



Masonic Times

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

Serving the Masonic Community Since 1963

Website: www.monroemasonic.com Email: masonictimes@gmail.com

Volume 53 Number 10

USPS 0359-540

Rochester, New York

Circulation 2988 December 2015

Corning Masonic Hall Renovations Completed Arsonist Attacks Masonic Hall

By Frank Hamm

The reconstruction of the lower level of our Lodge Building is completed. The water damage from burst frozen pipes was extensive.

Everything's New

We now have new foam-insulated walls, ceiling, ceramic tile flooring and carpeting. Also, new LED lighting, kitchen cabinets and counter tops, kitchen range and microwave, bathroom fixtures, an instantaneous tankless water heater and, for the first time, a robe and historical storage room.

In addition, with the assistance of the Masonic Service Bureau and financial donations from Masonic Brothers, we replaced our 1950s heating system with a 95%-efficient, condensing boiler and new baseboard radiators. We now have one of the finest gathering facilities in the area.

There is still time for you to assist in financing this project. We have come up a bit short of our goal in the challenge to obtain the money to pay for this needed improvement. If you are able, please send your tax deductible donation, made payable to the Ma-



Newly remodeled kitchen, above. Below, new condensing furnace.

sonic Service Bureau, to 979 Bay Rd, Suite 2, Webster, NY 14580-1736. In the memo line, please write "Corning Boiler Project," so it is posted correctly. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We will be spotlighting our completed reconstruction at our Valley of Corning Christmas Party on December 21st. Come give it a look. Sublime Prince Donald Farrand, 32°, is Thrice Potent Master; Sublime Prince Michael Koval, 32°, is Secretary; Distinguished Brother Frank Hamm, 32° MSA, is the



contact for further information. Email: FHamm16@yahoo.com or regular mail to: PO Box 24, Corning, NY 14830-0024. □

Suspect charged with other criminal activity

By W.: Lance Daul, Master Northfield Lodge

On October 17th, our beautiful Lodge Building was the victim of an arson attack. Fortunately, there was nobody in the building and the damage was not too severe. It is a reminder of how fragile and volatile our existences are. We should all remember to thank the Great Architect for our blessings. The building is back in swing and fully usable again as repairs continue.

Meanwhile, there have been lots of happenings going on at Northfield Lodge. On October 15th we hosted a Yellow Dog



Damage was confined to front entrance due to Pittsford Fire Department's quick response.

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• **WORSHIPFUL MASTERS: Have you submitted your nomination to the Scottish Rite Office for the Symbolic Lodge Award?**

• Please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!
(See page 16 for address information.)

**All-Masonic Groups
Children's Holiday Party**
*at Damascus Shrine Center
979 Bay Road, Webster*

**Saturday, December 12th
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Open to children and grandchildren
(and their friends) of all Masonic Families**
*Bring a wrapped gift for each child.
Be sure to mark with child's full name.*

Activities will include ...
Cookie Decorating Pine Cone Bird feeder Games
Coloring Snacks Drinks
Special visit with Santa

Co-sponsored by AASR-Valley of Rochester, Masonic Service Bureau and Damascus Shrine.



Honored Lady Margaret Kenney, immediate Past Grand Royal Matron of the Grand Court of New York, Order of the Amaranth, presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 representing the proceeds of her 2014-15 Grand Royal Matron's Project earmarked for the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory to M.:W.: William J. Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, in the Schneeweiss Lobby of the Royal Arch Mason Wing at the MMRL. On hand for the presentation were: (front row, left to right) M.:W.: Robert Stack, Honorary PGM; R.:W.: Jeffrey Williamson, DGM; H. L. Margaret Kenney; M.:W.: William Thomas; and R.:W.: John Story, Esq., CPA, MMRL Director of Administration. (Back row, left to right) Brother Matthew Betzenhauser, MMRL Acting Director of Research; M.:W.: Edward Trosin, PGM; M.:W.: Edward Gilbert, PGM; M.:W.: Carl Fitje, PGM; M.:W.: James Sullivan, PGM; M.:W.: Carl Smith, PGM; and M.:W.: Vincent Libone, PGM.

Dated Material

Damascus News see page 9



671-9730

Editor's Corner

My thanks to our District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: George Foehner, for inviting me along on his Official Visits in the Monroe District, and to all the Brothers in attendance who responded to my presentation on the **Masonic Times** and voted in the informal survey the District Deputy conducted. I was pleasantly surprised with the overwhelming vote of confidence given to me and the Staff of the paper.

I can report here that the Board of Directors of the Masonic Service Bureau approved the motion to increase the price of our subscriptions, effective January 1st, 2016. Individual subscriptions will go to \$15 per year (a five dollar increase). The other classifications will each go up one dollar.

If we can stabilize our membership rolls, we have a balanced budget. If we continue to lose 150 Brothers a year, our efforts will not be successful.

KUDOS!

One of the information pieces I don't do well is crediting sources for the photographs we publish. I don't take the time in the push to get the job to the printer, and I should acknowledge the submitter.

I take a fair amount of the pictures published. But, I find it more and more difficult to attend all the meetings or events that should be covered.

Therefore, I am apologizing now for the lack of identification previously and will try to do better in the future.

Certainly one individual who needs to be mentioned is W.: John Dudley. He consistently sends in images of Lodge, District and York Rite events. And, there have been times when we have both photographed something and his images were better than mine. Thanks, John, and keep up the good work.

Monroe District Convention

R.:W.: Richard J. Kessler, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of New York, was finally able to make his presentation to Monroe District. Last year's session had to be canceled due to health issues. Photos right and below show some of the highlights of the session at Fairport Masonic Hall.

At this joyous time of the year, I will thank the rest of my staff again. I don't say it often enough. New proofreader additions the past couple of issues are Doreen Rhodes and Richard Smith. Seasoned assistants include Barbara Goodrich and Garry Cranker. Most special is Janet Porter, who really starts each issue rolling. Thank you, all! I couldn't do it without you.

Sadly, we lost another long-time proofreading assistant in October. Beverly VanHuben was excellent at the position and always willing to assist, even when she moved into the assisted living facility. She will be missed.

Finally, Happy Holidays to you and yours. With our next issue expected in early January, I will add Happy New Year. I'd like to believe we will make it by the first of the year, but the holidays persist in creating distribution difficulties. We shall see! Thanks for reading.

Masonic Activities Looking Ahead

JANUARY

- 6 Damascus Shriners, Installation of Officers, Shrine Center
- 9 OES Line Officers Kickoff Meeting, Spencerport
- 9 AASR Symbolic Lodge Awards, Shrine Center
- 9 Fidelity Triangle #4, Prospect Event, Pittsford
- 30 LIV & GEN-WYM Districts - Road to the East, Le Roy

FEBRUARY

- 13 AASR Valley Sweetheart Event, Red Fedele's Brook House
- 20 LIV & GEN-WYM Districts - Road to the East, Le Roy
- 20 MON District - Road to the East, Pittsford

MARCH

- 5 MON District - Road to the East, Pittsford

MAY

- 2-3 Grand Lodge of New York Annual Communication, New York City
- 28 MON District - Joint Investiture Service, Fairport

Monroe District Grand Lecturer's Convention



The Grand Lecturer's Convention Attendance Banner went to Union Star Lodge, with W.: Kenneth Heckler, Master, accepting on behalf of his Brothers.



W.: Patrick Schwartz and Brothers of Unity Lodge received the Schools of Ritual Attendance Banner.



Most of the Brothers in attendance at this year's Grand Lecturer's Convention.

Periodical postage PAID at Webster, NY and additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER Send address changes to:

Masonic Times

979 Bay Road, Suite 2
Webster, NY 14580-1736
Phone: 671-9730

Submit articles & photos to: masonictimes@gmail.com

Published Monthly except July and August. Closing Date for Articles is the 5th of the Month preceding the Month of publication.

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Website

www.monroemasonic.com

Printed by

Empire State Weeklies, Inc.

Subscription Rates

Domestic Subscriptions: Individual, \$10.00 per year. Group rate: \$9.00 per year per member. Group subscriptions for Allied, Associated or Concordant Bodies are billed at \$2.00 per year for those members who are already subscribers to the **Masonic Times**; \$9.00 for non-subscribers. International Subscriptions: \$40.00 per year (sent First Class Mail).

CORRECTIONS

Brother Dan Fletcher is a Lt. Colonel in the United States Army. In the note on the article on the front page of the November issue, I mis-lead the reader by not including his full rank.

The telephone number for the Office of the Valley of Rochester, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, was incorrect on Page 1 in the announcement of the Veterans Recognition Program. The correct telephone number is (585) 425-0033, in case you made a note of it.

The article reviewing "The Builders," which was printed on page 3 of the November issue of the **Masonic Times**, was incorrectly credited. It was by Brother Jason Simmons and was presented at ERAC Lodge's September 14th meeting.

In *Looking Ahead*, the date of the Damascus Shriners meeting is incorrect. It is January 6th.

I apologize for these errors and appreciate them being brought to my attention. If you see anything in future editions, I hope you will let me know - (585) 671-9730.

Skip Waterstreet, Editor

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Webster, NY 14580-1736

Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart!

By Ronald P. Kamp, Director of Development and Communications

Thanksgiving, which we recently celebrated, is a most special and personal holiday to many people. Like all the other holidays, it is not immune to the commercialization of the times. Many celebrated a four-day weekend with family and friends gathered around a table of turkey and more food than one could possibly eat. Others looked forward to football, parades on TV or perhaps the beginning of shopping for the upcoming holiday season. Some families have a more traditional view of a family reunion - prayer and time for reflection regarding the bounty and blessings received.

We all should know the historical basis for this holiday involving the Pilgrims of the Mayflower and the life-saving assistance provided by the native American Indians in 1620 that gave forth this holiday of Thanksgiving. Without that help, aid and assistance offered so freely, our nation might have been set on another course. Brother and President George Washington proclaimed it a National holiday in 1789. President Abraham Lincoln pro-



ability to give of our time, spirit, or finances to help others transcends time, space, ethnicity, age or gender. Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart that reinforces an intimate relationship with the great architect and one of the principle tenets of Freemasonry that of charity.

claimed the last Thursday for celebrating in November 1863, and Congress made it a legal holiday in 1941.

The meaning of Thanksgiving has evolved and blurred over the years. Families have their respective traditions and reasons for giving thanks through common purposes. Whether it is healing differences, overcoming struggles such as poor health, we collectively find this holiday as one of strength and hope. It is a time to discuss family heritage and legacies shared over the dinner table; a moment for family photographs or videos. It is also a time to dismiss piques and quarrels and to think of the greater good.

Last but certainly not least, is giving thanks for what we have and choosing to share our bounty with those less fortunate. The

During this season of hope and charity, take a moment to count your blessings and act today to help the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory make the promise of medical treatments and cures a reality. All gifts are tax deductible. We are grateful beyond words for the support we have received and continue to receive from our growing family of friends.

Please visit www.mmrl.edu to learn more about our heart research or to make a gift online. If you prefer, you may make your check payable to the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and send via the US mail. Be sure to include your Lodge and District if you wish Masonic Brotherhood Fund credit.

We wish peace and continued good health for you, your loved ones and friends. □

Holiday shop online and show your support for the Masonic Service Bureau While you save money and earn cash back!

Even if you don't have a computer ... Let your friends and relatives know about this fundraising program! The Masonic Service Bureau is participating in an exciting new fundraising program. It is a link to a website featuring thousands of partner stores like Walmart, JCPenney, Best Buy, Apple, Microsoft store, Dell Home Systems Co., Home Depot, Dick's Sporting Goods, and many more. When you make a purchase on:

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the Masonic Service Bureau receives royalties and you earn up to 50% cash back on qualified purchases. The benefits don't stop there. You earn 0.5% cash back on the purchases of everyone you refer to our website. Now, you

can take advantage of the ease and convenience of Internet shopping to buy the products and services you want, while feeling good about helping one of your favorite organizations.

Our new fundraising website has a variety of benefits ...

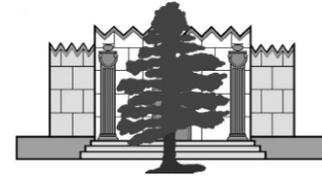
- Check out the Hot Deals page to get access to coupons and exclusive deals to help you save even more.
- Go to the Partner Stores page to find specific stores where you would like to shop.
- Use the Search feature at the top of the page to locate over 35 million different products and services.
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- Find the perfect gift in our Gift Ideas area.

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 - Select the "No I am a new customer" option
 - Follow the prompts
 - You will then be eligible to earn up to 50% on qualified purchases
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 - Use the search box at the top of the screen to find a specific item or type of product you're looking for
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 - Use "Shop All Departments" to shop via category
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Rochester Forest No. 133



Tall Cedars of Lebanon
of North America

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

Rob Russo, GTC

261-8545

robussos3@gmail.com

Donald C. Bell, Scribe

334-7768

don_bell@hotmail.com

By Don Brugger, PDDSTC

In the Past

The Spring Sausage Roast was well attended, as reported earlier. Attendance was 29, including members, widows, guests and family. The turnout at the Fall Steak Roast was only 17.

Our October meeting brought out only four members. There were other organization meetings that were re-scheduled on that night, so that could have prevented some from attending. The Degrees were not done; there were no Candidates and not enough bodies to do a proper job. There were only two for dinner at Hung Wah's.

There was much discussion about ways to get the members to attend and some membership initiatives. Do we want to have more social events? ... Do we want to get serious about visiting Lodges and get more Masonic exposure? ... etc. Any suggestions may be voiced to the GTC or Scribe and I am always willing to talk to anyone about increasing our membership. Phone: 458-6125 any time. Leave a message; I'll get back to you.

The present Officers were re-elected for 2016.

GTC
Scribe
Treasurer

Rob Russo

Don Bell

John Zabel

Our By-Laws do not require Officers repeating the Office to be re-installed. The Officers not at the meeting will be contacted and confirmed if they are repeating their Office. Newly elected or Appointed Officers will be installed at a subsequent meeting.

What is to Come

Wakan-Hubbard Lodge has been unsuccessful in acquiring new tenants so their building has been put on the market. An offer is expected to be voted upon at their next meeting. If the building is sold, the new owners want to develop both floors. Consequently the Lodge will have to find a new place to meet and the Tall Cedars

will have to do likewise.

Over the years that I have been a member, we have met in a variety of places ... over restaurants, private homes and basements. We will find somewhere to meet, but we will not survive without an increase in membership.

We will have to find a home for our paraphernalia or store what is necessary and dispose of what we have accumulated while at Penfield. We operated for years out of a suitcase and we can do it again, if we have to. If you have some space available for temporary storage, please let us know; just in case things move along quicker than expected.

Party Time

Our Winter Social Get-Together will take place on December 20th at Monroe's (Old Spring House) 3001 Monroe Avenue at 3:30 p.m. You will be receiving a card with all the details for your reservations.

