



*Stated Communications First and Third Wednesdays except July and August*  
MASONIC TEMPLE  
285 WHITNEY AVE. NEW HAVEN, CONN.

# JANUARY 2026

## VIEW FROM THE EAST- WORSHIPFUL MASTER ELECT



My Brothers,

As we begin a new year and a new Masonic year, I want to start by saying thank you. I'm truly honored and grateful to have been elected to serve as your Worshipful Master for 2026. I don't take that responsibility lightly, and I'm excited to work alongside each of you in the year ahead.

I also want to offer my sincere thanks to Worshipful Brother Ben for his leadership over the past year. His dedication, steady guidance, and care for this Lodge have left us in a strong place as we move forward. Please join me in thanking him for a year of service well done.

January and February are already shaping up to be busy and exciting months. I hope many of you will be able to join us for these upcoming events:

- **January 4** – Installation of Officers

We'll begin at 9:00 AM, break midday, and return by 1:30 PM for photos, with the ceremony starting at 3:00 PM. I hope you'll come help us officially open this new Masonic year together.

- **January 7** – Stated Communication & Paid-Up Members Dinner

We'll also have a short discussion on ways we can strengthen and improve Lodge membership. Please RSVP to WB Mike Abrahamson if you plan to attend the dinner.

- **February 1** – Cosmo Pre-Valentine's Night Out at Biagetti's

A pre-Valentine's evening celebrating the love in our lives. Please RSVP to Brother Ash.

I'm looking forward to a year centered on strong fellowship, meaningful participation, and keeping our Lodge in a place where brothers genuinely want to be. Thank you again for your trust, I'm excited to get to work.

See you in lodge,

Fraternally,

*Bro. Joe*

Joseph K. Fried  
Worshipful Master Elect

## VIEW FROM THE SOUTH – SENIOR WARDEN ELECT



My Brothers,

I am truly honored to have been elected to serve as Senior Warden of our lodge for 2026. I thank you for placing your trust in me. I am looking forward to an exciting year, and I hope you will be able to join us throughout the year. I am thrilled to serve under Brother Joe, and we have a wonderful suite of officers, including several new brothers, who are all full of enthusiasm and energy.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank our Master, Ben Stern, who has worked so hard for us all. I have had the opportunity to see what it has taken to steer this lodge, and Ben has given his heart and soul to the lodge this year. Thank You Brother Ben!

Our Semi-Public Installation of officers will be held on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 3pm. Please join us along with your family and friends.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our annual paid-up members dinner. It will be the last meal that I serve as Junior Warden, so I hope you'll be able to join us that night. Please RSVP to me at [Mabrahamson@earthlink.net](mailto:Mabrahamson@earthlink.net) so that I can plan successfully.

We will continue our support of the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen this year. This month our service will be on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those in our community who most need it. Please sign up with RWB Gary Cohen.

Brothers. It is so true that there cannot be times of joy without periods of sickness and distress. Please inform myself or the other members of the sick-visiting committee of any brothers, family members, or friends who are facing life's challenges and could use our support.

It is always fitting at this time of the year, to pause and reflect on our personal good fortune and to thank the Great Architect of the Universe for our many blessings. We are grateful for the right to practice our craft, and the many blessings of family, life, and love.

I look forward to seeing you, my brothers, in our lodge. The place where it is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell together in unity.

In Masonry

Fraternally,

*Michael Abrahamson*  
Senior Warden Elect

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## VIEW FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR



My Brothers,

I would like to thank the brothers for allowing me to serve as your secretary for the 8<sup>th</sup> year. It has been my pleasure to serve you and will continue to do my best.

If you have any questions for me please either call me at 203-410-9733 or email me at [gmatican@yahoo.com](mailto:gmatican@yahoo.com).

