



CONNECTICUT  
FREEMASONS

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

# April-June 2024 Trestleboard

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## MASTER'S MESSAGE



Juan Carlos Diaz

Brothers!

I would like to start by thanking the Grand Architect for making this year possible for all of us. May the brotherly love that cements our craft unite us this year. It is an honor to welcome our newly admitted Master

Masons, and thank all the Brothers involved in the Master Mason degree. The Brothers of Columbia Lodge are the gears of our craft.

I would also like to thank Erik Robbers for his hard work planning Awards Night. This night brings pride and joy to our lodge and our community. This special event demonstrates how Masonry and all good people have the same common goal, which is to serve humanity and leave it in a better place. To all involved in Awards Night, thank you very much for your hard work. Together we are living stones making a better world. Be the change you want to see.

I would also like to thank the Junior Warden and the stewards for their work on the esoteric dinners. The goal for the dinners is to bring a deeper understanding of our craft, but more importantly to create fellowship among the members of the craft. Our annual picnic is coming upon us soon. The picnic will be in honor of all our veterans. May the blessings of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. Fraternally,

Juan Carlos Diaz, Worshipful Master 2024

## 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 3** Stated Communication/ Business  
WB Mike Hudson *presentation on EMTs and refresher on defibrillator operation*
- April 5** **Grand Lodge of CT Banquet - 6 PM**  
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
- April 6** **Grand Lodge of CT - Annual Communication**  
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
- April 17** Stated Communication/ Business
- April 30** **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**  
Hartford Evergreen #88  
1559 Main St., S. Windsor, CT 06074  
Dinner at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM
- May 1** **Award's Night (Officers Tux)**  
Dinner at 6:30 PM  
Reservations by April 25  
**Use this link to the registration form:**  
[https://lodgelocator.com/s3/5730/get\\_item?type=1](https://lodgelocator.com/s3/5730/get_item?type=1)
- May 15** Stated Communication/ Business
- May 24** **Esoteric Masonry**  
Dinner at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM
- May 27** **Glastonbury Memorial Day Parade**  
Assemble at 8:30 at 2577 Main St.  
behind St. Paul's Church
- May 29** **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**  
Washington #70  
1559 Main St., S. Windsor, CT 06074  
Dinner at 6:30 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM
- June 5** Stated Communication/Business
- June 19** **Summer Picnic 6:00 PM**  
Stated Communication/Business
- June TBA** **Grand Masters' Day**  
Massonicare



## Necrology



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

### Brother Arthur A. Chase

passed away on Wednesday January 10, 2024. Brother Art was born October 17, 1928 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. As a young man he entered the U. S. Army, serving his country on the island of Okinawa. Following his service, he took a position with Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford where he worked for 35 years. During this time, he lived in Vernon, having done much of the work on building his home. He loved the water and during his active years he owned two boats. In later years he enjoyed kayaking with his wife Lucile. He was a member of the Air Patrol and also Enjoyed hiking and ballroom dancing with Lucile. Following retirement from Pratt, he and Lucile moved their home to Highland Lakes, Florida.

Brother Art was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 16, 1971 in Orient Lodge No. 62, A.F. & A.M., with Worshipful Brother William A. Blatchley presiding Master, and has been a true and faithful Brother since then. He became a member of Columbia Lodge No. 25 when the two lodges consolidated in 2006. He was a member of the Craft for over 52 years. Mario L. Accornero presiding Master.

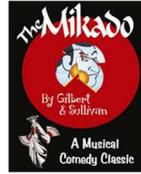
Brother Domenick R. Botto passed away recently. Our Brother was born December 16, 1948 in Bristol, Connecticut. While working at the Travelers Insurance Company he met coworker Judith Lawrence. They knew each other throughout their years at Travelers and were married March 11, 1991 on a Monday afternoon after a full day of work at Travelers. In 2007 they transitioned to IBM in Southbury, Connecticut where they worked closely together until they retired in 2012. They then enjoyed working together as Extraordinary Ministers for St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church in Bristol, Connecticut. Alas, Judy died in 2017 following three years of a progressive disease. Dom faithfully cared for her during this difficult time.