We have no reports at this time of any Sickness or Distress. **What Should Have Happened**

In October we decided to cancel the November meeting due to Thanksgiving being the next day. As usual, there will be **no December meeting**. So, if we do not see you at the Holiday Get-Together, have a Blessed Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. □



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Livingston District

District Deputy Grand Master - Douglas Stanley 245-4395

Grand Steward



R.:W.:
Robert Cox
468-5066

robertcox56@aol.com

Our Lodges have been very busy thus far with Degree work and Official Visits of the DDGM. I have traveled to all Lodges in the District at this time and will again in 2016. I have met some of the new Brothers and had the opportunity to get re-acquainted with not-so-new Brothers.



Nunda Station

Lodge No. 682
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: **Marcus A. Hugi**
superman.mah@gmail.com

Secretary
W.: **Robert Cox, 468-5066**
robertcox56@aol.com

Nunda Station had its Official DDGM Visit on October 6th. A fine meal was prepared by our Eastern Star Ladies and a good meeting was held afterward.

The Lodge also had its first Sunday Night Football Tailgate Party on October 18th, which did not fare very well. We will keep trying, though!

In other news, Nunda Station had three War Veteran Brothers fly to Washington, DC, to see their Memorials as a part of Honor Flight Rochester. W.: Harlan Morse flew on Mission 44, the weekend of September 26th - 27th; W.: Don Thompson and W.: William Wright, Jr., DSA, flew on Mission 45 the weekend of October 24th - 25th. Additionally, Brother Stephen Rapp went as the overall Trip Leader on Mission 45 - the final Honor Flight Trip for 2015.

Brother Morse was a member of the United States Navy and served during the World War II and Korean War Eras.

Brother Thompson was a Sergeant in the United States Army during the Korean War and served in Germany as a part of the World War II Occupation of Germany.

Brother Wright joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17 and fought on the frontlines at the age of 18 as a Marine Infantryman in the bitter cold of the Winter in North Korea against North Korean and Communist Chinese forces.

As cited by Brother Rapp, "None of these heroes, just like any Veteran from that era, received a proper welcome home and thank you. As Freemasons, patriotic to our country, every day is Veterans Day and it's an honor

Masonic Development Course

We will be offering the *Masonic Development Course (MDC)* and, again, it will be with the Genesee-Wyoming District. We had combined classes with them last year and it was great to meet more Brothers interested in "More Light in Masonry." The MDC will take place on Saturday, December 12th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Warsaw Masonic Hall.

Road to the East

We will be offering the *Road to the East* Course also, so keep watching for more information. We also will be holding this class in conjunction with Genesee-Wyoming District.

Any time you or your Lodge has any needs for which I can be of assistance, contact me at robertpcox56@aol.com and I will be glad to help out. □

and privilege to not only be a part of Honor Flight Rochester, but give them the proper thank you." This was Brother Rapp's 14th trip to Washington with Honor Flight Rochester, taking four World War II Veterans individually from the Nunda Area, along with being the Assistant Trip Leader twice. This was the 8th time that Brother Rapp has gone as the overall Trip Leader.

Proudly, four Veterans have now gone on Honor Flight from

the Nunda Station Lodge. Right Worshipful, Ed Dickson, now age 96, went in October of 2012 with Rapp. Right Worshipful Dickson served in World War II in the United States Army. Dickson was one of the founding soldiers who created Camp Pinewood which is now known as Fort Drum near Watertown. Dickson completed his basic training at that Post in February of 1941 in -20 to -30 degree temperatures and then served in Egypt and Libya in the Campaign to free North Africa from the Nazi German Army.

Honor Flight Rochester was created in 2008 as an individual hub of the National Honor Flight network. Since the program's inception, Honor Flight Rochester has now proudly flown 2,121 Veterans. Initially it flew World War II Veterans given their advanced age. Now that the sun is setting on the World War II Generation, Korean War Veterans make up the majority of each flight with a handful of remaining World War II Vets. Honor Flight will also take a Veteran of any Era who has a terminal illness and the goal is to continue to fly our heroes right on through the Vietnam Vets and beyond.

Honor Flight Rochester is a 501(c)(3), Public Charity and can be reached online at:

www.honorflightrochester.org where Veteran and Guardian Applications can be submitted online or at Honor Flight Rochester, PO Box 23581, Rochester, NY 14692. □



W.: Harlan Morse with Guardian Steve Morse.



John Thompson traveled with W.: Don Thompson.



Guardian Joel Branciforte with W.: William Wright, Jr.

Ontario/Seneca/Yates

District Deputy Grand Master - R.:W.: John C. Hubbard (607) 351-3222

Grand Director of Ceremonies



R.:W.:
Thomas C. Abraham

526-5308

abrahamtk@roadrunner.com

WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Have you submitted your nomination to the Scottish Rite Office for the **Symbolic Lodge Award**? Please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you! (See page 16 for address info.)

Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, using exemplars if we don't have Candidates, although new Candidates are preferred.

Mark Your Calendar

In that regard, please reach out to good young men and invite their interest to learn about our Craft. We have a DeWitt Clinton Award Candidate to recognize for all that she does for our local Community. We also have six local young men to recognize for their Eagle Scout achievements, with planning in the works for a program on **December 19th**.

Our Annual DDGM Visitation is scheduled for **December 15th**.

Just before Christmas, we will man the Red Kettle for donations to local charities.

I have nominated one of our Brothers for the Valley of Rochester AASR Symbolic Lodge Award, with the presentation to be held **January 9th**.

In the Spring of 2016, we will be hosting an O/S/Y District Table Lodge.

As mentioned, we have an active Trestleboard for the ensuing year. My goal is to stimulate and educate our Brethren, re-kindling the spirit of why we became Masons initially. I need all of your help but know that with faith and trust, we can and will make a difference. I remain honored to be your Worshipful Master.

From the Secretary's Desk

By R.:W.: Clayton Ruggles

Thank you to all who responded with email addresses. It will certainly help with timely communication. Regarding the voting on the proposed Amendments to our By-laws, all passed except the Article concerning Initiation Fees. You will receive an updated copy of our By-laws. Your Dues Notice will reflect the monetary changes.

It is very important for you to stay current with the Annual Dues.

December Birthdays

We send December birthday greetings to Brothers John Bowles (1st); Gary Yancey (14th); Jerome Phillips (17th); James Sullivan (19th); Everett Grimsley (21st); Ronald Galens (22nd); William Lally, Jr. (25th); and Ernest Day (30th).

Masonic Anniversaries

The following Brothers were Raised in December:

1994	Perry Adams
1978	Charles Anderson
2006	Nicholas Day
	Douglas Galens
	William Hargrove
	William Lally, Jr.
1960	Bernard Dell
1952	Frederick Gifford
1962	William Goodman
1947	John Record
1995	David Smith □

The O/S/Y District Deputy Grand Master and Staff Officer have been very busy this Fall. The Official Visits of the DDGM have begun and we have been very well received by all the Brothers of the District. We have attended several Degrees and have found the Ritual to be well presented.

December will see many Brothers ringing bells and distributing food baskets for the Salvation Army or other organizations in their respective communities. We need to remind ourselves of the wonderful gifts we have received during the year as Freemasons... the gifts of friendship and Brotherly love that we all enjoy whenever Masons meet together.

On behalf of the DDGM, R.:W.: John Hubbard, and the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.:W.: Thomas Abraham, the O/S/Y District Team wishes every Brother a very blessed Holiday Season filled with joy and happiness.

We hope the New Year will bring us "Further Light" as we travel the Freemason pathway of life. □

Garoga-Sincerity Lodge No. 200



1st & 3rd
Tuesdays

Master

W.: **Daniel Biery**

315-548-5741

dbone@rochester.rr.com

Secretary

R.:W.: **Clayton Ruggles**

315-548-3573

claymar4250@itg.net

67 Ontario Street, Phelps 14532

The month of November had two excellent Masonic Educational Programs, with the MMRL Presentation on November 3rd followed by a Summoned Communication to vote on necessary By-Law changes.

On November 17th, the program was entitled "Spectacles at Newburgh," based on true observations of our Brother, George Washington. Our last communication in October was on Masonic balloting and was well received.

We had our Monthly Pork Dinner, held the 3rd Saturday of October, with Junior Master of Ceremony, Brother Ben Wheat, leading the planning and performance of these meals for the public. We will be continuing dinners on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Besides benefiting the local community, they are a much needed Lodge fundraiser.

Other upcoming programs planned for the year include Masonic Quiz entitled, "What Do You Know?" and Degrees for

Wayne District

District Deputy Grand Master - R.:W.: John P. Krest (315) 597-5060

District Deputy Grand Master
Wayne District

R.:W.:
John P. Krest
(315)
597-5060



kremac7@gmail.com

The end of 2015 is only a few weeks away. This will be a busy, busy month with Annual Meetings, New Dues Cards, End-of-Year Reports, Review of Trestleboards, Scheduling or Re-Scheduling of Degree Work and making Adjustments of Trestleboards for the next phase of the Masonic Year. Definitely a busy time.

Newark, Palmyra and Marion Lodges were visited in November and received the Grand Master's Message along with the District News. All was in order and the courtesies received were appreciated.

In addition, the Annual Grand Lecturer's Convention was well attended. Degree work for the Entered Apprentice was exemplified and discussed and everyone present learned something that will help a new Mason be introduced to the Fraternity in a meaningful way. Thanks to Marion Lodge for hosting the event.

As we observe this Holiday Season, let us be thankful for our many blessings and think of those who may be in need or in peril. In the midst of Holiday songs, joyful spirits and gifts, let us not forget that Baby in the manger for whom the day is named.

The last Official Visit in the District will probably have been held before you read this newsletter - it is scheduled for December 1st in Sodus.

In case you are not aware of how I chose to close my Newsletter, Here It Comes!!! SUPPORT THE BROTHERHOOD FUND AND THE MASONIC CARE COMMUNITY. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Grand Director of Ceremonies



R.:W.:
Allan "Joe" Green
690-0326
adoniram32@yahoo.com

Season's Greetings! December is upon us and all the hustle, bustle of the Holiday Season. With the cooler temps and Holiday Season many of us look forward to the talent and skill of our Lodge cooks. As I make my way around the District, I've noticed one thing each Lodge has in common and that is so many Brothers who either like to cook for the Craft or they have a specialty dish they want to share.

I have enjoyed cooking for my Home Lodge and District Lodges regularly for more than a decade. I've given up asking cooks for their "secret" ingredients that make that special dish stand out - especially on dish-to-pass functions. Those recipes are more guarded than the gold in Fort Knox.

What I have found readily shared is how to fix a dish that gets screwed up. Every cook experiences it, from time-to-time, but when one is cooking for a room full of people, one can count on it. The Holiday Season is here, the smell of the food on the stovetop and in the ovens of the Lodge kitchens permeates the air, mouths are watering and OMG, who put more salt in the gravy ... thanks for the help Brother, but I already put gar-

WORSHIPFUL MASTER:
Have you submitted your nomination to the Scottish Rite Office for the Symbolic Lodge Award? Please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!
(See page 16 for address info.)

lic in the potatoes ... Hey Joe, there's smoke pouring out of the kitchen. I think it's your pork chops burning in the oven.

My daughter, Sarah, has cooked many dinners for Pultneyville Lodge and a few for the District. She says the reason the Brethren keep asking her to cook is because she cooks what their wives won't let them eat at the house - red meat and high cholesterol. One of her tricks she showed me was doubling and tripling recipe for gravy, potatoes or bread dressing when some good intentioned soul helps out then puts too much salt or garlic in it. She says potatoes, flour gravy and bread are cheap compared to the entree' and they can make or break dinner. Just freeze leftovers and use them for a different dish next dinner.

Worshipful Brother Tom Scieppi brought his talent, skill and favorite recipes to Pultneyville Lodge a number of years ago. Although I enjoy a reputation around the District as a good cook, I believe Tom ranks at the top of the list as the best all-around chef. One night Tom walked into P-Ville's kitchen while I was staring at a pork chop dish that got a little overcooked. I asked Tom "How do I fix this? The gang's going to be here in half an hour." Without blinking, Tom said, "Put some cheese on that, Joe! You can fix anything with cheese!"

I think every Lodge has a Brother who likes cooking wild game. Worshipful Tom Krest from Drumlin Square has an excellent Pheasant recipe he cooked for a 3rd Degree last year. Marion Lodge has their Perch recipes and

Area 15 Brotherhood Fund



Chairman W. Melvin Hussey
mhussey486@aol.com
(315) 904-4048

Brother, can you spare a dime?

This phrase was coined in 1930, during the Great Depression. I would like to associate it with this story quoted from my DDGM, Wayne District, R.:W.: John Krest:

If a Brother, down on his luck, asked you for \$1.75 for a cup of coffee, would you deny him? As a Brother Mason, I don't think so. Let's say the same thing happened again the next month ... again I would say, as a Brother Mason, I don't think so.

Now, add this up 12 times and the total comes out to \$21. Is there any among us who cannot afford \$21 one time each year? Think about it."

By now you should have had your self-addressed, labeled,

North Rose-Wolcott their Pike and Walleye recipes.

However, some wild game either one has to acquire a taste for or just needs a special cook and his secret recipe. I'm told Beloved Past Master Mike Boone, Chief Cook for Sodus Lodge for many years until he "laid down his working tools," fixed a Beaver recipe he cooked up that didn't quite turn out right by blaming the smell everyone was complaining about on a poor Brother in the bathroom who didn't flush the toilet and then smothering the meat in spaghetti sauce to cover the taste.

Brother Greg Allman of Pultneyville Lodge likes hunting and cooking Bear. He says not everyone likes Bear meat as it can be quite gamey sometimes, but it is easy to fix and, Joe, you can use the same formula on any

Brotherhood Fund envelopes handed in to your Lodge Secretary for mailing with the upcoming Summons statements. If not, find if that service is still available. This part is key to your success as Lodge Chair. And since you are on the front lines for the Brotherhood Fund, it is also key to maximizing your return from your Lodge in support of this most worthy Fund.

If your Lodge Secretary has been quite efficient and already made his Summons mailings then make it your responsibility to do the mailings yourself! Get your Lodge's permission to be reimbursed for stamps and envelopes. It is not hard and I know as a Brother Mason you can do it.

Finally, here's a list of this year's charities:

1. Military Outreach Program
2. Masonic Care Community
3. Camp Turk
4. Masonic Medical Research Lab
5. Robert Livingston Library
6. Masonic Youth Program
7. Masonic Benevolence
8. MSAT: Drug & Alcohol Abuse
9. Masonic Safety ID Program
10. Grand Master's Allocation

of the dishes that you screw up at Lodge." If you put enough hot sauce on anything, it will taste like hot sauce!!"

I've been asked if I will cook for the Grand Lecturer's Convention, which is in the future as I write this column. I planned to serve my District-famous Stuffed Pork Chops and I don't plan on any screw ups, but just in case, I'm going to bring a couple pounds of cheese and a case of hot sauce.

Happy Holidays to all!! Peace be upon all of you for New Year and upon your households!!




