



# Masonic Times

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

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

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## Rescheduled Event

## Masonic Care Community Campus' Tompkins Chapel Celebrates Century



**Hadi-Ya-Saga**  
**DeMolay Preceptory**  
Cordially invites you to  
attend the  
**Public Conferral of the**  
**DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor**  
upon

**G. Michael Morris**  
Saturday, January 29, 2011  
2 p.m.  
Damascus Shrine Center

979 Bay Road, Webster, New York

Join us as we honor an individual who has been recognized by DeMolay International for outstanding adult leadership and service to humanity.



By Kathy Contino-Turner

As I work in my office in the Knights Templar Building on the Campus of the Masonic Care Community, it's hard to imagine that in only a few short months, the snow will be gone, the flowers will be out and the Annual St. John's Day Weekend

will be upon us. This year is certainly a special year because, as the title of this article says, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel.

This building is a favorite on the Utica Campus and an inspiration to any who visit. Of

course, it was named after the M.:W.: Daniel D. Tompkins, who not only served two terms as the Governor of New York State and two terms as the Vice-President of the United States under James Monroe,

*Continued on Page 3*

**Save the Date!**

**Monday, January 31, 2011**

**School of Ritual**

Webster Lodge Hall  
30 Orchard Street

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Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of the Cardiac Research Institute at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) and his Experimental Cardiology team were awarded a \$1.75 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the basis for the development of atrial fibrillation (AF) and to develop safe and effective therapies for AF.

Atrial fibrillation, which involves a quivering of the upper chambers of the heart, is the most common abnormal rhythm of the heart encountered in the clinic. Its prevalence in the United States is estimated at 2.66

## Antzelevitch Awarded \$1.75 Million Grant by NIH to Study New Therapies for Atrial Fibrillation

By Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development and Communication

million and is rising at an alarming rate as our population ages. One in ten people are expected to develop AF as they approach 80 years of age. These numbers are projected to increase to 15 million in North America alone by 2050.

Safe and effective treatment of atrial fibrillation (AF) remains a major unmet medical need in our society. Despite significant progress in ablation therapy for AF, antiarrhythmic drugs remain first-line therapy for rhythm control of AF. However, the effectiveness and/or safety of agents available for the treatment of AF are not optimal. Currently available therapeutic options all have intrinsic limitations and new approaches to the pharmacologic management of AF are critically needed.

AF is also a major complication associated with congestive heart failure (CHF), a condition

in which the ability of the heart to pump blood to the rest of the body is compromised. An estimated 5 million patients in the United States have CHF and it is a major cause of hospitalization and mortality in the Western world. There is a critical need to manage AF in patients with CHF.

Because available drugs have a propensity to induce arrhythmias in the main pumping chamber of the heart, the ventricles, recent drug development for the management of AF has focused on formulation of atrial-selective drugs. Antzelevitch and his colleagues were the first to demonstrate that sodium channel in atria differ from those found in the ventricles and their grant will focus on understanding the basis for this distinction and on finding drugs that inhibit the sodium channels in the atria without affecting those in the ventricles, thus identifying drugs that are both very safe and

effective in preventing the development of AF.

Other members of the Experimental Cardiology team who will take part in the study include Drs. Alexander Burashnikov, Jonathan Cordeiro, Jose Di Diego, and Andrew Zygmunt.

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The Laboratory's primary mission is to conduct high quality basic and clinical research aimed at generating knowledge and information necessary for development of the medical cures and treatments of tomorrow. It is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Visit [www.mmrl.edu](http://www.mmrl.edu) to learn more about MMRL research.

Dated Material

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## FROM THE STAFF OF THE MASONIC TIMES

### Damascus News see page 9



## Editor's Corner

Twenty-ten was a year like any other. Some things were good and some things were not so good. Annually I find new challenges; new opportunities; new frustrations!

As the Executive Director of the Masonic Service Bureau, I am very grateful for the many individuals who volunteer their time when a new project or program comes up. It's time, once again, to let them know how much I appreciate them and how beneficial they are to this operation. I wish I had enough hours in the day to write a personal note to each one. Regrettably, I'm not that far out of the woods yet.

### Camp DeMolay

The first group I wish to recognize are those involved with Camp DeMolay. Over the past couple of years, we have a new building, constructed a ramp for handicapped access to Anderson Lodge, repaired windows and replaced the rotting siding on the Lodge, painted some buildings, put up a new section of fence along the top of the cliff, installed on-demand water heaters for the kitchen and the bath house, made other repairs as needed and held regular maintenance workdays. None of this would have been possible without Ralph Jurgens and Richard Snyder. Faithfully they trudged out to Sodus Point on a weekly basis to perform these, and other, tasks as needed, usually just the two of them.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention George Fohner and his sons, Rob and Allen, for their generous contribution of time and materials to re-wire the entire facility. The biggest improvement was putting all the main cables underground...a safety feature that brought

smiles to the faces of our attorney and insurance agent.

I can't forget others who helped as needed, or as they were able - Gary Sanford, Jack Steinkamp, Ron Weber, Rene VanDeVeire, Angelo DiCataldo, Herb Spencer, Mike McBride, Joy Woodley and Jan Porter. I apologize to anyone I have missed...my gut says there were others involved.

Tim McNelly, an Assistant Scoutmaster, has brought his troop of Boy Scouts out to the Camp on several occasions over the years since I have been involved. Among their contributions are the cutting and splitting of trees to fill the wood-storage racks near the Lodge, so Camp users will be able to keep warm or toast marshmallows for snacks.

As our volunteers have aged, it has been necessary to hire some help. Jim and Tracie have kept the grass mowed, so there are clear areas for parking cars and playing games.

Since it is virtually impossible for me to get out there, although I have helped on a few projects, I can't thank these people enough for their willingness to help and their expertise in areas of which I have absolutely no knowledge. That facility is probably the largest user of our volunteers.

### Other Projects

The other two major activities we undertake also require a great deal of help. The Widows Luncheon in April and the Interfaith Service and Brunch in October take a lot of time and effort on the part of many. Several of our helpers are members of the Board of Directors, in addition to whatever Office they may hold in an Organization(s). I have mentioned some already - Gary, Joy, Herb, Jan, George. Others include Barbara Goodrich, Garry Cranker, Bruce Chilton, Jim De Lorenzo, Ramona Dimino, John Dudley, Mat Gingold, Christina Hampton, Elaine Milner, Jim Nersinger and Bev VanHuben. Other voting members who have helped in various ways

## Help Wanted!

The Masonic Service Bureau is looking for an individual to assist with Loan Closet operations, part-time, three hours, mornings, Monday through Friday, minimum wage. Need to dispense items, log in returns, clean and maintain items. Interested? Call 671-9730 for appointment to discuss.

are Don Darrohn, Jim Ghent, Linda Zahn, Derek VanHouten and Terry Wihlen, Sr.

Council members, who have supported us and attended our monthly meetings as they were able, are Gary Burke, Dave Foster, Rich Friedman, Roger Lynch (many times accompanied by Nancy), Ken Milner, Cliff Short, Glenn Stahl and Jean Stewart.

### Masonic Times

This newspaper requires the assistance of many, starting with the correspondents who supply us with the information for their respective organizations. Then Jan, who does most of the typing and formatting, followed by Bev, Barb, Garry, Herb and Mat, who is fighting through his illness, for proof-reading the typeset columns. Mike Bocklage, who has helped with the photos since Dave King resigned, relieves me of a time-consuming task.

The biggest struggle with the paper recently is changing the software. As I write this column, I believe the entire issue will be done using InDesign...a first! We are biting the bullet and attempting to iron out the difficulties through our inexperience. Knock on wood...we are making progress!

### Budget and Finances

The budget for the Masonic Service Bureau for 2011 has been approved by the Board of Directors. Our income has been declining along with the number of members in the Fraternity. We are using more of our investment principal than we should, if we are to remain a functioning entity.

The **Masonic Times** budget is not balanced. Depending on the actual income and expense for the next year, we may re-visit subscription information for 2012. Camp DeMolay is also looking for additional sources of income, to the point of setting firm dollar amounts for the use of the facility. We have many expenses there, which continue to increase and should not be underwritten by the funds of the Bureau.

The Annual Appeal finally was completed and mailed. The initial response has been very, very good, and I thank you, who have responded, for your continued generous support. For those who have not had the chance yet, please consider a donation. We need money to keep the op-

eration viable and to show the Community how valuable an asset Brother Masons and Eastern Star Sisters are to them.

Daily, we are thanked for the equipment available in our Loan Closet...a service that has taxed our abilities with the increased volume since the closing of the Webster Cupboard. There is an advertisement on this page seeking a person to come in part-time to help maintain and dispense this equipment. If you know anyone, or are interested yourself, please give a call to the Office or send us an email so we can discuss our needs.

I have great anticipation that 2011 will be an interesting year. Thank you for your past support. Thank you for, I hope, your continued support. Happy New Year to each of you. May it be one of your best yet!

Thanks for reading. ✕



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We will not have a meeting in January. Our next meeting will be February 24th.

### VA Birthday Party

On January 16th, we will still make our Birthday visit to the Veteran's facility in Canandaigua. If anyone would like to join us, we meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. at the Villager Restaurant in Downtown Canandaigua. Then we go to the VA Facility at 2 p.m. and meet in Building 7.

Brothers, try to remember that our big push this year is to get new members. If you know someone who might be interested and you don't have a Petition, please call Commander John Ponschok at 338-2998 or Adjutant Vance Collom at 217-9817.

We hope everyone had Happy Holidays and may we all have a wonderful and prosperous rest of this Masonic Year. Remember to always keep faith with all Brothers. ✕

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this Winter?

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## Masonic Service Bureau

of Greater Rochester, NY, Inc.

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## Frank M. Totton Essay Contest 2011 Deadline Approaching...

### 2011 Topic...

How Can You Make a  
Difference in Someone Else's Life?

Entries must be postmarked by January 11, 2011.

(Please don't wait until the last minute!)

This Essay Contest is open to all High School Seniors who anticipate entering an accredited college in the Fall of 2011 and who is the child, grandchild or a member of the extended family of a Master Mason in good standing in New York State.

Deceased Brothers are included as long as they were in good standing at the time of their death.

The Essay topic this year is "How Can You Make a Difference in Someone Else's Life?" Essays are to be postmarked by January 11, 2011. Please follow the rules on the application.

Forms may be obtained through your Lodge Secretary, District Deputy or downloaded from the Grand Lodge Website ([www.nymasons.org](http://www.nymasons.org)) under Youth Committee or Netnews or Empire State Mason magazine Website ([www.esmason.com](http://www.esmason.com)).

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

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979 Bay Road, Suite 2

## Tompkins Chapel

Continued from Page 1

but served his Brothers and this Fraternity as Grand Master in 1820. He was coroneted a 33° Scottish Rite Mason while in his early 30s and was chosen the first Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Tompkins was a true Patriot who, while serving as Governor, used his own resources to fund New York State's participation in the War of 1812. Sadly, after the war was over, it took Tompkins years to recoup his assets and that took a severe toll on his health.

Close to 70 years after his death, Brothers in New York City wanted to create a memorial to him. At the same time, plans were underway to build a small chapel on the grounds of the Masonic Home and School in Utica. It was decided to pool the resources and build the magnificent chapel in his honor on the Utica Campus.

The Daniel D. Tompkins Memorial Chapel has been enjoyed by thousands of people over the years. Whether it was the "Masonic Kids" singing in choir, our senior residents enjoying countless religious services over the years, weddings and, yes, even the final goodbye of a funeral, this

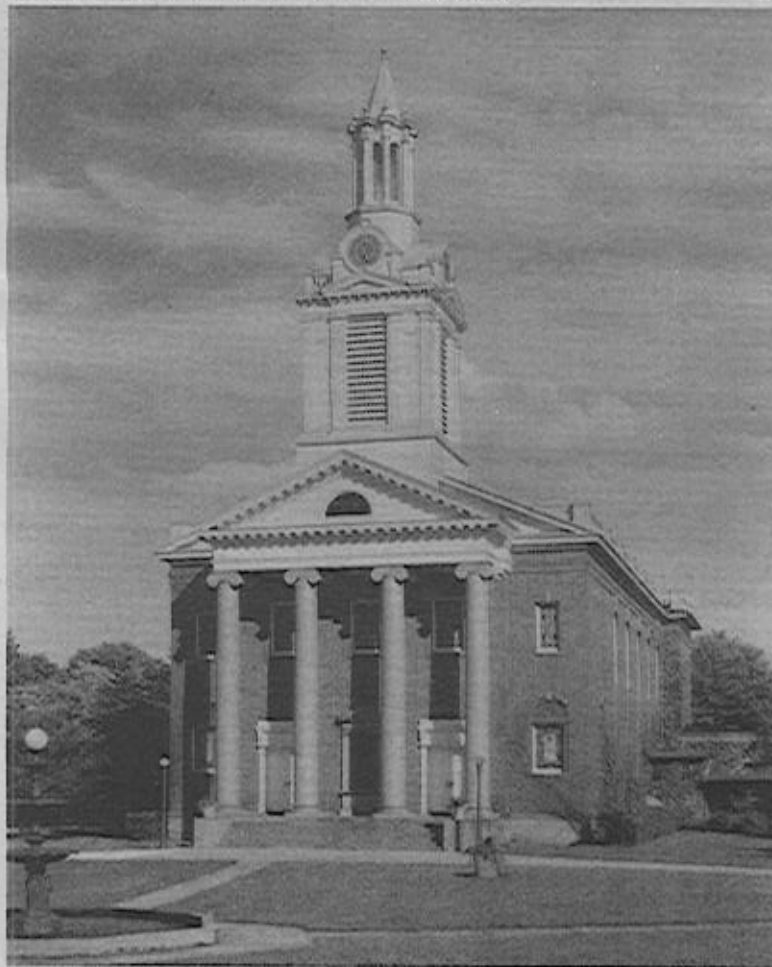
building stands as testament to the man for whom it was named, and the Fraternity to which he dedicated his life.

As we prepare for the 100th Anniversary, we are working on a commemorative book that will include professional photographs of all the windows and various furnishings in the building, as well as the history of the structure and its namesake. The book will be available on St. John's Day Weekend.

We would love all Lodges in New York State to get involved in this project by making a donation to the Chapel Anniversary. You can sponsor a photo in the book, or a floral arrangement that will adorn the chapel for the re-dedication program and Investiture Service on June 25th or purchase an ad in the back of the program. It is our sincere hope this book will be something that is cherished and when the Chapel celebrates its 200th birthday, it will serve as a remembrance of our commitment to this legacy.

Please contact Brother JP Kidwell, at (315) 798-4703; the Masonic Care Community, or by email at: [kidwellj@masoniccommunityny.org](mailto:kidwellj@masoniccommunityny.org)

Make plans now to attend St. John's Day, and celebrate with your Brothers from throughout the State!



Tompkins Chapel, circa 1930

## Masonic Medical Research Laboratory Honors Two as Employees of the Year

By Ronald P. Kamp,

Director of Development and Communications

David Hamlin and Brigid LaComb were selected as 2010 Employees of the Year at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) and honored at the MMRL's Holiday Party.

### David Hamlin

Hamlin joined the Laboratory in February of 2004 and currently serves as Maintenance Supervisor. He has responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the entire physical plant. When asked what he likes best he said, "My favorite part of the position is the diversity of what I do. Every day is different and presents a unique challenge."



According to Dr. Charles Antzelevitch, Executive Director and Director of Research of the MMRL, "David, from the start, impressed us with his multifaceted abilities. He approaches every job and every challenge with professionalism and expertise and does it all with a smile. He is most deserving of this recognition by his peers." David lives with his wife, Patty and their two children in Clark Mills.

### Brigid LaComb

LaComb joined the Laboratory in April of 2004 and serves as Executive Secretary to the Executive Director. Her duties include preparation of



administrative reports, coordination of meetings and itineraries of the Executive Director, Board of Directors and Advisory Board, and coordination and planning of functions. According to Antzelevitch, "Brigid works tirelessly on behalf of the entire staff. Despite the incredible demands on her time, she is never flustered and performs every task with finesse and a smile. She is able to keep many balls in the air, meeting requests from me, our Board of Directors, our Advisory Board and all of our staff. For her many years of exceptional service to the Laboratory, she is most deserving of this recognition" Brigid lives in Newport with her husband, Louis. When asked what she appreciates most about her work Brigid stated, "I enjoy working for Dr. Antzelevitch and with my great coworkers who are not only colleagues but also friends."

Founded in 1958, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL) has gained international renown and wide acclaim in the scientific and medical community as one of our country's leading cardiac research centers. The hallmark of the institute is its innovative and imaginative approach to fighting heart disease.



By Derek Van Houten

Unfortunately, I have always been a straight shooter when it comes to ball delivery in the world of bowling. Try as I might I have never been able to learn how to throw a hook. I've witnessed some who can throw the ball out so that it almost rides the rail and then, as if the ball had a built in gyroscope, come back and hit right in the pocket.

So why am I bearing my weaker side to all of you? Well, come see for yourselves. We meet every Tuesday at the Rose Bowl in Bergen from about 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We have the bowling alley to ourselves and the three games only set us back \$6 for an afternoon of fellowship and good conversation.

Even though I am not the greatest bowler, the forgiving nature and support of my Brothers with whom I bowl make it a pleasurable outing. So, I offer you an invitation to come out any Tuesday and see for yourself the fine art of bowling.

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**Upcoming Due Dates**  
 January 15th - December Payroll Taxes and Fourth Quarter IRS Estimated Tax  
 January 31st - 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)

**Taxes, Taxes, Taxes!**  
 By Thomas Michielsen  
[tmichie1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tmichie1@rochester.rr.com)

"Taxes are what we pay for a civilized society."  
 Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

The State of New York has recently won a ruling on the Amazon Law which forces large internet retailers to charge and collect Sales Tax on its sales to New York State residents. This in effect reduces the advantage enjoyed by such retailers over your local retailer.

Individuals who pay to repair damage to their personal residences or household appliances resulting from corrosive drywall may treat the

amount paid as a casualty loss in the year of payment.

The Affordable Care Act raises the maximum adoption credit to \$13,170 per child, up from \$12,150 in 2009. It also makes the credit refundable, meaning that eligible taxpayers can get it even if they owe no tax for that year. In general, the credit is based on the reasonable and necessary expenses related to a legal adoption, including adoption

fees, court costs, attorney's fees and travel expenses. Income limits and other special rules apply.

In addition to filling out Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses, eligible taxpayers must include with their 2010 Tax Returns one or more adoption-related documents. Emancipation Day, a legal holiday in Washington, DC, falls on Friday, April 15, 2011. Because this holiday is observed in the Nation's Capital, the due date for filing 2010 Federal Income Tax Returns has been extended until Monday, April 18, 2011.

Patriots' Day, which is observed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the state of Maine, falls on April 18, 2011. Taxpayers who submit returns to the Andover Service Center

have until Tuesday, April 19, 2011, to file Returns.

The Internal Revenue Service is looking to return \$164.6 million in undelivered refund checks. A total of 111,893 taxpayers are due one or more refund checks that could not be delivered because of mailing address errors. Are you one of them?

### Mileage Rates for 2011

Beginning January 1, 2011, the standard mileage rates are:

- 51 cents per mile for business miles driven
  - 19 cents per mile for medical or moving purposes
  - 14 cents per mile in service of charitable organizations
- For automobiles a taxpayer uses for business purposes, the portion of the standard mileage rate treated as depreciation is 22 cents per mile for 2011.