*Ann and I would like to wish everyone a very a Happy New Year!*

Fraternally,

*RW Gary Matian*

Secretary

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### COSMOPOLITAN LODGE NO. 125 – UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>January 4, 2026</b>	Special Communication with our Worshipful Master Benjamin Stern in the East. Meeting will start at 9:00 am. Attire for the meeting is casual for the morning only. For the installation of officers will be Tux and Tie and jacket for all other brothers. Installation will start at 3:00 pm with refreshments to follow downstairs
<b>January 7, 2026</b>	Stated Communication with our Worshipful Master Joseph K Fried in the East. Paid up members dinner at 6:30 pm. RSVP to RW Michael Abrahamson at 203-395-2402 or email at <a href="mailto:mabrahamson@earthlink.net">mabrahamson@earthlink.net</a> Meeting will start at 7:30 pm Attire for the meeting is Tie and jacket for all brothers.
<b>January 21, 2026</b>	Stated Communication with our Worshipful Master Joseph K Fried in the East. Meeting will start at 7:30 pm Attire for the meeting is Tie and jacket for all brothers.
<b>January 25, 2026</b>	Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen – We are scheduled from 3:00 PM to 6:30 PM Please let RW Gary E. Cohen know if you can help. 203-530-6222 or email <a href="mailto:garyec39@gmail.com">garyec39@gmail.com</a>
<b>January 28, 2026</b>	Fellowship Dinner at 7 pm – place to be determined.  <i>For further information of our lodge activities and events please go to our website at <a href="http://www.cosmopolitan125.org">www.cosmopolitan125.org</a></i>

# 2025 COSMOPOLITAN LODGE NO. 125

## OFFICERS

## COMMITTEES

<b>Benjamin G. Stern</b>	<b>Worshipful Master</b>	<b>AUDITING (3 Brothers)</b>	
30 Darling Street Apt. D Southington, CT 06489-2656	203-907-9628 <a href="mailto:bgs888@aol.com">bgs888@aol.com</a>	RW Michael S. Abrahamson WB Jerry Gruenbaum WB Kyle J. Podpolucha	203-395-2402 203-687-3332 203-694-4546
<b>Joseph K. Fried (Glenna)</b>	<b>Senior Warden</b>	<b>CHARITY (WM, SW, JW, SEC)</b>	
189 Shagbark Court Cheshire, CT 06410-4320	203-927-0003 <a href="mailto:josephkfried@gmail.com">josephkfried@gmail.com</a>	Benjamin G. Stern Joseph K. Fried	203-907-9628 203-927-0003
<b>RW Michael S. Abrahamson (Pam)</b>	<b>Junior Warden</b>	<b>RW Michael S. Abrahamson</b>	203-395-2402
20 Anita Avenue Trumbull, CT 06611-1710	203-395-2402 <a href="mailto:mabrahamson@earthlink.net">mabrahamson@earthlink.net</a>	RW Gary Matican	203-410-9733
		<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>	
<b>RW Gary E. Cohen (Marcia)</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	WB Jonathan I. Glassman RW Gary E. Cohen RW Gary Matican WB Kyle J. Podpolucha	203-430-1973 203-530-6222 203-410-9733 203-694-4546
96 Bethmour Road Bethany, CT 06524-3336	203-393-3301 <a href="mailto:garyec39@gmail.com">garyec39@gmail.com</a>	WB David O. Stern	203-444-2077
<b>RW Gary Matican (Ann)</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
