

SPRIG OF ACACIA

MONROE DISTRICT NEWS

Greetings Brethren, the Masonic Season is half complete and the district lodges have been moving right along conducting the business of the Freemasons of New York State and beyond. Official Visits have completed and you have been conducting degrees successfully within your lodges. There are many activities happening within the district, from fund raisers to Have-a-Heart, from Gala celebrations, to the

Grand Lecturer's Convention, with lodges improving the Masonic experiences within their lodges. Masonry is alive and well in the Monroe District. As we continue to move forward through the year, continue to make certain that you keep the bar raised high as it relates to the Masonic experiences you provide for you members. Give the brothers what they crave and need; Light in Masonry, with interesting and thought provoking lectures and programs.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R. W. William Edwards

DISTRICT GOALS



We are well into the winter months and your Monroe District Team is hard at work on our three goals we set for the district back in 2020. The first is **improved communication**. By reading this newsletter, you are helping us achieve the goal of sharing information. We are also asking Brothers to sign up for Our Lodge

Page as that is our primary means of communicating news and events in the District.

Brother Chris Carosa is leading up the Public Communications efforts for the District. If you or your lodge needs any assistance with sharing what is happening in Masonry with the public, please reach out to Brother Chris at: ccarosa@earthlink.net

A principal tenet of Masonry is Brotherly Love and one of our goals is to encourage Brothers to visit each other's lodges and **Celebrate our**

Brotherhood. Lodges are assisting or attending each other's degrees or programs. The Traveling Gavel is in play. Ask around the district for who currently has the traveling gavel and go take ownership. It is a fun and friendly competition to get out and visit the other lodges.

The final goal we have is to encourage **OWNING** your Masonic experience. Some folks love golf and while others love fishing or have a passion for attending sporting events. We challenge you to come to Masonry with that same passion. Whether you are the Entered Apprentice in the North East Corner or the seasoned Past Master, everyone can find their thing in Masonry and **OWN IT!**



OFFICIAL VISITS

The District Team has completed the Official Visits for 2022. Thank you to all the lodges for their hospitality. As District Deputy I have responsibility for sharing the Grand Masters yearly message and also reviewing the lodge books and records. Every lodge successfully completed this review. The focus is not on passing or failing, rather it is on having a conversation about what is going well as well as best practices to consider as opportunities for improvement. Some areas I encourage all lodges to consider is:

- Review the Lodge Insurance to make sure that you have the desired liability and property coverage. If your lodge has investments, it is also wise to consider Director and Officer insurance to protect the lodge from loss of funds do to being incorrectly managed.
- The lodge should complete an audit of all financial records for the Treasurer and Trustees annually. This could occur as part of the annual meeting, which many lodges are already doing. The Wardens should consider serving on the audit committee so that they an understanding of the lodge finances for their time in the East.
- Lodge financial accounts have signature cards on file with the bank or investment firm. I am encouraging each lodge to review the signature cards so that they have the approved authorized members listed. I am aware of some instances were either a deceased member or an individual who is no longer a member of the lodge is listed. That individual would still have access to any lodge funds in the account.
- Many of us have lodge items at home such as treasurer records or secretary files. Unfortunately, unplanned emergencies do happen and I encourage members who do have Masonic items at home, to share details of where they are located with a spouse, family member or a brother. In the unfortunate event that something tragic did occur, this would a smooth transition of lodge records.



d Master's Challenge Coin

Grand Master Kessler has released a challenge coin to raise funds for the **Battle Within Foundation/PTSD** research. The price of the coin is a \$20 donation. I have a limited supply available – so let me know if you would like one at billeds585@gmail.com.



2024 – 2026

District Leadership Team

Do you have an interest in learning more about the different District Leadership Positions? Now is the time to contact one of us about your interest. I expect the application process will occur in the late summer and fall of 2023. This will give you time to learn what a District Deputy, Staff Officer or Assistance Grand Lecturer does and also complete the required training. Applicants will need to have completed the MDC, Road to the East, and Masters Chair training in order to qualify for a Grand Lodge or District position. Please reach out to one of us with questions or interest.

Maxwell Leadership Training

The Maxwell Leadership Program is an intensive and holistic approach to leadership



using tried and true methods develop internationally respected American Pastor, motivational speaker, leadership expert, coach and author, having sold in excess of 25-Million books on the subject.

