

The Sideliner

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Wadsworth Lodge No. 417, F. & A.M.

INSTITUTED 1856

67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1999

Stated Communications 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Under the Master's Hat

Worshipful Master

My Brothers,

As the time grows near to the end of my term as Master of Wadsworth Lodge

I want to thank everyone for a great year. I will always cherish our time together.

I want to thank all of my officers for serving this year; **Brother Victor Stewart**, Senior Warden, **W.: Leo**

Synakowski, Junior Warden, **Brother Bob Joell III**, Senior Deacon, **Brother Mikey Dady**, Junior Deacon, **R.: W.: John Scott**, Chaplin, **W.: Paul Bailey**, Senior Master of Ceremony, **Brother Andy Groff**, Jr. Master of Ceremony, **Brother Don Nagel Jr.**, Marshall, **Brother Eric Phoenix**, Steward, **Brother Timothy Martin** Secretary, **Brother Donovan White**, Treasurer, **W.: Charles Semowich**, Organist, **R.: W.: Geoffrey Hoderath**, Ritual Director and



Chorister. A **Big** thank you to **W.: Joseph Pozefsky** who filled in for any officer that was absent. Special thanks to **R.: W.: Steve King** for all his guidance and help with all the Degrees.

And

Thank You, to all the Brothers that came to our Lodge meetings to sit on the sidelines. I will dearly miss setting in the East observing the lodge, it gave me great pleasure seeing everyone on the sidelines, and the Officers in their respective Stations and Places.

I wish Brother Vic Stewart all the best in his upcoming year as Master of our great Lodge.

Once again, Thank You And may God Bless you all
W.: Edward Kosinski
Master Wadsworth Lodge #417

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Trestle Board for Communications

Wadsworth Lodge F&AM No. 417

September 11, 2013	Scheduled Meeting - Welcome Back Brothers
September 25, 2013*	<u>Brother Bring a Friend Night</u>
October 9, 2013 *	<u>Years of Service Awards Night</u> Open to Family &Friends
October 23, 2013 *	1 st Degree – Past Masters in charge
November 13, 2013	2 nd Degree
November 27, 2013	Lodge Dark for Holiday Observance
December 11, 2013 *	Holiday Gathering –“Toys for Children” Dinner
December 25, 2013	Lodge Dark for Holiday Observance
<u>January 8, 2014</u>	Wednesday Meeting cancelled & moved to Saturday
January 11, 2014 *	Saturday, Special Communication for Third Degree and for such other business as may constitutionally be brought before it.
January 22, 2014	Brother Bring A Friend Night & Brother Bring A Brother <u>Pool Tournament</u> to Benefit Brotherhood Fund - \$5 to Brotherhood Fund & \$5 for Collation
February 12, 2014	“Education Night” Read Petition or Interview Report
February 26, 2014	Open Meeting
March 12, 2014	Meeting cancel because of weather
March 26, 2014*	Tiled DD Visit
April 9, 2014 *	1 st Degree
April 23, 2014	2 nd Degree
May 14, 2014	3 rd Degree Practice Night
May 17, 2014*	Saturday, Special Communication for Third Degree (light Breakfast at 9:30 and degree at 10:00)
May 28, 2014 *	Annual Communication: Elections, Appointments & Installation of Officers
June 11, 2014	Reports Night: Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees, & Safe Deposit Box Audit
June 25, 2014	TBA

(Practice Nights on Wednesdays before Degree at 6:00p.m.

* Tuxedos for these events all others Business Attire.

Sickness and Distress:

Bro. Sanjay Chopra informed us of the recent death of his father and that he is presently flying home to India to make arrangements for his funeral. For anyone wishing to send a card, please address it to: Mr. Sanjay Chopra, 2580 Aqueduct Rd., Niskayuna, NY 12309

It is with sadness that we learn Bro. Ralph C. Wilson owner of the Buffalo Bills and founding member of the American Football League has laid down his working tools at the age of ninety five years.

At the DD Visit it was announced that R.:W.: Robert Barrows, Grand Organist passed away on March 17.

Glad Tidings:

Wadsworth Brother and Senior Chief Legalman Scott A. Sawyer who is currently serving active military duty in California and has a cumulative service record of 18 years, 9 months will retire 29 May 2015. He sends his good wishes to all active and veteran Brothers for a happy and prosperous 2014.

Congratulations to the Brothers of Beukendaal Lodge in Scotia, NY on reaching the 100

year milestone. A ceremony of rededication by the Grand Lodge was held March 25th. It was a great evening on fellowship, Brotherhood, and fraternal joy. For those who forgot the lodge was devastated by flooding from Irene and Lee.

