



TRESTLEBOARD



Temple Lodge #16 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Chartered 1790

Editor – Bro. Jon Fischer, 32°, MSA

October 2025

9 Country Club Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

Stated Communications: First and Third Thursdays 7:30 pm

From our Worshipful Master, Eric Desmond

Greetings from the East!

As the last quarter of 2025 is upon us, and having just welcomed two Entered Apprentices into the Craft, I find myself thinking about what it means (to me) to be a Mason, and what impact if any my membership in the Masonic institution may prove as time marches on. In doing so, I have found myself thinking about what Masonic Lodges allegorically represent, and whether the allegory is entirely appropriate.

Guilds were formed by artisans for the purpose of providing collective benefits to its members. As Albert Mackey explained, “the object of the early Craft Gilds was to create relations [between its members] as if among brothers; and above all things, to grant to their members that assistance which the member of a family might expect from that family. . . . [T]he principal object of the Craft Gilds was to secure their members in the independent, unimpaired, and regular earning of their daily bread by means of their craft.” See Albert G. Mackey, *An Encyclopaedia of Freemasons and Its Kindred Sciences, Volume II* (New York and London: The Masonic History Company, 1916), pgs. 310 – 311. A guild provided this collective benefit by educating and training its members, by acting to protect its members’ collective interests in addition to its own, and by attempting to restrict the practice of the trade or craft to its members.

Consistent with its educational purpose a guild would permit a member to progress through its ranks, starting with entered apprentice and culminating with master. Members achieved higher ranks, or degrees, by receiving increasingly revealing instruction and thereafter showing proficiency through the performance of work. Proficiency for an operative stonemason would have been exhibited by using learned building techniques, along with the tools of the profession, to unite disparate building materials into a final, common structure. See Albert G. Mackey, *An Encyclopaedia of Freemasons and Its Kindred Sciences, Volume II* (New York and London: The Masonic History Company, 1916), pg. 532 (“Freemasonry, in its character as an operative art, is familiar to everyone. As such, it is engaged in the application of the rules and principles of architecture to the construction of edifices for private and public use, houses for the dwelling-place of man, and temples for the worship of the Deity. It abounds like every other art, in the use of technical terms, and employs, in practise, an abundance of implements and materials which are peculiar to itself.”). Despite such proficiency, and the intention of operative stonemasons to build enduring temples, monuments and structures, the inevitable truth is that temples, monuments and structures made by hands will yield, whether to war, natural disaster, human “progress,” or the unbending and unrelenting march of time.

These two considerations, to me, distinguish the purpose of operative stonemasonry from the purpose of the Masonic institution.

The Masonic institution is designed to make men better and wiser, and does so by instilling principals of equality, morality and uprightness before God and man alike. The Masonic institution is also designed to remind its members to act virtuously, and does so by referencing certain indispensable qualities: temperance, fortitude,





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prudence and justice. Similar to the guild system, a votary of the Masonic institution is presented with increasingly revealing instruction regarding these principles, and is provided with a platform upon which such instruction may be acted upon. Critically, these principles are premised upon the belief that a Mason should seek the welfare of those around him, including the welfare of his family, his Brothers, and his community, with equal intention as he might seek his own welfare.

Such is not the goal of an operative mason's guild.

As noted above, an operative stonemason would show proficiency by using learned building techniques, and the tools of the profession, to build a structure. The act of building the structure benefits the guild and its members. Speculative Masons similarly build, allegorically speaking, but the act of showing greater proficiency is not relegated to conduct within Lodge or to conduct that benefits only the Masonic institution. Rather, when a Speculative Masons shows proficiency – whereby he squares and circumscribes his actions and keeps himself within due bounds in all his societal interactions – the impact of such conduct has the ability to ripple outward. A Brother who acts in a manner consistent with the principles of the Masonic institution, therefore, positively influences others beyond those he has intended to aid and assist.