Dom was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 22, 1994 in Manchester Lodge No. 73, where Judy's father was a long-time member. Dom was installed Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon and Junior Warden for the lodge. He affiliated with Philosophic Lodge of Research in 1998 and subsequently served the stations of Tiler and Senior Deacon. Dom then affiliated with Daskam-Columbia Lodge in 2005. He was a member of the Craft for 30 years.

## Historian Corner



David Lockard



### Grand Poobah.

The term 'Grand Poobah' has its origins closer to Freemasonry than many may think.

Most people recognize the term 'Grand Poobah' from the popular cartoon series from Hanna-Barbara *The Flintstones*. In the cartoon, the two main characters Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble regularly appear at their lodge meeting. In the cartoon

it is the Loyal Order of Water Buffalo, not a masonic lodge. The Loyal Order of Water Buffalo is a send up though of Freemasonry and other fraternal organizations.

In the 70's people also recognized it from the show *Happy Days*. In the show the patriarch of the family is a member of a leopard lodge. Often, he is seen heading off to his meeting wearing a fez with leopard spots. Again, the head of the leopard lodge is the 'Grand Poobah.'

It is easy to assume the origin of the 'title 'Grand Poobah' came from a pop culture reference such as the ones mentioned above or in some of the other ways it has been used. Especially over the last few decades.

Instead, the origin of the term Grand Poobah comes to us from March 1885. It also comes to us from two masonic brothers, Gilbert and Sullivan in their comedic opera *The Mikado*. In the opera one of the character's name is Pooh-Bah, and he holds a variety of titles which include First Lord of the Treasury, Lord Chief Justice, Commander-in-Chief, Lord High Admiral, Archbishop, Lord Mayor and Lord High Everything Else. The opera begins with the town executioner, in a Japanese town, being sentenced to death. It is decided the executioner cannot perform any more executions until he executes himself, since he is next in line. The townspeople are too proud to serve under the executioner and perform the execution. Eventually all of the town leaders resign their positions and Pooh-Bah ends up with all of their titles.

*The Mikado* uses Japan as a backdrop to satirize British politics of the time.

In modern times the term Grand Poobah is generally meant to be a mocking term. Either to describe someone who has an inflated self-regard or someone who has a grandiose title with little true power behind it.

### ***Master Mason Degree – February 10, 2024.***



Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F. & A.M., riding an influx generated by the Blue Wave program, raised five Master Masons. From the left: in the front row New Master Masons Brian D. Dikun, Jason S. Felber, Phillip D. Crump, Exequiel R. Zamora, and Tushar Meshram; in the back row Eric H. Hoy (Hiram Abif), Ray Ahmed (Unity #148), WM Juan C. Diaz, Christopher D. Ramsey (Hiram King of Tyre), David A. LaFargue (King Solomon).

These five new Master Masons joined JW Christopher Gness in continuing their Masonic journey by joining him in the Valley of Hartford A.A.S.R. Class of 2024.

### ***Valley of Hartford A.A.S.R. March 21, 2024***



On March 21, 2024, Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F. & A.M. had six Brothers as candidates for the 18<sup>o</sup>, Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M. Shown from the left are Brian Dikun, Christopher Gness, Jason Felber, Exequiel Zamora, Philip Crump and Tushard Mesram (who captured this selfie).

### ***Washington Lodge No. 70 - March 25, 2024***



On March 25, 2024, Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F. & A.M. had nine Brothers attend the Table Lodge at Washington Lodge No. 70, A.F. & A.M. in Windsor. Show from the left are Arnie Grot, Vinnie La Bella, Dave Lockard, David Söderberg (seated) Walt Grube, Brian Dikun, Exequiel Zamora, Mike Lombardi, and Chris Gness.