



TRESTLEBOARD



Temple Lodge #16 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Chartered 1790

Editor – Bro. Jon Fischer, 32°, MSA

November 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!

Each journey in Freemasonry starts in the northeast corner of the Lodge where a candidate is instructed to stand a just and upright Mason. Each new Mason is informed of the significance of such placement, in which situation “the candidate becomes as one who is, to all outward appearance, a perfect and upright man and Mason, the representative of a spiritual corner-stone, on which he is to erect his future moral and Masonic edifice.” Albert G. Mackey, *An Encyclopaedia of Freemasons and Its Kindred Sciences, Volume II* (New York and London: The Masonic History Company, 1916), pg. 519. The significant of this northeast corner placement is further explained as follows:



This symbolic reference of the corner-stone of a material edifice to a Mason when; at his first initiation; he commences the moral and intellectual task of erecting a spiritual temple in his heart, is beautifully sustained when we look at all the qualities that are required to constitute a ‘well-trying, true, and trusty’ corner-stone. The squareness of its surface emblematical of morality – its cubical form, emblematic of firmness and stability of character – and the peculiar finish and fineness of the material, emblematical of virtue and holiness – show that the ceremony of the northeast corner of the Lodge was undoubtedly intended to portray, in the consecrated language of symbolism – the necessity of integrity and stability of conduct, of truthfulness and uprightness of character, and of purity and holiness of life, which, just at that time and in that place, the candidate is most impressively charged to maintain.

Albert G. Mackey, *An Encyclopaedia of Freemasons and Its Kindred Sciences, Volume II* (New York and London: The Masonic History Company, 1916), pg. 519.

The instruction to stand a perfect and upright Mason signifies the manner in which a Mason is to “erect his future moral and Masonic edifice.” The term ‘edifice,’ while suggestive of a physical structure, is derived from the Latin word “aedificare” – which means “to build.” The process of building, as relates to speculative Masons, refers not to the building of structures but to that more noble and glorious purpose of building moral, spiritual and intellectual edifices. In doing so, speculative Masons have adopted metaphors and allegories based upon the rules, tools, and principles of the operative builders, while affirming the additional understanding that the erecting of an internal “future” edifice denotes a continual journey commencing for each Mason in the northeast corner of the Lodge that endures, unabated, until that Mason has laid down his working tools.



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Operative Masons use their working tools to build physical edifices, including for the laying of the foundations upon which structures are then erected. While operative Masons use working tools to lay foundations and build physical edifices, speculative Masons make allegorical use of these working tools to lay the foundations of moral, spiritual and intellectual edifices that will be erected over time. Indeed, speculative Masons allude to such operative working tools for the purpose of providing good and wholesome instruction regarding the manner in which Masons meet, the manner in which Masons act toward each other and to all mankind, and the manner in which Masons part (until such Masons meet again). The cyclical nature of the meet, act and part allegory is intended to remind each Mason of the importance of always acting, in Mackey's words, with firmness and stability, with virtue and integrity, and with truthfulness and uprightness of character.

An integral component of such allegories is the guiding principle that each Brother should ever endeavor to support, lift up, and assist another Brother – and to exercise such conduct by acting in the same manner toward all mankind. By doing so, an observant Brother not only contributes to the erecting of his moral and Masonic edifice, but that Brother also helps lay the foundation for another Brother who is in the process of erecting a similar moral and Masonic edifice. Notably, this worthwhile Masonic principle exists in harmony with spiritual guidance, which instructs as follows: "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (KJV).

The impact of such Brotherly love and friendship extends beyond the ties that bind one Brother to Another. The practice by one Brother of such love and friendship will encourage other Brothers to embody the virtues that Freemasonry upholds, leading ineluctably to similar conduct by more Brothers – with the end result being an expanded beneficial impact not unlike the ever-growing concentric circles that flow outward from the spot where a stone breaks the surface of still water. Such consistency of practice, rather than performative theatrics, reflects positively on the Brotherhood. This principal of edification is, therefore, an integral component of Freemasonry that should start within the heart and mind of each Mason, with such principal being always in practice during Lodge meetings, while at refreshment and beyond the Lodge border. Ultimately, the salient goal of harmony and mutuality of purpose within the Lodge will then be sustained and expand outward to the Fraternity.

Notwithstanding the above, Freemasonry is indisputably not a monolith and its members are not required to march in lockstep or move about as a skein of geese. Because of this (but not in spite of this), it is wise to remember that we are always admonished to act with a Masonic heart and mind. It is similarly wise to remember that each Lodge is composed of Brothers who devote their time and treasure, within their means and abilities, for the benefit of their Brothers, their Lodge and, collectively, Freemasonry. As such, we as Masons should always act with an attentive ear, an instructive tongue, and a faithful breast – which is to say that Masons should endeavor to listen to and observe the needs and heartfelt intentions of our Brothers; provide good and wholesome counsel in response to those observed needs and intentions; and act in a manner that supports the moral, spiritual and intellectual edifices that Freemasonry intends for us to build.



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The importance of the Masonic values that have been instilled in each Brother's heart and mind – from the moment that each Brother of Temple Lodge #16 has stood in the northeast corner since 1790 – serve Freemasonry as virtuously today as they have in ages past. As such, it is my fervent hope that each Brother – within or without Temple Lodge #16 – will exemplify these Masonic values by contributing within their ability and means to do so but, where unable to do so, will contribute by recognizing the heartfelt effort and intention their Brothers now put forth to ensure that Temple Lodge #16 continues its Journey along the same continuum of time each Brother also travels. By recognizing the efforts our Brothers put forth, even when those efforts are directed at the beginning stages of a long-term goal upon which some disagreement may exist, it will serve as a reminder to other Brothers to meet, if not exceed, the goal of standing a just and upright Mason and acting with a Masonic heart and mind.

