

# The Sideliner

Master  
B. Robert Joel

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

Editor  
Paul F. Bailey

Secretary  
Timothy M. Martin

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Publisher  
James Fuller

## Under the Master's Hat

*Worshipful Master*

Dear Brothers,

Let me begin by saying that it is a tremendous honor to be sitting in the East. I have undertaken this position with humility, honor and a strong desire to do the very best job for our Lodge that I can. I thank you for this opportunity and trust that we can all work together so as to make this a great year for Wadsworth No. 417.



A couple of items that I have already discussed with our Past Masters and that I hope we can make happen this year:

First, our Junior Warden Andy Groff plans to offer a varied and delectable menu of dinners at reasonable prices. Steve, Leo, several others and I are going to help Andy make this a huge success. We'd like to be known as the Lodge with the best food in the District.

Second, as we are instituting the Northstar Program, I

doubt that we will have any fall candidates. We will still have exemplary degrees. This will give us a chance to work on our ritual and hone our skills. It will also afford us evenings for other business such as Lodges of Instruction. If you would like additional information on the Northstar program, please do not hesitate to ask.

Third, I hope that our programs and meals this year will help us to bring some of our Brothers back to Lodge. I will be asking for help from many of you in making this happen, especially by means of a phone tree and offering rides to Brothers who find it difficult to make meetings due to transportation issues. This is your Lodge and it is my hope that everyone will participate as much as possible.

My Brothers, I would like for this to be an exciting and

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UNDER THE MASTER’S HAT (CONT’D)

enjoyable year for all of us. I am always open to ideas and suggestions, so if you have a good one, please let me know and let’s see if we can incorporate it into the year. Our Trestleboard is flexible and should be considered a ‘living document’ that can grow and change as necessary.

Lastly, as our June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our last before we go “dark”, please let me extend my wishes for a terrific summer. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Lodge Picnic in August.

S&F  
Robert Joel, W.M.

## Wadsworth Lodge 2015 – 2016 Trestle Board

June 8, 2016	TBA
June 22, 2016	TBA
August 21, 2016	Annual Picnic
September 14, 2016	Welcome back Brothers Night and Discussion of plans for the year
September 28, 2016*	Apron Presentations to Geoff and Mike
October 2, 2016 (Sunday)	Family Masonic Trip: The Clark, Williamstown MA
October 12, 2016*	Years of Service Awards Night
October 26, 2016	Lodge Of Instruction
November 9, 2016	Masonic Movie Night
November 23, 2016	Lodge Dark due to Holiday Observance
December 14, 2016	Annual Holiday Party, Holiday Toy Drive, Family get together
December 28, 2016	Lodge Dark due to Holiday Observance
January 11, 2017	Masonic Movie Night
January 25, 2017	Annual Pool Tournament and Brother bring a friend night
February 8, 2017	Practice for First Degree
February 22, 2017*	First Degree - Past Masters In Charge
March 5, 2017 (Sunday)	Practice for Second Degree
March 8, 2017*	Second Degree
March 22, 2017	Tiled DDGM Visit
April 12, 2017	Move up Night, all officers elected and appointed
April 26, 2017	Practice for 3rd Degree
April 29, 2017* (Saturday)	Special communication for 3rd Degree
May 10, 2017	Master's Annual Report
May 24, 2017*	Annual Communications, Appointments and Installation of Officers
June 14, 2017	TBA
June 28, 2017	TBA

“\*” Indicated Tuxedos to be worn

# Sickness and Distress:

Doris J. Osterhout passed away on May 5th she was the widow of Bro. Walter Osterhout.

W.: Leo Synakowski's father passed away in Utica, on Saturday. Please keep Leo and Judee in your thoughts and prayers.

# Glad Tidings:

V.: W.: Rev James J. Van De Wal reported that R.: W.: Brother William Ogren and his wife Carol enjoyed a recent vacation excursion to East-central

Pennsylvania and wishes he could be at the installation officers, but sent fraternal greetings to all the brothers.

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:



Masons were well represented at the Delmar Memorial Day parade. Photography from Times Union.

## Deputy District Grand Master Support

Once again one of our own is the DDGM. He has an arduous schedule of visits dictated by Grand Lodge. We should try to make an effort as a lodge to support him in his efforts, as well as, to achieve the Traveling Gavel.

