St. Paul’s Lodge No. 14 Celebrates Their 200th Anniversary & Cornerstone Rededication

Pawtuxet Rangers and Grand Masters attend the St. Paul’s Lodge Anniversary celebration.

Grand Master’s Message

Adoption of a therapy dog for Evergreen Rehabilitation Home sponsored by Grand Lodge Charities.

300th Anniversary Celebration of the United Grand Lodge of England, open house and festive board.

St. Alban’s Lodges International Gathering of lodges named St. Alban’s at Fort Adams.

These events were superbly planned and executed by the respective lodges and our Public Relations Committee and I congratulate them all. There are similar events planned for the future such as a miniature golf and 9-hole course fundraiser at Mulligan’s in Cranston that the Grand Lodge ladies’ will be hosting in April 2018; the cornerstone rededication for the Pawtuxet Rangers Armory, in conjunction with Grand Lodge and Harmony Lodge. So, keep an eye out for notification.

With this issue of the RI Freemason, hopefully you have heard of the changes Grand Lodge has made to our membership software, which is now called Grand View, the implementation of credit card purchases for Grand Lodge event tickets, the completion of a secretaries’ manual by M. W. Carl Willi, the new “Simple Answers” booklet from the Public Relations Committee, and the continued update and additional information available on our website, etc. We are continually finding new ways to assist the lodges and moving our Craft into the future.

Now, I extend a hearty congratulation to R. W. Glenn Carlson on his election as Grand Master for 2018-2019 and to W. Scott Alger as he will become the next Grand Marshal. I am confident that under R. W. Glenn’s fraternal care we will continue the great works of our Grand Lodge and continue to progress our Craft. With that, I congratulate R. W. Gilbert J. Fontes, Jr. on his appointment as the newest District Deputy Grand Master and his Worshipful Grand Master of Ceremonies, W. Jason Nystrom. There are no words to express my happiness and support for R. W. Gil as I know from our journey over these past nine years that he will be a great Grand Master. His first decision as a DDGM proves his abilities by virtue of his appointment of W. Jason Nystrom. Confidence is high that you both will enjoy this journey of a lifetime.

There is so much more to say but I wish to not bore you with all the travels and visitations. However, I will convey how proud I am of our grand jurisdiction as I travel to other grand jurisdictions. Listening to other Grand Masters and the difficulties of our grand jurisdiction as I travel to other grand jurisdictions. Thereby, impressing upon the initiate the importance of the Craft intended of the wonderful work the lodges and districts are accomplishing.

Greeting Brethren,

Today marks the halfway mark of the Masonic year and to date I can assure you that it has been a wonderful time for Gilly and I. Sitting in the Grand East lends a different perspective to the status of the Craft in a jurisdiction. One has the opportunity to see the jurisdiction as a whole not as a fragment. All too often, the small disturbances within a lodge create the appearance that the entire Craft is the same. Viewing from that microcosm is not a true picture of the whole. It is similar to the old saying that “you can’t see the forest because of the trees.” Yet, rising above you catch a glimpse of the wonderful work the lodges and districts are accomplishing.

There is a general enthusiasm within our jurisdiction to embrace Freemasonry for the values and virtues that are our cornerstone. Lodges are performing great ritual by initiating the candidate as the ritual intended, and displaying our tenets with care and zeal. Thereby, impressing upon the initiate the importance of what we have to offer. There are a myriad of events such as special ladies events, table lodges, picnics, cigar dinners, weekend retreats, and fundraisers for charity, just to mention a few. Lodges are travelling within and without their districts and also outside our jurisdiction to not only other states but countries as well. We had several brothers travel to Cuba to partake in fellowship. This itself is a milestone for Freemasonry.

There is a general sense of unity that embraces our Craft which can only happen when individual brothers and lodges share fellowship and good times. Some of this is evidenced with the large suites that our District Deputy Grand Masters are enjoying. Their work within their respective districts has been outstanding. Grand Lodge has a Grand Line of officers who deeply care about the Craft, the lodges, and the individual brother. Whatever a brother or lodge might need, Grand Lodge can be a great resource to achieve your goals.

The events over the past six months are too numerous to expound upon but there are several unusual ones that I think we should recognize as these events that have placed Freemasonry in the public eye. These you will read about more in depth in this issue of the RI Freemason.

St. Paul’s Lodge 200th Anniversary Cornerstone rededication ceremony.

Mt. Moriah and Harmony Lodge’s new charity “Masonic Angel Fund.”

(continued on page 5)
St. Paul’s Lodge No. 14
200th Anniversary Celebration

On a clear, warm evening of September 5 St. Paul’s Lodge in Middletown, Rhode Island held its bicentennial main event. This celebration featured the installation of a time capsule as part of the rededication of the 1967 cornerstone, and the unveiling of the new 200th anniversary bronze plaque. Presiding over the event was M.:W.-Peter Iacobucci Grand Master of Rhode Island, accompanied by the R.:W.-Gilbert J. Fontes, Jr. Grand Marshal, and their ladies; Lady Fran and Lady Blanca. M.:W.-Theodore J. Nelson Grand Master of the State of Connecticut also participated in the ceremony, accompanied by R.:W.-Marshall K. Robinson Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.-Edward C. Page Grand Junior Steward, and Edward’s wife Christina, W.:Bill Morse, and R.:W.-C. A. Duke. This was a very special homecoming for M.:W.-Ted and W.:Bill, as they were able to view the original bylaws of St Paul’s Lodge; finding the pages where Ted’s grandfather, W.:Julien Collart (Master of St Paul’s in 1961) and Bill’s father, W.:William H. Morse (Master of St. Paul’s in 1962) had signed the ledger as members; attesting to their attainment of their EA, FC, and MM degrees, back in 1955 and 1956, respectively. St. Paul’s was honored by the attendance of many Grand Lodge officers, Blue Lodge officers, visiting dignitaries, family, and friends.

Following the regular stated communication, the lodge officers and attending Grand Lodge officers and visiting dignitaries proceeded to the outdoor bi-centennial ceremony, held on a carpeted floor, placed next to the original 1967 Masonic cornerstone. The cornerstone had been installed when the building was purchased by the lodge 50 years ago. The cornerstone/time capsule ritual was presented by St. Paul’s Master, Charles E. O’Hara IV; Senior Warden, Joshua Manfredo; Junior Warden, W.:Job Palaya; Associate Grand Chaplain, W.:Alfred M. Cameron; Grand Marshall, R.:W.-Gilbert J. Fontes Jr. and the Grand Masters of Rhode Island and Connecticut. St. Paul’s wishes to thank the Pawtuxet Rangers, led by Colonel Ron Barnes, for treating us to thunderous cannon display following the ceremony, as well as at the sunset recognition of colors.

The buffet clam/lobster boil dinner was well attended and enjoyed by all visiting brethren, families and friends; all served under a catering tent adjacent to the lodge, with lights, banquet tables, and an experienced and friendly waitstaff, all provided by McGrath’s clambakes, Newport. The fundraiser raffle was successful, mostly based on the generous contributions of fine jewelry by Brother Bent Blondal, with the total proceeds of $535 being donated to the featured charity of St. Paul’s Lodge, Lucy’s Hearth, of Middletown, a provider for 33 years of shelter, comprehensive programs, and critical human services to homeless families in a safe, supportive environment that promotes family health and stability.

St. Paul’s Lodge is extremely grateful for the loan by the Grand Lodge of the historic Gorham silver set, commissioned and used for the cornerstone dedication of the Rhode Island State House in 1896! Although this beautiful silver set has been used for other building dedications, including the most recent cornerstone dedication of the Veteran’s Home in Bristol, this is only the second time the 1896 Grand Lodge silver set has been used in a blue lodge ceremony, and performed with blue lodge officers instead of Grand Lodge officers exclusively. St. Paul’s is grateful for this milestone idea, which was inspired by the Grand Master M.:W.-Peter Iacobucci. Other Rhode Island blue lodges may hopefully utilize the Grand Lodge silver set for their own cornerstone rededication ceremonies at anniversary celebrations for years to come.

(continued on Page 4, St. Paul’s Anniversary)
Our Rhode Island brethren may wonder why St. Paul’s chose to rededicate an existing cornerstone in the first place. A bit of background will help to explain. Similar to other lodges, our building was in need of some major repair and restoration both inside and out. Although much of the work was done by our own lodge brothers on a voluntary basis, professional help was needed, especially when dealing with the high elevated peaks and gables of the building. The end result of all this effort is that the building is now, without question, in the best condition ever in the last 50 years. This cornerstone rededication ceremony served to acknowledge both the restoration of the building, and the bicentennial.

As the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Peter Iacobucci, said in his opening address, our 200th anniversary celebration was based at its origin on a profound respect for (and gratitude to) the brethren who, on January 2, 1816, assembled at the house of Jeremiah Bliss, with a desire to establish a new lodge. They agreed to endeavor to obtain a dispensation “for the purpose of devising the best possible means of preserving the reputation of the institution unsullied, and promoting the interests of the Masonry.” As the Grand Master pointed out, this is no small achievement given the level of communication, travel, and technology at the time. Our lodges, and Freemasonry in Rhode Island are here today, 200 years later, based not only on the belief and vision of our forefathers, but on the continued commitment, loyalty, and participation of all our brethren. This is where the rubber meets the road. Sure, it is great to have the privilege of having the use of a beautiful lodge building, especially when we have by grace been given the means to sustain and maintain this historic structure. The real challenge, however, is to make sure the lodge building is occupied and used by our newest members and by continuing to appreciate and utilize the best efforts of our current members, with the common goal of growing our fraternity. Without the expanding brotherhood our fervent efforts put into preserving any Masonic building are ultimately of no substance, no real meaning.

The cornerstone ceremony we witnessed had deep significance, in the context of the past, the present, and the future. We acknowledged those who set the first cornerstones in Rhode Island, both in buildings and in the hearts and lives of our brothers who came before us. Like a cornerstone, the founding fathers of Rhode Island Freemasonry were “well formed, true and trusty, and accurately laid.” It is up to the present membership to see that “this work, auspiciously begun, be continued and completed by the benign principles of peace, harmony, and brotherly love.” Our future depends on our willingness “to build a house, which we pray God may deserve to prosper, by becoming a place of concourse for good men, and promoting harmony and brotherly love throughout the world, until time shall be no more.”
small jurisdiction, that we should be a premier jurisdiction. In comparison with member retention, lodge activities, lodge charities, scholarship program, younger lodge officers, member enthusiasm, and general hospitality, we are premier in their eyes. There is nothing like being Grand Master in this jurisdiction as the Grand Master is with the brethren unlike larger states where the Grand Master hardly interacts with the general body. This is a unique situation that is beyond description and adds a deep richness to the Grand Master’s and Grand Marshal’s year. I congratulate each and every brother for your help and support of our Craft. You make it all possible.

