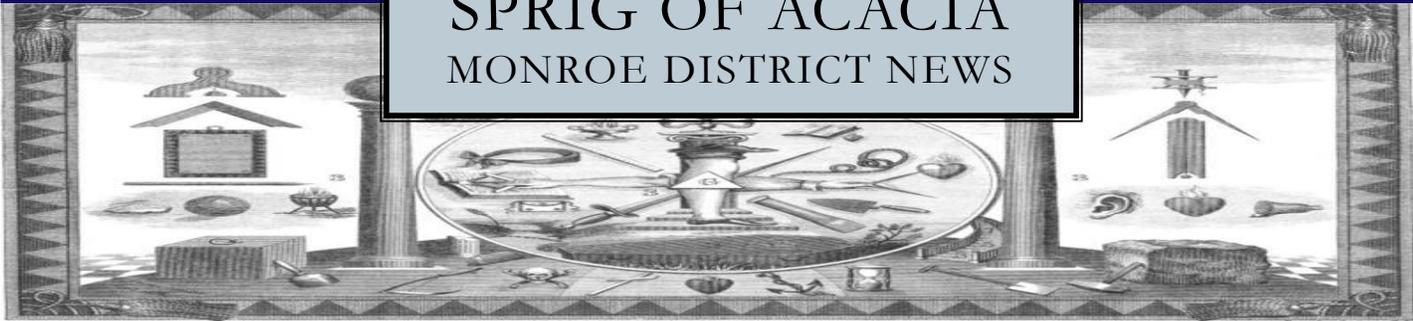


# SPRIG OF ACACIA MONROE DISTRICT NEWS



## DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.:W.: William Edwards



Your District Team has been busy planning the events and activities for the upcoming Masonic Year. We are

continuing to work on our goals **Improved Communication, owning your Masonic Experience and developing and supporting our lodges.** You can read more about these goals in past issues of the Sprig of Acacia.

In November we begin the Official Visitation to the lodges. Per Section 121 of the Grand Lodge

Constitutions, The District Deputy is to officially visit every lodge in his District. In addition to communicating the Grand Master’s Saint John’s Day message to the lodge members, the District Deputy is charged to examine the books and records of the lodge to see that they are properly kept and also ascertain the state and condition of the lodge in all respects. The District Team will also be attending the Official Visits to share information about the Grand Lodge Educational Programs and Ritual Instruction in the Monroe District. Information will also be shared about the Masonic Brotherhood fund.

The dates for the Official Visits are:

### November:

- Webster Lodge No. 538: Thursday, November 3rd, 2022
- Inspiration Lodge No. 109: Tuesday, November 8th, 2022
- Oatka Lodge No. 759: Wednesday, November 9th, 2022
- Fairport-Flower City Lodge No. 476: Monday, November 14th, 2022
- Unity Lodge No. 479: Monday, November 28th, 2022
- Ecclesia Lodge No. 1189 OM: Tuesday, November 29th, 2022

**December:**

- Clio Lodge No. 779: Tuesday, December 6th, 2022
- Union Star Lodge No. 320: Monday, December 12th, 2022

**January:**

- E.R.A.C. Lodge No. 154: Monday, January 9th, 2023
- Seneca Lodge No. 797: Tuesday, January 10th, 2023

**The Monroe District Teams Chairman are:**

- Brotherhood Fund -RW Derek VanHouten derekhouten1@mac.com
- District Newsletter -RW Allyn Borrino ajborrino@gmail.com
- Etiquette and Protocol - RW John Zabel zabelj@mindspring.com
- Have-A-Heart 2023 -VW James MacDuff bricklayer.jsm@gmail.com
- Leadership and Educational Services -RW Allyn Borrino ajborrino@gmail.com
- Membership Development (NorthStar) -W Mike Pettinato mpettina@reslife.rochester.edu
- Public Awareness -W Chris Mahood csm1066@gmail.com
- Public Relations Contact: -Bro. Chris Carosa ccarosa@earthlink.net
- Ritual Club and Degree Team -VW Jim MacDuff bricklayer.jsm@gmail.com
- Youth -W Gary Burke gary\_burke@frontiernet.net

If you have an interest in getting involved with a particular area or need assistance, please reach out to the team leads. They are there to help and willing to attend a lodge meeting to provide a program for the evening.

