



TRESTLEBOARD



Temple Lodge #16 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Chartered 1790

Editor – Bro. Jon Fischer, 32°, MSA

December 2024

9 Country Club Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

Stated Communications: First and Third Thursdays 7:30 pm

From our Worshipful Master, Bruce Taylor

Brethren, Greetings from the East

I expect that my time as Master is finished.

I have learned much more from Temple Lodge #16 this past year than I have contributed.

The work on the windows and the heating in our lodge building are great changes that happened in my year and they reflect on the hard work and dedication of the brothers who pushed the projects forward. The functions and events that I have had the pleasure to preside over are successes because of the work of the craft.

I count myself as lucky to have had the honor to have presided on Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason degrees this year in our lodge with our brothers; this is really important to me.

This hymn is sung in my father's lodge in western Massachusetts. I learned it when I was Junior Deacon of Charles C. Spellman Lodge back in the 20th century. It sums up my feelings for this past year.

**If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive!**

I hope I have been of some service to the craft and I offer thanks to all of you. I look forward to seeing you all.

Keep the faith, Brothers

Bruce

P.S.: I strongly implore and encourage you all to show up more often!

Up coming events at Temple Lodge #16:

29 November - yes the day after Thanksgiving - Blue Lodge Council at 285 Whitney.

5 December - Election Of Officers for 2025

14 December - Breakfast with Santa! Please bring an unwrapped toy because this is also our Toys For Tots event.

19 December - Stated Meeting

2 January - Stated Meeting. Step Up Night, wherein everyone tests their new position in anticipation of the Installation of your suite of officers for 2025.

4 January - Installation of Officers



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Do you have any information or upcoming event that you would like to include in the next issue of this Trestleboard? Please forward it to me at jmfischer25@cox.net and I will include it in the next issue of this Trestleboard. The more information we can spread, the more interest we can generate in the brothers and friends of Temple Lodge #16.

From our Latest Brother Sam Stuckal

A Rookie's Masonic Journey From Family history to fellowship, and self-growth:

It's hard not to notice the Masonic building of Temple Lodge #16 as you drive along route 10 through town. It's an imposing, impressive and beautiful construct of bricks, white doors, tall windows and, of course, our American flag. As I have a masonic family history (my grandfather in Fairfield, and his father in the Ukraine), I was interested in learning more after I was healthy and had retired with an open schedule. So, I reached out to learn more. I was greeted with a warm welcome that showed the members of the lodge focused on Fellowship. That reminded of my time playing on football and baseball teams. Self-growth is also a key focus of Masonic study, which appealed as I always wanted to move forward in my life. I hope to evolve from family history to fellowship, personal growth, and contributing to the community as a focus of joining Temple Lodge Number 16. One area that I'd like to focus on is keeping Cheshire clean and natural. Particularly, working to keep the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail clean and easy to navigate. In addition, I'd also like to help in the Masonic Order of the Amaranth in its efforts fighting diabetes



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The annual Temple Lodge #16 Poinsettia Plant Sale fundraiser!

For over 25 years, the Poinsettia Plant Sale has been an annual fundraiser for our lodge. We plan to offer Rainbow and Eastern Star the opportunity to participate and make some money for their groups. The proceeds from this year's Poinsettia Plant Sale will go into our Trustee Fund.

The price of 6 ½ and 8 inch plants remains the same and are terrific values. We've also added a new, smaller 4 ½-inch plant for \$10.

PLANT SIZE COST COLORS

4 ½-inch pot (with 1 plant) \$10 **Red, White, Pink**

6 ½-inch pot (with 1 plant) \$15 **Red, White, Pink**

8 inch pot (with 3 plants) \$25 **Red, White, Pink**

You can order plants now. Please contact Kevin Ferguson by phone/text (203) 745-8172 or email kpferguson2008@yahoo.com.

PICK-UP DATE ORDERING SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/07/24 (9am-noon) Order deadline Wed. 12/04/24

Saturday 12/14/24 (9am-noon) Order deadline Wed. 12/11/24

Payment is due at pickup by cash or check (payable to: Temple Lodge #16).

We also accept donations from brothers who want to help, but not buy a plant. A donation in any amount can be sent directly to: Kevin Ferguson, 130 Colonial Hill Dr., Wallingford, CT. 06492, or delivered to me in person at a lodge meeting.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE LODGE --- ORDER NOW

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



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In our lives as Masons and as men, fear is one of the greatest barriers we face. It whispers caution where courage is needed, and it builds walls where we are meant to step forward.