In closing, I impart this thought to you. Freemasonry is similar to a vineyard. Grand Lodge is the vineyard and each blue lodge is a vine. The clusters of grape symbolize the brothers. A vine takes many years to develop grapes that are suitable for winemaking. It takes care and nurturing. If the vines are ignored and too many grapes grow on the vine, the wine is weak. Too few grapes and there is not enough to secure the vineyards future. But the proper care and attention will yield the right number of grapes that produces the finest wines. So too is our Craft. Large numbers of members do not necessarily make the Craft better or stronger, but a smaller number of quality members certainly will. A full glass of weak wine cannot compare to a 1/3 glass of fine wine. I for one of my brothers, prefer the fine wine.

To all of our Brothers and your families, Gilly, I, Fran and Blanca wish you a wonderful Christmas, Hanukah, and health and prosperous Happy New Year!

Blessing to you all,
Peter Iacobucci, Grand Master

Grand Lodge Marks the 300th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England with a Festive Board and Open House

By: R-W: Jack Anderson

In observance of the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island hosted two special events in October.

On October 13, brethren from throughout the state and guests from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, assembled at a Festive Board held at Grand Lodge. Presiding at this seven-course meal, opened in the Entered Apprentice Degree, was M-W: Peter Iacobucci Grand Master assisted by R-W: Glenn S. Carlson, Deputy Grand Master; R-W: Gary Kaufman sitting in as Senior Grand Warden; R-W: Robert B. Ellston as Junior Grand Warden; R-W: Thomas Yeaw, Grand Chaplain; R-W: Gilbert J. Fontes, Jr., Grand Marshal; and W: Peter Kinderforski, Grand Tiler. Grand Stewards, W: Eric Ross and W: Scott Jamieson made sure the guests were well served.

Fare for the evening, prepared by Brett Marggraff, Junior Warden of Franklin Lodge No. 20 in Westerly, featured such dishes as fresh harvest melon, cheddar cheese and ale soup, and the King’s Own Chuck Roast with roasted vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy. The meal was finished by a fruit tart and a vintage Port wine, expertly opened by Brett using “port tongs.” Toasts were proposed and returned after each course.


On the following day, Saturday, October 14, Grand Lodge hosted an open house at Taunton Avenue in East Providence. All lodges in the state were represented, as were concordant bodies. The open house was designed to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about Freemasonry in Rhode Island and tour the building and lodge room. Visitors were greeted at the door and escorted to the appropriate district or concordant body table where they could ask questions. An added benefit of the program was the fraternal interaction of the brethren from the lodges and concordant bodies that resulted from their working together for a common purpose. A number of visitors left with literature and petitions, and several petitions were filled out at the event.

The open house also marked the introduction of a new Grand Lodge booklet, “Simple Answers to Leading Questions.” This booklet contains straightforward answers to frequently asked questions about Freemasonry and is designed to be used as background for members to help them better answer questions about the Craft, and to be widely distributed to the general public. It is an edited and revised version of a publication produced by the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and was adapted for use in Rhode Island with their permission.

Copies have been distributed to all lodges and additional copies are available from the Grand Lodge office.

All guests received a specially commissioned toast glass with the Grand Lodge of England square and compasses imprinted on one side and the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island crest on the other. They also received a souvenir program that included the menu, toasts, a short history of the founding of the Grand Lodge of England, and a history of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island.

Open House Draws Visitors to Grand Lodge
How swiftly the sands flow through the hour glass. It is hard to believe one year has passed since I was installed Eminent Prior of Roger Williams Priory. During my term as Prior I felt it would benefit the brethren to know more about the Priory, thus I submitted articles in each issue of the RI Freemason. I thank R.W. Richard Lynch editor of the Freemason for allowing me this opportunity.

This has been an extremely enjoyable year because of the support of the officers and the knights. A program was scheduled at each of the conclaves, which made for a more enjoyable meeting. At our recent Conclave on September 30 I presented all the Past Priors with service citations. It was an honor to acknowledge their achievements not only as Past Priors but also for everything they have contributed to Freemasonry throughout the years. Those who could not attend were sent their citations, or were presented at a later date. Following the citations, R.W. Richard Lynch presented an audio-visual program titled “Rhode Island Masons in Scotland” which was enjoyed by all.

On behalf of the officers and knights of Roger Williams Priory No. 48, may you and your family have a Blessed and Joyous Holiday Season.

On the weekend of October 13-14, 2017, the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star held their Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI.

Mary Jannarelli, Worthy Grand Matron, presided over the affairs of the Grand Chapter. Many distinguished guests were present on Friday to be introduced and greeted including the Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Worthy Patron of Prince Hall Eastern Star in Rhode Island. The Most Worshipful Grand Master was also in attendance as well as the Mayor of the City of Warwick, RI.

We also distributed charitable donations to various food pantries, and food banks throughout the state, as well as other contributions to various other charities during the year, totaling $24,258.03. We recorded 2,597 hours of voluntary work in our local communities and donated over 500 pounds of non-perishable food to the local food banks as well as distributing $23,150.00 in scholarships.

On October 19, 2017 Providence Council No.1 held their 256th Triangular Visitation with Attleboro and Hyde Park Councils of Massachusetts. This was also the visitation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of the of Rhode Island. All three bodies of the York Rite were represented. In attendance were the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Philip N. Crawford; The Most Illustrious Grand Master, Mark D. Thompson; The Right Eminent Grand Commander, Glenn M. Cunningham; and the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Massachusetts, Demetrios J. Sarantopoulos; as well as the Thrice Illustrious Master of Attleboro Council, Edward A. Dyer Jr.; Thrice Illustrious Master of Hyde Park Council, Peter S. Moore; and the Deputy Master of Providence Council No.1, Joseph Kern.

Following the remainder of the business on Saturday, the installation of the new Grand Officers was held. Sister Deborah Therrien was installed as our new Worthy Grand Matron, her husband, Brother Richard J. Therrien, was installed as Worthy Grand Patron. All of the Chapters were represented in the newly installed Grand Officers line. This year brings a new and youthful outlook to our Order. The fun symbols of our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron are the Muppets, “a diverse group that works well together.” This is their theme and they hope to bring some changes and more fun to our Order in our state.

At the banquet following the Installation, the Grand Officers were presented with their own individually selected Muppet. Even the Most Worshipful Grand Master was presented his own personal Muppet! You will have to speak to him to find out which Muppet he received.

The weekend ended with a breakfast and well wishes for the new Grand Family as they begin their very busy year in Eastern Star.
The Market House
By: R.W. Charles E. Angell

If there ever was a monument to Freemasonry in Rhode Island, the Market House would have to be high on the list. Providence in the middle 1750s was becoming a very active trade center not only locally but with foreign trade also. Produce locally was sold or traded from waggons on the streets of the city. There was no special place, farmers brought their produce into town and sold or traded any place and anyway they could. Having a central place to trade and sell in the city was badly needed as the population increased and to this end a petition was made to the General Assembly in 1758 by David Bucklin for permission to build a Market House. This petition was denied for various reasons. It would be another 15 years or so before another petition was presented. In 1771, the townspeople asked that a Market House be built for the purpose of trading, and this time the plans were accepted. However, there were no funds available, so a public lottery was planned to raise the necessary funds required. This was not the first-time money was raised to build a public building. The funds required to build the First Baptist Church were raised in this manner. In granting permission the General Assembly set forth the following, "*Granted by the Honorable General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island, to raise four thousand five hundred dollars for building a Market House in the town of Providence. This lottery will be divided into five classes, each class to consist of two thousand tickets. The managers appointed are; Moses Brown, James Lovett, and David Harris of Providence and Elisha Mowry, Jr. of Smithfield, who has given bond for the faithful performance of their trust."*

Moses Brown was a member of St. Johns Lodge No. 1 of Providence and served as secretary of the lodge for 11 years. The first stone was laid by Nicholas Brown on June 11,1773. Plans for the building were prepared by Stephen Hopkins and Joseph Brown, W.B. Brown was Master of St. Johns Lodge Providence. Lumber for the building came from Johnston and Cumberland by oxen and the bricks floated down the river on rafts from Rehoboth. The first story was completed in 1774 and the second story was completed shortly thereafter. As each story was completed a big celebration was held and a large amount of potent New England rum was consumed as was the custom of the day. The finished Market House sprang into life, there were offices on the second floor and stalls for produce and trading on the first floor. Market Square was the civic center of the town during this time and ships from foreign lands tied up alongside the Market Place.

War clouds were gathering, the HMS Gaspee affair had come and gone. On March 2,1775 the Providence Tea Party took place at the west end of the Market House when large quantities of British tea was burned. In 1780 French troops were housed in Market House and after the troops left it was used by the French as a store house for their baggage and munitions. A guard was left to guard them for a time until all the troops moved.

During this time St. Johns Lodge in Providence was meeting in various places such as the White Horse Tavern, the Two Crowns or Sabin's Tavern, the council chambers in the State House, and various private homes. On December 20, 1796 a committee was appointed by St. Johns Lodge to look into the matter of acquiring a new hall to meet in. Upon receiving permission from the Town Council to build a third story to the Market House for lodge purposes, construction was started and completed a year later. The hall was dedicated on December 27, 1797 by Grand Lodge, M. W.: Jabez Bowen, Grand Master accompanied by many brethren assisted by W.: John Carille, Master of St. Johns Lodge. This was the first dedication of a Masonic Hall in Rhode Island. From this point on Market House would play a very important part in the Masonic history of Rhode Island.

