



A
View of the Valley
The Quarterly Newsletter
of
The Valley of Hartford, AASR
Newington, CT



April - June 2008
Vol VIII Issue 2

In This Issue.....

Spring Schedule	3
Featured Presiding Officer	3
Valley News	4
Family Life Program News	6
Articles	7
More Important Information	13
From the Desk of the Editor	15

Valley of Hartford Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

View of the Valley

The “View of the Valley” is the official publication for the Valley of Hartford,
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U. S. A.

Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill. James R. Spencer, Jr. 33°, Deputy For Connecticut

Ill. Richard V. Travis, 33°, Active for Connecticut

The Scottish Rite Bodies, sitting in the Valley of Hartford, State of Connecticut, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts

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Valley of Hartford Officers 2007-2008:

Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection Thrice Potent Master:	Frank Dlugoleski
Hartford Council Princes of Jerusalem Sovereign Prince:	John F. Kessler, 33°
Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix Most Wise Master:	Mark M. Hultman
Nathan Hale Consistory Commander-in-Chief	Richard A. Incorvati, 33°
Valley of Hartford Treasurer	Allan E. Acker, 33°
Valley of Hartford Secretary	David R. Blythe, Sr., 33°
Scottish Rite Foundation President	Warren J. Blessing, 33°

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Schedule Spring 2008

Thursday March 27

15th Degree (Full), Knight of the East
16th Degree (Vignette), Princes of Jerusalem

Thursday, April 3

18th Degree, Knight of the Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.

Saturday, April 19

Consistory Day

22nd Degree, Princes of Libanus
31st Degree, Knight Aspirant
32nd Degree, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

Thursday, May 1

Annual Meeting, Election of 2008-2009 Officers

Thursday, May 8

Workers' Appreciation Night & Officer Installation
6:30 PM, **By Invitation Only**

Friday, May 16

Graduation Dinner, new Sublime Princes
Shrine Gold Room, 6:00 pm, **By Invitation Only**

Saturday, July 12

Annual Ballgame/Picnic, New Britain Stadium
Rockcats v. Sea Dogs, 6:00 p.m.

*** NOTES ***

All Thursday activities start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Pre-degree dinners are available on 3/27 and 4/3 at 6:00 p.m.

Consistory Day Degrees begin at 9:30 a.m. with a break at noon for a luncheon.

Advanced reservations required for pre-degree dinners and Consistory Day Luncheon. See forms elsewhere in this issue.

The Princes of Libanus Degree (22nd) will feature participation from some of our Prince Hall Brethren. Be sure not to miss Consistory Day!

This Edition's Presiding Officer



Sovereign Prince, Illustrious Brother John F. Kessler, 33^o was born on March 24, 1956 in Hartford, CT to Ray E. and Phyllis H. Kessler, as the middle of three sons. He graduated high school from The Watkinson School in Hartford, CT in 1974, participating in varsity baseball, hockey and soccer. He attended three years of college at Nasson College in Springvale, Maine until 1977.

He worked in his family's construction business, The Kessler Construction Company, Inc. in Hartford, CT, until 1980, then for the Times Mirror Cable Television Company, being promoted to manager of his Division in 1983. In October, 1985 he returned to work in his family construction business and is currently partners with his brother in the ownership and management of their three companies.

On October 15th 1988 he married Barbara L. Schumacher. He and Barbara live in Southington, CT with their dog "Buddy".

He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on November 17, 1986 at Wyllys Lodge #99, (now Wyllys-St. John's Lodge #4 in West Hartford), in the same lodge as his father and grandfather. He joined the officer's line as the Senior Steward in 1994, advancing to the East as Worshipful Master in 1997 and serving for three terms. John has also served as District Deputy of Masonic District 6C.

In May 15, 1999 he joined the Valley of Hartford and the Sphinx Temple Shrine.

John was elected to receive the Illustrious 33rd degree in 2005 and received it on August 30, 2005 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Valley of Hartford News

A “View of the Valley” Newsletter is always available....

in PDF format at <http://www.way2go-home.com/aasr/ViewOfTheValleyXXXYYYY.pdf>, where XXX is either **Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct**. “Y” is the year, which is currently **2008**.