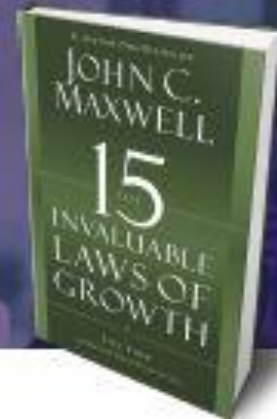
In his own words, Dr. Maxwell has said "Leadership is NOT about Titles, Positions or Flowcharts. It is about one Life influencing Another."

The Grand Lodge of New York has entered into a partnership with the John Maxwell Group. With the support of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home, the initial group of Brothers from across the jurisdiction has completed the Maxwell Leadership Certification program. This will allow Grand Lodge to adopt a "Train the Trainer" approach. In the coming months the Grand Lodge Leadership and Educational Services (L&ES) team will be rolling out the first training around John Maxwell's book, Everyone Communicates Few Connect. In the Monroe District, we will be piloting training sessions around Maxwell's book, The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth. The training will commence in March and is limited to 20 participants. Contact Bill Edwards at billeds585@gmail.com by February 28th, 2023 to sign up on a first come bases. You will be the first district in the jurisdiction to have access to this incredible opportunity at no cost to you. **OWN IT!**

using tried and true methods developed successfully by Dr. John C. Maxwell, an

GROWTH HABITS FROM 15 INVALUABLE LAWS OF GROWTH

MAXWELL
LEADERSHIP



ACCIDENTAL GROWTH

- Plans to start tomorrow
- Waits for growth to come
- Learns only from mistakes
- Depends on good luck
- Quits early and often
- Falls into bad habits
- Talks big
- Plays it safe
- Thinks like a victim
- Relies on talent
- Stops learning after graduation

INTENTIONAL GROWTH

- Insists on starting today
- Takes complete responsibility to grow.
- Often learns before mistakes
- Relies on hard work
- Perseveres long and hard
- Fights for good habits
- Follows through
- Takes risks
- Thinks like a learner
- Relies on character
- Never stops growing

GRAND STEWARD

R.: W.: Allyn J. Borrino



Brothers, with the Official Visits complete your District Leadership has been moving forward with the business of the District.

On the educational front, several of the lodge's new brothers have participated, and completed the January 14th. Masonic Development Course for Entered Apprentice. These brothers, as well as any brother interested, will hopefully participate in the Fellowcraft Masonic Development Course to follow after their completion of the second degree. The date for Fellowcraft course will depend primarily on the scheduling of this degree by the lodges. That training date will be shared with your lodge Master and Secretary, after which the MDC for Master Mason will be scheduled and announced.



Regarding future MDC training, the Grand Lodge

Leadership & Education committee is launching a new online platform called HIRAM Online. This online resource is currently being populated with the Masonic Development Course for all three degrees. Which means that, besides offering the MDC courses in person, we will also be able to hold course classes online. For some this may end up being more convenient than the in person presentation style we are all accustomed to. As this platform develops we will keep the lodges informed of upcoming scheduled offerings of the MDC program. In the future, additional course material will become available, as will

resources that will provide Grand Lodge data and resources.

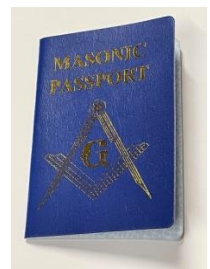
The **Road to the East** program is taking place on two separate evenings beginning on Monday, February 6, 2023 at Webster Lodge, followed by part II on Wednesday evening, February 15, same location. While this training is strongly suggested for Wardens prior to ascending to the East, I would encourage Deacons, especially the Senior Deacon, to attend the Road to the East training. Remember that all members are welcome to attend this training, not only if you hope to sit in the East one day, but to have a better knowledge of the workings of your lodge, responsibilities of the Master, learn leadership skills and a host of additional interesting information and Masonic topics relevant to lodge operations.

At this time the RTTE course participants are registered for the start of the course. If this publication is out prior to the February 6 start date, and you are interested, please let me know ASAP so I can get you in the course.

District Communications

It has been encouraging to see lodges visiting other lodges, assisting in lodge degrees and attending some of the events being sponsored by other lodges. Let's remember that we are "one" fraternity of likeminded men, and we are only divided into different lodges due to geographic separation from one another, but we are still one body, one District.

Remember that we are also encouraging Brothers to get their Masonic Passports at the

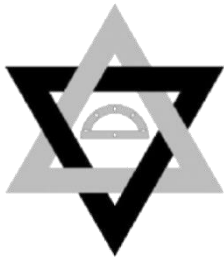


Service Bureau. Use them while visiting other lodges, not only throughout the area, but throughout the U.S. and the world. As a

“Traveling Man” you will be able to keep a permanent record of your travels.

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER

V ∴ W ∴ James MacDuff



Very recently, I took part in the Fellowcraft Degree.

