



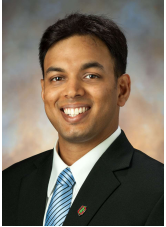
CONNECTICUT  
FREEMASONS

## Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F.&A.M January-March 2025

<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](https://www.facebook.com/columbialodge/?view_public_for=342780670785)

### MASTER'S MESSAGE



Deenak Saluru

Greetings Brothers, families, and friends of Columbia Lodge #25:

I am honored to have been regularly elected to serve Columbia Lodge #25 as your Worshipful Master for the year 2025 A.D. and follow in the footsteps of many fine Brothers, who have governed from the East since our charter in 1793. My

Mission Statement is for us to focus on masonic ritual, education, and service.

As several of our Founding Fathers were Freemasons, I took a leap of faith and blindly joined the Craft in 2012 at Arts & Sciences Lodge #792 whilst in Graduate school in Ohio. Columbia Lodge #25 has been the cornerstone of my life since moving to Connecticut in 2016 and it began with the pleasure of meeting WB Walt Grube and RWB Gerry F. Thompson at a Scottish Rite reunion that fall, who asked me to visit the Lodge and here we are.....

The Blue Wave has blessed us with several new Master Masons and initiates in the pipeline over the last two years with a considerable amount of work by our Brothers. We will engage many brothers and all our officers in our degrees, with the continued emphasis on floor work and ritual perfection. Following the degrees, we will educate ourselves on the several lectures and relevant texts for a deeper appreciation of the Craft.

We will continue to serve our community, country, and God. We will host a table lodge with Washington #70 to celebrate our First President and Worshipful Brother George Washington's Birthday in February. We will march in the Glastonbury Memorial Day Parade and honor those brave patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Furthermore, we will honor both our patron saints by hosting a table lodge for a Feast of St. Johns in June. And finally, I would like to collect donations for the Protectors of Animals East Hartford.

One of my leadership principles is to have fun while at labor. We will have our annual Derby Day in May, summer picnic in June, and wine tasting in October where friends, families, acquaintances, and future prospects are cordially invited. For a full list of the events, please do peruse the trestle boards as they get published.

I look forward to leading this great group of Brothers as we transition to a new line of young officers and set them up for success in the years to come.

Deepak Saluru, Worshipful Master 2025

### CALENDAR

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

**All Dinners require Reservations.**

- January 7** Rehearsal for Installation of Officers – 7 PM
- January 11** Installation of Officers at 6 PM (**Officers Tux**)  
Dinner at 5:00 PM RSVP 1/7 to Jeff Spooner
- January 15** Stated Communication/Business Meeting  
Building Association Director's Meeting at 6:30 PM
- January 29** **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**  
Columbia #25, Dinner at 6:30 PM  
RSVP to JW Jeff at 860-301-4174
- February 5** Stated Communication/ Business
- February 10** FC Rehearsal 7 PM
- February 17** FC Rehearsal 7 PM
- February 19** **FellowCraft Degree (Officers Tux)** Dinner  
at 6:#0 – RSVP by 2/16 to JW Spooner
- February 24** Washington Birthday Celebration  
Table Lodge at Washington #70
- March 5** Stated Communication/ Business
- March 19** Stated Communication/ Business
- April 4** **Grand Lodge Banquet – 6 PM**  
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport  
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT
- April 5** **Grand Lodge Annual Meeting- 9:00 AM**  
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport  
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT

### Upcoming Events

- May 4** **Derby Night - Dinner and Bluegrass music**  
5 PM - 10 PM  
Reservations by April 29
- May 21** **Awards Night (Officers Tux)**  
Dinner at 6:30 - Reservations by May 16
- June 4** **Feast of St. Johns**

### Wine Tasting Festival-October 5, 2024



Festival Chairman Brian Berk, his wife Danielle and photographer Arnie Grot. Photo by Ninita Witzke

## *Historian Corner*

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David Lockard

### **Why is it called BLUE LODGE?**

The question always is "Why is it called BLUE LODGE?" Here are some inside thoughts on this subject (by a Brother Elton Trindade.)

Why have we adopted blue into the lodge name? Where does it come from? What does it represent and mean?

The mother of all Freemasonry, the place where every man begins his journey into the Ancient Craft of Free and Accepted Masons, "The Blue Lodge" - It has been here in America that the term "Blue Lodge" has become popularized and so widely used. Originally, it was frowned upon, and Lodges were called Craft Lodges or Ancient Craft Lodges, some were even called a St. Johns Lodge.

According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, there may be a number of reasons why symbolic lodges are called Blue Lodges. Since ancient times, the color blue has been associated with immortality, eternity, and fidelity. References to the color blue in the Bible emphasize the special place blue has as a color symbolizing goodness and immortality. The Druids also honored the color while the ancient Egyptians used the color to represent Amun, one of their most important gods. The ancient Babylonians associated the color blue with the gods. In Medieval times, Christians saw blue as the symbol of perfection and hope, and well as of immortality and fidelity.

It is not known when blue first came to be associated with Freemasonry, although some historians think that initially the color was used in Craft Masonry to represent the sky. Today, blue for Masons symbolizes brotherhood and symbolizes the fact that Masons should seek out virtues as extensive as the blue dome of heaven.

Albert Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry under "Blue" has further light to share. He says "Blue is emphatically the color of Masonry. It is the appropriate tincture of the Ancient Craft degrees.

The Hebrew word for blue when referring to spiritual matters is tekhelet, which is derived from a root word meaning perfection. It is well known that among the ancients, initiation into the mysteries and "perfection" are synonymous terms and this is why blue is the appropriate color for the greatest of all the systems of initiation the world has ever known, The Ancient Blue Lodge Craft.

Beyond the allegory and symbolism of the color blue, there is the reality of millions of men who have experienced things beyond themselves, transformed and evolved into their highest potentials, reached even further to give the same to other men, while standing in and being a member of a Blue Lodge.

It is said over and over again, "There is no other degree "higher" than the third degree and being a Master Mason... there is no higher distinction in our entire institutional Fraternity! With that being said, we all should remember, support and love our Blue Lodges, where we began as good men and through the motherly love of our Ancient Craft Lodge, we were brought into the world anew... literally brought from the dark to the light, to rise as GREAT MEN!

### *Entered Apprentice Degree—October 16, 2024.*

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On Wednesday October 16, 2024, Columbia Lodge #25 A.F. & A.M. initiated Jesse F. Gay as an Entered Apprentice with Junior Warden Chris Gness presiding in the East.

In the photo, from the left are AGM6B WB Brad Young, Grand Junior Warden RW F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., EA Jesse F. Gay, SS Brian Dukin, JW Chris Gness, SW Deepak Saluru, JS Phillip Crump, WM Juan Diaz, Secretary WB Walt Grube, Almoner RW Jeff Flynn, Tiler Keith Carlough, District 6 Grand Lecturer VW Don Wills and DD6B RW John DiCioccio.

### *2024 Hartford Marathon—October 19, 2024.*

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On Wednesday October 19, 2024, Brothers and friends gathered at Water Station #12 at 142 King Street in East Hartford to support the 1500 runners running the 2024 Hartford Marathon. Arnie Grot took a selfie with the crew, behind and from the left, are Rodney Spooner, Jason Ferber, Christopher Ramsey, Exequiel Zamora, Jack Ranney, Bob Dynak, Kieth Carlough, Donald A Wills, Brian Dikun, David Wills and Steve the CERT representative for our station.