James A. Hard/Wayne Charter
Post No. 12

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Adjutant
Vance Collom
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The December Meeting of the Post is scheduled to take place in Webster Masonic Hall on December 7th ... a most significant date for those of us who served our Country in days and frays since. Active or Veteran members of USA and Allied Military Branches holding Post membership realize no other State currently holds similar Grand Lodge recognition of Active Military or Veteran Freemasons.

Newly elected Officers will be installed for the year 2016. Members are encouraged to come to this event to get to know those who will take the helm on

New Year's Day and who will be guiding this steadfast group of Masonic Military Veterans.

We have one mid-day meeting each month (an accommodation for driver safety, keeping old Vets off the roads at night). Mailed notices will be sent to each member from our Adjutant describing the activities in some detail, such as a gift auction fundraiser after chow. He will also see that the parking lot is clear of ice and snow if necessary!

The Post has completed distribution of "desk sets" to residents of Canandaigua's VAMC or Medical Center. They were fabricated by some of the residents who work and are trained in the Recreational Therapy Department Wood Shop. Our Finance Officer, Don Osborne, led the charge, creating the elements of the program for the Post with a plan for presentations in recognition of Veteran's Day last month.

Each wooden set holds an American Flag, a ballpoint pen imprinted with the name of the Post, and has a small pad of

notepaper attached.

Another project for the year is "Stuffed Holiday Stockings" for the Veterans Program launched by the Voluntary Services unit of the Canandaigua VAMC. Their need is for stockings filled with unwrapped items to be in their Office area in Building 7 no later than December 12th.

Our Post has chosen to help

that hospital unit "make the Holiday Season more memorable for the resident Veterans."

Taking on another subject that all Masonic Bodies assume around this time of year, we must remember to keep the Post solvent by getting our Dues promptly paid to the Adjutant. His Notice is in each member's mail (an early seasonal pres-

ent?) Finally, we are fortunate to have separate funding to cover projects for Veterans. They have come through individual gifts - especially grants from the Masonic Service Bureau and the Widow's Sons Motorcycle Club of Brother Masons. Keep them in your minds and hearts as benefactors of Veterans through what we can do in their behalf.



MY CARE CONNECTION

The Masonic Care Community is available to assist any New York State Mason navigate through the maze of health care options for seniors. Whether you are interested in accessing the exceptional services of the Masonic Care Community or you need help finding the best care in your hometown.

My Care Connection can assist you.

This is a free service to Masons.

CONTACT US

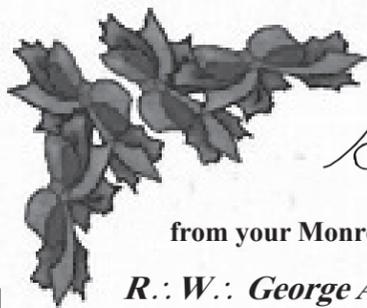
By phone @ 844-2ASK-MCC (844-227-5622)

On the web www.mccny.com/mycare

By e-mail at mycare@mccny.com

Monroe District

District Deputy Grand Master - R.:W.: George Fohner 704-6128



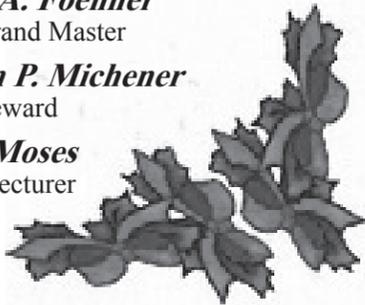
Season's Greetings

from your Monroe District Officers

R.:W.: **George A. Fohner**
District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: **Stephan P. Michener**
Grand Steward

R.:W.: **Roy Moses**
Assistant Grand Lecturer



Grand Steward

R.:W.:
Stephan Michener
387-9487
smichene@
rochester.rr.com



This must be the Masonic Season! It's all about Light. We've got the Festival of Lights which is Hanukkah, and the Light of the World or birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ, which we call Christmas. Whatever it is you are celebrating, my Brothers, I wish you and your families Joy, Peace and Love, which is expressed in the acts of kindness we exchange with one another, at this time of year. May we be delivered from darkness by the glow of the Light of a Loving God.

Road to the East

February 20th and March 5th

Do you intend to sit in the East someday? You may or may not necessarily want to follow the example of previous Masters you've seen. Some Masters are very good in the Chair, while others may only be so-so. Being the Master of your Lodge is not just having top billing and an impressive sounding title. It is work. It takes serious effort and planning. You will either walk away from your year in the East with a sense of pride and accomplishment in knowing you served your Lodge well and made a difference, or you will be glad it's over, never wanting to do it again. That's the nature of Leadership.

Any Warden can get elected Master of his Lodge, but not everyone will do it well. The *Road to the East (RTTE)* Course is designed to give you the insights, knowledge, skills and ATTITUDE you will need to be the best Master you can be. The course will be offered on two Saturdays - February 20th and March 5th - beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding about 2 p.m.

There's a lot of information covered! While the Grand Lodge of New York expects every Master to have taken the Course once, I would suggest it be taken once during your Se-

nior Deacon year, and once during your Senior Warden year. However, any Brother can take it regardless of their Chair.

Plan to be There

The cost of the class is \$35 which covers all food (breakfast and lunch for both days) and the Certificate and Pin for completion of the Course. It will take place at Pittsford Masonic Hall, 17 Church Street. You must pre-register for the Course by contacting R.:W.: Steve Michener at: smichene@rochester.rr.com or phone 746-3960. You are also required to bring a copy of *The 24-Inch Gauge* (most recent edition) and the *Handbook of Masonic Law*. You should also have a notebook and writing implement.

Pittsford Masonic Hall Arson

On the night of Saturday, October 17th, at approximately 7 p.m., Pittsford Masonic Hall suffered an arson attack.

The White Door

That white door has opened and closed for many years.

Since 1892, men have opened the door to enter and share peace and Brotherhood with their fellows. They have closed the door behind them and, as they left, they went out into the world to build their communities. They bring comfort and good cheer to those less fortunate. Over the years, hundreds of men have passed through that door. That door is white - a symbol of purity like the Aprons the men wear.

The building which is entered through the white door was originally built as a schoolhouse for the Village's children. When the building was constructed in 1842, it was made out of cobblestones because they were abundant due to the Erie Canal recently being dug. For its entire history the building and its white door have served the noble purpose of education and spreading Light.

That white door is big and heavy. It is no standard-size door that can be bought at a home center. It had to have been built by a craftsman. It has proudly served its purpose of keeping the cold and the elements out. It has not warped due to snow and driving rain and the variable temperatures inside and outside.

While a door is a barrier, it can also act as a welcome. Freshly painted, it says "welcome to

those who enter here." (That's why my wife and I scraped and painted it a couple of years ago.) By its well-maintained appearance, it speaks of pride in the Institution. The door conveys that what is found on the other side is precious and sacred. It is to be valued.

According to Webster's dictionary the word profane means to treat (something sacred) with abuse, irreverence, or contempt: to desecrate, to debase or defile what is holy by a wrong act. As an adjective it means having or showing disrespect for religious or spiritual things. It can be used to describe one who either is not or should not be among the initiated or not possessing esoteric wisdom. A profane is unworthy, or vulgar. Not surprisingly, the word profanity, which refers to offensive language or words, comes from the word profane.

It was one such profane who poured combustible fuel on that white door and under its threshold, and then lit the door ablaze. Attempting to do damage, to desecrate, to insult those who have made proper use of the door all these many years. Evil was at work in the acts of the arsonist, no doubt smiling and taking pride in his hatred as he watched the flames of hell destroy what the blackness of his soul would not allow him to understand.

We as Masons know that a man "who knows no God" is a heathen and "a menace to society and a moral blank in himself." Whatever causes may be offered for this hateful and hurtful behavior, at the core is a lack of belief or reverence for a Creator. Godlessness leads to chaos. The Great Architect of the Universe promotes a world of organized order and discipline.

And so the men, who revere their God, will rebuild and carry on. Just as the Order always has. Like it did when held in bondage in Egypt. Like it has when one has been martyred. Like it did in Nazi Germany. Like it does in communist dictatorships. Like it does when a church burns or when evil enters and perpetrates horror and hatred. But we will continue to build. We will continue. □



ASSISTANT
GRAND
LECTURER
MONROE DISTRICT

R.:W.:
Roy Moses
346-2117



roymoses46@gmail.com

Here it is, the first of December; my how time flies when you're busy. I hope everyone had a great Turkey Day.

Degree work is in full swing and going well. I have finished a great deal of Edict Degrees and most of the work has been well done. I have attended a lot of rehearsals and have noted that the Lodges that have gotten the Brothers out for the rehearsal, have really had the best Degrees. Of course, there are a couple of Lodges that have surprised me and done very good work for not having many Brothers at the practice. Well done to those Lodges, but just think how great that Degree would have been if you had a full house for the rehearsal.

I have also learned that a couple of the Lodges are really taking the Mentoring very seriously - forming committees of the best people in the Lodge, along with some new Brothers to carry on later down the road. I am sure the discussions on the 18-year-olds at the District Deputy's Visit had a lot to do with this. Discussions like these are great to get Brothers thinking and motivated. Every Lodge should have discussion times to think about problems

and events of the Lodge. This, I would hope, would deal with the Ritual sometimes, for it can only improve your Lodge in the Ritual.

I wish each and every Brother a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year. □

MONROE DISTRICT
MEMBERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

By Bruce Katz, District Chair

We have all heard the trends of reduced membership in Freemasonry across the Country and in many of our local Lodges. Better Lodge programs, improved practices of bringing in new Brothers, better mentoring, involving families and fostering true Brotherhood are some of the ideas and actions to help build our Fraternity. While each of these actions (and many more) are of course the right thing to do, there remains the question whether these address the root problems. H.L. Mencken remarked that, "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong."

At least according to the Internet, Brother Theodore Roosevelt said, "Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining." Untold energy has been spent by people addressing the wrong problem. Charles Kettering observed that "A question well-asked is a question half-answered." Objectively looking at a problem can help formulate a path forward.

Masonry has always been about the individual Brother as a part of his Lodge. Our Fra-



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ternity should not obsess about “the numbers,” but often data can help us understand our circumstances. We need to learn from the mistakes of the past in order to secure the bright future that is ours if we decide to create it. If a Lodge does not maintain “critical mass,” its future is dim. Lodges able to maintain this can meet their obligations to provide worthwhile programs by and for the Brothers and can flourish.

One enterprising Lodge Secretary examined the membership records of his Lodge over the last 15 years. In the year 2000, there were about 380 Brothers. In the ensuing 15 years, there have been about 150 Raisings and Affiliations, 120 Dimits, 60 NPDs and 180 Brothers elevated to the Supreme Lodge Above, leaving a net of 185 Brothers. In 2000, about 30 Brothers were at the typical meeting; in 2015 this is unchanged, with most of the currently attending Brothers having been Raised in the last ten years.

What does this mean?

The first result is simple math; there are almost exactly half the Brothers now as there were 15 years ago.

There are obviously different interpretations, but one shows that there are as many Brothers who were lost to time as there were to Dimits and NPDs.

What Actions Can be Taken?

1. **Define the issue.** Understand why some of these Brothers were lost. Every Brother who left by NPD or Dimit decided that his time and money are best spent elsewhere. Even some Brothers who moved, chose not to maintain Affiliation. (Note that financial stress should not be an issue, as Dues are covered by other Brothers for financial hardship.)

2. **Measure what matters.** It is not just the net membership that is important, but the different categories of reasons.

3. **Analyze the situation.** Why do Brothers NPD and Dimit? Why do Brothers NPD rather than Dimit? Is the problem with lack of new Brothers coming into the Lodge? How is “Program” and fellowship? Is Ritual keeping Brothers involved and interested?

4. **Prioritize by what is important.** Act on the lessons learned. Grand Lodge and some local Lodges are testing the *Northstar* Program. The current phase addresses an improved determination of whether the potential petitioner is a good fit to Masonry and the particular Lodge through an improved onboarding and mentoring process. Future updates will address keeping Brothers involved.

5. **Control the future.** Learn from the mistakes of the past at the society level as well as the Lodge level. The Master of the Lodge is entrusted with the stewardship of the Lodge for the year, and presumably seeks the help of the Officers and all Brothers. Are you helping move the ball forward, or passively observing? Start the conversation in your Lodge. By understanding YOUR Lodge’s particular situ-

ation and structuring a path forward can shape a bright future for any Lodge willing to make the effort. Freemasonry offers an incredible value to those willing to work for it and, through appropriate actions today will keep the light shining for future generations.

Are you ready to take action? ☐

Monroe District Masters and Wardens Association
 W.: Kenneth Hecker
 President
 420-8852
 Email: kennethhecker@gmail.com

Happy Holidays Brethren, Ladies and readers of the **Masonic Times**. The month of December is always busy for all of us and our Lodges. Please be safe this Holiday Season.

No December Meeting

Another reminder to everyone that following the present By-laws, there is no meeting of the Monroe District Masters and Wardens Association for the Month of December.

Mark Your Calendar

January 28th - Our January Meeting will be held in the Grotto Room in the Shrine Center at 7 p.m. All Monroe District Masters, Wardens and Senior Deacons are encouraged to attend and contribute their ideas and information.

The Masters and Wardens now have a Social Media Committee, Chaired by Brother James MacDuff. I would encourage all interested parties in each of the Lodges who have a solid background in social media best practices and marketing to connect with Brother James MacDuff at:

bricklayer.jsm@gmail.com if they would like to get involved with this Committee and with your own Lodge’s social media engagement.

We also now have a new Scouting Outreach Committee. I encourage anyone with ties to Scouting and an interest to contact the Committee Chairman, Bruce Katz, at:

brucek8189@aol.com to contribute and gain insight into this new Committee and its direction.

Please be safe this Holiday Season and we look forward to a great 2016! ☐

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Scouting Outreach Committee

Attention Masonic Scouters!

By W.: Bruce Katz, District Chair

Brothers, I have been asked by the Masters and Wardens of Monroe District to serve as the Masonic Scouting Chair. Freemasonry and Scouting share common values, as many Masons, Scouters and former Scouts all know. As a long-time Scouter (e.g. “old”), I am looking forward to this assignment.

Order of the Arrow is Scouting’s Honor Society and is currently celebrating its Centennial. Although the context is very different, the “secret” Initiation was directly “borrowed” from Freemasonry. Many of the founders in early BSA history were Freemasons, including President Theodore Roosevelt and Daniel Carter Beard.

I am looking for help in several areas:

1. On **Saturday, March 5th**, there is a large Training opportunity which includes a midway for various opportunities for Scouts and Leaders. I would like to organize a table display regarding Masonic Scouting, including recognition awards (such as for Eagle Scouts), support (such as Camp DeMolay availability), and manpower (Masonic Scouters in our District).
2. Do we have resources available to help Scouts? For example, it was suggested to me that most, if not all Brothers, could be Merit Badge Counselors for subjects from our careers and hobbies.
3. Support is not limited to Boy Scouts. Are there active Girl Scout volunteers in our Masonic Family (and yes, this includes the Ladies’ Groups!)
4. I am presently a Chapter Adviser for the Order of the Arrow, serving the Scouting District which covers the City of Rochester. I am looking for Brothers of the OA who are willing to help align urban troops with suburban troops with good camping and advancement programs. (There are many other opportunities available as well!)