Thus, this issue is at <http://www.way2go-home.com/aasr/ViewOfTheValleyApr2008.pdf>.

The advantages of grabbing a copy in PDF format are that you can see it in living color (VotV has color photos), and you can save a few trees. It's easy to view with Adobe's PDF reader, which can be downloaded at no cost from www.adobe.com.

Valley of Hartford Portrays “The Drama of Secret Master”

On the evening of March 6, 2008, the Spring Class of 2008 and some of our newer Scottish Rite brethren experienced some unique ritual as the Valley of Hartford portrayed the Drama of *Secret Master* for the first time since it was “retired” as a degree in favor of the new 4th Degree *Master Traveler*. Brethren who have joined the Scottish since 2004 have only known the *Master Traveler* degree as the 4th degree. Brethren joining before 2004 remember *Secret Master* as the 4th degree they saw at their entrance into the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

Filled with beautiful lessons, such as the “majesty of duty,” the drama of Secret Master served as wonderful bridge between Blue Lodge Masonry and the Lodge of Perfection in the Scottish Rite. Many brethren from the Valley of Hartford were dismayed that these lessons might be lost through disuse, and requested permission from Ill. Jim Spencer, 33°, Deputy for Connecticut, to portray the Drama in addition to the usual 4th degree.

On March 6, the candidates and attending brethren experienced the Lodge of Perfection in “retro style”: watching the “old” beginning of the Lodge of Perfection journey, followed by the culmination of the Lodge of Perfection with the regular 14th degree, *Grand Elect Mason*.

Brethren who participated in the portrayal had experience levels ranging from 10-plus years in the Valley, to one of our newest brethren, who joined in 2006 and experienced *Secret Master* in a truly unique way: performing as opposed to viewing.

Many thanks go out to the cast: Brothers Frank Way, Bud Buckner, Ric Manner, Charlie Weiss, Justin Duffy, John Spencer, Frank Dlugoleski, Bill Bohman, Austin Clark, John Kessler, Gerry Mamaclay, Steve McMahon, and Jon Beatty. Special thanks go out to Illustrious Brother Spencer for allowing us to perform this great and good work.

In honor of the evening, the cast, as well as the Officers of the Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection, wore a special “4th Degree Secret Master” pin, as a way of celebrating its first portrayal in five years. These pins are available for any Valley of Hartford brother to wear if they so desire. Contact Brother Frank Way for further information.

The Valley has permission to perform this portrayal again, so watch the schedule, and be sure to come out and support the Valley as they bring out to light the wonderful lessons that were the first Scottish Rite lessons learned by many of us who joined before 2004.

Annual Meeting Scheduled

The Annual Meeting of the Valley of Hartford is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2008 in the Valley auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. sharp. All members of the Valley are eligible and invited to attend.

Continued on Page 5....

Continued from Page 4...

Officers will be elected, and Annual Reports given. Heads of Bodies are reminded to have their reports summarizing the year in writing for submission to the Secretary. Dress is jacket and tie.

Valley of Hartford Travels to Valley of Norwich to Labor

If you were not among the brethren who braved the rain and traveled to Norwich on Saturday, March 9, you missed some fun. The Valley of Norwich portrayed the 10th and 14th degrees and several Valley of Hartford brothers participated. Brothers Charlie Weiss, Ric Manner, Bill Bohman and Frank Way took various parts in both degrees. Brother Curt Hawkes came along to see the 10th degree that he missed seeing last fall.

The fraternal fellowship shared by all brothers on this rainy Saturday was satisfying, and performing the degrees in a smaller, more intimate atmosphere was a different experience for the brethren from Hartford.

Wine for the 14th degree was provided by Valley of Hartford's Commander-in-Chief Richard A. Incorvati from his private stock of homemade wine. It was much enjoyed by all.

After the degrees, all enjoyed a fine lunch of chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables and cornbread, along with dessert. The wine that was not used in the 14th degree was also enjoyed at lunch.

