



CONNECTICUT
FREEMASONS

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

April-June 2023 Trestleboard

<https://lodgelocator.com/columbia-25>
Check web site for latest information!

Columbia Lodge #25 is on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view_public_for=342780670785

MASTER'S MESSAGE



David LaFargue

Greetings Brothers, families, and friends of Columbia Lodge #25. As I sit here writing this message, the weather is getting nicer, daylight is getting longer and flowers will be springing from the ground soon.

The weather this time of year can be all over the place as so many of our lives are. We all should always remember that

part of our obligation is to help, aid and assist where and when we can.

Recently we portrayed our first degree of the year. I would like to congratulate Brother Deepak Saluru, our Junior Warder, who stepped up to Master, along with the other Brothers who worked together on performing a fantastic EA Degree for the candidate.

In February, a group Brothers from four lodges in the Sixth District gathered to Blitz Friendship 33 of the Fifth District. It was a great night of fellowship and fun. I recently heard that it has happened again to Composite 28, and I hope to see you joining in on the fun and fellowship. If anyone has a suggestion for a Lodge to blitz or just visit, please let me know. I am always open for ideas and love to travel.

The cannons will be charged, aligned, and fired many times at the upcoming Tri-Lodge Table Lodge we will be hosting with Composite 28 and Friendship Tuscan Lodge 145. Please join us for a great night of Fellowship and Fun.

As I reflect on the past events I have attended, the common themes of friendly fellowship, education and fun always bring a smile to my face. We all became Masons for different reasons, and I believe that what keeps us coming back and dedicating so much to the Fraternity is that we enjoy it. We look forward to spending time with each other and learning more about our craft, our brothers and ourselves. I come away from each meeting or event with more knowledge, and the fact that it was gained in enjoyment makes it more permanent and easier to apply. Thank you all for your part in my growth – I hope you feel the same.

Brothers - take advantage of all that Masonry has to offer. The efforts are rewarded many times over! Fraternally,

David S. LaFargue, Worshipful Master 2023

Update your Information on Grandview

Help us to stay in touch with you by regularly updating your personal information. Go to the "Masons Only" section of the Grand Lodge website (<https://ctfreemasons.net/>) and click "Member Portal" in the upper right corner. Sign-in using your email ID if already registered. *If not, then go to "Sign Up" lower left, under the login screen and follow the instructions using your Lodge number (25 for Columbia) and member ID (it's on your dues card).* Then go to "My Profile" to update.

CALENDAR

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

All Dinners require Reservations

- April 5** Stated Communication/Business
- April 16** Memorial Service for RW Robert G. Fitzgerald at 1 PM, South Congregational Church 1301 Forbes St., E. Hartford
- April 19** Stated Communication/Business
- April 22** **DD Reception for Tom Duclos (3:00 PM)** Composite #28 150 Bridge Street, Suffield, CT 06078
- April 29** **Tri-Lodge Table Lodge** Columbia/Friendship-Tuscan/Composite Lodges Shrine Temple in Newington 207 Deming St, Newington, CT 06111 \$35 per (flyer to be posted by Composite #28)
- May 3** Stated Communication/Business
- May 6** **Kentucky Derby Night** 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations by April 30th (flyer to be sent)
- May 17** **Awards Night (Officers Tux)** Dinner at 6:30 PM Reservations by May 12 (see flyer) Service Pin Recipients to receive a letter
- May 29** **Glastonbury Memorial Day Parade 9 AM** Assemble at 8:30 AM behind St. Paul's Church, at 2577 Main St. We step off on Welles St.
- May 31** **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting** Washington #70 153 Broad St., Windsor, CT Dinner at 6:30 PM
- June 7** **Fellowcraft Degree (Officers Tux)** Dinner at 6:30 PM Reservations to JW Deepak by June 4
- June 10** Grand Masters' Day (10:00 AM) Masonicare Campus, Wallingford
- June 21** **Summer Picnic – 6:00 PM** Stated Communication/Business – 7:30 PM Reservations and side dish choices to JW Deepak by June 19

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 21** Grand Lodge of CT - Semi-Annual Communication 900 AM - 12:30 PM Wallingford, CT



CONNECTICUT
FREEMASONS

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

April-June 2023 Trestleboard

<https://lodgelocator.com/columbia-25>

Check web site for latest information!

Columbia Lodge #25 is on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view_public_for=342780670785

Historian Corner



David Lockard

Getting the Third Degree

'Getting the Third Degree' is an expression associated with interrogation techniques.