On March 28,1798 the Deputy Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhode Island was organized at Market House with Seth Weaton a member of St. Johns, elected Deputy Grand High Priest. The Grand Lodge of Rhode Island met in the new hall on June 27,1798 at its seventh Annual Communication. It was here at the Market House on August 23, 1802 that the future Grand Master of Rhode Island, Thomas Smith Webb, an outstanding Masonic Leader and ritualist, organized St. John's Commandery No. 1, Knights Templars. Thomas Smith Webb was elected to head this the oldest Templar organization in the United States. Here too in 1805 was organized the Grand Encampment, (now Commandery) of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

After numerous Masonic conventions held at Market House the Grand Encampment of the United States was organized in 1816. On April 4, 1818 Providence Council No. 1 Royal and Select Masters was organized with Samuel Jackson a member of St. Johns Lodge Providence as Thrice Illustrious Master. Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 4 moved into Market House from the Washington Insurance building on June 10, 1824 having purchased a one quarter interest in the Hall.

Market House continued to be a focal point in Masonic activity until 1853 when the Masonic bodies meeting there desiring larger quarters moved to the What Cheer building.

The old Market House still proudly stands on its original site on South Main Street as it has for the last 222 years. Public offices have long since moved out and commerce is no longer carried on within it confines. But such an illustrious building will always find ways of serving and, so it has. It now belongs to the Rhode Island School of Design and has been made into class rooms, an honor I am sure it is happy to carry out. Over the years more than once it was suggested that this gallant old building be torn down, but due to the outcry of the citizens of Rhode Island it was saved for generations to come to admire and appreciate. So, my brethren when you pass by this grand old building stop for a second or two, read the plaques that tell of its history, look and behold history, and just maybe if all is quiet you just might imagine brethren with their apron cases in hand paying their respects to this grand old building they once called home, "the Market House."
2018 Rhode Island Masonic Scholarship
Sources and Information

There are many Scholarships available to children and grandchildren of members of Masonic Lodges in Rhode Island. There are also scholarships available to members of the Order of Rainbow for Girls and members of the Order of DeMolay. Some of the Lodges have their own scholarship programs as do some Eastern Star Chapters and other Concordant Bodies. This list is our attempt to inform as many members and their families about those scholarships that are available, their basic requirements, and contact persons.

Grand Lodge of Rhode Island

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Rhode Island administers numerous scholarship programs, including the Fletcher Fund’s Masonic Youth Foundation program. Request forms and information from Masonic Grand Lodge Charities of RI, Inc., attention: Scholarship Committee, 222 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 or call the Grand Lodge office at 401-435-4650. Grand Lodge also has scholarships available to non-Masonic applicants.

The forms must be 100% accurately filled out and be received in the Grand Lodge office no later than 4:00 PM on Monday, April 16, 2018. There are no exceptions.

Scottish Rite Valley of Providence

Abbott Scholarship

Currently enrolled freshman, sophomore, junior or senior at an accredited college or university. A minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale. Freshman scholarships will be distributed after an acceptable GPA is submitted, following the first semester.

A child or grandchild of a Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

A member of a youth organization sponsored by the Masonic fraternity in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

A graduate of one of the 32° degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Not available to entering freshmen.

Albert P. Ruérat Scholarship

For active DeMolay boys only.

Call Maria at the Scottish Rite office, 401-461-2480 for scholarship forms. If she is not available, Tom Yeaw can help. The office is open Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The forms must be submitted in duplicate and must be in the hands of Scottish Rite no later than April 1, 2018. Scottish Rite 2115 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905.

Rainbow Grand Assembly & Rainbow Girls Foundation Inc.

Scholarships are available for Rainbow Girls who are members in good standing in a Rhode Island Rainbow Assembly. Applicants must first apply during senior year in high school and may apply for 4 consecutive years. You must have a 2.0 grade point average and be a full time student with at least 12 credit hours per semester. Applications may be obtained from your Mother Advisor, the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, or downloaded from Rainbow website, www.rirainbowgirls.org. Rhode Island Grand Assembly also has a scholarship specifically for nursing students.

Grand Chapter of Rhode Island, O.E.S. & Eastern Star Foundation of RI Inc.

General education scholarships are available to those who have a State of Rhode Island Eastern Star or Masonic relationship or to those who were or are a member in good standing of Rainbow or DeMolay in the State of Rhode Island. Scholarships are available for sophomore, junior, senior, and post-graduate years in college.

Estarl Scholarships are for those preparing for leadership roles in various fields of religious service including ministers, priests, missionaries, church music directors, and church youth directors and counselors. Applications for the above two scholarships can be obtained from Mrs. Kathryn A. Newman, Grand Secretary, 65 Ethan Street, Warwick, RI 02888, 401-228-8499, k Newman58@cox.net. They are also available on the Grand Chapter website at www.gcrioes.org.

Adah Chapter No. 15, Order of the Eastern Star

Applications for the following scholarships may be obtained from Mrs. Frances M. Kane, 95 Farnum Road, Warwick, RI 02888, 401-463-8367, frankane@cox.net.

The Round Scholarship is for current members in good standing and those with a majority from a Rhode Island Rainbow Assembly, preference given to members of East Greenwich Assembly No 4.

The Gardiner Scholarship is for members, children and grandchildren of Adah Chapter and the former Martha Chapter.

Nestell Chapter Scholarship is for those who have an Eastern Star relationship with members of the former Nestell Chapter.

Philia Chapter Scholarship Scholarship is for a first-year college student who will graduate from Ponagansett High School. The application can be obtained from Mrs. Larry Thiene, 37 Davis Road, North Scituate, RI 02857, 401-474-2190, Allison.Thiene@NEMoves.com.
East Greenwich Assembly No. Applicant must be an active member of East Greenwich Assembly No. 4 who has had 3 years of perfect attendance and has earned all merit bars and a Pot of Gold. Applications can be obtained from Mrs. Barbara Parisella, 305 John Franklin Road, Hope, RI 02831, 401-487-4473, barbaralou79@gmail.com.

Eastern Star Foundation of RI Inc.
There is a music scholarship fund which is not for college attendance. It offers scholarship assistance to anyone for organ lessons, providing the applicant commits to play for her/his Chapter or Assembly.

Deadline for all completed scholarship applications is JUNE 15th.
If you do not complete the year for which the scholarship is granted, it is expected that the amount of the scholarship will be repaid to the applicable grantor fund.

St. Johns Lodge No. 1 Providence
The scholarship is for the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of living St. Johns lodge members plus one Rainbow Girl and one DeMolay Boy. Minimum GPA for acceptance: 2.75 of a scale of 4.0. Mail or email a request for an application to: Secretary, Wyman P Hallstrom, Jr., secretary1prov@gmail.com, he completed form must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2018.

Harmony Lodge No. 9
The scholarship is available to sons and daughters of members of Harmony Lodge No. 9. Contact Alan French, Secretary at alan.french@afrench.id.com.

Hope Lodge No. 25
A scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is a member or a close relation to a member of Hope Lodge No. 25, A.F. & A.M. Wakefield, RI on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. Student must attend URI and fill out the appropriate university and federal financial aid forms to be considered for this award. The applications are administered by URI, not the Lodge. Income from endowment for a scholarship awarded recipient is selected by URI Enrollment Services, not the lodge. http://web.uri.edu/catalog/files/scholarships-awards.pdf

Adelphoi Lodge No. 33
This scholarship is available to sons, daughters, grandchildren of members of Adelphoi Lodge No. 33 and members of RI Rainbow or RI DeMolay. Applications are available through the secretary, Edward Kdonian at ekdonian@verizon.net

Redwood Lodge No. 35
The Redwood Scholarship is for children and grandchildren of a member of Redwood Lodge. An applicant can receive a scholarship once and for the first year of college only. The due date for applications is June 1, 2018. Applications available from the secretary, Samuel Miller, 401-523-5720, smiller64@aol.com

Grand Commandery of York Rite Masons
Scholarships are for junior and senior college students only.
Request an application from; Robert C. Coor, Grand Recorder and Grand Secretary: yorkriteboston@gmail.com 617-426-1973. The application must be received no later than April 30, 2018.

Providence Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
This scholarship is for the children and grandchildren of living or deceased members of the Providence Chapter only, plus Rainbow Girls and DeMolay Boys. Send a request for a scholarship form to: Mazen Alsabe at malsabe@yahoo.com. An email request is preferred. The request for an application must be submitted by the student (applicant) and be received no later than March 31st.

Calvary Commandery No. 13 of York Rite Masons
For the family members and descendants of Calvary Commandery members only. Contact James Ogilvie at jogilthorp@yahoo.com or 401-954-8334 for an application. Available only to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first granted basis. Applications may be submitted January 1st through July 31, 2018.

Grand Lodge Youth Committee
The Grand Lodge Youth Committee will sponsor our annual Holiday party on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. There is no charge for attendance. Please bring a friend that may have interest in joining the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls or DeMolay International.
There will be a visit from Santa as well as games such as Rainbow and DeMolay trivia based on the game courier. We will be serving snacks such as breads and spreads, pizza rolls, mozzarella sticks, veggies, fruit, as well as hot chocolate, water, and punch. Each person attending is asked to bring some pennies, which will be used for the mystery gift auction. Bring your children and come and join the fun.
If you have any questions, please contact Mike Lawson: rhodeislanddemolay@gmail.com.
RI Freemason Deadlines

The RI Freemason is published 6 times a year based on the Masonic Calendar of the Grand Master's year, which runs from May to May.

The issues will be published as follows:

- **JUNE/JULY**
  Deadline: May 1st

- **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**
  Deadline: July 1st

- **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER**
  Deadline: September 1st

- **DECEMBER/JANUARY**
  Deadline: November 1st

- **FEBRUARY/MARCH**
  Deadline: January 1st

- **APRIL/MAY**
  Deadline: March 1st

From the Editor

Dear Brethren,

I thank everyone who submitted reports and articles for this issue. Unfortunately, we did not have space for everyone’s submissions. Where appropriate, I have saved the material for our next issue. As a reminder please submit your material for future issues before the deadline date. Space is on a first come, first serve basis, the sooner your article arrives the more likely it is to be included.

A few simple guidelines are in order for submissions:

- Please send all articles as MS Word, Word Perfect or Text documents.
- Photographs or illustrations should be sent as Jpeg, Tiff or Bmp files.
- Please no PDF files, they will not be accepted.
- The deadline for each issue is firm and submissions are on a first come, first serve basis. The sooner your article arrives the more likely it is to be included.
- Please send files to hstrclrsch@aol.com as well as rifreemason@rimasons.org addresses.

Fraternally,
Brother Richard Lynch

What Does the EA Degree Mean

By Brother Stephan Saraidarian

I could quote you some other writing but when it gets really exciting is when you start inviting. Is it you?

