



TRESTLEBOARD



Temple Lodge #16 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Chartered 1790

Editor – Bro. Jon Fischer, 32°, MSA

June 2025

9 Country Club Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

Stated Communications: First and Third Thursdays 7:30 pm

From our Worshipful Master, Eric Desmond

My Dear Brothers:

Greetings from the East!

Faith : Charity : Hope

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

Lately, I have been thinking about what motivates a man to become a Mason and, importantly to practice Masonry. Of course, that may be an involuntary reaction to a certain Chaplain's persistent communications about scheduling candidates for the Entered Apprentice degree.

In all seriousness, initiation into the Craft is a topic that seems to take precedence over two other critically important concerns that we often discuss in the Fellow Craft Room – participation and retention. After a Brother is initiated into the Craft, what steps can be taken to encourage participation about the Lodge such that Brothers remain involved in the long-term?

Determining which candidates would be effective Masons and be welcome additions to Temple 16 starts simply enough. We meet candidates at social engagements and dinners who then decide to submit petitions, just as there are men viewing advertisements who may decide to submit petitions. There are also men whose relatives are Masons or who are friends and co-workers with Masons who then decide to submit petitions. But does voting on these petitions guarantee that such men are prepared – or even willing – to Masonically become better men? Some are, some are not, and others may need the subtle hand of encouragement to know.

This is where the issues of participation and retention become significant, and where I would like to touch on a theme for consideration during the remainder of 2025, and beyond if it proves effective. Charity – one of the Three Graces – does not merely reflect a donative intention but incorporates a broader meaning whereby those practicing Charity subordinate their interests and needs to the interests and needs of others.

The invocation of Charity provides two practical ways for Temple 16 to represent the Fraternity. Simply stated, by acting with Charity: (a) Temple 16 may represent itself admirably within the community; and (b) Brothers may admirably represent both themselves and the Fraternity to those with which they interact. Doing either – or both – is a promising way to generate interest in Masonry, and hopefully encouraging initiation, participation and retention. The good news is that Charity is a commonly





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practiced principle within Temple 16.

The genesis of this hopefully thought-provoking concept springs from a lecture given at Temple 16 several years ago. During that lecture, a visiting Brother spoke about Charity amongst soldiers who were Masons during the Civil War, providing stories about Brothers helping Brothers despite being adversaries on the battlefield. In doing some additional research, it turns out that William McKinley observed a Union physician helping Confederate prisoners in a similar manner.

As the story goes, William McKinley – the man who would be President – was asked why he became a Mason. He responded with a story about the Union physician and the positive impression the physician's gesture created of Masonry. He explained that after the Battle of Opequon – in the waning months of the Civil War – he observed the Union doctor shaking hands with some Confederate prisoners and then handing some prisoners money. William McKinley explained the incident as follows:

On the way back to our camp I asked him, "Did you know these men or ever see them before?" "No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before." "But how did you know them and why did you give them money?", I asked. "They are Masons, and we Masons have ways of finding that out." "But," I persisted, "you gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?" "Well," said the doctor, "if they are ever able to pay it back, they will. But it makes no difference to me. They are brother Masons in trouble, and I am only doing my duty."

See [McKinley and Freemasonry – The McKinley Birthplace Museum](#). William McKinley was favorably impressed by the physician's Charity – before he was informed that Masons routinely practice such Charity.

Another story of Masonic Charity involves the providing of a Masonic funeral to a fallen Brother, a Union Commander who was killed defending the Port of Galveston. On January 1, 1863, Confederate forces attacked Union forces with field artillery and cannon-laden riverboats. During the battle, one of the Confederate riverboats rammed a Union ship, which Confederate forces then boarded. During the boarding Commander Jonathan Wainwright of the Union ship was killed. After the surrender, some Union sailors were found to be Master Masons, and those sailors vouched for Captain Wainwright and requested that he receive a Masonic funeral.

Upon the prisoners' request, a "Lodge of Emergency" was opened by Harmony Lodge No. 6 in Galveston, Texas for the express purpose of providing Masonic Honors to Commander Wainwright. It was observed that "[a] public procession consisting of 'both friends and foe wearing the insignia of the Order' accompanied the body to the Episcopal cemetery." Additionally, the Lodge minutes document the words of Worshipful Master Confederate Major Phillip Tucker: "It does not conflict with [our] duties as patriotic citizens to respond to the calls of mercy by a prostrate political foe, or to administer the last rite of the Order to the remains of a Mason of moral worth, although yesterday they met as an armed



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enemy in mortal combat.” See [Freemasonry Pauses Wars: A Masonic Response To Violence In Dallas | Dallas Freemasonry](#), from which this story was borrowed.

While examples of Masonic Charity involving soldiers from opposing forces undoubtedly occurred during other wars, such incidents are less common and even less well documented than they were during the Civil War. One such example occurred during the War of 1812 when Essex Lodge in Salem, Massachusetts endeavored to assist British Masons who had been captured. See [Lodge Devotion 723 - Freemasonry During The War of 1812](#).

Later, American Masonic Lodges mobilized to provide assistance to American soldiers and veterans during World War II.

