



## FEBRUARY 2026 TRESTLEBOARD

### VIEW FROM THE EAST:

My Brothers,

One of the things I've enjoyed most so far as Worshipful Master has been the energy and thoughtfulness many of you have brought to our conversations about the future of our Lodge. Our January discussion on attracting new members was a great example of that, and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what came out of it.

What struck me most was how many good ideas were on the table. We talked about meeting people where they already are, in the community, whether that's through events at the JCC, town festivals, farmers markets, or larger gatherings like the Arts & Ideas Festival in New Haven. We also talked about creating opportunities for people to step inside our doors, through things like a Mason and Non-Mason Night, open houses, and other welcoming, low-pressure ways to introduce people to who we are and what we do.

Underlying all of those ideas was a bigger conversation about our identity as a Lodge. With more than a century of history behind us, Cosmopolitan has always lived up to its name. We've been a place that welcomes men from different backgrounds, professions, faiths, and walks of life, and brings them together in real fellowship. That spirit is still very much alive, and it's something we should be proud to share with the wider community.

As we work toward growing our Lodge, I encourage each of you to think about how you can be part of that effort, whether it's by helping at an event, inviting a friend, or simply talking about Cosmo with the same warmth and pride you show inside the Lodge room.

And speaking of important work ahead, please remember that we will be conferring the Entered Apprentice Degree on February 18. Degrees are at the heart of what we do, and I hope as many of you as possible will be there to support our candidates and show them the strength of our brotherhood.

I'm excited about the direction we're heading, and I'm grateful to be walking this path with all of you.

See you in Lodge soon,

*Bro. Joe*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Sun, Feb 1 at 6:00pm:** Cosmopolitan Lodge Pre-Valentine's Dinner at Biagiotti's; \$45 pp. RSVP required with the Junior Warden by January 25.

**Wed, Feb 4:** Stated Communication with Worshipful Master Joseph K. Fried in the East. Meeting will start at 7:30pm; Attire for the meeting is tie and jacket.

**Wed, Feb 18:** Stated Communication and Entered Apprentice Degree with Worshipful Master Joseph K. Fried and Past Master David Elkodi in the East. Meeting will start at 7:30pm; Attire for the meeting is tuxedo for officers, and tie and jacket for all other brothers. Dinner at 6:30pm (\$20 pp), reservations made with JW Asanish Kalyanasundaram.

**Sun, Feb 22:** Volunteer Opportunity with the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK), where we are scheduled from 4:00-6:30pm. RSVP with RW Gary E. Cohen at (203) 530-6222 or [garyec39@gmail.com](mailto:garyec39@gmail.com)

**Wed, Feb 25 at 7:00pm:** Fellowship Dinner at a place to be determined. Restaurant and RSVP information to be emailed at a later date.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Worshipful Master**

Joseph K. Fried  
(203) 927 – 0003  
[josephkfried@gmail.com](mailto:josephkfried@gmail.com)

### **Senior Warden**

RW Michael Abrahamson  
(203) 395 – 2402  
[mabrahamson@earthlink.net](mailto:mabrahamson@earthlink.net)

### **Junior Warden**

Asanish (Ash) Kalyanasundaram  
(360) 206 – 8544  
[asanish.k@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:asanish.k@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Secretary**

RW Gary Matican  
(203) 410 – 9733  
[gmatican@yahoo.com](mailto:gmatican@yahoo.com)

### **Lodge Email**

[cosmo125sec@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmo125sec@yahoo.com)

### **Lodge Address**

285 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511

### **Mailing Address**

Gary Matican, Sec.  
40 Meadow Brook Place  
Cheshire, CT 06410-4310

## LODGE BROTHERS BIRTHDAYS

Alan Rhodes – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Manuel Weinberg – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Charles Ehrentraut, Sr. – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Kenneth Friedman – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Harold Miller – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Phillip Cohen - 10<sup>th</sup>  
Simeon Gillman – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Thomas Skibicki, Jr. – 14<sup>th</sup>  
Bruce Backer – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Alan Friedman, Jr. – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Maier Fein – 16<sup>th</sup>