## District Memorial Service

Regrettably it was only attended by one family and eight brothers. R.: W.: Geoffrey Hoderath and R.: W.: Michael Weisberg officiate and did a great job.

## Surviving Spouse Luncheon

Fifteen Brothers and Spouses were in attendance from Berne, Van Rensselaer and Noah.

# Meet the New Line:



Steve Conant

Sr. Warden  
 Jr. Warden  
 Sr. Deacon  
 Jr. Deacon  
 Steward  
 Steward  
 Marshal

W.: Joseph P. Pozefsky  
 Bro. Andrew T. Groff  
 Bro. Paul Baum  
 Bro. Doug Kantrowitz  
 Bro. Louis Emory  
 Bro. Kenneth Brown  
 W.: Paul Bailey

Tiler  
 Treasurer  
 Asst. Treas.  
 Secretary  
 Asst. Sec'y.  
 Trustee  
 Trustee

Bro. Michael Hernandez  
 Bro. Donovan R. White  
 R.:W.: Steve King  
 Bro. Timothy Martin, DSA  
 W.: Paul Bailey  
 R.:W.: Ronald H. Noll **for 3 years**  
 R.:W.: Steve King **for 3 years**



Steve Conant

Our new Master W.: B. Robert Joel accompanied by our new Deputy District Grand Master R.:W.: Geoffrey Hoderath and one of our Assitant Grand Lecurers R.:W.: Michael Weisberg, Grand Sword Bearer

## Fall Trip:

This year's trip will be of the leaf peeper variety. We: Bob Joel invites you to join him for a trip into the Berkshires to visit "The Clark". The details are still being firmed up. At this printing the planned date is Sunday, October 2. This is going to be a car pool type of trip rather than by bus.

The Clark is one of only a handful of institutions globally with a dual mission as an art museum and a distinguished center for research and higher education, dedicated to advancing and extending the public understanding of art. No other institution of its scale and character has such a complex and exhilarating mission—complex because interrelating the differing purposes of an art museum and a center for research and higher education is so challenging, and exhilarating because the possibilities and implications of this combination are so dynamic.



The Clark's mission and its geographical location define three essential aspects of its character and identity: the quality of its art, the beauty of its pastoral setting, and the depth of its commitment to the generation of ideas.

This is not just a museum. It is surrounded by 140 acres of expansive lawns, meadows, and walking trails, the Clark is located in a setting of profound natural beauty. The windows of its galleries afford views of the surrounding woods and fields, adjacent farm pastures, and a nearby lily pond. Walking trails traverse the property, including trails up historic Stone Hill, which offers a spectacular view of Williamstown and the Green Mountains of Vermont to the north. All walking trails are open and accessible during our

campus expansion program.



The focal point of the campus is the three-tiered reflecting pool, which unites the surrounding Clark Center, Museum Building, and Manton Research Center with the natural setting. Water cascades through granite stepping-stones from one pool to the next, and then wells up into a garden pond at the beginning of the woodland trails near the edge of the forest. The uppermost level of the reflecting pool abuts the Clark Center and creates a visual



connection to the wetlands and woodland beyond. Lawn walks and embankments thread between the pools, which tie the lawns of the central campus to the sweep of Stone Hill meadow and the intricate network of intermittent streams that lace the site.