I have enjoyed having the opportunity to participate in lodge award presentations. These

have included Dedicated Service Awards, recognition of years of service to Masonry, and the Daniel Carter Beard Scouting Award. It is always a special moment to recognize a brother for their contributions. I look forward to seeing you at the Official Visits and also around the district.



# GRAND STEWARD

R. : W. : Allyn J. Borrino



Brothers, welcome to the start of another season of Freemasonry in the Monroe District. I'd like to welcome all new Masters and Officers of lodges as they begin the work of the Craft. As important as our ancient ritual is to the craft, so is imparting Light to the brothers within the Craft. In reviewing lodge Trestleboards I see a lot of interesting programs being planned for the upcoming year, as well as many which have already taken place. The District Leadership Team encourages lodges to engage in "visitations" to other lodges. There are many talented brothers out there, and many interesting programs within the district. Take advantage of these opportunities and visit neighboring lodges.

You will soon hear, at the Official Visit that Grand Lodge is asking that all lodges appoint or assign a Public Relations brother to the lodge. Brother Chris Carosa, who is the Monroe District Public Relations contact, has provided helpful hints that can assist brothers in this role. Brother Carosa's message can be seen in this newsletter issue in later pages.

The upcoming District Educational Series has been scheduled based on the Initiating, Passing and Raising dates noted in lodge Trestleboards and information provided by your lodge. The Masonic Development Course is offered in a series of three courses, each following the Masonic Degrees; Entered Apprentice degree, Fellowcraft degree and the Master Mason degree; each degree providing a different and unique experience to the brother. The Masonic Development Courses answer and explain the experiences of each degree.

The Road To The East course provides some of the information and tools necessary to successfully run a Lodge. This training covers Masonic Law of New York, Grand Lodge structure and operations, Constitutions and more. The training is meant for any and all Masons but primarily for those aspiring to advance to a seat in the East.

The Master's Chair training mirrors much of the RTTE training, delving deeper into the leadership aspect running a lodge. Remember that if you are thinking about a future Grand Lodge appointed position such as DDGM, Staff Officer or AGL the MDC, RTTE and Master's Chair training are required training.

## 2020-2023 Monroe District Educational Offerings

Masonic Development Course – **Entered Apprentice** Saturday, December 17, 2022

Masonic Development Course – **Fellowcraft** Saturday, February 4, 2023

Masonic Development Course – **Master Mason** Saturday, April 29, 2023

The location of these training dates will be announced the closer we get. If your lodge is interested in hosting one of these sessions please let me know and perhaps we can accommodate.

The **Road To The East** training will take place on Monday, February 6, 2023 and Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at Webster Lodge 538 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm, with a light meal. This training is administered in two sessions.

The **Master's Chair** training will take place on Monday, June 19, 2023 and Wednesday, June 21, 2023 also at Webster Lodge 538 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm, with a light meal. This training is administered in two sessions.

Anyone interested in the find out what the responsibilities of a District Grand Lodge Officer are, feel free to reach out to me and I will forward that information to you. Your present District Leadership Team will complete their responsibilities at the end of the 2024 Masonic season.

In closing I look forward to seeing you in your Quarry and sharing in fellowship. Stay safe brothers.

## ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

V :. W :. James MacDuff



Brethren: October is here  
... as is the end of  
summer on the calendar,  
that cool chill of fall is in  
the air ... it's MASONRY  
SEASON!

