

The Sideliner

Master
Kenneth M. White

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

Executive Editor
Paul F. Bailey

Secretary
Timothy M. Martin

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Editor
Kenneth R. Dawes

Under the Master's Hat

Worshipful Master Bruce Susser bids greetings to the upcoming year

My Brothers,

First I would like to thank all of the brothers who have supported, counseled, and encouraged me to continue on my Masonic path. It would have been easy to blend in to the background and become just a name on the register. The path I have been on has been challenging to me but rewarding. For those that are familiar with Scouting the past seven years have been like "working a ticket". In scouting, adult leaders that want to earn Woodbadge beads have to work a ticket. The Ticket is a set of introspective goals you set for yourself and try to complete. I had the distinction in the Fort Orange District to participate in two wood badge courses. The first ticket I set for myself I didn't feel I accomplished my goals and would not accept the beads. At the time I was a scoutmaster and was counseling the youth to keep striving for their goals. I reflected on the contradiction and signed up for the second course and completed the ticket. Who knew



then that one of the course leaders I met and respected would later become the Senior Deacon of our Lodge serving at my right hand, Brother Victor Stewart.

My point in all of this is to encourage all brothers to write your own "Ticket" and continue your Masonic journey of seeking further light and improving yourself. The goals you select for yourself, when accomplished will be most rewarding.

The coming year will be a challenge to me but I expect it to be rewarding and enlightening. I have presented a trestle board which includes two sets of degrees, one in the fall and one in the spring. There will be a chance for all brothers to be part of these degrees and look forward to working towards our ritual perfection. Our First Degree in the fall will be conducted by the past masters and should be a benchmark for the rest of us to strive for. I want to thank Bill Ogren for stepping up and organizing the degree. It's all set for the fall. We will need to have

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UNDER THE MASTER'S HAT (CONT'D)

some petitions in hand so we can continue or growth. Petitions are another goal for each and every one of us to strive for.

The trestle board as presented is a work in progress and will be prone to changes along the way. During the year I expect the trestle board will be addended to include some instructions and further Masonic information as part of the regular lodge meetings. We will be including some fellowship activities along the way. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know. The Traditional items on the trestle board's of the past have been included. "Brother bring a friend", Veterans in service/ awards, etc. We will be also having a special event to honor Tim Martin's Distinguished Service Award.

The tournament to benefit the Brotherhood fund is bound to bring out the competitive best in our ranks. Let's keep the Lodge moving and active. The coming year should be a great one.

As I'm getting ready to finish up this letter I would like to thank a few people for their support and guidance. I've been looking at the Bible that was presented to me at my raising and are reflecting on those brothers that were there that night. Jerry McCall as Worshipful Master, Bill

Baumann who received me on the point of a sharp instrument, Ed Kosinski who was marshall, Tim Martin, secretary, Steven King, Treasurer, Ray Gaul, Chaplain, Ron Noll, John Scott, Jim Fuller, Carl Rymski, Joe Posefski and a host of others. To all of you I owe sincere thanks for all that you have done for me. If I missed anyone please forgive me. And a special thanks for the two people closest to me that won't be here for the coming year, Ken Mosher and my dad Cal Susser. I know their watching and are expecting the best from me.

I would be remiss in not thanking the one person who has been leading me around since my First degree. Thanks Paul Bailey for the things you have done and are doing for me. I guess once a conductor always a conductor.

In closing, thanks Ken White and Joanne for stepping up and "Answering the call of a brother in need" as you said in your last address. It's been a great year past and it seems to me you earned the "beads "on the second go around as master. You have led the lodge above and beyond the call.