R.:W.: John Scott was presented with a grandson on February 6. The baby is Mason Ryan Michna. He weighed 7 pounds 4.6 ounces and measured 20-3/4 inches. He is pictured below.



Kristen Broadway
Photography

Please communicate sickness and distress and/or glad tidings. Brothers, we will never have knowledge to give support to our Brothers, their Widows or Orphans unless we communicate. Harmony is the support of all institutions, especially this of Our Great Masonic Lodge, Wadsworth #417.

Around the District:

District Deputy Grand Master Visits

Noah	10/08/13	Mt. Vernon	02/03/14
Berne	10/17/13	Ancient Temple	02/18/14
Bethlehem	11/19/13	Wadsworth	03/26/14
Van Rensselaer	01/23/13	Masters	04/14/14

Masters and Wardens Schedule

Van Rensselaer	09/18/13	Masters	02/19/14
Mt. Vernon	10/16/13	Ancient Temple	03/19/14
Noah	11/20/13	Guttenberg	04/16/14
Wadsworth	01/15/14	Bethlehem	06/18/14

Trip to Masonic Care Community Unfortunately due to a scheduling problem at the MCC and a lack of interest this years trip has been cancelled.

Surviving Spouse Luncheon

The annual Surviving Spouse Luncheon will be on May 10, 2014. The meal selections are Chicken Parm, Bistro Steak and Stuffed Sole with Chocolate Mousse for dessert. Please let Tim Martin know if you are planning to attend.

DD Visit

R.: W.: Baker's topic for this visit was "The Proposer". The talk outlined the requirements of being a proposer of candidate, beyond signing the bottom of the petition. He likened it to the passer of bad checks. As a proposer you are saying you vouch for the candidate. In addition he should be present at the reading and voting of the petition. He should be as much help as the mentor, introducing the brother and helping with his education. It is also his responsibility to help if the brother stops coming to meetings or is in danger of be demitted for non-payment of dues.

Ritual Renaissance Program

The program for the Hudson-Champlain Region will be held at the temple on April 12 starting at 8 am. The program is open to all brothers. The topic is the Middle Chamber Lecture, including the material that has been lost over the years.

DDGM Jewel

At the end of February Leo Synakowski let the District know that there was a District Deputy Grand Master's jewel on eBay. After letting people know, it was found to be the jewel assigned to Harold Hartman of Guttenburg Lodge.

Bob Baker spoke with the widow and she admitted that she was not aware that it and a Scottish Rite pendant were not hers to sell.

Some of the replies underscored how the dispensation of the jewels is suppose to work. The jewels are bought by the Masters and Wardens Association and the District Lodges. They are loaned to the Past DDGM so that he may be recognized as such during his life. Upon the demise of the Brother the jewel is suppose to be returned to the Master of the Brother's lodge. Often the gem is removed and the proceeds are given to the family to assist with funeral arrangements. The jewel is refurbished and a new stone is set, so that it may be presented to another DDGM at the end of his term.

District Bowling Tournament

The following are the results of the District bowling event held on Sunday March 2. Thank you to the three Lodges who made this a success! Fun and Fellowship was had by all! Special thanks to W.: Nicholas Furnari for assisting with the 50/50, proceeds of which to benefit the Masonic Care Community!!!

Place	Team	Actual score	Total w/ handicap
1st	Guttenberg "Team Hollner"	1920	2524
2nd	Guttenberg "Team Donato"	2025	2512
3rd	Wadsworth " Four Wild & Crazy Guys"	1648	2361
4th	Guttenberg "Team Matula"	1488	2255
5th	Wadsworth "Four Wild & Better Men"	1396	2249
6th	Van Rensselaer "Team Koshgarian"	1143	2229
7th	Guttenberg "Team District Deputy Daugs"	1560	2202
8th	Van Rensselaer "Team Evans"	1348	2191

Fraternally,
W.: David Hollner - Chairman

Poet's Corner:

Here is the long awaited story and poem that was suppose to be in the Times Union, but instead ended up on the reporters blog. Rosemary Armao is a Journalism Professor and an investigative reporter. She was researching a book on Tobin Packing, when she came across one of Bill's poems. This is the piece posted to her blog.

Slaughterhouse Poet

Posted on March 21, 2014 | By Rosemary Armao

At 18, one month out of high school, Bill Ogren went to work in the Tobin Packing Company in Colonie. Over the next 23 years, day after day, he passed through the kill floor and by the scalding tanks and down into the fertilizer room, doing every job in the place including hog stamper and bunghole flusher. He ended up a millwright.