I'm absolutely positive that there is nothing I could write here, that hasn't already been written in the history of fall newsletters in Masonry everywhere. So I will hit on the basics as we re-acclimate ourselves from the heat and joy of summer:

The Ritual Club is here as a possible resource for YOUR Degree. Seneca has already requested aid, and will get it. BY THE WAY ... interested in helping with Ritual? Let me know. We will add you to the roles!

In Monroe District, we have a fair mix of new Masters and repeat Masters. What can YOU do for them? Organize ritual morning coffees ...

help water your new brothers ... discussion forums talking about the ritual. The Worshipful Master has ultimate responsibility for anything happening under his watch; many hands make for light work ... lend a hand. What came you here to do? Right, that's the point 😊

What do you and your Lodge Brethren want to focus on from a Ritual perspective? Let me know – I will do a focus for your Lodge of an evening on that topic (kind of like a mini-focused SOR just for you).

DETAILS are being finalized too for the MONROE DISTRICT HIRAMIC DRAMA that will take place on a Saturday in March, the exact date to be determined soon, at Union Star Lodge in Honeoye Falls; each Lodge will do their own first Sections first prior to that date.. I will be doing tryouts: You think your version of a specific character is the best? Prove it! This is going to be epic!

LASTLY, REMEMBER that the Monroe District Grand Lodge Convention is Saturday October 22, at Webster Lodge located at 30 Orchard St, in Webster. Lunch will be served at 12pm noon, Convention to start at 1pm, then after, a whiskey tasting with five different whiskeys. Cost is \$20 per person, it can be sent

to me via Venmo at @Jim-MacDuff-1. You can also pay cash or check at the door if you RSVP to me by October 15<sup>th</sup>. A reservation made, is a reservation paid.

To your success - Jim

## BROTHERHOOD FUND

R.:W.:Derek Van Houten

Welcome to the work in the quarries for the Fall Season, we look forward to visiting your lodge's in a timely manner to inform you about the Brotherhood Fund along with how you can participate.

As you should know, each lodge has or should have a Lodge Chairman, if not; your Master can appoint one. This would be a multiyear assignment as it takes a couple of years to get to know your customer base.

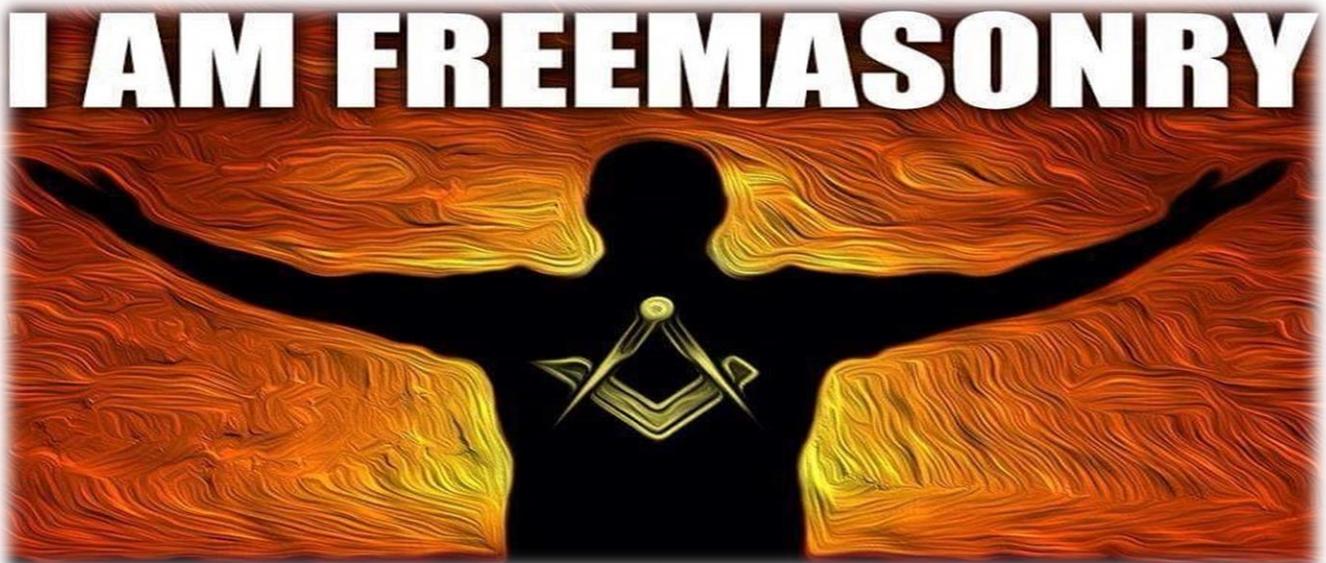
As the Chairmen for your Lodge you can request from your Master a few minutes in your meetings to explain what each of the seven programs has to offer. You have the freedom to develop your own presentation.