God Bless and Keep Steadfast

Bruce

Trestle Board for Communications

Wadsworth Lodge F&AM No. 417

September 14, 2011	Business Meeting and Welcome Back
September 28, 2011*	Distinguish Service Dinner (Open Meeting)
October 12, 2011*	First Degree (Past Masters)
October 26, 2011	Brother Bring a friend night
November 9, 2011*	Second Degree
November 23, 2011	Lodge Dark
December 14, 2011*	Third Degree
December 28, 2011	Lodge Dark
January 11, 2012	Business Meeting
January 25, 2012	Veterans in Service (Awards Night)
February 8, 2012*	First Degree (Move up night)
February 22, 2012	Tournament to benefit Brotherhood Fund
March 14, 2012*	Second Degree
March 28, 2012	Annual Reports
April 11, 2012*	Third Degree
April 25, 2012	DDGM (John's Homecoming)
May 9, 2012	Election of Officers
May 23, 2012*	Installation of Officers

* Tuxedos for these events all others Business Attire.

Sickness and Distress:

R.:W.: Harold Clark has been convalescing at his daughter's home. He recently had another fall and was taken to St. Peter's and is in room 5221. His condition is worsening and will be going to a nursing home upon release.

R.:W.: Ronald has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will begin radiation therapy soon. Please keep him in in your thoughts and prayers.

V.:W.: James J. Van de Wal had a thyroid biopsy procedure which proved negative.

Vic Stewart had a minor heart attack, thought to have been caused by a cyst on his lung. He had a PET scan to check for cancer prior to having thoracic surgery.

R.:W.: Bill Ogren is started his next round of chemotherapy on August 23rd. He then promptly develop a head cold and will not be able to start his next session until well into the Masonic season.

W.: Bill Baumann lost his son over the summer.

Schoharie Lodge sustained quite a bit of damage during the flood from Irene.

Glad Tidings:

It was great to see R.:W.: Bill Ogren on the sideline at the DD Visit. His regular presence is sorely missed. He wants everyone to know he appreciates their well wishes as he continues to live with the pain from his January injury and subsequent surgery. Also, he has completed all the planning for the annual Past Masters' First Degree Conferral scheduled for the first communication in October.

Bud Abare's knee surgery was successful and he is recovering nicely.

Brother Scott Sawyer, active duty officer on the USS Eisenhower, has new orders to report to Port Hueneme, CA. His wife Wendy will stay behind in Saratoga Springs.

W.: Ken White reported that the Surviving Spouse luncheon went well with V.:W.: Geoffrey Hoderath in attendance as the entertainment. Anne Mosher, widow of R.:W.: Ken Mosher, sent a thank you note to the Lodge for the invitation to the luncheon.

Brother Tim Martin is a grandfather of a baby boy. His name is William Martin Conlin. Mother Kirsten and father Paul are doing fine.

Vic Stewart underwent his thoracic surgery and the surgeon could find nothing abnormal about the lymph nodes on his lungs. This was supposedly what had caused all his problems. Vic gratefully attributes this to all the positive thoughts and prayers.

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

Berne	10/06/11	Mt. Vernon	02/06/12
Noah	10/25/11	Masters	03/22/12
Bethlehem	11/15/11	Van Rensselaer	04/09/12
Ancient Temple	12/06/11	Wadsworth	04/25/12
Guttenberg	01/05/12	(John's Homecoming)	

Masters and Wardens Schedule

Van Rensselaer	09/21/11	Masters	02/15/12
Mt. Vernon	10/19/11	Ancient Temple	03/21/12
Noah	11/16/11	Guttenberg	04/18/12
Wadsworth	01/18/12	Bethlehem	06/20/12

District Web Page

W. : Mario Figueroa, Jr. has taken responsibility for the District Website. It can now be found at [http:// www.albanymason.wordpress.com](http://www.albanymason.wordpress.com). It has the usual things like about Masonry, Grand Lodge and how to join. It also has a list of the lodges in the District, along with links to websites where they exist. He has done a great job at putting this together especially the Temple Calendar.

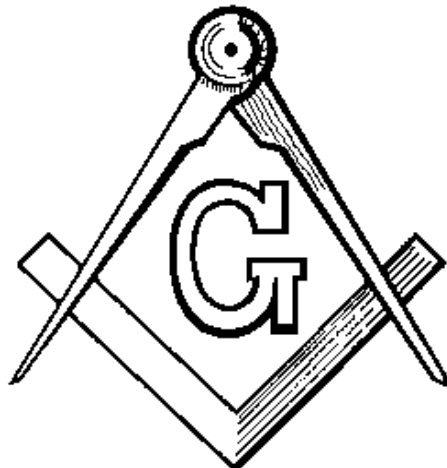
DD Visits

This is John's homecoming year it would be great to come out to as many visits as possible and lend him our support.. It will give you a chance to follow him as he continues his series of lessons.