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District Deputy Grand Master - George E. Meyers (315) 568-4245  
 Grand Director of Ceremonies Assistant Grand Lecturers  
 Frederick J. Newton Bruce D. Huie  
 (315) 568-9047 (315) 789-2985

### Garoga-Sincerity Lodge No. 200

1st & 3rd  
Tuesdays



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dursoent@ftg.net

Secretary  
R.: W.: Clayton Ruggles  
315-548-3573  
cruggle1@rochester.rr.com

67 Ontario Street, Phelps 14532

By R.: W.: Clayton Ruggles

I hope everyone has been staying warm; December brought us some chilly weeks with lots of snow. I know some people love the white stuff and couldn't wait for it to fly. Well it's here! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

#### A Bit of Competition

On November 23rd, nine Brothers from our Lodge went to Eagle Lodge to retrieve the Gavel. We didn't have it long because on December 7th, nine visiting Seneca Lake Lodge Brothers dropped off the Traveling Trowel and picked up the Traveling Gavel.

Thanks to Brother John Walti for purchasing the Poinsettia plants and all the Brothers who helped deliver them to our Surviving Spouses this year. It's such a great feeling to see their smiling faces when

they open their doors and you wish them a Merry Christmas and hand them the Poinsettia plant.

On December 23rd our Lodge participated in the Annual Ringing of the Bells at the Big M Store in Clifton Springs for the Red Kettle Fund for the Salvation Army. Thank you to all the Brothers who volunteered their time and also to Brother Ernest Day for Chairing this event.

#### Upcoming Events

At our first meeting in January, we will have a Pot Luck Dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. All Brothers are welcome. Just bring a dish-to-pass; come and enjoy.

**January 14th and 28th**  
- Game Nights for January starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish-to-pass and come join in the fun.

#### January Anniversaries

The following Brothers were Raised in January

**1975** William Amber and  
Kenneth Overslaugh  
**1996** Robert B. Taylor III  
and Barney Wandell  
**1997** William Sergeant

#### January Birthdays

We send January birthday greetings to John Walti (7th), Elliott Schocken (15th), Tim Piper (17th), Dave Smith (21st), Bruce Andrews (22nd), Fred Gifford (25th), Tom Hudson and Stephen Leroy (26th) and Scott Upchurch (31st).

May God Bless each of you. ❧

## Wayne District

District Deputy Grand Master - William C. Benedict, II  
 (315) 524-3597 - wcb059@hotmail.com  
 Grand Sword Bearer Assistant Grand Lecturer  
 Jay A. DeWispelaere (315) 483-0475 Richard E. Brewer (315) 986-5673

### Drumlin Square Lodge No. 1180

1st & 3rd Wednesdays



Master  
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Falbo  
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jfalbo@iesi.com  
Secretary  
R.: W.:  
William C.  
Jones  
315-986-9150  
wjones@rochester.rr.com

Palmyra Masonic Hall  
161 East Main Street 14522

Happy New Year to all; may the coming of 2011 bring each of you a new beginning and a year full of wealth and happiness.

Speaking of new beginnings, we have a few Candidates this year. They came in late, but they are here. That being said, I have had to make a few changes to my Trestleboard in order to accommodate the Degree Schedule. Please note the new dates:

January 5th - 1st Degree Rehearsal (to be done during the Lodge meeting).

January 19th - 1st Degree; Dinner at the Yellow Mill at 6:30 p.m.

February 2nd - Entered Apprentice Section of LSOME.

library offers 17 separate reading courses free-of-charge to Master Masons in good standing. Further information can be found at:

[www.nymasoniclibrary.org/library/courses.htm](http://www.nymasoniclibrary.org/library/courses.htm)

#### Masonic Book Club

Probably, one of the best kept secrets in Masonic education is the Masonic Book Club which provides hardcover reprints of out-of-print and hard-to-find Masonic books to its members. For a fee of \$20 per year, you will be mailed one book a year. Some years, I have, in fact, received two books. Further information can be found at:

[www.masonicbookclub.org](http://www.masonicbookclub.org)

Joining an educational and research society is another great way to stay connected and informed. I would strongly recommend the Philaethes Society:

[www.freemasonry.org](http://www.freemasonry.org) and the Masonic Society:  
[www.themasonicsociety.com](http://www.themasonicsociety.com)

There are, in fact, so many websites with Masonic information, it is often difficult to sort out which offer credible, scientific and well-researched articles and which offer information which does not necessarily meet any scientific standards. To put it simply, some are better than others.

One of the best websites, in my opinion, and one I often consult for my reading pleasure and to research a specific topic is "Pietre-Stone" Magazine website at:

[www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/](http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/)

Another great way to promote Masonic education is through establishing book clubs and discussion groups within your own Lodges. Share the books you already have with your Brothers. Offer to have a program in your Lodge based

February 11th - 2nd Degree Rehearsal

February 16th - 2nd Degree; Dinner at the Yellow Mill at 6:30 p.m.

March 2nd - Fellowcraft Section of LSOME

March 9th - 3rd Degree Rehearsal

March 16th - 3rd Degree; Dinner at the Lodge, prepared by OES.

As you can see, Brothers, we have a busy start to 2011. Please make it a point to attend the Degrees in support of your Lodge and our new Brothers as they begin their journey. For all of the Officers who will be taking part in the Degrees, I will be more than happy to work with you. If additional practice is needed, please feel free to give me a call and we can set up a time to get together.

Brothers, by now I am sure you have received your Dues Notice for the year. Please keep in mind that our Secretary has a lot to do, so please do your best in taking care of your Dues as soon as possible. Remember it cost the Lodge a good deal of money to constantly send out reminders for Dues that have not been paid.

on a book or an article you recently read, or a program, documentary, or a movie you recently watched.

Last, but not least, remember that Brother Bruce Katz is working on establishing a Masonic Library at the Damascus Shrine Center. Please get in touch with Brother Katz ([brucek8189@aol.com](mailto:brucek8189@aol.com) or Phone: 227-5553) to find out more about the Library program and to support him in his efforts.

This is the time when many Lodges are busy conferring Degrees upon newly accepted members of the Craft. Others are holding Brother Bring-a-Friend events. As I travel to Lodges and events throughout the District, I see the enthusiasm and passion of all Brothers. This is the spirit we should continue to promote and the energy which will continue to push us forward.

#### Celebrations

I have been to a few celebrations of 50-year Awards and presented those Brothers who have achieved this milestone in their Masonic career with a special Apron from the Grand Lodge of New York. During my comments, I expressed my conviction that people are the strongest asset of our organization. They are more than the buildings,

Also, you will have found with your Dues Notice, a request for donations to the Brotherhood Fund. I know the economy is not the best and many of us do not have much extra money, but if possible, please try to make a donation. You can choose how the money will be allocated and your contribution may be assisting a Brother in need, allowing research to continue at the Masonic Research Center, making improvements to the Masonic Home in Utica or one of the many other options that are available. If you need further assistance in making a donation to the Brotherhood Fund, please contact Brother Chuck Hargrave who is our Lodge's Brotherhood Fund Chairman.

Over the last month or so, we tend to find attendance at our meetings slipping away. At times this is due to weather or illness, but for some this is the time of year to move to a warmer climate for the season.

To my traveling Brothers and loved ones who may be traveling with you, may your travels be safe and may the warm sun shine on you until your return. You will be missed. For all of you who will be traveling, if at any time you would like to catch up on the happenings of the Lodge, please feel free to contact me.

As always, my Brothers, I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge. ❧

## Monroe District

District Deputy Grand Master - George Nasra, 377-2832

Grand Sword Bearers  
George Fochner - 704-6128  
Phillip Hurwitz - 720-6019

Assistant Grand Lecturers  
William Edwards - 472-2229  
Michael Nohle - 216-9016

### District Deputy Grand Master Monroe District



R.: W.:  
George  
Nasra  
377-2832

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

Fraternity so we are better able to spread this knowledge to others through our words and actions.

Masonic education is truly a personal journey. There is no one recipe or formula which will satisfy the need of every Brother. Some find it best to satisfy their need for the pursuit of truth and further knowledge by reading books. There is, in fact, an extremely large collection of Masonic volumes easily accessible to the average Mason armed with just a minimum curiosity and a desire to pursue knowledge. I will try to list below some options for you to look into and research as you consider where your interest lies and what is going to work best for you.

Are you aware, for example, you can access classical and out-of-print Masonic books free online just by searching for them and downloading their .pdf files? Do you know there are research websites and libraries with significant on-line catalogs for you to browse? Our very own Grand Lodge in New York is home to the Livingston Library, with over 60,000 Masonic and esoteric volumes in addition to other Lodge proceedings, facts and artifacts. In fact, the Livingston

In this first article of the New Year, I extend to each and every one of you my best wishes of peace and happiness for 2011. May the New Year bring you a renewed commitment and vigor as you continue in the different tasks that make your life productive and meaningful to you and to others around you.

#### Masonic Education

Masonically, I would urge you to make a commitment to education. Education and the pursuit of further light is a major Tenet of our Fraternity, one that is too often neglected. At this important juncture in Masonic history, we have a responsibility to become more educated and better acquainted with the teachings of our

financial assets, the regalia or even our Ritual; all those are merely tools for building. Our primary goal, our business is to be builders of men, of people, with a strong spiritual foundation, and a love for one another, to continuously strive to do good and to be the best we can be. My Brothers, it is the men who we bring into the organization. It is those who we mentor and to whom we teach the Ritual. It is the Brothers whom we celebrate when they are with us and remember when they depart. It is those people among us who should matter most and where most of our energy should be directed.

#### Membership Resolution

During this New Year, let us focus on improving ourselves in Masonry through education. Let us give the new Brothers we bring in the mentorship that we promised and which they deserve. Let us continue to build our own spiritual and intellectual temple within. Let us take care of our Brothers in need, and reach out to those unable to come to Lodge. Let us continue to celebrate what matters most in our Fraternity; the people of our Craft. This is why we call ourselves a Brotherhood.

May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over and protect you always. ❧

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### Grand Sword Bearers Monroe



Phillip Hurwitz  
720-6019  
phurwitz@frontiernet.net

George Foehner  
704-6128  
gfoehner@frontiernet.net

By R.: W.: George A. Foehner

A Happy Masonic New Year to one and all. I think it's about time this Staff Officer started writing some articles about his first months in office. Maybe I'll call them reflections of a Staff Officer, or maybe even a precursor to a book. Oh well, I can dream, can't I?

First, let me say how proud and honored I was to be chosen for this position and to be a part of a District Team charged with setting the direction of the District for the next two years. Even after many meetings, events and long hours, I have enjoyed my time on the job.

To enjoy a position, it starts with the people with whom you work closely. I work with two of the best! Both R.: W.: George Nasra and R.: W.: Phil Hurwitz are dedicated Masons who discharge their duties in a very friendly and professional manner.

On a larger scale, it's you, my Brothers and Sisters, who make this position very enjoyable. Your warm and friendly receptions, great meals and (most of all) respect and honor accorded us and the Offices we represent. I have nothing but great admiration and respect for all my Brothers and Sisters in and around our Monroe District.

Speaking of our Masonic Brothers and Sisters outside our District, our visits to these Districts and Lodges have been a wonderful experience. The friendships and cooperation that have developed will be long-lasting and will continue to benefit all parties well into the future.

#### Have-a-Heart Campaign

On another note, don't forget the Have-a-Heart Campaign that will run January 29th through February 13th. We need lots of help. We are looking for another great time raising a goodly sum for Ronald McDonald Houses of Rochester. See you in the Quarry. ✕

### Assistant Grand Lecturers Monroe District

R.: W.: Michael Nohle  
216-9016

V.: W.: William Edwards  
472-2229



mikenohle@aol.com  
bile@rochester.rr.com

By R.: W.: Mike Nohle  
Greetings, Brothers! We hope all of you thoroughly enjoyed the Holidays and have been able to spend quality time with family and friends. Also, we wish for all of you and your families many blessings, health and prosperity in the New Year.

As we continue to travel around the District to witness Edict and Dispensation Degrees, we are impressed by the quality of the Degree work. Our District Lodges have surely stepped things up.

Our new Brothers are receiving good quality Degrees and this pleases us greatly! We are also pleased by the large numbers of good men joining the Craft and that our Lodges are handling these large classes with efficiency and the great care they deserve. All in all, the need for a quality and meaningful experience for our Candidates and new Brothers is being fulfilled.

This being said, there is still room for improvement; so please don't relax now. Keep up your efforts and continue to strive to come as close as is humanly possible to that perfection which only the divine can actually achieve. We hope we have in some way made an impact on PUMPing up the Ritual in the Monroe District.

Our next School of Ritual will be on Monday, January 31st, at Webster Lodge Hall. The topic of the evening will be the drama portion of the Master Mason Degree. This topic has not been covered recently so we are excited about covering it. We're hoping this training will lead to more Lodges performing their own drama and doing so proficiently so that our new Brothers continue to receive the highest quality experience possible.

As always, we are here to serve you, so please contact us for any way in which we can support you. We ask only for as much notice as is possible for the sake of good planning and so we don't disappoint you. See you in the quarries. ✕

### Monroe District New York Masonic Safety Identification Program

R.: W.:  
Donald Tubman  
Co-Chairman  
889-4725  
datubman@yahoo.com

Rick Downs  
Co-Chairman  
rcdowns@rochester.rr.com

Sean Brown  
Training Co-ordinator  
seanb218@yahoo.com

By R.: W.: Don Tubman

Happy New Year. I think the Masonic Safety ID Program should be your program in this festive season and for your Masonic Year!!! We keep finding that good men are drawn to our Fraternity because they see us doing the Masonic Safety events. They realize Masons are getting out into the communities where they live and work and do something positive.

We would like to make greater use of the ID equipment by having events supported by each Lodge. We want to ID over 2000 folks!!! It is possible with your support and help.

We are looking for Master Masons and others who have American Sign Language skills so we can have successful programs with the deaf



Sergeant Rick Downs and Officer MaryBeth Kowalski, members of the Greece Police Department, registering participants at a Child ID event at the Target store last month.

community. Do you possess such skills? If so, contact us and we can set up events.

On December 6th, Rick Downs conducted a Child ID event at the Target store located in Greece. This was a Greece Police AND Masonic Safety sponsored event. Sergeant Rick was assisted by Officer MaryBeth Kowalski from their Community Services Unit. The two of them completed 30 IDs. The response from the store and the community was overwhelming, positive and very much appreciated.

Brothers, it does not take much to set up and staff an event. Just a little creativity

and forethought ... will you help? We are always looking for Volunteers and involvement from your Lodge to help with the Program.

Consider having such an event and incorporate it into your plans for 2011.

#### Information & Contacts

Visit website:  
<http://www.nychip.org/>  
To schedule an event:  
Don Tubman  
datubman@yahoo.com  
Rick Downs  
rcdowns@rochester.rr.com  
Sean Brown, Training Coordinator:  
seanb218@yahoo.com ✕

### Fairport-Flower City Lodge No. 476

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

Master  
W.: Thomas Goodrich  
442-8725  
tgg13@yahoo.com

Secretary - 271-7446  
W.: Bernard D. Lazerson  
lazerbd1@aol.com

Fairport Masonic Hall  
87 South Main Street

Winter is definitely here. Even Florida is enjoying the brisk temperatures. Do not play with Mother Nature.

The 3rd Degree will be conferred for seven Candidates on January 10th. Supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. with a reservation to the Junior Warden, Terry Adams, Ph: 425-4767. Brother Sy Kopen will be in the East. Attire will be formal for the Officers.

A Table Lodge will be held on January 24th at 7:30 p.m. The main course will be Chili. The Limburger crowd will sit together for obvious reasons. Wine, pop and water will be provided. A good time will be had by all. Again, a call to Terry would be appreciated to ensure enough food and chairs available.

The School of Ritual will be held on January 31st at Webster Masonic Hall.

#### Sickness and Distress

R.: W.: Brother Dwight Turner is improving, but not able to join us at this point.

If you, or someone you know, are sick or in distress, please contact the Secretary.

#### Upcoming Events

February looks to be a busy month. February 14th will be a Valentines Ladies Night Out. More details to follow.

February 28th will be the conferral of the 1st Degree.

#### January Birthdays

January birthdays will be celebrated by the following Brothers: Leonard Simon (1st), Robert Cameron (4th), Thomas

Green (6th), Joseph Klein (8th), Harold Feinberg (9th), Ruby Baker (11th), Ronald Weber and Gregory Hampton (16th), Leonard Fulmer (17th), Glenn Schaefer (18th), Ronald Freeling (22nd), Joseph Lynn (24th) and Morey Waltuck (29th).

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous year ahead. Spring is just around the corner. ✕

### Wakan-Hubbard Lodge No. 154

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



Master  
W.: Fraser Ritchie  
426-5059  
keyes@frontiernet.net

Secretary  
W.: Donald C. Bell  
334-7768  
don\_bell@hotmail.com  
1822-A Penfield Road, Penfield 14526

Hope all is good as can be, and only gets better. This month is a little quiet at the Lodge, Looking back at what we have tried to get done, and what we have been able to do, it only makes me want to try even harder to pass along what the Fellowcraft Degree has to offer and how your life can be changed if you try. We have worked hard at our Ritual so we will be ready when the time comes. I thank all the Brothers for their time and effort ... you make me proud.

Some of our Officers and Brothers visited our shut-ins over the Holiday. They delivered a small gift and shared some fellowship.

We have a list of Brothers who are going to receive Pins and Aprons for years of service. I will have more on this as we get the Brothers together.

On December 13th, we had our Annual Business Meeting and had a lot to talk about, as you all know. Trying to stay in your budget is not always easy.

#### Upcoming Events

January 7th - Past Masters' Meeting, 7 p.m.

January 10th - We have scheduled a program, "It's all in Your Head," by Bob Vukosic. We will have a dinner prior to the program; please make your reservations.

At this time of year, we often think of our lost Brothers and lost family members. In 2010, the Masonic Family lost many good Brothers. One good friend of Wakan-Hubbard Lodge and the Tartan Square Club was R.: W.: Maurice Solomon. He was a Brother to us all.

My best wishes to all and the very best for the New Year. Peace for all. ✕

### NORTHFIELD

Lodge No. 426

Instituted March 1857

[www.northfieldlodge.org](http://www.northfieldlodge.org)

1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.



Master  
W.: Erik A. Loepker  
899-6701  
eloepker@gmail.com

W.: John A. Dudley, Secretary

586-6426  
jdudley1@rochester.rr.com  
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

By Stephan Michener  
Junior Deacon

The Brothers of Northfield Lodge have been very busy during the past couple of months. So busy, that we forgot to submit our coming and goings to the **Masonic Times**.

In October we had our Official Visit from District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: George Nasra, and the Grand Sword Bearers, R.: W.: Phil Hurwitz and R.: W.: George Foehner. Worshipful Master, Erik Loepker, expresses his appreciation for their visit and their words of inspiration and donation of our contribution to them back to the Brotherhood Fund in the name of Northfield Lodge. It was a pleasant evening shared by all.

Also, in the month of October, we held a 1st Degree for a new Brother. The Degree was preceded by a wonderful meal of Barbequed Chicken Breast, Rice, Squash and Green Beans, prepared by Jason Zona and his fiancé, Paula. The evening was well attended and all shared Brotherly good cheer. We will follow up with the 2nd Degree in January.