Getting the Third Degree as an expression that has been around since at least the early 1500's. One of the first known uses of it was in D. Rembert Dodoens book *Nieuwe herball or historie of plantes*. In 1602 it appears in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. In both cases it refers to the level of moisture or dryness, as well as heat and cold.

Using degrees to describe things was commonplace in the middle-ages. Although the original guild lodges were around at the time Dodoens and Shakespeare were writing their respective works, there does not seem to be any direct correlation between the masonic guilds and the expression.

Flashing forward to the early 20th century the expression 'Getting the Third Degree' began to appear in crime novels. The meaning changed from the middle-ages definition to a series of unrelenting questions trying to gain information from a witness or criminal.

The more modern definition is directly tied to Freemasonry and has, at times, been specifically cited as the origin of the phrase.

From the early guild lodges, Freemasonry has been a place where information was meant to be exchanged. In the guild lodges, it was a place where education took place. It was often the only educational opportunity individuals had if they were not members of the clergy or royalty. To advance to the next degree was to get better wages and more responsibility. It also meant to be able to travel and work in other cities and countries. This required the apprentice and the journeyman (Fellowcraft in Masonry) to be able to answer questions about mathematics and other skills in order to be advanced.

During the age of Enlightenment, when the Freemasonry we know today took shape, it was a place for the free exchange of ideas and information. Often these ideas and information were outlawed or considered heresy. At masonic gatherings questions were asked and answers given regarding a wide range of topics. Some of the questions ensured those hearing those heretical ideas were trustworthy. More especially it tested the knowledge of new initiates confirming they had a suitable understanding of the order. This was even more essential in the places where there were "mouth to ear" lodges.

"Mouth to Ear" means there are no written ritual books.

All of the lessons of Freemasonry are taught from a more knowledgeable member of the fraternity to a newer member. The idea of this intensive question and answer narrative was adopted by individuals writing crime fiction in the early 1900's and made its way into popular slang.

Necrology



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

Brother Leonard H. Barker passed away on Saturday February 18, 2023. He was born in Hartford, CT on August 19, 1931. Len was raised in Daskam #86 in 1960. He graduated from East Hartford High School in the class of 1949. He served in the US Navy and worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Later he worked with his father, owner of Barker's Oil Services. After his father's death, he ran the company until he retired, and his daughter and son-in-law took over.

Worshipful Brother Paul F. Blake passed away on Wednesday February 8, 2023. Paul was born in Boston, MA on March 30, 1942. Paul was raised in Columbia #25 in 1965. He served as Master of this Lodge in 1999 and 2003. Paul was a leader through his excellence in ritual and his dedication to helping younger brothers as they acquired the skills required for advancing through the officer ranks.

Paul graduated from Glastonbury High School in 1961. He went to work for Pratt & Whitney directly after graduation, starting as a machine operator. Through the course of the next 34 years, he progressed to the position of Systems Analyst. Following this he worked for Rem Sales and then for Sinco, a company that produces and sells safety netting.

During the Cold War Cuban Crisis in the 1950's, Paul and his parents were members of the Ground Observer Corps, watching for and helping to track aircraft that might be a threat to the U.S. More down to earth, Paul had an interest in railroading and model trains, photography and traveling.

Worshipful Brother Mario L. Accornero passed away on Sunday January 22, 2023. He was born in New York, NY on November 23, 1926. Mario was raised in Columbia #25 in 1951. He lived in South Glastonbury from age 6. Mario attended Glastonbury schools, graduating from Glastonbury High School in 1944. The demands of farming then required Mario to work full-time on the farm, which he did for the rest of his working life. He owned and operated Accornero Orchards in South Glastonbury.

He was a member of the Glastonbury Fire Department from 1947, rising to the rank of Chief in 1988. Upon retirement, he was named Chief Emeritus and remained active until age 85. Within the community, Mario served on the Welfare Board for the Town of Glastonbury from 1956 to 1968. He also served on the town's Farm Preservation Committee.

Mario became a member of the Hartford Regional Marketing Authority in 1962, including service in the capacity of Vice President. He was also a member of the Hartford County Soil and Water Conservation, serving as Chairman for 15 years. Mario was awarded "Outstanding Contribution in Conservation



CONNECTICUT
FREEMASONS

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

April-June 2023 Trestleboard

<https://lodgelocator.com/columbia-25>

Check web site for latest information!