The future of Masonry depends on its awareness in our communities. It is hard to imagine a group more fertile for potential membership in

our Fraternity than Scouts and Scouters. By becoming more visible in the Scouting community we can create the awareness to enable today’s young people to continue their future personal growth in Freemasonry.

Please contact me at:
 Phone: 729-6657 or
 email: brucek8189@aol.com if you are interested in participating in a local Masonic Scouting Community or have other ideas to enable this initiative. ☐

Seneca Lodge
 No. 797
 2nd Tuesdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Jeffrey R. Quartley
 202-1524
jeff.quartley@gmail.com
 Secretary
 W.: Raymond Glegg
 750-0865
secy@seneca797.com
 30 Orchard Street, Webster 14580

We had our Official Visit last month from our local District Team. It was a good meeting and covered some interesting topics - particularly the idea of moving the Candidate qualification age to 18. I cannot comment on opinions abroad, but there were some very strong opinions regarding this topic from within our Lodge walls. It certainly got the groups undivided attention.

November brought us to our 4th Annual Table Lodge. This event seems to gain notoriety each year! We featured a wee bit of Scotland with our kilted Brothers and some delicious haggis. The theme was reminiscent of an Officers Mess Event that was (and still is) a popular tradition in the British Army - particularly with the Scots Regiments. The tradition of Table Lodges goes all the way back to the very first Lodges in London, England, from the 18th Century. Quite a bit of history brought forward all the way up into 2015.

In December, we will see our Holiday Party and our special event, “Breakfast with Santa.” Be sure to watch the Trestleboard for these dates.

We need to invite our District AGL to our Degree rehearsals this season, with a particular emphasis on attendance by as many participants as possible. Please remember that our Lodge is only as good as its members and when the call goes out for rehearsal dates, please commit and honor the commitment to be there. Very important. ☐

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS:
 Have you submitted your nomination to the Scottish Rite Office for the Symbolic Lodge Award?
 Please do so at your earliest convenience.
 Thank you!
 (Page 16 has address info.)

Union Star Lodge No. 320
 Website: www.unionstarmasons.org
 2nd Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Kenneth J. Hecker
 760-9395
kennethhecker@gmail.com
 Secretary - 425-4240
 R.: W.: Gary R. Sanford
 27 Freshfield Rise, Fairport 14450
ggsanford@aol.com
 3 North Main Street
 Honeoye Falls 14472-1013

December is upon us, the Holiday Season is in full swing, our Temple Building has been decorated with good cheer and festive adornments by some of our most dedicated Brothers.

At this time, I would ask everyone to remember those who are shut-in or in tough times this Holiday Season. If you know someone, or a family, and you are able, reach out to those in need in our communities, visit them and make sure they know that people think and care about them. If there is something you can do to make them smile and feel wanted, please try to do so.

Before, and now as Master of Union Star Lodge, I have had some of these experiences reaching out to people in need. Sometimes they just crave a visit from someone to talk to for a brief while. Something simple like this can go a long way to put a smile on someone’s face and warm their heart.

I realize we are all trying to navigate the rough waters of life we face day in and day out. Assisting those in need puts our own views in a different perspective that, yes, can be difficult to do, but enriches all of our lives for the better.

I take some time to look back and say thank you to the dedicated Brothers of Union Star Lodge who set up and provided vending for the Annual Honeoye Falls Pumpkin Festival event: R.: W.: Gary Sanford, W.: Frank Habitzreuther, W.: Scott May, W.: Troy Shouse, Brothers Mark Armbruster (and his son), Ernest Day, Tom Watson and Doug Green.

I also thank the Girl Scouts, Robin Repass, our Girl Scouting contact and Chair of the Pumpkin Festival, who is the main organizer of this great annual event.

Thank you, also, to the Honorable Mayor, Richard B. Milne; the Village of Honeoye Falls; and the community for coming out to patronize the event.

Check the Lodge’s Google Calendar for upcoming dates of events and again have a safe and fun Holiday Season. ☐

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Wakan-Hubbard**Lodge No. 154**2nd & 4th Mondays
7:30 p.m.Master
W.: Donald C. Bell
334-7768
don_bell@hotmail.comSecretary
R.: W.: John Zabel
223-3228
zabelj@mindspring.com

1822-A Penfield Road, Penfield 14526

By R.: W.: John Zabel

The Lodge did a good job of Initiating our Candidate in the 1st Degree at our first meeting of October. Our new Entered Apprentice came to our second meeting in October to hear a talk by V.: W.: Hugh Woodside on some of the Ritual differences between New York Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Brother Woodside had been Raised in New Jersey and was a Lodge Officer prior to moving to our area and joining Wakan-Hubbard Lodge. The talk was very interesting and very well done.

We also presented W.: John Rees, DSA, with his Certificate as a 50-Year member of the Lodge. He also received a 50-Year Apron from Grand Lodge. Unfortunately, some of our other Service Award Recipients were unable to attend the meeting. The next time you see Brother Rees, congratulate him on his achievement.

There is much happening at the Lodge. As you are aware, our tenants have not renewed their leases and have left the building. The rental space is available. We have had one inquiry on possibly buying the building as we have let the real estate agent know that we would sell the building, or lease the rental space. As of this writing we have not seen an offer to purchase, but have heard that an offer will be presented.

Our first November meeting was set as the night to discuss our options in this regard. A decision may have been made by the time you read this. Hopefully you would have been informed of our future course of action by either email or snail mail.

Mark Your Calendar

December is the time that we set our budget for the year and determine the Dues for the coming year. Our Dues run from January to December of each year. Dues Notices will be sent after our financial meeting on December 14th. We hope you will attend the meeting to hear more about our finances and the future of our Lodge.

A Lodge is the members and not the building. If we are leaving our building, we will have made arrangements for a meeting place and storage of our stuff. We do have much "stuff" that we need to preserve for future generations and to track the history of the Lodge.

This is also the season for some to celebrate Christmas, others to celebrate other religious and secular holidays of this time of year. We hope our Brothers will celebrate according to their and their family's beliefs. This

time of year also means we will have only one meeting in December so as not to conflict with Brothers' celebrations of the Season. We wish all a great Holiday Season, however it is celebrated and hope to see all at our meetings after the New Year, wherever we will be meeting. □

WEBSTER
Lodge No. 5381st & 3rd Thursdays
7:30 p.m.Master
W.: Jeremy
Knox
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mona.bike@yahoo.comSecretary
James F. Clancy
738-2742jclancy2@rochester.rr.com
30 Orchard Street, Webster 14580

By W.: Allyn J. Borrino

Brothers, with Fall upon us and Winter right around the corner, the District Deputy's Official Visits have been taking place throughout the District. Webster Lodge, with thirty Brothers in attendance, was honored to have District Deputy Grand Master, R.: W.: George Foehner; Grand Steward, R.: W.: Steve Michener; and Assistant Grand Lecturer, R.: W.: Roy Moses, present in the Lodge on October 15th.

R.: W.: Roy Moses hopes, with assistance, to attend Lodge Degree rehearsals as this season's School of Ritual. Attendance by both Degree participants and Brethren will be very important to the success of the Schools of Ritual.

R.: W.: Steve Michener spoke about all the valuable courses and reading material available at the Grand Lodge Chancellor Robert Livingston Library. R.: W.: Michener also had three Brothers escorted to the East. Brother Dale Palmer received a Certificate of Completion of the *Masonic Development Course*. W.: Allyn J. Borrino received his belated Certificate of Completion for *The Master's Chair Course*. W.: Jeremy Knox received his Certificate of Completion for the *Road to the East Course*. Congratulations to all recipients.

R.: W.: Michener also took time before the meeting to review our Worshipful Master's Trestleboard, and complemented the Master on the fact that it was one of the best Trestleboards he has seen in all his visits thus far – especially the quality of our upcoming programs. Kudos to W.: Jeremy Knox; Webster Lodge is proud.



R.: W.: Stephan Michener presented Brother Dale Palmer with a Certificate of Completion of the *Masonic Development Course*; W.: Jeremy Knox with his Certificate of Completion for the *Road to the East Course*; and W.: Allyn J. Borrino, belatedly, with his Certificate of Completion for the *Master's Chair Course*.

And, finally, R.: W.: George Foehner reminded everyone that Grand Lodge is compiling opinions, either for or against, lowering the age of application to join the Craft from twenty-one to eighteen. It appeared that the overwhelming majority of Brothers present at this meeting were accepting of this change. R.: W.: Foehner also spoke to the future of the **Masonic Times** newspaper and polled the Lodge as to their preference in receiving the **Masonic Times** ... either physically, electronically or both. I hope that whatever is decided by the committee reviewing these possible changes, we maintain this vital source of District information.

Thank you must also go to W.: John Hellaby of ERAC Lodge and his Lady, Kelly Weber, for preparing a fine Official Visit meal for the Brethren.

Brother Secretary, Jim Clancy, would like to remind everyone that the Annual Lodge Dues Notices have been mailed and all should now be in possession of this Notice. He would like to remind all that this payment is due by **January 1, 2016**. While all Dues payments are rarely in by this deadline, it would be greatly appreciated if this year we made a special effort to comply with this request, as it really helps the Lodge Secretary with bookkeeping.

Brother Hank Libera, DSA, thanks the Brothers who came to take part in our Annual Community Service Project, "Highway Cleanup" on October 17th. Brothers Bob Passino, Ben Atmosfera, John Ross, Dave Allen, Don Osborne and Grant Kothiringer made this year's cleanup of Ridge Road in Webster, from the Wayne County Line to Phil-

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Friday, December 4th
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 at Webster Lodge Hall; 30 Orchard Street
 Adults - \$9 Children - \$5
 For Takeouts, Call 872-3500





Webster Lodge Brothers taking part in their Community Service Project, Highway Beautification, were: Bob Passino, Ben Atmosfera (front), John Ross, Dave Allen, Don Osborne and Grant Kothiringer (rear). They cleaned the stretch of Ridge Road from the Wayne County Line to Phillips Road.

lips Road, a great success. On behalf of the Lodge, thank you, Brothers.

Webster Lodge was honored to receive the Meacham Award at this year's Grand Lecturer's Convention October 23rd held at Fairport Masonic Hall. The Meacham Award is given to any Lodge that, in the previous year, performs all three Degrees with only Lodge members participating in the Degree parts. Webster Lodge was the only Lodge in the Monroe District to receive this award. This is a wonderful testament to the dedication and Ritual proficiency of Webster Lodge Brothers. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

On **December 3rd**, we will have the program, "Joseph Brant, 1743-1807, Man of Two Worlds, Revolutionary Mohawk and Mason."

December 17th we will be holding a 1st Degree.

December 24th will be our Annual Poinsettia Delivery Program. There will be a delicious breakfast before we embark on our quest to bring more than just plants to homebound Brothers. Please join us, as this is one of the highlights of our Masonic Season.

January 7th will be our Annual Lodge of Remembrance.

December Birthdays

Congratulations to our Brothers celebrating a birthday in the month of December: Brothers Kenneth Cross, Sal Fantauzzo, Paul Kolacki, Hank Libera, Don Osbourne and Thomas Visile.

Masonic Anniversaries

Congratulations to our Brothers who celebrate their anniversary of being Raised in the month of December: Brothers Ben Atmosfera; Joe Bahamonde; John Otto; Allyn J. Borrino; Peter Bowers; Harold Brayley; Eric Carlson; John Clapp; Kenneth Cross; William Edwards; Nick Haldoupis; Grant Kothiringer; Hank Libera; Richard Marchner; Paul Moore; James Moorehouse; Keith Oelkers; John Ornelas; Dale Palmer; John Ponschock, Jr.; Atilla Serce; Richard Swingley; Kevin Taylor; Don Tingley; Eugene Vanvoorhis; and James Young.

W.: Jeremy Knox and Webster Lodge, also wish everyone a safe and festive Holiday Season. Hope to see you in Lodge. □

Lodge News
Continues
on Page 13

Webster Lodge Brothers accepted the Henry G. Meacham Award from R.: W.: Richard Kessler at the Grand Lecturer's Convention.



Damascus News

Damascus Shrine Center No. 2

December 2015

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

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

Website: www.damascusshrinemasons.org



KEVIN FARO
 CHIEF RABBAN



By Kevin "Skins" Faro,
 Chief Rabban

As the year winds down, we look back at all the accomplishments made at your Temple ... from the building and grounds improvements, to bringing back membership participation, to getting your Divan to work as one Body ... moving Damascus in a forward direction. That forced us to make some hard choices for the improvement of Damascus which may not have been popular, but were needed.

We all owe a debt of thanks to Illustrious Wayne McCrossen for taking the steps Damascus needed to get it back up and running in the right direction and back on track. There are still a lot of challenges ahead. With so many members, you can't please everyone; you just

hope you make the right decision for the future betterment of all members.

By the time you get this, the Elections for 2016 most likely will have been completed and, hopefully, you will have elected a Divan that will continue to improve Damascus and make it stronger. Thank You for letting me serve you and Damascus this year.

The Harvest Dinner was fantastic once again with over 60 in attendance. The meal and fellowship were second to none. It will be hard to top it next year but plans are already in the works.

December 19th – I hope to see everyone at the Annual Christmas Party at Club 86, in Geneva.

Until next year, I just want to say THANK YOU, Illustrious Sir Wayne McCrossen, for a great ride. See ya' next year! □

WAYNE McCROSSEN
 POTENTATE



New Shriners Unite

We now have a shepherding group. All new Shriners will become the Nomads. It's wonderful seeing the new Shriners becoming active and getting involved.

Talking about getting involved, I must say I am so happy and thrilled that I was involved with the Leadership Program here at Damascus Shriners. I have been a Shriner for 20 years and have always been proud to be one.

When a man reaches a certain age, he wants to be part of something more important and larger than himself. The Shrine fits the bill.

Working with this Divan, Past Potentates and all Nobles has been a wonderful experience. To all who supported us, thank you.

Soon I'll be passing the baton to a Noble whom I know is very much qualified to be Potentate ... my good friend, Kevin Faro.

Kevin and I have worked hand-in-hand throughout the year. We spent many hours on the phone, emailed each other and had many in-person discussions. We traveled together to the meetings of Clubs and Units.

With Kevin Faro leading the Divan in the ensuing year, I have no doubt in the success of Damascus Shriners.

It was an honor and a privilege serving as your Potentate this year and I will keep it in my memory forever. □

As the year slowly ends and the Holiday Season is upon us, I am very proud of our Divan and all the work they did through the year:

- Clearing the brush in the back of the Shrine Center so we can enjoy that million-dollar view of the Bay.
- Painting the floor and walls in the kitchen.
- Staining the pavilion, following the installation of a new ceiling along with new lights, additional electrical outlets and outdoor speakers for the sound system. We now are able to get more enjoyment and use of the pavilion.
- We have new LED lights in the Bar Area and in the Dining Room.
- We installed new sinks and countertops in the Men's Room and soon will install new ceiling tiles.