"Billy the Bull," they used to call him, or, like one welder in the place — "Sasquatch," recognizing his 6-foot 2 frame and size 16 feet. When he left Tobin's shortly before it shut down in the early 1980s he made a business of house construction. The big, comfortable back room of his *Carol Ann Drive* house is his own handiwork. He always made his living with his hands — and his back.

But Ogren was a poet at heart. His wife Carolyn knew that. In 55 years together since they met at Colonie Central High, she's seen the romantic in him. He wrote her love poems from work. "I think of you with every hog that goes by" that kind of thing. She was touched — but she still made him pull off his smelly work clothes in the garage before coming into her house.

From time to time Ogren threw together some rhymes that were not bad. He turned poet for real after his feet swelled up.

That's the real story. One day 25 years ago he was marching in a Shriners parade in Virginia Beach — he was an active Mason — when his feet blew up so much he had to stop and take off his shoes. Doctors found a tumor in his groin and diagnosed stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. It was already in his spleen and bone marrow. They told him at age 50 he had maybe four more years to live.

It was not a complete shock. The Ogres know two other old Tobin's men with the same cancer. There's no way to prove it, but it makes sense that you work in a big plant filled with asbestos and animal waste and you can end up with cancer.

The diagnosis was right but not the prediction

about death in four years. Now 75, Ogren has conquered lymphoma and also bladder cancer that put him on the operating table eight times. He endures swelling and pain, has to use a device that pushes fluid through his leg. But the point is that with all the time on his hands that sickness gives a person, he wrote more poetry. It was therapeutic, he said. It was a break from watching television.

And he had a knack for it. Eventually he had some success at it too. Colonial Plumbing ran a piece he did on toilets on a commercial once. The Veterans of Foreign Wars display a moving poem of his written in 1996 about the Vietnam Memorial. Coping magazine has run some of his motivational poems about dealing with illness. Cornell University ran an Ogren poem about a run-down barn in a newsletter on disappearing American. That's practically Ivy League. He has rhapsodized about firelight and loss and aging — and the antics of the family dog Coco. Not bad for a meat and lumber guy who never ventures out of iambic pentameter. Ogren works at a computer set up in the bedroom with a printer attached so can make copies of his poem. His daughter Lynn checks his punctuation and his beat.

One day recently he drove by Tobin's. There's talk of turning the old plant into a casino, an idea Ogren doesn't like much. The site is a wreck, a painful eyesore in the neighborhood but especially for the proud men who once labored inside it.

The catwalks he helped to build that moved hogs from the rail line out back to the killing floor have collapsed. Stone and brick have caved in, and the once spotless, humming plant is dilapidated, covered in graffiti with trees growing out the roof.

Ogren felt a poem stir in him, inspired, he says, not by how the plant looks now, but by the people he remembers working there with.

He set out to capture the spirit of the place. The way blacks from the city worked side by side with immigrants in Colonie from all over Europe and the Russian Empire. The way women were accepted like men and the deaf like everyone else yielding knives in the place. How plant bosses would spend all morning barking at guys then spend the noon break playing pinochle with them. The arguments, the politics, the trips to the doctor's with hurt coworkers, the practical jokes. How tough it all was. How much like family the plant seemed.

Here's what William E. Ogren, the poet of the slaughterhouse, came up with.

Tobin Packing People

When I graduated high school, I was far from a success.
My job was in a packing plant, the killing floor no less.
The work was hard and dirty for a kid just on his way,
But the lessons it would teach me are still with me today.

The races worked together; we depended on each other,
And immigrants from Europe were accepted like a brother.
They spoke in many dialects, from places far and wide.
There were also many deaf men working with us side by side.

A hundred twenty men worked there, you never were alone.
There also were two women who could more than hold their own.
Our working day was long and filled with dank and fetid air.
We all wore sweaty coveralls and toiled and labored there.

The closeness of the quarters meant that arguments were rife.
You have to learn composure when so many held a knife.
It was almost like a brotherhood with workers by your side
We did our jobs and did them well; we felt a sense of pride.

We had so much in common, putting differences away.
We got to know each other working closely every day.
I learned to work with people that I never dreamed I would,
And I had to change my attitude, look at people as I should.

All provided for their families just like people everywhere.
My life was made the richer, for the time I labored there.
You have to know the people before you can form a view.
My time at Tobin changed me and taught me what to do.