If you haven't been to Norwich before, you should consider traveling the next time our Valley heads south. See Brothers Bill Bohman or Frank Way if you wish to be notified of our travels.

Valley of Hartford Necrology

Since the last publication of the *View of the Valley*, we have been notified of the following deaths. We mourn the passing of our fellow brethren who have been called to their eternal reward in the Paradise of the Grand Architect of the Universe:

<u>Brother</u>	<u>Raised in Lodge</u>	<u>Date of Passing</u>
Clarence O. Brandell	Wyllys-St. John's Lodge #4	September 18, 2007
Albert H. Castricum	Boil Spring Lodge #152 (NJ)	January 18, 2008
Lloyd H. Cliff	Apollo Lodge #59	May 17, 2007
Clifford H. Devine, Sr.	Washington Lodge #70	January 9, 2008
Robert T. Hall	Stepney Lodge #133	December 20, 2007
Robert J. Hurlburt	Hiram Lodge #98	November 24, 2007
Samuel J. Kaprove	Level Lodge #137	October 30, 2007
Lester Kimenker	Level Lodge #137	July 20, 2007
Raymond C. Riggott	Walnut Hill Lodge #139	September 13, 2007
George N. Seely	Daskam Lodge #86	December 23, 2007
Peter Wujcik	Evening Star Lodge #101	November 19, 2007

Corrections from the Last Issue

In the last issue, the photograph of Curtis Hawkes was incorrectly captioned as "Curtis Hanks". Our apologies to Curt for this error .

Valley of Hartford Family Life Program

News

Annual Ballgame/Picnic Set for July 12, 2008

The Annual Rockcats ballgame and picnic is set for July 12, 2008, at 6pm at New Britain Stadium. As in previous years, the admission price is partially subsidized by the Valley, and the event is a Family Life event.

All are welcome: friends, family, neighbors, folks who might be interested in Masonry, folks who just like baseball.... The admission price is \$15/adults, \$10/kids (12 & under).

The event begins at 6 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat picnic in the AT&T Patio (down at the end of the 1st base line). At 7:05 p.m the game starts, and food is not available in the Patio after 7:30 p.m. We will have reserved seats on the 1st baseline.

There is a flier on page 12 of this issue of *View of the Valley*. The flier has an RSVP return form with instructions on where to mail the check etc. An additional flier may possibly be sent by US Mail.

If you plan on attending here is some important information to know:

1. Be sure to include your **name** and **email address** and **phone** on the RSVP. I need this.
2. I will contact you when I have received your RSVP and check. If you don't hear from me, call me. If you provide an email address, I will contact you that way, so be sure that way2go@cox.net is in your address book so that the email won't get hung up in any spam filters you may have.
3. I will contact you again sometime early in the week before the game, to give you instructions on picking up your tickets, and any last minute information. I will do this by email and/or phone. Usually tickets are picked up at the "Will Call" window, but in any case, I will contact you in that last week.
4. I batch up the checks and give them to the Treasurer in one batch, just before the game, so if you send your check in early, please don't call and ask why it has not yet cleared.

Fall Bus Trip

The fall bus trip is currently being considered. At this time we are considering a bus trip to West Point with lunch at the Culinary Institute of America. Other possibilities for this (or future) trips include a trip to Mystic Seaport, with a meal at the Seaman's Inn, or a tour of the US Submarine Base in Groton with a picnic at the Valley of Norwich.

Ideas Earnestly Requested

If you have something **YOU** would like to do on a Family Life trip, please let us know. Our recent events have been very well received, but coming up with pleasing ideas is hard work, and a fresh idea can often stimulate us in a different or novel direction. Contact Frank Way (way2go@cox.net) if you have an idea or would like to help run a trip or event.