Of course, all three Degrees have their own messaging, and their own beauties. I think,

however, the Fellowcraft might be my favorite of the three.

The Entered Apprentice Degree teaches you the importance of your journey's start, your responsibility to not only to safeguarding your secrets ... but taking a SELF responsibility: ...so that you may improve in Masonic knowledge, you will converse with well-informed Brethren, who will be just as ready to give, as you will be to receive, instruction,. The Third Degree expands on the responsibilities of the Second...and the Fellowcraft Degree itself starts teaching you on *how to behave*. For those of us in Lodge that have gone that way before, we're teachers. Mentors.

Mentoring could be construed as just another 21st Century adjective for teaching – and I don't think it is incorrect, however, for me, when I say that word, or say it to someone else, it seems to have more emphasis somehow. There's an *emotion* behind it.

The Fellowcraft Degree *teaches*, and we...“big” Brothers if you will ...we find ourselves taking on that mentor role, whether we were seeking it or not. I will argue though, that if you are an Officer in your Lodge's line, you have signed on for that mentor role. It is very real ... it is an awesome responsibility.

So what's the point?

It is important to note that, the Ritual teaches us that the Lodge is always bigger than the individual Brother. We must teach and pass on what we have learned for EVERY Degree to those walking in the inner door behind us. We MUST put that proverbial hand around the shoulder ... We MUST pass on what we've learned. There will come a time too, when we must remind our own mentors of the teachings and values that they have passed on to using the course of our journeys; at everyone's point in their journey, the learner becomes the master, and these teachings come full circle, and rightly so.

What came you here to do? Be well my Brothers.

Brotherhood Fund- R.: W.: Derek VanHouten
Derekhouten1@mac.com 585-278-3876

I had high hopes of competing the Official Visits for the 2022-2023 season along with the District Team when my luck ran out as to contracting Covid -19.

I really enjoyed visiting with the Brothers while also spreading the word about what the Brotherhood Fund is all about. My only regret was that I missed ERAC and Seneca Lodges because of catching Covid.

Our Leadership Team led by DDGM Bill Edwards stepped up and spoke on my behalf. I will contact the Masters of the two Lodges to make arrangements to visit them later on.

I especially want to talk to the Lodge Chairman to support them so that they can respond to their members with their questions and encourage them to reach out to the members for donations for the fund.

Meanwhile I had to quarantine with my wife for 5 to 10 days, Jan. 8-17. I took some very strong anti-viral meds (Paxlovid) to knock out the Covid.

It's been a pleasure to serve the District and I look forward to the future.



The Brotherhood Fund
Grand Lodge of the State of New York

2022 Thank You Gifts

Thank You Gift Levels

Binder with Grand Master's Pen - \$100 Donation
Baseball Cap - \$75 Donation
Socks - Donation of \$50 for 1 pair/\$75 for 2 pairs
Baseball Cap & 1 pair socks - Donation \$100

All 3 Gifts - \$200 Donation (One Cap, Two pairs of Socks, and One Binder and Pen)

Bonus Gift! Grand Master's glass with a minimum donation of \$100 as an added thank you!



Have-A-Heart 2023 - V.V.W.: James MacDuff
bricklayer.jsm@gmail.com 585-298-0890

The 35th annual Have-A-Heart fundraiser in support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester is coming to you again this year! Visit www.haveaheartrochester.org to donate online or send a check into the Masonic Service Bureau designating HAH 2023 in the memo field.



Keeping families close™

HAVE-A-HEART 2023

SCHEDULE: TWO EXTENDED WEEKENDS

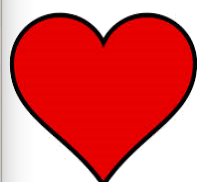
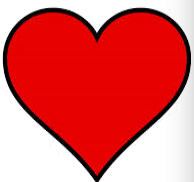
February 10th – 12th (Friday - 3pm to 7pm, Saturday - 12pm to 6pm & Sunday - 12pm to 4pm)
February 17th – 19th (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

LOCATIONS:

Greece Ridge Mall – mouth of the food court in front of J.C. Penney

Eastview Mall – mouth of the food court in front of the yogurt stand (this is a change from Main Court location last year), AND, we will also have a booth in front of Dick's Sporting Goods, at the inside mall entrance. [Go here to sign-up for a slot at the mall: Sign up here!](#)

We need assistance with helping to promote this fundraiser – get involved and make a difference!