40 Meadow Brook Place Cheshire, CT 06410-4310	203-410-9733 <a href="mailto:gmatican@yahoo.com">gmatican@yahoo.com</a>	RW Michael S. Abrahamson WB David O. Stern Bro. Ronald E. Fish WB Frederick A. Marotti	203-395-2402 203-444-2077 845-988-6705 203-641-3932
<b>Asanish Kalyanasundaram</b>	<b>Senior Deacon</b>	<b>FINANCE (SW, JW, SD)</b>	
232 Dwight Street New Haven, CT 06511-5358	360-206-8544 <a href="mailto:Asanish.k@hotmail.com.uk">Asanish.k@hotmail.com.uk</a>	Joseph K. Fried RW Michael S. Abrahamson Asanish Kalyanasundaram	203-927-0003 203-395-2402 360-206-8544
<b>WB Daniel D. DeVoe II</b>	<b>Junior Deacon</b>	<b>MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOC.</b>	
169 George Street East Haven, CT 06512-4722	203-846-1614 <a href="mailto:2.d.devoe@gmail.com">2.d.devoe@gmail.com</a>	WB Jerry Gruenbaum	203-687-3332
<b>Christopher R. Bushy</b>	<b>Senior Steward</b>	<b>SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION</b>	
12 Briarcliffe Trail Old Saybrook, CT 06475-1253	860-514-2755 <a href="mailto:c.bush.1@hotmail.com">c.bush.1@hotmail.com</a>	RW Gary E. Cohen WB Charles G. Ehrentraut, Sr.	203-530-6222 203-305-4899
<b>Wesley Markman (Jayne)</b>	<b>Junior Steward</b>	<b>SICK VISITING (SW +4)</b>	
46 Rolling Ridge Road Orange, CT 06477-3040	203-209-5293 <a href="mailto:wjmarkman@gmail.com">wjmarkman@gmail.com</a>	Joseph K. Fried RW Gary E. Cohen RW Gary Matican	203-927-0003 203-530-6222 203-410-9733
<b>Martin E. Cobern (Dorie)</b>	<b>Marshal</b>	<b>SAUL S. COHEN SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>(WM, SW, RW Cohen +2)</b>
7 Carriage House Way Cheshire, CT 06410-1879	860-539-0934 <a href="mailto:mecobern@cox.net">mecobern@cox.net</a>	Benjamin G. Stern Joseph K. Fried	203-907-9628 203-927-0003
<b>Steven S. Shiner</b>	<b>Tiler</b>	RW Gary E. Cohen WB David O. Stern RW Michael S. Abrahamson	203-530-6222 203-444-2077 203-395-2402
65 Masonic Ave. Apt. 131 Wallingford, CT 06492-6109	203-687-8757 <a href="mailto:Steves281@comcast.net">Steves281@comcast.net</a>		
<b>WB Kyle J. Podpolucha (Pam)</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>TRUSTEE (term thru)</b>	
38 Robin Hill Road Meriden, CT 06450-2477	203-694-4546 <a href="mailto:Kyle.podpolucha@freemasons.net">Kyle.podpolucha@freemasons.net</a>	Richard A. Werner (Dec. 2025) WB Stuart M. Smith (Dec. 2026) Martin Cobern (Dec. 2027)	203-804-4645 203-397-0646 860-539-0934
<b>WB David O. Stern (Susan)</b>	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>RW Gary E. Cohen</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> District Almoner</b>
46 Elizabeth Street Hamden, CT 06514	203-444-2077 <a href="mailto:dsternct@gmail.com">dsternct@gmail.com</a>	96 Bethmour Road Bethany, CT 06524-3336	203-393-3301 <a href="mailto:garyec39@gmail.com">garyec39@gmail.com</a>
<b>WB Jerry Gruenbaum (Bonnie)</b>	<b>Assistant Secretary</b>		
1449 Whalley Avenue P. O. Box 3879 New Haven, CT 06515-9994	203-687-3332 <a href="mailto:jgruen3@gmail.com">jgruen3@gmail.com</a>		