The Masonic institution has the unique potential to be a positive force for good. By standing uprightly before God and mankind, and being mindful of the virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, Masons have the capacity to produce an enduring impact upon the Temple Lodge #16 community, and beyond. We can start within Temple Lodge #16 by contacting Brothers who have not been contacted recently, but also by reaching beyond Temple Lodge #16 to identify neighbors in need of direct assistance or by partnering with the food bank for events such as the Santa Breakfast.

I would also challenge the esteemed, elder Brothers of Temple Lodge #16 to reach out to a newly raised Master Mason or a newly admitted Entered Apprentice, taking time to explain what Speculative Masonry means to them and to discuss ways in which Temple Lodge #16 has in years past reached out to or partnered with the community. By helping the youngest Brothers of Temple Lodge #16 increase their proficiency, all Brothers maybe encouraged to do the same.

As for upcoming scheduled October and November events, there are several which I hope each Brother will consider attending.

- We will be hosting a Table Lodge at Temple #16 on October 16, 2025. This Table Lodge will celebrate Oktoberfest, with a German menu that will include schnitzel and German-style beer brewed by W.B. Phil Sharkey, III and Brother Phil Sharkey, Jr. The table lodge will start at 6:30 PM.
- We will be hosting another Comedy Night on October 25, 2025. More information forthcoming.
- We will be hosting a Festive Board on November 6, 2025. The Festive Board start at 6:30 PM. Please



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check for updates on the menu and the education to be presented during dinner.

- We will be holding a Fellow Craft degree on November 20, 2025. The Degree will start at 7:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Please check for updates on the menu.

We look forward to seeing you.

Your humble caretaker, Eric Desmond, Worshipful Master, Temple Lodge #16

Up Coming Events at Temple Lodge #16

October 1st : Stated Meeting, Day Spring Lodge #30 at
Temple Lodge #16

October 2nd : Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm,

October 5th : Rainbow for Girls

October 7th : Eastern Star

October 9th : CMTA Meeting, 7:00 pm

October 10th : Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm

October 13th : Amarath

October 16th : Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm, Table Lodge

October 19th : Rainbow for Girls

October 25th : COMEDY NIGHT!

November 2nd : Stated meeting, at 7:30 PM



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At our last Stated Communication on September 18th we initiated two candidates to the degree of Entered Apprentice. Manuel Blyden and Moises Saliva.

Welcome new Brothers.





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Brothers and Friends,

It is time once again for our Fall Comedy Night. Proceeds from this event will help keep our 125-year-old building running, our scholarships flowing, and our stewardship and support of our local community alive. Once again, we are proud to present...

Comedy Night at Cheshire's Masonic Lodge

Saturday, October 25th

Cheshire Masonic Lodge – 9 Country Club Road, Cheshire CT

doors open at 6:30pm – Show starts at 8pm – 4 Comics

BYOBeverages AND BYOFood

SEATING IS LIMITED, FIRST-COME / FIRST-SERVED... SO BOOK EARLY!!!

Sponsorship Opportunities

(Sponsorships must be booked by October 15th , else tables will be released for general sale)

Contact Bro Kevin Ferguson (203) 745-8172 or TempleLodge16ComedyNight@gmail.com for more information or to register as a sponsor

Gold Sponsor: \$500

(1 available)

Includes a reserved front-center table for 8, 2 Bottles of wine (your choice of red/white) your name headlining the table signage, (sponsor provided) business cards/flier and/or a gift at each place setting (110 in total), a banner displayed with your company name/logo, a shout-out from our Emcee and opportunity to speak for up to 5 minutes, 16 raffle tickets. (submit business logo electronically)

Silver Sponsor \$350

(2 available)

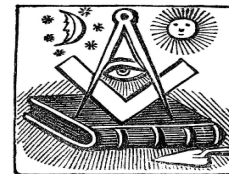
Includes a reserved front-side table for 8, 1 Bottle of wine (your choice red/white), your name on the table signage 8 raffle tickets.