Feast of the Pascal Lamb

by Brother Eric W. Manner (Photos by Brother Richard F. Denno)



(l-r) MWMs Fowler, Gianetti, Thompson, Manner, Rev. Arthur Durham, Hultman, Grommeck, Spencer, Bohman, Aspland

The Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix performed the ceremony of the Feast of the Pascal Lamb on March 13th. This event is portrayed every three to four years and commemorates our Brothers who have been called to the Celestial Lodge since the last ceremony. The evening was well attended and the cast gave an excellent performance. This year's portrayal included an unusual twist. Normally the cast is composed of the current line officers of the Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix. This year, Past Most Wise Master Ric Manner suggested to current Most Wise Master Mark Hultman, that some of the Past MWM's might be interested in joining the cast. Most Wise Master Mark took to the bait and managed to corral every active Past MWM since 1998 to take a role. Actually, every Past MWM jumped the chance to take a part! Past MWM Dan Reeve (2007) got called away at the last minute but he was planning on being there. The end result was Most Wise Master Hultman headed a cast of ALL Past Most Wise Masters for this solemn, impressive, and moving ceremony!

The cast for the evening was as follows : Mark M. Hultman (2008), MWM; Herbert E. Grommek (2004), SW; William E. Bohman, 33° (2003), JW; Eric W. Manner (2006), Orator; Gerald F. Thompson 33°, (2001)MC; John H. Spencer (2005), CG; Todd M. Gianetti (2000), Chaplain; Charles B. Fowler, Jr 33°, (1999) Guard, Carl E. Aspland, Jr. (1998), Guard.

The guest speaker of the evening was Reverend Arthur Durham, Past Grand Chaplain of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Connecticut AF & AM. Brother Durham's words were perfect for the solemn occasion and were appreciated by all.

More pictures from this event are available on-line
<http://www.way2go-home.com/aasr/feast.html>



It Cannot Be As It Once Was

*by Ill. Richard A. Incurvati, 33°,
Commander-in-Chief, Valley of Hartford, AASR*

The river of time flows through our lives without interruption. It marks the changes in our day-to-day existence. Some of those changes are easy, some are difficult. The older you get, the more difficult change becomes. The river of time has had an effect on Scottish Rite Masonry, and because we failed to change the way we do things, Masonry suffered. I was made a 32nd Degree Mason in 1983, one of a class of 75 Brothers. Fifteen years after that I worked in a Consistory Degree with one solitary candidate in the audience. American society had changed and had passed us by.

What kind of change is necessary in order for us to be a vibrant social organization? It is certainly not necessary that we change who we are and what we believe in. Those things are eternal and will never change. We do need to interact with people who are not Masons. We need to let them know who we are and what we are about. We need to include spouses and families and make Family Life programs an important part of our operation. People no longer have time on their hands, and will not inquire about us unless they know we exist.

So, how do we get the attention of the general public? Radio and television promotions have shown excellent results in other jurisdictions, and I believe would show the same results in Connecticut. Use of newer communication devices and techniques (Email being one) would also be of assistance.

That being said, I believe there is a great need for what the Scottish Rite has to offer. People have become somewhat isolated from one another in the Electronic Age. We were not meant to be solitary creatures, and I believe that many good men would welcome the opportunity to share communion with others in a group espousing the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Because of the leadership shown by many members of our Valley, Hartford has put in place many new ways of addressing this problem. Of course, leadership is meaningless unless you have a willing group of Brethren to carry out solutions to problems. We are very fortunate to have a great core of Scottish Rite Masons. As a result of this, it is my firm belief that we will grow and keep growing as the river of time flows on.

At this time, Masonry is showing a general increase in membership. The Valley of Hartford has shown a steady increase in membership because of the hard work of our Brothers. Especially helpful were new programs which include spouses, such as presentation type programs and dinners for newly made 32nd Degree Masons. With a steady outlook toward the future, we will continue to grow and prosper.

To those for whom these changes are difficult, I ask your indulgence. I wish you to remain an active part of the Rite and to give your knowledge and experience to the younger Brethren. I do understand that you want the very best for our Valley.

To all our Brothers, please remember that "It cannot be as it once was".

It can and WILL be better.

Virtus Iunxit Mors Non Separabit

“Whom Virtue Unites, Death Cannot Separate”

by Francis G. Way, MSA

While not as visually captivating as the Chapter of Rose Croix's *Knight of Rose Croix* degree, or as dramatically appealing as the Princes of Jerusalem degrees, with the tempting of Zerubbabel or the antics of Barticus, Artiban and Araspes, the 14th Degree, *Grand Elect Mason*, is one of the most intellectually profound degrees in the entire Scottish Rite.

