

# MASTER'S MESSAGE

## Brethren:

During a President's Day trip to visit my daughter in February, we viewed *The Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibit ([www.discoverscrolls.org](http://www.discoverscrolls.org)) in Charlotte, NC. Item 11Q5 was the Psalm Scroll. Psalm 133 was recited in the audio for this item. Need I remind you, my brothers, that "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" is central in our first lesson as Masons? It is this thought that captures my imagination as I write this message in the inaugural Trestleboard of the new Columbia Lodge No. 25. Our strength is the tenants, landmarks and works of our fraternity. It is this unity that defines Freemasonry. It matters not that you were raised in the old Columbia (pre 1995) #25, Orient #62, Daskam #86 or Daskam-Columbia #25 or affiliated from another lodge, our home Lodge is now Columbia No. 25. This is our unity. It is our future as well as our heritage.

If you ask me what is the official start of Columbia Lodge No. 25, my answer comes from our first lecture. We were "first prepared in our hearts." In 2005, our brothers asked how best Freemasonry in the greater East Hartford and Glastonbury area can go forward. The newly merged Columbia Lodge is the result of much preparation and effort, which followed that question, by the merger committee, both Lodges and the Grand Lodge. It will be consummated upon approval at the Grand Lodge Communication on April 5 and the subsequent formal presentation, which will most likely be at Awards Night on May 17, of the new Columbia Lodge No. 25 charter. Our Lodge comes from our hearts.

Already Columbia Lodge is defining its identity within our communities. On March 11 our brothers led a team of volunteers at the Haven Health Center of East Hartford to present a CT CHIP event at which we provided identification materials for families of 93 children. Many considered this good practice for Grand Masters Day on June 10, when the Sixth District hosts the CT CHIP event on the Masonic Healthcare Center grounds.

Beginning April 1, Columbia Lodge becomes the sponsoring organization of Cub Scout Pack 158 of Hebron Avenue School in Glastonbury (<http://www.ctrivers.org>). The pack's Advisory Committee welcomed us at its March 7 meeting. This is what the chairman, Andrew Pulvermacher, wrote about us in the minutes of that meeting "David Wills introduced himself as the liaison to our new sponsor, the CT Freemasons of South Glastonbury and told the Committee a little about being a Mason. Several of the Committee asked how a person became a Mason. Apparently what a person has to do to join this excellent service organization is to have a desire to do good for the community and ask to join. The Shriner's Hospitals, Dyslexia Treatment Facilities, and many other beneficial child-related programs are all

sponsored by the Masons." Andy and his family came to the CT CHIP event on March 11. He volunteered to promote CT CHIP within the CT Rivers Council of Boy Scouts as well as work with us to do an event with Pack 158. We are glad to sponsor the pack as they, like us, are focused on building character, citizenship, and leadership skills of their members. A second initiative to help build good moral character of our youth is our exploration of reactivating the Charter Oak Chapter of DeMolay. This chapter last met at Orient Lodge when it became inactive due to a dwindling source of both active adult advisors and young men. The committee exploring this possibility has benchmarked what makes a successful DeMolay Chapter. The results of this benchmark and a proposal for the Charter Oak Chapter will be presented at our April 5 meeting. The committee believes that our brothers, and the community, will help to make DeMolay a positive influence on young men that will be as important in the community as our relationship with the Cub Scouts. I end this message on the note of unity on which I began it. On our calendar, you will see many opportunities for brothers, families and friends to gather together in brotherhood. Among these are the **Meet the Mason Dinner**, **Grand Master Day**, the **Brothers & Family Picnic**, **Saint Johns Sunday**, and the Picnic at Bayside Cottage. You will also note dates of our degrees and of our community service works. Please join us at, and in support of, these events.

Fraternally,  
Arnie Grot

**Please keep those letters coming.** We like hearing how you are doing. This is just an excerpt from one of the enjoyable notes our brothers write.