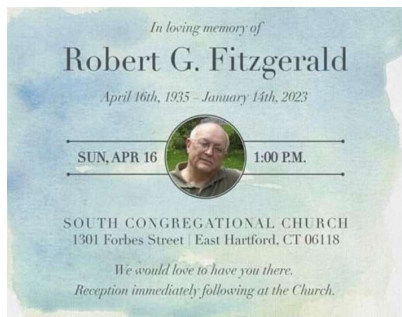
Columbia Lodge #25 is on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view_public_for=342780670785

of Soil, Water and Related Resources" in 1979. He was a life member of the Connecticut Pomological Society and was the recipient of the "Award of Distinction" in 1986. Mario was also a member of the Farm Bureau, where he served as a member of the Membership, Legislation and Taxation Committees. As a fruit grower, he was chosen "Outstanding Farmer of Connecticut" in 1960 by the Connecticut Jaycees. Tuscan Lodge No. 17, F. & A. M., Prince Hall Affiliates also presented him with an Award for his contributions in the form of fruit baskets for needy families. He was also a life-long member of Glastonbury Grange No. 26.

Mario and served as Master of Columbia Lodge No. 25 A.F. & A.M. in 1958 and 1995 and served as the President of the Lodge Building Association for many years. He chaired the construction of the lodge building expansion in 2002 following the consolidation with Orient Lodge No. 62. In 1991 he received the Pierpont Edwards Award in Bronze from the Grand Lodge of CT.

Right Worshipful Brother Robert G. Fitzgerald passed



away on Saturday January 14, 2023. He was born on April 16, 1935 in Northampton, MA. Bob was raised in Orient#62 in 1974. Bob was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, eventually attaining the coveted

rank of Eagle Scout. At Amherst High School he was a swimmer, football player, and trombonist. His high school yearbook noted his class recognizing him as "Punster Funster" and anyone knowing Bob fondly recalls his life-long love for all types of puzzles, brain teasers, verbal puns, and for his quirky smile (the result of a high school ear injury/surgery mishap) as well as his "corny" sense of humor.

After graduating from Amherst High, he attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, completing a BS in Chemical Engineering. While there, he met and married a coed studying French Literature, Nancy Jean Campbell. They were married 53 years until her passing in 2010. They have five children and one foster son.

Following university, Bob took a position with the Factory Insurance Association (now Industrial Risk Insurers.) Initially assigned to the Philadelphia area, the growing family moved first to Harrisburg, PA and then to Buffalo, NY, before finally settling down in East Hartford when Bob was assigned to "Home Office" company headquarters in Hartford (1964). Bob retired from IRI in 1998 as Vice President of Special Risk Underwriting, after 40 years of company service.

As a long-time member of South Congregational Church (East Hartford), Bob sang in the choir for decades. He was twice-elected Moderator of the Church. He was Assistant Church Treasurer, Choir Treasurer, served multiple terms on Board of Deacons, and sat on or chaired the Board of Stewardship & Enlistment.

Bob was also a nationally ranked cribbage player and regular on the tournament circuit. He was a "Life Master" in the American Cribbage Congress (the international organization of serious-"It's not a matter of life or death; it's way more important than that!"-players).

Bob was very active in Freemasonry. He capped off decades of dedicated service when he was chosen to serve as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut from 2004 to 2016. Upon stepping down he was elected Grand Secretary Emeritus. In 2021, Bob received the General Grand Chapter Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze. The Grand Lodge recognized Bob's many contributions to the Craft by awarding him the Pierpont Edwards Medal in Bronze on April 5, 2000. He was a long-standing member and Secretary of Orient Lodge No. 62 A. F. & A. M. (East Hartford). He was elected Worshipful Master (1979). He also was a member of or held various offices or honors with these organizations: East Side Past Masters' Association; York Rite Masonic Bodies; Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons; Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; Wolcott Council No. 1, Royal & Select Masters; Washington Commandry No. 1, Knights Templar; Valley of Hartford, A.A.S.R; Sphinx Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S; and Nutmeg Forest No. 116, Tall Cedars of Lebanon.

Entered Apprentice Degree March 1, 2023



On Wednesday March 1, 2023, Columbia Lodge No. 25, AF & AM, initiated Brother Tushar Meshram. JW Deepak Saluru presided in the East. WM RW David S. LaFargue was Senior Deacon. These 3 appear in the above photo in the order mentioned herein, left to right.