nd. Joe was a member of Ark Lodge and a Navy Veteran of World War II. His former wife, Norma; 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren survive him. His family and friends will lovingly remember him.

## Peter, George

We have received word that George Peter, 86, was called to the Celestial Lodge on August 10th. He was a member of Damascus Shrine. May he find peace with the Great Architect of the Universe.

## Rakus, Mitchell C., Sr.

On December 4th, Mitchell Rakus, 90, said goodbye to his Earthly home. He was a 66-year member of ERAC Lodge and is survived by a son and 2 grandchildren. No length of time can take away our thoughts of you today.

## Ruh, Carl R.

Carl Ruh, 83, passed away November 25th. His wife of 61 years, Betty; 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren will share his memories. Carl was a member of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Rochester, and a Navy Veteran of World War II. May the joy of the Lord be your strength.

## Smith, Elmer R.

Elmer Smith, 84, went Home to his Lord on October 18th. Elmer was a member of Garoga-Sincerity Lodge. A page in our book of memories is gently turned today.

## Snyder, Henry E.

On December 10th, Henry Snyder, 78, left his Earthly home and his wife, Jean, 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren to miss him. Henry was a member of Scottish Rite and very active in community organizations and his church. Loving prayers are with you now and in days to come.

## Thomson, Eric

December 12th was the day the Lord called Eric Thomson to his Heavenly Home. His wife of 48 years, Elizabeth, 2 daughters and 8 grandchildren and Brothers of Oatka Lodge will keep his memory in their hearts. You left us with a garden of memories, sprayed with a million tears.

## Whitmore, Donald L.

At age 90, Donald Whitmore laid down his Working Tools on November 25th. His wife of 65 years, Evelyn, daughter and grandchildren will miss him. Donald was a member of Webster Lodge.

## Widows to be Remembered

**Dolan, Phyllis**, 85, widow of Walter "Bud" Dolan (Union Lodge) passed away November 25th.

**Moll, Alfa W.**, widow of John A. Moll (Fairport-Flower City Lodge) and member of OES Fairport Chapter, passed away December 4th.

**Nopper, Helen**, widow of Leo Nopper (Wakan-Hubbard Lodge) passed away November 24th.



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Noble, GS (h) 585-216-9016 (o) 585-545-5522 (e) mikenohie@aol.com Wayne M. Patridge, GS (h) 585-493-5296 (e) patridge@frontiernet.net Francis E. Powley, Jr., GS (h) 315-483-2745 (o) 315-483-6944 (h) 315-483-4189 (e) soduspowleys@msn.com Joseph L. Shanks, GS (h) 585-582-1028 (o) 585-582-2120 (h) 585-624-1624 (e) jshanksjso@gmail.com George L. Todd, GS (h) 585-964-5809 (o) 585-654-0253 (h) 585-654-0221 (e) gtodd1@rochester.rr.com William A. Valois III, GDC (h) 315-568-2000 (o) 315-568-3024 (h) 315-568-3015 (e) wav47@peoplepc.com</p> <p><b>MASONIC EDUCATION</b> Grand Lecturer Charles E. Toombs (h) 315-687-5780 (e) ctoombs@twcny.rr.com Western Region AGL Alan Ramsey (h) 585-458-2335 (o) 585-436-8189 AGLs William Benedict II (h) 315-524-3597 (o) 315-946-5786 (e) wcb059@hotmail.com Harry J. DeHollander (h) 585-624-1717 (e) ny4harry@aol.com Bruce D. Huie (h) 585-789-2985 (e) bhuie@rochester.rr.com Roy Moses (h) 585-346-2117 (f) (585)-346-9260 *51 Dennis G. 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## Masonic Activities Looking Ahead

### FEBRUARY

- 2nd O/S/Y-GDC Visit Canandaigua Lodge
- 3rd O/S/Y-GDC Visit Garoga-Sincerity Lodge
- 9th O/S/Y-GDC Visit Dundee Lodge
- 12th O/S/Y-GDC Visit Geneva Lodge
- 14th Scottish Rite Valentine Dinner with Our Ladies at La-Tea-Da Tea Room and Parlour; 258 Alexander Street
- 17th O/S/Y-GDC Visit Farmerville Union
- 18th O/S/Y-GDC Visit Ark Lodge
- 19th Scottish Rite - BBB Night at Shrine Center Public Degree/ADAR Celebration
- 19th O/S/Y-GDC Visit Seneca Lake Lodge
- 21st Scottish Rite - Pancake & Sausage Breakfast; 16° & 18°
- 24th O/S/Y-GDC Visit Pocahontas Lodge