It can be all or nothing.

Full storm or just a dusting.

It depends upon you summoning your own point of view.

For me it was a cross way.

A chance to have my own say.

Let go of my worst anxiety.

I was free to be asked.

Setting down my own finely forged mask.

Emerging from kneeling to my past.

To discover my true task.

Mind blank, ready to imbue.

That’s what the EA degree meant to me.

But who cares.

What truly matters.

Brother... what’s it mean to you?

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Brother... what’s it mean to you?
There is a fairly obscure photograph hanging in the front room of Franklin Lodge that has intrigued me for some time. One of the men in the photo is immediately recognizable as being none other than General Douglas MacArthur. This aging photograph in its understated plastic frame was clearly taken some time during the period of World War II. In the photograph, General MacArthur and several other soldiers are leaning over a mapping table contemplating material pertaining to World War I. I asked our lodge historian Brother Scott Bill Hirst about the photograph and he informed me that the man standing next to General MacArthur was Brother General Elliott R. Thorpe. Up until that time I had never heard of Brigadier General Elliott R. Thorpe and it prompted me to find out more about Brother Thorpe. I have learned that General Thorpe was a resident of Westerly, Rhode Island, and a member of Franklin Lodge. Elliott R. Thorpe signed the Franklin Lodge Bylaws on October 18, 1921 and became the 717 member of Franklin lodge.

He attended Rhode Island State College, now the University of Rhode Island (URI) and studied mechanical engineering. In 1915 he joined the ROTC and later in 1916 left the school to join the army. Although he never graduated from college, the general always held a deep connection to this institution. After the war, Thorpe was instrumental in leading the campaign to construct the War Memorial Student Union on the URI campus. In 1954 the original dedication of the student union was held to honor the students that lost their lives during World War II. He eagerly donated his own money as well as taking on a leading role in fundraising efforts to get the building constructed. Over his very long military career it is certain that Brother Thorpe was one of the very few soldiers that have had the opportunity to be present at both the signing of the Peace Treaties of the Armistice on November 11, 1918 at Versailles, ending World War I, and being aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, to witness the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender ending World War II. A ceremonial sword that was presented to General Thorpe during the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri in 1945 is still laid up among the University of Rhode Island library special archives that honor General Thorpe. The collection also includes photos and papers and a signed copy of his book, East Wind, Rain, written in 1969.

In his book, he describes his life's adventures as chief of counterintelligence for the periods before, during, and after World War II and his four years serving on General Douglas MacArthur's staff. General Thorpe retired from the army in 1949 as a highly decorated officer after an honorable 32-year military career. He was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services to the Government of the United States, in a duty of great responsibility during World War II, as well as the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Army Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services to the Government of the United States, in a duty of great responsibility. In his book, the general also tells of the time during a battle in the Philippines that a mortar shell came through the wall and earned he and his sergeant a Purple Heart.

However, the general is best known for the devastating dismissal of his early intelligence warnings about the imminent Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. General Thorpe was stationed and lived in Hawaii from 1938-1941; however, he was transferred to Java to serve as a military advisor to the Dutch government before the Pearl Harbor attack. Because of his time spent in Hawaii, he was well aware of the flaws in the military position which made the harbor difficult to defend. Additionally, during the time before the attack on Pearl Harbor, monies for the installment of requested anti-aircraft guns were not in the budget, and unfortunately were never installed.

While later stationed in Java, he was given an office in the Dutch War Office where he cultivated a close working relationship with his counterparts in the Dutch armed forces before the United States involvement in the war. By this time the Dutch had been successful in breaking the cipher of the Japanese and continually monitored Japanese communications in the area. One day during early December 1941 a Dutch officer, General Ter Poorten, came into Thorpe's office, excused his secretary and closed the door. This was very unusual because, although they were friends when the commander-in-chief of the Dutch army wanted to meet, you would most certainly be requested to go to him! He then handed Thorpe an intercepted communication between Tokyo and the Japanese ambassador in Bangkok. The cipher told of the upcoming attack on Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Malaya, and Thailand. The start of the attack would be initiated from Tokyo by a public radio attack transmission disguised as a weather report. This has come to be known as the “winds” report. The “go” signal to attack Pearl Harbor was to be broadcast as the weather report, “East Wind, Rain” over the public radio airways. Immediately, recognizing that this information was of the utmost importance, the then Lieutenant Colonel Thorpe traveled to the nearest State Department representative in Batavia to securely send the information to the War Department in Washington. Unfortunately, the consul general at the State Department determined that the information was of “uncertain origins” and deemed it unreliable. He continued to forward several intercepts that were again dismissed. One week later on December 7, 1941, Thorpe’s intelligence warnings were proven correct. Later in an interview with General Thorpe filmed for the BBC, “Sacrifice at Pearl Harbor”, Thorpe explains how he was directly told to stop sending anymore reports. In the BBC: Sacrifice at Pearl Harbor documentary, it is also suggested that the thinking of the top government officials at the time concerning the matter was simple. If Japan were to attacks the USA, the USA would then declare war on Japan and undoubtedly defeat them. So, there is no way that Japan would attack Pearl Harbor. After the war it was confirmed that many in the Japanese military shared the view that it was unwise to attack the USA.

At the end of the World War II while still stationed in the Philippines, Thorpe again duly warned the War Department of another imminent danger. After the peace treaties were signed, political pressure in the states mounted to “get our boys home.” The rapid removal of troops which followed left massive amounts (continued on page 12)
of stored military hardware unguarded throughout the country. With no troops to guard munitions, the stores were being sold off to all bidders. In his intelligence reports, Thorpe warned that “gunrunners sold great quantities of ordinances to Ho Chi Minh, the Communist leader in Indo-China,” as well as to many others. Again, the War Department “took the easiest way out by not believing the intelligence reports covering this matter” and did nothing to stop it.

Throughout General Elliott R. Thorpe’s military career and even later in his civilian life, General Thorpe was honored and respected for his efforts and service to his country. In 1943 Thorpe was knighted in the Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands in recognition for his outstanding work in the Indies during the war. In 1945 Thorpe was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and was appointed to General Douglas MacArthur’s staff of civil intelligence as the chief officer to oversee post-war Japan. Many Japanese In post-war Japan viewed him as one of the most important and powerful men in the country because of General MacArthur's many important military assignments that were given to Thorpe. In 1949 he was again honored with the title of Knight Commander in the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand in recognition of his military work in the region.

Brigadier General Elliott R. Thorpe remains an outstanding example of a Freemason for his dedication, honor, and integrity in the service to his community, state, and country. Brother Thorpe laid down his working tools in 1989 and was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

So, I became very contemplative about what the spiritual leader was to do. Then as I stated a moment ago, it was a watershed moment. So, what does that mean? Well, a watershed describes a ridge of land separating waters that then flow into two different bodies. That being said, my watershed moment was that point in time that I realized that I was to be the student and the teacher or the follower and the guide. What a profound thought. I thought to myself knowing full well at that moment that it is what defines our Craft for each of us, our personal journey from boyhood to manhood guided by the light that beckons.

So, I just knew there had to be more to it than that, so there I sat and thought okay, ‘Google’ what is the job? I searched through many Grand Lodge web sites across the country.

My discovery has laid the cornerstone and foundation for the ‘Proposed Work’ of the Chaplain at Charity Lodge. The lodge whose motto is “deeds not words”. So, I can tell you that I have borrowed heavily from others across the country and that the office and duties of the Chaplain predate the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England, and is thus explained.

The Lodge Chaplain brings the Masonic concept of spirituality to all meetings of the lodge. He provides ministry to and for members, and strives to be the purveyor of a moral conscience of the lodge. He is an officer of the lodge charged with a caring and supporting role between the fraternity, its members, and their families, doing so with dignity, and concern for others, with a caring heart, an attentive ear, and confidentiality in relationships. He reminds the lodge that the basic tenets of Freemasonry are spiritual and are central to the life of a Freemason.

So how do we define the Chaplain?
The basic tenets of Freemasonry are spiritual, and need to be interpreted and understood by Masons because they underlie everything in Masonry. The Chaplain’s jewel is an opened book, symbolizing the volume of Sacred Law; the Christian Bible, Hebrew Torah or Tanakh, the Muslim Qur’an, the Hindu Vedas or other Holy Books. The Chaplain works under the direction of the Worshipful Master of the lodge and is the purveyor of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

1. Chaplains provide respectful spiritual and emotional care to persons of all faiths. The Chaplain is available to walk beside a brother during a journey of distress and celebration.
2. Ill health is often painful and isolating and full of uncertainties for a brother. The Chaplain is available to lend that attentive ear to a brother and seek to understand his plight. For all the path is sought to empower a brother through creative thinking with possibilities for healing and renewal.
3. The Chaplain is committed to responding to every summons for assistance as a critical need and within the length of his cable tow. The Chaplain is dependent on family, friends, and brothers to make us all aware of the need for our services.
4. It is necessary for the Chaplain to work with lodge officers, brothers, and their families in order to become aware of needs yet to be voiced. It is important for all officers to understand the role of the Chaplain.
5. The Chaplain will serve to fulfill the craving for less hostility and prejudice, and more mercy, graciousness, and social justice.
6. The Chaplain will always strive to be open, sensitive and non-judgmental.
7. The Chaplain can provide solace during times of sadness.

(continued on page 13)
9. To relieve the distressed is an expression of offering our sincere affection for the less fortunate. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds is the grand aim of all Freemasons, especially Chaplains.

So, what should the attributes of a Chaplain be?
The following doesn’t explain who I am or define me, but defines the attributes of a Chaplain and documents my aspirations. It sets out the work goals ahead for me to be that person. So, those attributes are:

1. Compassion, a desire to serve through organized activities that benefit others.
2. Confidentiality, the ability to keep confidences, even though at times it may be risky, and the ability to really listen and hear what is being said, exemplified by the attentive ear.
3. Resourcefulness, the willingness to assume responsibility and an interest in doing things in a different way that will better serve the Craft, think outside of the box.
4. Sociability, being a people person is essential in Freemasonry because it is a people oriented activity. Be able, to communicate with members, guests, friends, and families. Take the initiative in meeting newcomers and welcoming them.
5. Organization, working with the Worshipful Master, to organize, or suggest, lodge activities, such as phone squad, visitations, and outreach, or any program that will add to the spiritual quality and understanding of the lodge members.
6. Faith, being at ease with brothers of other religious faiths and having an ease with prayer and devotion. Being willing to learn about Freemasonry and its relation to various religions.
7. Spirituality, an attitude of openness and a relationship to God which can almost be seen, and is a unique combination of all the above attributes.