On the home front, United States Freemasons threw their wholehearted support behind the war effort . . . To provide for the comfort and morale of all these servicemen Illinois Grand Master Karl J. Mohr, like other Grand Masters across the country, began to establish Masonic Service Centers . . . Each of the seven [Illinois] service centers [was] located near major military bases . . . The service centers were located in local Masonic lodges each ‘fully equipped to furnish fun, recreation and comfort to the men of the service. However, these service centers were not just for Freemasons . . . The Masonic service centers provided free hot meals, daily games such as ping pong and billiards, and even dancing. The centers services hundreds of thousands of servicemen throughout the war and between 1942 and 1945 the 912 N. LaSalle St. Center ‘served 372,000 meals.’ The service centers also provided for the morale of the servicemen by holding forums for the men to discuss their complaints. . . . The Masonic Service Centers not only provided for the physical comforts and morale of the servicemen at home, but also for troops overseas.’

Mark Stanford, *Historia – Masons at War: Freemasonry During World War Two*, (2013), 143 – 144, <https://www.eiu.edu/historia/Stanford2013.pdf>. Notably, after World War II the membership of Masonic Lodges increased dramatically, and it would be reasonable to conclude that non-Mason soldiers who were favorably impressed sought to join the ranks of Masonry which, before that time, had been shrinking.

There are, of course, many non-military examples of Masonic Charity. Temple 16 has provided financial assistance to Cheshire Human Services. A prolific – if not the most well-known example of Masonic Charity – is the Shriner’s Hospitals. And Brothers do take time to help Brothers and non-Masons alike.

Returning to the reason for invoking Charity in this message, during some of our post-meeting discussions in the Fellow Craft Room, we have discussed the three-pronged specter of initiation, participation and retention. The belief is that through actively invoking Charity in our actions and deeds, it is possible to encourage initiation of new members, inspire the participation of current members and



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attain the retention of members long-term.

Some of this Charity is reflected in the provision of scholarships during Awards Night and some of this Charity is reflected in permitting and encouraging the use of Temple 16 by appendant bodies facing financial difficulties or by charities such as the Red Cross.

In support of our Charitable works, Temple 16 will be undergoing some changes and maintenance over the Summer weeks. The Mosaic Pavement fundraiser has concluded and the material for the floor has been ordered. A respectful area near the building will be improved for the purpose of establishing a memorial garden, which will permit us to give effect to the wishes of the Brethren as approved in late 2024. Additionally, modest alterations will be made to the Fellow Craft Room to facilitate its use by Brothers of Temple 16 and others authorized to use the room. Necessary repairs will also be made to the building.

If you would like to assist with these Charitable works, please contact me. We are also always desirous of having Brothers join us in our labors, as well as in the refreshment that inevitably follows. Additionally, should any Brother have an idea for a Charitable project, please reach out with that idea.

The following additional events are scheduled for June 2025.

- On Thursday, June 5, 2025, we will have our regular 7:30 PM stated communication, with a dinner beforehand starting at 6:30 PM. This meeting is our annual Awards Night.
- On Thursday, June 19, 2025, our stated communication is presently scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM – please note that there might be a time change. We will have a short business meeting after which we will host our 2025 RWB Jim Nankin Memorial Hawaiian Shirt Night. A flyer will be sent as the date approaches.

We look forward to seeing you.

Your humble caretaker,

Eric Desmond
Worshipful Master
Temple Lodge #16



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Up Coming Events at Temple Lodge #16

June 1st - Rainbow

June 4th – Day Spring Lodge #30, First Meeting at Temple Lodge Building

June 5th – Stated Communication, Awards Night

June 10th – Masonic Tag Sale, American St. Johns Lodge #8, 3960 Main Street, Stratford.

June 12th – CMTA, 7:30

June 13th – Eastern Star

June 15th – Rainbow

June 19th – Stated Communication, Hawaiian Shirt Night

June 27th – Eastern Star



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To Date we have raised over \$3,349.00 from donations, raffles, and breakfasts. The campaign goes on. If any brothers would like to contribute with a direct donation to help achieve our goal they can submit a check payable to Temple Lodge 16 or hand cash to WB Secretary Mark Orsini earmarked for the Mosaic Pavement Project. Also there will be two more occasions to participate in the 50/50 raffle prior to the 6/5 and 6/15 stated communications of which the proceeds will benefit the project.

Thank you to all the brothers thus far who have contributed to the project in various ways over the past several months! We are just \$650.00 away from our goal. Please donate if you are able to so we can install the Mosaic Pavement in our lodge which is a very meaningful and inspiring symbol from our EA degree and an age old fixture in most Masonic lodges.

PROJECT GOAL: \$4,000.00
(If we reach our goal installation planned for this summer)

How Can You Contribute?

- Direct Donations: Cash or Check - Checks payable to Temple Lodge 16 - submit to Bro. Phil Sharkey, Jr.
Call/Text: 617-803-6462 Email: papershark2003@gmail.com
- \$5.00 50/50 "Mosaic Pavement" Raffle before each stated communication (Conducted by Bro. Jon Fischer)
- Brother's Breakfast event planned for early May. 100% of proceeds to benefit the fund. (Date: TBD)
- Purchase Tickets to the April 26th COMEDY NIGHT - (A portion of the proceeds to benefit the fund.)