After working in this degree for many years, I have developed a deep appreciation, and a growing understanding of this, the culmination of the Lodge of Perfection. The moving language, the deeply symbolic portions of the degree, and the highly refined concepts can make a profound and lasting impression on candidates if the degree is properly portrayed.

Unlike other degrees in the Lodge of Perfection, the cast is not in costume, but the officers instead portray the degree in tuxedo, with aprons and jewels, similar to a Blue Lodge degree. The officers' constitutional titles are used. I feel that this is intentional, so as to not distract the candidates from the important concepts of the ritual itself. This also serves to set this degree apart from those that have preceded it, and lends a certain dignity and dominance to the degree in the Lodge of Perfection.

One of the first points that comes to mind when contemplating this degree is that the setting is the Secret Vault **under** the Sanctum Sanctorum. This fact is barely mentioned, in just one short line of ritual, early in the degree. This concept, however, should have deep connotations for any brother who is also a York Rite Mason. It also invokes a strong parallel with the 13th degree, *Master of the Ninth Arch*, which is the dramatic climax of the Lodge of Perfection and prepares the way for *Grand Elect Mason*.

Another point that is often missed is that when praying, the officers kneel at the Sign of the Burning Bush, kneeling on one knee, one hand raised beside the face as if to shield it from heat or fire. This sign has strong allusions to Moses at the Burning Bush, and Moses on Mount Sinai plays an integral role in the lessons of this degree. However, this fact is not spelled out anywhere except in a stage direction in the ritual. One wonders if the candidates ever make the connection?

A central part of the degree is the “ancient aroba”, a pledge or covenant of friendship by breaking bread together. By partaking of the aroba, the brethren are forging a covenant, an alliance, and this parallels the covenant God forged with Moses through the Ten Commandments. Once this surety of friendship has taken place, all have been prepared for the full unveiling of the Ineffable Degrees' mysteries in the latter parts of the degree. Virtue has united all the participants.

The Ineffable Degrees conclude with the Thrice Potent Master revealing the Grand Ineffable Word of a Grand Elect Mason, fulfilling a promise that was made in the Drama of *Secret Master* (which prior to 2004 was the 4th degree, the start of the Lodge of Perfection). This conclusion resolves much of the foreshadowing that has started in *Secret Master* and continued in various parts of the Ineffable Degrees.

Much as *Secret Master* was intended to be a bridge into the Lodge of Perfection, I feel that the entire Lodge of Perfection, with its Solomonic dramas that lead to and culminate with *Grand Elect Mason*, serves as a bridge to the rest of the Scottish Rite. Possessing the unadorned but beautiful simplicity of a pure ring of gold, the 14th degree is often overlooked in favor of the ornate degree work later in the Rite. But if one concentrates on the beautiful oratory, and the deep, symbolic concepts, one can find wisdom, strength and beauty.

Properly equipped with this wisdom, strength and beauty, the candidate is thus prepared for the rest of his Scottish Rite journey, climbing steadily onward, and upward, toward broader horizons, loftier planes of thought, and nobler conceptions of Deity.

Foundation and Theatre Newington-OnStage Ink Agreement !!!

by Brother Francis G. Way, MSA (Photo by Jen Gresh)

After long deliberations and negotiations, on March 12, 2008, the Scottish Rite Foundation and Theatre Newington-On Stage signed a lease agreement to allow TNOS, the community theater group of Newington, to use the Scottish Rite auditorium for rehearsing and for their performances.

Theatre Newington-OnStage has been performing since 1962 in Newington. However, they lost their home in the Newington Town Hall when that building was no longer up to code for their use. Homeless, they performed in Elmwood for several years, but as Bonnie Keizer, Publicity Chairperson for TNOS, said “It's hard being the Newington Community Theater when you're not actually performing *in* Newington.”