So, what are the responsibilities of our Chaplain.

1. The regular opening and closing prayers of the Lodge.
2. The lessons in each degree
3. Prayers preceding all meetings, dinners, or other occasions.
4. Visit and comfort the sick, shut-ins, and bereaved.
   a. The Chaplain isn’t solely responsible for such visits; there should be a group of volunteer assistants for this purpose. This will help to illustrate the fellowship within the lodge. In other words, more than one person from the lodge cares.
5. Mediate distress.
   a. It is most undignified for a man in distress to be asked to approach more than one officer in the lodge when he is in need. The Chaplain is the obvious choice, since he is trusted by both the lodge and the individual Mason to preserve the utmost dignity and confidentiality in these manners.
   b. Mediation can also be a goal for stress between brethren or between a brother and the lodge. An eye toward this type of service should be open, particularly when visiting or in connection with "inactive" persons.
   a. To ensure that the memorial services for a brother are carried out with the utmost dignity and care.

In the upcoming year I hope to put in place a number of little projects, liberally stolen from others. I am hopeful that some will be seen as worthwhile, and become standard activities.

1.) A phone squad is a loose knit committee working with the Worshipful Master and the Chaplain to reach out to brothers and/or the family in time of need, as well as in time of celebration. One brother to call to inquire about need, or a happy birthday wish from 3 - 5 brothers.
2.) Visitation squad is a loose knit group organized by the Worshipful Master and led by the Chaplain to visit distressed brothers or possibly manage a project to aid a brother or his family in need.
3.) To monitor attendance of brothers, and to highlight or call attention to potential problems in a brother’s absence.
4.) To monitor and acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries.
5.) Strive to maintain open communications with all brethren.
6.) Help organize the District Special Ladies Event.
7.) Offer whenever possible short programs which foster the growth of the lodge’s spiritual nature.
8.) Provide special prayer or readings for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and for Saints John Days, or any other time which may be appropriate.
9.) Ensure Memorial Service Applications are always available and filed with the Secretary.

If anyone has any advice or ideas or a suggestion for collaboration I would love to hear your ideas.

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Report from the Masonic Districts

METRO DISTRICT
R.: W.: Robert B. Elliston, DDGM

Metro District Holiday Greetings

The end of the “old” year is rapidly approaching bringing with it all the festivities of the “Holiday Season.” The season beginning with Thanksgiving through to the end of December brings with it the hustle and bustle of the shopping experience, the required decorating of our homes, and the numerous party invitations. But, each of us should never lose sight of and be ever mindful of the real reason that we each in our own way celebrate, reflect, and take joy in this time of the year.

While the lodges within the district will surely be holding holiday parties, they also will be remembering those less fortunate by preparing and delivering “food baskets”, collecting and donating warm clothing and personal items to those in need, collecting for “Toys for Tots”, assisting at the local soup kitchens, and generally adhering to our tenets of charity and brotherly love.

Before, the season draws to a close, the Metro District will be joining together to support the Penguin Plunge on New Year’s Day. This event will be held at Roger Wheeler State Beach and all monies raised will go to benefit the Special Olympics. I have been told that Roger Williams Lodge (Northern District) has put forth a challenge to see if collectively we can have at least 100 participants at the Plunge. If we the brothers of this district are able to provide enough ‘plungers’, the 30-foot Penguin will be
wearing a Masonic Apron on the day of the event. Let’s hope we as a district can make this happen and that Special Olympics will reap the benefit of our Charity Event.

Recapping the past month, November was truly busy. The Grand Master held his Official Visitation to the Central District on November 4 at Ionic Lodge. November 11 was a memorable day. It began with Keith and me traveling along with Overseas Lodge to a breakfast hosted by Mt. Vernon Lodge. We next made our way to the Veterans Cemetery in Exeter where Overseas Lodge held an impressive wreath laying ceremony honoring our fallen military brethren. Following this, we traveled back to the Pawtucket Temple for lunch after which we were privileged to install a new line of officers at Overseas Lodge for the upcoming year. Congratulations to new Master W.: Bryan Martin and his officer line. That evening we along with our ladies attended the Overseas Annual Banquet. It was truly an enjoyable and memorable day spent with our brother veterans and one that I will not forget. Redwood Lodge held a Table Lodge on November 13, which featured mostly South American cuisine. Another enjoyable evening with the brethren of the district. The half-way point of this Masonic Year was reached with the Grand Lodge Semi-Annual Communication which took place on the afternoon of November 18 and was followed that evening by the Fall Festival held at the Marriott Hotel in Providence. During the last week of November, we held our district organizational meeting at Jenks Lodge and began to plan for the upcoming 2018-2019 Masonic year.

January, the beginning of the new year, should prove to be no less engaged. As mentioned above, on New Year’s Day, the district will be at the beach in support of the Special Olympics. On January 6 Keith and I will be at Jenks Lodge overseeing their Annual Communication. Just a short two days later, January 8, Redwood Lodge will be hosting my Official Visitation. We are looking forward to both of these events, and are planning to make some unofficial visitations to other lodges within the district during the month as the weather and our schedules permit.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to wish to each and every one a very Happy Holiday and a very prosperous New Year. Be safe and I look forward to seeing you in lodge during the coming year.

**EAST BAY DISTRICT**

R.: W.: Robert A. Palazzo, DDGM

Making a Difference

At its very basic definition, making a difference means having a significant effect on a person or situation. With that in mind, I’ll relate a few personal stories that I believe made a difference. I’m quite sure within each of our lives many opportunities have surfaced where you could have or did make a difference and the effect was gratifying.

For me, one recent morning I had met my father and brother for breakfast and as usual my dad wore his WWII service cap when this man approached him and thanked him for his service. Now as you know this is not an unusual greeting as it happens quite often these days and deservedly so. But for the first time, I took a moment to reflect on the incident. What a profound effect military service has made on many people who have not served. The service these men and women as many have done and still continue to do, leave their homes and families to defend our nation and support others in defense of freedom and “Make a Difference.”

On an earlier occasion in my Masonic life with only a few years in our fraternity, I assisted a lodge during the Thanksgiving holiday preparing food for the less fortunate. It took only a small amount of time from my day and I didn’t miss a beat in my own life but leaving the lodge that day I had such a warm feeling like I had never felt before, that I believe “I made a difference.”

So the question I pose to you, do you make a difference within your life or the lives of others? Let us take it one step further, do you make a difference within our Craft? I’m willing to bet that within our fraternity many stories have gone unrecognized over the years that in some way, shape, or form, has a brother who has made a difference! It is through the efforts of these unknown brothers that we have the privilege of being Freemasons today.

My Brothers, recently I had a discussion with our Grand Master about how our numbers are dwindling and he emphasized that although our numbers are down, the quality of men we have are a paramount, over quantity. That we have such a great advantage as many of our Masters or upcoming Masters are young men, and that these young men will make a difference. Now does that mean we open the flood gates to complete change? This is up to the senior members to guide our brothers in a transition that blends well with all generations. Again, they will make a difference, it will be a matter of what or how cooperative we are. But it all shows one thing that through our lives we have been programmed, that more is better, and that isn’t always the case.

So, I ask you, have you ever made a difference as a member of this fraternity or do you simply wade through the tide never making ripples? It is a part of your obligation as a man and Mason to assist your fellow man. The task need not be large, you just need to make a difference in helping. I personally have been fortunate to experience such moments, and they are ones I have never forgotten.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT**

R.: W.: Douglas J. Grant, DDGM

Brethren all,

Greetings from the Northern District. It is now that time of year when we spend time with our family and friends and are reminded of those that are less fortunate than us. Many large charities are at the local markets looking for donations to help those that may not be having the best holiday season. While these organizations should be applauded for their efforts to not only collect clothing, food, or monetary donations, they also raise awareness that there are a lot of people in need throughout the country and in our local communities.

In consideration of this, what are you doing to help the greatest fraternity in world to raise up the downtrodden, assist the poor, provide alms to those in need, or simply bring happiness to a family that has fallen on bad times? Every lodge has the opportunity to do all of this not only during the holiday season but at any time during the year. Has your lodge considered doing a monthly charity collection for a local family in need? Or perhaps set up a separate donation plate during your regular monthly meeting to collect for a designated local family that could use some help?

One of the many things that make Freemasonry attractive is that we can do these things by simply asking our brothers in our own lodges to participate each month. This type of activity can have so many benefits. It can bring our lodges together and work towards the common goal. It can fulfill one of the voids that may be in our
lives, to help others. But most of all, it can bring joy and happiness to a family that is unsuspecting and always most appreciative of the consideration that a group of people went out of their way to help them. And if this is done in true Masonic style, the family may not even know who helped them. These are the wages that we can be paid when our task is done. Everyone is richer for the work that was accomplished.

During the installation of officers, the installing officer meets the brethren on the level and proceeds to give them their charge. Part of this is to communicate to everyone their duties, but in addition it is to let the brethren know that one of their duties is to please each other and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness. If it is a duty that we should be fulfilling, I challenge everyone to unite and find ways to reach out to those that are in need and provide them relief. Make yourself happy by working together and making a local family happy. Everyone could use a little more of that!

I encourage all of you to talk to the brothers in your lodge and in your district. Let’s find a way to make the lives of others happier and by doing so we will be communicating happiness!

May the blessings of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and Masonic virtue cement us.

CENTRAL DISTRICT
R.: W.: André H. Faria, Jr., DDGM

Brothers,

As the Holiday Season is upon us and 2017 quickly is coming to a close, many take the opportunity to remember the year gone by. There is much for us to be thankful for and I am often humbled when I hear that those among us who are placed at the lowest spoke of fortune’s wheel often teach us better than others, how to be grateful not only for everything we have, but most especially for all that we are. First and foremost, we have been loved into existence by a Supreme Power who created us exactly as we are. It sometimes is mind blowing to consider that the Supreme Architect willed us in to existence and that is, in my opinion, the most important thing we can say about each other, the fact that “we are.” As we travel in Freemasonry and meet so many different people, it is awe inspiring to step out of our own lives for a moment to consider that every brother we meet was created for a special purpose and the adventure of this life’s journey is to discover our path and live it to the fullest.