*My 85th birthday was an exciting one. Millie and I had a special lunch at our favorite restaurant paid for by our daughter. All three of our children called me, and that was a thrill. Lots of other cards and phone calls also.*

*Millie and I are doing fine.*

Fraternally,  
Bro. Dan Seldin

## Masonikids Event




April 17, 2006

Our Master, Arnie Grot, is running the 110<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon for benefit of the Waterbury 32<sup>o</sup> Masonic Learning Center. Visit [www.ctbia.org/dyslexia](http://www.ctbia.org/dyslexia) for details.

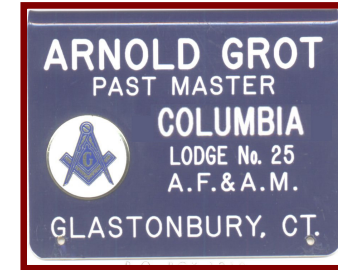
# CALENDAR

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

- March 30** **Sixth District Blue Lodge Council Meeting**  
Doric Lodge No. 94 (Composite Lodge #28)  
129 Pearl Street, Endfield - Dinner: 6:30PM(\$10)
- April 4** Grand Lodge Banquet (Farmington)
- April 5** Grand Lodge Annual Meeting (Farmington)
- April 5** Stated Communication/Business Meeting  
*DeMolay- Roadmap to Success*
- April 19**  Stated Communication/Business Meeting  
*History of the American Flag - Larry Atwell*
- April 26** FC<sup>o</sup> Rehearsal – 7 PM
- April 28** **Meet the Mason Dinner** – 6 PM
- April 29** Blood Drive 8:00 AM – 12:45 PM
- May 3** **Fellow Craft Degree (Officers Tax)**  
Stated Communication
- May 17**  **Awards Night (Officers Tax)**  
**Open Lodge at 5:45 PM**  
*Dinner 6:30 PM*  
*Reservations by May 10*
- May 20** **DeMolay Installation** – 7:30 PM (MWGM)  
  
Pinemeadow Chapter–Dinner: 6:30 PM (~\$8)  
150 Bridge Street, Suffield, CT (RSVP 5/15)
- May 24** MM<sup>o</sup> Rehearsal (First Part) – 7 PM
- May 31** MM<sup>o</sup> Rehearsal (Tragedy) – 7 PM
- June 3** Tag & Bake Sale 8 – 11 AM  
*Call Bob Nordstrom 568-2848*
- June 7** **Master Mason Degree (Officers Tax)**  
Stated Communication  
*Dinner 6:30 PM*  
*Reservations by June 4 (Call Skip House)*
- June 8** Law Enforcement Torch Run (~ 3 PM)
- June 10**  **Grand Master Day (Open to All)**  
Masonic Healthcare Center, Wallingford  
10 AM- 4 PM (CT CHIP Event by 6 District)
- June 21** Stated Communication/Business Meeting  
Barbeque 6 PM (*watch for possible EA<sup>o</sup>*)
- June 24** **Brothers & Family Picnic (Noon – Dusk)**  
  
Wickham Pavilion (\$15 per person)  
Wickham Park, Manchester (\$4 per vehicle)  
[www.wickhampark.org](http://www.wickhampark.org)
- June 25**  **Saint Johns Sunday Worship Service**  
Meet at Lodge at 9:00 AM  
South Congregational Church (9:30 AM)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 22** Picnic with OES at Bayside Cottage  
in Noank – 11 AM
- October 21** Ladies Night 6 :30 PM until you drop!  
The Hartford Club - Hartford CT
- November 12** **Worship Service** at MHCC 3 PM



**Columbia Lodge No. 25 Badge.** You can order a Name Badge with your name and our new Lodge name form Paul Blake, our Senior Warden. Please specify your name as you want it on the badge. If you are a Past Master, please indicate if you want PAST MASTER on your badge. The cost of the badge is \$6.50. Send your requests to **Paul Blake, 28 Brookfield Road, Bolton, CT 06043** with a check made payable to *Paul Blake*. Please place your order by April 24.