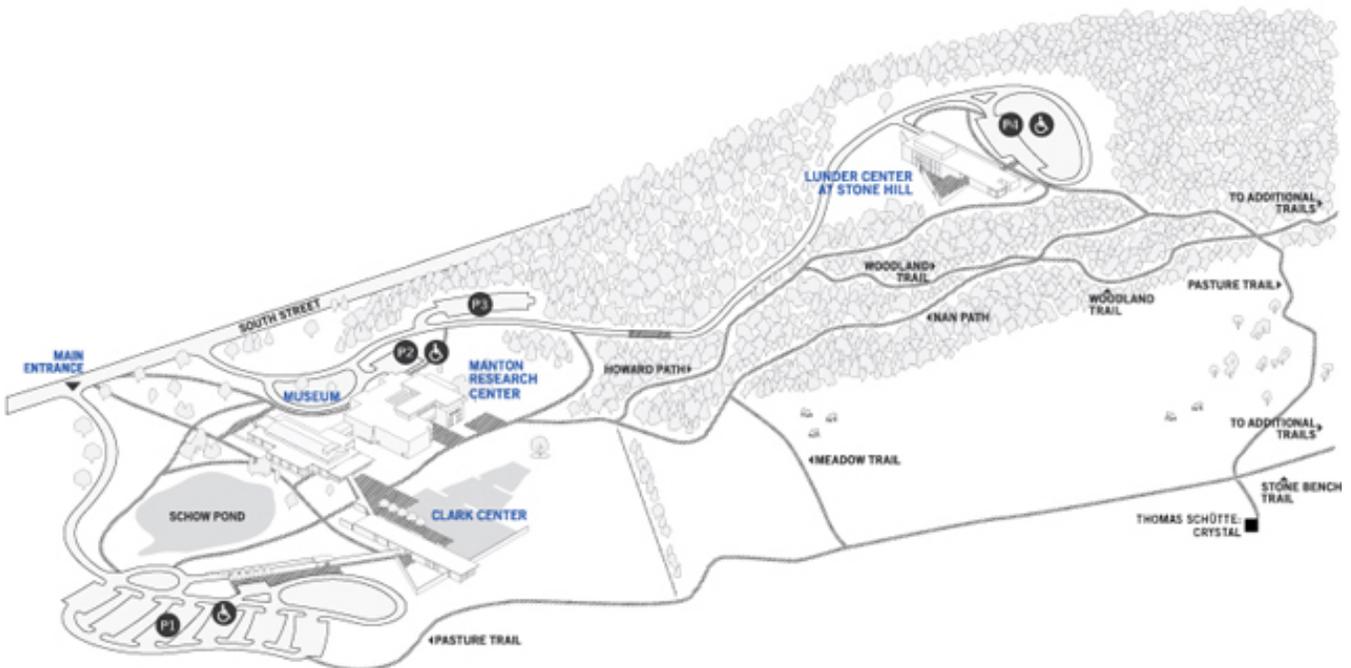
Stone Hill is the subject of a featured exhibit during our visit. In the galleries and out on the trails, the exhibition immerses visitors in the rich natural and cultural history of Stone Hill from its geological formation to the present and examines broader concepts of place through objects linked to Stone Hill. Artists,



writers, philosophers, scientists, and naturalists familiar with the richness of this special place lend knowledge and personal experience to the exhibition—both in the Lunder Center galleries and out on the trails—in the form of storytelling, sound recordings, historical displays, artifacts, and more.

We are planning lunch at the Clark. It offers a full range of dining options, from a full-service lunch to a quick sandwich or snack on the go. Visitors are always welcome to bring or purchase a picnic to enjoy at one of the picnic tables dotting the grounds and beneath the terrace at the Lunder Center at Stone Hill. However, keep in mind that food and drink (including water bottles) are not permitted in the galleries.

We will conclude our day's outing with dinner back in Albany, possibly at the Italian Community Center. Again the plans are fluid and tentative at this point.



## Poet's Corner:

### The Top Hat

When I became a Master Mason, I was proud as I could be.  
My father did the raising and was just as proud as me.

When he gave me the secret word, he knew what he had done.  
He had filled the goal of many men, the raising of a son.

When I started through the chairs, he was always on the side.  
He watched me rise to master, I saw him fill with pride.

When I took the oath of master, I knew his pride increased.  
He stood up on the sidelines, and then approached the East.

As he walked across the lodge room, a box was at his side.  
He gave a speech he wrote himself. His eyes were glazed and wide

He was not a public speaker, but he stood where all could see.  
And no man stood as tall as he, when he gave that box to me.

I took the wrapping off that box, and there I saw inside.  
A top hat he had bought himself, and now I filled with pride.

All year long I wore that hat, he would often smile and grin.  
And now it sits upon a shelf, in the box that it came in.

Each time I take it out to look, I think about that day.  
I feel he's somehow here today, in a special kind of way.

He was proud to be a Mason, he was what we're all about.  
The brother on the sidelines, that we can't do without.

©

W. William E. Ogren  
Wadsworth #417  
October 1994



# Tales of the Ring

This tale was first published in the Summer Sideliner of 2012. It was shortly after the death of Ernie Bourgnine. It is Ernie's tale.