I neglected to mention in my last article that it was truly a humbling experience for me to present a 50-year Service Medal to a Past Master of Manchester Lodge No. 12, W.: Anthony DiPadua. It was so nice to be with his Lady Karen (who knows so much about our Craft) and his daughter Nancy. W.: DiPadua looks terrific at 94 years and I was gratified to have with me the Master of the Lodge, W.: Stephen Barnabe as well as secretary W.: Roy Pruitt. W.: Phil Crawford was also there to help us celebrate this achievement.

The months of October and November flew by faster than geese heading toward the equator! Now that all of our annuals are completed, Brandt and I can look forward to visiting the lodges and enjoying the camaraderie and work of each lodge. Congratulations to W.: Jeffrey Lloyd Kozlin as he took the reins of Manchester Lodge. It was a special evening as R.: W.: Glenn S. Carlson, DDGM, as he installed W.: Kozlin. It was also a special treat to have W.: Scott Alger fill in as GMC for the evening as Brandt and Mary were on vacation in Ireland. The evening was a terrific success with many awards being presented to deserving brothers. It is this spirit of fellowship and appreciation that really activates a lodge and inspires the brothers to take part in many of its activities. The brothers of Manchester Lodge were so courteous that I even received a tour of the shed! Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of a very large gavel for use to close the annual, causing M.: W.: Stephen T. McGuire, PGM to note how I appeared to be the only “Portuguese Thor” he has ever seen!

A special word of thanks also is owed to R.: W.: Elliot R. Greene for filling in as GMC for the Grand Master’s visitation to Ionic Lodge No. 28. It was a great night of fun and fraternity as the District welcomed our Grand Master, M.: W.: Peter Iacobucci. The program for the evening was terrific as Hope Lodge’s W.: Dennis Hilliard presented an interesting program on Sherlock Holmes. What a talented jurisdiction we belong to with so many gifted brothers. Special thanks is also owed to W.: Charles Wilkinson for filling in for the Master (who was not able to be present for this auspicious event) and for coordinating the festivities of the evening.

As we remember all that we are grateful for, we also must never forget all the men and women who dedicate their lives to service in our Armed Forces. Their sacrifice to bring peace to a troubled world and to defend our freedoms should never be taken for granted. It was a humbling opportunity to be present at the dedication of the Bristol Veteran’s Home as they completed a long-awaited renovation. Congratulations to R.: W.: Rick Baccus, the DDGM of the Southern District and also the Commandant of the Veterans Home for spearheading such a tremendous undertaking. We must always take care of our veterans and never forget their dedication to our country and to those of us who did not have the opportunity to serve.

It was also great to acknowledge the successful year of W.: Stephen Real of Daylight Lodge No. 48 as he handed the reins of the lodge to W.: Raymond J. Brisson. It was different to preside over the annual of a lodge in the morning hours, but again, this demonstrates the wide variety of Masonic expression in our jurisdiction. Congratulations to all of the brothers of Daylight Lodge and best wishes for a terrific Masonic year ahead!

The Annual Communication of Harmony Lodge No. 9 was also a treat to preside at in the presence of so many brothers, ladies, and guests. With the assistance of R.: W.: David Armstrong as GMC for the evening, the festivities took place without a hitch. Congratulations to W.: Michael Cunningham on a very successful year as Master of the lodge. I was grateful that he wore his usual Masonic garb and not the Canadian or “Toronto Tuxedo” that he has often threatened to wear! Congratulations to W.: Merrell (continued from Page 14, Northern District)
“Micky” Torgan as he now takes charge of the lodge. He and the officers are going to have a great year!

Can you believe that we have already had another Semi-annual Communication? Congratulations to R:.W:. Glenn S. Carlson for his election as Grand Master- elect. A note of felicitations is also due to all of the Grand Lodge officers who were elected for the ensuing year. Our Jurisdiction is indeed talented and full of dedicated men wanting not to be served but rather to dedicate their time and talents to the service of their brothers. A wonderful time was had by all at the Fall Festival. The event seems to be growing more and more each year! It was a great celebration which reminded us not so much that “Winter Is Coming” but rather that new life and light surrounds us in this small but “powerhouse” of a jurisdiction!

SOUDHERN DISTRICT
R:.W:. Rick Baccus, DDGM

Greetings brethren,

Brother Rick Lynch and I greatly appreciate the hospitality the district lodges have shown us. We were warmly received by the Brothers of Mt. Vernon Lodge for our official visitation on October 5. The program for the evening turned out to be a history regarding one of the Rhode Island militia units and their museum. We also received W:. Michael Patterson, the Director of Masonic Education for District No. 49, region No. 4 of the Grand Lodge of PA.

It was a great opportunity for me to install the officers of Hope Lodge No. 25 on Wednesday, October 11. The installation ceremonies are indeed full of pageantry and important messages. I have participated in installation ceremonies for Elks Lodges and Knights of Columbus Councils, and while there may be similarities, the Grand Lodge ceremony has many profound meanings. We often do not remember the words, so it behooves us all to attend other annual installations to gain the lessons taught therein.

My congratulations and best of luck goes out to W-.Jim Haldeman and his line of officers in the upcoming year. Rick and I really appreciated your warm welcome.

Special congratulations is extended to Brother Wayne Durfee who was made an Honorary Past Master that evening, an honor he richly deserves for his tireless efforts in the quarries.

The next evening, we had the pleasure to install the officers of Charity Lodge No. 23 at their annual communication. Rick and I extend our best wishes to W-.Randy Joslin who has assumed the East for a second year. If it is anything like last year, Charity Lodge will continue to thrive.

Rick and I, along with our wives Kay and Patti, were honored to be invited to the Franklin and Charity Lodge’s Special Ladies Luncheon on October 22. It was truly special for us to socialize with the brothers and ladies at the Richmond County Club. The food and camaraderie were outstanding.

My brothers, please feel free to reach out to me should you want me to attend your functions. My email is rickbaccus@cox.net and my cell phone is 401-413-6281.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE LODGES

St. Johns Lodge No. 1 Providence
By: W-.Timothy L. Culhane, P.M.

St. Johns Lodge is off to a good start this new Masonic year. Our September communication featured John McNiff, a Ranger with the National Park Service at the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence. Dressed as Roger Williams, Ranger McNiff delivered an exemplary and captivating presentation on who Roger Williams was, why he was important, and the series of events that led him to establish the state of Rhode Island. Interwoven with the past history of religious tolerance and freedom, he further entertained and enlightened us with the far-reaching effects of Roger Williams’ ideas, accomplishments, and legacy.

October’s regular communication allowed St. Johns to welcome 5 new brothers as Entered Apprentice. The degree was delivered by the officers with crisp professionalism and the candidates received an excellent degree. Congratulations to our new brothers.

On the morning of December 16, we will host the annual Holiday Food Basket event at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. We will provide bountiful food baskets for approximately 100 families in

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need this holiday season. The event starts at approximately 7:00 AM. Please consult St. Johns’ trestleboard for further information.

The December 20, 2017 regular communication presents a continuation of the inter-lodge visitations established last year between St. Johns Lodge and Ezekiel Bates Lodge in Attleboro, MA. This year we will be visiting Ezekiel Bates and holding our regular communication at the Attleboro Masonic building. It will be a great night of fun, brotherhood, enjoying each other’s lodge ritual and the exchange of ideas.

In January St. Johns will confer the Fellow Craft degree for our candidates. Please join us and share our fellowship, on this night or any of our communications. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, usually opening lodge at 6:00 PM, and 5:30PM on degree nights.

Finally, W.: Ed Bertrand, the Wardens, and Brethren of St. Johns would like to wish everyone a joyous and merry holiday season, and a happy, safe, and prosperous New Year, and may we ever be mindful of the needs of others.

Washington Lodge No. 3
By: W.: Thomas Neyhart, P.M.

The lodge participated in Warren’s Holiday Festival on November 24. We gave tours to many visitors of our lodge building and marched in the parade, representing Freemasonry, in our tux, aprons, and jewels.

Brothers Tom Butts and Sean Ludwig are holding a charity toy drive to benefit those in need this holiday season. To support our brother’s efforts, we will be collecting new unwrapped toys for both boys and girls at the lodge through our Friday night rehearsals until December 8. If you wish to donate toys or cash but cannot attend the lodge, please contact Steve Curria at 401-696-7256, goldenwolf1979@gmail.com or through Facebook and he will arrange to pick them up.

Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 8
By: W.: Roger Lepire, P.M.

We held our step-up night on September 29. Being a moon lodge, this was actually our second meeting in September. W.: Rowan Gottschalk opened the meeting and then turned it over to W.: Michael Picard to confer the work of the evening. After Mike put his line in place, they proceeded to confer the Entered Apprentice degree on candidate Thomas Aiello. Mike was excellent as Master, and so was the entire officer line. All in attendance were very impressed with the degree work. Since we will have no October meeting this was W.: Rowan’s last full evening as Master. He has done an excellent job all year and has made Mt. Moriah Lodge proud. You’d never know that Rowan is the youngest lodge master that RI has ever had. Best of luck Past Master Rowan.

After the degree work we had a presentation by Matthew “Doc” Perry, a retired Marine Medic, from St Johns No. 1 Portsmouth. Doc always has great presentations, and this was no exception. He brought a stone that came from King Solomon’s quarry and was presented to St. John’s many, many years ago. It was passed around and we all got to touch it. That was a special moment for all of us. Thanks Doc.

We had the honor of having a number of distinguished guests in attendance. W.: Joe Fox from Moriah Lodge No. 15 in Brooklyn, Ct. honored us with his presence. W.: Joe Fox has been to our lodge several times and we always have a good time with him after the meeting, when we meet in the shed to “milk the cow”. Also in attendance were three Roger Williams Lodge No. 32 officers: Melvin Silverio, Senior Warden; Frank Saccoccio, Secretary; and Robert Hamun, Sr., Tyler. They also enjoyed the meeting and the good times afterwards. We also had R.: W.: Robert Ellston, DDGM, honor us with his presence as usual. He is doing a great job as DDGM and he is the first DDGM from Mt. Moriah Lodge since 1907. Keep doing us proud Right Worshipful.