On August 2 & 3, 2008, TNOS will celebrate a triumphant return to Newington when they present a contemporary family-oriented comedy, *Noodles*, for their first performance in our building. With over 40 years of solid history behind them, the folks from TNOS take their theater seriously, and have again and again expressed an appreciation for both our venue, and our willingness to give back to the community by letting them perform there. A portion of each admission will be donated to a Scottish Rite charity of the Valley's choice. Watch the *View of the Valley* for more information on their production. Auditions for the production are on April 27 and 28 – contact Frank Way (way2go@cox.net) if you're interested.

Members of the Valley, their families are friends are all encouraged to support TNOS by attending this performance. Again, watch the *View of the Valley* for more information on tickets.

Peter Weidt, President of TNOS and John Kessler, VP Scottish Rite Foundation, sign the lease, while Mimi DePasquale (Treasurer TNOS), Frank Way, Bonnie Keizer (Publicity Chair, TNOS), and Scott Barnard (VP TNOS) look on....



Valley of Hartford Consistory Day

Luncheon Reservation Form

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, Nathan Hale Consistory will be concluding the 2008 Spring Class Degrees with the conferral of the 22nd, 31st and 32nd Degrees.

The day's schedule is as follows:

8:30 am – 9:30 am:	Registration
9:30 am – 10:30 am:	Opening & Portrayal of the 22 nd Degree, Princes of Libanus
10:30 am – 11 am	Intermission
11 am – Noon	Portrayal of the 31 st Degree, Knight Aspirant
12:15 pm (approx)	Lunch at Sphinx Shrine Dining Room
1:30 pm – 1:50 pm	Introduction and Reception of Dignitaries
1:50 pm – 3 pm (approx)	Portrayal of the 32 nd Degree, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

A prime rib luncheon will be served. Reservations are required and must be in to the Valley Secretary **no later than April 14, 2008. Payment MUST be included with reservation.**

Luncheon Price: \$15.00 to Valley of Hartford Members, \$25.00 to Non-Valley members of AASR or if reservation is returned after deadline.

Please Include Your Payment With This Reservation Form

Mail to: David R. Blythe, Sr., Secretary
Valley of Hartford, AASR
PO Box 310198
Newington, CT 60131-0198

Make Checks Payable To: Valley of Hartford, AASR

Please reserve () Luncheon ticket @ \$15.00 each

Enclosed is a check in the amount of (\$ _____), -or- a cash payment of (\$ _____)
in the name of: _____

(Please PRINT)

Email Address: _____

Tickets will be available for pick-up at the sign-in desk on April 19th, starting at 9:00 am.

PLEASE CLIP & RSVP:

*** by June 21, 2008 ***

with check payable to "Valley of Hartford"
to:

**Frank Way
37 Trivet Lane
Wethersfield, CT 06109-2526
ATTN: BALLGAME**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Num Adults Attending _____ @ \$15/each

Num Children Attending _____ @ \$10/each

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Email: _____

**Pre-Game All You Can Eat Picnic in the
AT&T Patio at 6:00 PM includes:**

BBQ Chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans,
pasta salad, cole slaw, lemonade, iced tea,
watermelon, cookies...

PLUS

Field Box Seat Tickets for

7:05 PM Baseball Game

all for just:

Adults ... \$15

Children 12 & Under ... \$10

**Questions? Call Frank @
860-563-8176**

Email: way2go@cox.net

Valley of Hartford Scottish Rite

Masonic Family Day

at the

New Britain RockCats

Saturday, July 12, 2008

6:00 pm



Leon M. Abbott and Valley of Hartford Scholarship Programs

Reminder: Scholarship applications are due April 1, 2008!

Here is a testimonial about our Scholarship Program, from Past TPM Arnie Grot, in a letter to Valley Secretary Dave Blythe, dated February 11, 2008:

David:

My daughter Cymbeline sincerely appreciated the \$500 that the Valley of Hartford gave her in 2007. The money was used to buy her books for her last semester in Nursing School at the University of South Carolina Aiken Campus. She earned straight A's that semester, her best in the 6½ years at USC (she earned a BA in Exercise Foundations from the school of Public Health in 2004). Cym graduated on December 13, 2007. I have attached a photo of Cym (center) with me and her sister Erin at the reception by the School of Nursing on that day.