In 1946, I travelled with a friend down to a little town called Abingdon, Virginia, to see what the Barter Theatre had to offer. It offered nothing except hard work and board. My friend, not accepting the work they offered him, stayed one day - I stayed five years. In that time I grew to love the town and all it offered. The people, in particular, were simply marvelous. Occasionally I would be assigned to go down to the printing shop and get posters made for the upcoming shows at the Barter Theatre. One day, in talking to the owner of the print shop, one Elmo Vaughan, I found that he belonged to the local Masonic Lodge, No. 48, in Abingdon. My father was also a Mason and had advanced to the Thirty-second Degree in Scottish Rite Masonry, and I told this to Elmo. He was pleased, and sensing his pleasure, I asked him if maybe I could join. He said nothing, continuing his work, and a short while later, I took my posters and left.

The next time I saw Elmo, I asked him again about joining the Masonic Order again he said nothing and again my work took me away. We became good friends and finally one day I passed by and again I asked if I could join the Masons. Instantly, he whipped out an application and I hurriedly filled it out. I didn't learn 'til later, that in those days, you had to ask three times.

I was thrilled! Not only was I going to be the first actor ever in Lodge No. 48, but I could just imagine my father's surprise when I would spring the old greetings on him! I wanted only to surprise my Dad - and was I surprised, when after I was made an Entered Apprentice, I found I had to remember everything that happened to me at that event and come back and answer questions about it!

I was assigned to a dear old man of about 92 years of age who, I felt, must have been there when the Lodge first started. He was really of the old school and he started me out with the foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee and mouth-to-ear routine of teaching.

Besides doing my work for the Barter Theatre and a little acting to boot, I was also going to that dear Brother for my work in Masonry. I would tramp all over those lovely hills and work on my "Whence came you's" and one day oh, one fine day I stood foot-to-

foot with my Brother and answered every question perfectly! I was ecstatic! I was overjoyed and couldn't wait to get to Lodge to show my ability as an Entered Apprentice.

After I quieted down, that dear Brother said, "You've done fine, but aren't you really only half started?" I couldn't believe him! I knew my work; what else was there? He said "Wouldn't it be better if you knew all the questions too?" I couldn't believe my ears! All that hard work and only half done? He gently sat me down foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee and mouth-to-ear and taught me all the questions. That didn't come easy, because I was almost doing the work by rote, but with careful listening and by really applying myself, I was soon able to deliver all the questions and answers perfectly! The night that I stood in front of the Lodge and was asked if I were ready to answer the questions of an Entered Apprentice, I respectfully asked if I could do both - questions and answers. I was granted that wish and later found that I was the second man in my Lodge to have ever done so! I am truly proud of that, never having demitted, I am still a member in good standing in Abingdon Lodge No. 48.

I tell this story not for the merit it might gain me, but to tell you that learning the Entered Apprentice obligation taught me a great lesson in acting as well: that before I ever attempt to do a part I should work, rehearse, feel, almost live that part to know what I am talking about! As I've advanced in Masonry, I have found we are an elite group of people who believe in God, country, family and neighbors. We work hard to help our fellowman; and through our charitable work, such as support for the Childhood Language Disorders Centers, we have made it possible to help many children grow into good American citizens. We should always be proud of the Order we belong to. Where in all the world do you find so many great men and Brothers who have helped the whole wide world? But - we are hiding our light under a bushel basket!

Recently I attended a dinner for a friend, and I ran across a Brother who identified himself in a hushed voice. I asked why he spoke in a whisper when talking about Masonry, and suddenly I realized he wasn't the only one who had ever done that. I speak out loud about Masonry to everyone! I'm proud of the fact that I belong to an organization that made me a better American, Christian, husband and neighbor; and all it took was a little self-determination by going foot-to-foot, knee-to-knee, and mouth-to-ear!

# Summer Picnic

The Pavilion at Henry Hudson Park is ready and waiting all that is needed is Wadsworth Brothers, their families and friends. This is a great time to get together and catch up after our Summer hiatus. It is also a great "Brother Bring a Friend" event.

Save the date August 21st. Henry Hudson Park in Bethlehem. It is located behind the Old Bethlehem Elks Club on NY Route 144 turn onto either Barent-Winnie Road or Lyons Road they both take you to the park and then look for the pavilion. The event will be from 10AM to Dusk. Burgers and hot dogs will be supplied. The admission is some kind of dish, salad, snack etc.

Come and join us for a relaxing fun filled afternoon at the beautiful Town Park along side of the Hudson River. There will be lots to do. There is the pavilion picnic area, Horseshoe pit, Volleyball court, Playground, Softball field, Fishing, and even a boat launch if you have one.

