



Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

Information to be included in **York Rite Opportunities** must be submitted by the **15th** of the preceding month to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, Charles B. Fowler Jr, 525 Stillwater, Windsor CT 06095-3842 or ctramrsm@gmail.com. **NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.**

MAY 2018

01	ME	F	Franklin 02 RA, New Haven. PM & MEM deg
01			Keystone 27 RA, Meriden. RAM deg 7 pm. Dinner 6:15 pm
05	ME	F	CT Convention, Anointed High Priests, East Hartford. 9:30 am. Lunch.
05	ME		Mohawk 28 Knight Masons, East Hartford. 2 pm
08	ME	F	Harmony 08 SM, New Haven. Education & Planning Meeting
10			ASCENSION DAY. Watch for Flyers
11	ME	F	Housatonic 13 RA, Stratford
13			MOTHER'S DAY! DON'T FORGET!
15		U	Washington 01 KT, East Hartford. Order of Red Cross.
18	ME	U	New Haven 02 KT, New Haven. Dinner 6:15 pm
19	ME		Grand Chapter RA Education Program, New Haven. 3 pm, Dinner 5:30
23		F	Pulaski 26 RA, Branford. Past Master deg
28			MEMORIAL DAY
NOTE	>>	>>	When there is a dinner, reservations are usually req'd.
	ME		indicates attendance by the ME Grand High Priest
	MP		indicates attendance by the MP Grand Master
		RE	indicates attendance by the RE Grand Commander

COMING UP: JUNE 2018

JUNE

01	GRA/GSM Banquet, Four Points, Meriden. 6 pm
02	Grand Chapter RAM of CT, Four Points, Meriden, 8:30 am
02	Grand Council R&SM of CT, Four Points, Meriden, 1 pm
05	YR of East Hartford, Picnic on the Porch. 6 pm Ladies
09	Grand Masters' Day, Wallingford. 10 am
17	FATHER'S DAY. Hope THEY don't forget.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Grand Chapter RAM Ephraim Kirby Citation, the Genl Grand Chapter Medal in Bronze, the Grand Council Philip J. Jones Award and the Knight of Ish Sodi Award will be welcomed by MEGHP Ede and MPGM Kayser ASAP. Don't let deserving Companions fail to receive these awards because nobody thought to nominate them.

MEETING NIGHT CHANGE

Dispensations have been granted by MEGHP Ede and MPGM Kayser for Cyrus-Meridian 15 RA and Buel 20 SM to meet on the 4th Monday of the month for the time being. Please mark your Directories accordingly.

NEW PETITIONS AVAILABLE

The York Rite information brochure entitled More Light with attached petition has been reprinted as supplies of the previous printing were running low. Slight changes have been incorporated to make it easier to complete, and the size has been reduced due to limitations of the Printer. Companions are urged to enter the specific local information for your bodies before handing it to a potential candidate, and to separate the petition from the brochure when giving it to your Secretary/Recorder. Let the Brother keep the information portion. The new petition is also posted on our websites for download.

FROM MEGHP MARTIN EDE

Greetings Brothers and Companions,

What a long, strange trip it has been! Two years ago, I was wondering what I had got myself into and how I would do. Now, I realize how important the Grand High Priest and his officers are to the welfare of our Chapters. They must be involved and ready to help as needed and I hope we have done that.

These past two years, I have made education my main primary goal in and out of the Chapters. I have done my best to clear up the misconceptions that existed about the Royal Arch Chapter and the York Rite in general, and I charge each of the companions to make this a continuing priority. With nearly 10,000 Masons in the state, there should be that many Royal Arch Masons in the State. Without the degrees of the Royal Arch, and those of the Council, the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason are incomplete. We are in possession of the real word and grip of a Master Mason – as I pointed out at Grand Lodge, we know the reason why you need three Master Masons to open a lodge. What we have is the right of all brothers in our Grand Lodge, yet I still hear talk from high ranking past officers in the Grand Chapter that the York Rite is still a primarily Christian Rite – as I hope I have persuaded those that have read my missives over the past two years, the York Rite is open to brothers of all faiths and we do ourselves a disservice if we do not promote it as such. For those Christian brothers who wish to exemplify the virtues of the Knights of Malta and the Knights Templar, the Commandery is ready and willing to be that path for those that seek it. However, the degrees of the Chapter and Council provide a path of philosophical and esoteric initiation to the Western Mystery Traditions through the legend of Hiram Abiff and the building of King Solomon's Temple. I also hope I have lessened the concern over the use of "esoteric". As I have pointed out, we are by our very nature an esoteric society and we provide that spiritual Alchemy path of transformation of who we are – an Alchemy of the Soul, so to speak. It is unfortunate that many brothers in our lodges are blind to this through fear or ignorance. It is up to us, my companions, to make sure we are educated and become true seekers of Inner Wisdom so that we may hold the light forth for our brothers to illuminate the Path of Transformation we are all on.

Freemasonry has many attributes and benefits, but at its core it is a process of transformation for the individual and the lodge. The Master Masson tragedy shows this as the brother is raised to this sublime degree. It is not by accident that our ritual is infused with the symbols of Alchemy, Astrology and Sacred Geometry. Those that came before us at modern Freemasonry's founding in 1717 and in those several streams of mysticism, from Rosicrucian thought and Alchemy, to the study of natural philosophy intended our rituals to have meaning and to have the need to be studied and meditated upon to fully understand them.

If brothers are afraid of these deeper ideas on Masonry, they are not wrong to feel that way or to not see why the word "esoteric" should be mentioned in the same breath as Freemasonry. The Path of Initiation and spiritual transformation was never meant to be taken lightly. It was and is meant to be hard. The Great Work requires work, as the Benedictine motto goes, "laborare est orare" – to work is to pray. As we work our way through the degrees, they should become as a path where we follow the clues left by the Grand Architect of the Universe and Nature, much as the Alchemist follows the footsteps of Nature by a lamp, where nature herself remains just out of the light cast by the lamp (as in Michael Maier's *Atalanta Fugiens*).

We must provide that lamp for our brothers to see. It is not by accident that we are continually admonished to seek further light and education in the seven liberal arts and sciences.

We have one of the last threads of that Alchemical path of spiritual transformation that those brothers who came before us entrusted to us. It is up to us to preserve that wisdom and see that it is given without hope for fee or reward to all deserving brethren.

If there are any questions or thoughts on the above, I am happy to discuss any and all.

YORK RITE WEBSITES — NOTE CHANGES !!!

Grand Chapter RAM of CT: www.yorkritect.org/gcram

Grand Council R&SM of CT: www.yorkritect.org/gcrsm

Grand Commandery KT of CT: <http://www.gcktct.org/>

Common to all three YR bodies: www.yorkritect.org

Can find downloads for petition, scholarship applications and Opportunities on this site.