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Say, son. Let's go to lodge tonight—

We haven't been for years;

Let's don our little aprons white

And sit among the peers.

I feel a kind of longing, boy,

To climb up those old stairs;

I know we'd get a thrill of joy

And lay aside our cares.

I'd like to get out on the floor---

Come on, let's get in line;

I'd like to face the East once more

And give that same old sign.

I want to hear the gavels ring,

To hear the organ play,

I want to hear the craftsmen sing

That old familia lay.

I think the Tiler'd let us in,

Although he'd hesitate,

And then we'd see that same old grin—



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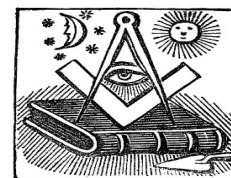
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Worshipful Brothers Steve Blake, Bruce Taylor and others have been busy installing an electric outlet beneath the altar in the lodge room at our lodge. The lesser lights are now around the altar where they belong.



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JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix	Birthday	Age	Years of Service
Sherwood	Lewis	Dawson	Jr	1940-06-26	84.9	40.42
Tyler	Thomas	Della Valle		1995-06-27	29.9	0.21
Christopher	James	Donlin		1983-06-17	41.93	7.91
Wessley	B.	Fortier		1981-06-21	43.92	7.51
Charles	Munro	Getchell	Jr	1953-06-22	71.91	15.43
Rodney		Irizarry		1966-06-15	58.93	0.21
Andrew	Jason	Kazimer		1995-06-16	29.93	3.22
Andrew	John	Menard		1993-06-03	31.96	10.5
Bruce	Winslow	Spaulding		1931-06-01	93.97	64.72
Jeffrey	N.	Turrill		1954-06-27	70.9	21.56
Scott	John	Von Fischer		1963-06-11	61.94	15.47
Gordon	Stark	Young		1929-06-12	95.94	

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix	Birthday	Age	Years of Service
David	Edward	Berger		1942-07-06	82.87	25.59
Robert	J.	Larsen		1939-07-17	85.85	41.67
Allen	Gould	Meyerjack		1939-07-24	85.83	57.51
Jason	Paul	Polaski		1978-07-16	46.85	16.92
Michael	Joseph	Wright		1987-07-02	37.89	0.84

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix	Birthday	Age	Years of Service
Philip	Dorrance	Cogle	Jr	1946-08-10	78.78	14.05
Sheldon	Fox	Dill	Jr	1948-08-13	76.77	14.84
Michael	Richard	Dyer		1978-08-27	46.73	6.56
Frederick	George	Klimowicz		1956-08-26	68.73	14.05
Prasad	S.	Sureddi		1951-08-10	73.78	25.45
Mithie		Tharson		1949-08-23	75.74	5.25



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Temple Lodge #16 Officers for 2025:

Worshipful Master – **Eric Desmond**

Senior Warden – **Rodrigo Maltarollo**

Junior Warden – **Andrew Kazimer**

Treasurer – **Jonathan Hartman**

Secretary – **WB Mark Orsini**

Senior Deacon – **Phil Sharkey Jr**

Junior Deacon – **Kevin Ferguson**

Senior Steward – **John O'Reilly**

Junior Steward – **Kevin Dwyer**

Associate Steward - **Sam Stuckall**

Chaplain – **WB Bruce Taylor**

Marshal - **Tyler DeLavalley**

Tiler – **Jeff Sommers**

Organist – **WB John Lesky**

Historian – **RWB David Stewart**

School of Instruction – **RWB David Stewart**

Assistant Secertary – **WB Stuart Post**

Project Manager – **WB Phil Sharkey III**

Trustees – (3 year terms)

Kevin Ferguson, (26)

Rob Lawonka, (27)

WB Stuart Post, (25)

CMTA – (3 year terms)

WB Steve Blake (26) (Pres)

WB Bruce Taylor (28)(VP)

WB Phil Sharkey III (28)(Tres)

Phil Sharkey Jr (28) (Secty)

Tyler DeLavalley (28)

Kevin Dwyer (27)

RWB David Stewart (26)

Jon Fischer (26)

Mithie Thatson (27)

WB Eric Desmond (Master)

Rodrigo Maltarollo (SW)

Andrew Kazimer (JW)

Living Masters of Temple Lodge #16:

1968 **Wayne Davidson**

1980 **RWB George 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**

2025 **Eric Desmond**

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

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

RWB David Berger - Cosmopolitan #125 - 2005

WB Roger Jackson - Cosmopolitan #125 - 2009

RWB Robert Knowles - Center #197 – 2006

WB Emory Meyerjack - Ashlar-Aspetuck #142 – 2010

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

WB Steven Canada - Day Spring #30 – 2016, 2017

WB Gordon Hurlbert – Granite #119 – 2023, 2024

WB Garret Post – Ashlar #332 - 2023