Please let Bruce Susser know if you will be

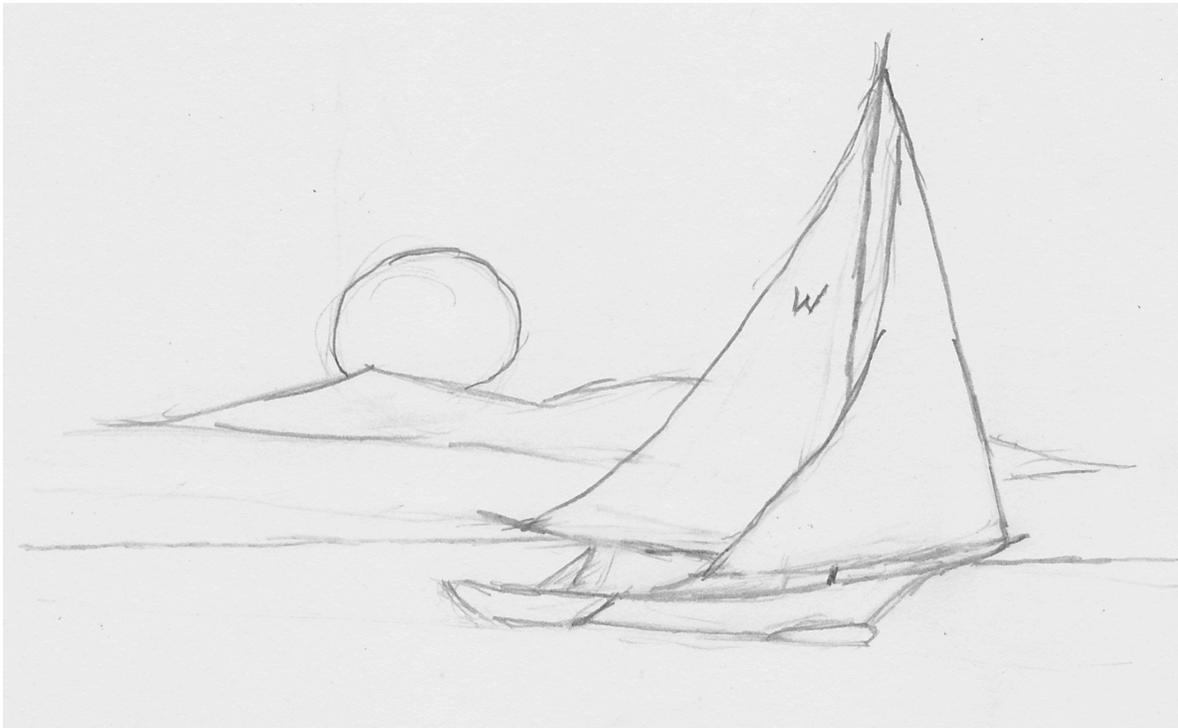
attending and how many people you will be bringing. His phone number 439-9405 and his Email is [bsusser@NYCAPRR.Com](mailto:bsusser@NYCAPRR.Com)



## Parting Shots:

Brothers with Birthdays in April and May			
Charles G. Wolz Jr.	May 16, 1922	Murray J. Mitkoff	April 16, 1961
John D. DeNuccie Jr.	April 11, 1925	Cristofer C. Leo Sr.	May 18, 1963
Charles E. Morris	May 4, 1930	Jonathan A. DePaula	April 19, 1977
Constantine D. Yavis	May 18, 1930	Daniel N. Chedid	May 16, 1979
Ward R. Jones Jr.	April 18, 1931	Andrew T. Groff	May 27, 1979
Culver F. Hayes Jr.	May 16, 1931	Donovan White	April 14, 1980
Christian N. Abele	April 29, 1938	Tyvie D. LaFrance Jr.	April 19, 1981
John G. Milsop	April 21, 1948	Anthony N. Sanchez	April 23, 1983
Thomas T. Allison	May 8, 1948	Robert T. Hedgpeth	May 12, 1983
Michael R. Gammans	April 28, 1951	John M. Lien	May 31, 1989

If your birthday does not appear in the list we apologize, but it is because we do not have the information in our records. Please contact Tim with your birth date.



Have a safe and glorious Summer