

December 27, 2009

Brethren:

You are requested, and sojourning Brothers are cordially invited to attend the following communications of Athelstane Lodge, No. 839, F. & A. M., to be held at the locations specified:

STATED COMMUNICATION

Tuesday, January 5, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

Officers Dress: Business Attire
Place: Naurashank Temple, Pearl River, NY
Business: General Business Meeting
Time: 7:30 p.m.; Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

STATED COMMUNICATION

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

Officers Dress: Business Attire
Place: Naurashank Temple, Pearl River, NY
Business: Burns Night Dinner - OPEN MEETING
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

January 19th	Burns Night Dinner Naurashank Temple, Pearl River, NY	6:30 p.m.
January 22nd	Florida Luncheon Benvenuto Caterers - Boynton Beach, FL	12:00 p.m.
February 16th	Fellowcraft Degree Naurashank Temple, Pearl River, NY	7:30 p.m.
April 20th	Master Mason Degree Naurashank Temple, Pearl River, NY	7:30 p.m.

On The Cover

Jachin & Boaz

Reprinted from *Jachin & Boaz; or an authentic key to the door of Free-masonry, both ancient and modern.*
London: Printed for George Nicol, St. Paul's Church [Yard], 1804. frontispiece. 74pp.

The Master's Station

I hope you all had a wonderful, healthy and happy holiday season. Happy New Year to all!

We ended the calendar year with two good meetings. On December 1, 2009 Athelstane Lodge was visited by the District Deputy Grand Master of the Orange-Rockland District, R.:W.: Robert E. Morlang, Jr. and his staff. The District Deputy and his staff did a wonderful job communicating the message of the Grand Master, M.:W.: Edward G. Gilbert. Once again, thanks to our crack "staff" of R.:W. Marvin Gess, treasurer, and R.:W.: Ronald J. Steiner, secretary, the Lodge's books and records were found to be in order.

On December 15, 2009 Athelstane Lodge held its annual Holiday Dinner at da Nina Italian Restaurant in Suffern, NY. Once again the food was outstanding, as was the company. It was an enjoyable evening and a good time was had by all. I thank all who attended.

As the new year begins we look forward to several events. Our traditional Burns Night Dinner honoring brother mason and poet Robert Burns will be held on Tuesday, January 19th. This is an *open meeting* and you are all invited to bring your family and friends. This is a good opportunity to bring prospective candidates to the Lodge!

On Tuesday, February 16th we will be holding the Entered Apprentice Degree. If scheduling works out we will be passing five brothers to the degree that night. Our Senior Warden Ron Pomerance will be sitting in the East for the degree.

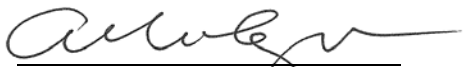
Sickness and Distress

Life Member **Brother MAX MITTLEMAN**, a Master Mason for 56 years, laid down his working tools on December 4, 2009. Brother Max was raised in Tappan Zee Lodge No. 1125 on March 24, 1953. The obituary was printed in the *Rockland Journal News* on Monday, December 7th. The funeral was Sunday, December 6, 2009. We did not receive a request for a Masonic Service.

Entered Apprentice **Brother MICHAEL J. JOY** laid down his working tools on December 9, 2009. Michael petitioned our Lodge to become a Mason in January of this year and was Initiated Entered Apprentice on November 17, 2009. A Masonic Service was performed on Sunday, December 13, 2009.

Glad Tidings

Congratulations to Walleska and Alex Soler, daughter and son-in-law of R.:W.: Louis M. Irizarry II and his wife Wanda, on the birth of their son, Alexiander Emmanuel Soler-Irizarry. "Manny" was delivered via C-section and tipped the scales at 11 lbs. 9 oz. Congratulation also to the happy grandparents, R.:W.: Lou and Wanda as well as W.: Uncle Lou III.



