

## A MASTER'S PERSPECTIVE

### 225, 25, 5: A Journey Together in Masonry

Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F. & A. M. received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of CT on May 18, 1793. 225) In May of 2018 we will mark the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this event. While our Historian and others will highlight events from our records throughout the year, you can be a part of our celebration in a very meaningful and personal way. Our rich history is not only the legacy of the first 12 members who signed the petition to form our Lodge and its past officers. Our Lodge is the sum of all the brothers who over these 225 years have signed the bylaws of Columbia, Daskam, Daskam-Columbia and Orient Lodges. We share this experience.

**We want to hear from you on 1) why you joined the Lodge, 2) why you continue to be a member, 3) what keeps you attending the Lodge regularly or what keeps you from attending? In answering these questions, tell us both your story and your Masonic journey; what you do or did as a living, what you remember about the Lodge, who you remember meeting along the way. No matter how active or inactive you were or are, your story is part of your Masonic journey and as such what makes our Lodge. Remember that we are human and have our faults. Your Masonic journey is what helped lessen those faults and build authenticity and character. Write us. Better yet, turn on the video in your tablet or iPad and tell us your story. Doing this will make our celebration personal and meaningful.**

25) I was raised a Master Mason on September 22, 1993 in Daskam Lodge No. 86. The location of that former lodge is now a parking lot of the CVS Pharmacy of the same address. The seats from within its lodge room, the same Bushnell Theater seating in Columbia's lodge room, are now in the lodge room of Friendship Tuscan No. 145's new temple in the north end of Manchester. Columbia donated those seats and I purchased a plaque to mark that I sat in those seats as the youngest Enterer Apprentice in the NE corner of the lodge when they were in Glastonbury. During my journey in Masonry, I have been particularly

blessed that my recommender, who also raised me, remains active not only in the Lodge, but in other Masonic bodies. Of this, and other brothers who have guided me, you will hear more when I receive my 25-year service pin on May 16. I have found my journey in Masonry to be personally rewarding as my brothers wisely counseled me to become actively involved.

***And here's the thing that you need to internalize: You are your most valuable investment.***

Marisa Murgatroyd

How can you invest in yourself?

**Continue your Masonic journey forward.**

### Ignite Your Light

5) 2018 will be the fifth time that I serve our Lodge as Worshipful Master. Little did I suspect this would happen when I, as a new Master Mason, told our then Master that I would serve wherever the lodge deemed I was needed. I followed him into the East the first two times I served as Master and was also blessed to have Paul Blake serve as Senior Warden during those first two terms. (Read Paul's story elsewhere in this Trestleboard.) My other years of service as Master are recorded in the list of Living Past Masters elsewhere in this Trestleboard.

Arnie Grot, WM

1. **Obtain a @ctfreemasons.net account:**
  - a. How: Request an account at: <https://ctfreemasons.on.spiceworks.com/porta> with your personal email, full name, phone, lodge #, and all other details.
  - b. Follow instructions in the automated email you receive from G Suite (log in, change initial password)
2. **Log into the Web System at:** <https://ctfreemasons.net> successfully.

You are not done without this step.

## Lodge Almoner



RW Tony Keegan serves as the **Almoner of Columbia Lodge No. 25**. If you need help, contact Tony by phone at 860-895-9500 or by email at [longtimeshoreman@aol.com](mailto:longtimeshoreman@aol.com).