I can assist you with basic paperwork needs, forms that need to be filled out related to donations, forms to request additional supplies that might be needed to move forward, etc.

When I visit your lodge, hopefully on your Official Visit, we can answer any questions that you may have regarding this worthwhile program. Always remember that the BHF is a 501C3 charitable organization, and as so all of your annual donations are tax deductible.

I look forward to meeting and greeting each of you in your lodge or out and about this Masonic season.

Fraternally, RW Derek Van Houten



## **Invitation to attend Union Star Lodge No. 320, F&AM “Temple Centennial Celebration” Fundraising Gala**

Please join the members of Union Star Lodge No. 320, F&AM as they celebrate a century in their Temple on North Main Street in Honeoye Falls!

Covid prevented this event from occurring in November of 2020, but these two extra years have given the brothers of this venerable lodge all the more time to plan for the gala event. Patterned after the festive balls, carnivals, and banquets hosted by the lodge in the early 1900s to raise money to purchase and renovate the hotel that would become their new temple, the occasion this November will be fun, memorable, and charitable.

There will be games, music, dancing, and perhaps a view into the mysterious history of the nearly 200-year-old brick building. The event kicks off with the interment of the Union Star 2020 Time Capsule. The evening will be topped off with an old-fashioned Silent Auction to raise money for the local charities Union Star Lodge No. 320, F&AM has long supported.

**Saturday, November 12, 2022**  
**Union Star Masonic Temple, 3 North Main St., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472\***  
**Doors Open at 7:00PM**  
**Internment of Time Capsule: 7:30PM**  
**Silent Auction at 10:00PM**

**Ticket price: \$19.20 (per person)/ \$20.20 (per couple).**

**Dress: Black-Tie (or dark suit)**

**\* The event will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Please note this historic building has no elevators.**

**PLEASE RSVP HERE:**

<https://unionstarmasons.com/2022-centennial-celebration/>

If you'd like to contribute an item or items for the Silent Auction, please contact [jacob.anderson1984@hotmail.com](mailto:jacob.anderson1984@hotmail.com)

Please contact us at [jacob.anderson1984@hotmail.com](mailto:jacob.anderson1984@hotmail.com) with any questions!