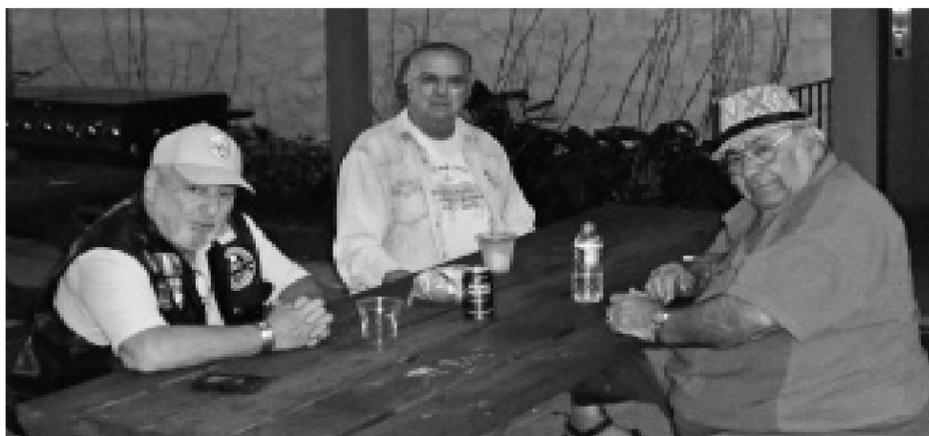
MSB Support

My thanks to the Board of Directors of the Masonic Service Bureau. Upon witnessing the improvements to the building, they wanted to get involved and arranged and funded the installation of automatic-flushing mechanisms for the toilets for both Restrooms.

Hospital Trip

We enjoyed a bus trip to the Shriners Hospital for Children® - Erie. Over 30 people made the trip, and a great time was had by all.

Nomads and Shepherds enjoying a Picnic in the improved pavilion.



Summons

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting on

December 2nd, 2015

7:00 p.m.
 for the purpose of

Election of Officers for 2016

All-Masonic Children's Holiday Party

at Damascus Shrine Center
 979 Bay Road, Webster

Saturday, December 12th
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Open to children and grandchildren (and their friends) of all Masonic Families

Bring a wrapped gift for each child.
 Be sure to mark with child's full name.

Activities will include ...

- Cookie Decorating * * *
- Pine Cone Bird feeder
- Face Painting * * *
- Coloring * * *
- Snacks * * *
- Drinks
- Special visit with Santa

Co-sponsored by AASR-Valley of Rochester
 Masonic Service Bureau and Damascus Shrine.



**Daughters of the Nile
Zama Temple No. 14**
Meets 2nd Saturday at 10 a.m.
30 Orchard Street, Webster
Rhonda R. Shaffer, Queen

By Ellie Canfield

As I sit here writing this article, I cannot believe it is November and temperatures are above normal for this time of the year.

Zama Temple was very busy in the month of October, with participating at the "Blue Moon," followed by a successful Card Party and the Flea/New-to-You Sale.

November Stated Session was our Founder's Day and the recognition of 25- and 50-Year Members.

Also November brought the Damascus Shrine Harvest Dinner. We sponsored the Fashion Show and Basket Auc-

tion. This was the first time the Ladies from Zama Temple held this event at the Harvest Dinner.

The December Stated Session will bring our Holiday Luncheon and Charitable Giving Donations for Shriners Hospital for Children® - Erie. This is a very special time of the year for all to be grateful for the opportunity to help the children of Shriners Hospitals.

My parting message for this month is "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Happy Holidays to all! □

AUBURN SHRINE CLUB

By David Bowman

If you couldn't make our October meeting, Sprague Wheeler is under the weather and recovering at his place in Moravia. If you are reading this from other Clubs, Sprague, to each Steak Roast, brings a pickup truckload of tabs from his friends in Florida and around the Country. There have been photos of this mass of tabs in the magazine in the past. His address is 48 Britt Drive, Moravia, NY 13118. Got a second? Send that card now (and put in a photo of the sun so he can think of Florida!)

I am taking a second to thank Bob Coleman for being my driver to the Harvest Fest Dinner. I had my second hip done and no one wanted to ride with me. My wife reminds me it isn't just because of my hip.

Our October meeting was full to overflowing. Much of the Line from Damascus was there. Derek took over the introductions and prayers; I have noted such

for any future meetings.

John Erlich was under the weather, but doing better now.

Gerry Stanton is still battling heart flutters.

December 19th - We will be joining with the Geneva Club for the Holiday Celebration at Club 86. I have sent out notices and you have read it in this paper. We hope to see you there.

In discussions about the affair, our Club is furnishing baskets of joy and happiness to be raffled off. You have to be in it to win it. As a word of warning, secure it by the bottom!

So who can come? Well, not just Shriners! One of the Shriners I was talking with reminded me that he and his Lady first came as Masons, had so much fun, he joined the Shrine!

I have covered everything; now I start my Christmas List. You can check my list at #triedthebestthatIcouldSanta.

SHRINEABILIA

By Derek VanHouten

In a continuing line of leadership at Damascus Shrine, the Ill. Oscar Reber served the Nobility in 1991. I remember, at his Potentate's Reception, the tables featured decorative camels and, at his table, a large impressive beast resided. Now a few of these beautiful ceramic Camels grace the steps in the Recorder's Office. Next time you are in the Office, take a look.

In the early days, when the Divan Members would attend the various Potentate's Receptions, they would collect ideas for use in their year. In 1995 we featured classic cars as table favors. Also we had a few drivable ones at the Riverside Convention Center and one was next to the Head Table. When one mentioned a certain word like membership, the car's lights would blink and the horn would toot.

Sadly, those days are over and now it seems less important to attend these functions. I would encourage those who are moving up the Line to consider what your theme will be when you have leadership of Damascus. Nobles will remember for years afterwards what your theme was and how you presented yourself to the organization.

Please feel free to consult with any Past Potentate for ideas that might help you create something special for your year whether it's "camels" or something unique. □



**God
Bless
Our Troops**

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

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vcollom1@rochester.rr.com



December Birthdays



David Benda
Mark Broyles
Daniel Cambisi
Dennis Carroll
Philip Cox
Robert Cox
Allan Cragg
Raymond Crandall
Harold Davis
Embola Ekiller
Rodney Finewood
Delbert Fix
Earl Gorton
Richard Green
Roy Hamilton
James Harding
Harold Herman

James Holman
Daniel Lewis
Henry Libera
Richard Lippincott
Devon Littlefield
David Locke
Frederick Ludwig
Robert Mattick
Alvin Metcalf
G. Michael Morris
James Nielsen
Donald Osborne
Fernando Palmeroni, Jr.
Earl Pearce
George Pierce
Kenneth Pollard
Bradley Rathbun

Charles Rouse
F. Murray Russell
Robert Selbert
George Simon
Timothy Slater
Dean Smith
Frederick Stahl
Phillip Sturm
David Taber
David Upham
Michael VanderKamp
Robert Verbridge
Lance Ward
David Wilkinson
William Williamson
J. Peter Yendell

Resolution to Amend the By-Laws ...

Whereas the elected Divan of Damascus Shriners A.A.N.O.M.S. has reviewed

Article II, Section 2.1 of its Bylaws and they have determined that the same should be amended.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the official Divan hereby approves the amendment of Article II, Section 2.1 of the Bylaws as follows herein:

Stated Meetings. A stated meeting of Damascus Shriners shall be held on the first Wednesday evening of the months of May and September and also as otherwise provided within these Bylaws.

The hour of commencement of each meeting shall be 7:00 o'clock P.M.

The remainder of this section and the remaining sections of this Article shall remain as they now exist.

It is further resolved that the herein amendment be submitted to the members in accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws.

Dated: November 2, 2015

Wayne McCrossen, Potentate



What's New in Erie ...

Thank You from Emily

Emily Mellish wrote a beautiful thank you note to the employees and Board Members of Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Erie. Emily read her letter out loud at a Board of Governors meeting. The emotions generated by her reading were felt throughout the meeting room. Each member in attendance was truly touched by her words.



"Thank you, Shriners, for all your help. All the other doctors said, 'No, I can't fix your leg.' They wanted to take my leg away. But not Shriners. They took my leg seriously.

"You made my leg so I can run and play with the other kids. Thanks to Shriners. It is going to take a year for my leg to get longer but it is worth it. Do you know, I will have this longer leg for the rest of my life? So really a year is not really that long.

"You have inspired me to never give up on myself. When I grow up I want to work just as hard as you do to make people smile. I learned it takes rain to make a rainbow; thanks for giving me my rainbow."

Love, Emily Mellish ☐

Bikers Bring Bank

The Lake Erie Freedom Chapter of the Victory Motorcycle Club presented a check, on October 21st in the amount of \$12,629.49 to Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Erie. The Club raised the money at two wonderful events - the Ride for the Kids Poker Run and Concert for the Kids After-party. Thank you Victory Motorcycle Club and Off Road Express Erie!



Aladdin Shriners Make Large Donation to Erie

At the October 21st Board of Governors Meeting at Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Erie, the Aladdin Shriners of Columbus, Ohio, presented the Erie Medical Center with two donation checks totaling \$138,054.35. The presentation was made by Tom McNeil, Associate Member of the Board of Governors at Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Erie, and Bob Stevenson, Secretary of the Board of Governors, both members of Aladdin Shriners. On behalf of Shriners Hospitals for Children®-Erie, thank you Aladdin Shriners! ☐



DeMolay Boys Already Hard at Work ...

Thank you to the Rochester DeMolay members for their hard work in providing Fall Cleanup at the Damascus Shrine Center. Flower gardens were weeded and mulched; other cleanup in preparation for Winter was also accomplished. Thanks for your efforts. It is most appreciated.



DAMASCUS SHRINERS SPRING SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE

Saturday, March 19th ~ 1 - 5 p.m.

Ticket Information:
Call 585-671-7701

at Damascus Shrine Center, 979 Bay Rd, Webster
Donation: \$20

www.DamascusShrineMasons.org

Ticket includes Hots, Burgers, Sausage, Salad, Soda and Beer ... Available all Day!
All proceeds to benefit Damascus Shrine Center, 979 Bay Road, Webster

* Proceeds for this event are not tax-deductible *

1. Ruger® 10/22 Camo 22 LR
2. Stoeger® Coach Gun 20-Gauge
3. Tikka T3 Lite 300 Win Mag
4. Browning® BPS Hunter, 12-Gauge 26"
5. CZ 455 Lux .22 Mag Bolt Action
6. Beretta Outlander, 12-Gauge 28"
7. Savage™ Model 64 .22 LR Semi-Auto

8. Beretta Outlander, 12-Gauge 28"
9. Henry® Survival Rifle 22 LR Camo
10. Remington™ 870 Express 12/26" Syn
11. Ruger® 10/22 Take-Down 22 LR
12. Savage® B-Mag 17 WSM Bolt Action
13. Remington™ 870 Express® Camo Turkey Hi-Viz

14. Ruger® American 22LR Bolt Action
15. Browning® A-Bolt III 270 w/ 3x9 Red Field
16. Savage™ Model 212 12-Gauge Bolt Action Camo
17. Savage™ Axis 308 w/ 3x9 Scope
18. Browning® BPS Hunter 20-Gauge 26"
19. Savage™ Model III Trophy 270 Win/3x9 Scope
20. Benelli® Nova® 20-Gauge 26" Camo

20 Guns in All!



Mark Your Calendar & Join Upcoming Events ...

Damascus Shrine Center; 979 Bay Road; Webster, NY ~ Reservation Line: (585) 671-3565

Damascus Shriners 2015 Christmas Party

Sponsored by Geneva and Auburn Shrine Clubs

Saturday, December 19th
All Welcome

For All Shriners, Masons, Their Ladies and Their Guests

Club 86 Party House - 86 Avenue E, Geneva

6 p.m. - Hors D'Oeuvres - Personality Adjustment

7 p.m. - Dinner Served

Entree Choices:

**Prime Rib ~ Baked 1/2 Chicken
or Broiled White Fish**

All dinners include soup, salad and dessert and coffee

Price \$90 per Couple

Please Specify Dinner Choice & the number in your party.

8 p.m.-11 p.m. - Music and Dancing with the great

The BIG Swingin' Band

Dress Code: Tuxedos or Business Suits and Fez for Gentlemen;
Cocktail Dresses for the Ladies

Raffles and Prizes

Reservations by Monday, December 14th

Call 800-448-0741 with your Reservation & Advance Payment

Send Checks and Dinner Choices to:

Geneva Shrine Club; c/o Charles Rouse;

19 Herbert Street; Geneva, NY 14456

Email: carouse@rochester.rr.com or Phone: (315) 789-5194

Accommodations Available with Special Prices for Shriners
Ramada Inn Lakefront,

41 Lake Front Dr; Geneva, NY 14456 (315) 789-0400

Hotel Reservations needed by November 19th for

\$85 per night with transportation provided to and from the party.

Thereafter, hotel rate is \$130 per night.

Wheeler's Unit Installation of Officers

at Shrine Center

Open to all ... Friends and Family

Saturday, January 16th

Steak Dinner with all the Trimmings

\$15.00 per person

Social - 5 p.m. ~ Dinner - 6 p.m.

Installation - 7 p.m.

Bar open after
ceremony

Call the Shrine
reservation line
at 671-3565



**Damascus Legion of Honor
Holiday Party**

Wednesday, December 9th

Damascus Shrine Center; 979 Bay Road, Webster

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

Dinner - 6:30 p.m. ~ Meeting - 7:15 p.m.

*Shrimp Cocktail * Salad * Roast Beef
Baked Potatoes * Carrots & Peas
Rolls & Butter * Coffee or Tea * Dessert*

\$15 per person

RSVP no later than noon on **Sunday, December 6th**
at (585) 436-8216 or email: cylegalrx@hotmail.com

Members and Ladies Invited
Attire for Men - Suit, Tie and Fez

**Directors Staff
Holiday Party**

Wednesday, December 18th

Yellow Mills Diner - 2534 Route 31, Palmyra

Order off the Menu

Social Time - 5:00 p.m. ~ Dinner - 5:30 p.m.

Ladies and Guests Invited ~ Casual Attire

RSVP and questions to: Vance Collom (585) 217-9817
Email: vcollom1@rochester.rr.com

Damascus Shriners Euchre Tournaments

Last Saturday of the Month ...

December 26th

All Tournaments and Parties
are Open to the Public

Registration: 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

Tournament Starts: 7 p.m.

\$10 per player ~ 50/50 Raffle

For more details:

office@damascusshriners.org

(585) 671-7701 Damascus Shrine Center



"Shell-a-Buck" Dinner ...

Wednesday, January 6th
Open Installation

Oasis Opens - 5 p.m. ~ Dinner - 6 p.m. ~ Program - 7 p.m.