But is fear not also a tool for reflection? A challenge urging us to move past inertia and toward action? Consider the allegory of the rough ashlar: An unpolished, imperfect stone brimming with potential. It is shaped through labor and refinement, not through avoidance of difficulty. Similarly, the obstacles we face and the risks we fear are the mallet and chisel of our lives, tools to carve out a better version of ourselves.

Freemasonry teaches us that every Brother must apply these tools to his own stone.

But the work begins by facing what we fear to undertake. Taking risks, whether in your personal pursuits, professional ambitions, or even in the context of an officer of the Craft, requires stepping beyond your comfort into the boundless possibility.

Just as we are reminded to seek light in darkness, so must we trust that stepping into the unknown leads us closer to understanding and fulfillment. Why do we hesitate? Perhaps it is the fear of failure or rejection, of disappointing others or ourselves. Yet our obligations call us to see past these fleeting doubts. True failure lies not in falling short but in never having dared to try.

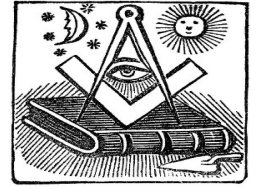
As Freemasons, we are builders. Not merely of structures, but of lives of integrity, courage, and influence. Every great endeavor begins with a single step.

One where fear is acknowledged, understood, and ultimately overcome. Reflect, too, on the lessons of initiation.

There, blindfolded and uncertain, we took the first steps in our Masonry. That moment symbolizes the courage to move forward without knowing the outcome, trusting in a greater light ahead. Why, then,



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would we hesitate now? Every opportunity we embrace could lead to greater insight, stronger connections, or unexpected rewards.

Brothers, the Lodge itself thrives on this principle. A trestle board is laid out not for us to simply admire, but to act upon. How can you challenge yourself to contribute more to your Lodge, your community, or your own development? Are there opportunities before you now that fear is holding you back from pursuing?

Step forward. Work your stone. Trust the process. The greatest monuments of humanity, from cathedrals to characters, are built by those who dared to move beyond fear.

I'll leave you to it.

~ MasonicFind.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birthday	Age
Allan	Myron	Jones	12/4/1946	78
Christopher	Karl	Eisbach	12/5/1970	54
Eric	William	Gunther	12/8/1969	55
Jonathan	David	Hartman	12/8/1986	38
Peter	Michale	Pogozeski	12/11/1952	72
James	Giacomo	Urbano	12/15/1960	64
Robert	John Alexander	Knowles	12/17/1942	82
George	William	Nousiainen	12/18/1941	83
Timothy	John	White	12/20/1972	52
Philip	Clifford	Newton, II	12/24/1969	55
John	Walter	Plaster	12/25/1945	79
Roger	J.	Michaud	12/26/1953	71



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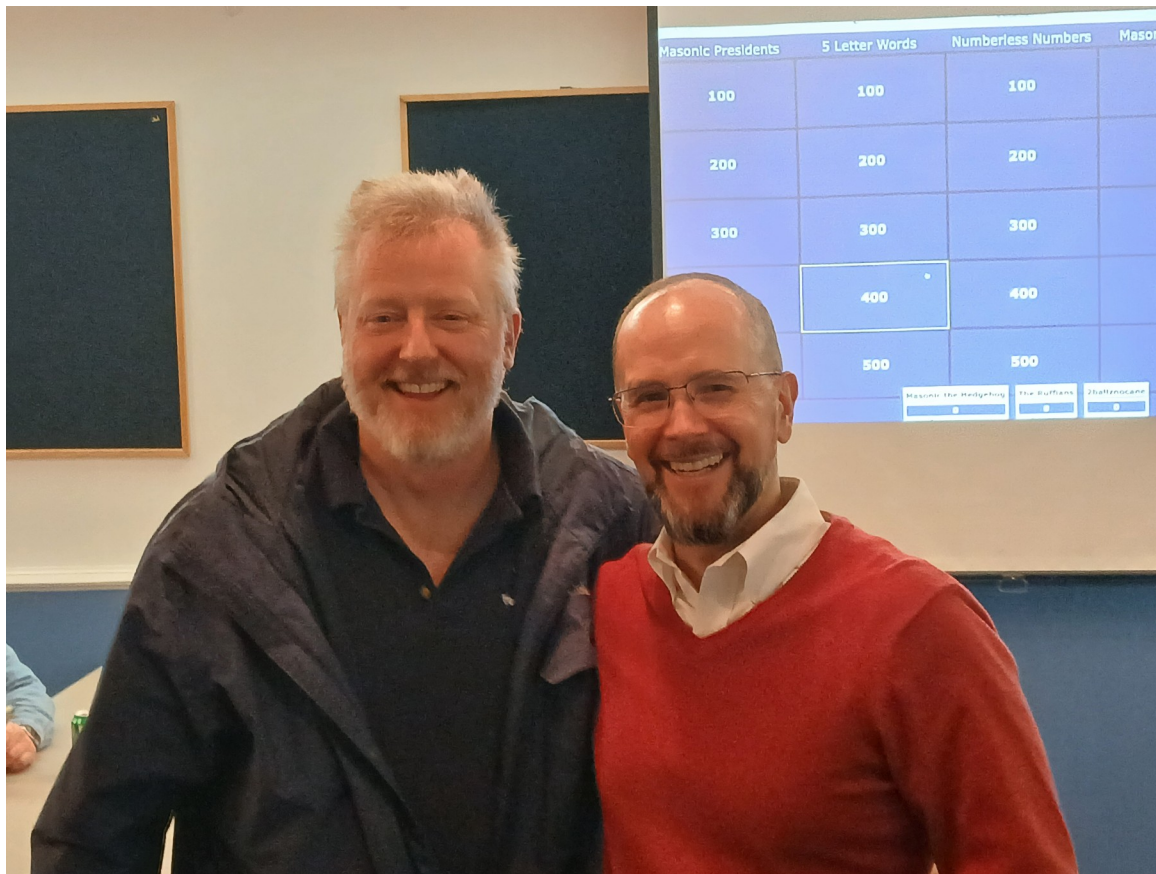
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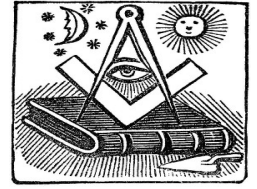
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Our two faithful Stewards have provided us with over four years of great dinners and food for many occasions. Senior Steward Kevin Ferguson and Junior Steward John O'Reilly. This past Thursday at our Masonic trivia night it was make your own Tacos night.