## View from the South

Perhaps this should be named *from the north*, as I wish to use this message to highlight some of the differences I have noted between our customs and practices and those I became familiar with during nearly twenty years active participation up north in Mosaic Lodge #52 in Dover-Foxcroft, ME.

All regular meetings of the lodge were opened on the MM degree, as we had to be open on that degree to conduct any lodge business. Thus the master would "wave the usual signs and ceremonies" and suspend work on that degree and open a lodge of a lower degree to perform the ceremonies of initiation. He used the same method to revert to the MM degree to close. Of course any candidate would have to be escorted out of the lodge during such a closing. The only time we opened on a lower degree was for a special meeting, the purpose of which was to perform the degree and during which no business was transacted.

While the signs are exactly the same, customs differ in how they are used. Signs in Maine lodges are always given in the step of each degree. This results in much shuffling of the feet during the openings and closings. The grand hailing sign is appended to the others when opening and closing on the MM degree. Only the due guard, not the sign, is used to salute the master when addressing him or entering or retiring from an open lodge.

For the most part the rituals of opening and closing and degree work are the same, but with slightly different wording or phrasing. In general, I would say that Maine ritual has been slightly more streamlined and modernized. The major difference is our much more elaborate portrayal of the tragedy in the MM degree. *Fraternally, Skip House, JW*

## PAST MASTERS

### OF COLUMBIA LODGE NO. 25

#### Living

Leon W. Turner, PDD 6S 1959	1950
Russell E. Vincent	1952
Mario L. Accornero	1958, 95
James W. Bain	1961, 86
Henry L. Killam	1961
Reno L. Ferrando	1962
Leon E. Gardiner	1965
Robert W. Flavell	1967, 68
Winthrop Jensen	1967
Robert W. Flint	1968, 76, 87
Franklin J. Davis Jr., AGM 6C 2002	1972
William A. Blatchley	1972
Frank E. Plumridge	1973
George N. Seely *	1973, 84
Harold M. Waters Jr.	1973, 93
Michael A. Geoffroy	1974
Kenneth A. Slocum	1974
Delmar G. Cooke Jr.	1975
Carl L. Edgerton, PDD 6A 1980	1975, 85
George H. Bole	1976
Paul H. Garneau	1976
Ralph W. Fish Jr.	1977
Frederick R. Tongren Jr.	1977
Richard T. Chapman	1978
Robert G. Fitzgerald	1979
Arnold B. Waterman	1979
Franklin C. Field *	1980
John R. Ranney	1980
Edward A. Portaluppi	1981
Dwight W. Nickerson	1982, 83
Lorne A. Pulcifer	1983
Douglas R. Ewen	1984, 2004
Robert A. Sawyer	1985, 95
Douglas S. Haseltine *	1986
Carl R. Falcone	1987
Franklin J. Davis	1988
William C. MacKnight	1988
Richard L. Beebe	1989
Richard P. Taylor, PAGM 6C 1996	1989, 90, 91
Gerald F. Thompson, PDD 6C 1993	1989
Frank J. Decker	1990
James F. Morin	1990, 94
Laurence E. Atwell	1991, 2005, 06
Steven P. McMahon	1991, 92, 2005
Leonard E. Whitford Jr.	1992
Walter Grube	1993, 94, 97, 2001
Herbert E. Grommeck	1996
Arthur M. Rettberg	1996
Lawrence A. Miffitt	1997, 98

Arnold S. Grot	1998, 2002, 2006
Paul F. Blake	1999, 2003
Gilbert E. Wishart	1999
Earl S. Evans	2000, 01
Peter J. Hunt, DD 6C 2002	2000
Reginald Abbott	2002
Donald A. Wills	2004
William S. Edge Jr. (Van Courtlandt #1034, NY)	1952
Robert F. LeDoux (Friendship #145)	1981
Anthony F. Keegan, PAGM 6C 1993	
(Wyllys-St. John's No. 4)	1982
Reginald Abbott (Lafayette #100)	1985, 86, 95
(Hartford #88)	1990, 91, 92
George H. Bole (Solar #131)	1986
Louis O. House IV (Mosaic #52, ME)	1986
William G. Bryce (Manchester #73, PLR)	1994, 99
* Demitted	