For those of you who have not been to one of John's visits, he has streamlined the process by limiting delegations, District reports and his messages are to the point.

Masonic Safety Program

There was an event at the Clarksville Heritage Days in early August. R. : W. : Jerry McCall, V. : W. : Ray Gaul, W. : Mike Gammons and Junior Warden Ed Kosinski processed twelve ID's. They were well received by the hosts and the public. Regretably Ray was not able to rise any volunteers for the Scottish Games this year.



Messages from the Grand Master:

Since you will be seeing this before our first meeting we felt it appropriate to include them in this newsletter. The first is his messages regarding the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. The second regard the devastation of Hurricane Irene.

September 1, 2011

To my Brother New York Masons, family and friends ...

In a few days our country will mark the tenth anniversary of 9 -11. All of us who lived through that terrible day will never forget what a horrible, life changing event that was ... and we are still living with it, as we are still a nation at war.

None of us will forget the thousands of innocent victims of the terrorism of that day. None of us will ever forget the heroism of the men and women who selflessly gave of themselves and responded to the catastrophic devastation at ground zero at the World Trade Center in New York City, at the Pentagon, and on the aircraft that went down in the field in Pennsylvania rather than into the Capitol or White House in Washington DC. We will forever hold in our minds eye the images of the smoke and fire and collapse of the twin towers.

We also remember how the Masons of New York ... and indeed so many other New Yorkers ... immediately came together to support those first responders ... those who laid down their lives in an effort to save the lives of others ... their widows and orphans ... and those who worked so tirelessly in the days and weeks and months at ground zero to bring closure to grieving families ... and are still paying the consequence for the abuse inflicted on their bodies in the sinews of ground zero. The response by our Grand Lodge and our Brothers to that assault on our nation is indeed a proud page in the history of our beloved fraternity. We came together to offer

financial and material support then, as we have in every national emergency. And now we still remember and support the men and women of our Armed Forces today ... the brave military who continue the war to bring those terrorists to justice and protect and defend our American way of life. We will never forget them.

As Masons we will remember 9 -11 on this anniversary day and every day! At every opportunity we will say our prayers and invoke the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe. We will fly our flag and support our nation and all of the men and women who have served our country so selflessly. As Masons we will never forget them. And as Masons we renew our vows to never forget 9 -11.

God bless the heroes of 9 -11 ... and may God continue to Bless the United States of America. So Mote It Be.

Fraternally,

M.:W.: VINCENT LIBONE
Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York

September 2, 2011

To the Brethren of New York State wherever situated ...

My Brothers ...

From all reports, the devastation in the aftermath of last week's Hurricane Irene has been the worst we have experienced in New York State in many years ... and I know many of our Brothers and their families are hurting. We can not be insensitive to the terrible losses inflicted on members of our Masonic family as well as Lodges and various communities throughout our state ... many of whom

are still inundated by floods and without power and essential services a week later. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all of the victims of this unprecedented disaster!

I want to remind our Brothers that **The Grand Lodge Masonic Benevolence Fund** is available for emergency relief for individuals and always ready to assist to whatever extent our resources will allow. Please contact your local Lodge or District Deputy Grand Master for guidance as a first step for help in this crisis.

Also, to assist local Lodges that may have experienced a severe loss, we are establishing **The Hurricane Irene Disaster Relief Fund** so that we can provide some relief on a matching funds basis.

I also ask that every Brother as well as every Lodge in this jurisdiction to **please consider a much**

needed financial contribution to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund to assist us in this emergency. Our Grand Lodge has a proud history of always being ready to assist in disasters elsewhere ... now the need for relief is great right here in New York. Please be as generous as your resources will permit. Tax deductible contributions can be earmarked for Masonic Benevolence or the Grand Master's Allocation and we will see that these much needed funds are used for the purposes intended.