Ronald Fish – 16<sup>th</sup>  
Howard Hecht – 17<sup>th</sup>  
Jerold Shanok – 17<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Hershman – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kyle Podpolucha – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Craig Stevens – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Jay Patel -25<sup>th</sup>  
Ari Levine – 25<sup>th</sup>  
Dean Volain – 28<sup>th</sup>  
Norman Brody – 29<sup>th</sup>

## **VIEW FROM THE WEST:**

My Brothers,

I want to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving Cosmopolitan Lodge as your Senior Warden. I have no doubt that we will have an exciting and productive year under the leadership of our Master, Worshipful Brother Joe Fried. I would like everyone who came to the installation and in particular I would like to thank the installing team of RWB Gary Cohen, RWB Gary Matican and RWB David Berger who did an outstanding job as Installing Master, Marshal and Chaplain respectively. Thank you all for making our installation such a wonderful occasion.

As I am now the new chairman of the Sick and Visiting Committee, I will request that you contact me about any health matters relating to yourself or any other Cosmopolitan Lodge Brother. We Brothers can only show our concerns for your well-being and quick recovery from illness, if we know of Brothers that are facing life's challenges. We are all here to help each other.

We will continue our support of the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen this year. This month our service will be on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those in our community who most need it. Please sign up with RWB Gary E. Cohen.

I am very much looking forward to our new year in Lodge. Our Master has many exciting programs and events planned. So come in from the cold and enjoy the warmth of fellowship with your brothers at Cosmopolitan Lodge! The place where it is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell together in unity.

In Masonry,

*Michael Abrahamson*

RW Michael Abrahamson

Senior Warden

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## **VIEW FROM THE SOUTH:**

My Brothers,

I hope you and your families have had a happy and productive start to the new year. Please let me begin by thanking you all again for your faith in electing me to be the Junior Warden for 2026! It is truly a privilege to be working alongside such motivated and passionate members of lodge leadership. I hope I can live up to their standards and to earn your ongoing endorsement with some fun and interesting menu options for our events and stated communications. Our new Worshipful Master, Joe, has already been running a very tight ship, and I have full confidence that he will take our lodge to new heights this year.

As many of you will know, I grew up across the pond and have ancestral roots in India. Over the course of the year, I hope to share some observations I've had from being immersed in those

cultures. I'll start with National Yorkshire Pudding Day, celebrated on the first Sunday of February in the UK. Yorkshire Puddings might be very simple and plain, but for many families, they're a familiar and quietly comforting part of a weekly shared meal. To me, this "celebration" has been a reminder that some of the things we value most aren't elaborate or attention-grabbing, but small, dependable, and easy to take for granted. As we move through the winter months, it's worth pausing to appreciate the small, steady sources of happiness and fellowship that do more for us than we sometimes realize.

Speaking of the first Sunday in February, our first event this coming month will be a Pre-Valentine's dinner at Biagetti's, a wonderful Italian restaurant in West Haven, on **Sunday Feb 1st at 6pm**. Reservations will be \$45/person (including tax and tip). If you haven't already done so, please RSVP to me on 360-206-8544 or asanish.k@hotmail.co.uk with your name, number of guests, and how many orders of prime rib you would like (other dishes can be chosen on the day). The full menu can be found here: <https://biagettis.com/?p=955>.

Fraternally yours,

*Asanish (Ash) Kalyanasundaram*

Junior Warden

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### **VIEW FROM THE SECRETARY'S CHAIR:**

My Brothers,

I would like to congratulate the officers of the lodge on being elected or appointed in their respective stations and places. We should all look forward to a wonderful year as well being there for the Worshipful Master Joseph K. Fried.

Last month we had our annual Paid Up Members Dinner. The turnout was very good. The brothers as a whole have been sending in their dues money and that makes my job a little easier. I thank all of you for that.

Now that winter has set in and the temperatures are much colder, please be safe out there as you travel or are just staying home. Just remember that the lodge room temperature is always warm and welcoming. See you soon my brothers.