The month of November meant leaf clean up time at Northfield Lodge. Several of the Brothers helped rake the leaves that fell from our two beautiful trees in our expansive front yard. Brothers Mike Zona, Jason Zona, R.: W.: William Spillane, W.: Randy Griswold, Jonathan Buck and his son, Maximus, Josh Loepker, Mark Edgecomb, W.: Erik Loepker and W.: John Dudley all contributed to get the job done. Also, Brother Jon Buck donated a snow thrower to the Lodge, which will help us clear the snow that will soon fall on our front walk. By the way, if you haven't visited our Lodge, you might be missing one of the prettiest and more historic buildings in the town of Pittsford.

#### Journeyman Program

Speaking of visiting ... as many of you may know, the Brothers of Northfield are sponsoring the Journeyman Program. This is a passport-type booklet, which Brothers

## Northfield Lodge

Continued on Page 6

can purchase and then take with them on their travels throughout the Monroe District to the 13 different Lodges.

Once a Brother has gotten stamps from all 13 Lodges, he brings the booklet back to Northfield Lodge where he will earn a beautiful lapel pin in the shape of Monroe County with the Square and Compasses.

The idea of the program is to get Brothers into other Lodges besides their own. The Journeyman Program is a great way to keep a record of your journeys. If you are interested in purchasing a Passport for twenty dollars, which covers the cost of the booklet and the lapel pin, why not head on over to Northfield where you can earn your first stamp from our Secretary? We would enjoy having you visit.

Another initiative in which Northfield Lodge is engaged is our Foundation Program. This is a casual get-together of Brothers on Thursday evenings (opposite our usual meeting nights), to rehearse Ritual and discuss some of the finer details. Thus far, it has been an enjoyable and enlightening experience and I would encourage more Brothers to attend.

In November, W.: Tom Ward from Wakan-Hubbard Lodge, gave us an excellent presentation about his work in Guatemala over the past several years. It was informative and eye-opening to some of the difficulties and challenges experienced by the Mayan people. This was the first of what we hope will become more presentations open to the public, to be held before our Regular Communication. In the near future, I will be presenting on a book I published last year entitled "Four Bitter Pills for Feeling Better Fast." It is a self-help book, which focuses on Cognitive Therapy. You can call our Lodge for further details.

### Consolation Prayers

Finally, we express our regrets and prayers at the passing of Richard "Doc" Trolley, DSA, and James Elias who have passed to the Celestial Lodge. Both were long-time members of Northfield Lodge. We also send our deepest sympathies to W.: Don Fox at the recent passing of both his wife and daughter. Our most sincere thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Union Star**  
Lodge No. 320  
3 North Main Street  
Honeoye Falls 14472

**2nd Mondays**  
7:30 p.m.

**Master**  
W.: Scott May  
624-3959  
scott.may@frontiernet.net

**Secretary - 425-4240**  
R.: W.: Gary R. Sanford  
27 Freshfield Rise, Fairport 14450  
ggsanford@aol.com

Happy New Year and best wishes for all in the coming year. I hope all of you had a very merry Christmas. We have been very active at the Lodge over the past several months. We have had to re-plan our Degrees several times for all the incoming Brothers. It's one problem we don't mind having.

There are several modifications to the Trestleboard, so

check the website:

[www.unionstarmasons.org](http://www.unionstarmasons.org)  
or call the Secretary if you need a copy sent to you.

Another 1st Degree will be conferred on January 10th. This is a Summoned Communication as we will be reviewing our Annual Budget as well. We would love to have you attend if it is within the length of your Cabletow. If you are planning to come for dinner and did not sign up at Lodge, contact W.: Scott May by email at:

scott.may@frontiernet.net or  
Phone 624-3959 by January 7th.

**Have-a-Heart Campaign**  
I would like everyone to show their support for this year's Have-a-Heart Campaign. Please keep the Sundays of January 30th, February 6th and February 13th reserved as we need at least two Brothers to work the shifts from either 12 noon - 3 p.m. or 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. on those days. Let's show our support for this very worthy cause.

### Upcoming Events

Due to Valentines Day falling on the 2nd Monday in February, we have moved our Regular Communication to the 3rd Monday per our By-Laws. This night will also be our 2nd Degree.

#### January

8th - Audit and Budget Meeting, 9 a.m.

10th - Summoned Communication, Budget and 1st Degree; Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

12th - *Masonic Development Course* at Eunice Lodge, Caledonia, 7-9 p.m.

24th - Fellowcraft Meeting, 7 p.m.

30th - Have-a-Heart Campaign, 12 Noon-6 p.m.

31st - School of Ritual at Webster Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m.; Masters & Wardens, 6:30 p.m.

#### February

6th - Have-a-Heart Campaign, 12 Noon-6 p.m.

7th - 2nd Degree Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

13th - Have-a-Heart Campaign, 12 Noon-6 p.m.

19th - *Road to the East* at Union Star Lodge, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

21st - Special Communication - 2nd Degree, 7:30 p.m.; Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

26th - *Road to the East* at Constellation Lodge, 21 N Main St, Perry, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

28th - Fellowcraft Meeting, 7 p.m.

As always, check the Lodge website for the latest information.

**Valley-Simes**  
Lodge No. 109  
2nd & 4th  
Tuesdays  
7:30 p.m.

**Master**  
W.: Michael Hueston  
509-0606  
mph0523@frontiernet.net

**Secretary**  
R.: W.: Herbert Spencer  
473-6973  
hspence1@rochester.rr.com

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and are ready for another great year. Your Lodge Officers have had some time to relax after a fantastic 1st Degree on November 23rd. I thank everyone who had a part for a great job they did for our new Brothers. As I am writing this article, I can tell you I have



Valley-Simes Lodge held its Annual Holiday Party, collecting, once again, toys for the Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Erie and Springfield. Two members of the Damascus Shriners Divan were on hand to accept the gifts. From left, Richard Smith, Craftsman Robertson Lodge, Gary Burke, Joe DiTucci and Mike Hueston, Master of Valley-Simes Lodge.

shoveled enough snow already. It's going to be a long, cold Winter.

The Holiday Celebration was a great event and I thank Brother Frank Sackett and his wife, Kay, for all their hard work and help in planning this event. Also, thanks to my wife, Laurie, for shopping for the toys that our Lodge donated for the Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

### Upcoming Events

January 11th - Stated Communication. This is a very important meeting to hear about the By-Laws and final plans of the Consolidation. Dinner before the meeting.

January 18th - 2nd Degree; combined with the Brothers of Craftsman Robertson Lodge. Please join us; the Degree will start at 7:30 p.m.

January 31st - School of Ritual at Webster Lodge, 7:30 p.m.

**Have-a-Heart Campaign**  
Valley-Simes Lodge Brothers are scheduled for:

**Tuesday, February 1st**  
3 p.m. 'til 9 p.m.

**Saturday, February 5th**  
12 noon 'til 9 p.m.

Please mark these two very important dates down and ask your wife and family members to help us staff the booth at The Mall at Greece Ridge. Please advise me what day and how long can you work so I can develop a schedule for this important event.

### Brotherhood Fund

I have started receiving donations; please take a minute to send your check. Even \$1.00 will help. Please send the checks to the Brotherhood Chairman, Mike Hueston, at 307 Wilson Avenue; East Rochester, 14445.

### January Birthdays

Congratulations to the following Brothers who will celebrate their birthday in January:

Robert Guilfoil and Douglas Spencer (1st); James Woodruff (5th); Martin Suter (7th); Jose Diaz (12th); Robert Stear (14th); David Braun (19th); Joseph Holt, Jr. (25th); Robert Bishop (26th); William Babcock, Jr. (27th); and Irving Schuth (28th).

### Masonic Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Brothers who were Raised in the month of January:

68 Years	Samuel Bogorad
43 Years	Stephen Moore
34 Years	Charles Fornataro
30 Years	Adam Jurzyniec
24 Years	William Anderson
	David Dahrsnin
	Sion "Ted" Honea
11 Years	John Rogalski

**Sickness and Distress**  
Please keep Brother Mat Gingold in your prayers. We have missed him at Lodge, but hope to see him there soon.

Brother Bernard Skopinsky is still having some difficulties and we hope he can come back to Lodge soon.

Thank you for your support and I hope to see you at a Lodge meeting soon. If you have an email address and you are not receiving our email updates, please let me know so we can add you to the list.

**WEBSTER**  
LODGE NO. 538

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

**Master**  
W.: Scott Cronk  
671-4548  
ssc538@yahoo.com

**Secretary**  
W.: Bernard Russell  
872-1353  
Webster538@juno.com

30 Orchard Street  
Webster 14580

So, here we are in the beginning of another year - 2011. I certainly hope you had an enjoyable Holiday Season with lots of good food, maybe some fine wine and, most of all, a good time with family and friends. I don't think we can have enough of such good times in our lives today. We always seem to be in such a rush. In the crazy hustle and bustle of modern American life it seems nearly impossible to kick back, forget the office, forget the responsibilities and take a short break to rest one's mind and soul.

However, a real problem extends well beyond not having that time to relax. The real problem is when you wind up getting so caught up in work, the house, the bills and all that stuff. You wind up diminishing the quality of your life, and the lives of the people around you, too. All too often, we're missing the oil.

I guess it's a delicate balancing act to work hard, support the family and yet enjoy life, too. To that end there needs to be something to do to refresh one's spirit. Hey, I know ... Lodge! (you had to know that was coming).

I have to say some of the best times I've been having in the last couple of years have

been with my Lodge Brothers. It's that sort of pressure release system that really works well for me. It burns off the stresses of a day at the office and removes the angst of commuting for two-plus hours. It can only be good.

Back in December, Brothers Warren Patterson, Dave Allen, Tom Pellet and I planned to visit our Canadian Brothers of Ionic Lodge No. 549. (This was going to be a good stress-reliever). It was their Installation of Officers and the Investiture of their Master. This was something we were really looking forward to, except the weather had different plans. So, for now our trip is postponed. We hope to make it for a Degree this year. That would be interesting. Naturally, any Brother who would like to join us need only do two things - he needs to have a Passport or the Enhanced NY State license and he needs to ask. That's all, just ask. And we'd love to have more of you join us.

### Upcoming Events

We start off this New Year with Brother John Ponschok as guest speaker for the evening of January 6th.

January 7th will be a Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Webster Police Explorers. Brothers, bring friends and family and enjoy a great dinner.

January 13th will be the usual Fellowcraft Meeting. I'd like to report on their Annual Business Meeting when the Officers are elected, but that'll have to wait until February.

A guest speaker will be with us on January 20th.

### Planning Ahead

We'll be having our Spring 1st Degree on February 3rd, followed by another great Spaghetti Dinner. Boy, doesn't it seem a lot like last year? You know, with the Degrees, the dinners and all that.

Like just another year. But it really isn't "just another year," my Brothers. It's this year ... this month ... this week and this day. That all adds up to this life, right here on Earth. I hope you each take note of this and find each day to be an opportunity to exercise your industrious habits - not only to benefit yourself and family in a financial way, but also in an enjoyable way.

Have a great year, Brothers; one more of many.

**Don't forget the School of Ritual, Monday, January 31st, at Webster Lodge Hall, 30 Orchard Street**

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**UNITY**  
Lodge No. 479

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

Master  
W.: Robert T. Buchanan  
329-2432  
rob.buchanan479@gmail.com



Secretary  
R.: W.: Clifford Short, 225-0464  
short4us@rochester.rr.com

133 South Union Street  
Spencerport 14559

York. At a time when the cost of everything has increased ten-fold, the number of Masons in New York has declined to less than 20% of our 1960 level.

Can you see where I'm going with this? Greater costs and fewer Masons means you and I have to step up to the plate. In recent years, less than 35% of Unity Lodge Brothers have supported our Grand Lodge Programs through the Brotherhood Fund. Rather than ask those who have continuously provided financial backing to increase their support, I am appealing to those in the remaining 65% who have not answered the call. Yes, I am one of those who have not done my share recently, but that is about to change. There is a worn and hackneyed cliché that says, "Many hands makes a lighter load." It is true! By increasing the number of Brothers who participate in the program, the burden will be lightened for all.

Please take this opportunity to join with the rest of your Brothers and support the Grand Lodge Brotherhood Fund with a contribution. It is more important to participate at whatever level is comfortable for you than it is to rely on others to increase their support.

**January Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to all our Brothers and family members who celebrate their birthdays in January.

**Announcements**

Come join us for a 2nd Degree on January 10th. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; Degree starts at 7:30 p.m.

Our second Communication is on January 24th.

Reminder... we need Brothers for the Have-a-Heart Campaign starting January 29th.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wishing all a prosperous New Year!

**50-Year Aprons**

50-Year Aprons were presented to three Unity Brothers this year - R.: W.: James Powell and Brothers Elmer Semmler and Glenn Lawson. Congratulations and thanks for your service to Masonry!

**Then and Now - 1960-2010**  
By R.: W.: Dave Jones, Brotherhood Fund Chairman

Back in the 50s and 60s, you could use a 4-cent stamp to mail a letter, you only paid 31 cents for a gallon of gasoline and there were more than 250,000 Masons in New York State. But things have changed. Boy, have they changed! That letter now costs 44 cents to mail, and you'll spend more than \$31 to fill that 10-gallon tank - a tank that used to take only \$3.10 worth of gas.


In 2010, it is not an exaggeration to say just about everything costs at least ten times more than it did 50 years ago. And that goes for your Grand Lodge Masonic Programs as well.

Currently, there are fewer than 50,000 Masons in New




R.: W.: Phil Hurwitz presents 50-year Apron to R.: W.: James Powell as Master, W.: Rob Buchanan (right) and R.: W.: Tom Grape observe. Brothers Elmer Semmler and Glenn Lawson also received 50-year Aprons.

*Have you sent your contribution to the Masonic Service Bureau Appeal?*



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

Master  
R.: W.: Derek VanHouten  
247-2920  
hooter95@rochester.rr.com



Secretary - 208-7106  
W.: Ralph Jurgens  
rjurgenscr@aol.com

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

The night of December 7th turned out to be a very cold and snowy evening in the Greater Rochester Area. We decided to cancel the Lodge meeting for the safety of our Brothers. Thanks to the members who are on the calling tree for their efforts in getting the word out. The area received over 17-inches of snow and more fell in the days following.

Several Brothers and their spouses or significant others attended the Valley-Simes Lodge Holiday Party on December 14th. While the miserable weather kept attendance way down, those present enjoyed a fine meal. Unfortunately, the Webster Schroeder High School Select Choir was forced to cancel their scheduled performance, as all after-school activities were canceled by the District. Our thanks to Worshipful Mike Hueston, Master of Valley-Simes, for the invitation and to Frank Sackett, Senior Deacon, his wife, Kay, and Mike's wife, Laurie, for all their efforts in making it a great evening.

Thanks to our Secretary for obtaining the Poinsettias that were delivered to 22 Widows of the Lodge. I know they appreciated the plants and the good memories they represented.

**Upcoming Events**

The year 2011 promises to be a busy one for the Lodge. We will have a very important meeting on January 4th, for which you all have received a Summons. We will vote upon the report from the Consolidation Committee. This is your opportunity to learn what the joint Committee members agreed to present with regard to the Name, Officers, By-Laws and Budget, voice your opinion in open discussion and vote to approve or reject the proposal.

Brothers in attendance at our meeting on December 21st were given preliminary information to peruse over the holidays and make notes of any questions they wished to ask.

Our Senior Warden, Richard Smith, will be doing the 2nd Degree on January 18th along with the Brothers of Valley-Simes Lodge. The Master of Northfield Lodge, W.: Erik Loepker will be doing the Middle Chamber Lecture. He is a joy to watch, as he does a beautiful rendering of it.


**January Birthdays**

Ten of our Brothers celebrate their birthdays this month. May happy returns to: John A. Sanna (1st); John D. Bardo (9th); Royden F. Guess (15th); Robert E. Stewart (17th); James A. Clark (20th); Jim Greene (21st); Kenneth J. Skidmore (24th); Aaron J. Hughes (25th); Robert F. Ogden (26th); and William C. Wimberly (28th).

**ERAC**  
Lodge No. 163

website: [www.eraclodge163.org](http://www.eraclodge163.org)  
2nd & 4th Mondays  
7:30 p.m.

Master  
W.: Patrick Mulrooney  
670-0178  
pmulroon@rochester.rr.com



Secretary  
W.: David G. Upham  
(315) 524-2610  
dgupham@gmail.com

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580

I hope everyone had a warm and wonderful Holiday Season!

**From Whence We Came**

November was a very busy month for us. It was indeed our pleasure to initiate twelve new Brothers - six on the 22nd and six on the 29th. Many thanks to all who participated and attended. Both Degrees were conferred with great pride and dignity. It was especially enjoyable to have R.: W.: Bruce Chilton in the East for one of the Degrees. We can all be very proud of our Junior Warden, Brother John Hellaby, who did an incredible job conferring the 1st Degree. Well done, Brothers!

Our Degrees this year will be particularly special. We are blessed to have a musician in our Lodge again. Brother Jim Holman did a great job during our 1st Degrees. Having Jim at the organ adds another level to our Ritual. Thank you, Brother!

**Whither Are We Traveling**

January is set to be an exciting month indeed. January 10th - 2011 Table Lodge. This event is always a great time with attendance increasing every year. Last year we had 48 Brothers attend. Let's try for 70 this year!

The menu will be Steak, Baked Potatoes, Vegetables with Pasta, Bread, Coffee and Dessert. This year, our keynote speaker will be none other than our Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: James Sullivan. Our Junior Warden will be accepting reservations at: jahell3@aol.com

or by phone 705-8027. Reservations are a must!

January 24th - We will be conferring the 2nd Degree. If your Officers perform as they did in the 1st Degree, it will not be a meeting to miss. We are blessed to have many newer Brothers who have taken on the responsibility of presenting the Lectures in our Degrees. This year, Brother Chad Crawford will be presenting the MCL. Please come out and show him your support.

Until we are, again, called together...

**From the Secretary's Desk**  
By Dave Upham

What a wonderful time of year what with the joy and love that seems to prevail during the Holidays. We have given much to our families and our friends, supported the Red Kettle Campaign with our time and spare cash and worked that wonderful dinner at the

Ronald McDonald House. Yes, what a wonderful time of year!

But, there are those who cannot enjoy a holiday as we do. The pressure of broken families, financial burdens or illness ... situational problems that just seem to get worse, month after month.

As Masons, Charity and Brotherly Love are part of the cornerstone of our beliefs! As a Lodge, we give of our time and money to support the Ronald McDonald Houses and the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. We reach out, in the name of the Lodge, to our community with these tokens. Beyond that, most of us have Charities that we support at a personal level as well.

This past year, members of our Lodge needed our support. Severe illness and the financial strain that comes with that situation required financial assistance. Our District and our Lodge reacted promptly and positively to bring some relief to the Brother and Family that was in need.

Several of our Brothers could not meet their financial obligations to ERAC and other Brothers stepped up with donations to help cover their Dues so these Brothers could remain Masons in Good Standing until they can get back on a more solid financial footing. Yes, as a Lodge, we have been practicing those Tenets of our Craft.

How many more of our Brothers, Widows and Orphans are in need across this State? Some of our Brothers have been pulled from their families to serve our Nation in distant lands. Some are ill and cannot meet their medical payments. Others have been out of work and cannot find a job - and many are working not knowing if they will have a job tomorrow.

**Brotherhood Fund**

This is where our Masonic Brotherhood Fund comes into play! The dollars we give to this fund are used solely to help a Brother or his family when in distress! Yet, many of us seem to forget that great need within our Fraternity and let the Brotherhood Fund Drive slip by without our donation.