Fidelity Triangle #4 – Masonic Youth Organization for Girls
Erika R. Hansen – Junior Deputy – Junior Deputy – nycmshansen@gmail.com
Eliza Burley – Beloved Queen – www.fidelitytriangle.weebly.com

Fidelity Triangle #4, OOTNY
Monroe District's Masonic Youth Organization for Girls
Meetings or Social Events on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays

Did you know that Rochester played a HUGE role in the beginnings of the Organization of Triangles? The first 6 charters were given to Rochester area groups that formed, and the first Queens of the order were crowned right here in Rochester in May 1927. Fidelity was one of those groups, and remains the oldest in the organization. It would later play an integral role in the formation of another notable group from East Rochester, Lilac Triangle #121. These tidbits are a source of real pride to any past or present (and hopefully future) Triangle Girl but so too are the people they are and the lifelong friendships they make, as embodied by the words of our **Triangle Song**, sang to the tune of Peggy O'Neil at the close of each meeting:

*If she greets you with a smile,
She's a Triangle Girl!
If she makes your life worthwhile,
She's a Triangle Girl!
If she's cheery when you're feeling blue,
If her friendship is honest and true,
Staunch and dependable,
Fine and commendable,
She's a Triangle Girl!*



If your group is not familiar with us and would like to know more, we can come perform degrees or give a presentation on the history of Triangle or of the Masonic youth groups as a whole in the Greater Rochester area. Spoiler: there were MANY!

Fundraising in 2023

Our state convention will be on the horizon before we know it (October 2023) and our members are actively working on *earning* their way towards attending this convention with their fundraising efforts. We are trying to come up with some interesting and creative ways to raise funds, without exhausting everyone's bandwidth for giving. If you can assist with projects, please let us know! Some ideas:

- If your chapter or lodge is willing to have a box to collect your empty cans/bottles from your meetings we could arrange to take these off your hands for deposit!
- Have a special fancy event coming up? Many, many years ago, Triangle Girls sold corsages and boutonnieres for the Grand Master's Ball. While real flowers may not be as practical, feasible, or money conscious these days, we could give this a modern spin or flare. Please let us know if you're interested in testing it out with these sweet young hostesses.

- Etoteah Holmes OES regularly counts on the Triangle Girls to be their meal runners for their fall and spring take out only Lasagna Dinners. If your group has a similar type of fundraiser that could use their young helping hands, please do let these hard workers with plenty of energy assist!

FutureTriangle Events

Miss Eliza Burley, Beloved Queen

<http://fidelitytriangle.weebly.com>

Ms. Erika Hansen, Jr. Deputy

nycmshansen@gmail.com or 585-435-2157

December 29, 5:30pm - Ice Skating @ Bill Grays in Henrietta

January 28, 2pm - Sledding (Weather Dependent), Location TBD

February 11, Noon - Mystery Trip (Spencerport, NY Area)

April 22, 7pm - Installation of Officers

These events are open to friends, family &prospects! Please contact the Jr. Deputy for information about any of our events or Triangle in general.

Meet Eliza - Our Beloved Queen!

Eliza is a junior in High School where she participates in cheerleading and softball. She is also an honors student.

Eliza joined Fidelity Triangle on January 18, 2019. She joined Triangle because her aunt is a Past Beloved Queen and she wanted this to be something they did together. This makes her a second-generation Triangle Girl.

Eliza was installed as Beloved Queen on July 22, 2021. Despite still being relatively new to Triangle and with the previous constraints of COVID lockdown, Eliza stepped into the role and has flourished as a budding and active leader. She is involved in every aspect of planning Fidelity's projects and programs during her terms and has taken a particular interest in leadership initiatives, both at the local and state level. In 2019, she won the organization's Essay Contest at the state convention.





Seneca Lodge had their annual **“Breakfast With Santa”** on December 10th, 2022 at Webster Lodge. Considering that we have had to put a pause on the event for the last couple of years we picked up right where we left off and then some! We had over 40 attendees for the event, and even had a special visit by the Big Guy himself! It was a wonderful time with our lodge families evident by the smiles on the kid's faces!

Thank you to Jack & Jean Breitung & Family for manning the kitchen, our Junior Warden Lance Seeber for pulling it all together, and Dan Streff as our Guest of Honor for the event!

Visiting our sister Lodge St. Andrews Lodge #16, Toronto Canada

Our sister lodge, St Andrews Lodge #16 in Toronto, was celebrating their 200th Anniversary. Seneca lodge was invited to attend and a delegation of nine, including spouses, made the trip up for the event. I was asked to deliver a speech for the event, which gave a history of their first Master, Sir William Campbell, who was a lawyer, militia officer, politician, judge, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Upper Canada, and a resident of York, Upper Canada.