Thank you for your consideration. Let us keep those in distress in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless!

Fraternally,

VINCENT LIBONE
Grand Master



Poet's Corner:

This edition's poem is one written by Bill after his first term as the Master of the lodge and is a wonderful primer to remind our new Master of what is ahead for him and to us as Brother's of how we should help and aid our Master in his duties.

THE MASTER

Being a master can change a man's life.
It takes time from your job, your kids and your wife.

You start at the bottom, with plenty to learn.
It's not given to you; it's a job you must earn.

You must serve other masters, and give them your all.
You must help with the big jobs as well as the small.

When you're given a job, it will help you to grow.
As a man of the line you should never say no.

And before you know it, you stand in the east.
Your own lines behind you, your work has increased.

You have lots of ideas, and you pray for the best.
You hope you're successful at passing the test.

You can't do it alone; you need help from the others.
You know it will come from the rest of the brothers.

But all too soon, your year is all through.
And you've done about half that you wanted to do.

You knew time would go fast, but it went even faster.
But always be proud of your year as THE MASTER.

William E. Ogren
Past Master, Wadsworth #417
1983



Tales of the Ring

This is an interesting variation on the theme.

There was a young man walking down the road one day. He came across a little older man standing outside a pawn shop and noticed he was wearing a beautiful gold chain with the square and compass hanging from it. He stopped and started a conversation and mentioned that he was also a mason. He asked the man if he could borrow \$20 so he could get lunch that day because he had left his wallet at home that morning. The older man gave him the money and they younger man said he would be by in the morning to repay him. The next day the younger man paid the older man and thanked him greatly.

The young man was not a mason but decided to petition a lodge and was accepted. On the night of his initiation he noticed the pawn shop owner in the lodge for the ceremony. Nothing was said and he thought that the man did not remember him since it had been a few weeks. After the degree was over the pawn shop owner came up and spoke to the younger man.

The younger man explained that he was not a mason at the time he asked for the loan. He further explained that he did not even need the money that day but had heard that Freemasons were generous and helpful. He decided that this would be a great opportunity to test to see if what he heard was true.

The pawn shop replied that at the time he was also not a mason but had heard the same stories. Someone had just left the shop a few minutes before the meeting and decided to put it on while he took a break outside. He saw the opportunity to see if what he had been told was true and if it was not, it would only cost him \$20. He informed the young man that when he had paid him back the next day, he decided to petition the lodge and was initiated a couple night before.

.....
I have several more tales but I need your help. Please think of your experiences and share them with this column.



Meet Your Officers

My editor Kenny Dawes informed us at the last meeting that he is leaving the area. He is returning to Long Island. He has agreed to continue to support the newsletter. For those who do not know the format of the newsletter for the last couple of

years is his design. One of the things he had intended to do was to produce articles introducing the Officers of the Lodge. In respect of his help I am going to fulfill that idea in this and upcoming issues.

The old and the new Masters. I want on this occasion to thank Ken for filling Cullen's shoes both as Senior Warden and then as Master. It came about as a suggestion from his close friend Jim Van de Wal. Thank you very much to Jim for a great idea.



Our Master Bruce J. Susser, the son of a Past Master Cal Susser, was born in 1956 and raised in the Capital District. He graduated from Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk high school in Ravena in 1974.

Bruce has been married to Joann for 32 years as of last May 10th. They are a family of four, a daughter Katie and a son James. Both Katie and James are married. (Waiting for grandchildren.)

Bruce is a third generation electrician. A 35 year member of local 236 IBEW. He enjoys the outdoors and was a Scoutmaster for Troop 38 in Elsmere. He has been a Merit Badge Counselor for the District. He is a certified open water scuba diver along with his wife. They enjoy traveling when they can and look forward to being able to do so in retirement.

One of his hobbies is to participate in trivia contests with his family. They do not usually win but have a great time being together.