The Grand Master has asked for 100% participation from the members of the Masonic Craft in New York. As a Mason - as your Brother - I am asking you to reflect upon the lesson of the 1st Degree where the Worshipful Master asked you for that metallic object and you found yourself entirely destitute. Not even a penny?

Not even a penny! Last year, that was the donation from almost half of our Lodge! Not even a penny!

Support the Masonic Brotherhood Fund, my Brothers, by sending your check to our Brotherhood Fund Chairman, Brother Matt Muller, c/o ERAC No. 163, 979 Bay Rd., Webster, NY 14580. After all, it could be you applying for emergency relief sometime. What would you want the answer to be then? \*

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7:30 p.m.

Master  
V. W.: Daniel Walker  
429-6572  
[optidan@frontiernet.net](mailto:optidan@frontiernet.net)

Secretary  
W.: David Foster  
244-0194  
[dnfveg@rochester.rr.com](mailto:dnfveg@rochester.rr.com)  
979 Bay Road, Webster



Aprons signifying 50-years of membership in the Fraternity were presented by R. W.: George Nasra, District Deputy Grand Master (left), to Brother Thomas McCulloch and R. W.: Robert Avery. V. W.: Dan Walker, Master (right), assisted.

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope this year brings you good health, wealth and may your heart prosper.

At our last meeting, we not only read the Annual Reports and had our Holiday Party, but R. W.: George Nasra, District Deputy Grand Master, was on hand to present two, 50-year Aprons. These were presented to R. W.: Robert Avery and Brother Thomas McCulloch. This is a new program started last year by M. W.: Edward Gilbert.

#### New Business

Our Budget for 2011 was presented at the same meeting. I don't need to remind you

that we are operating at a considerable deficit and have been for the past five years. Let's just say that without the sale of our Lodge building five years ago, our Dues would be nearly double what they are currently. In order to maintain this we need a *serious* fundraiser.

Here is what *we can do* to counter a *major* Dues increase. On January 13th, you can bring a male friend to dinner. If you do this, not only his dinner will be free, but your meal is complimentary, too. That

night, we will open Lodge at 5:45 p.m. then go from Labor to Refreshment. During and after dinner there will be a Brother Bring-a-Friend Night. There will be presentations in the Lodge Room as well.

If we can increase our membership by six new Brothers this year and six next year, and so on, we can reduce our deficit to *zero within 5 years*. And we won't have to increase the Annual Dues. Sounds easy, doesn't it? If we Raise four new Brothers per

year, etc., we could erase the deficit within about eight years.

There is some work associated with it. The hardest part will be after the Candidate takes his 1st Degree. That's when membership retention starts. We need to follow up after the Degree, work with your Brother after every Degree and *communicate with him before every meeting and event for at least the first two years*. Then he can go on the regular calling list and be called for every dinner and special event. Basically, the more communication, the better.

If we do this, along with proper Masonic Education, we will have Raised 30 new and enthused Brothers in five years (or 32 in eight years). This will not only help our Lodge, but the Fraternity as a whole. Who knows, there might even be a future Most Worshipful Grand Master in there somewhere.

Our meeting on January 27th will be dedicated to a Degree rehearsal, and hopefully, reading of some Petitions. That is your challenge.

Also a reminder ... our 1st Degree will be on February 10th and the 2nd Degree is on March

10th. And, oh by the way, our 2nd Degree will be our fulfillment of the Grand Master's Edict. The AGLs will be in attendance for that Degree. Let's show the District that Fame Lodge is alive and well.

That's all for this month. Remember that many hands make light work and don't forget the Brotherhood Fund. See you in Lodge (and thank you for your support).

## Lodge News continues with Livingston District on Page 13

### Rochester Forest No. 133



Tall Cedars of Lebanon  
of North America

4th Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
1822-A Penfield Rd, Penfield 14526

Joseph A. Raubar, GTC  
(716) 834-2738  
[joeraubar@earthlink.net](mailto:joeraubar@earthlink.net)

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

#### Buffalo Area Tall Cedar Elected Grand Tall Cedar

At the November 24th meeting, Brother Joseph A. Raubar, an affiliated Tall Cedar (originally from Prince George County, MD, Forest No. 131) was nominated and elected to the Office of Grand Tall Cedar of Rochester Forest No. 133.

When I joined the Tall Cedars of Lebanon in 1977 and affiliated with Rochester Forest in 2005, I had no idea I would someday be elevated to this exalted Officer rank. I thank the membership for their confidence in me to lead them for the ensuing term. To that effect, I see no need to change any of the Forest's events/activities. Also, I thank the memberships in the surrounding Concordant Bodies of the Rochester Area Districts for your previous support and request the same level during my term. I have only one concern ... membership.

The Cedars in our Forest are steadily aging. I do thank the same few stalwart members who have shown up for every meeting since I affiliated. However, we are in need of some new growth members. You only need to have Blue Lodge Membership to join us, but any level of Masonic Light Membership is acceptable.

#### Join us!

If you could use an easy Masonic resume entry or desire the sweet scent of cedar wood issuing forth from your Masonic Life Fireplace, we could certainly use your assistance in this area of Masonic concern.

#### Contact Information

If you can help us out, contact me (716-834-2738), Don Bell (585-259-0647) or any other TALL CEDAR you may know for information and a Petition.

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# Damascus News

Damascus Shrine Center No. 2

January 2011

**Shrine and Divan Meetings**

**Dinner Reservations Required**

**Call: (585) 671-7701 or (585) 671-3565 by Monday NOON**

**Shrine Office Hours**

**Monday — Friday**

**9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

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

## 2010 Year-end Message from the Imperial Potentate



**TOM VASILE**  
**POTENTATE**

Dear Fellow Nobles,

It's a tremendous honor to serve as your Imperial Potentate. It's hard to believe I was elected six months ago. I thank you again for this amazing opportunity and share with you some highlights from my recent travels.

In mid-November, I was honored to participate in the Annual Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Several hundred members of the International Association of the Legions of Honor (IALOH), an organization comprised of Shriners who are also Veterans or members of the Armed Forces, were on hand for this important event, including members from as far away as the Philippines.

Participating in this moving ceremony is an experience I will never forget. Joining me in laying the wreath on the tomb

were IALOH Commander Butch Arnold; IALOH Chief-of-Staff, Kenny Miller; and Ron Little, Commander Arnold's brother-in-law, was representing Commander Arnold's father and father-in-law, who both served in the U.S. military.

We also laid a Poppy, one of the traditional symbols of Veterans, at the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice at the cemetery, which honors U.S. citizens who enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War I, and lost their lives.

I recognize and thank Commander Arnold for his continued commitment to remembering those who gave their lives to protect our way of life. I am proud that Shriners are so dedicated to honoring the efforts of our Soldiers. The Association has been organizing this event for 28 years, for which I am very grateful.

Earlier in the month, I was a guest of Wa Wa Shriners in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Regina is the home of the Training Center for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the national police force of Canada. I had the honor of reviewing the troops (known as the Sergeant Major's Parade). The soldiers were dressed in full uniform, and went through formations and a military inspection.

After the formal parade, a band marched into the reviewing hall and played for us. The band has an interesting tradition – when a new class of Recruits comes to the Training Center, four members of the class must join the band. If they are chosen to join the band, they must. If they don't already know how to play an instrument, it's just something else they have to learn. I have to say they all played very well. This year's band leader was only about 5 feet 1 inch high, and the tallest member of the band was 6 feet 5 inches. It was cute.

While in Regina, I also attended a Remembrance Day Ceremony honoring Canadian Veterans, which was quite moving. While we remember and honor our Veterans every November, I hope we remember them in our hearts every day. It is not possible to honor and thank them enough.

Another recent highlight was the ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) Toy Run in the Melbourne-Merritt Island Area of Florida. I, along with the local President of ABATE, led about 20,000 motorcyclists down US 1 between Merritt Square Mall and Wickham Park in Melbourne – about a 30-mile stretch. Now, some say Florida in Decem-



*By Imperial Sir George A. Mitchell  
Imperial Potentate  
Shriners International*

ber is just too warm and green – and it's hard to catch the holiday spirit there. But, when you see truckloads of toys to benefit several local organizations, including Azan Shriners and Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Tampa, all generated by the toy run, it's easy to catch the spirit of the season, even without snow or cold temperatures.

While in the area, I also participated in the Merritt Island Christmas Parade and, as guest of the Brevard County Sheriff's Department, took a helicopter ride. I saw Cape Canaveral and Manatees! I'll always remember that ride and the fact that the helicopter did not have any doors!

We also went on an airboat ride through the marshy, swamp-like areas of Lake Washington. I'd never been on an airboat before; it was fun looking for alligators. I was invited to go alligator hunting someday.

My thanks to Noble Leo Cornelison, my Aide for the trip to Brevard County, and his Lady, Shirley, for such a wonderful time full of so many experiences – especially for working with ABATE on the Toy Run, which brings so much joy to our kids.

I met four Shriners who were renovating their newly-purchased clubhouse. I was very impressed when I learned that one of them was currently Master of his Lodge and the other three going in as Masters of their respective Lodges. What a great help that will be to membership! In fact, I met lots of Shriners in the Brevard County Area. The Fraternity has a great group of men there and is doing quite well. It's really encouraging to see people working together and working

*Continued on Page 10*

As I write this article I am looking out the window at all the snow that has fallen and trying to reflect on the past year. My heart is filled with thanks to all who have participated in the work it takes to make our Shrine move forward into the future. Although this is my last article as your Potentate, I am filled with gratitude to have been a part of the long-lasting history of the Damascus Shrine and the "World's Greatest Philanthropy." I have been overwhelmingly humbled by the members of our organization who we have spent time with this year. My spirit has been moved by their friendship and I will always keep them in my thoughts and prayers.

I truly believe we have all made our mark this year. Our goal was to instill a spirit of Brotherhood and Sisterhood back into the Shrine with compassion and kindness among us and, while doing so, we have hopefully left a memory that will be used as a guide to all in the future. Our cohesiveness is a strong ally against outside forces that attempt to splinter our organization. However, our faith in God will carry us through the best and the worst of times no matter what.

There are three important lessons I have learned while standing in the shoes of many before me. I have said over and

over this year that we are doing God's work and through God's wisdom I have learned the following:

First - Each day we should clothe ourselves in His faith by putting on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of His peace. But, above all, take the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit to pray each day for all in need.

Second - A servant of God must not quarrel but be gentle to all; able to teach, being patient and in humility correcting those who are in opposition.

Third - Fight the good fight! I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race and have kept the faith!!

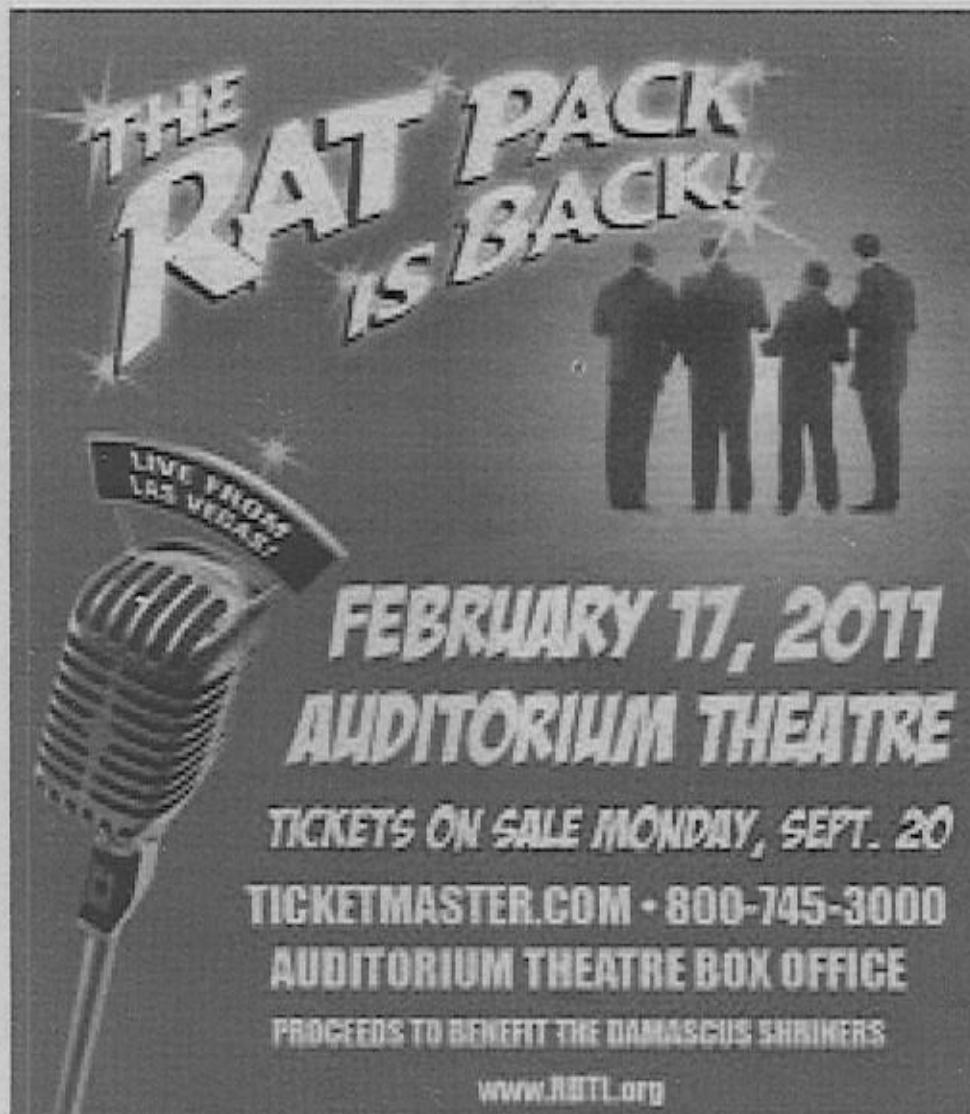
The energetic leadership of Potentate-Elect, Rich Friedman, awes me and I have overwhelming confidence his team of leaders will carry our Shrine to greater heights. I know you will all support him and his team of well-qualified and dedicated staff for the year 2011. With your support, 2011 will be considered one of our finest years. And, in the words of our great Potentate-Elect, "LET'S DO IT."

May God bless you all and keep you in His care.

### Damascus News Boosters

- |                          |                               |                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Betty Anderson           | John Henderson                | Norris & Annette Shapiro  |
| Bill & Diane Anderson    | Charles Holliday              | Irving & Mary Spalty      |
| Bob & Alice Anderson     | Larry Hood                    | Ron & Mary Sterling       |
| Bryan & Cynthia Anderson | Charlie Howell                | Ted H. Tennant            |
| Chapin Blake             | Douglas Hunt                  | Jim Toogood               |
| Stuart Brickman          | Robert P. Hunt                | Wayne W. Wagner           |
| Ken & Mary Buckland      | David & Edna King             | Lance & Lynn Ward         |
| Lee & Sue Collier        | Fred & Lynda McKinley         | Skip & Diane Waterstreet  |
| Dan & Marie Emerson      | Joe & Barb Minas              | Cy & Olga White           |
| Delbert and Jean Fix     | Joseph D. Nye                 | John C. & Sandra Wihlen   |
| H. Fritz Friedrich       |                               | Terry & Jo-Carroll Wihlen |
| Russ & Mary Gillett      | In Memory of Eva M. Patterson |                           |

**Installation of Officers  
for Damascus Shrine  
Wednesday, January 5th**



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## Imperial Sir Mitchell

*Continued from Page 9*

hard for the cause we've all pledged to support.

As I think about good things happening for the Fraternity, I must commend and congratulate Right Worshipful Grand Master Tom Sturgeon of Pennsylvania. Because of his aggressive, new 21st Century Renaissance Program, he is expecting a membership gain of approximately 400 for 2010. It's the first net gain in 40 years in Pennsylvania. Isn't that exciting news?

In addition to attending these events on behalf of Shriners International, I have also visited several of our Hospitals. I've been to Honolulu, our "newest" and Mexico City, our "busiest." In addition, I've seen the great work being done on behalf of kids at our Hospitals in Tampa and St. Louis. I traveled to South Carolina for the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas where I visited our Hospital in Greenville, said "Hello" to Santa and visited with the children. My Hospital Tour Guide was Maurena, a wonderful 9-year-old who is receiving care there. She did an outstanding job!

While every Hospital is a little bit different and has its own personality, the commitment and dedication to our cause and our kids is always the same ... always complete and total. I thank every employee and volunteer for the commitment they bring to work every day.

As I crisscross the country on behalf of Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children, I emphasize membership wherever I go. We all know that increasing membership is one of the most important keys to the future of our great organizations. I try to shake as many hands as I can, and thank everyone for their efforts. By the way, a smile and a heart-felt "thank you" can really mean a lot to a person and inspire them to keep trying. I encourage everyone to remember to say "thank you."

As we close the calendar year, I thank each of you for your dedication to our great organization and wish you a joy-filled New Year.

As always, keep a positive and enthusiastic attitude and remember ... Isn't it Great to be a Shriner? It's Feztastic!

## Damascus Legion of Honor Wednesday, January 12th

at Damascus Shrine Center  
979 Bay Road, Webster

Social Hour - 5:30 p.m.  
(Hors d'oeuvres ... Cash Bar)

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Salad \* Swiss Steak \* Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetables \* Rolls & Butter \* Dessert

\$10 per person

RSVP no later than January 7th at 436-8216

## News from Springfield Hospital

By Ken Pollard

Springfield Shriners Hospital for Children celebrated its 85th Anniversary in October, 2010. A number of Damascus Temple Shriners and their Ladies visited the Hospital that month and were part of the celebration as they toured the Hospital and learned about the many medical miracles that take place there on a daily basis.

### Services

Annually, 2,000 children are seen at clinics from this medical center. The patients come primarily from the New England States and New York State. Some patients come from Cyprus, the U. S. Virgin Islands and the Dominican Republic.

Currently, Springfield has almost 12,000 active patients, 230 employees, 170 volunteers and over 2,300 Shriners from the 17 Shrine Centers of New York and New England.

### Representation on Board

Damascus is represented on the Board and has been for many years. This Shrine Center also is represented

on the Erie Hospital Board and supports the Boston Burn Center. We currently have a patient being treated at Boston.

Springfield Hospital is a busy place. In the latest year for which we have annual records (2009), we performed 780 surgeries, treated 18,127 outpatient children and treated 2,375 new patients. The Annual Budget of this Hospital is \$25,000,000.

You might think that offering outstanding specialized medical care to all children, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin, and without cost to the family, that we would have prospective patients lined up waiting to get in.

### Referrals

That is not the case. Shriners Hospitals need children whom we can help live more active, productive lives. If you know of a child we can help, contact the Damascus Shrine Office or one of the Shriners who serve on a Hospital Board. You will feel good knowing you have helped a child.

