



Columbia Lodge No. 25, A.F.&A.M. September-December 2026

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MASTER'S MESSAGE



Chris Gness

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

After a busy start to the year, I hope each of you found joy in the summer months — time with loved ones, moments of rest, and opportunities to enjoy the warmth and light of the season. As autumn arrives in New England, let's remember to pause and appreciate the beauty

around us. It's a reminder of renewal, reflection, and the strength of our shared journey.

The remainder of the year will be rich with purpose. We'll begin with two degrees and our always enjoyable wine tasting event, where I look forward to gathering with many of you, your families, and your friends. We will also continue our dedication to Masonic Education as we grow together in knowledge and fellowship.

Our lodge is strengthened by brothers who step forward to assist with degrees and events. Your willingness to participate enriches our work and deepens the bonds we share.

I'm pleased to share that the Charter Oak Chapter of DeMolay has been granted its temporary letter and is now authorized to begin holding meetings. This is an exciting step forward for our youth and for the future of our fraternity.

Fraternally yours,
Christopher Gness
Worshipful Master 2026

Enjoy Wine for a Good Cause!

The Freemasons at Columbia Lodge #25 are hosting a wine tasting fundraiser. All profits benefit our student scholarship fund.

WHEN: Sat Oct 3 2026 6-9 pm
WHERE: 895 Main St., South Glastonbury
TICKETS: \$35

ORDER TICKETS: GLASTWINE.COM

CALENDAR

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

All Dinners require Reservations.

- September 2** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
September 10 Fellowcraft Rehearsal – 6:30 PM
September 14 Fellowcraft Rehearsal – 6:30 PM
September 16 **Fellowcraft Degree (Officers Tux)**
Dinner at 6:30 PM
RSVP by 9/7 to JW Flynn
- September 28** Entered Apprentice Rehearsal – 6:30 PM
September 29 **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**
Columbia Lodge No. 25
Dinner at 6:30 PM
- October 3** **Wine Tasting**
6-10 PM
Tickets <https://glastwine.com/>
- October 5** Entered Apprentice Rehearsal – 6:30 PM
October 7 **Entered Apprentice Degree (Officers Tux)**
2027 Budget Review
Dinner at 6:30 PM
Reservations by October 5
- October 17** **Grand Lodge Semi-Annual 9AM-12:30 PM**
Hartford Marriott at Windsor Airport
28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, CT
Rainbow Girls Presentation
- October 21** Stated Communication/Business Meeting
November 4 Stated Communication/Business Meeting
November 18 **Tobacco Valley Blue Lodge Council Meeting**
Washington #70
153 Broad St. Windsor. CT
Dinner at 6:30 PM
November 30
- December 2** Annual Meeting
December 16 Stated Communication/Business Meeting
Family gathering & pot-luck supper before lodge meeting – 6:15 PM
- December 17** **Actual Past Masters - 6 PM**
Frederick Franklin #114
70 E. Main St., Plainville, CT

Upcoming Events

- January 9** Installation of Officers

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.



David Lockard

The Cooke Manuscript

The Cooke Manuscript is the second oldest document known about Freemasonry.

The Cooke Manuscript was first translated and published in the 1800's by R. Spencer and edited by Mr. Mathew Cooke, who gave his name to the manuscript.

Similar to the Regius poem, the Cooke Manuscript starts in antiquity and describes the events leading to the development of Freemasonry. It starts with

describing the seven liberal arts and directly equating geometry with masonry. Unlike the Regius poem, the Cooke Manuscript describes the tale of the children of Lamech, who was a descendant of Cain in the Book of Genesis. One of Lamech's children is Jabal who discovers geometry. Among Lamech's other children are Jubal who discovers music, Tubal Cain who discovers metallurgy and the art of the smith, Naameh, daughter of Lamech, who invents weaving. When the children of Lamech learn the world is going to be destroyed either by fire or flood they inscribe their knowledge on two pillars, one of stone and one of wood. The first is capable of surviving fire (conflagration) and the other having the ability to float (inundation). These pillars are later discovered by Pythagoras and the other by the philosopher Hermes. The knowledge was then passed down through Nimrod who created the Tower of Babel.

It is here the Cooke Manuscript comes back together with the Regius Manuscript, although not completely, with the details of the story. In the Cooke Manuscript the knowledge is passed to the Egyptians and to Euclid and eventually to the court of Athelstan in England where the same nine articles, rules for the job site, and nine points, rules for the Freemason, are put down.

Unlike the other ancient masonic documents, the charges and constitutions are not put down on a scroll or rolls. Instead, the Cooke Manuscript is written on pieces of vellum and then placed in a book which is covered by two pieces of oak.

James Anderson of Anderson's Constitutions, written in 1723, had access to the Cooke Manuscript when he wrote his constitutions. In a footnote at the end of Anderson's Constitutions, he quotes the last 60 lines of the Cooke Manuscript describing the assembly in York in the court of Athelstan.



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

Brother Alan F. Rogers passed

away on June 18, 2026. Brother Alan was born November 12, 1929 in Portland, Maine to Percy Fletcher Rogers and Bethia Agnes (Turner) Rogers. Alan and Muriel Ann Chappell married in Taunton, MA, on November 8, 1952. They were blessed with three sons, Gary, Donald, and Thomas, along with five grandchildren and a great granddaughter. Alan served in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from Brown University in 1951. He began his career as a chemist and plant manager with Union Carbide Corporation and later as Quality Assurance and Product Safety Manager with First Brands Corporation.