Reservations: office@DamascusShriners.org

or Call (585) 671-3565

Dinner reservations are due by Noon, Thursday, December 31st
Cost is \$1 with your current 2016 Paid Dues Card; otherwise \$10

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

Master
W.: Patrick Schwartz
395-0874; c) 329-2374
partsguy1@rochester.rr.com

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

133 South Union Street
Spencerport 14559




It's hard to believe it is already December! As I write this, I am thinking about the record warmth we had in November and what the weather may be when you read this. Besides relishing the last days of an Indian Summer, I'm thinking ahead to those meeting nights when it is cold, windy, maybe a little bit snowy and it just seems to be a better idea to stay at home and not make the drive. I remember several years ago, when I would see Brothers arrive in vans or large cars, bringing Brothers who thought about staying home, and instead, made arrangements to ride with a Brother who lives nearby. As we head into Winter, I remind everybody that there are several Brothers, including myself, who would be more than happy to pick you up or find a ride for you, so we can share an evening together. If you think you would like to arrange ahead-of-time for a ride, it's not too early. Please call me or send me an email, and we can start planning now, instead of during poor weather.

Looking Back

October came and went so fast. Our first meeting was a Fellowship Night. After a brief business meeting, we retired to the Dining Hall for dessert, fellowship, some story telling and a Euchre game even broke out, which hasn't happened in some time; I hope it happens again soon. As the stories slowed down and the cards got put away, some of us went down the street to watch Monday Night Football and dispatch some chicken wings.

We have another Fellowship Night planned for March, so if you have any ideas of activities you would like to see or partake in, please let me know.

A week-and-a-half later, we convened again for our School of Ritual, which was rehearsal for our 1st Degree. I have to commend each and every one of you who showed up on that Wednesday night, and thank you all for your time and talents. We had an amazing turnout and it showed on our Degree Night. Our 1st Degree was held on October 26th, and was likewise very well attended.

Many thanks to R.: W.: Phil Hurwitz for the Apron Presentation; W.: John Lemke for presenting the Working Tools; W.: Bob Songin and R.: W.: Cliff Short for the Q's and A's; W.: Bob Songin and Brother Jose Peo for the Lecture of Reasons; R.: W.: Dave Jones for the Historical Lecture; and W.: Tom Michielsen for the Charge. It was a very impressive Degree and I look forward to introducing our new Brothers in February's article.

Looking Ahead

Our 2nd Degree will be held on **Monday, December 14th**, with a rehearsal held before it. If we have a strong turnout like our first, I have no doubt that the Degree will be amazing.

Our Annual Christmas Party will be **Monday, December 21st**. As in the past, the Lodge will supply the meat and beverages; please bring place settings and a dish-to-pass.

Sickness and Distress

R.: W.: Ed Gillott has been feeling under the weather lately; please say a prayer and drop a line in hopes of raising his spirits.

December Birthdays

David Pereira (5th), Robert Borden (8th), Dan Donovan (10th), Earl Pearce (15th), Don Darrohn and Ronald LaDue (18th), David Sarver (20th), Robert Humphreys and Brian Ferguson (24th), William Tipton (26th), Fred Palmeroni (27th), Howard Gleffe (28th), and William Mattern on the (29th). Happy Birthday to you all!!

In closing, I wish each and every one of you a wonderful and safe Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing all of you in Lodge. □

O-At-Ka
Lodge No. 759
7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Master
W.: Erik P. Crandall
766-8035
epc_productions@yahoo.com

Secretary
W.: Timothy P. White
615-2327
imp@gmail.com

5 Browns Ave, Scottsville 14546



I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. With the rest of the Holidays just around the corner, I'm hoping everyone is busy with family time.

After the New Year, we are planning to bring a few new Candidates to Light and pass on the traditions and history of Masonry - especially that of ours at Oatka Lodge.

I appreciate the support I have received from members of our Lodge. If any Brother has suggestions of something they want to do, feel free to let me know.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. □

ERAC
Lodge No. 163
website: www.eraclodge163.org
2nd & 4th Mondays
7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: Bruce I. Katz
227-5553; c) 729-6657
brucek8189@aol.com

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

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580




The days are shorter and the green of Summer has given way to the many colors of Autumn. This passing of time reminds us of the sultry days behind us, the cold Winter not far ahead and the promise of the first warm days of coming Spring.

Our October 12th meeting was a visit to foreign countries.

After a dinner with an Italian flair featuring stuffed shells, Brother Michael Pettinato presented an overview of Carl H. Claudy's "Foreign Countries." Brother Carty Ellis, Raised in 2012 in Ohio, contrasted his observances of his Mother Lodge to his experiences in New York. Special guest R.: W.: Michael Nix, District Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, spoke about the history of Prince Hall and PHA Lodges. R.: W.: Skip Waterstreet explained the Grand Representative Program and provided an overview of the Masonic Service Bureau.

Our Official Visit was October 23rd. Continuing our tradition, this was also our Annual Chili Cook-Off. Brother James Wright earned bragging rights for the coming year with his winning chili.

R.: W.: Stephan Michener presented Masonic Development Course Certificates to Brothers Todd James and Michael Pettinato. Brother David Fingado was recognized for completing a Reading Program from Livingston Library.

R.: W.: Roy Moses spoke about the School of Ritual process for the coming year as part of our Rehearsal and Degree work.

R.: W.: George Foehner conveyed elements from the Grand Master's Message given at St. John's Day. This message is published in its entirety in the Fall 2015 *Empire State Mason* and is online at the Grand Lodge website: nymasons.org.

December Events

Our **December 14th** program is our 1st Degree. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. (Chicken Parmesan over Angel Hair Pasta, Fresh Garden Salad, and Rolls). The cost is \$12 each, with our Candidates as guests of the Lodge. Please contact our Junior Warden, Brother Jim MacDuff, for **reservations by December 12th** (Why not call today?). Please make every effort to attend to welcome our new Brothers into the Craft and our Lodge. Note that we will likely "Open Early" to start the Degree at 7:30 p.m.

Information will be forthcoming about our Bell Ringing Day for Salvation Army in mid-December. Come join us and see how standing outside in the cold with your Brothers can give you a warm feeling inside.

Holiday Visits

December 19th - It is that time of year where we take some time to visit our Brethren and widows who could use an outreach. This tradition started more than 15 years ago and has occurred annually. It is a guarantee that if you have not done this event before, it will be a great experience of fellowship and Brotherly Love. We will likely meet out for breakfast around 8 a.m. and then complete our visits in groups of three or four. We usually finish well before noon at the latest. If you can only come for a short period of time, that is more than welcome and appreciated. Look for emails the end of November and early

December for details. Worshipful Brother Terry Wihlen, Jr., is again coordinating this.

Continuing another long tradition, we will again be hosting the Christmas Eve Dinner at Ronald McDonald House. Please call or text W.: Rich Greenaway for details at 409 0015.

Brothers, emails are being sent by two channels. The Googlegroup can be used by all Brothers to communicate Masonic and Lodge topics. I (again) ask that if you send an email to the Googlegroup to "blind copy" the group, so "reply-all" cannot occur.

The second channel is an emailing system is moderated; please send me information you would like included in these periodic emailings. Both emails have opt-out options. **Masonic Times** remains the "official" communications.

Congratulations to Brother David Fingado for being named as this year's recipient of the Valley of Rochester, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Symbolic Lodge Award for ERAC. Brother Dave's Cabletow limits his attendance at Lodge meetings, but he and his bride Sharon are regular supporters of the Ronald McDonald House dinners. Brother Dave will be recognized at a reception on **January 9th** at the Shrine Center, along with the other recipients from participating Symbolic Lodges throughout the Valley. R.: W.: Jeffrey Williamson, Deputy Grand Master, is the scheduled speaker. (Please see the Scottish Rite section in **Masonic Times** for details.)

Now, a word from our sponsor ... your ERAC Dues. Dues Notices are in the mail. Your prompt reply helps our Secretary and Treasurer keep current. We also have several worthy Brothers who requested assistance for dues. Please consider an incremental gift to the Lodge to help with this fraternal responsibility. Dues are "due" on or before **April 1st** as we need to pay Grand Lodge and the **Masonic Times** bills in April.

Best wishes for a joyous Holiday Season to you and your family. □

Inspiration
Lodge No. 109
website: www.inspiration109.org
2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 7:30 p.m.

Master
W.: Todd L. Colburn
739-6947
colburntodd1@gmail.com

Secretary
R.: W.:
Derek VanHouten
247-2920
derekhouten1@mac.com

979 Bay Road, Webster 14580




By R.: W.: Skip Waterstreet

We had an outstanding 1st Degree last month. Perfect? No! But, they never are. You can tell when the participating Brothers have really worked hard to do a good job ... and they were superb. I have been a bit lapse in commenting on this in previous columns, which I am trying to correct now and hope to continue in the future. It is also my way of saying the wonderful turnout and support at REHEARSALS is evident when you witness such

outstanding work. My Brothers, you can be PROUD!

Our Junior Warden, Brother Bill Grishaber, sat in the East for the conferral. He was ably assisted by Brother Ryan Ramplin as Senior Warden and Worshipful Todd Colburn as Junior Warden. Brother Adam Gerken proved more than capable as our Senior Deacon.

Brother Bill presented the Aprons to our new Brothers, Brother Paul Shipman explained the Working Tools and Worshipful Joe DiTucci presented their Bibles. The Lecture of Forms and Ceremonies was exchanged between our Junior Deacon, Brother Jared Sherwin, and Steward, Brother Nate Crane. Brother Ryan Ramplin expounded upon the Lecture of Reasons.

We are very appreciative of the help of Brother Jim MacDuff presenting the Historical Lecture once again. The Junior Warden of ERAC Lodge, Brother Jim has been a valuable asset to us in Degree work the past couple of years. Thank you, Brother Jim.

Holiday Party

Our Trestleboard calls for this event to be held **December 8th**. I hope to see many of you at the Shrine Center for a festive evening. We will welcome spouses and significant others to join us, and hope several ladies on our Widows list will also be present. Worshipful Richard Smith is coordinating this effort with the assistance of Right Worshipful Richard Snyder.

The usual hours will be maintained ... Social at 5:30 p.m.; Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; and more Social and Entertainment at 7:30 p.m. Please join us to celebrate the Season. Reservations are required, and the permanent list will not be honored for this night. We need to know who else you might be bringing.

We are also scheduled to meet **December 22nd** for a business and education program. In between we may be scheduling rehearsals for the 2nd Degree, which will be held in January. Please attend where you are able.

Birthday Celebrations

We name those Brothers who are maturing this month and send our best wishes for a happy day and joy in the coming year: Eugene Smith, Jr. (4th); Richard Lippincott (8th); Adym Flowerday (9th); James Moore (10th); Paul Shipman (12th); David Mura (14th); Philip Sturm (17th); Frederick Stahl (24th); Jared Sherwin (26th); John Auer (30th); Michael Robinson and Joseph Gingold (31st).

Season's Greetings

However you may celebrate, may you and your family enjoy a wonderful Holiday Season together. Happy New Year! □



Fairport-Flower City Lodge No. 476
 2nd & 4th Mondays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Paul McLaughlin
 415-4549
 pmclaughlin2000@gmail.com
 Secretary
 Scott W. Gonyeo
 415-2702
 sgonyeo@gmail.com

Fairport Masonic Hall
 87 South Main Street




Wow! It's December already – and as we wrap up another year, it is always good to take some time to enjoy the Holiday Season.

Mark Your Calendar

The Annual Family Holiday Party at the Lodge Hall is on **December 21st**. Details will be sent out by the Secretary. We expect to have several new Brothers attending the party since we will be presenting the 1st Degree the week before on **December 14th**.

NORTHFIELD Lodge No. 426
 www.northfieldlodge.org
 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: Lance J. Daul
 319-6796
 lance.daul@gmail.com



W.: John A. Dudley, Secretary
 586-6426
 jdudley1@rochester.rr.com
 17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

Continued from Page 1

Degree event. This was a wonderful evening for all! We were honored to have M.: W.: Bruce Widger and his Team come to deliver these fun Degrees. Thanks to our Junior Warden, Jason Morrisette, for putting on a great dinner, as always. I think everyone had a blast. Brothers, if you have a chance to take this Degree, do get out for it; you will not regret it.

November 5th saw us holding our Annual Budget Voting Meeting. Junior Warden, Jason Morrisette, had dinner for us. Thanks, Jason! The Budget was reviewed by all and passed in a very timely fashion. This was a pleasant surprise as it allowed us to spend some time on other needed topics.

Our Masonic Light for the evening was a talk revolving around the many different layers of meaning in our Ritual. The talk was lively and spirited and hopefully it inspired us all to ponder this at greater lengths.

Mark Your Calendar

December 3rd meeting will be changing as we will not be conferring a Degree on this evening. I plan on walking through parts of the Degree as this Ritual is so important for us all to see.

December 17th will see our Junior Warden, Jason Morrisette, give a presentation on the 1st Degree. More details will be

January 11th - Our first Regular Communication of the New Year will be a Lodge of Remembrance ... a time to honor and pay respect to our Brothers who have entered the Celestial Lodge above.

On **January 25th**, we will start the cycle again with new Candidates entering the Craft on the 1st Degree.

December Birthdays

Now at the close of the year, here is the list of our Lodge Brothers with December birthdays: Warren Reigelsperger (4th); Alan Libglid (7th); Ellis Hormats (10th); Dave Taber, F. Murray Russell, Mike Morris and John Smigle (12th); William Gerber (14th); Jay Stubblings (18th); Morton Stein (19th); Harold Davis (20th); Irwin Rosenbloom (22nd); Pete Moore (23rd); and Martin Luchacher (29th).

Happy Holidays to all our Brothers!

Genesee-Wyoming District

District Deputy Grand Master - Henry Robinson 322-3654

Olive Branch Lodge No. 39, F. & A.M.
 1st Wednesdays
 7:30 p.m.
 Master
 W.: John F. Flint
 768-6988



Secretary
 R.: W.: Neil R. Bedford
 H) 768-8293; C) 202-4571
 nbedford67@gmail.com

12 Bank Street, Le Roy 14482

WORSHIPFUL MASTER:
Have you submitted your nomination
 to the Scottish Rite Office for the **Symbolic Lodge Award?**
 Please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!
 (See page 16 for address info.)

December 5th will be the Annual Winter Fest in LeRoy. The Lodge will be putting on a Breakfast from 6:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. We will need the help of our Brothers to pull this off. Please let the Master know you can help make this Breakfast a success.

There will be other events happening at the Lodge that day: the Eastern Star will be having their candy sale and their runners will be meeting at the Lodge Hall to sign up for the 5K Race.

On **January 5th**, Canada Lodge No. 532 will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary. The Secretary has sent a request to our Grand Master for a Dispensation to allow Olive Branch Lodge and members of Genesee-Wyoming and Livingston Districts to attend this ceremony. Some of the older Brothers like W.: Ernie Curtis will remember Canada Lodge No. 532 and our Lodge traveling across the border to visit each other's Lodge in the sixties and seventies. Ever since we started our Table Lodge, about 10 Brothers from Canada have been attending.