## January Birthdays

Richard Felgner	Eliezer Hernandez	Victor Nelson
Robert Fisher	Edward Hopkins	Robert Ogden
Larry Francis	Kenneth Howe	Robert Ossont
Ronald Freeling	John Hunt	David Porter
Leonard Fulmer	Lawrence Kilmer	Kenneth Reuter
Manhal Ghanma	Wesley Kline	William Sawyer
Russell Gillett	David Leschorn	Matthew Scheffer
Joseph Gillotte	Harold Litz	Douglas Seeber
Claude Gramse	Eric Lubberts	Kenneth Skidmore
Thomas Green	Dorian Maracle	Andre Smith
William Grow	Russell Marron	Norman Snow
Robert Hadlock	Carl Mason	Howard Stanley
Willard Harris	Charles McDonald	Gerald Stanton
John Hart	Guy Morse	Lindy Vankouwenberg
Anthony Henderson	Roy Moses	Mark Ward
Charles Henderson	Gerald Neeley	

## Come One, Come All! An Old-Fashioned Square Dance and Bar-B-Que Bring Your Lady and Do-Si-Do!

### February 2nd

at Damascus Shrine Center  
Bar-B-Que at 6 p.m.; Square Dance  
to follow

### \$12 per person

Join renowned Caller, **Mike Callahan**, in a fun night at Damascus. The evening will begin with a Bar-B-Que of Grilled Chicken, Pulled Pork, Homemade Cornbread and all the fixings for \$12 a person! The dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with the dance to begin at 7 p.m.

For everyone who suffered through traumatic gym class square dances in High School, this will be a very corrective experience! Great food, great fun! Make your reservations by calling the Office at (585) 671-7701 or online at:

[damascusshrinemasons.org/hoe-down-square-dance](http://damascusshrinemasons.org/hoe-down-square-dance).

Share your favorite recipes with Joanne:  
[joeyfletcher@frontiernet.net](mailto:joeyfletcher@frontiernet.net)

Be part of "Ladies of the Damascus Shrine Cookbook"

## MEMBERSHIP

By Rich Friedman, Chief Rabban

My dear Noble Shrine Masons, it is with humility and pride that I step into the long line of Potentates who have led Damascus Temple. Only Mecca Temple has a longer history in Shrinedom than Damascus. As Number Two, we will try very hard to be "second to none."

Just before my election as Potentate, I went to the Shrine Center alone and spent some time looking at the portraits of our Past Potentates. The awesome responsibility of being a Damascus Potentate really hit home. As I walked down the hall I thought about what it must have been like to have been Potentate during both World Wars, the Great Depression, the tumultuous 60s, and all other time periods since the late 1800s that Damascus has seen.

Our first Potentate probably went to meetings by horse, had to struggle to communicate with the Nobility and embrace a totally new Fraternal concept. Yet, by keeping faith with our Masonic principles, Damascus and Shrinedom survived and evolved into our modern day Fraternity.

While we are blessed with very sophisticated communication tools, our challenges are probably similar to the ones faced by our Temple since its inception. In some ways, our task is more difficult than those of our forefathers. Their world was simpler, and the Fraternity was a central point of focus for the social lives of the Nobility. Few families had two working parents, organized activities for children, (who were seen and not heard) were limited, information was slow to get to the general public, contracts were done on a handshake and choices of entertainment were few. As we all know, the exact opposite situation frames the world in which we live.

### The Task at Hand

The man and family of 2011 have a very limited amount of time to donate to any organization. Our society often asks the question, "What's in it for me?" before entering into any endeavor that will be impinging on time or that takes effort outside of work. What do we need to do to be successful in engaging the men and families of 2011?

Simply put, we must give men a reason to belong to something that touches their heart, creates positive emotion and is not wasteful of the time and energy that is in such short supply. We must create a situation where every member feels great about his membership and is proud to identify himself as a member to the community-at-large. This is the task before us.

### How Will We get it Done?

Communication is a cornerstone of our effort. To that end, we will be using the Masonic Times, Damascus News, email, texting and phone calls to let our Nobility know what is going on and attempt to call them to action. It will be very hard for any Noble to claim he is uninformed this coming year. We will have a lot going on and you will know about it every step of the way.

### Passport Program

Membership is a cornerstone of our effort. By the time you read this, the Potentate's "Passport Program" will be in full swing. This is a major "all hands on deck" effort for Damascus. We are attempting to reach out to a couple of thousand Brother Masons to experience the "fun with a serious purpose" that is central to being a Shrine Mason. Show your pride! Invite your Lodge Brothers to Shrine events. We believe Shrinedom can sell itself once a Brother has been exposed to it.

If you hear of or know a Brother who has not received a Passport, simply call

the Office and it will be issued. The time for a major membership drive is NOW, Nobles. With an average age of 68.4 years of age, we must have huge haul of new Nobles to continue to function as a Shrine Center in the future. Let's bring our Brothers around to see and feel the Shrine and the rest will take care of itself.

Good balanced programming is a cornerstone of our effort. From Square Dancing to Table Lodges, this year's Trestleboard has it all. We are targeting the goal of giving our membership a reason to attend Shrine meetings as well as Clubs and Units. Check out the variety of programs this year. We hope there is something for everyone to get excited about.

Every program for the year can be found and a reservation can be made by going to our outstanding website, [www.damascusshrinemasons.org](http://www.damascusshrinemasons.org). At this very moment, you can even reserve your dinner for the next Annual Meeting in December, 2011. Use the website often; drive Master Masons to it. Get used to its features and functions.

Fun is a cornerstone of our effort. We have fun events planned throughout the year. Past Grand Master and Noble, Sheldon K. Blank, used to say, "Richie, my boy, if it is not fun then, don't do it." He was right then and it is right now. The Divan will have fun this year working as a team to further Damascus Temple.

### Our Mission

Our mission then is to communicate, encourage, bring in a flock of new Nobles, make everyone aware of the great work of the Shrine and provide a loving Fraternal atmosphere to our Nobility.

Every one of our Divan members is a strong Blue Lodge Mason. We understand that Blue Lodge is the most important piece of structure in Freemasonry. Most of us also belong to Concordant Bodies as well, understanding that each provides a great platform for education and service.

### Why the Shrine?

The Shrine is the most visible philanthropic arm of Freemasonry. As the author of the Brother Bring-a-Friend Night Program, I can tell you that most of the charitable work of the two million dollars-a-day to charity for which are all so proud comes out of Shriners Hospitals for Children. Our mission is to help children and their families who cannot help themselves.

Think about it ... Twenty-two hospitals run with no financial obligation to the family. We will have helped patient 1 million in 2011 - one million children, including many from this area, helped by our Hospital System. No other branch of our Craft can make that lofty claim.

This year our Ceremonials (Shrine Degrees) will take place at Temples close to a Shriners Hospital. We will be taking everyone to the sources of our pride and joy. Once you have visited, you will remain a Shrine Mason for life.

Many thanks to Tom Vasile for a great year as Potentate. His caring vision of the Craft has allowed us to enjoy a great year and start a foundation to build on in the future. Hats off to Tom and his Lady Deb, who have been through much recently but never lost the focus of what we do and why we do it. Thank you both from the bottom of our hearts!

Lady Joanne and I look forward to this year with excitement and enthusiasm. Our motto is "LET'S DO IT." Any of you who know me can bet the house on the fact that we WILL do it!

See you in the quarries.

New!

New!

New!

## Western New York Shrine "Reunion"

Wednesday, February 16th  
11 a.m. 'til ... Lunch at 12:30 p.m.  
at Punta Gorda Elks Club

on the beautiful Peace River  
25538 Shore Drive  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Ph: (941) 637-2606

Cost: \$10 per person  
Price includes tax and gratuity plus  
Coffee, Iced Tea and Dessert

Choose from the following Entrées ...

- 1) Chef's Salad w/Roll
- 2) Club Sandwich w/Chips
- 3) Ruben Sandwich w/Chips
- 4) Chicken Sandwich w/Fries & Coleslaw

Reservations are REQUIRED by February 7th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Choice #

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Your Shrine Center \_\_\_\_\_  
Make Checks Payable to: **McKinley Gath**  
and Send to: McKinley Gath  
5061 San Rocco Ct  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Ph: (941) 639-9464

Hope to see you there! Thanks!

### Attention Senior and Junior Wardens!

If you are looking for a stirring program for this year or next, please consider inviting your Brother Shrine Masons to give a program on the World's Greatest Philanthropy - Shrinedom and the Shriners Hospitals for Children®.

We can present an audio/visual program that will warm the hearts of all who see it. Our presentation is not a recruiting program for the Shrine. It is our opportunity to show you the great work of the Shrine. Please contact:  
**Rich Friedman** Ph: (585) 739-6980 or email: [richddgm@frontiernet.net](mailto:richddgm@frontiernet.net)  
**Gary Burke** Ph: (585) 455-5179 or email: [gary\\_burke@frontiernet.net](mailto:gary_burke@frontiernet.net)

Keep in mind that anything we can do to help your Lodge will be done to the best of our abilities. That includes contacting the Shrine Degree Team for the presentation of the 3rd Degree.



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# B

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585-768-2561

**East Side Living &  
Rehabilitation Center**  
62 Prospect Street, Warsaw, NY 14569  
585-786-8151

**The Greens of LeRoy**  
One West Avenue, LeRoy, NY 14482  
585-768-2740

# AUBURN SHRINE CLUB

By Dave Bowman

Another glorious Holiday Season has passed. I hope everyone has wonderful memories.

On December 4th, our Club rang the bells for the Salvation Army. I bring this up because of an example of what we are all about as Masons and Shriners. Richard Palmer, a man who has been around the automobile world his entire life, was ringing bells when he noticed a lady in distress. That day was snowy and blowy and this person needed new wiper blades. The problem ... she didn't know how to install them. So Richard responded and, while the snow was blowing, he installed the blades and got her on the way. Most people would be unaware, but Richard, we all know. Thanks for showing the way.

Our "Master Bell Ringers" included the families of Dave Bowman, Peter VanVlack, Jack Erlich, Don Weeks, Don Heath (multiple turns), Bruce Christopher, Nick Shockey, Richard Palmer, Ken Pollard, Bob McManus, John Cambareri, Larry Prichard and Chuck Minster. Many comments were made by our "ringers" as to how generous people can be. It may have been cold outside, but our hearts couldn't have stood any more warmth.

This article is needed before pictures from the Geneva Christmas Party can

be sent. Maybe we can get some published next month. But let it be said, what a wonderful time. I know a couple who save their "Santa" picture each year so they can remember all the good times.

Have you seen the "Damascus Newsletter" on email. It is great. If you have an email address that you have not been sharing, this is a good reason to send it to Nicole at the Shrine Center so she can add you. A big congratulations from the Auburn Club to all of those involved in the email newsletter effort.

### Upcoming Meeting

Our first meeting of 2011 will be January 17th at the Hollywood Restaurant on Clark Street in Auburn. We are going to order off the menu so let's start the New Year with a bit of cheer beginning at 6 p.m.; we will order at 6:30 p.m. Our Potentate will deliver a message that evening. Let's have everyone make an effort to be there in support of Damascus. Oh, and of course, dates are invited to attend.

Our liaison with the Damascus Center is Gary Burke. I'm sure you all know Gary, but if you aren't sure, he is the handsome guy sitting with me at dinner.

It is hoped that everyone is feeling well and ready for a great year.

## What's New in Erie!

### Erie Shriners Hospital Patient Satisfaction Scores High

As a high-performance organization, Shriners Hospitals for Children® has partnered with Press Ganey to receive data, analysis and insights that allow hospitals to improve clinical, operational, financial and perceptual outcomes. Founded in 1987, Press Ganey is one of the leading survey firms dedicated to helping providers improve delivery of health care services.

Each patient and family who comes to a Shriners Hospital for medical care, receives a survey following an in-patient or out-patient encounter. This anonymous feedback is tabulated by Press Ganey and made available to each facility through quarterly out-patient and bi-annual in-patient reports.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Erie is proud of the most recent Press Ganey survey results. Even with all of the transition activities taking place at the hospital, both in-patient and out-patient areas showed an increase in overall patient satisfaction over last period. The current score for in-patient experience demonstrates that 95% of the Shriners peer hospitals have scores lower than Erie, an increase from our rank of 85%

last period. Even more impressive is a 99% ranking when compared to the entire Press Ganey database. Out-patient services, including clinic, physical and occupational therapies, testing, evaluations and care coordination continue to demonstrate improvement in patient satisfaction scores with a me What's New in Erie! an score of 93.5%. This represents an overall increase of 37% in Erie's scores as compared to other Shriners hospitals. Nearly 78% of responses to standard questions were *Very Good*.

From start to finish, nearly everyone at the Erie Hospital is involved in some aspect of the patients' experience. Everyone at the Hospital can certainly be proud of its performance. At the same time, the staff can be motivated to offer improved service in those areas where data suggests there's a need. All of these numbers will be incorporated into the hospital's quality improvement blueprint to take the facility to even higher levels of clinical, operational, financial and perceptual outcomes.

### Hospital Names New

#### Director of Rehab Services

Kevin M. Cooney, P.T., has been named Director of Rehabilitation Services at Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Erie. A 1988 graduate of Daemen College, Amherst, NY, Cooney brings 17 years of clinical

# WAYNE COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

By Frank Russell, Vice-President

On December 16th, the Wayne County Shrine Club hosted a Holiday Dinner at the Quality Inn in Newark. The weather was most kind, especially considering what the prior couple of days had been like. All enjoyed a meal of their choice from the menu and the musical entertainment of Bobby McGee and his daughter Tammy, from Seneca Falls. Clearly, this musical entertainment was more appealing than that advertised by President Gerry Rohrer at the December 1st Shrine meeting.

It was especially nice to be joined by several guests and their Ladies from

outside the Club. Jim Miller represented the Divan and reviewed the accomplishments during 2010 and reminded all of upcoming Shrine events.

Our Potentate and his Lady Deb were also present. Tom spoke of having enjoyed his year as our Potentate, especially visiting the Clubs and fostering the God's work that we all do.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 20th, at the Red Rooster Restaurant in Fairville. Hopefully, we will see all these familiar faces then. We welcome new faces and would encourage our fellow Shriners and their Ladies to join with us.

# PERRY SHRINE CLUB

Submitted by Alice Anderson



Alice and Bob Anderson joined the Christmas Party celebration at the National Hotel and extend their Holiday Wishes to everyone.



At the November meeting, Past Potentate, Derek VanHouten, presented a program on the similarities of Derek and Michelangelo??!! Derek enjoys a hobby of "paint by numbers."

pediatric experience, most of it at the Erie Shriners Hospital Motion Analysis Laboratory, to this position. In addition, he has been involved in multiple research studies focusing on motion analysis in Cerebral Palsy and Spina Bifida populations.

In his new position, Cooney will be responsible for the management and program development in the hospital's physical therapy and occupational therapy departments, where he joins a staff with more than 100 years of combined experience treating children.

### Erie Otters Promotion Benefits Hospital

The Erie Otters Hockey Team of

**Directors Staff Dinner Meeting**

**Wednesday January 26th**

**Yellow Mills Diner**  
2534 Route 31, Palmyra

Order off the Menu  
Social Time - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Bring your Lady and FEZ  
Casual Attire  
New Nobles & Guests welcome!

Call Vance Collom (585) 217-9817  
vcollom1@rochester.rr.com  
with any questions or  
to make reservations

the Ontario Hockey League and the Shriners Hospitals for Children® - Erie, have a long history of working together on projects that support our patients and our facility. The Otters have raised funds for the Hospital, supported the Sled Hockey Program in a variety of ways and several members of the team have volunteered their time at the hospital.

A new promotion began this month with the cooperation of the Plyler Overhead Door Company of McKean, PA. For every goal scored this season by Otters center Greg McKegg, Plyler's will donate \$10 to the Erie Shriners Hospital. The company will donate \$5 for every assist McKegg makes. McKegg is currently the Otter's leading scorer. In addition, Plyler's is donating four tickets for every Otters home game to a Shriners patient and family. That patient will then get to meet McKegg after the game. Thank you Erie Otters and Plyler Overhead Door company!

For additional information, contact: Bob Howden (814) 875-8782.

## Calendar Winners for November

DAY	NO.	WINNER	DAY	NO.	WINNER
11/1	363	Shrine Center	11/16	141	Robert Cox
11/2	721	Jim VanSickle	11/17	794	Ryan Hamburg
11/3	895	Shrine Center	11/18	646	Shrine Center
11/4	745	Deb Stanton	11/19	973	Shrine Center
11/5	260	Shrine Center	11/20	687	Steve Venturino
11/6	866	Linda Ford	11/21	772	Shrine Center
11/7	885	Jim Thompson	11/22	304	Shrine Center
11/8	947	Rose Rouland	11/23	325	Shrine Center
11/9	865	Shrine Center	11/24	223	Shrine Center
11/10	589	Shrine Center	11/25	332	Shrine Center
11/11	098	Shrine Center	11/26	414	Deborah Hill
11/12	851	Chuck Halligan	11/27	576	Shrine Center
11/13	822	Fred Ludwig	11/28	401	Shrine Center
11/14	645	Coralie Phaler	11/29	794	Ryan Hamburg
11/15	964	Shrine Center	11/30	954	Bruce Ruthven

Dedicated to the Memory of Noble:



Robert M. McCormack  
December 16, 2010

# Livingston District

District Deputy Grand Master - J. Michael Grady, (585) 738-1243  
 mike.grady1@gmail.com  
 Grand Sword Bearer Assistant Grand Lecturer  
 Dennis King - (585) 298-0505 Roy Moses - (585) 346-5117

## District Deputy Grand Master Livingston District

R.: W.:  
**J. Michael Grady**  
 738-1243



mike.grady1@gmail.com

Happy New Year, Brothers! Hard to believe 2010 is gone already. All the Official Visits are completed and the Holidays are over. We still have football though!

Reflecting on everything we packed into September through December, those calendar pages don't have much white space showing. Other than the mileage on the car or how tired I feel much of the time, this tells me something.

Freemasonry is alive and well in Western New York. That is a great thing. We are having dinners, award presentations, Degrees, golf outings, etc. With all that Degree work, it is obvious Lodges are growing. I still hesitate, though, on jumping up and down in joy and triumph.

### Community Prominence

Those who have either had the pleasure, or boredom, to attend one of my Official Visits, knows about being Masonically FIT - not only within ourselves, our Lodge and our District, but in our communities. We all know that Lodge was a vital link between Masons and the communities in which they lived and was an essential building block in the formation of just about every town on the landscape of America. It was one of the prominent and early buildings in the town. It was a symbol of all the Masonic principles we so embrace - the principles those Masons knew needed to be displayed to the community.

Even today, it is hard to pass through a small town and not see a Lodge building in the center of that village - proudly standing as a beacon of our presence. The problem is that those buildings don't take pictures at the Lodge dinners. The building does not write articles about 50-year members. The building does not invite the members of the community to social events. This is our duty.

As many may have heard me suggest ... Use your Brother Bring-a-Friend Night as an addition to, "Meet-the-Masons" Night? Advertise, invite the public, feed them and let them know what we do.

How about a "Masonic Community Day?" Make it a Summer event where you cook hamburgers and hotdogs. Invite the business leaders and citizens of the town, have a program of information to make sure the entire

community knows who you are and that you are there.

### Your Barometer?

If someone was coming to your Lodge for a visit, and stopped to ask a person on the street where your Lodge was, would they know? If they said "I don't know, never heard of it," it should make our heart sink. At the same time, realize we have some work to do. I know we can all do it. All it takes is for us to continue having great events. Maybe add a few more with the community in mind, and "let them know!" Advertise, inform and invite. Little by little, we will watch our communities become Masonically FIT.

### Looking Ahead

Livingston District will be quite busy. A number of our Lodges have Degree work in progress.

January 10th - Our first School of Ritual, 7 p.m. at Livonia Lodge Hall.

January 12th - 3rd Session of *Masonic Development Course* at Eunice Lodge-Caledonia.