Alexander Mulgrew, Master



Work on the Trestleboard

Petitions Awaiting Reading in Lodge

Mr. Anthony John Barbato proposed by R. W. Mel Birnbaum
Mr. Martin B. Lieberman no proposer listed at this time

Awaiting Report of Investigation Committee

Major Frank Letizua	proposed by Bro William Shroeder	04/02/08
Mr. Michael B. Seidenfrau	proposed by Bro. Howard Whitman	07/10/08
Mr. Robert E. Lysiak, Jr.	proposed by Bro. Howard Whitman	09/15/08
Mr. Seth Patrick Lee	proposed by Bro. Duncan R. Lee II	10/20/09
Mr. Michael Albert Olno	proposed by Bro. Richard Butts	06/23/09
Mr. Seth Jay Geffen	proposed by W.: David Richards	09/11/09

Awaiting First Degree

Mr. Andrew Jersey Elected 04/15/08

Awaiting Second Degree

Bro. Joseph Chapley	Initiated 11/28/06
Bro. Roy Richard Powell	Initiated 02/05/08
Bro. James T. Shanahan	Initiated 01/20/09
Bro. Daniel E. Mateyka	Initiated 11/17/09
Bro. Eric M. Mateyka	Initiated 11/17/09
Bro. Dennis T.P. O'Connor, Jr.	Initiated 11/17/09

MASONIC EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Grand Lodge's Education Assistance Program gives away **\$500,000.00** annually to deserving college students. Children, grandchildren, and widows of Master Masons or deceased Master Masons who are or were in good standing in a lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, F.&A.M. of the State of New York are eligible.

Applications must be submitted by **April 1, 2010**. Forms can be obtained on line at <http://www.nymasons.org/index.php?c=commScholarships>, or <http://esmason.com/forms.html>. If you have any questions please call W.: Alec Mulgrew at (845) 639-4664 or R.: Bruce Klein at (845) 642-5559.

FROM THE ANCIENT ARCHIVES OF ATHELSTANE LODGE ...

Preserved, but hidden for years in the secure vaults of our Secretary Emeritus, Right Worshipful Marty Lindenberg, and now brought to light again with the intent to share with interested Brothers and Masonic history buffs ...

Athelstane Lodge has received as a gift a trove of documents dating back to the 1920's including several old Athelstane Lodge "Little Book" Rosters of lodge membership when the Lodge met on the first and third Fridays in the Masonic Temple at 2 South Main Street, Spring Valley, NY. These books, and they really are "little," recorded Charter Members, then current membership, Past Masters and deceased Brothers of the Lodge

In addition there is an old cipher book printed in 1923 by Allen Publishing Company in NY titled, "King Solomon and his followers ... NY ...a valuable aid to the memory ... strictly in accordance with the revised work 1923." There is a second cipher book with the same face page but dated 1944.

There are also several legal documents pertaining to the sale and subsequent leasing of the Lodge building on Main Street in Spring Valley.

It is hoped that we will be able to show these in our display cases at our current Lodge rooms in the Pearl River Masonic Temple in the near future. In the meantime, Brothers interested in a look at these fascinating artifacts, contact our Secretary, Ron Steiner (845) 354-4192 or NYSMASON@aol.com.

HOSPICE TREE OF LIFE

Athelstane Lodge had another successful manning of the Tree of Life fundraiser for United Hospice of Rockland on December 14, 2009 at the Palisades Mall. Preliminary total contributions totaled \$3,200.07.

Thirteen Brothers and their ladies volunteered at this event for our 5th year in a row as we staffed the UHR booth from 1:30 PM until 10 PM for a collective total of 45 man hours. This was our best Tree of Life fund raising effort yet.

Thanks go out to Richie Schwartz, Ron Steiner, Joan Steiner, Mal Blottner, Dottie Blottner, Ron Pomerance, Duncan Lee, Seth Lee, Doug Ward, Bruce Klein, Al Oster, Bea Oster and Alec Mulgrew. Congratulations everyone on a job well done!

ATHELSTANE LODGE No. 839
4TH ANNUAL FLORIDA LUNCHEON

To all Florida resident Brothers, " snowbirds" and visitors,

You are cordially and fraternally invited to attend the Fourth Annual Athelstane Lodge Florida Luncheon on January 22, 2010 at Benvenuto Caterers in Boynton Beach from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

This year, in addition to a great meal and an opportunity to meet and greet your Brothers, we will have two guest speakers. Their topics will be "Acupuncture, Myth or Reality" and "What Can Medical Massage Therapy Do For You?"

