



CONNECTICUT
FREEMASONS

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

April - June 2026

<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



Chris Gness

Brothers, Family, and Friends of Columbia Lodge #25:

We have started this year off very busy and on a strong note. We held a wonderful installation that was well attended by Grand Lodge officers, as well as brothers, family, and friends. We also enjoyed several informative presentations and a productive

discussion on the possibility of starting a DeMolay Chapter at Columbia Lodge. Please continue to spread the word to any brothers who may be interested in volunteering to help make this happen.

As a member of both a Scout Troop and a Cub Scout Pack, I see firsthand the importance of organizations like DeMolay and Scouting for our youth. These programs provide leadership, character development, and lifelong values. I encourage you all to continue spreading the word so we can establish a DeMolay Chapter here. The knowledge and experience within Columbia Lodge No. 25 is truly unbelievable and would be invaluable to share with young men through DeMolay.

Last month, we had a very well-done Entered Apprentice Degree, during which we initiated five new brothers. As we now prepare for the Fellow Craft Degree, let us remember that our new brothers are always seeking more light, and it is our duty to guide and support them along their Masonic journey.

The first quarter of the year has flown by, and the second quarter promises to move just as quickly, with even more events and opportunities for fellowship, learning, and service.

Finally, I would like to ask all brothers to bring a non-perishable food item to our next meeting so that we may help support the local food pantry in town.

Fraternally yours,
Christopher Gness
Worshipful Master 2026

Columbia Lodge
Kentucky Derby
May 2

Dinner and Bluegrass
Music



CALENDAR

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

All Dinners require Reservations.

- April 1** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
- April 7** Fellowcraft Rehearsal – 7 PM
- April 10** **Grand Lodge Baquet - 6:00 PM**
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT
- April 11** **Grand Lodge Annual 9AM-4:30 PM**
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT
- April 13** Fellowcraft Rehearsal – 7 PM
- April 15** **Fellowcraft Degree (Officers Tux)**
Dinner at 6:30 PM
RSVP by 4/7 to JW Flynn
- April 25** **District Deputy Presentation - 10 AM**
Friendship Tuscan #145
24 Golway St., Manchester, CT
- May 2** **Derby Night - Dinner and Bluegrass music**
5:30 PM - 9 PM
Reservations by April 28
- May 6** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
- May 20** **Awards Night (Officers Tux)**
Dinner at 6:30 - Reservations by May 17
- May 25** **Glastonbury Memorial Day Parade 9 AM**
Assemble at 8:30 at 2577 Main St.
behind St. Paul's Church
- May 28** **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**
Composite #28
150 Bridge St. Suffield. CT
Dinner at 6:30 PM
- June 3** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
- June 13** **Masonic Family Day 10 AM**
Wallingford
- June 17** **Annual Summer Picnic - 6 PM**

Upcoming Events

- July xx** Summer Planning Meeting
Fun, food and cigars
- Aug xx** 6th District Picnic in Sunrise Park W Suffield.
- October 3** **Wine Tasting**
6-10 PM

Historian Corner



David Lockard

The Lodge That Was Never Built

There is a Lodge whispered about among Masons. Not found on maps. Not chartered by any Grand Lodge. It's the Lodge that was never built.

Not because it couldn't be. But because it can't be.

The Perfect Lodge is a thought experiment. A symbolic mirror held up to our imperfections, not to shame them, but to remind us of what we're reaching toward.

In this Lodge, every Brother shows up early. Every word of ritual is delivered with meaning. Silence isn't just empty space, but a presence. The officers rotate not out of obligation, but alignment. Fellowship flows without politics.

Decisions are made with wisdom, not ego. Every candidate leaves changed. Every Past Master stays involved but never in the way.

You can almost see it. And yet, it slips through the fingers.

Why? Because Freemasonry isn't about attaining perfection. It's about working the tools anyway. The myth of the Perfect Lodge isn't meant to make us discontent; it's meant to make us strive.

The Lodge that was never built is the one we're always building. Each meeting is a step closer. Each degree is a stone laid.

Maybe we'll never open its doors.

But maybe we're not supposed to.

Maybe the Craft was always meant to live in the tension between what is and what could be.

Necrology



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

Brother Ward M. Edgerton

passed away on December 27, 2025. Brother Ward was born January 23, 1936 in Hartford, CT. Ward graduated from Glastonbury High school in 1954. He attended Trinity College, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He married Harriet Risley on June 28, 1958. They were blessed with two sons, David and Allan, along with two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In 1972 he received a master's degree in computer science from RP1's Hartford Graduate Center. His professional career was with United Technologies Research Center for 35 years, retiring in December 1991.