Fraternally,

*Gary Matican*

RW Gary Matican

## LODGE OFFICERS



*Worshipful Master*  
Joseph K. Fried (Glenna)



*Senior Warden*  
RW Michael Abrahamson (Pam)



*Junior Warden*  
Asanish Kalyanasundaram



*Treasurer*  
RW Gary Cohen (Marcia)



*Secretary*  
RW Gary Matican (Ann)



*Chaplain*  
RW David Berger (Andrea)



*Senior Deacon*  
WB Benjamin Stern



*Junior Deacon*  
Manuel Camacho



*Senior Steward*  
Judah LaRose



*Junior Steward*  
WB Earl Ehrentraut (Ruth)



*Historian*  
WB Jonathan Glassman (Jessica)



*Marshal*  
Martin Coborn (Dorie)



*Tiler*  
Steven Shiner



*Assistant Treasurer*  
WB David O. Stern (Susan)



*Assistant Secretary*  
WB Jerry Gruenbaum (Bonnie)

## COMMITTEES

### *Auditing*

Michael Abrahamson  
Jerry Gruenbaum  
Earl Ehrentraut

### *Charity*

Joseph K. Fried  
Michael Abrahamson  
Asanish Kalyanasundaram  
Gary Matican

### *Community Service*

Jonathan Glassman  
Gary Cohen  
Gary Matican  
Earl Ehrentraut  
David O. Stern

### *Digitization*

Michael Abrahamson  
David O. Stern  
Ronald Fish  
Jonathan Glassman

### *Finance*

Michael Abrahamson  
Asanish Kalyanasundaram  
Benjamin Stern

### *MTA*

Jerry Gruenbaum

### *School of Instruction*

Gary Cohen  
Charles Ehrentraut

### *Sick Visiting*

Michael Abrahamson  
Gary Cohen  
Gary Matican  
Earl Ehrentraut

### *Saul S. Cohen Memorial Scholarship*

Joseph K. Fried  
Michael Abrahamson  
Gary Cohen  
David O. Stern  
Benjamin Stern

## PAST MASTERS OF COSMOPOLITAN LODGE NO. 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	*A. Robert Sotman	1964	*RW Arnold H. Freedman	1998
*Julius White	1931	*Arnold Most	1965	*Edward S. Eby	1999
*RW Irving Alpert	1932	George Weinstein	1966	Maier O. Fein	2000
*Andrew N. Friedman	1933	*Irving Kegel	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	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	Benjamin G. Stern	2025
*Harold P. Gessner	1953	Jeffrey A. Granoff	1986		

\* Brothers who have entered the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## CURRENT GRAND LODGE

RW Francis (Nick) Barnes  
District Deputy, District 4A

RW Michael S. Abrahamson  
District Deputy, District 4B  
Associate Grand Tyler

RW Gary E. Cohen  
Associate Grand Almoner, 4<sup>th</sup> District

WB Frederick A. Marotti  
Associate Grand Tyler

WB Kyle J. Podpolucha  
Associate Grand Marshal

## PAST MASTERS OF OTHER LODGES

RW Michael Abrahamson	Daytime #44 (2024)
MWPGM Gustaf Bodin	St. Alban's #38 (1976), Ashlar #332 (2011)
MWPGM Bruce Bellmore	Olive Branch #84 (1981), Hiram #1 (1993)
RW Leonard Bucher	Widow Sons (1977), Hiram #1 (1995-1996), St. Alban's #38 (2007)
RW Roger Cole	Meridian #77 (1976), Madison #87 (2006)
Steven Canada	Temple #16 (2011, 2013), Day Spring #30 (2016-2017)
Alan Friedman, Jr.	Annawon #115 (2003, 2013), Orang #143 (2009-2010)
Jonathan Glassman	Quinta Essentia #500 (2023-2025)
Bruce Liebman	Masonic Lodge of Research #401 (1997)
Frederick Marotti	Hiram #1 (2020)
RW Jason Morse	Quinta Essentia #500 (2019-2021)
Kevin Matsil	Meridian #77 (2003)
Kyle Podpolucha	Annawon #115 (2020)
Eric Silver	Temple #16 (2013)
Randy Stevens	Adelphi-Momauguin #63 (2002), Madison #87 (1985-1986, 1992)
Jon-Paul Venoit	Compass #9 (2005)
Timothy Wilkins	Hiram #1 (2015)