Cym passed her NCLEX-RN exam on January 25 and received her Nursing license for South Carolina, and an number of other aligned states last week. She started a six month internship program in critical care at the Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, SC today. Cym has worked in Cardiac Rehab Center of this center as an Exercise Physiologist since 2005.

Much thanks for the Valley's support of my daughter's dream of becoming a licensed nurse.

Working together to the benefit of all,
Arnie Grot, Past TPM, Charter Oak Lodge of Perfection

Photo Arnie attached to his email: Arnie(l), Cymbeline (c), Erin (r)



*** * * More Important Information * * ***

Join the Email List for the Most Up-To-Date Information

Want to get the latest information on Valley happenings in the fastest possible way? Send your email address to the Valley Secretary to be added to our email list. The list is *only* used for Valley information – never for jokes or other non-AASR related email. You will receive notices and reservation forms, and can receive the *View of the Valley* electronically as well.

Email the Valley Secretary at sect@snet.net with your email address and ask to be included.

Workers Night Invitation Requirements!

To be invited to Worker's Night on May 8, 2008, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Have paid your 2008 Valley dues by April 18, 2008
2. Have taken part in a degree, or served on the production staff, in the calendar year 2007.
3. Held an office in the calendar year 2007.
4. Accepted an officer's position for the calendar year 2008 (to be installed on May 8, 2008).
5. Be a 33° or MSA recipient.

Scottish Rite Blue Envelope Appeal

Brethren, we often get inundated with mail these days when we go to our mailbox. There's all kinds of junk mail, and of course, the ever-present bills. We also receive many requests from our fraternity to donate money. One very important piece of mail you should watch for later this year is the Supreme Council's Blue Envelope Appeal.

There are many ways that a Valley is measured on their response to the appeal, but one way is in percentage of participation. Among other things, that measurement helps determine how much Scholarship money is appropriated to our Valley. If every member of our Valley gave just \$1.00 (one dollar!) we'd have 100% participation.

So, please, when you get the Blue Envelope appeal, don't toss it with the rest of the junk mail. Stick a dollar (or more if you can) in the envelope and do our Valley proud!

Focus on our Brethren

Do you or does anyone in your family do anything unusual outside of Masonry? For example, our Editor is involved in showing his Australian Shepherd dogs in AKC and ASCA dog shows. If you have a hobby or activity you'd like to share with the rest of the Valley of Hartford family, please let us know. We'll feature you and your activity in the *View of the Valley*. It's a great way to get to know a brother better.

Help Keep Our Membership Records Up-To-Date

We need your assistance to keep our membership records up to date. Please notify the Valley Secretary of any address, email address or phone number changes. If you know of the passing of a Scottish Rite brother, please pass that information along to the Secretary as well.

Personal Info Change (please print):

Name: _____
Old Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
New Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Passing of a Brother: (please print):

Name: _____ Date of death: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please Mail To: Valley of Hartford, PO Box 310198, Newington, CT 06131-0198

A Final Word from the Editor.....

Brethren, Family and Friends,

Thank you for all the kind words many of you have sent my way regarding the publication of *View of the Valley*. They are much appreciated, and have indicated that I at least came close to the initial goal regarding what we wanted to do with the *View*.

Please do keep in mind that we are very early in this process, and are still trying to find what works and what doesn't. One thing we are trying to do is to get brothers to think about receiving the *View* electronically. If you are a brother who makes great use of your computer, this is an excellent way of having it always near your fingertips. Plus, it might save a tree or two as well.

We want to make this publication a publication our Valley can be proud of – one that informs, but also one that stimulates thought, and hopefully one that moves a brother to action, as in volunteering to do something in the Valley. We still need many more hands than we currently have.

With spring coming, don't forget to enjoy the beautiful days we're about to receive, and don't forget to come to Consistory Day!

Finally, lend your support to the TNOS production (see page 10) by planning to attend the show. We're giving back to the community, and we should be able to have a few laughs while we do!.

Fraternally,

Brother Francis G. Way, MSA, *Editor*



Valley of Hartford
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
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