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Worshipful Master Roger Jackson has joined the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Here he has just experienced the 4th and 30th degrees at the Valley of Bridgeport on November 18th.



Brother John White Receives his 40th year pin from WM Bruce Taylor and SD Andrew Kazimer.





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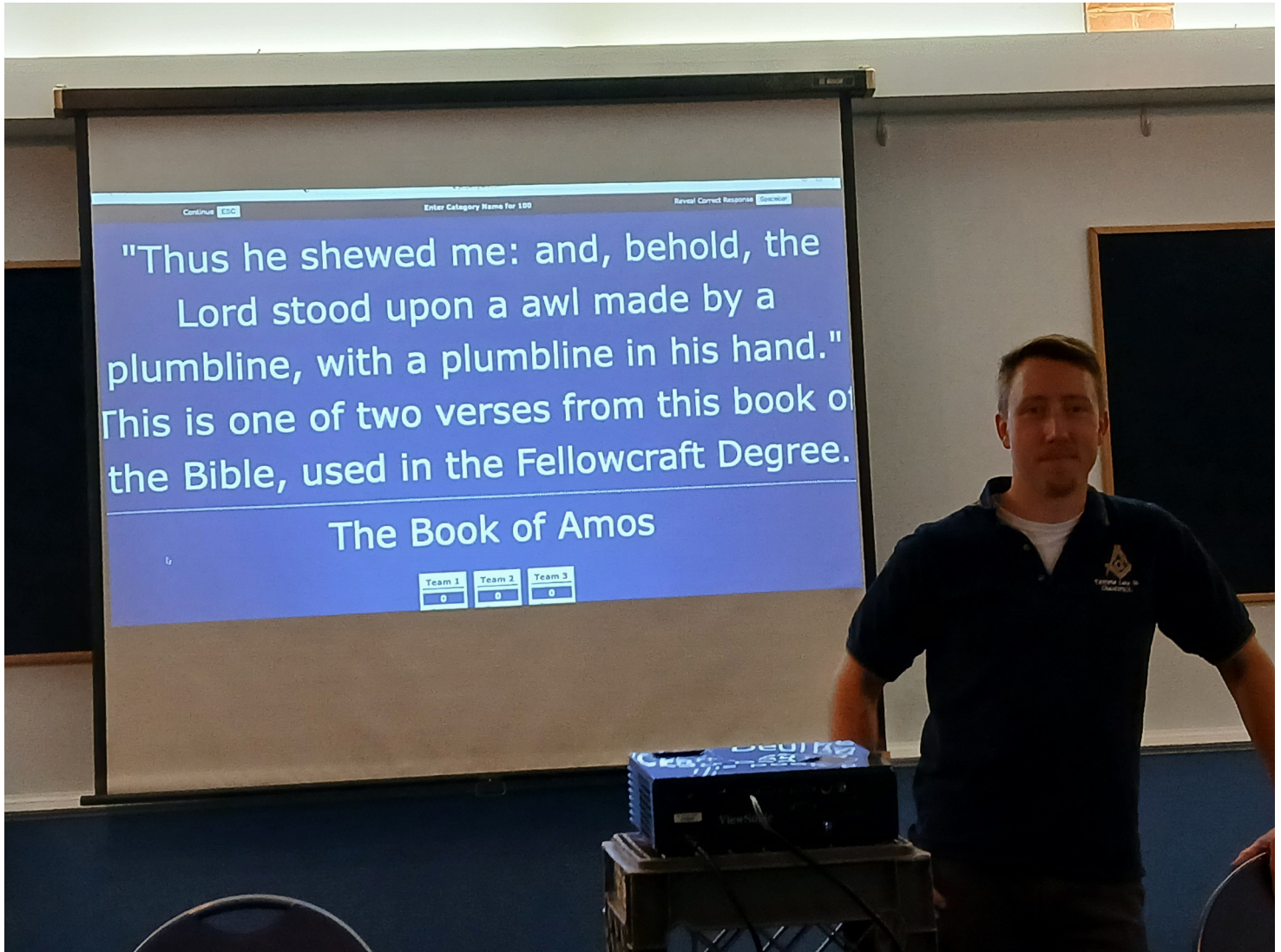
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At our Masonic Jeopardy night last Thursday with WB Phil Sharkey III hosting the event. This is the fourth time he has done it. Each time and the questions keep getting get harder. This is an example of one with Phil issuing a challenge to the 16 attending brothers to come up with the correct question.