Bronze Sponsor \$175

(4 available)



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**Doors
Open
@ 6:30PM**

**cheshire masonic lodge
comedy night**

**Show
Starts
@ 8:00PM**

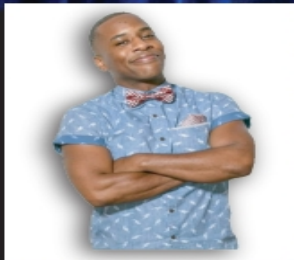
9 Country Club Rd., Cheshire, CT

Saturday, October 25th

**Hosted by:
Rick Roberts**
Mohegan Sun, Foxwoods,
Palace Theatre (Waterbury),
Treehouse Comedy Club

**Headliner:
Billy Winn**

**N.H. Advocate's "Best CT Comic"
2013, 2014, 2015
CT Radio Personality
As seen on... A&E, VH1, &
CT Style on WTNH 8**

**Featuring:
Kareem Blue**

**As seen at
The Funny Bone,
The Stress Factory
and Warner Theatre.**

**\$35/pp or 2 for \$60 Tables of 8 available
Seating is limited... so book early!
BYOBeverage / BYOFood**

**Charity Fundraiser for Cheshire's Masonic Lodge**
Helping us support Community Stewardship,
Scholarships & our Building Fund

**TIN CAN
RAFFLE
AFTER
THE
SHOW**

e-mail ticket orders to:
TempleLodge16ComedyNight@gmail.com
or text (203) 745-8172
Adults only, 18 and older please
(Bottle Club rules apply)



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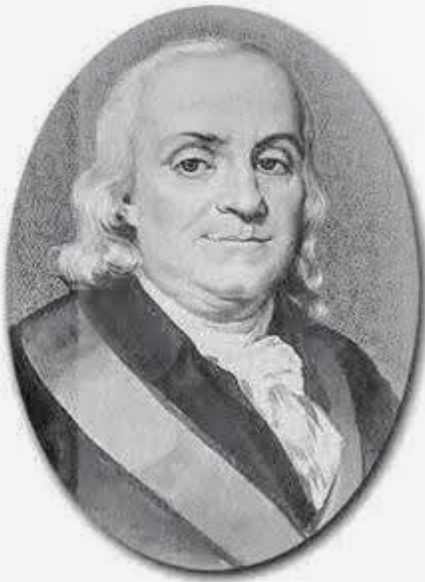
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FREEMASONS
OF AMERICA



"MASONIC LABOR IS PURELY A LABOR OF LOVE. HE WHO SEEKS TO DRAW MASONIC WAGES IN GOLD AND SILVER WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. THE WAGES OF A MASON ARE EARNED AND PAID IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH ONE ANOTHER; SYMPATHY THAT BEGETS SYMPATHY, KINDNESS BEGETS KINDNESS, HELPFULNESS BEGETS HELPFULNESS, AND

THESE ARE THE WAGES OF A MASON."

BROTHER BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix	Birthday	Age
Sean	R.	Caruthers		1981-10-07	44
George	Henry	Davidson	III	1962-10-02	63
Leon	Edward	Losapio		1956-10-05	69
Louis	M.	Murray		1948-10-10	77
David	Matthew	Rochford		1988-10-17	37
Gary	Spencer	Rowe		1950-10-24	75
Philip	James	Sharkey	III	1987-10-21	38

Brother's Lunch

Are you looking for a gathering of brothers for some fun, food and enlightening discussions? Come and join us at noon on October 10th (the day after the CMTA meeting) at Vespucci's Restaurant on Main Street. A group of 6 to 10 brothers have been meeting for a while and we are now opening it to others who would like to join. Contact Phil Reed at reedtitle@gmail.com for reservations. It's the full menu, order what you want and pay for what you order.



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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