In Generational Brotherhood,

Jacob Anderson, Worshipful Master  
Union Star Lodge No. 320, F&AM



## **5 Public Relations Tips for Lodges Without Professional PR Support**

District Public Relations Contact - Bro. Christopher Carosa

1. You can do it! If you ever wrote a letter, an email, or a memo, you have what it takes to produce meaningful public relations for your lodge.
2. Every event is an opportunity to promote your lodge. Which events represent the best opportunity? The ones that best show fellowship. There are two kinds of fellowship. You're probably already aware of the fellowship within the lodge that occurs between members. There is also the fellowship between the lodge and the community it serves.
3. At these events, you'll want to take several pictures for publicity purposes. They should be taken with a high-quality camera or any cell phone that is less than 5 years old. Make sure the photo is done in landscape mode and clearly shows the faces of several individuals (both lodge members and, depending on the nature of the event, community members). If possible, try to have a banner or something similar in the background identifying the lodge specifically or Masons in general.
4. You already know what your 10th grade English teacher taught you about including the who, what, where, why, when, and how in the write-up describing the event. Here's what your teacher didn't teach you that will make the difference between an article that's simply scanned and one that is read with interest: show the reader how he benefits from the event (yes, even if he didn't attend). For example, if your lodge holds a public fundraiser for a local charity, your headline might be: "Local Masons Make Your Life Better With Charity Work." Do you see the key word in that headline. It's the word "Your." Any form of the word "you" grabs the attention of the reader.
5. Believe it or not, it's easy to get your story in your community newspaper (assuming you're lucky enough to still have one). They're always looking for local stories and it's easier for them to receive stories from the community than to assign what few reporters they have to cover stories. That doesn't mean you shouldn't use other media platforms. In terms of priority, though (i.e., to give you the best chance to reach you local audience), here's the order you should focus on: 1) Community Newspaper; 2) Local TV News; 3) Metro Newspaper; 4) Local Radio; 5) National Newspaper; 6) National TV; 7) National Radio; 8) Social Media (Facebook, YouTube, etc...); 9) Lodge Website. Don't let the order mislead you. You should always put your story on your website and social media. The drawback of these platforms is that they are not distributed (unless you pay for it). For example, you are guaranteed to reach every newspaper subscriber, every TV viewer, and every Radio listener, but Facebook's algorithm does not send your post to every person who likes your page (they want you to buy ads to do that) and there is no distribution at all for your website.

## Fidelity Triangle #4, OOTNY Masonic Youth Organization for Girls meeting in Hilton, NY



On September 10, Fidelity Triangle initiated yet another new member. Welcome to Mia, who has been eager to join our ranks since we broke for the summer? The group now has enough active members for a quorum, and we are thrilled that we can finally begin to perform more ritual and degrees on our own and have even more of a presence at Masonic functions. We continue to encourage anyone with daughters, granddaughters, nieces, or family friends to keep us in mind if they need a place to work on leadership skills or areas of self-improvement, to make lifelong friends while participating in social activities, and engaging in charity or community/civic events.

Even though the youth of today have plenty on their plates already, the pandemic has shown us that we have been able to accommodate a wide range of situations. We have incorporated zoom meetings, workshops, and socials into our calendars, adjusted our schedules according to who can attend, and generally found ways to make things work the best we can. At its core though, Triangle is member driven: the Beloved Queen sets forth the term plans and activities that she and the members wish to pursue, and the advisors and other adult supporters aim to help them make it happen.

This term is winding down and Fidelity Triangle #4 is eagerly looking forward to the next one. We invite all the members of Monroe District to join us for our next Public Installation of Officers on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 7pm at CLIO Lodge. Beloved Queen Eliza has several donations to present from funds raised during the term and the members will be assuming new positions. We are hoping this will be the first “normal” Installation or public meeting since the pandemic and would love to celebrate and perform the ritual work in front of a larger audience. Please save the date!

### Upcoming Events

October 22, 7pm – Installation of Officers

November 5, 7pm – Tentative Social Event or Zoom

November 19, 6pm – Thanksgiving Potluck

December 11, 7pm – Holiday Party & Annual Reading of How the Grinch Stole Christmas

*Please contact our Jr. Deputy for information about any of our events or Triangle in general.*

**Miss Eliza Burley, Beloved Queen**

<http://fidelitytriangle.weebly.com>

**Ms. Erika Hansen, Jr. Deputy**

[nycmshansen@gmail.com](mailto:nycmshansen@gmail.com) or 585-435-2157



# Pride in the Craft

# Pride in the District

## QUOTES

“I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man”

Brother George Washington  
United States President and Freemason