## CALENDAR

*Unless specifically stated, all meetings start at 7:30 PM*

### All Dinners require Reservations

- January 3** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
- January 6** 2018 Officers Installation 2 PM
- January 8** MM° 1<sup>st</sup> Part Rehearsal 7 PM
- January 10** MM° Tragedy Rehearsal 7 PM
- January 17** Master Mason Degree (*Officers Tux*)  
Dinner 6:30 PM  
Reservations to JW by January 15
- January 27** CT CHIP Event at Pack 158's Pinewood Derby  
12:30 - 2:30 PM – Hebron Avenue School
- January 31** Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting  
Washington Lodge No. 70  
153 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095  
Dinner at 6:30 PM - Meeting at 7:30 PM
- February 7** Stated Communication/Business Meeting  
Masonic Foundation Presentation  
Rev. Carl Anderson, M.Div
- February 12** EA° Rehearsal 7 PM
- February 21** Entered Apprentice Degree (*Officers Tux*)  
Dinner 6:30 PM  
Reservations to JW by February 19
- March 7** Stated Communication/Business Meeting  
Ignite Your Light
- March 12** FC° Rehearsal 7 PM
- March 21** Fellowcraft Degree (*Officers Tux*)  
Dinner 6:30 PM  
Reservations to JW by March 19
- April 4** Festive Lodge 1793 (*Officers Tux*)  
Similar to a Ladies at Table, in homage to 1793  
Single - \$20: Couples - \$35  
Dinner at 6:30 PM - Open at 6:00 PM  
Reservations to JW by March 28
- April 8** Grand Lodge Banquet (Cromwell) 6 PM
- April 9** Grand Lodge Annual Meeting (Cromwell) 9AM

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 5** Derby Day: Bourbon & Bluegrass
- May 16** Awards Night (*Officers Tux*)
- October 6** Grape Harvest Wine Festival



We are saddened by the recent loss of  
Arthur R. Colby  
Daniel B. Selders

## 2018 OFFICERS

- ARNOLD S. GROT, PM** (Nancy) Worshipful Master  
87 Chapman Drive (860) 633-5849  
Glastonbury, CT 06033 arnieg1457@aol.com
- RODNEY A. SPOONER, PM** Senior Warden  
12 Crabapple Row (860) 342-1675  
Portland, CT 06480
- ANTHONY F. KEEGAN, PDD** Junior Warden/ Almoner  
52 Hockanum Drive (860) 895-9500  
East Hartford, CT 06118 LongTimeShoreMan@aol.com
- WALTER GRUBE, PM** Secretary  
149 Overlook Road (860) 633-9060  
Glastonbury, CT 06033 waltgrube@cox.net
- RICHARD L. BEEBE, PDD** (Abbie) Treasurer  
41 Westview Drive (860) 569-0163  
East Hartford, CT 06118 RCHBB51@aol.com
- EARL S. EVANS, PM** Chaplain  
40 Crown Ridge, Unit 9 (860) 951-2464  
Newington, CT 06111 earlsevans@gmail.com
- MIKHAIL A. NOLAN** Senior Deacon  
PO Box 1494 (860) 713-1735  
Glastonbury, CT 06033 aux.nolan@gmail.com
- JOHN R. RANNEY, PM** (Shelly) Junior Deacon  
1663 Main Street (860) 289-4285  
East Hartford, CT 06108 jsap1663@yahoo.com
- DEEPAK C. SALURU** Senior Stewart  
2110 Broadleaf Blvd. (614) 905-0950  
Manchester, CT 06042 dcs.fuji@gmail.com
- STEVEN P. MCMAHON, PDD** Junior Stewart  
5 Olympic Avenue (860) 805-6777  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076 steven.mcmahon@cox.net
- ROBERT P. ULRICH** Marshall  
52 Cheyenne Court (860) 295-1633  
Marlborough, CT 06447 11gem.ulrich@gmail.com
- GEORGE R. ZACK** Tiler  
123 Lydall Road (860) 895-5007  
East Hartford, CT 06118 gzacksr@comcast.net
- DAVID E. SODERBERG** Organist  
71A New Road (860) 918-6867  
Avon, CT 06001 mrdavsod@gmail.com
- DAVID C. LOCKARD** (Pam) Historian  
10 Southgate Drive (860) 659-3806  
South Glastonbury, CT 06073 dclockard@gmail.com

### Trustees

- Earl Evans** – Term expires at end of 2020
- Don Wills** – Term expires at end of 2018
- Gerry Thompson** – Term expires at end of 2019