W.: Archie Cinq-Mars has been without a car for many years. The brethren have visited him many times in the past, but we felt it was time again. W.: Frank Ball got some of us together for a visit. Frank, Jim Bethel, Sr., Walter Rosley, and myself took a ride to East Providence and spent about an hour with Archie. He didn’t know we were coming so he was happily surprised to see us. Archie was his old self laughing and joking with us the whole time. We miss not seeing Archie at our meetings and family times.

I’ll see you in two months, the Good Lord willing!

Harmony Lodge No. 9
By: W.: Michael A. Cunningham, Master

As the cold weather starts to set in and the annual collection of seemingly innumerable leaves is nearly complete, it must mean that Harmony Lodge is about to begin a new Masonic year. Several activities were organized before the current Masonic year wrapped up. In mid-September, approximately 30 members of Harmony’s extended family participated in a 2-hour boat cruise that provided a tour of several RI lighthouses. Apart from some temporary fog, the weather was warm and clear, which helped make for a very enjoyable afternoon.

In late September, over 60 attendees participated in a Ladies at the Table dinner, where the ladies of Harmony Lodge were acknowledged and thanked for their continued support of our members and their pursuit of Masonic growth and activities. The lodge was thrilled to be able to welcome our Most Worshipful Grand Master Peter Iacobucci and his lady Fran, Right Worshipful Grand Marshal Gil Fontes and his lady Blanca, Right Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Andre Faria and his lady Beth, and Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden Ken Poyton and his lady Colleen. The catered meal also included several toasts to the ladies present and an enjoyable evening was had by all, even if it did take a few practice toasts to learn the proper toasting procedure!
October was another busy month for the lodge. The annual step-up night was held during the monthly communication, where Senior Warden Mick Torgan assumed the chair in the East and conducted business for the evening along with his officers in their presumptive new roles to begin after November’s annual meeting. It was great to see the support that Mick and his officers received that evening by a good contingent of brothers who were present on the sidelines. In the next issue of the RI Freemason we are looking forward to providing an update on Harmony’s annual meeting and the elections of its next officers.

Also in October, several Harmony brothers continued to support the travel club by attending annual communications at both Ionic and Manchester Lodges, as well as participating in the Tavern Fare Festive Board that was hosted by Grand Lodge as part of the observance of the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England. The travel club is offered every month and new participants are always welcome!

Looking forward, several activities are planned during the Christmas season with our extended Masonic family, including the annual lodge banquet on Saturday, November 25, home visits to our special ladies and informed brothers on December 2, our ladies Christmas luncheon on December 9, and the children’s Christmas party on December 16. Please visit www.harmony9.org, or refer to the monthly lodge trestleboard for additional details. Harmony Lodge looks forward to these events every year, especially since we have an opportunity to be more attentive to the needs of others during the holiday season, which can be a difficult time for some. To the members of Harmony Lodge, please plan to participate in these activities as much as you are able.

Harmony Lodge will again hold its Getaway Weekend, this time in Groton, CT, from February 23-25, 2018. This social weekend away is open to anyone in the Grand Jurisdiction who would like to attend. Additional details will be available at www.harmony9.org, in upcoming lodge notices or by contacting any lodge officer. This is always a great weekend of fellowship so please plan to participate!

Finally, as we enter this year’s holiday season, Harmony Lodge wishes all of our fellow brethren and friends in our Grand Jurisdiction a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2018. As we enjoy the blessings of the season, please be mindful of the needs of others, as we continue to practice those truly Masonic virtues of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Man彻ster Lodge No. 12
By: Brother Gary A. Paul

We’ve got a lot going on at Manchester Lodge this holiday season. On Friday December 1, at 7:00 PM we will be holding the first of two regular communications for the month of December. We will also be meeting on Friday, December 29 at 7:00 PM. In keeping with the holiday spirit, we will be having a toy drive this month. Arrangements can be made to either drop toys off at Manchester Hall or they can be picked up. For more information please email: gpaul@mt12.org.

Our communication in January will be held Friday the 26 at 7:00 PM. The work of the evening will be the Fellow Craft degree and Middle Chamber lecture for the benefit of our three newest brothers; Randy Boone, Lou Tager, and Raphael Villanova. If you can, please come out and support these brothers as they take their second step in Freemasonry.

Morning Star Lodge No. 13
By: Brother Adam Kujawski

Are you a traveling man?

There are two ways to approach charity. The first and most common, is to wait to learn that help is needed. Then provide the assistance you can within the length of your cable tow. The second and less common, is to reach out in your community and ask what you and your lodge can do to help.

You don't have to travel far to be a traveling man, you just have to be willing to reach out. There are many charitable organizations doing good in the community. Traveling using technologies such as phones and email, as well as face to face. Reach out and let them know that we Freemasons are here, and see if we can assist them in meeting their goals. The rewards are multiple. It better the community, provides a teaching opportunity as to what Freemasonry is, and gets your brothers together.

Morning Star Lodge recently reached out to another local charity group and asked what we could do to help them, help our common community. Our lodge was constituted in 1811, and the other organization started in 1891. It took 126 years to talk and now the future looks promising!

As a first step in the new relationship, Morning Star brothers and their families, as well as a brother from Lafayette Lodge assisted the other organization in a yard cleanup of one of the houses that they maintain as shelter for the homeless. This was important to them because it was a focal point during their shelter walk the week after. We will now continue to work together to the benefit of both our organizations.

St. Paul’s Lodge No. 14
By: W.: Charles O’Hara, IV, Master

St. Paul’s Lodge held its regular stated communication on October 3. The dinner of high quality and especially quantity was well received by 24 seated brethren. Following the opening at 7:00 PM, the lodge welcomed the distinguished program presenter for the evening, R.:W.: Walter H. Hunt, the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The gavel was passed to the R.:W.: Robert A. Palazzo, DDGM. He was accompanied by W.: Brad Riplea, GMC.

Our lodge received a unique whale tooth scrimshaw gavel from W.: Jason Nystrom, Master of St. Alban’s Lodge No. 6. This commemorative artifact has the name of every Rhode Island lodge
already engraved on the brass handle from previous journeys and is now again on a journey to all the lodges in the State. We wish W.: Jason well on his personal journey to complete his visit to every Rhode Island lodge this year.

It is exciting to report that three applications for the degrees in Freemasonry were received and read. This was followed by the featured presentation and talk on the Morgan Affair and the US Anti-Masonic movement by R.: W.: Walter H. Hunt. This was a program of the highest quality that was extremely well received by the brethren.

As Master of St. Paul’s Lodge I was honored to present three Masonic funeral ceremonies with the invaluable assistance of R.: W.: Alfred M. Cameron, Associate Grand Chaplain. The first service was for W.: Peter Biuk Jr. (Master in 1972), the second for W.: James Augustus Stratford at the gravesite with full (gun salute) military honors; and the third for W.: Thomas Dawson Mateer. Military honors were also performed for brother Dawson. This was a great opportunity for our newest brethren to witness and participate in one of the most solemn and impressive ceremonies in Freemasonry.

At our November 14 stated communication, we conferred the Fellow Craft degree on two distinguished candidates. We congratulate brothers Barnaby Quinn and David Sturgeon on the second step of their Masonic journey. A distinctive home cooked “Thanksgiving style” dinner with all the trimmings, was served. We enjoyed the work of 3 fine chefs of the lodge. A home-made pie and coffee collation followed the work of the evening.

Franklin Lodge No. 20
By: W.: Ray Geer, P.M.

The Westerly Masonic Foundation was officially incorporated in the State of Rhode Island on May 10, 1948 as a “Domestic Non-Profit Corporation”. The original incorporators were Albert D. Spicer, Nelson H. Thorp, Einar Larson, Albert H. Spicer, Lewis R. Greene, Arthur Perry and Clarence R. Vars. The purpose for the Foundation was to provide Lodge rooms, meeting places, halls, places of entertainment, and offices for the Masonic Fraternity and affiliated organizations in the Town of Westerly.

In June of 1948 the Foundation acquired the executive home of Arthur M. Cottrell, Jr. and Kate Virginia Cottrell located on 20 Elm Street in Westerly, RI. The Cottrell Family owned C.B. Cottrell & Sons in Pawcatuck, CT where they manufactured printing presses in partnership with Harris Graphics. The three-story home was built around 1890. The property included several outbuildings and had servant quarters on the 3rd floor of the main house.

In 1957 the Foundation secured a $35,000 mortgage from the Washington Trust Company for the purpose of constructing an addition to the original home. Which was to include a lodge room, offices, dining and entertainment areas. Interestingly enough, the lodge room is actually situated due east and west!

Membership of the Westerly Masonic Foundation was made up of the various Masonic and affiliated bodies of Westerly. These included Franklin Lodge No. 20, Deborah Chapter No. 9 O.E.S., Napatre Chapter Order of DeMolay, Narragansett Commandery No. 27, Westerly Assembly No. 7 International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Tall Cedars of Lebanon Massasoit Forest and the Westerly Square and Compass Club (maybe others). Moving into its 70th year, the Foundation’s membership currently consists of Franklin Lodge No. 20, Deborah Chapter No. 9, Westerly Assembly No. 7 and Narragansett Commandery No. 27.

Every nook and cranny of the building is filled with Masonic history!

Charity Lodge No. 23
By: Brother Ralph Boragine

As our new year begins we find ourselves looking forward to the largely unknown adventure that for certain will define our year, while at the same time glances in our collective rear mirror bring smiles and an occasional grimace that somehow got laced with the joy when all was said and done, all of which defines the brotherhood of Charity Lodge.

This past year began with the celebration of our 150th anniversary and was filled with a very busy travel schedule led by W.: Randy Joslin. Surprisingly we still were able to squeeze in a number of projects around the lodge. We also initiated six Entered Apprentices, three of whom are from our own lodge. And yes, we occasionally still gather around the edges of our beautiful parking lot and praise the wisdom of our decision in having it repaved.

While we are gazing in our rearview mirror we cannot help but smile at a few of the joys: Ken Winnie’s dad from New Jersey affiliated, M.: W.: Wyman “Skip” Hallstrom, Jr. became our newest honorary member and W.: Daniel Rzewuski was an exemplar for a Fellow Craft degree. There are always moments in the lodge when the beauties of our Craft are on display and now and again there are those evenings that are magical. There was one special night recently when W.: Randy presented the gavel to M.: W.: Leon Knudsen who then requested that brother John Lennaire release R.: W.: Carl Richard from his post as Tiler and occupy brother John’s Senior Warden’s chair. He then requested that R.: W.: Jack Anderson remain in his chair as Senior Deacon. It was amazing to see the highly skilled brothers at work. As we watched and listened I am tempted to say you could feel the joy.