Now the building is deserted and awaits the wrecker's ball.
For thirty years it's been neglected any day now it will fall.
It will become a piece of history that fades into the past.
For those of us who worked here, our memories will last.
December 20, 2013



Wadsworth Lodge №417, F.&A.M.

SIDELINERS DINNER

To Honor W.: Edward S. Kosinski, Master of Wadsworth Lodge No.417, 2013-2014

Thursday, May 22, 2014

The Normanside Country Club

150 Salisbury Road
Delmar, New York, 12054
518-439-4505 Ext.10

Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette
Selected Entrées

NY Strip Steak – Finished with a merlot, rosemary and red onion marmalade

Grilled Pork Tenderloin – mesquite grilled & topped with sautéed mushrooms, garlic & red wine reduction

Mediterranean Chicken – mushrooms, artichoke hearts, red bell peppers, basil & sun-dried tomato pesto

Dessert
Orange Caramel Flan

Fresh Melon & Berries Reception at 6:00 P.M. (Cash Bar)
Dinner – 6:30 P. M.

**Donation of \$35 per person
(\$65 per couple)**
(Includes Gift, Tax, & Gratuity)

**Please send checks by Thursday May 15, 2014
Payable to Wadsworth Lodge No. 417
Your check is your reservation**

↓ Cut Along Dotted Line and Include in Return Mail, THANK YOU.

Send checks to: **Stephen S. King, 46 Ramsey Pl, Albany, NY 12208-3015, steveking1@mac.com
518-489-1341**

Note: If you cannot attend dinner, but would like to contribute to Ed's gift, use this form so that your gift may be acknowledged.

Your NAME:	Telephone No.:	
Check entrée choice		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pork	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/> Beef
<u>____</u> Dinners at \$35.00 each or \$65/couple \$ _____		
Gift only		\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

Cornerstone Campaign:



Masonic Temple. To this end they ask the Lodge to step forward with a generous donation as some brothers have already done in support of the campaign. "The Cornerstone Campaign is a crucial means to renovate and repair the glorious Albany Masonic Hall for the use of ensuing generations.

R.: W.: Brothers John W. Scott & Stephen S. King reminds everyone about supporting the **Cornerstone Campaign** and the urgency to take action in addressing repairs and upgrades to the Albany

They know the Brothers of Wadsworth Lodges and Concordant Bodies will offer all the "help, aid and assistance" required. On behalf of the Masonic Hall Association and those who have worked so hard on our behalf through the Cornerstone Campaign, thank you for helping to make this a success."

So far we have seen the new heating system, although we need a computer scientist to program the thermostat. Of course now with the new heater the expansion and contraction has cause part of the ceiling in the Ten Eyck room to fall. Speaking of keeping a roof over our heads, that is literally a concern as well, we will eventually need a new roof. Depending on who does the elevator inspections that may need repair as well. And the list goes on.

Tales of the Ring

One of our new Brothers, Kamir Pearson, was looking for a new job that would not involve so much travel and being away from home. He answered an advertisement for a position at Smokey Bones. He was most of the way through the interview and the question of availability came up. Of course, he said that he could not work on the second and fourth wednesday evenings of the month. The

interviewer asked what was special about those times. Kamir responded that those were the nights that he attended lodge. At this point the interviewer, Don Nagel reached for his wallet and took out his dues card. Kamir immediately did the same. Kamir then mentioned that he had just been made the Marshal. Don explained that that use to be his job. Needless to say Kamir had another new job at Smokey



Parting Shots:

BIRTHDAYS THAT OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH			
Ralph Edgell	March 2, 1921	William S. Panitch	February 6, 1954
Clair J. Miller	February 29, 1928	R. Christopher Dempf	March 13, 1958
John G. Guile	March 22, 1930	Thomas P. Fuller	March 7, 1962
Edwin W. Engelhardt	February 25, 1937	Eric Phoenix	March 25, 1962
James A. Glynn Jr	February 1, 1939	Fredrick L. Fuller	March 3, 1967
Donald D. Kingston	March 6, 1943	Mark B. Monroe	March 13, 1967
Jerome A. McCall	March 28, 1944	Joseph K. Laux	March 19, 1975
Kenneth H. Rouse	March 18, 1948	Mikey J. Dady	February 10, 1976
William H. Conroy Jr.	March 8, 1949	Donald W. Pitts	March 6, 1982
James J. Vandewal	March 29, 1949	Stanley J. Adams III	March 16, 1982
Nicholas C. Jacobia	February 17, 1951	Esteban Maccera	March 24, 1987
Joseph J. Olbrych	March 5, 1952	Nicholas J. Casso	March 22, 1990