## Paul F. Blake's Masonic Journey

After I graduated from Glastonbury High School in the Class of 1961, I immediately went to work for Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford as a machine operator on the 3rd shift. I enjoyed what I did and learned many things I could apply in my later life. I had to apply for my Selective Service requirements



which I did right after high school as I was 19 years old. I did not want to be drafted and end up in the United States Army, because most men who were drafted ended up there if the United States ever got into another war. As the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam war came along, I decided to join the United States Navy. I left Pratt & Whitney and went to the United States Navy Training Center in Great Lakes, IL. The navy went over all my medical records and other things in my life. As I had a few childhood medical problems, they decided I was not what they wanted so I received an Honorable Discharge and was reclassified by the Draft Board from a 1A to a 1Y. I returned to working at Pratt & Whitney, but I was not offered the job or the shift I had upon my return. I worked in the cutter grinding department on the 2nd shift which I did not like and I hoped something would come along. A foreman that I had worked for saw me one evening and we talked about my job and if I was happy. I told him that I was not, and he said he knew of a job opening on the 3rd shift in the Machine Repair Department as a parts crib attendant. I jumped at the chance and I got the job and was promoted into various positions in the company for 34 years. I was laid off when Pratt & Whitney fell into difficult times and had to reduce its workforce. I was fortunate that I had enough years and good employment records so I did get a pension. I worked a few other jobs as a purchasing agent with two companies in Connecticut. Both of the companies eventually went out of business and I decided to retire.

My Masonic career began when my dad told me that he had become a Mason. I had no idea what he was talking about. When he said the word Mason, I thought he was going to change to a new job as a brick mason. I knew nothing about the Masons he was talking about. My dad wanted me to join the Masons but I was not really interested.

My dad was disappointed and I thought it was over. I was wrong. I decided to do some investigation into what the Masons were about. Some of the things I found out was that Glastonbury had two Masonic Lodges, Columbia and Daskam. As I had lived on Spring Street in Glastonbury, I had probably walked by the Daskam Lodge building many times and never knew what was in that building. Well I finally gave in and I told my dad to get me an application for Columbia Lodge where he was a member. The application was accepted and I was to take my Entered Apprentice degree. Leon Gardiner was the Worshipful Master, Marty Kristoff was the Senior Warden, B. Brainard Bell was the Junior Warden and Mario Accornero was the Secretary. I was raised to a Master Mason on November 3, 1965. My dad and I attended lodge together and the next year the lodge wanted us to be Junior and Senior Stewards. Unfortunately my shift change to the 3rd shift at Pratt & Whitney ended that idea. I married my wife Nancy in 1966. My parents moved to Vermont so my interest in Masonry came to an end. I did stay a member of Columbia Lodge,

but that was it. My Wife Nancy had parents who were living in South Portland Maine. One day out of a clear blue sky Nancy's Dad told me that he had become a Mason. I was shocked to say the least. Nancy and I went to visit them in Maine quite frequently and I went to her father's lodge when I could. My masonic interests resurfaced and I thought of going to Columbia Lodge again. When I found out that Columbia and Daskam were going to merge, I began attending meetings again and I would fill in as a Steward when either the Junior or Senior Steward was not in lodge. The merger went through and I was asked to be Junior Deacon the following year. I accepted and my Masonic Career was on again and I wanted to be a Worshipful Master. I went through the chairs and became Worshipful Master in 1999. I enjoyed my year and in 2003 I was Worshipful Master again. I am a perfectionist in ritual work and fill in at any chair when needed. I also help Gerry Thompson doing Masonic Funerals. I am currently the Senior Warden, but due to health reasons I am unable to be Worshipful Master for a third time. I have been presented with the Emerson C. Reed Award and the Daskam Knott Award. When I received my 50 year pin in 2015, Leon Gardiner, the Worshipful Master who raised me in 1965 presented it to me. To sum it all up I have enjoyed my Masonic experience and hopefully I will for a few more years to come.