February 19th - *Road to the East* starts up. We will again share the Program with Monroe and Genesee-Wyoming Districts at Union Star Lodge Hall in Honeoye Falls

February 26th - *Road to the East* (2nd Session), Constellation Lodge-Perry

March 5th - *Road to the East* (3rd Session), Eunice Lodge-Caledonia

I look forward to seeing all of you at one, or hopefully many, of our upcoming events in 2011. Happy New Year!

## Grand Sword Bearer

Livingston District

R.: W.:  
**Dennis King**  
 298-0505



dennis@phoenixlodge115.org

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and is recovering from the period of overeating that always accompanies the Holidays of any faith. I am looking forward to a new year of Masonic activities and education; hope you will join me in these endeavors.

The recently competed *Ma-sonic Development Course* was very successful with good attendance from all three Districts participating - Livingston, Monroe and Genesee-Wyoming. All of the Brothers who took the class agree that they learned a great deal and indeed received more light in Masonry.

### Road to the East

In February, we will be starting the *Road to the East* Class. The *RTTE* is a class directed toward Wardens and Deacons who plan to go on to serve as Master of the Lodge. This is a three

Saturday morning class given on February 19th and 26th, and concluding on March 5th.

It will be taught in the same format as the *MDC* with one class given in each of the three Districts. In this case, the classes will be in Union Star Lodge Hall, Honeoye Falls; Constellation Lodge Hall, Perry; and Eunice Lodge Hall, Caledonia, respectively. The cost of the course is \$75 and includes a copy of the "24-Inch Gauge," a lapel Pin and Certificate for completion, and refreshments at each class.

Over the three Saturdays, we cover a great deal of material from Lodge meetings and Trestleboards to etiquette, publicity, Masonic Law, Grand Lodge and more. Grand Lodge strongly urges all Brothers who aspire to be Masters to attend this class. It is also required for those would like to be considered for Grand Lodge Office. Reservation forms are now available from your Lodge Secretary or Master. I will also email forms upon request.

Reservations are required by January 28th to give us time to order and receive the class materials. Payment can be made at the first class, but NO cancellations can be accepted after the materials are ordered. I am set up to accept payment through PayPal, if that makes it easier for anyone.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this class and during my Lodge visits throughout the area. Have a great month and be sure to continue your search for light!

## Nunda Station Lodge No. 682

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

Master  
 R.: W.: Edwin Dickson  
 468-5071  
 edayle@frontiernet.net



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

By the time you receive this issue of the *Masonic Times* another New Year will have arrived and our Lodge will be remembering a festive Oyster Dinner, which has been a Christmas tradition of many years standing. On behalf of the Lodge, I thank the Brothers and families who make this event central to our fellowship and an opportunity to introduce friends to our Lodge.

We will start the New Year with a "dish-to-pass" Ham Dinner at the Lodge on January 4th. I ask each Brother to notify a Lodge Officer that he is attending and what he will be bringing. We will also have in attendance our Entered Apprentices from the Fall Class. They will have the opportunity to hear the 1st Degree Historical Lecture prior to the 2nd Degree on January 18th.

Despite the Wintry weather, our Lodge opens early for coffee and fellowship, and we always reconvene after the meeting. It's a good time to relax and catch up with each other. After all, fellowship and Brotherly love are the cornerstone of our Craft.

In a recent Masonic article, it suggested that I had been a Past Master of this Lodge. Not so. I was Master of Zion Lodge in Orchard Park, NY, 49 years ago. How time flies when you're having fun. Masonry has always been an important and ongoing aspect of my life. I would certainly name it as one of the important attributes of my ability to serve as Master at this stage in my life. It keeps me occupied with something other than myself, the Ritual keeps my mind active and the friendships go across generations.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge. Keep in touch.

### Upcoming Events

#### January

4th-Ham Dinner, 6-ish; Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

12th-Masonic Development Course, Eunice Lodge Hall-Caledonia, 7 p.m.

18th-Regular Meeting, 7:30p.m., 2°

24th-District Association, Eunice Lodge Hall-Caledonia

29th-Have-a-Heart, Marketplace Mall, 12 Noon-3 p.m.

#### February

1st-Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; Brother Bring-a-Friend "

## Union Lodge No. 45

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

Master  
 R.: W.: John Gallant  
 624-9629  
 jgallant@rochester.rr.com



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

Lima Masonic Hall  
 1891 Rochester Street  
 Lima 14485

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful time on New Year's Eve. I also hope you had the chance to share a cup of cheer and a kiss from a loved one. As I write this, I am looking forward to being able to share a nice, quiet New Year's

## Genesee-Wyoming

District Deputy Grand Master - Donald Kunego (585) 494-1624  
 nanapopa@rochester.rr.com

Grand Sword Bearer Assistant Grand Lecturer  
 John Wiktorowski - (716) 492-1060 Robert W. Strang, Jr. - (585) 591-2888

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

1st Wednesdays  
 7:30 p.m.

Master  
 W.: Neil Bedford  
 768-8293  
 nrb\_sparkie@yahoo.com

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

2 Bank Street, LeRoy 14482

By Doug Poole

Welcome to 2011! It looks like we, here in LeRoy, will have another busy year. Now, that a building is bought, comes the work. Work needs to be done to make it usable for Lodge and Eastern Star meetings. And

Eve with my wife cuddled up at my side. Hopefully we can stay awake long enough to watch the Times Square Ball drop! I am also looking forward to this new year being a positive one, filled with may happy times and memories.

I hope you are all ready to start back up in our Masonic quarries. This month we are back to having two meetings scheduled. At our first meeting we will present the LSome - Walk-About for our most recent Brothers, Doug Morgan and Craig Bailey. If you have never had the chance to observe the Walk-About, come and join us. It is a very interesting presentation.

Our monthly "Fellowship, Facts and Food" Dinner will be preceding our meeting on January 13th. Once again, I am sending out an "invitation" to all our members to join us for dinner. If you would like to assist our chefs by bringing a dish-to-pass, please let us know.

Unfortunately the attendance for our December Dinner was a bit light. Because of the low attendance we decided to postpone Ian's Masonic presentation to January. His re-scheduled Masonic presentation will be: "Long form of Change over."

The Tri-District *Masonic Development Course* will be finishing up this month. The third meeting, discussing the Master Mason Degree, will be January 12th at Eunice Lodge in Caledonia. My thanks to all the Brothers from Union Lodge who attended these classes.

Now that Ol' Man Winter is settling in for the next few months, I wish "Safe Journeys" to our Brothers who will be traveling South and missing out on all our Winter "fun." I hope you remember us, "up here," shoveling snow and sliding about while you are sitting by the water sipping your drinks with the paper umbrellas. We look forward to welcoming you back in a few months.

we hope to get Royal Arch to return.

Our first meeting for the year will be January 5th at 7:30 p.m. The program will be given by W.: Ronald Tetro. He is Chairman of the Grand Master's Ball to be held October 1st in Buffalo. You will learn what is involved in this event.

Please contact our Master, W.: Neil Bedford, so we have an idea of how many refreshments we need.

This will also give you a chance to see how far we have come on remodeling. Come and take the tour. There will be a few surprises for you to see. We may be in a new location, but we kept a 48-foot trailer of materials from 5 West Main; some pieces will be a real eye opener!

Hope to see you on the 5th. "

## Support the Masonic Brotherhood Fund

**Oakland Lodge**

No. 379, F. &amp; A.M.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

(Jan/Feb/Mar: 1st Tuesday only)



**Master**  
W.: Kenneth  
E. Smith  
768-7731  
msmith015@  
rochester.rr.com

**Secretary**  
W.: Richard L. Smith  
493-5408

134 South Main Street, Castile 14427

I can't begin to tell you how good it is when Christmas comes early. My wife and I decided it was time for a new computer at home and this was our present to each other. What a wonderful feeling to sit down and type on a new machine compared to the ancient (6-year-old) laptop we had. It's amazing how quickly something becomes outdated in

the world of technology. Thank heavens that doesn't apply to Masons or I would be considered outdated.

By the time this article arrives at your mailbox or doorstep, we will have celebrated the Holiday Season. I can only hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Once again, the Christmas Season is very special to my family and me, as our youngest daughter was born on Christmas Eve. As good as this new computer or any other present I will eventually receive, nothing will be more special than the present we received five years ago this Christmas Eve.

**Recent Happenings**

Oakland Lodge's first Communication in December was cancelled due to the pending weather conditions and the Worshipful Master being double-booked. It's never a good thing when you have two com-

mitments at the same time that are better than 60 miles apart. Mother Nature did help by making the travel conditions in Wyoming County a little sketchy and I felt it better to have everybody stay home and not risk the driving conditions.

Our second Communication was an informal meeting with the agenda to review some old paperwork. We are starting to review some of the records and paperwork our departed Brother, Fred Hance, had stored at his house. We are going to go through every file and see if we can't purge some of the records. We anticipate this is going to take a few Communications as some of the records date back to the 1930s. I would invite all Brothers from Oakland Lodge to come and help in reviewing these files.

**Masonic Anniversaries**

I congratulate the following Brothers who were Raised or

affiliated with Oakland Lodge during the month of December:  
1981 - Donald Kemp  
1974 - John Wahl  
1972 - William Wallace

Thank you for your many years of faithful service to Oakland Lodge and Masonry.

**Brotherhood Fund**

The Brotherhood Fund contributions continue to keep rolling in and all I can say is thank you to all the Brothers from Oakland Lodge who have already made donations to this worthwhile cause. If you would still like to make a contribution to this Program, it's not too late. This Program runs until the end of May.

The best place to make your contributions is at our regular Communications. If you are unable to attend, you can mail them to our Brotherhood Fund Chairman, Ken Smith. If mailing, please send them to Ken Smith, 137 Lake Street, LeRoy, NY 14482. I would also ask that

you please designate the area for your contribution in the memo portion of your check.

**Upcoming Events**

Oakland Lodge has only one regularly scheduled Communication during the month of January. This Communication will take place January 4th. Please come and join us as we continue our reviewing and purging of Oakland Lodge's records.

I hope this article finds all my fellow Brothers enjoying a happy and healthy start to the New Year. May we all remember those who were unable to make it home to spend the Holiday with their family and friends. Always keep in mind those who have and are still fighting to keep this great nation of ours free and safe.

May the blessings of Heaven rest upon all fellow Brothers and their families wherever they may be throughout the world. ✽



# Order of the Eastern Star

**Monroe District  
OES HiLights**

**DDGM**  
R.W.

**Mae Bauer**  
678-4643  
maesbauer  
@aol.com

**DGL**  
R.W.

**Robert Crystal**  
473-0279  
crys24634@aol.com

By Mae S. Bauer

Winter is here!!! Snow came fast and furious early in December. Because of the snowfall many Chapter meetings were cancelled.

To everyone who came or helped at the November, 2010, Reception of the Monroe District Grand Officers, we thank you. It was a great evening. The winner of the Halloween wall hanging was Wilma Clarkson of Fairport.

To R.W. Jean Stewart and R.W. Raymond DiJames, thank you for a great Christmas Party at the Spencerport Lodge Hall last month. Unfortunately, the weather prevented many people from attending.

**Line Officers Meetings**

The first Line Officers' Meeting will be January 8th, 9 a.m., at Fairport Masonic Lodge Hall. A lunch will follow. All meetings will be held at the Fairport Masonic Lodge Hall.

There are still a few Chapter Secretaries who have not sent in their Election results. These are needed ASAP. If each Chapter could include the Conductresses and Associate Conductresses addresses and phone numbers, I would appreciate it.

**Message from DGL**

By Robert Crystal

I thank the Secretaries for the copies of the Certificates of Election we've been receiving. It is something they do behind the scenes, which most members are unaware. That is so typical of a well-run organi-

zation. The regular nuts-and-bolts function goes on unseen and unnoticed. It is only when the engine of my car makes funny noises or stops running that I think about it. But all those parts are doing their jobs without my knowing in order for the machine to work. It is the same for all the committees like the All Stars and the companion clubs. They all contribute to the function of the Order quietly and unnoticed. But the machine wouldn't work without them.

**Ritual Work**

Now is the time to start thinking about Official Visits and School of Instruction. If you go over one part of the Ritual every meeting night, maybe you can polish up your work without a separate rehearsal. And maybe you can volunteer to take a portion in the School without sweating it

**School of Instruction**

Our School of Instruction will be held February 12th, 9 a.m. at the Fairport Masonic Lodge Hall. In order to make the most of such instruction, now is the time to make requests for what you would like to cover. Is there some part of the Ritual you would like to see reviewed?

**Fundraisers**

Now is also the time to start planning a fundraiser for the Grand Matron's and District Deputy's charities. R.W. Mark Fenton will be working on Alex's Lemonade Stand. I would like to hear from all of you on how the Al Sigl Center has touched your lives. R.W. Mae and I would greatly appreciate visible fundraisers out in the community. It would be great for the Al Sigl Center and might garner us some community awareness. Ideas anyone?

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone. GOD BLESS. ✽

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**Corinthian/  
Fellowship**

**Chapter No. 322**  
Order of the Eastern Star

2nd &amp; 4th Wednesdays

W. Barbara McMinn, Matron  
H) 359-3934; C) 7214590  
R.W. Claude Gramse, Patron  
(315) 597-1342

**Secretary**  
R.W. Beverly VanHuben  
647-1391  
805 Blossom Road  
Rochester 14610

By Robert Crystal

Well, Sisters and Brothers, the gremlins continue to get one over on us every year. Starting more than 10 years ago, something always goes dreadfully wrong at our Installations. One year it started snowing so hard after the meeting began that some Sisters stayed overnight in Fellowship Lodge. (At least, that is the story I was told.)

We have had all sorts of odd break downs ... coffee pots that wouldn't perk, cakes that fell off the counter and landed icing side down, crockpots that spilled, collection baskets with stale candy in them, a signet whose glass cover shattered, a missing gavel and so on.

This year it was a series of not-so-small ones that led to us skipping the meeting altogether. Our last meeting in November was Elections and State Amendments. That would have been easy, even though Bev VanHuben was in the hospital because she fell on the previous Sunday and was taken to the hospital with fractures in her vertebrae. But on December 8th, we had a series of problems.

Worthy Matron, Barbara McMinn, had decided to have an Open Installation, so we invited non-members. Barbara brought her mother. At the restaurant, Mom fell ill, so Barb had to leave with her to get her checked on by doctor. Then, Brother Bob Israel had a conflict with his violin recital. Then the weather turned bad for our Eastern-Eastern Stars, the Gramses, who got snowed

under and had to send regrets. Then when we got to the Chapter Rooms, the locks had been changed. We called the church's pastor, and he came over to let us in, but by then it was too late, and so we cancelled. (It turns out the church was broken into over the weekend, and they had to change all the locks. They had called Bev VanHuben, but she didn't get the call, etc. etc.) This is a new pastor, and he was very apologetic for the trouble this caused.

We managed to contact everyone except Joyce Bernhardt, who was very nice about it, and Alta Doty, who was also very nice about it. Bob Crystal stayed to apologize to any latecomers; everyone went home to await a report as to when we will make it up and get installed. Fortunately, the line is continuing in place. It just means Bev will be late in getting her report in to the DDGM and DGL.

**Sickness and Distress**

Have you sent Bev a card yet? Please do so.

Norma Lee is doing well, running the Bake Sale by remote control. She could use a card of encouragement if you haven't already sent one.

Call one of the Officers if you can't find your Chapter Directory.

Bo Clark is ensconced in her new apartment back in her old South Wedge Neighborhood.

Margery Williamson and Rita Galliani report that they are doing better, but not well enough to go traipsing around in a blizzard.

Norraine Voegtle seems to be holding her own, too. Please send these three Sisters cards to let them know you are thinking about them.

**Upcoming Plans**

Our coming year is full of potential. The new pastor of the church wants us to come to a couple of events where we can set up our lemonade stand. We hope to have another Open Meeting or event to which we can invite the members of the church. We have asked for a plot in the church vegetable garden, too.

Our Bake Sale continues on with the volunteer chefs filling orders on a monthly basis and having breakfast with the residents before the sale begins.

We hope to have a youth night, at which they can give presentations about what they are all about. And planning is already started for a day trip above and beyond Oriskany and for our Summer Picnic.

If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, call Worthy Matron Barb and ask her about coming out. Remember we are accessible and we will come and get you! Don't forget dinner at the Diner before the meetings, too! ✽

**NOLATKA  
Chapter No. 320**

Order of the Eastern Star

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

Matron

W. Patricia Dalykas  
429-6565

Patron

W. Robert Crystal  
473-0279

Secretary

R. W. Carol Wynings  
594-4692

Community Christian Church  
2647 Chili Avenue, 14624

By Robert Crystal

Lake effect! In my church there is a poster that says, "A snowflake is one of God's most delicate and fragile creations. But look what happens when a lot of them stick together!"

Out of concern for members travelling at night in a predicted storm, our sole December meeting was cancelled. And I, for one, am glad the Worthy Matron took action. I used the time to curl up in front of the gas log and catch up on feeling good and think about what we can accomplish by sticking together.

Our Fraternal ties help us to remember we are more than just members; we are Sisters and Brothers under the Fatherhood of God. Together, although each of us can only do a little as an individual, those

Continued on Page 15



# Lalla Rookh GROTTO News

Bernard Lazerson, Monarch

lallarookhgrotto.com

Legion  
Clowns  
Caldron  
Historian

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



**Bernard Lazerson**  
Monarch  
271-7446  
lazerbd2@aol.com

### Recount Demanded

My dear Prophets, a re-count of the voting has been demanded. Not only by the Prophet-voters, but also by some elected Officers! Prophet Secretary did his best to record the shenanigans, but I fear his pen melted down.

Prophet Treasurer, Brian Bills, was re-elected after much protest — his!

Venerable Prophet, Joe Minnas, PM, was re-elected in absentia—because he is the only one qualified for the position.

Prophet Chaplain, Dick Bull, was re-elected without even a vote.

Prophet Captain of the Guard, Paul Farnung, will again guard the Chambers.

Prophet Dick Topel, PM, was re-elected Master of Ceremonies after a stupendous Turkey Dinner. (We all ate double, because so few attended.) The weather was absolutely atrocious.

Jim Toogood, PM, though sick abed, was also railroaded, er, re-elected Chief Justice. Get well soon, Jim.

And last and certainly least, the same Monarch, Bernie Lazerson, PM (who's he?) was again presented with the gavel for 2011. I, Prophet Monarch, will appoint all remaining Officers at the January Board of Governors Meeting. Current Trustees have agreed to remain in place for an additional year.

### Nolatka Chapter

Continued from Page 14

little accomplishments can add up. Our Ritual talks about gleaners finding nourishment "here a little, there a little."

As I sit here watching the flames, I think of the craft sales, bake sales, dinners, finger sandwiches and desserts all of us have made and eaten; sold and given away. Just in our foodstuffs, we have accomplished a lot over the years and can accomplish a lot in the future. Everyone does a little bit and the group accomplishes much.

Isn't that worth talking about to non-members? Can we, just a little bit, get our light out from under the bushel basket? When I think of all we have done, and are doing, and will do, I feel like spreading the word, "Come out of your homes and join us! You will have fun, you will do good in the world and you will spread happiness! Lay down that remote and make a batch of brownies! Bring a spare knit

### Board of Governors

Please make every effort to attend the January Board of Governors Meeting Monday, January 3rd; gathering at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Keenan's Restaurant on East Ridge Road, Georgetown Plaza. Meeting will follow. Call me, Prophet Monarch for dinner details, food choices and so I can get an accurate head count, too.