### MARCH

- 9th AARP Safe Driving Course - Session 1
- 11th AARP Safe Driving Course - Session 2
- 22nd Feast of the Paschal Lamb at Shrine Center

Cancelled ...  
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

- 1st Scottish Rite Reunion Banquet
- 16th Oatka Lodge Cornerstone-Laying Celebration
- 16th Learning Center Walk @ Perinton Park

### OCTOBER

- 23rd Grand Lecturer's Convention



Gem - Garnet  
Flower - Carnation

# BIG CALENDAR - JANUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Events at Shrine Center or Shriners' Events in this typeface. See <i>Damascus News</i> section for details.		Deadline for the Masonic Times is January 10	1 New Year's Day	2 Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 pm, \$7 adult, \$4 Child 30 Orchard Street	3 OES - Rochester Chapter - Spencerport
4 Clio Lodge Spaghetti Dinner Weds 7th and 21st 287 East Avenue, Hilton	5 Canandaigua - Shortsville RAM - Palmyra/Eagle KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford Shrine Lunch Club	6 Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson, Shrine Center Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps Nunda Station Oakland - Castle OES - Fairport, Notata, Starlight Blood Drive-Clio 1:30-6 pm	7 Dunrin Square - Palmyra Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy Damascus Shrine OES - Llac Star O/SY Meeting-Seneca	8 Fame, Shrine Center Minor - Victor (GDC Visit) Union - Lima Webster - Fellowshipcraft RAM - Hiram Lalla Rookh Calderon WYN-Masters & Wardens, Clyde Lodge		
11 Eagle Lodge Eagle Chapter Spaghetti Dinner January 15th 4994 County Rd 36 Honeoye	12 ERAC - Shrine Center Fairport/Flower City, 3° Union Star - Honeoye Falls Unity - Spencerport, 1° Wakar/Hubbard - Penfield LIV District School of Ritual, Avon Springs Shrine Lunch Club	13 Eagle - Honeoye (GDC Visit) Seneca - Webster Valley-Simes, 2° ShrineCenter RAM - Dansville OES - Leah - Hilton, Mary Jane Holmes - Brockport	14 Oakta - Scottsville Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Corinthian-Fellowship MDC/Eunice Lodge, Caledonia	15 Eunice - Caledonia Northfield - Pittsford Webster/Walk-About Scottish Rite	9 O/SY Charities Dinner	10 Daughters of the Nile, Zama Temple - Fairport
18 Canandaigua - Shortsville KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto Legion of Honor Shrine Lunch Club - Ladies Day Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson, Shrine Center Garoga/Sincerity - Phelps Nunda Station OES - Notata, Starlight	20 Oakta - Scottsville Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Leah - Hilton, Mary Jane Holmes - Brockport	21 Ark - Geneva, 2° Drumlin Square - Palmyra Livonia, 3° RSM - Doric Council, Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto	22 Fame, Shrine Center Minor - Victor, 1° Union - Lima Webster - Fellowshipcraft RAM - Hiram LIV District School of Ritual, Livonia James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post No. 12 Perry Shrine Club		17 KT - Sagoyewatha - Phelps
25 ERAC - Shrine Center Fairport/Flower City (BAF) Union Star - Honeoye Falls Unity - Spencerport, 1° Wakar/Hubbard - Penfield LIV District Masters & Wardens, Livonia Shrine Lunch Club	26 Eagle - Honeoye (Optional) Seneca - Webster RAM - Dansville, LeRoy OES - Leah - Hilton MON District School of Ritual, ShrineCenter Valley-Simes, ShrineCenter	27 Oakta - Scottsville Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Leah - Hilton, Mary Jane Holmes - Brockport	28 Oakta - Scottsville Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Leah - Hilton, Mary Jane Holmes - Brockport	29 Fame, Shrine Center Minor - Victor, 1° Union - Lima Webster - Fellowshipcraft RAM - Hiram LIV District School of Ritual, Livonia James A. Hard/Wayne Charter Post No. 12 Perry Shrine Club	30 O/SY District Table Lodge, Garoga-Sincerity	24 Blood Drive - Webster Lodge, 9 am - 2 pm Oakta Spaghetti Dinner, Scottsville

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Web: www.frontiernet.net-phurwitz



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