The building of moral, spiritual and intellectual edifices – whether erecting one's own or assisting another Brother in doing the same – contributes to the health and welfare of Temple Lodge #16 and Freemasonry generally. Such important work will undoubtedly continue after this year ends and long after we, reading this as speculative Masons, lay down our working tools. But we should begin, or continue, the work today that was begun in the northeast corner of the Lodge.

I would like to conclude this message by recognizing some – but by no means all – Brothers who have contributed recently to the journey of Temple Lodge #16, a listing which clearly shows how a Lodge continues with the combined efforts of Brothers united in a common purpose. I would like to recognize Right Worshipful Brother David Stewart for taking his time to attend the November 1, 2025 Open House and guiding both a visiting Worshipful Brother from New York and other visitors about the Lodge. I would like to recognize Worshipful Brother Bruce Taylor for working with our most recent Entered Apprentices on their degree work and other education related to Freemasonry history. I would like to recognize the effort of Worshipful Brother Steve Blake and Worshipful Brother Phil Sharkey III in taking time to maintain our Lodge by keeping it in good repair and addressing needs as they arise. I would like to recognize the effort of Brother Jonathan Hartman for taking on the Second Section Lecture and to both he and Brother Kevin Dwyer for stepping up by offering to entering the line next year. I would like to recognize Worshipful Brother Jason "My Name is Jay" Polaski and Brother Phil Sharkey, Jr. for offering their time to assist me this year with good counsel, time and effort. And, amongst others, I would like to recognize Brother John O'Reilly, Brother Kevin Ferguson and Brother Phil Sharkey, Jr., for humoring the efforts of the Scullery Maid in the kitchen. I would like to recognize the efforts of Worshipful Brother Stewart Post and Brother Kevin Ferguson for their efforts with the comedy shows. I would like to recognize Worshipful Brother Gary Post for organizing over the years the blood drives – a beneficial form of community outreach – hosted at the Lodge. And, more generally, I would like to recognize Brother Jon Fischer for administering and sending out the Trestle Board over the years. I would like to recognize the efforts of all Brothers who serve as Officers within Temple Lodge #16 – some for multiple years – and those who have subbed as Officers such as Worshipful Brother Stuart Post and Worshipful Brother Phil Sharkey, III – because it is only with their combined efforts that the vitality and viability of Temple Lodge #16 continues.



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As for upcoming scheduled November events, please find the following dates below, noting two changes to the previously mentioned schedule. As always, every Brother is welcome and I hope each Brother will consider attending.

- A Stated Communication (opening on Entered Apprentice) is scheduled for November 6, 2025 at 7:30 PM. Please RSVP at the website at www.temple16.com/events for the pizza dinner starting at 6:30 PM prior to the meeting.
- We will be hosting a Festive Board on November 20, 2025. Stated Communication (opening on Master Mason) starts at 6:30 PM, dinner at a promptly called refreshment. The menu will consist of Indian fare and the education for the evening is planned to focus on "Light." Please check the website at www.temple16.com/events for updates on the menu and the dinner presentation.
- A Stated Communication (opening on Entered Apprentice) is scheduled December 4, 2025 at 7:30 PM. This is our Annual Meeting – Officers in Tuxes, Suits requested for Brothers in attendance. There will be dinner before the meeting. Please check the website at www.temple16.com/events for updates on the dinner menu.
- A Stated Communication (opening on Entered Apprentice) is scheduled for December 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM. The intention is to have a semi-formal Christmas dinner prior to the meeting and a Masonic Game Night following the meeting, with everyone's favorite game show host and Grand Lodge Officer, Phil Sharkey, III.

We look forward to seeing you.

Your humble caretaker,

Eric Desmond
Worshipful Master
Temple Lodge #16



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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----------|----|---------------|-----------|
| Mark | A. | Orsini | 2-Nov-60 |
| Eric | M. | Desmond | 3-Nov-71 |
| John | P. | O'Reilly, Jr. | 5-Nov-68 |
| John | G. | Attwood | 6-Nov-61 |
| Ted | C. | Noble, Jr. | 7-Nov-39 |
| Prakash | B. | Vaidya | 10-Nov-53 |
| David | S. | Veleber | 15-Nov-70 |
| Martin | J. | Rauch | 22-Nov-39 |
| Frederic | W. | Wilson | 22-Nov-51 |
| Samuel | | Stuckal | 25-Nov-60 |
| Kevin | P. | Ferguson | 26-Nov-73 |
| Boris | | Karolicki | 26-Nov-59 |
| Charles | G. | Viall | 30-Nov-48 |

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 Friday November 14th (the day after the CMTA meeting) at Vespucci's Restaurant on Main Street in Cheshire. A group of brothers have been meeting monthly and we like how the group is growing. So come and join us this month. 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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A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting."

David Stewart



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UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE LODGE #16

November 5st : Stated Meeting, Day Spring Lodge #30 at
Temple Lodge #16

November 6th : Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm, Pizza Night 6:30 pm

November 2nd : Rainbow for Girls

November 4th : Eastern Star

November 13th : CMTA Meeting, 7:00 pm

November 14th : Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm

November 10th : Amarath

November 20th : Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm, Festive Board Dinner

November 16th : Rainbow for Girls

December 4th : Stated meeting, at 7:30 PM, Annual Meeting, Dinner 6:30 pm

December 18th : Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm, Dinner, 6:30 pm, Game Night

Eastern Star 1& 3 Tuesday

Amaranth 2 Monday

Day Spring 1 Wednesday

Rainbow 1&3 Sunday

Temple 1&3 Thursday



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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 DeLaval**

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 DeLaval (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**

2026 **Rodrigo Maltarollo**

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