### Installation

The Closed Installation could not be done in December, because of weather and low turnout. The January meeting, on our usual meeting night, January 19th, 7:30 p.m. will therefore be Installation Night. All please attend.

The coming year of 2011, will be a year of challenge and change for our Grotto, my Prophets. All activities we have traditionally done will be repeated again. All the outreach efforts to the Daughters of Mokka will be strengthened. The Ladies of the Prophets will be invited to more activities and we will increase our numbers with new Master Masons. So mote it be.

### Secretary's Corner

By Ken Hutchinson, PM

The Annual Meeting of December 15th, was opportunity to renew the old and form new ties which was a delight and pleasure. The evening started with a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings, prepared by MC Richard Topel, PM, and Prophet Heinz Gunkel. The Election of Officers for 2011 followed and the Monarch appointed the other Officers. Because of inclement weather and low turnout, the Installation will be held in January.

PM Richard Topel, Enchanted Lantern Chairman, presented Monarch Lazerson an Enchanted Lantern pin and certificate in honor of the memory of departed Prophet Franklyn H. Ghyzel, who died February 18, 2010; and Prophet

Leslie C. Moore, Jr., who died March 2, 2010. "These are special people in our lives, who never leave, even after they are gone."

The Officers of Lalla Rookh Grotto are planning on traveling to some of the Grotto Installations. We can learn from other Grottoes, exchange ideas and have a lot of fun doing it. This is the time for Lalla Rookh to shine the light of Good Fellowship.

Over the recent years I have collected a list of outside speaker and entertainment groups. We are looking to add speakers to our list. If you know of a speaker, let us know.

### Mark Your Calendar

ESGA President, Ken Love, announced the ESGA Spring Meeting will be at the Regency Hotel in Binghamton, April 29th - 30th.

The 121st Supreme Council Session will meet at Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, MI, June 29th - July 3rd. Reservations at (800) 233-1234 at \$100 per night, plus tax.

### Breaking News

From Farmville, NC, PM Mike Bell reported that on December 10th he was appointed and installed as Chaplain of Nubia Grotto.

They recently had an inch of snow. Unfortunately he gave his snow shovel to his neighbor before he moved down south. Mike and Doris wish to say hello and happy holidays to all those in NYS.

### January Birthdays

Best Wishes to our Prophets who celebrate their birthday this month:

Nelson G. Wolford (5th), Allen J. Widrick (11th) Don Brugger (14th), Ronald L. Weber (16th) Richard C. Felgner (20th), Howard M. Travis (21st), Wayne W. Slack (29th), Ken Rhodes (30th), Fred Kinney (31st).

She can still use some winter clothes for women and children. Some families arrive at the shelter with nothing but the clothes on their backs and those are not in good shape, either. If you have some new or almost new clothing to donate, let the Matron or Patron know. We will do our best to get it to Tracy's shelter families.

Retired DDGM, Jean Stewart, is not going to be allowed to "rest on her laurels" for long. Look for her next Sisterly assignment in February's report.

Carol Pickworth showed pictures of her Birthday Balloon Ride. Her family made a bound book out of her trip. I am starting to save up now for my balloon ride. It proves you can be as spry as you want at age XX (editor's note: age data removed on the advice of legal counsel).

Write us and tell us what you did on YOUR birthday! I will be glad to share it.

See you next month, and keep warm!

### Sickness and Distress

In checking in with our members on the sick list, they all seem well at this time.

Louis Ninos advised me that he had heart surgery (valve replacement) in June and returned to work August 1st. He is feeling fine now.

As of December 14th, Dual Member, Fred Kinney, PM, of Selama Grotto, St. Petersburg, FL, and Jeanie are doing fine since our last report.

PM James Toogood has been fitted with special shoes and is walking 100 steps at a time, later 200 steps with a nurse with him also keeping count. As promised by his doctor, he was released to go home on December 16th. Yes, Jim, it has been a long time for you.

If you know of anyone in sickness or distress, or in need of our aid or sympathy, please let any of your officers know.

Prophets, until we meet again, I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Don't forget why we joined the Grotto — to have fun.

Mountain Lodge, No. 204, Utah Territory.

Brigadier General Solomon Meredith, commander of the "Black Hat Brigade." He had three sons in the Union army, two of whom were killed. The General was a member of Cambridge Lodge, No. 105, Indianapolis, IN.

Brigadier General Alfred Iverson, Columbian Lodge, No. 108, Columbus, GA. His father was a U.S. Senator from Georgia before the War.

Brigadier General John B. Gordon, wounded 8 times during the War. Afterwards he was elected 3 time U.S. Senator from Georgia and later Governor of Georgia.

Still others included: Major General Winfield S. Hancock, member of Charity Lodge, No. 190, Norristown, PA.

Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead, came from a military family. His uncle commanded Fort McHenry during the British bombardment of the War of 1812. General Armistead died leading Pickett's Charge.

Major General Joshua L. Chamberlain, wounded six times. Received the formal surrender of the Confederate Army from Major General John Gordon, a fellow Mason. Member of United Lodge, No. 8, Brunswick, ME.

There probably were more enlisted soldiers of the North, than the South, as most were from farm country. The high ranking Officers on both sides were recorded as Freemasons. Many fought alongside one another in earlier wars.

For the North there was Major General Winfield Hancock. On the Confederate side was Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead. Both remained very close friends. Remember, both Hancock and Armistead were Masons, representing a Brotherhood that never divided, now dedicated to a nation indivisible.

There were many acts of Fraternal friendship among the Freemasons on the battlefield.

## Grand Historian

**Kenneth Hutchinson, PM, PP**

Home phone  
(315) 589-9021

Grotto office  
671-6320

hutchkv@yahoo.com

For our history buffs, I would continue from November, 2010, on the Civil War. Other Freemasons who played significant roles at the Battle of Gettysburg included: Major General Henry Heth, Senior Warden of Rocky

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# Scottish Rite NEWS

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



**Joseph E. Bourcy III, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Commander-in-Chief**

## Veterans Night

On November 18th, the Valley honored Veterans and guests of the Valley of Rochester. Most Wise Master, Eric Lubberts, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA, of the Rochester Chapter, Rose Croix, aided by the other Officers of the Rose Croix Line, conducted this Veterans tribute.

Following a festive social hour, our hosts presented a Table Lodge to celebrate a Day of Adar. Adar is the happiest, most joyous month of the Hebrew calendar. In fact, its motto is "When Adar comes, joy is increased." The dinner featured the Valley's famous "Wurst" Plate, which everyone devoured. Included in the evening's events was the presentation of a "Missing Man" Table, which commemorates POW/MIAs with commentary by Sy Kopen, 32<sup>o</sup> MSA.

The Brothers present then assembled in the Lodge Room for the celebration of our Veterans. Commander-in-Chief, Ill.: Joseph Bourcy, 33<sup>o</sup>, welcomed the 57 Brothers who attended and asked the James A. Hard-Wayne Charter Post, Masonic War Veterans, to present the



**John Faro, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA**



Members of the James A. Hard-Wayne Charter Post presented the colors at the Veterans Recognition Night Program. From left: Heinz Gunkel, John Ponschock, Vance Collom, Jr., and Dennis Gellas.

## AASR Valley of Rochester 2010-2011 Officers

### Rochester Lodge of Perfection

Thrice Potent Master Frank Habitzreuther, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Deputy Master Seymour G. Kopen, 32<sup>o</sup> MSA  
Senior Warden John S. Lemka, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Junior Warden Ronald Smith, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Orator David W. Taber, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Master of Ceremonies Bernard Skopinsky, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Captain of the Guard Gordon D. Hubbel, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Tyler Derek E. VanHouten, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA

### Rochester Chapter of Knights of Rose Croix

Most Wise Master Eric Lubberts, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Senior Warden James E. Deasay III, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Junior Warden Donald A. Tubman, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Orator James Champagne, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Master of Ceremonies Matthew Muller, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Captain of the Guard Frank R. Gabriel, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Tyler Derek E. VanHouten, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA

### Rochester Council of the Princes of Jerusalem

Sovereign Prince Evar L. Miller, 32<sup>o</sup>  
High Priest Thomas Goodrich, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Senior Warden John Faro, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Junior Warden Gary Crank, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Master of Ceremonies Greg Ludwig, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Master of Entrances Brian Bills, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Tyler Derek E. VanHouten, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA

### Rochester Consistory

Commander-in-Chief Ill.: Joseph E. Bourcy III, 33<sup>o</sup>  
1st Lt. Commander Kenneth R. Howe, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
2nd Lt. Commander Joseph Oelgoetz, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Orator Patrick J. Mulrooney, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Chancellor Philip Hurwitz, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Master of Ceremonies G. Thomas Grape, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Engineer and Seneschal James A. Sloum, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Color Bearer James Pray, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA  
Captain of the Guard Theodore Sargent, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Sentinel Derek E. VanHouten, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA

### Frank & Bette Paul 32<sup>o</sup> Masonic Learning Center for Children 3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 330, Rochester, NY 14618

Office (585) 264-1690; Fax (585) 264-1692; Email: rochoent@rochester.rt.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<sup>o</sup>, 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<sup>o</sup>  
**Sovereign Grand Commander**  
Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33<sup>o</sup>  
**Grand Minister of State**  
Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33<sup>o</sup>, Past Deputy/New York  
Ill.: G. Michael Morris, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Ill.: Stephen R. Whittaker, 33<sup>o</sup>  
**Active Members for New York**  
Ill.: Frederick D. Greene, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Ill.: Gary A. Henningsen, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Ill.: James F. Niehoff, 33<sup>o</sup>  
**Active Emeritus Members for New York**  
Ill.: Edward R. Troian, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Ill.: Bruce Widger, 33<sup>o</sup>, Past Deputy/New York

**Secretary**  
Peter J. VanElzakker, 32<sup>o</sup> MSA  
**Treasurer**  
Robert L. Anderson II, 32<sup>o</sup>  
**Deputy's Representative**  
Ill.: Charles O. Hancock, 33<sup>o</sup>

**General Committee  
Members-at-Large**  
Ill.: Glenn A. Stahl, 33<sup>o</sup> (2011)  
Bernard D. Lazerson, 32<sup>o</sup> (2012)  
Ill.: G. Michael Morris, 33<sup>o</sup> (2013)  
Ill.: Charles R. Frear, 33<sup>o</sup> (Emeritus)

3300 Monroe Avenue, Suite 320, Rochester, NY 14618  
Office (585) 264-1160; (800) 858-2320; Fax (585) 264-1161  
Email: valleyofrochester@gmail.com



Sy Kopen, 32<sup>o</sup> MSA, places flowers in honor of each Veteran of the Valley of Rochester who passed away in the last year.

Colors. John Faro, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA, and Sy Kopen, 32<sup>o</sup> MSA, conducted a ceremony remembering Valley Veterans who passed in the last year.

A presentation of the "Scottish Rite Tribute to the Flag" CD was given, followed by a recitation by 1st Lt. Commander, Rick Howe 32<sup>o</sup> DSA of "This Ragged Old Flag." Each Scottish Rite Mason then joined his fellows by Service Branch for group recognition and pictures. Each member was presented an American Flag Pin as a token of appreciation for their service.

The Masonic War Veterans then gave a history of their Unit and made an appeal for new members. Ill.: Charles O. Hancock, 33<sup>o</sup>, Deputy's Representative, then talked about "You can leave the military, but it never really leaves you." The Masonic War Veterans then retired the Colors and, after a closing benediction, the Brothers dispersed.

### Degrees Presented

On December 4th the Valley of Rochester Lodge of Perfection and Council of Princes of Jerusalem presented the 4th, 13th 14th and 15th Degrees for a class of 15 Candidates and 35

## Valley of Rochester 2011 Happy New Year

January 20th at Shrine Center

"Light from the Rite"

Business and Information Meeting / Dinner (\*\*)

Please note ... DATE CHANGE

January 22nd at Constellation Lodge, Perry

"The Last Full Measure" BBB

Evening Dinner with Ladies (\*\*)

Master Masons interested in learning about the Scottish Rite, are invited as Valley guests (\*\*)

February 5th at Shrine Center

"Public Degree" BBB

Evening Dinner w/ Ladies (\*\*)

Master Masons interested in learning about the Scottish Rite are invited as Valley guests (\*\*)

February 10th at Marketplace Mall

Staffing Have-a-Heart Campaign; 3-9 p.m.

February 12th at Sanibel Cottage

Valentine Dinner with our Ladies / Dinner (\*\*)

February 17th at Shrine Center

"Light from the Rite"

Business & Information Meeting / Dinner (\*\*)

Please note ... DATE CHANGE

February 26th at Shrine Center

Degree Presentations (4<sup>o</sup>, 7<sup>o</sup>, 14<sup>o</sup>, 16<sup>o</sup>)

Lunch (\*\*)

March 12th at Shrine Center

Degree Presentations (17<sup>o</sup>, 18<sup>o</sup>)

Country Breakfast(\*\*)

March 17th at Shrine Center

"Light from the Rite"

Business and Information Meeting / Dinner (\*\*)

March 27th @ Shrine Center; 3 p.m.

Feast of the Paschal Lamb / Dinner (\*\*)

Note: The Clambake/Steak Roast at Camp Morris has been re-scheduled to Saturday,

\*\* Make your reservations On Time!

At least 5 DAYS prior to any activity

(585) 264-1160 or 1-800-858-2320

or Email: secretary@valleyofrochester.org

Don't be Late!

Late Reservations may have to be accepted

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Why not sign up on our

Permanent Meeting Meal Reservation List?



Rick Howe, 32<sup>o</sup> DSA and "The Tattered Old Flag."

Valley members. We also had two Brothers from the Valley of Syracuse who were traveling to fill their Passports. This was the first use of the Supreme Council CD video of the 4th Degree which was very well received.

The 13th Degree was presented by the Rodney R. Rittenhouse Class (2009-2010) with some extra help from the previous year's class. This Degree and the 15th were presented as multi-media events which employed both audio and video effects for a better presentation for the audience. The hard work of the Cast, along with our multi-media effects, provided an excellent exemplification of the Degrees. The 14th Degree Team was headed by Ill.: G. Michael Morris, 33<sup>o</sup> Active, as Thrice Potent Master and Ill.: Rodney R. Rittenhouse, 33<sup>o</sup>, as Deputy Master. Both lived up to their high standards with an outstanding presentation.

We had the honor of having R.E. Sir Knight James MacConnell, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York and R.: W.: George Nasra, District Deputy Grand Master, Monroe District, of the Grand Lodge, State of New York, take time out of their busy schedules to participate in



## 2010-2011 Class honors Ill.: Robert D. Pedersen, 33°

the 15th Degree. Thank you, Brothers, for your assistance.

### Light from the Rite

The New Year is almost upon us and we are again conducting the Light from the Rite Program. The 33° Club will be presenting the lessons from the 4th, 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th Degrees. The February meeting will consist of a presentation of the "Royal Order of Scotland" and the recognition of the Ambassadors from the area Lodges.

March will bring another evening of learning about the Scottish Rite Degrees. We will be presenting the signs, symbols and lessons of the Council of Princes of Jerusalem and the Chapter of Rose Croix.

These are opportunities for all Scottish Rite members to obtain "More Light in Masonry." Please take these opportunities to increase your knowledge of our Fraternity. **TURN ON THE RITE LIGHT.**



**Members of the Ill.: Robert D. Pedersen, 33°, Fall Class**

By Ill.: Stephen Whittaker

Ill.: Robert D. Pedersen, 33°, was Raised as a Master Mason in Clio Lodge in Hilton. He was later elected and installed as its Worshipful Master.

After joining the Valley of Rochester, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, he became very active. He is a Past Most Wise Master of the Rochester Chapter of Rose Croix and

in 2004-2006 served as its Commander-in-Chief.

Ill.: Pedersen was coroneted a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in St. Louis on September 23, 2003.

In many of his supporting roles in the Valley, he may be best known for his planning, organization and development of an active team of Lodge Ambassadors who, to this

day, remain very active in the contact sport of membership development. He was also instrumental in assisting as the Valley transitioned from 875 Main Street to its new home on Monroe Avenue, Pittsford, in 2002.

Many of you will recall that in 2009 he was the Chair of the New York Council of Deliberation "Host Valley" Team.



**Ill.: Robert D. Pedersen, 33°**

Bob retired from Pfaudler where he was the Manager of Quality Assurance for over thirty years. He and his wife, Mary, re-located to Bradenton, Florida, so they could be near Bob's parents. We congratulate Ill.: Brother Pedersen on being named the sponsor for this year's Class of new members. »



**Rochester Council Princes of Jerusalem**  
Evar Miller  
Sovereign Prince

The 15th Degree was presented by a cast of 19 on December 4th at the Shrine Center. The cast owes much thanks to R.:E.: James MacConnell, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York, and R.:W.: George Nasra, District Deputy Grand Master for Monroe District of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, for making time to take major roles in the Degree.

Also, many thanks to Rick Howe for his lighting, audio and visual projections that help make all Degrees so successful. Rick also had time to play the major role of King in the Degree.

Thank you to the cast and all who took part. »



**Members of the Armed Forces recognized at the November meeting.**

- Top left  
United States Air Force
- Top right  
United States Marines;
- Middle  
United States Army;
- Right  
United States Navy



## In Memoriam

### Boening, Richard R.

Richard Boening, 80, laid down his Working Tools on December 16th. His wife of 60 years, Ruth, 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren survive him. Richard was a member of Olive Branch Lodge. May the joy of the Lord be your strength.

### McCormack, Robert M.

Robert McCormack, 92, went to the waiting arms of his wife, Marjorie, on December 16th. He is survived by 3 sons and 4 grandchildren. Robert was a member of Seneca Lodge, Scottish Rite and Damascus Shriners. We wish you the gift of a memory whenever you need to know, the one you love still walks with you wherever you may go.

### Strasser, Walter J.

We just received word that Walter Strasser, 90, passed away August 27th. Walter was a member of Unity Lodge and Scottish Rite, and a US Army Veteran of World War II. A memory is a keepsake of time that lives forever in the heart.

### Trendell, Wesley G.

On November 27th, Wesley Trendell, 90, found peace in the arms of the Lord. His wife of 64 years, Joan, 3 children. 8 grandchildren and 10 great-

grandchildren are left to cherish his memory. Wesley was a US Army Veteran of World War II and a member of Craftsman Robertson Lodge. Loving prayers are with you now and in days to come.

### Wallace, Lew

Lew Wallace passed away November 30th, leaving his wife, Dorothy, 2 children, 2 step-children and many grandchildren to share his life's memories. Lew was a 34-year Mason - a member of Webster

Lodge. Wishing you a garden of lovely memories.

### Watlack, Hubert T. "Joe"

Joe Watlack, 74, passed away November 17th in Arizona. He is survived by his 100-year-old mother, Ida, his wife, Janet, 2 sons, 2 step-children, 24 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Joe was a member of ERAC Lodge and a Korean War Veteran. There are special people in our lives who never leave, even after they're gone. »

# York Rite NEWS

## Hiram Chapter



**No. 62**

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

E.: John E. Zabel, High Priest  
223-3228

zabelj@mindspring.com

E.: Charles M. Roberts

Secretary  
225-6533

cholyone@rochester.rr.com

17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

### What's Happening

Season's Greetings, Companions. Our last Convocation was on December 9th. It was a special evening, although it was our Annual Meeting for reports and Election of Officers, we had very special guests. The Grand High Priest, M.:E.: Jeffrey Williamson, with his escort the Grand Captain of the Host, R.:E.: R. J. Kessler, were present. You missed a really great session if you were not there. The Grand High Priest outlined some of the changes for the Grand Chapter Convocation in March. All of the changes are for the improvement of the session of the attending Companions. We commend the Grand High Priest for his hard work and his innovations.