R.: W.: Rick Allgood remembers fondly the visits between our two Lodges. We plan

on leaving on **January 5th** and returning on **January 6th**. If you would like to travel with us, please contact our Secretary. You will need a valid US Passport or New York State Enhanced License to cross the border.

Grand Master Thomas announced a year ago Grand Lodge's intention to merge Districts. On October 24th, the Genesee-Wyoming Council of Masonic Activities met at Constellation Lodge. After a discussion, we unanimously voted to start the procedure to merge with Livingston District.

On October 26th the Livingston District Association met at Nunda Station Lodge Hall. After discussion, they unanimously voted to start the procedure to merge with the Genesee-Wyoming District. The District Deputies of each District will be sending letters explaining the process that has to be completed in order for the merger to go forward.

A brief overview of what has to take place:

Each Lodge in the respective Districts have to have a Summation Meeting to vote on the merger. Fifty-one percent of the Brothers present at the Summation Meeting have to vote in favor of the merger. Then 51% of the Lodges in each District have to vote in favor of the merger. The DDGM of each District will then have to report to Grand Lodge to finish the process.

This writer's comments ... If we do not do something to merge, when the new Grand Master takes Office in May, 2016, the Grand Lodge at some point will decide what Districts will be merged and the Districts will have no say in the mergers.

As always, please try to attend Lodge meetings and support the Lodge and its Officers.



View of interior damage to front door of Pittsford Masonic Hall. Fortunately, damage was relatively minor.



Top Dog, M.: W.: Bruce Widger, Past Grand Master, confers Yellow Dog Degree on class of Candidates in Pittsford.

emailed. I hope everyone can join us at these upcoming events!

Brothers, one thing I would like to encourage is for everyone to get out and take in a Masonic event outside our Lodge. Visit your Brothers at another Lodge for their meeting. Attend one of the many Concordant Bodies. Go see a District-wide event. Masonry is a HUGE Fraternity and it does not end at our Home Lodges! I guarantee you will not be disappointed. Get out and get active!



Brothers who participated in the Yellow Dog Degree.

By R.: W.: Neil R. Bedford

We had our Surviving Spouse and Years of Service Awards Dinner on October 24th. There were 45 Brothers and their Ladies present and nine Surviving Spouses. A Ham Dinner put on by our own Master Chef, W.: Bill MacPherson, was excellent as usual. After dinner the Brothers and Ladies retired to the Lodge Room for the Awards Ceremony.

DDGM Henry Robinson and W.: John "Jack" Flint, Master, presided over the Awards Ceremony.

The following Brothers received the Years of Service Certificates and Pins:

- 10 Years **Eric R. Rada**
- 35 Years **Richard G. Rung**
- 45 Years **Lawrence Belluscio**
- 50 Year s **Donald E. Wagner**
- Jackson J. Burling**
- 55 Years **Beryl E. Mcguire**
- 60 Years **Vernon G. Rupert**

Master Jack Flint thanks the four Brothers who showed up for our work detail on October 17th. They got some trees trimmed from over our roof, the yard raked and mowed and three truck loads of yard debris was taken to the landfill.

In Memoriam

Hamilton, Boyd A., Sr.

We received word that Boyd Hamilton, Sr., 86, a member of Scottish Rite, passed away June 6th. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley; 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Boyd was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War and Army and Naval Reserves. A page in our book of memories is gently turned today.

Pulver, Jerome D. "Jerry"

On October 10th, Jerome Pulver went Home to his Lord. Jerry is survived by his wife of 57 years, Carol; 2 children and 2 grandchildren. He was a 45-year member of Fairport-Flower City Lodge. May your tears become rainbows when you remember your loved one.

VanHuben, Beverly J.

On October 10th, Beverly VanHuben went to the waiting arms of her husband, Leon VanHuben. Beverly was an active, life-long member of Eastern Star and a Past Grand Warden of the Grand Chapter of New York State. She is survived by nephews and extended family. A memory is a keepsake of time that lives forever in the heart.



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Order of the Eastern Star

Monroe District OES HiLights

DDGM

R.W. Doreen Rhodes
621-6051

busyrhodes1@hotmail.com

DGL

M.W. Neil Laundry
964-2135

neillaun@hotmail.com

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving, I Welcome you to our 2016 Year. We have many events planned, so hope we will have lots of participation.

I am waiting for confirmation on a date for December. This event will be open to all, plus children. It is a Train Ride with Santa, details to follow.

The Organizational meeting
January 9th - Line Officers

Kickoff meeting with Grand Officers. We will begin with a Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.; reservations to me 621-6051 by January 2nd. Invitations will be sent in December.

Community Project

This will be a project for our own Community this year for knitted mittens of all sizes. R.W. Joy Woodley has volunteered to be Chairperson. We need them to here by Decem-

ber 18th. I thank you all for your help and participation. Joy Woodley 671-6152. This is one of the Grand Matrons requests for 2016, one of which I have to send a report to her.

Alta's Penny Fund

This Fund is in Memory of R.W. Alta Doty and the proceeds go to the Masonic Youth Group. R.W. Beverly Thompson is Chairperson 392-7546.

Christmas Party

Just a reminder the Christmas Party is December 6th 2 p.m.-5 p.m. We will eat at 4 p.m. Please bring a dish-to-pass and table service. This will be at Unity Lodge Hall, 133 Union Street, Spencerport.

Events for 2016

A list of events will be published in the January Issue of the **Masonic Times**. □



Lalla Rookh GROTTO News

George Foehner, Monarch

lallarookhgrotto.com

Legion
Clowns
Caldron
Historian

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



George Foehner
Monarch

586-5255

Cell: 704-6128

georgefoehner@gmail.com

October was the month for the Empire State GROTTO Association 89th Fall Convention in Syracuse. It was hosted by Keder Kahn GROTTO #12 and they did a terrific job. Your

Chief Justice Roy Moses and your Monarch attended Friday and Saturday.

We had a great time with lots of food and drink, but most of all great fellowship with all the GROTTO members from all over the state. If it's fun you're looking for I recommend the Spring meeting April 22nd - 24th, 2016, in Warren PA. More details will be available on the Spring meeting after the 1st of the year.

Happy Holidays to all from Lalla Rookh Grotto.

December Birthdays

Glen Campbell 12/6

Harold Davis 12/20

Gary Richardson 12/28

Looking Ahead

December 7th - Board of Governors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

in GROTTO Office.

December 16th - Regular Meeting, Election and Move-up Night. Social: 5:30 p.m.; Dinner: 6:30 p.m.; Meeting at 7:30 p.m. □

Daughters of Mokanna



Hilde DiJames
Mighty Chosen One

By Beverly Murray, Rodeval

It's the start of another year, with Hilde DiJames as our Mighty Chosen One. Our MCO has heard that some members would like to see the Caldron do more to help those in need in our

community or elsewhere; and do more than just have meetings.

Since we are under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Caldron, we must have 10 Stated Meetings a year. We can use some of our Executive Council Meetings for special programs for you, the Daughters. An Open Meeting is being planned to try to build our membership; but we also need YOUR support to do this.

The rules and regulations have changed a lot since the times when we held our meetings Downtown where we were able to get some community exposure with our Annual Smorgasbord for the general public and Cast Members of the theater productions. The money raised was used to purchase Enchanted Lanterns, which actually paid

for Dentistry for children with Special Needs, Cleft Palate, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and Mental Retardation. With the Health Department Laws changing, it is very hard to try to have dinners for the Public.

The Caldron used to have a Dollar-a-Month Program where you could buy an Enchanted Lantern with a donation of your choice until you reached \$50. In an effort to increase our purchase of Lanterns, we could start up this Program again for individual accounts for anyone wishing to purchase an Enchanted Lantern. Once your account has reached \$50, an Enchanted Lantern will be purchased.

Look to your next **Masonic Times** for more information. □

Fidelity Triangle No. 4 The Organization of Triangles, Inc.

By Kristina Brandt



The members of Fidelity Triangle had a blast at their first-ever Biennial Convention for the Organization of Triangles, which was held Columbus Day Weekend at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa. Beloved Queen Kalli Herouvis and Senior Lady Hannah Sheffer participated in contests, ice-breakers and a Patriotic Degree that was performed in front of the entire organization. They did a wonderful job and even took home a few awards.

With the Holiday Season upon us, our members and Supervisors will be working with members of our Masonic Family and will be starting a few projects of their own.

On **December 1st**, Fidelity will be at Northfield Lodge's Candlelight Night in Pittsford. Be sure to stop by!

Then on **December 12th**, the Triangle will be helping with the All-Masonic Children's Holiday Party at the Shrine Center in Webster. It's sure to be a great event.

When the New Year starts, Fidelity Triangle will be hosting their first prospect event of 2016 during their **January 9th** meeting. While membership is open to young ladies between

the ages of 10 and 21, anyone who is interested in learning more about Triangle is welcome to attend this public event.

If you're interested in attending any of our events, or know of a young lady who would be interested in joining, please contact Junior Deputy, Mrs. Jeanine Parks, at:

j9parks@aol.com.

You can also stay updated with Fidelity Triangle's Term Plans by visiting our website at: fidelitytriangle.weebly.com. □

PHOTOS: (Top left) Hannah Scheffer, Senior Lady-in-Waiting, and Kalli Herouvis, Beloved Queen. (Top right) At State meeting. (Right) 2nd Place Award for Dr. Seuss themed "Grinch" hat. (Below) Pizza Party. (Lower right) Performing Flag Degree with the Erie-Monroe and Erie-Chautauqua Districts.



From the Secretary's Desk

By Ill. : Jack VanElzakker, 33°

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Scholarships Available

AASR Scholarships are available now as described on the following website:

www.nyscottishritemasons.org

On this website, there is one Application Form to be used for **both** Scholarships. Please discard all old Applications. Applications submitted on previously issued forms will be returned to the Valley submitting them.

High School seniors enrolled or planning to enroll with an accredited college or university can apply.

Abbott Scholarship

Eligibility criteria for applying are listed as follows:

- A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.
- For a **child** of a Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, who is a high school senior or currently enrolled at an accredited college or university, who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
- A member of DeMolay, Rainbow, Triangle, Constellation of Junior Stars or Jobs Daughters in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who is a high school senior or currently enrolled at an accredited college or university, who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.

Applications for Valley of Rochester should be mailed to:

Valley of Rochester, AASR
Attn: Scholarship Chairman
811 Ayrault Road, Ste. 3
Fairport, NY 14450-8964

Scottish Rite Ambassador Program

By Bruce Katz, Valley Ambassador Chairman

A "Valley Ambassador" is an appointed Brother with certain tasks, but EVERYONE can be an Ambassador for the Valley and the Scottish Rite. Come to Valley events, invite Brothers from your Lodge to attend public Valley events, and offer them a Petition for the Valley Degrees. The Scottish Rite offers the opportunity for further Light and an expanded circle of Masonic friends throughout a wider region.

An Ambassador Handbook has been prepared and is presently under review. This explains the role of Valley Ambassadors and Valley District Ambassadors. The Valley District Ambassadors are in the process of making preliminary contacts within their respective Districts. A new Ambassador

webpage is being planned, which hopefully will be "live" on the Valley website by the time you read this.

Mark Your Calendar

Please consider attending the Symbolic Lodge Awards on **January 9th** (see elsewhere in **Masonic Times** for details). Invite a Brother (whether or not he is presently a Scottish Rite Freemason) to ride with you. It is always a treat to hear R. : W. : Jeffery Williams speak, and always a pleasure to gather with Brothers from across our Valley. Information about the Ambassador Program will be on display before and after this recognition event.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding the Valley Ambassador Program. ☐

New York State Council of Deliberation Scholarships (NYS COD)

Eligibility criteria for applying are listed as follows:

- A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction
- For a **grandchild** of a Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, who is a high school senior or currently enrolled at an accredited college or university, who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- A member of DeMolay, Rainbow, Triangle, Constellation of Junior Stars or Jobs Daughters in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who is a high school senior or currently enrolled at an accredited college or university, who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.

IMPORTANT!

Be certain to follow the guidelines on the applications and adhere to all deadlines. We do not want to see qualified candidates' applications rejected due to clerical errors or incomplete documentation.

Applications should be mailed to the Valley to which the sponsoring father or grandfather belongs and must be **received at that Office by April 1, 2016.**

Valley of Rochester Fall /Winter – 2015/2016

DECEMBER

December 5th - Fall Reunion at Shrine Center
 Presentation of 4°, 22° and 24° Videos;
 plus 27° and 32°

Coffee & Donuts - 8 a.m. ~ Orientation - 8:30 a.m.
Degrees - 9:30 a.m. ~ Lunch ()**

December 12th - All-Masonic Children's Holiday Party
at Shrine Center
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For ALL Masonic kids, grandkids and their friends (Age 10 and Under)
Adults welcome to observe - Bring a wrapped gift with full name attached for each child.
Visit Santa and enjoy the fun and games with his helpers.

JANUARY

January 9th - Symbolic Lodge Awards at Shrine Center
Social - 4 p.m. ~ Program - 5 p.m.
Pizza & Wings following Program
Lodge participation encouraged to support their Nominee
Speaker - R. : W. : Jeff Williamson, Deputy Grand Master

January 21st - Meeting and Program at Shrine Center
Social - 5:30 p.m. ~ Dinner - 6:30 p.m. ()**
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Program - Phil Hurwitz presents PowerPoint Program on President, M. : W. : and Ill. : Harry S. Truman, 33°
Menu: Salad, Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Corn, Cheesecake

FEBRUARY

February 13th - Valley Sweetheart Event
Red Fedele's Brook House, 920 Elmridge Center Drive
Social - 5:30 p.m. ~ Buffet Dinner - 6:30 p.m. ()**

\$25 per person/\$40 per couple
Evening of surprise and amazement by
Master Magician Brian Geer
Your check mailed to the Office is your reservation.

February 18th - Meeting and Program at Shrine Center
Social - 5:30 p.m. ~ Dinner - 6:30 p.m. ()**
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Menu: Lasagna, Meatballs, Minestrone Soup & Italian Cookies
Program - Brother Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and "The Magic Flute"

MARCH

March 17th - Meeting and Program at Shrine Center
Social - 5:30 p.m. ~ Dinner - 6:30 p.m. ()**
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Menu: Irish Stew with Biscuits, Salad and Ice Cream
Program - Lodge Room Surprise Skit – "You Can't Do It"

**** Reservations Required! Don't be Late!**

Due by Noon on Mondays (585) 425-0033

or Email: secretary@valleyofrochester.org

Go to Valley Calendar for more details:

www.valleyofrochester.org

Our permanent meal reservation list is available for your monthly meeting convenience. Just ask!