Ward was a Boy Scout, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1952. Shortly after his retirement in January 1991, he became involved in the construction of the sets used in the plays produced by the Little Theater of Manchester.

Ward was a founding member of the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford. His greatest involvement was with his church, All Saints Episcopal Church of E. Hartford. Ward was a member of the Vestry and served as Treasurer for 60 years. Ward and Harriet founded and ran the All-Saints Nursery School for 38 years.

Ward belonged to the Order of DeMolay, Charter Oak Chapter, and was Master Councilor in 1956. Ward was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 11, 1959 in Daskam Lodge #86 (now Columbia #25), with Worshipful Brother Robert H. Kellogg, Jr. presiding Master, and has been a true and faithful Brother since then. He was a member of the Craft for 66 years.

Brother James W. Pike passed away on January 28, 2026. Brother Jim was born March 19, 1940, in St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Jim and Helen were married in 1957. In 1961 Jim and his bride moved their young family to Hartford, CT. They were blessed with three children, daughters Sheri and Danica and son James, along with four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Helen and by his first grandchild Eric Kalber.

Jim was employed for 30 years as a crane operator at Standard Structural Steel and 10 years as a truck driver at McKesson Pharmaceutical. He was the President of the Iron Workers Local 555. Jim was a proud member of First Congregational Church of East Hartford for over 60 years, where he served as a deacon for many years.

Jim was known for being a big kid who never grew up. He had a tremendous amount of love and pride for his family and could often be found bragging about his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved to cause mischief and was a master at charming his way out of any trouble he would cause. Jim was a die-hard New York Giants and Montreal Canadiens fan and loved to trash talk with fans of other teams (especially Dallas Cowboys fans). Jim will be remembered for his infectious smile and laughter and bringing joy to everybody around him. Jim was adored by all who knew him and he will be greatly missed.

Jim was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on June 2, 1975 in Hospitality Lodge #128 in Wethersfield, CT. He became a member of Columbia Lodge #25 in 2013. Jim served as Worshipful Master of Hospitality Lodge in 1981. Jim achieved the milestone of becoming a 50-year Mason last year, and many lodge brothers were proud to meet with Jim and present him with his 50-year pin.

Entered Apprentice Degree-February 18, 2026



Brothers raised a ruckus as Columbia Lodge No. 25 initiated David A. Berthiaume, Caleb A. Guinn, Michael Ashia, Timothy K. Murtaugh, and Charles H. Moreland, IV as Entered Apprentices. Brother Rinaldo F. Magliano, Jr MWGM. attended, along with Grand Senior Warden F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr. and the Sixth District DDs and AGMS The Grand Master, as well as the dignitaries who spoke before him praised the cast for putting enthusiasm into each role for an excellent Degree.

2026 Officers Installation - January 10, 2026.



Show above are the 2026 Columbia Lodge Officers and the team of Brothers who helped in their installation.

Here is the commentary...

On January 10, 2025, acting WM Gness opened Columbia Lodge No. 25 at 5:10 PM. The lodge was brought from labor to refreshment at 5:20 PM. Following dinner, the semi-public Installation of Officers began at 6:30 PM. WM Saluru welcomed the visitors and explained the use of the gavel.

The Grand Lodge Suite was received and introduced: GSD RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., DD6B RWB Robert C. Dodge, AGM6B WB Jeremy M. Gaffney, DD6A RWB John DiC.iccio, Jr., AGM6A WB Brad Young, AGA WB Richard E. Berson and DL VWB Donald A. Wills

The Colors were presented by Sir Knights Michael E. Seamon, Eric Hoy, William Zimmerman, Duane Mason, and Arnold S. Grot from Washington

Commandery #1. The meeting was then turned over to WB Walter Grube for the Installation of Officers, which he did.

Newly installed WM Christopher J. Gness thanked the Installing Team for their fine work and thanked the lodge brothers for the confidence they have placed in him to lead the lodge as Worshipful Master. Chris thanked immediate Past Master Deepak Saluru for his leadership and guidance and thanked his wife Heather for her support and understanding that makes his commitment to the lodge possible. Chris presented his wife Heather with a bouquet of roses. Chris reviewed his plans for the year and will put a focus on **family, fellowship, and community**. RWB F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr. commended the work of the Installing Team and congratulated the new 2026 officers. Matt wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. VWB Don Wills thanked JW Jeff Spooner and his stewards for their fine work on the dinner.



***Family, Fellowship,
and Community***

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.