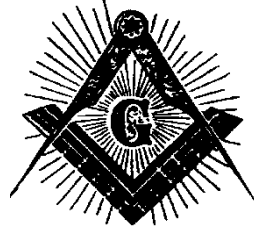


December 31, 2020



Columbia Lodge No. 25 A.F. & A.M.

Columbia Chartered May 18, 1793

Daskam Chartered May 11, 1859

Orient Chartered September 18, 1822

Consolidated April 6, 2006

Brothers,

This is the time when we would normally be publishing our winter Trestleboard. However, with lodge activities still suspended, there are no firm event dates, so a letter seems more appropriate.

We continue to have virtual stated communications via Zoom on our regular meeting nights, first and third Wednesdays, at 7:30 PM. All brothers receive invitations to the Zoom meetings. If you have not attended yet, please consider doing so. It is really very easy. In order to attend a virtual meeting, you must be properly attired (no tee shirts) and wear an apron. For those living locally who do not have an apron, arrangements can be made to pick one up at the lodge. Installation of 2021 officers will take place via Zoom on Saturday, January 9, at 2:00 PM.

Most importantly, please be safe, and keep those around you safe. Follow the guidelines recommended by your state and local authorities. Stay home as much as possible, consider ordering groceries through a service such as Instacart, avoid social gatherings, disinfect surfaces frequently, avoid touching your face, and wash your hands regularly. We need to be patient. We will get through this.

Walt Grube, Secretary

TEL: 860-633-9060

Master's Message

Brothers,

I'd like to begin by thanking all the brothers of Columbia Lodge for voting me in as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, 2021. It is with great humility and pleasure that I take on the role of Worshipful Master. The year 2020 has been a year to remember for posterity. We have lost brothers due to Covid-19, and due to natural causes. However, their names and their work inside and outside the craft will always be

remembered in our hearts and minds, as well as in the records of Columbia Lodge. Although it has been a negative and dark period, there has been light within our craft thanks to many brothers with their dedication, discipline, and loyalty.

One thing that the craft has taught us is that where there is a will there is a way, and technology has helped us achieve our way. Zoom meetings have given us the tool to continue fellowship within the craft. We have been able to keep Columbia in the light despite the darkness. We are fortunate to have dedicated brothers to achieve this goal, and I thank them for their great effort and work in maintaining the light in our Lodge. Their work has been indispensable to our fraternity, and has become a model for other lodges. Thank you very much for your work. I'm very proud to be part of this Speculative Masonic crew. Our Lodge has a long history of hard work in the craft. This great effort and hard work is why we have been able to maintain our Lodge for over 200 years. This underscores the importance of maintaining and preserving our records for future generations. Thanks to their achievements we were able to sit in Lodge or to have Zoom meetings in the year 2020. Sometimes we ask ourselves what is it that we are all working toward, and it is a legitimate question. The answer to this question is clear to me now. It is so that future generations in 200 years will also be able to sit in Lodge due to our efforts today.

I believe that through science and the natural course of nature we can leave all the negative aspects of 2020 behind us. We must focus on our brotherly friendship, and strengthen our bonds to each other. My sincere wish is to go back to normal as soon as possible. For this reason, in the future, I'd like to form a traveling crew to support the functions and efforts of our surrounding lodges, and invite them to our Lodge. It is my commitment as Worshipful Master of Columbia Lodge to support not only our lodge but the whole craft in general. I would also like to start a calling campaign to all our lodge brothers and invite them to our Zoom meetings. Finally, I'd like to have a Zoom fundraiser campaign for the children with dyslexia, the main charity supported by the Scottish Rite.

We don't need to reinvent the wheel to save masonry, we just need to strengthen what we already have in place. Please help me in this endeavor.

Fraternally yours,
Juan Carlos Diaz, Worshipful Master

Necrology:

Sadly, in the past few months, three of our brothers have been called to the Grand Lodge on High.

Br. Leonard (Bud) A. Savastio passed away on August 14. He was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1932. He was raised in Orient #62 in 1973. Bud served in the Navy where he became a plane captain aboard the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier during the Korean conflict. He worked at Pratt & Whitney for 28 years, and after retiring, worked another 25 years at Foxwoods Casino. He leaves his wife, Bernie, two sons, Craig and Brian, and a daughter Sherry, along with two grandsons.

Br. Donald A. Keller passed away on November 19. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1942. He was raised in Columbia #25 in 1964. Don worked as a carpenter for many years. He leaves his wife, Denise, and two children, Donald and David.

WB Carl R. Falcone passed away on December 22. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1938. He was raised in Orient #62 in 1981, and served as Worshipful Master in 1987. Carl worked at MDC for 33 years, and has been living in Florida with his wife for many years. He leaves his wife, Carol, along with three daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.