The second half of my speech spoke of my wife's Grandfather, George Steele who was a 49-year member of Craftsman Robertson Lodge. He was an avid woodworker, and upon his passing had a surplus of wood in his shop. Some of that wood was olivewood from outside of Bethlehem (pretty cool right). So it is a tradition that when we visit each other's lodges we typically bring a gift. The one for their anniversary needed to be special. So I asked my cousin Andrew Herzog of Inspiration Lodge, who followed in his Grandfathers footsteps and is a spectacular woodworker, to turn a Maul Gavel as the gift to St Andrew's. He turned one of those pieces of Olivewood into a beautiful Maul Gavel that was presented to St Andrew's during the speech at the 200th Gala.



I tell you all of this because just like St. Andrew's first Master, Sir William Campbell and Brother George Steele, their dedication to the craft is passed down to us all this day. As Masons, it is those that came before us that shape who we are as Men & Masons, and we remember and tell their stories to this day. They both have proved over time that their persistence & perseverance in Masonry and life is passed down through our members and their families. That gavel made out of the olivewood from George's shop stock was an emblem of our history of Masonry, and a generational gift created by the grandson of a lifelong mason, and one whose story I was proud to share with them and you!

We were proud to share that generational gift with St Andrews Lodge, who is going to utilize that very gavel to bring back a tradition called the "custodian of the Gavel", and that gavel will be the gavel handed down from Master to Master and used in the East for years and years to come! Our two lodges have been visiting each other every two years back and forth across the border for over 100 years. Fun fact; Seneca Lodge's first Master was a dual member of Seneca Lodge & St. Andrews Lodge.

The Brotherly Love of Masonry knows no boundaries or borders, and the relationship between Seneca Lodge #797 & St Andrews Lodge #16 will be strong, long into the future!



Why Promoting Your Lodge Helps Achieve Many Of Your Goals

Bro. Christopher Carosa

Here's the thing. It's great that we focus on internal things like the ritual. But wouldn't it be easier to retain the degree rituals if we are constantly offering them to new and advancing members?

Imagine how lively your lodge will become when you welcome twice as many new brothers each year. There are more brothers to help with your traditional activities and events. There are more brothers to fill leadership roles. There are more brothers to offer more ideas to make lodge life more engaging.

Now, I know what you're thinking. "That's all great in theory, but how do we make more men aware of our lodge?"

That's where public relations come in. It's called "earned media" because you don't pay to promote your story. You convince the media your story is worth reporting and you "earn" a place in their content vehicle (whether it be print, radio, or television).

Again, I can hear your next question: "But we don't do anything newsworthy. How can we get something in the press if we don't do anything newsworthy?"

Surprise! Within your answers to the Lodge Public Relations Questionnaire, you'll discover surprising nuggets that can be crafted to become PR gold.

Now, here's the advantage you have that you may not know about. There are two times each year when people seek new activities: September and January. It's September because we tend to retain our "school calendar" mindset long after we've graduated. But that mindset eventually fades.

The "January Effect" is the stronger time. That's because most people "reset" at the beginning of the year. That's the time of "New Year's Resolutions." That's the time that they're making a commitment to do such life-changing things like:

- 1) Creating and sticking to a frugal financial budget.
- 2) Creating and sticking to a weight-loss plan.
- 3) Taking on a new community-oriented activity.

It's this last item that interests us.

Here's where you have the advantage. There are two "best times" to get quoted in the media. They are January/February or July/August.

Why?

The news cycles die down during these months because advertising dies down (albeit for different reasons).

During the January/February cycle, advertising dies down because people are not buying because they're too busy paying off their credit cards, which are abnormally high since they just spent November/December spending all their money on gifts.

During the July/August cycle, advertising dies down because people are not reading as much news as they do during the rest of the year because they are busy taking vacations while school is out and/or traveling to family events like weddings, picnics, and reunions.

During these news dearth cycles, reporters are looking for quick and easy stories.

During the January/February cycle, they're still working, and people are still consuming news, so they're more desperate for news stories, especially after they've exhausted their "Year in Review" articles in the first week of the new year. Reporters are aware of the tax season intensifying through April, so they prioritize practical (i.e., "how to get it done") financial stories.

During the July/August cycle, reporters are also on vacation, and since people are consuming less news, the overall news content is down (e.g., fewer pages in the paper). Stories published here typically are "feature" stories, not news stories.

We are about to embark on the January/February "low news" cycle. Journalists will soon look for something other than year-end stories.

OK, OK. You're saying, "But Chris, we've never appeared in the news before. Won't it be harder to convince a reporter to do a story on us?"