## PAST MASTERS OF COSMOPOLITAN LODGE #125

*Jacob Caplan	1919, 1923	*Henry G. Smernoff	1954	Edward L. Goodstein	1987
*Joseph E. Levy	1920	*Martin B. Gant	1955	*Michael L. Castroll	1988
*Samuel I. Calechman	1921	*Simon Burres	1956	RW Martin L. Rudnick	1989, 2002
*Benjamin F. Goldman	1922	*David Cohen	1957	*Harley O. H. Pretty	1990
*Samuel J. White	1924	*Albert Gurewitz	1958	RW Gary Matican	1991, 1995, 2003
*Nathan Smernoff	1925	*Marshall R. Weiner	1959	Bruce L. Lebow	1992
*Manuel Kligerman	1926	*Herbert B. Goldberg	1960	*Richard L. Hecht	1993
*Samuel M. Silver	1927	*Leo Gilden	1961	Bruce M. Backer	1994
*Jacob N. Wolodarsky	1928	*Jordan Goldberg	1962	Gary P. Merwede	1996
*Samuel W. Ritch	1929	*Gerald W. Brownstein	1963	Gary S. Spanierman	1997
*Louis R. Hershatter	1930	*Arnold Most	1965	*RW Arnold H. Freedman	1998
*Julius White	1931	*A. Robert Sotman	1964	*Edward S. Eby	1999
*RW Irving Alpert	1932	George Weinstein	1966	Maier O. Fein	2000
*Andrew N. Friedman	1933	*Irving Kegeles	1967	Phillip E. Cohen	2001
*RW Samuel Platcow	1934	*Abraham B. Rosenberg	1968	David O. Stern	2004, 2010
*RW Alex C. Hershatter	1935	*Morris Klein	1969	RW David E. Berger	2005
*Benjamin D. Levine	1936	*William E. Weiner	1970	*William E. McGraw, Jr.	2006
*John M. Chapnick	1937	*Chester M. Katzman	1971	Stuart M. Smith	2007
*Joseph Weiner	1938	*Robert Tombank	1972	Roger Jackson	2009
*Irving Rogers	1939	*Leonard Tombank	1973	Steven J. Elzholz	2011
*Maurice Osber	1940	*Milton A. Hershatter	1974	RW Jason E. Morse	2012, 2013
*Herman Alpert	1941	Richard A. Sugarmann	1975	RW Scott Bumps	2014
*George J. Evans	1942	*Michael W. Winess	1976	Rev. & MWPGM Bruce R. Bellmore	2015
*RW Joseph Shure	1943, 1944	*Albert R. Blackman	1977	David M. Elkodsi	2016
*Goodwin D. Wolff	1945	*RW Joseph Albert	1978	Randy S. Stevens	2017
*Leon I. Horton	1946	RW Gary E. Cohen	1979	Jerry Gruenbaum	2018
*Natt K. Sheinfeld	1947	Sidney J. Levine	1980	RW Michael S. Abrahamson	2019, 2020
*A. Louis Phillips	1948	Ronald M. Dworkin	1981	Frederick A. Marotti	2021
*Fredric M. Rosenstein	1949	Kenneth L. Dworkin	1982, 2008	Daniel D. DeVoe II	2022
*Milton S. Holiner	1950	*Steven A. Ledewitz	1983	Charles G. Ehrentraut, Sr.	2023
*William Ledewitz	1951	Robert S. Brooks	1984	Earl W. Ehrentraut	2024
*A. Henry Mirel	1952	Joseph M. Cohen	1985		
*Harold P. Gessner	1953	Jeffrey A. Granoff	1986		
* = deceased					

### CURRENT GRAND LODGE

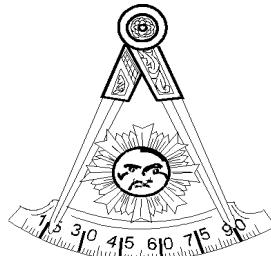
RWB Francis (Nick) Barnes  
District Deputy Masonic District 4A

WB Kyle J. Podpoluchka  
Associate Grand Marshal

RWB Gary E. Cohen  
Associate Grand Almoner for the 4<sup>th</sup> District

RWB Michael S. Abrahamson  
Associate Grand Tyler

WB Frederick A. Marotti  
Associate Grand Tyler



### Past Master's – Other Lodges

RW Michael S. Abrahamson	Daytime Lodge No. 144: 2024
MWPGM Gustaf R Bodin	St. Alban's #38: 1976 & Ashlar #332: 2011
Rev. & MWPGM Bruce R. Bellmore	Olive Branch #84: 1981 & Hiram #1: 1993
RW Leonard H. Bucher	Widow Sons #66: 1977, Hiram #1: 1995/96, St. Alban's #38: 2007
RW Roger R. Cole	Meriden #77: 1976 & Madison #87: 2006
Steven E. Canada	Temple #16: 2011/13, Day Spring #30: 2016/17
Alan M. Friedman, Jr.	Annawon #115: 2003, 13, Orange #143: 2009/10
Jonathan I. Glassman	Quinta Essentia #500: 2023/2024/2025
Bruce Liebman	Masonic Lodge of Research: 1997
Frederick A. Marotti	Hiram #1: 2020
RW Jason E. Morse	Quinta Essentia #500: 2019/2020/2021
Kevin H. Matsil	Meridian #77: 2003
Kyle J. Podpoluchka	Annawon #115: 2020
Rabbi Eric Silver	Temple #16: 2013
Randy S. Stevens	Adelphi-Momauguin #63: 2002, Madison #87: 1985, 1986, & 1992
Jon-Paul Venoit	Compass #9: 2005
Timothy C.R. Wilkins	Hiram #1: 2015