The Lodge is once again helping to fund this luncheon. The cost for an Athelstane Lodge Brother or widow of a Brother is free. The cost for anyone accompanying a Brother is \$35.00 each.

Please respond by December 30, 2009.

Call RW Harold Dresdale: (561) 278 - 9507

From ye old Scribe (Secretary) ...

Sincere thanks to the more than 50% of our Athelstane Lodge Brothers who have already mailed their 2010 Athelstane Lodge Dues (Dues for 2010 were due December 31, 2009).

And SPECIAL THANKS to all of you who included checks for charitable donations to your Lodge and to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund.

Brethren, your new 2010 Dues cards will be in the mail in early January for those who have paid, and for those who have not paid as yet, please save us the time and expense of additional mailings. Your 2010 Dues are now past due.

Please note: *There are two spelling errors on the new 2010 Grand Lodge dues cards we received from Grand Lodge, but they do not affect the validity of these cards attesting to your membership in our beloved fraternity. We were advised that it would be cost prohibitive to reprint these dues cards, so please forgive (and forget) these errors.*

Thanks too, to those of you who returned the blue CONTACT INFORMATION forms. Those who have not returned them with their dues payment are being sent another copy. Please complete and return so we can update our Lodge records.

(Continued next page)

Mailing etiquette ... Please note that no Masonic titles are to be used in the mailing address on envelopes we send through the US Postal Service. Please do not send mail addressed to W:. or Worshipful or R:. W:. or Right Worshipful ... as the case may be. Simply address us : "Mr." Masonic titles belong in a Masonic Lodge room or in a sealed Masonic communications.

And also about mailing: Do NOT use the address of the Pearl River Masonic Temple as a mailing address. The USPS does not deliver to the South Middletown Road address and mail sent there is returned to the sender by the Pearl River Post Office. Please send mail for Athelstane Lodge to our Secretary: RONALD J. STEINER, 18 Buena Vista Road, Wesley Hills, Suffern, NY 10901-1730. E-mail: NYSMason@aol.com or Athelstane8339@aol.com. or phone: (845) 354 - 4192.

It is always nice at this time of the year to receive notes from our Athelstane Lodge Brothers and we try to acknowledge all of them and share your glad and sad tidings through the pages of The Athelstanean ... our monthly Trestleboard. If we miss some notes, please send us a reminder and we will do our best to include in our next column.

We were happy to receive a lengthy newspaper column from the *Buckhead Reporter* (Atlanta, GA) describing and picturing our Athelstane Lodge Brother Sy Liebmann as the recipient of the Common Cause Georgia Outstanding Citizen Award for 2009. Common Cause Georgia, which has more than 3,000 members in that state, is a non-profit, non-partisan lobbying organization with the purpose of making public officials and public institutions accountable and responsive to citizens and, as described in the article, "believes that by banding together, people can make a difference ... and works to strengthen public participation to insure that the political process serves the public interest rather than special interests." Congratulations Brother Sy.

Our good Brother Guy Malbranche writes, "I extend to every member of the Lodge a Merry Christmas with best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year." And to you too Brother Guy ... and for all of our Brothers and those they cherish.

We were particularly pleased to read the Fall/Winter issue of the Newsletter of United Hospice of Rockland with this front page headline: "MANSIONS MAKE ROAD EASIER FOR HOSPICE." The article thanks Athelstane Lodge and the Masonic Guild of Suffern/Ramapo Lodge(s) and recognizes our Lodge as vital, active and charitable parts of the Rockland community. It goes on to state that, "... Athelstane Lodge, based in Pearl River, has 'adopted' United Hospice of Rockland, and ...Lodge members have volunteered at UHR, provided monetary grants to fund our work, participated in some of our programs including our annual Spring Run and Walk Festival and, most recently, have co-hosted several blood drives with UHR."

Add the Tree of Life and funding for the Children's Library and you can see the scope of our philanthropy.

It was also nice to see the 2009 Masonic Child ID we ran pictured in the recent issue of the JAWONIO newsletter. Way to go my Brothers.

ATTENTION BROTHERS LIVING IN FLORIDA AND SNOW-BIRDS....Remember of Athelstane Lodge Annual Luncheon, Friday, January 22nd. Call RW Harold Dresdale: (561) 278 - 9507

Hope to see you at the next Lodge meeting. If not ... we'll be thinking of you. Keep in touch.