Believe it or not, that gives you yet another advantage. Reporters are always looking for a source that's never been used before. They're always looking for a story that's never been run before.

Take another look at your Lodge Public Relations Questionnaire. What community-oriented activities, recreational programs, or philanthropic work have your lodge accomplished recently?

Pick one of them where you've taken a picture of the event. That picture should prominently show the faces of participating brothers. These faces should be easily recognizable when viewed on a cell phone.

This is your story.

What other benefits does the Lodge Public Relations Questionnaire tell you?

Your lodge no doubt has brothers with unique talents. These talents extend beyond the lodge to include professional and avocations areas of expertise. Such topics can range anywhere from the entertaining (e.g., hamburger history) to the practical (e.g., fly-fishing).

Not only might these topics make interesting presentations within the lodge, but—and here's the key take away—they can also be offered to local community organizations (e.g., Historical Societies, Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Chambers of Commerce). While the topic may have nothing to do with Freemasonry, if we can assemble an inventory of speaking topics, we might be able to offer it to local organizations through something equivalent to a "Monroe District Masons Speakers Bureau" or similar such venue that builds brand awareness.

That's just a taste of things to come.

Valley of Rochester AASR

The Valley of Rochester Scottish Rite will be hosting the
Symbolic Awards on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at the
Damascus Shrine Center, 979 Bay Rd., Webster NY 14580
4:00 pm Social hour/cash bar, 5:00 pm Awards Ceremony
followed by refreshments, pizza and wings

Contact the secretary at secretary@valleyofrochester.org for additional details
or call 585-425-0033, www.valleyofrochester.org



TO SUBMIT INFORMATION TO THIS NEWSLETTER SIMPLY CONTACT THE
DISTRICT TEAM AT

ajborrino@gmail.com

YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEA ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



2023 College of Freemasonry

Sponsored by the
Scottish Rite Valley of Rochester, NMJ



"I Did Not Know That!"
Interesting Light in Freemasonry

Saturday March 4, 2023

Check-in: 8:30 am Program begins at 9:30 am

Includes: continental breakfast, beverages, and lunch

@ Damascus Shrine Center 979 Bay Road, Webster NY 14580

Cost is \$10 per person

Event is open to anyone interested in learning more about Freemasonry

Dress: Jacket/Tie

**Revolutionary War
& Freemasonry**



Michael Karpovage

**The Illuminati
& Freemasonry**



Josef Wages, 32°

**Templars in
America**



William Mann, 32°

**Jackson Award
Presentation**



Thomas W. Jackson 33°
*Award for Excellence in
Masonic Education*

Speaker bios on back of flyer

***** Cut Here *** Cut Here *** Cut Here *** Cut Here *** Cut Here *** Cut Here *****

College of Freemasonry Registration Form

Name:

Phone #:

Email:

City:

Name:

Phone #:

Email:

City:

Please include registration form and check made out to the Valley of Rochester and mail to:

Valley of Rochester, 811 Ayrault Road, Suite 3, Fairport, NY 14450.

Contact the Valley Office with any questions: (585) 425-0033

***** Paid Registrations are due by Friday February 27, 2023****

2023 College of Freemasonry Speakers

William Mann^{32°} has enjoyed an extensive and prestigious 30-years as a Freemason. He is a member of Oakville Lodge #400 (1995), Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Canada, White Oaks Chapter No. 104 (1997). He is also a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason (2005) and is the immediate Past Supreme Grand Master, GCT, Sovereign Great Priory - Knights Templar.

Bill is author of several highly entertaining and controversial books, including *The Knights Templar in the New World*, *The Templar Meridians: The Secret Mapping of the New World*, and *Templar Sanctuaries of North America*. His most recent novel, *The Last Refuge of the Knights Templar in the New World*, was released on April 7, 2020. More information can be found on his books at his website (www.templarsnewworld.com and www.innertraditions.com).

Bill has also appeared on a number of TV documentaries and radio programs highlighting the “hidden history” behind the pre-Columbian exploration of North America and has, most recently, appeared on the hit History Channel series, **AMERICA UNEARTHED**. At the College, Bill will be sharing his research related to the last refuge of the Knights Templar and the burying of the Templar Treasure and the strategic involvement of Native North Americans across North America. His lectures have been well-received around the world.