Meet Your Officers (CONT'D)

Your Senior Deacon Drew Millier was born in Ware, Massachusetts and spent most of his childhood living throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Drew graduated with the class of 2000 from Quaboag Regional High School in Warren, Massachusetts. After high school Drew enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

After attending boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois he went through the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and was trained to be a Machinist Mate. In 2002, he entered a four year tour in Pearl Harbor onboard the U.S.S. Olympia (SSN-727) Los Angeles Class fast attack submarine. while onboard Drew embarked on two Western Pacific and three Eastern Pacific deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was during these deployments these deployments that e became a member of nautical orders of the Shellback and the Golden Dragon. When his tour of duty was complete, he re-enlisted and finished his nine year stint as a Nuclear Power Instructor in West Milton, NY. Brother Millier has also earned an Associates of Science Degree from Empire State College in Nuclear Energy Technology and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the same institution. He works for a cogeneration power plant on Corinth, NY as a power plant operation/maintenance technician.

He married his wife Trisha in July of 2005 in Guam. they reside in Ballston Spa.

His Masonic career started in April of 2006 when he was initiated into the Fraternity. After raised he went on to hold the Junior and Senior Master of Ceremony,, Senior Deacon positions before being elected to Junior Warden. Drew is also a member of Kha-ru-van Grotto, Cyprus Shrine, Ancient Temple #5 R.A.M., Capital City Commandery#2, and a member of all of the Scottish Rite in the Valley Albany. He is also the founder and Charter Venerable Master of the Albany Sovereign Chapter of the Order of the Knights of St. Andrew.

Your Junior Warden Edward Kosinski born in Albany. Currently resides in the city of Rensselaer with his wife JoAnn, they have been married for 43 yrs. they have two children Kirk and Lisa. And are blessed with eight grandchildren.

Ed worked in management for over 40 years, he served as the Commissioner of Public Works and Water Commissioner for the City of Rensselaer. He is now retired, and works PT. at the TrueValue hardware store in North Greenbush

Ed was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason of Wadsworth Lodge in 2003.

Ed is also a Royal Arch Mason in Ancient Temple Chapter No. 5, also a Companion in Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council No. 14 Cryptic Masons.

Ed's interests include traveling, gardening ,and reading also a trip "now and then" to Saratoga Gaming and Racing.



Greetings from Camp Turk



I had a great time at Camp Turk this year. I liked sailing the most. It was better this year because it was windy and the currents were better.

There were also more Counselors from England than other years. It's always fun to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones. I can't wait to go back next year.

[Billy Kress](#)

As has been our custom we have underwritten Billy Kress' visit to Camp Turk. For those who are not aware Billy is R. W. Bill Ogren's grandson. He is kneeling in the front row on right wearing glasses.



Dear Wadsworth Lodge

Thank you for sponsoring me to go to camp Turk I had tons of fun. Some of the things I liked to do the most there were sailing and soccer. I had lots of fun there with all the campers and counselors.

Sara said that this was the most beautiful camp she has ever gone to.

[Sara Fuller](#)

The camp was very close to the way I remember it, 39 years ago when I went there as a camper. [Jim Fuller](#)

Parting Shots:

BIRTHDAYS THAT OCCURRED OVER THE SUMMER			
Joe P. Pozefsky	06/25/47	Norman E. Whitaker	06/15/65
Paul Rosenblatt	08/26/50	Stephen J. Garry	08/24/66
Timothy M. Martin	07/03/51	Scott J. Elwood	07/27/79
Bruce N. Hazard	06/04/53	Scott Allen Sawyer	08/31/80
Raymond H. Gaul	08/02/53	Robert A. Weegar	1/4/1984
Leroy Paul Stevens	08/19/54	Curtis James Kammerer	06/24/84
Stephen S. King	08/31/54	John G. Rhodes	8/22/1984
Gary A. Loeb	06/26/58	John H. Shelton	6/25/1985
Alan C. Garrison	08/15/58	Jonathan Sea Cameron	09/25/85
John W. Scott	07/17/59	Amos C. Kim	06/19/86
Victor Keith Caldwell	08/23/59	Joshua R. Pritt	06/06/88
Geoffrey T. Hoderath	08/03/61	Brian E. Johnson	8/2/1989
Jean R. Karm	06/11/62	Aaron W. Gladd	6/23/1990