Alan and his wife (and first mate) Muriel were avid sailors graduating in stages from a 19-foot sailboat on Lake Michigan to a 36-foot ocean-going sailing yacht on the Atlantic out of Westport Point, MA. After retirement, they moved to Punta Gorda, FL where Alan took on the role of Squadron Education Officer of the Peace River Sail and Power Squadron in Charlotte County, FL, teaching basic boating skills and celestial navigation between cruises around southwestern Florida and the Keys.

Over the years, Alan and Muriel lived in several different states, ultimately moving to Shell Point, Fort Myers, FL. He was active in several churches along the way, serving in many capacities, including Youth Advisor and Sunday School teacher.

Alan was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 27, 1958 in Magnolia Lodge #120 in Biloxi, Mississippi. He affiliated with Daskam #86 (now Columbia #25) in 1992. He was a member of the Craft for 68 years! Alan served as Senior Deacon of Daskam #86 in 1994. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite and the Shrine.

Brother Robert F. Ledoux passed away on April 5, 2026. Bob was born January 27, 1936, in Hartford to Francis and Lillian (Metcalf) Ledoux. He met Elizabeth Meleschig at church and they were married for 65 years. Elizabeth passed away in 2022. Bob and Elizabeth were blessed with four children – daughters Cynthia and Denise, and sons Marc and Glenn, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bob owned and operated Ledoux Electric for many years and also taught Electrical Engineering at Trinity College.

Bob was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 16, 1960 in Orient Lodge #62 (now Columbia #25), with Worshipful Brother Donald Carlton Babb presiding Master, and has been a true and faithful Brother since then. He was a member of the Craft for 65 years! Bob served as Worshipful Master in 1981. While in Florida, Bob joined Brandon Lodge #114. He was also a member of Elejmal Temple #185, Ancient Egyptian Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for many years, and most recently was a member Aleppo Shrine in Wilmington, MA.

Fellowcraft Degree-April 15, 2026



SW Jeff Spooner stepped up to sit in the East with Deputy Grand Master F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr. and District Deputy Robert C. Dodge attending. Shown from the left: DGM F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., Ray Ahmed (Unity #148), Johnson Chong (WSJ #4), DD Bob Dodge, SD Brian Dikun, FC Michael Ashia, SW Jeff Spooner, FC Caleb Guinn, Secretary Walt Grube, Treasurer Rich Beebe, Marshal Rodney Spooner and JD Phillip Crump.

Awards Night - May 20, 2026.

Washington Commandery #1 performed an excellent presentation of the colors, led by Past Commander Eric Hoy. WM Gness turned the program over to Awards Committee Chairman Brian Dikun. WM Gness opened the Awards Night program and welcomed all Awards Night guests. The following dignitaries were present: Grand Master MW Shane Dufresne, Deputy Grand Master RW F. Matthew Heinrich, Jr., DD6B RW Robert Dodge, AGM6B WB Jeremy Gaffney, Jr., DD6A RW Christopher Ramsey and AGM6A WB Deepak Saluru. Brian Dikun presented this year's Community Service Award to Robert Lopa, whose service is especially focused on veterans. Walt Grube presented the Emerson C. Reed Award to WB Chris Gness. WB Deepak Saluru was presented with his Past Master's Jewel and Apron.

Service Pins were presented to:

- 5 years – Mike Lombardi
- 15 years – Jeff Spooner
- 20 years – Jeff Flynn and Mike Hudson
- 35 years – Charles Holmes
- 65 years – Gil Spencer and Roger Knickerbocker

DGM Matt Heinrich presented:

- Trestleboard of Excellence Award to Columbia Lodge
- Perfect Ashlar Awards to Br. Jesse Gay
- Master's Achievement Award to Deepak Saluru
- A 50-year pin was presented to Br. Keith Carlough.



(l-r) MWB Shane Dufresne, Robert Lopa and wife Diane.



WB Grube presents the Emerson C. Reed Award to WM Christopher J. Gness.



WB Grube presented a Past Master jewel and apron to WB Deepak Saluru.



RWB Heinrich presents the Trestleboard of Excellence Award to Columbia Lodge Secretary Walter Grube.



RWB Heinrich presents a Perfect Ashlar Award to JS Jesse G. Gay.



RWB Heinrich presents the Master's Achievement Award to WB Deepak C. Saluru.



Br. Dikun presents a five-year pin to Br. Michael M. Lombardi.



Br. Dikun presents a 65-year pin to Br. Roger Knickerbocker.



Br. Dikun presents a 20-year pin to WB Mike Hudson.



Br. Dikun presents a 20-year pin to RWB Jeff Flynn.



WB Gil Spencer admires his 65-year pin.



MWB Dufresne congratulates Br. Keith Carlough on his 50-year pin.

Scholarships to GHS Seniors – May 21, 2026.



Worshipful Brothers Jack Ranney and Juan Diaz presented the Columbia Lodge No.25, AF & AM Scholarship checks to seniors Jackson Ennis and Abigail Matthew at the Senior Scholastic Awards Program at the Glastonbury High School auditorium.