Josef Wages ^{32°} is a member of Plano Lodge 768 and the Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas, SMJ. He is member of the Society of Blue Friars (Masonic authors), a Fellow of the Philalethes Society, and a board member of the Scottish Rite Research Society. He is the editor of several prominent publications including *The Secret School of Wisdom*, *the Authentic Rituals and Doctrines of the Illuminati*, *L'École secrète de sagesse*, *Rituels et doctrines authentiques des Illuminati: Une école secrète de Sagesse*, *On Materialism and Idealism*, and *The Green Book of the Élus Coën*, *The Master's Voice*, and *Les Élus Parfaits une Aventuré Transatlantique en 2 volumes*.

He is especially well regarded for his work publishing the *Secret School of Wisdom: The Authentic Rituals and Doctrines of the Illuminati*, where he created a full working manual of the rituals and history of the Illuminati society. He is currently preparing the forthcoming books, *Ecossais Masonry: A History of the High Degrees from the Scots Master to the Order of the Royal Secret*, for the SRRS as well as future projects such as, *The rituals of the Gold and Rosy Cross*. Brother Wages combines a breadth of detailed knowledge about Freemasonry with expertise in non-Masonic secret societies that should lend to a fascinating discussion at the College.

Mike Karpovage grew up in Buffalo and Rochester. He is a graduate of Fairport High and RIT. Michael is an award-winning map illustrator, designer, and principal of Karpovage Creative, Inc. Many of you might have heard of his first mystery thriller *Crown of Serpents* featuring a Freemason military historian on a treasure hunt set in Western New York. He has since published a highly popular 3-book series. Think National Treasure meets Indiana Jones. He'll be speaking at the College about his research that has led him to unearth many stories of enemy Masons saving each

other on the battlefield. Michael is a member of Fidelity-Hobasco Lodge No. 716 in Ithaca, NY, but has lived in sunny Roswell, Georgia where he does not even own a snow shovel.

At work in their Quarries

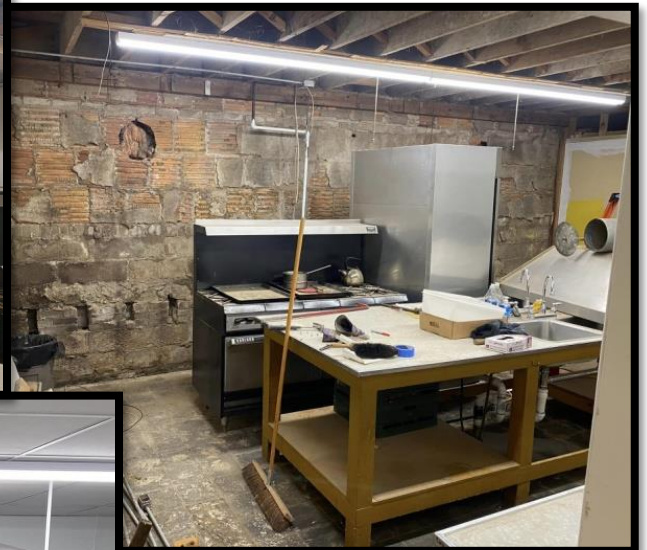
I've heard it said that "you can't keep a good Mason down." This is certainly true of the brothers of the Monroe Masonic District. And this is evident by the good use of time displayed by brothers of some of our lodges. Brothers who didn't sit on their hands during the Covid shut down period, or any time after, but instead put those idle hands to work.

As you will note, several lodges used that time to make repairs, renovations and upgrades to their respective lodges.