On a more somber note, two of our brothers have laid down there part no more and those long there rest no shadow, falls a smile at a few of the joys: Ken Winnie’s dad from New Jersey affiliated, M.: W.: Wyman “Skip” Hallstrom, Jr. became our newest honorary member and W.: Daniel Rzewuski was an exemplar for a Fellow Craft degree. There are always moments in the lodge when the beauties of our Craft are on display and now and again there are those evenings that are magical. There was one special night recently when W.: Randy presented the gavel to M.: W.: Leon Knudsen who then requested that brother John Lennaire release R.: W.: Carl Richard from his post as Tiler and occupy brother John’s Senior Warden’s chair. He then requested that R.: W.: Jack Anderson remain in his chair as Senior Deacon. It was amazing to see the highly skilled brothers at work. As we watched and listened I am tempted to say you could feel the joy.

Robert Lee Dubeau, was born on December 12, 1942, raised on March 23, 1985 and signed the bylaws on May 2, 1985. He was called to the Celestial Lodge on May 10, 2017 at the age of 74 years, a member of the Craft for 32 years.

Paul Henry Girard, was born on September 18, 1949, and raised on December 3, 1987. Paul served as Master of Nathanael Greene Lodge No. 45 in 1992. On June 15, 1995, Brother Paul affiliated with Charity Lodge and served as Master in 1997. He would continue his service to his brothers at Charity Lodge as Chaplain until he was called to the Celestial Lodge on July 14, 2017 at 67 years of age, serving the craft for 29 years.
So our year begins anew at Charity Lodge with the election and installation of officers. R.W.: Rick Backus DDGM assisted by W.: Rick Lynch GMC installed the following officers for the new year: Master, Randy Joslin; Senior Warden, John K. Lemmier; Junior Warden, Chris Tavares; Treasurer, Thomas Mattos; Secretary, Russell J. Lorenson; Chaplain, Ralph P. Boragine; Senior Deacon, Kenneth J. Winne, Jr.; Junior Deacon, Carl Richard; Marshall, Philip A. Fahimian; Musical Director, Leverett Andrews; Sentinel, Gregg Platt; and Tiler, Stan Wostal. M.W.: Leon Knudsen will continue to serve as our jurisprudence advisor, while R.W.: Michael Southern will become ritual advisor with assistance from R.W.: Jack Anderson and R.W.: Assistant Grand Lecturer David Crandall.

We started our new year with a great organizational dinner at the Richmond Country Club. It was great food and even better conversation in a beautiful setting as W.: Randy Joslin laid out his plans for the upcoming year which included a number of projects that he would like to see completed and a few more begun. He reviewed our busy travel schedule from last year and expressed an interest in increasing it. Everyone agreed it was a good plan and it was wondered if it wouldn’t be possible to try and iron out some of the meeting conflicts that exist within the district, so the Southern District could spend more time together. A number of ideas for the new year were suggested and adopted to further the fellowship at Charity Lodge.

Brother Ralph Boragine also gave a short review of the success stories that the Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee has most recently had. The first being the publication of “Simple Answers to Leading Questions”. The booklet is a revised and reprinted version of a booklet originally produced by the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. Most Worshipful Grand Master Peter Jacobucci facilitated this cooperative effort with the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The booklet was designed to communicate openly and freely the many fine attributes of Freemasonry in Rhode Island.

The Public Relations Committee also organized a Festive Board at Grand Lodge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, with traditional tavern fare. The Festive Board was followed the next day with an open house at Grand Lodge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Public Relations Committee also organized a Festive Board at Grand Lodge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, with traditional tavern fare. The Festive Board was followed the next day with an open house at Grand Lodge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England. The open house was a celebration of this year’s campaign to bring Rhode Island Freemasonry into the public eye in a very positive way.

We had another great event shared with Franklin Lodge No. 20. W.: Daniel Rzewuski and our own R.W.: Jack Anderson organized the annual tribute to our ladies. This was held again at the Richmond Country Club and is already scheduled for next year, same place, same date and time. R.W.: Dan and W.: Randy made a small presentation and thanked everyone for coming, as did both District Deputy Grand Master R.W.: Rick Baccus and his Grand Master of Ceremonies W.: Rick Lynch.

As this report comes to a close we just initiated our third entered apprentice Henry Thayer IV. and Senior Deacon Ken Winnie is now preparing 3 candidates for the proficiencies. Rumor has it we have an additional two candidates in the wind.

Jenks Lodge No. 24
By: Brother David J. Sousa

As fall turns to winter and the holiday season is upon us, Jenks Lodge is gearing up for an exciting end to 2017 and a wonderful start to 2018. On December 18, during our regular stated meeting the officers will be doing a step-up night to prepare for their new chairs. This is an exciting night as we prepare for our annual meeting and get ready for the new Masonic year ahead.

Also in December, we host our annual family Christmas party. This is always a joyous occasion, filled with fun, fellowship, and of course a visit from Santa.

We hit the ground running in the New Year with our annual meeting on January 6. Please join us as we welcome in our new officers and share fun and fellowship with dinner and dancing afterwards. Please email us at jenksodge@gmail.com if you would like to attend. On January 22, we will be conferring our EA degree. This should be a great night as our new officers will do their first degree. Please join us as we initiate a new group of brothers to the Craft.

January also proves to be very exciting as the Junior Wardens of our district are continuing to work on the district charity event for this year, the Polar Plunge on New Year’s Day at Roger Wheeler State Beach. All the lodges in our district will be working together to raise money for the Special Olympics while building brotherhood and fraternal ties across the district. Anyone interested in taking part in this event can contact me at sousadj24@gmail.com or go directly to the website http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/davesousa/42nd-Annual-Penguin-Plunge to join our Masonic team or make a donation.

Lastly, this is my last submission to the RI Freemason as the Junior Warden of Jenks Lodge, as I will be honored to be stepping up to the West at our annual meeting in January. I started my Masonic journey in 2010 because I was looking for something more in my life. I was looking to be a part of something greater, something that I could be proud of and where I would find friendship, morality, and trust. In the 7+ years I have been privileged to be part of the greatest fraternal organization in the world and an officer of my lodge. I have found all of this and so much more. The friendships I have made and people whom I have met that I am proud to call my brothers, have added so much to my life and that of my family. I know that my journey is far from over as in 1 short year, I may be honored to be elected master of my lodge, where I know I will continue to grow in those truly greatest virtues of Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love. However, as this has been an amazing year for me personally and in the Craft, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the brothers of my lodge and all my RI brothers. Happy New Year, God bless and I look forward to continuing this amazing journey with all of you.

Roger Williams Lodge No. 32
By: W.: Joseph Kern, Master

The lodge annual Christmas party will be on December 9 and will feature a potluck dinner. Family and friends are welcome. It is always a fun time and is a great time for all attending. During the holiday season remember our brothers who have not been to lodge and please reach out and let them know that we are still here for them if they need anything. We cannot forget the widows and orphans and it would nice to see them at the Christmas party. If they need transportation, please offer to bring them.

At the October evening meeting brother Andy Hencler was voted on for the title Honorary Past Master. All the members voted, and it was unanimous! He was escorted to the East and I met him on the level and then escorted him once around the Lodge to a hearty round of applause. If you see him please honor him with the title of ‘Worshipful.’

Please come on New Year’s Day for the Penguin Plunge at Roger Wheeler State Beach at 12:00 noon. If you cannot attend, please sign for the team and consider a monetary donation. We need 100 people on the team to get the giant penguin dressed in Masonic gear. It is for a great cause the Rhode Island Special Olympics. We will also have a game dinner in the spring which will also

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support the Special Olympics. We look forward to the brothers from throughout the state to help Roger Williams Lodge in this grand endeavor. I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

St. Johns Commandery No. 1
Knights Templar

Invites all Sir Knights and their guests to their semi-public meeting on February 5, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Scottish Rite Masonic Center

For a presentation by noted author David Brody as he discusses his latest book in the Templar series.

Rhode Island Shrine-Masonic Florida Luncheon
February 23, 2018 - 12:00 Noon
Sahib Shrine Center
600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL

Luncheon Menu
Pot Roast or Butter Crumb Tilapia
Entrees include: Tossed Salad, Herb Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread & Butter, Desert, Coffee and iced Tea.

$23.00 Per Person

Checks payable to: SAHIB SHRINE
Mail checks to:
Joseph B. Brearley
33004 Penbrooke Parkway
Lessburg, FL 34748
Joe: 352-250-2769

All Masons, Shriners, and their ladies and guests are welcome....
A hush of anticipation fell over the audience as the Thrice Potent Master of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Lodge of Perfection took the floor to open the 4th degree – Master Traveler. Under the direction of the Director of the 4th degree, Robert Fish, 32° our candidates learn from our distinguished cast the value of duty, fidelity, integrity, and the necessity for secrecy in all confidential relationships.

The mood shifted from the relaxed atmosphere of the 4th degree, to the most solemn of the Ineffable Degrees, the 14th Degree – Grand Elect Mason. This degree is the pinnacle of Ancient Craft Masonry and the crowning degree of the Lodge of Perfection. The Thrice Potent Master and Deputy Master entered the auditorium under escort. Without a word, the members took their stations once the Thrice Potent Master was in position to open the 14th degree and start their work. The Exemplar, R.∴W.∴Andre Faria, representing the candidates, was guided through the degree, learning the holiness of God and the need to reverence His Holy Name. The degree was flawless and leaves the candidates mindful that God will hold each of them accountable when they use His Name in vain.

Our congratulations to Larry J. Thienel 33°, director of the 14th degree on his excellent work! Come see what the Scottish Rite can do for you!
Join us for an evening with Author David Brody

December 23, 2017 5:00 PM
Grand Lodge - East Providence, RI

Join us earlier in the day at the Newport Tower for the Winter Solstice light show, along with the Commanderies of RI, as we welcome the birth of the new year. Dave will be giving a presentation at 5:00 PM on the release of his new book, "The Cult of Venus; Templars and the Ancient Goddess"

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NO ADMISSION, BOOK SIGNING