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Most Wise Master, Stephan Michener, 32°, visited Distinguished Brother Donald Fox, 32° MSA, and took this picture the week before he was called home by the Grand Architect of the Universe on November 11th. Worshipful Brother Don was a member of Unity Lodge and Northfield Lodge, as well as the Valley of Rochester, AASR, and Damascus Shriners. Always ready to fill in at any Chair, he was a Ritualist Extraordinaire. His delivery of the Prologue for the 18th Degree was always heart-felt and compelling. He will be missed.

U O O F F H S H R I T E M A S O N S

Lodge of Perfection
 Council of Princes of Jerusalem

Chapter Rose Croix
 Consistory



Rochester Lodge of Perfection

By Neal Bedford, 32°
Thrice Potent Master

The Office recently received an email from Ill.: David Spencer, Deputy for New York, concerning a Lodge of Perfection Reunion to be held in the Valley of Boston. All State Deputies involved have agreed that any Valley interested in participating is free to do so.

Valley of Boston Reunion

I contacted David Elser, TPM, of Boston Lafayette Lodge of Perfection last month to find out the particulars on the Reunion. He informed me that the Reunion will be held in the Valley of Boston on **April 8th and 9th**. All ten Degrees – 4° through 14° – will be presented at the Reunion Weekend. He stated he still needs to find a Valley willing to present the 5° and 13°.

I informed him that the Valley of Rochester would be interested in doing one of the Degrees.

Chance to visit Boston - April 8-9, 2016

I presented this information at the November Executive Committee Meeting on November 3rd.

Valley of Rochester Participation

It was agreed that the Valley of Rochester would present the 5° Perfect Master. There are 9 speaking parts and 10-15 non-speaking parts in the Degree.

Ill.: Joe Bourcy has agreed to be the Director. This is a big commitment for our Valley. We will be presenting the Degree in front of many Valleys in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and it needs to be as perfect as humanly possible. Please Contact Ill.: Joe Bourcy if you are interested in a speaking or non-speaking part in the Degree. This is a big commitment on your part. Remember, you will be representing the Valley of Rochester to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Dave Elsner, TPM, Boston told me that all the plans for the weekend will be firmed up by the end of December. What I know now is the Valley of Rochester will be providing bus transportation to the Reunion for any member of the Valley and his

Lady. We have to take all our costumes for the Degree and will need help from Brothers for behind-the-scenes preparations.

The Valley of Boston will be subsidizing the cost of rooms for Friday and Saturday nights. The Degrees will start on **Friday, April 8th**, at 5:00 p.m. when three or four Degrees will be presented.

We will be presenting the 5th Degree on Friday night and the remaining Degrees will be presented on **Saturday, April 9th**. The Degrees will be tentatively done by 4 p.m. on Saturday.

There will be events for the Ladies on Saturday while we are conferring the Degrees. Dave said there will be libation after the Degrees and a banquet on Saturday night at the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Dave does not have the cost for the rooms and banquet finalized yet.

I will distribute the finalized information as soon as I receive it. Any questions of concerns feel free to contact me at:

nbedford67@gmail.com

or on my cell phone at (585) 202-4571. ☐

October CAPS Presentation Night



York Rite NEWS

Hiram Chapter No. 62



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

R.: E.: John Zabel, High Priest
H) 223-3228
zabelj@mindspring.com

R.: E.: Charles M. Roberts, Secretary
225-6533
cholyone@rochester.rr.com

17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

What's Happening

The Chapter has decided that we will work on conferring the remaining two Degrees on our Candidates after the first of the year. Therefore, we will be working to build casts for the Degrees and will probably look for assistance from the Chapters in our District.

We were able to hold our second meeting in October - even with the arson fire at Pittsford Masonic Hall. The fire did not do much inside damage, but the front door was not usable due to the jamb being damaged during the fighting of the fire. The Brothers of Northfield Lodge are having our Chapter Banner cleaned due to the smoke from the fire. The banner was not damaged, but may have had a smoky odor. Our Aprons were not damaged as they were in their case, which kept them from the smoke.

It was interesting having odor-removing equipment running in the Hall on our meeting night. The equipment had done a great job of removing any smoky smell in the building. We wish Northfield Lodge our best as they clean up the smoke damage to their building. We know that the front door is now usable again, thank goodness.

Our December meeting will be for the Election of Officers for the coming year. Our Nomination Committee, appointed at our November meeting, will make their report on the Nominees. We will also be looking for Companions to volunteer for the appointed positions. We need a good Line as we build the Chapter to the level of excellence that it should be achieving.

As of this writing, we are expecting R.:E.: Larry Bernard, Grand Master of the First Veil, Grand Chapter of New York RAM, to have made his presentation at our November meeting. This is a District wide meeting so we should have a good number of Companions from other

Chapters present. The Grand Line Officers visit an assigned set of Districts during their time in office. If they continue in the progressive Grand Chapter line, they will have visited all the Districts in the State by the time they are Grand High Priest.

Musings

As mentioned in previous articles, there is much that can be learned from our Degrees that we usually miss during the conferral of the Degree. For example, in the Mark Master Mason Degree, there is a section of the payment of the workman at the end of the day. The lesson we witness is about being content with the wages agreed upon and the ability of the person paying the wages to determine what he will pay. Both parties agree to the work and the payment. Well that is part of the lesson, anyhow.

Now we look at what the workers are paid. Their pay is a penny per the Ritual. We, modern masons, would consider the penny to be the current one cent piece. This is not accurate as the U.S. one-cent coin has never been officially called a penny.

The penny name comes from the English coinage system where the next to lowest value was the penny during the centuries of the English duo-decimal system of coinage, Pounds, Shillings and Pence.

Now what does the name penny describe? Well, the word penny is the Anglo-Saxon word for the Roman denarius. The denarius was developed by the Romans centuries before the Common Era started. It was the lowest denomination silver coin of the Roman coinage system and originally designated a day's wage for a soldier. It could also have been used as the day's pay for a common workman at the time. In value, it was equivalent to today's common daily wage for a tradesman.

After the Romans left the British Isles, some of their customs and coinage were retained, notably the denarius or penny. The early English penny was silver and had a value equivalent to the early denarius of Rome. Over the centuries, with inflation, the value of the penny was gradually reduced to its current value as the smallest coin of the current English coinage system.

I have explained all of this to emphasize that in the Mark Master Mason Degree, with the Biblical lesson of the vineyard owner and his workers and what he paid them, so you better un-

derstand the meaning of the pay in the Ritual, but that it was significant at the time of the Biblical story and at the building of King Solomon's Temple when the workmen were paid in money.

Does our Ritual explain any of the above? No, but it leaves the Companion with the need to look further at the images and symbols presented in our Ritual. This is true not only of the York Rite Rituals, but Lodge Degrees and other Concordant Body Rituals. □

Doric Council
No. 19 Cryptic Masons

(Chartered 1861)
3rd Wednesday



Illustrious Master
III.: Donald Kunego

John A. Dudley, Recorder
586-6426
jdudley1@rochester.rr.com

17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

Wow, what a way to start the Fall Season. On October 17th, around 7:00 p.m., the Pittsford Fire Department and Sheriff's Deputies reported to our Temple in the Village of Pittsford for a fire started by an arsonist. Upon arrival, the Officers found an open gas can and a number of broken bottles at a fire-scorched front door of the Temple. A suspect was taken into custody and charged by the Sheriff's Office with 1st Degree Arson, a Felony, for using an incendiary device (Molotov cocktail) to start the fire. We were truly blessed that the "Little School House" built in 1842, that became Northfield Masonic Lodge Hall in 1892, only suffered minimal fire and smoke damage.

Before our October meeting several members of the Council gathered for dinner with our DDGM, R.:I.: Dennis Palmerter, and AGL, R.:I.: Norman Austin. The Council's records were reviewed and received very positively by DDGM Parmerter. Also, we were honored to have the Deputy Grand Master, R.:I.: Garry Hutchurson, present. He was escorted to the East and given Grand Honors. AGL Austin addressed the Council and gave updates on programs for the ensuing year. DDGM Parmerter presented a great program, a briefing of upcoming events and delivered the Grand Master's Message. A special Thank You for all the hard work and dedication of the Elected and Appointed Line

and Companions who made the night a great success.

Don't forget to visit the Grand Council's Website and take advantage of the Education and Information Section.

Coming Events

As Doric Council meets once a month, please make every effort to attend as many meetings as your Cabletow allows.

Please inform our Recorder, John Dudley, or myself, if you plan to attend dinner at the Coal Tower Restaurant. We gather at 6:00 p.m.

May God bless our Servicemen and Women in harm's way, protecting our great Country and May God Bless America. See you in the quarries! □

Cyrene-Monroe
Commandery No. 12

Chartered 1993
Commander
SK Benedetto Vitullo
259-5164
bbvusa@rochester.rr.com

Recorder-259-3796
SK Charles M. Roberts
cholyone@rochester.rr.com

3rd Monday
17 Church Street, Pittsford 14534

On November 5th, a School of Ritual was held at the DeMolay Commandery No. 22 in South Danville. In attendance, were Knights from DeMolay Commandery No. 22 and Cyrene-Monroe Commandery No. 12. Instruction was given by SK David Hardy, our new Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York.

SK David Hardy reviewed the finer points needed to perform a correct opening and instructing us on the new Directives from the Grand Commandery. Also present was Past Grand Commander, SK David Lathers, who added some of the finer points to the Opening Ceremony.

On November 7th, during a Pilgrimage in Palmyra, 12 new Sir Knights were initiated through the last three Degrees of the York Rite ... namely, Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta and Order of the Temple.

Mark Your Calendar

The Christmas Toasts, in which all Sir Knights are invited with their Ladies, will occur on **December 19th** at Sagoyewatha and on **December 21st** at Cyrene-Monroe. All Masons and their Ladies are also invited.

The History of the Knights Templar in Portugal: Part 3

Prince Henry was succeeded in the governorship of the Order by Prince Ferdinand, son of King Edward I.

In 1484, Emanuel, Duke of Beja, became the 11th Governor of the Order. Due to the fact that the discipline of the Order was declining, Pope Alexander VI commuted the vow of celibacy to that of conjugal chastity in 1492.

In 1496, the Brethren were dispensed from celibacy and in 1505, from poverty, but they still continued their responsions (one third of their revenues) to the Order's treasury ... under the condition that they should apply the third part of their revenues to the building and support of the Tomar Cloister and that the priests of which he bound to the whole of the three vows. Also in 1501, Pope Julius II mitigated the vow of poverty into the payment of a tax-the meia-anata; for the Order of Christ this tax was three-quarters of their annual revenues.

Grand Master

Manuel I of Portugal sought and obtained the title of Grand Master by Pope Leo X's Bull "Constante fide" (June 30, 1516). King Manuel, Joao's successor, sent Vasco da Gama (a member of the Order of Christ) to sail around the African Cape to India. He set sail in 1497 and reached Calicut. By the end of King Manuel's reign, the order possessed 454 commanderies in Portugal, Africa and the Indies.

Manuel also made extensive additions to the Order's headquarters in Tomar. Manuel ordered that the church of Tomar be expanded westwards, spreading beyond the castle limits and opening up the Charola to add on to it a magnificent nave which housed the choir and the sacristy, becoming known as the chapter house. The order also began its step-by-step transformation from monastic to secular during Manuel's reign. At the end of this process, the order had taken the form of a royal institution.

The son of Manuel did not automatically obtain the succession right for ruling the order, and got an approval by Bull of Pope Adrian VI : "EXIMIAE DEVOTIONIS" (April 14, 1523). After thirty years, John III obtained "Perpetual Administration" of all the Portuguese Military Orders including the Order of Christ, and of course the Grand Mastership of the Order passed to the Crown by Pope Julius III's issued in Rome in 1551. For the government of these orders in the king's name, John III instituted a special council named "mesa das Ordens." □

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Big Calendar for December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Clio, Hilton Garoga-Sincerity, Phelps Nunda Station OES - Fairport, Nolatka & Starlight Shrine Clowns Meeting, <i>Shrine Center</i>	2 Drumlin Square, Palmyra Olive Branch, Le Roy Damascus Shrine OES - Lilac Star	3 Northfield, Pittsford Webster Eunice, Caledonia	4 Webster Lodge Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. \$9 adult; \$5 Child	5 Scottish Rite Reunion, <i>Shrine Center</i> Olive Branch - Annual Winter Festival
6 Hanukkah Begins OES District Christmas Party, <i>Spencerport Masonic Hall</i>	7 Canandaigua, <i>Shortsville</i> KT - Cyrene/Monroe, <i>Pittsford</i> - Open Meeting Masonic War Veterans, <i>Webster Masonic Hall</i> Grotto - Board of Govs, <i>Shrine Center</i> OES - Etoleah Chapter Shrine Lunch Club Damascus Shrine Divan	8 Inspiration - <i>Shrine Center</i> Seneca, Webster OES - Mary Jane Holmes, Brockport	9 Oatka, Scottsville Damascus Legion of Honor, <i>Shrine Center</i> Masonic Service Bureau Board Meeting, <i>Shrine Center</i>	10 Fame - <i>Shrine Center</i> Milnor, Shortsville Union, Lima Webster - Fellowcraft RAM - Hiram Chapter Perry Shrine Club Lalla Rookh Caldron	11	12 Sagoyewatha - Phelps Daughters of the Nile - Webster All-Masonic Children's Holiday Party, <i>Shrine Center</i>
13	14 Hanukkah Ends ERAC - <i>Shrine Center</i> , 1° Fairport-Flower City, 1° Union Star, Honeoye Falls Unity, Spencerport, 2° Wakan-Hubbard, Penfield Shrine Lunch Club	15 Clio, Hilton Garoga-Sincerity, Phelps, OY Nunda Station Canandaigua Shrine Club OES - Nolatka, Starlight	16 Ark, Phelps Drumlin Square, Palmyra Olive Branch, Le Roy Masonic War Veterans Birthday Party, Canandaigua RSM-Doric Council, Pittsford Lalla Rookh Grotto, <i>Shrine Center</i> Perry Shrine Club Damascus Directors Staff	17 Webster, 1° Northfield, <i>Pittsford</i> Union, Lima Lalla Rookh Caldron Executive Council	18 Shrine Directors Staff Holiday Party, <i>Palmyra</i>	19 Shriners Holiday Party, Geneva Garoga-Sincerity Pork Dinner, <i>Phelps</i>
20 Tall Cedars Winter Social	21 Canandaigua, <i>Shortsville</i> Cyrene/Monroe, Pittsford Fairport-Flower City Unity Lodge Christmas Party, <i>Spencerport</i> Shrine Lunch Club Auburn Shrine Club Valley of Corning, Lodge of Perfection Christmas Party	22 First Day of Winter Inspiration - <i>Shrine Center</i>	23 Oatka, Scottsville	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Euchre Tournament, <i>Shrine Center</i>
27	28 ERAC - <i>Shrine Center</i> Fairport-Flower City Wakan-Hubbard, Penfield Shrine Lunch Club Geneva Lunch Club	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Deadline
 for the
 next issue
 of the
Masonic Times
 is
December 5th!