Fairport-Flower City Lodge # 476



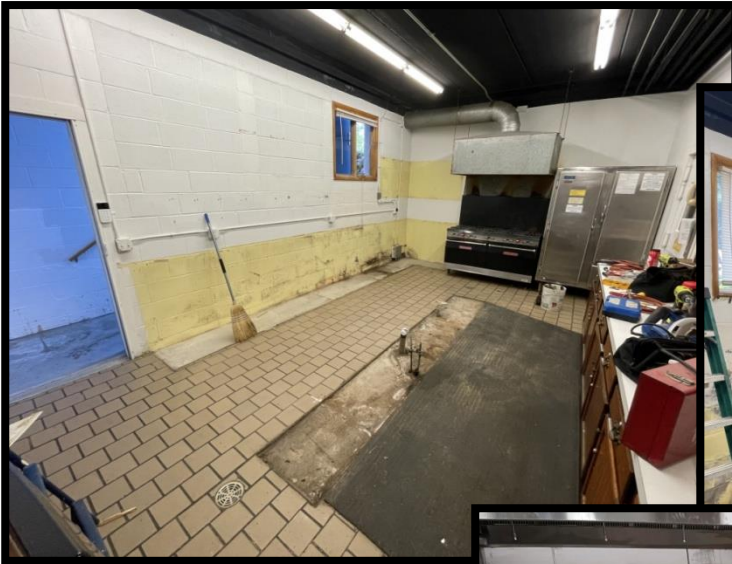
OLD



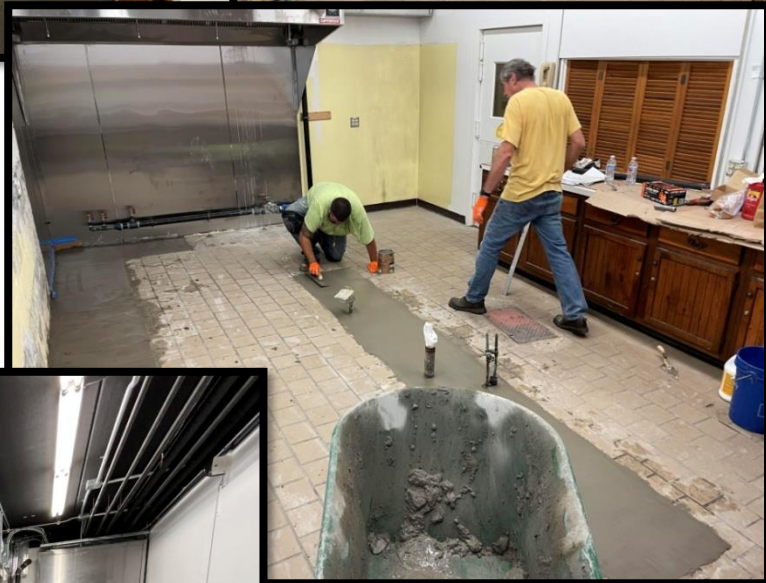
NEW



Webster Lodge # 538



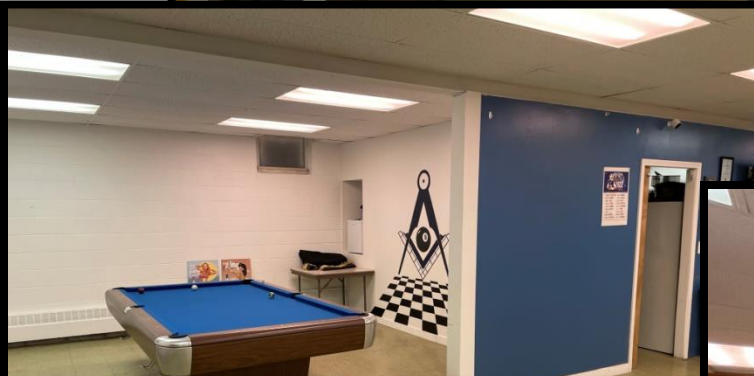
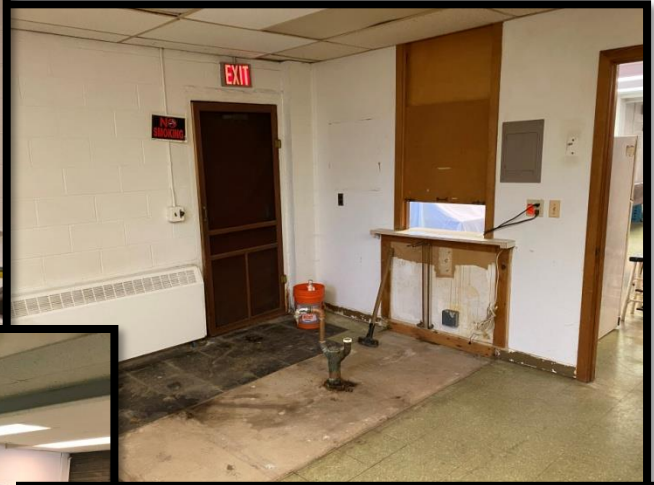
OLD



NEW

Clio Lodge #779

OLD



NEW

Union Star Lodge #320

NEW



**Union Star
Lodge No. 320
Temple**

Centennial Celebration!

It took two years, but Union Star Lodge No. 320 F&AM finally got the chance to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its Temple building in Honeoye Falls.

Opened in November of 1920, the Lodge intended to hold a major social event exactly 100 years later in November of 2020. But Covid intervened.



The Temple Centennial Celebration attracted masons and non-masons alike, including members of the community as well as Masonic officials and one mason from as far away as Brazil.

Not to be deterred, the brothers of Union Star Lodge took advantage of the two-year delay to produce a bigger and more delightful experience. On Saturday evening, November 19, 2022, the lodge hosted a well-attended event featuring tours, historical presentations, and dancing. It also raised money for local charities by topping off the end of the evening with a silent auction.





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