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Temple Lodge #16 Officers for 2024:

Worshipful Master – **WM Bruce Taylor**

Senior Warden – **Eric Desmond**

Junior Warden – **Rodrigo Maltarollo**

Treasurer – **Jonathan Hartman**

Secretary – **WB Mark Orsini**

Senior Deacon – **Andrew Kazimer**

Junior Deacon – **Philip Sharkey Jr.**

Senior Steward – **Kevin Ferguson**

Junior Steward – **John O'Reilly**

Chaplain – **WB Jason Polaski**

Marshal –

Tiler – **Jeff Sommers**

Organist – **WB John Lesky**

Historian – **RWB David Stewart**

School of Instruction – **RWB David Stewart**

Trustees – (3 year terms)

Kevin Ferguson, (26)

Rob Lawonka, (24)

WB Stuart Post (Pro-Tem), (25)

CMTA – (3 year terms)

Andrew Kazimer (25) (Pres)

Mithie Thatson (27) (VP)

Sean Caruthers (27) (Tres)

Phil Sharkey Jr (25) (Secty)

WB Phil Sharkey III (25)

Kevin Dwyer (27)

RWB David Stewart (26)

Jon Fischer (26)

WB Steve Blake (26)

WB Bruce Taylor (Master)

Eric Desmond (SW)

Rodrigo Maltarollo (JW)

Living Masters of Temple Lodge #16:

1968 **Wayne Davidson**

1980 **George A.W. Nousiainen**

1982,83,95 **S. Kenneth Baril**

1984, 2002 **Stephen Eberle**

1989 **James Sygrove**

1990 **William Maturo**

1991 **John Sturges**

1996 **James Parys**

1997 **Garret Post**

1998 **Carmen Spizzoucco**

2000 **John Lesky**

2004 **Royal Watrous**

2005 **Michael Candela**

2006 **John Attwood**

2007 **Philip Reed**

2008 **Roger Jackson**

2010 **Michael Bonini**

2011,14 **Steven Canada**

2012 **Eric Gunther**

2013 **Eric Silver**

2015,16 **Jonathan Martin**

2017,18 **Stuart Post**

2019 **Steven Blake**

2020 **Fred Cargill**

2021, 22 **Philip Sharkey III**

2023 **Jason Polaski**

2024 **Bruce Taylor**

Living Past Masters of Other Lodges who are members of Temple Lodge #16:

Gary Matican - Cosmopolitan #125 - 1991, 1995, 2003

David Berger - Cosmopolitan #125 - 2005

Roger Jackson - Cosmopolitan #125 - 2009

Robert Knowles - Center #197 – 2006

Emory Meyerjack - Ashlar-Aspetuck #142 – 2010

Mark Orsini - Liberty-Continental #76 – 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017

Steven Canada - Day Spring #30 – 2016, 2017

Gordon Hurlbert – Granite #119 – 2023, 2024

Garret Post – Ashlar #332 - 2023