The Grand High Priest was also present to present the Zerubbabel Society Medal to your Excellent High Priest. The Zerubbabel Society is new this past year. It is for Companions who have the resources to pledge a minimum of \$100 per year for 10 years or give \$1,000 to the Grand Chapter Charities. The Grand High Priest indicated there are around 56 Companions who have paid-in-full or have pledged to the Society.

The Grand High Priest also stated that the Grand Chapter Charities have done extremely well this past year. He thanked the Companions for their support and is looking forward to a continuation of our commitment to the charities.

On the election side, the current Elected Officers were re-elected for the coming year. They are:

**John Zabel** High Priest  
**Rick Howe** King  
**Richard Horton** Scribe  
**James Nersinger** Treasurer  
**Charles Roberts** Secretary

The High Priest will be contacting Companions for the appointed positions in the very near future. Companions, if you are able, consider accepting an appointed position.

### Musings

Companions, we have a very interesting state of membership. We lost several Companions this past year, but we have a goodly number who are awaiting the start and/or completion of their Degree conferrals. If we complete the exaltation of all those in waiting, we will have about a zero gain/loss of members. This is a good position to be in. However, we must work on methods to see that our Brothers-in-waiting can complete their Degrees.

There is a festival of Degrees scheduled for the February timeframe in Akron, NY,

where all the Degrees will be conferred in one day, a Saturday. We will also be working on either a festival or round of Degrees closer to home. Since we are in the process of District realignment, this could be good for us to start working with the Chapters in our new District. More on this in the future as plans are set.

The Degrees conferred by the Chapter are different in scope and meaning than the first three Lodge Degrees. They build on the allegory and lessons of the first three Degrees.

The four Chapter Degrees are not duplicated by any other Rite, which means that our Scottish Rite Brethren will not find duplication of Degrees, but will find a different interpretation of the lessons taught through the whole Fraternity. As a York Rite Mason can improve his understanding of Freemasonry by becoming a Scottish Rite Mason, so can a Scottish Rite Mason improve himself by taking the York Rite Degree. I encourage our Scottish Rite Brethren who have not taken the York Rite Degrees to consider joining Hiram Chapter and learn more about our sacred Craft.

Companions, I encourage you to attend as many of the Chapter meetings as possible. This will help you build a broader group of Masonic friends, as well as improve your knowledge of Freemasonry and its teachings. We are all very busy people and conflicts will arise, but, when possible, the Chapter meeting should be one of your choices.

Remember ... we have changed our meeting schedule to one-per-month, on the second Thursday of the month. The fourth Thursday will be reserved for Degree presentation only and then only as needed. It is the task of your Elected Officers, lead by the High Priest, to assure that each meeting is much more than just business. We will be working to assure that every meeting has a program or discussion that will impart more knowledge to you about the Rite, Freemasonry, etc.

The High Priest and Officers of Hiram Chapter wish a very Happy New Year to all our Companions and all Brother Masons. May the coming year exceed all of our individual expectations. \*

## Doric Council No. 19 Cryptic Masons

(Chartered 1861)

3rd Wednesday



Ill. Master  
John A. Gallant  
624-9629  
jgallant@rochester.rr.com

John A. Dudley, Recorder  
586-6426

jdudley1@rochester.rr.com

17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful time on New Year's Eve. I also hope you had the chance to share a cup of cheer and a kiss from a loved one. As I write this, I am

looking forward to being able to share a nice and quiet New Years Eve with my wife cuddled up at my side. Hopefully, we can stay awake long enough to watch the Times Square Ball drop! I am also looking forward to this New Year being a positive one, filled with many happy times and memories.

At our December meeting, we had a very interesting presentation and I thank R.:I.: Ruel Lovett. Ruel presented a short talk on the history of Islam and the Knights Templar from documents he had received as part of a series of historical documents released by the Spanish Royal Family. From the small sampling we had in Ruel's presentation, I know his longer version contains even more extraordinary information.

I have a few updates for the Council's Trestleboard as a result of the discussions at our December meeting.

### Update Your Calendar

February 16th - We will be holding our Select Master Degree. This will also be the Official Visit of R.:I.: Richard Anderson, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.

March 16th - Table Council

I hope all our Companions will update their calendars and plan on joining us for these special events.

In closing, I am asking all our Companions to please consider donating to the Grand Council Charity Fund this year. The appeal will be going out with this year's Dues Notices. \*



### Happy New Year!

It is my hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and has rested between the holidays in order to tackle the Year 2011. In Templary, we are going into our Inspections season. My hope is that there is much practice going on within each Commandery of the Zone. As a reminder, I want to list, once again, the Grand Commander's objectives for the year:

1. Increase the Pilgrimage Fund by \$3,000. This will enable the Grand Commandery to send deserving Pastors/Ministers to the Holy Land. Target for each Commandery is \$75.00.
2. Increase the Endowment Fund by \$10,000. Target for each Sir Knight in each Commandery is \$5.00.
3. Outstanding Commandery of the Year Award. There will be an award given to the outstanding Commandery in the entire State, as well as an outstanding Commandery for each Zone. I have to say that, as I write this article, Sagoyewatha Commandery No. 17 is in the lead. Their Sir Knights are always on the road visiting other Commandery Conclaves (POINT OPPORTUNITY), and they had more Knights and Officers at the recent Western Regional Seminar and School of Instruction than any other Command-

ery in the Zone (POINTS!).

### Looking Back to 2010

In the fall of 2010, this Zone executed several outstanding projects. First, I thank each Commandery in the Zone for doing an outstanding job in the November Zone 11 Pilgrimage. I especially thank DeMolay Commandery, for hosting the event, and our Deputy Zone Commanders, Sir Knight John Dudley, Sir Knight E. William Whittaker and Sir Knight David Hardy for their assistance in making this pilgrimage a success. I also thank Sir Knight and Rev. Charles Roberts, Eminent Grand Warder, for his direction of the Order of Malta. We Knighted 18 new Sir Knights. A job well done by all!

A few other accomplishments ... each Commandery held its own Christmas Toast. We held the Western Regional Seminar and School of Instruction in December. Congratulations to Sagoyewatha Commandery for being well attended at that event.

The success we have had during the first-half of our Templary year is due to every Sir Knight who has attended his own Conclaves, participated in the Zone Pilgrimage and supported their own and Zone events. WE have achieved this success. Teamwork ensures that Templary will not only thrive in Zone 11, but will prosper. Keep up the great work. Thank You!

### Zone 11 Happenings

#### Commandery Events

#### Cyrene-Monroe No. 12 -

• Next Conclave is January 17th. Opening of the Conclave will begin at 7:30 p.m.

• Inspection - April 18th

#### Sagoyewatha No. 17 -

• Next Conclave is January 15th. Opening will begin at 9 a.m. (Breakfast at the Blue Ribbon Restaurant, Phelps, beginning at 7 a.m.)

#### DeMolay No. 22 -

• Next Conclave is January 20th. Opening will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sir Knights, if possible, please support our other Commanderies by visiting them during their events.

### Upcoming Events

York Rite will staff the Have-a-Heart Booth at Marketplace Mall on Sunday, January 30th from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Come out and support both the Ronald McDonald Houses and York Rite by staffing the booth for a couple of hours. Let me know if you want to volunteer by contacting me either by phone: 489-3003 or by email: jfo3@rochester.rr.com.

Zone 11 Officers Meeting - Sunday, January 30th, at 3 p.m. (I plan to man the Have-a-Heart Booth from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.). Location will be at Cyrene-Monroe Commandery's Asylum, Pittsford Masonic Hall (Northfield Lodge), 17 Church Street, Pittsford. All Council Officers and Wardens are expected to attend.

Grand Encampment Easter Observance - April 22nd-24th; Alexandria, VA. It appears there will be a bus traveling from Western New York at a cost of about \$60 per person. More details to come.

Have a wonderful 2011; I'll see you at the Conclaves! \*

## Cyrene-Monroe Commandery No. 12

Chartered 1993  
3rd Monday

Commander  
SK William  
R. Flesher

278-7889  
phdoc007@yahoo.com

Recorder-259-9796

SK Charles M. Roberts  
cholyone@rochester.rr.com

17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534



Religious folk, worldwide, observe many seasonal days of celebration during the month of December. Most are religious holy days, and are linked in some way to the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. On that day, due to the earth's tilt on its axis, the daytime hours are at a minimum in the Northern Hemisphere and night time is at a maximum. In the Southern Hemisphere, however, the Summer Solstice is celebrated in December, when the night time is at a minimum and the day time is at a maximum.

People view other religions in various ways and thus treat the celebrations of other faiths differently. While we are the Christian branch of our Fraternity, we must also realize that other Brothers and their families value the month of December with various celebrations. After all, it is the evidence of diversity of belief that forms our common humanity. Thus, we must respect both our own religious traditions and those of other faiths for their ability to inspire people to lead more ethical lives. Religious diversity is to them a positive influence.

Others reject the importance of all celebrations other than the holy day recognized by their own religion. Some even reject their religion's holy days which are seen to have Pagan origins (e.g. Easter and Christmas). Some view other religions as being inspired by Satan. Thus the Solstice celebrations of other religions are rejected because they are seen to be Satanic in origin.

The seasons of the year are caused by the 23.5° tilt of the earth's axis. Because the earth is rotating like a top or gyroscope, it points in a fixed direction continuously - towards a point in space near the North Star. But the earth is also revolving around the sun. During half of the year, the Southern Hemisphere is more exposed to the sun than is the Northern Hemisphere. During the rest of the year, the reverse is true. At noontime in the Northern Hemisphere the sun appears high in the sky during Summer and low in the sky during Winter. The time of the year when the sun reaches its maximum elevation occurs on the day with the greatest number of daylight hours. This is called the Summer Solstice, and is typically on June 21 (which also happens to be the day of the celebration of St. John's Day) in the Northern Hemisphere - the first day of Summer. "Solstice" is derived from two Latin words: "sol"

## DAMASCUS TRESTLEBOARD 2011 JANUARY



**5th** Open Shrine Meeting, Installation, 7 p.m.; Prime Rib Dinner for \$15 per person, 6 p.m. Bring your Lady for a fun night. The Installing Team has some tricks up it's sleeve so make sure you come out and support your new Divan Officers.



**8th** Orientation of Clubs and Units; 9 a.m. - Divan Breakfast

### FEBRUARY



**2nd** An Old-Fashioned Square Dance. Caller Mike Callahan will lead the party! A delicious BBQ meal catered by the Char Broil will be served for \$12 per person. Dinner at 6 p.m.; Square Dance starting at 7 p.m. Bring your Lady and do si do!



### MARCH

**2nd** A Damascus favorite is back! The Shrine Table Lodge will be a "Grand Event" as R.: W.: Tim McMullin, our Senior Grand Warden and Past Potentate of Kalurah Temple will be our guest speaker. A Corned-Beef and Cabbage Dinner with all the trimmings will be served for \$13 per person. **This is a stag event.**



### APRIL

**6th** Hospital Awareness Night  
**9th** Welcome to a very special Noble Brother Bring-a-Friend Night with special guest Noble Dan Caro. You will NOT want to miss this one! The Shell-a-Buck Dinner will be served with Fairport-Flower City Lodge and their amazing Grill Crew will be serving you steak with all of the trimmings!



## PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

**May 14th  
Walk-a-Thon**

**October 16th  
Artisan Works  
Gala Event**

**Both are  
Fundraisers  
for the  
Frank and Bette Paul**

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## Masonic Activities Looking Ahead

Saturday, January 29th thru Sunday, February 13th  
Have-a-Heart Campaign at Area Malls

### FEBRUARY

- 1st Nunda Station, BBF
- 4th Webster Spaghetti Dinner
- 17th The Rat Pack; Auditorium Theatre;  
Sponsored by Damascus Shriners
- 19th Road to the East - Union Star Lodge Hall, Honeoye Falls
- 21st Union Star, 2nd Degree
- 24th Milnor Lodge, 2nd Degree
- 26th Road to the East - Perry

### MARCH

- 4th Webster Spaghetti Dinner
- 5th Road to the East - Eunice Lodge Hall, Caledonia
- 25th Milnor Lodge, 3rd Degree
- 30th School of Ritual

### APRIL

- 23rd Widows Luncheon; Burgundy Basin

### MAY

- 2nd & 3rd Grand Lodge Session
- 14th Learning Center Walk-a-Thon
- 20th Investiture

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### Cyrene-Monroe Continued from Page 18

meaning sun and "sistere," to cause to stand still. The lowest elevation occurs about December 21st and is the Winter Solstice - the first day of Winter, when the night time hours are maximum.

In pre-historic times, Winter was a very difficult time for Aboriginal people in the northern latitudes. The growing season had ended and the tribe had to live off of stored food and whatever animals they could catch. The people would be troubled as the life-giving sun sank lower in the sky each noon. They feared that it would eventually disappear and leave them in permanent darkness and extreme cold.

After the Winter Solstice, they would have reason to celebrate as they saw the sun rising and strengthening once more. Although many months of cold weather remained before Spring, they took heart that the return of the warm season was inevitable. The concept of birth and or death/rebirth became associated with the Winter Sol-

stice. The Aboriginal people had no elaborate instruments to detect the Solstice. But they were able to notice a slight elevation of the sun's path within a few days after the Solstice - perhaps by December 25th. Therefore, celebrations were often timed for the 25th.

Since Freemasonry is a Fraternity that accepts religious freedom and tolerance, I thought I would share some the ways in which the people of various faiths celebrate the month of December.

Any record of the date of birth of Yeshua of Nazareth (later known as Jesus Christ) has been lost. There is sufficient evidence in the Gospels to indicate that Yeshua was born in the fall, but this seems to have been unknown to early Christians. By the beginning of the 4th Century, there was intense interest in choosing a day to celebrate Yeshua's birthday. The western church leaders selected December 25th because this was already the date recognized throughout the Roman Empire as the birthday of various Pagan gods. Since there was no central

Christian authority at the time, it took centuries before the tradition was universally accepted. Furthermore, many symbols and practices associated with Christmas are of Pagan origin such as holly, ivy, mistletoe, the Yule log, the giving of gifts, the decorated evergreen tree and magical reindeer to name a few.

During the period 1997 to 1999, the first day of the Islamic lunar month of Ramadan occurred in December. The nominal dates were December 31, 1997; December 20, 1998; and December 9, 1999. The actual date for the start of Ramadan depends upon the sighting of the crescent moon, and thus can be delayed by a few days from the nominal date. This is the holiest period in the Islamic year. It honors the lunar month in which the Qura'n was revealed by God to humanity. It is during this month that Muslims observe the Fast of Ramadan. Lasting for the entire month, Muslims fast during the daylight hours and in the evening eat small meals and visit with friends and family. It is a time of worship and contem-

plation; a time to strengthen family and community ties.

Because Ramadan is part of a lunar-based calendar, it starts about 11 days earlier each year. Ramadan is thus not associated with the Winter Solstice as are other religious celebrations. It is just by coincidence that it has occurred during December in recent years.

Jews celebrate an 8-day festival of Hanukkah, the Feast of Lights. It recalls the war fought by the Maccabees in the cause of religious freedom. Antiochus, the King of Syria, conquered Judea in the 2nd Century BC. He terminated worship in the Temple and stole the sacred lamp, the Menorah, from the altar. At the time of the Solstice, they re-dedicated the Temple to a Pagan deity. Judah the Maccabee led a band of rebels, and succeeded in re-taking Jerusalem. They restored the temple and lit the Menorah. It was exactly three years after the flame had been extinguished - at the time of the Pagan rite.

Although they had found only sufficient consecrated oil to last for 24 hours, the flames

burned steadily for eight days. Today's Menorahs have nine branches; the ninth branch is for the shamash, or servant light, which is used to light the other eight candles. People eat potato latkes, exchange gifts, and play dreidel games. And as they gaze at the light of the Menorah, they give thanks for the miracle in the Temple long ago. Hence, modern-day Jews celebrate Hanukkah by lighting one candle for each of the eight days of the festival. Once a minor festival, it has been growing in importance in recent years, perhaps because of the pressure of Christmas.

I hope every one of you in our Masonic Family has enjoyed the miracle of Christmas, Ramadan, or Hanukkah so that your hearts are filled with warmth and brotherly love. December, and its various celebrations, is the time for giving and sharing, it is the time for loving and forgiving, and may all of you take pleasure in knowing how you may incorporate your Masonic beliefs in 2011. Happy New Year.

# Big Calendar for January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Clio Lodge Spaghetti Dinners January 5th and 19th</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Canandaigua - Shortsville RAM - Palmyra/Eagle KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pitsford Lalla Rookh Grotto Board of Governors, Keenan's Rest. OES - Etolian Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson, Shrine Center Northfield - Pitsford Garoga-Sincerity - Phelps Nunda Station Oakland - Castile OES - Fairport, Nolaka, Star- light</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Drumlin Square - Palmyra Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy Damascus Shrine - Installation OES - Lilac Star</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Eunice - Caledonia Northfield - Pitsford Lalla Rookh Caldron Webster</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Wakan-Hubbard Past Masters Meeting</p> <p>Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. \$7 adult; \$4 Child 30 Orchard Street</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>OES - Line Officers, Fairport Union Star - Budget Meeting</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>ERAC, Table Lodge, Shrine Center Fairport-Flower City, 3° Union Star, 1° - Honeye Falls Unity, 2° - Spencerport Wakan-Hubbard - Penfield LIV-School of Ritual, Livonia Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Seneca - Webster Valley-Simes, Shrine Center OES - Leah - Hilton; Mary Jane Holmes - Brockport</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Oaka - Scottsville Webster - Fellowship Garoga-Sincerity - Phelps Masonic Service Bureau Monthly Luncheon Meeting OES - Corinthian-Fellowship Shrine Legion of Honor MDC at Caledonia</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Fame, Shrine Center, BBF Milnor - Shortsville Union - Lima, Webster - Fellowship RAM - Hiram</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Garoga-Sincerity Game Night - Phelps</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Canandaigua - Shortsville Unity - Spencerport RAM - Palmyra/Eagle KT - Cyrene/Monroe - Pitsford Grotto Legion of Honor Shrine Lunch Club Auburn Shrine Club Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Observed</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Clio - Hilton Craftsman Robertson, 2° with Valley-Simes - Shrine Center Nunda Station, 2° Oakland - Castile</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Ark - Geneva Drumlin Square, 1° - Palmyra Livonia Olive Branch - LeRoy Lalla Rookh Grotto Doric Council - Pitsford</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Eunice - Caledonia Northfield - Pitsford Webster Scottish Rite - Shrine Center</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>ERAC, 2° - Shrine Center Fairport-Flower City, Table Lodge Union Star - Honeye Falls, Fel- lowcraft Unity - Spencerport Wakan-Hubbard - Penfield Eunice, District Assn - Caledonia Shrine Lunch Club</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Oatka - Scottsville Tall Cedars of Lebanon Damascus Directors Staff OES - Corinthian-Fellowship Road to the East - Perry</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Fame, Shrine Center Milnor - Shortsville Union - Lima Perry Shrine Club</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Garoga-Sincerity Game Night - Phelps</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Have-a-Heart</b></p>
<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>School of Ritual, Webster Ma- sonic Hall</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Have-a-Heart</b></p>

**Don't forget... Have-a-Heart Campaign begins January 29th and runs through February 13th.**

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