AS TO ME - RETIREMENT BEING  
WORKING I'VE BEEN ON THE GAIT  
22 YEARS - AND CONTINUING. I'LL BE  
THE ACTUARIES GO CRAZY TRYING TO  
FIGURE LIFE EXPECTANCY -  
REGARDS  
John



We are saddened by the recent loss of  
*Charles E. MacDonald*  
*Ralph Waring, PM*



On Monday, December 19, 2005, the Brothers of **Daskam-Columbia Lodge No. 25 A.F. & A.M.** staffed the Salvation Army Holiday Store in the Wethersfield Shopping Plaza Shopping Center. Those shown are Herb Grommeck, Arnie Grot, Harold Rosenthal and Don Wills.

## 2006 OFFICERS

<b>ARNOLD S. GROT, PM</b> (Nancy)	Worshipful Master
87 Chapman Drive	(860) 633-5849
Glastonbury, CT 06033	
<b>PAUL F. BLAKE, PM</b> (Nancy)	Senior Warden
28 Brookfield Road	(860) 646-9670
Bolton, CT 06043	
<b>LOUIS O. HOUSE IV, PM</b> (Jane)	Junior Warden
8 Guilmartin Road	(860) 916-1973 (c)
Bloomfield, CT 06002	
<b>ROBERT W. FLINT, PM</b> (Pam)	Secretary
300 Forest Lane	(860) 633-1442
Glastonbury, CT 06033	
<b>HENRY L. KILLAM, PM</b>	Treasurer
77 Tryon Street	(860)-633-1067
South Glastonbury, CT 06073	
<b>PETER R. GAMBARDELLA</b> (Melissa)	Senior Deacon
86 Buttonball Lane	(860) 633-2970
Glastonbury, CT 06033	
<b>JEFFREY S. MOORES</b>	Junior Deacon
49 Mountain Road	(860) 647-1542
Manchester, CT 06044	
<b>MONTGOMERY A. FITZPATRICK</b> (Julie)	Senior Steward
207 Prospect Street	(860) 604-0985 (c)
Wethersfield, CT 06109	
<b>DAVID A. WILLS</b> (Kim)	Junior Steward
76 Washington Circle	(860) 232-5960
West Hartford, CT 06119	
<b>GERALD F. THOMPSON, PM</b> (Betty)	Chaplain
154 Davis Road	(860) 568-6352
East Hartford, CT 06118	
<b>DAVID J. BURR</b> (Ana)	Marshall
63 Highwood Circle	(860) 537-0823
Colchester, CT 06415	
<b>DAVID E. SODERBERG</b> (Carolyn)	Organist
12 Founders Road	(860) 659-4579
Glastonbury, CT 06033	
<b>DONALD A. WILLS, PM</b> (Priscilla)	Tyler
142 King Street	(860) 528-8920 (h)
East Hartford, CT 06108	(860) 305-6005 (c)
<b>JONATHAN R. BEATTY</b>	Historian
9 Bellaire Manor	(860) 635-0234
Cromwell, CT 06416	

## TRESTLEBOARD

# COLUMBIA LODGE No. 25 A.F. & A.M

895 MAIN STREET  
S. GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT



**CONNECTICUT  
FREEMASONS**

*Making a Difference*

**April - June 2006**

**STATED COMMUNICATIONS**

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 7:30 PM

TEL. 860-633-9698

(Phone in Temple)

<http://www.daskam-columbia25.org/>

<http://www.orientlodge62.org>

*(a new web site is under development)*

**Check current web site for latest information!**