## New Fellowcrafts

On November 11, 2017, Columbia Lodge passed two new Fellowcrafts. Master Mason Degree is on January 17, 2018



FC Nick Cordone, WM Erik Roberts and FC Stan Venoit.



JP Venoit, WM Erik Roberts and FC Stan Venoit.

## All Due Signs and Summonses



In the obligations of each degree we are admonished to "Answer all due signs and summonses from the lodge if within the length of my cable tow." The Trestleboard is a summons to our meetings and events. When you receive your Trestleboard, please drop our Secretary a note in answer to this summons. Your brothers would like to hear from you.

Periodic correspondence from brothers who we don't see regularly, makes fellowship more real to all.

## COLUMBIA's Living PAST MASTERS

Mario L. Accornero	1958, 95
Henry L. Killam	1961
Reno L. Ferrando	1962
Leon E. Gardiner	1965
Franklin J. Davis Jr., PAGM 6C 2002	1972
Harold M. Waters Jr.	1973, 93
Michael A. Geoffroy	1974
Kenneth A. Slocum PAGM 6B 1990	1974
Delmar G. Cooke Jr.	1975
Carl L. Edgerton, PDD 6A 1980	1975, 85
Paul H. Garneau	1976
Ralph W. Fish Jr.	1977
Richard T. Chapman	1978
Robert G. Fitzgerald, PDD 6B 1990	1979
Franklin C. Field	1980
John R. Ranney PAGM 6C 1999	1980
Edward A. Portaluppi	1981
Douglas R. Ewen	1984, 2004
Douglas S. Haseltine	1986
Carl R. Falcone	1987
Franklin J. Davis	1988
William C. MacKnight	1988
Richard L. Beebe, PDD 6C 1999	1989, 2007
Richard P. Taylor, PAGM 6C 1996	1989, 90, 91
(Stepney # 133)	1996
Gerald F. Thompson, PDD 6C 1993	1989
Frank J. Decker	1990
Laurence E. Atwell	1991, 2005, 06
Steven P. McMahon, DD 6B 2014-17	1991, 92, 2005
Leonard E. Whitford Jr.	1992
Walter Grube	1993, 94, 97, 2001
Herbert E. Grommeck	1996
Lawrence A. Miffitt	1997, 98
Arnold S. Grot, AGM 6B 2014-17	1998, 2002, 06, 11
Paul F. Blake	1999, 2003
Gilbert E. Wishart	1999
Earl S. Evans	2000, 01
Peter J. Hunt, PDD 6C 2002	2000
Donald A. Wills, PDL 2006	2004
Louis O. House IV (Mosaic #52, ME 1986)	2008
Jeffrey S. Moores	2009, 2010
Michael E. Hudson	2012, 13
Brian J. Berk	2014
Radu G. Sapatouru	2015
Erik E. Roberts	2016,17
Robert F. LeDoux (Friendship #145)	1981
James W. Pike (Hospitality #128)	1981
Anthony F. Keegan PAGM 6C 1993 PDD 6A 2009	
(Wylls-St. John's No. 4)	1982
Rodney A. Spooner (Warren #51)	1992, 93
Burton F. Turner (Somerset-St James #34	2007
John H. Green (Silas Deane #147)	2008
Jonathan R Beatty (PLR)	2015, 16

## TRESTLEBOARD

# COLUMBIA

# LODGE

# No. 25

# A.F. & A.M.

895 MAIN STREET

S. GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT



## CONNECTICUT FREEMASONS

*Ignite Your Light.*

## January - March 2018

## STATED COMMUNICATIONS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 7:30 PM

<https://lodge025.ctfreemasons.net/>

**Check web site for latest information!**

**Columbia Lodge #25 is on Facebook**

[https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view\\_public\\_for=342780670785](https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view_public_for=342780670785)