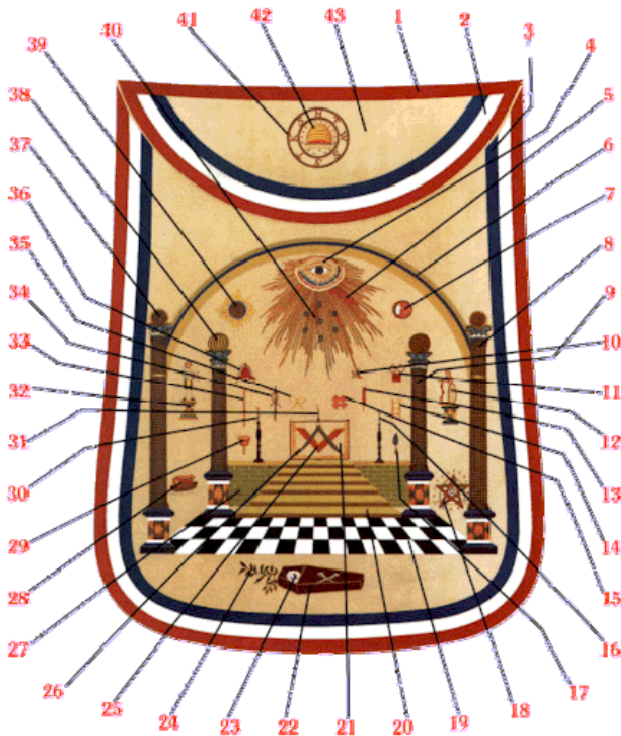
Fraternally,

Ron Steiner
Secretary

**The Newest Member of the Athelstane Family:
Alexiander Emmanuel Soler-Irizarry**



The Lafayette Apron



1. RED symbolizes courage, zeal, the blood of life, and fire. It is the color of Royal Arch Masonry.

2. WHITE has throughout the ages represented purity and innocence.

3. BLUE has been esteemed since antiquity as a beneficent color, denoting immortality, eternity, chastity and fidelity. It is the color of Symbolic Masonry, "the Blue Lodge."

4. ALL-SEEING EYE, a symbol of watchfulness and of the Supreme Being.

5. RAYS or Glory, symbolic of the power of the Supreme Being to penetrate the innermost reaches of the human heart.

6. RAINBOW is sometimes associated with the Royal Arch. It is also part of the architectural arch, being the 9th arch under Solomon's Temple. It is supported by two Pillars (see [No.8](#)). Another interpretation calls it the Arch of Heaven supported by pillars (Job 26:11). The pillars which support the arch are emblematical of Wisdom and Strength.

7. MOON, one of the Lesser Lights in Freemasonry. The Moon governs and rules the night.

8. PILLARS OF ENOCH. Enoch, fearing that the principles of the arts and sciences might be lost, erected two pillars. the one of marble to withstand fire, the other of brass to resist water. On each he engraved that which he feared would be lost. The Globes are symbols of Unity and Peace and Plenty. (See also [No.37](#))

9. PILLARS B. and J. were within the porch of King Solomon's Temple. Boaz the name of the left pillar means "in strength"; the right pillar, Jachin, means "God will establish" (see also [No.38](#)). The globe on the left pillar represents earth; that on the right, heaven. These brazen pillars with their globes are today the columns of the Senior and Junior Wardens.

10. DOVE in early Masonry is a symbol of Noah's messenger. In ancient symbolism, the dove represented purity and innocence.

11. FORTY-SEVENTH PROBLEM OF EUCLID'S first book of geometry. It is said that when Pythagoras solved the problem he exclaimed, "Eureka!," which signifies "I have found it." It is, however, not a problem, but a theorem. It has been adopted as the symbol on the Past Master Mason's Jewel in Pennsylvania (The Ahiman Rezon, Art. XVI, Sec. 3 & 4).

12. HOPE is sometimes shown as a female with an anchor, also as an anchor near the ark. **ANCHOR**, an emblem of a well-grounded hope and a well-spent life. With hope, an Anchor holds the soul both sure and steadfast.

13. PLUMB, the proper Masonic Jewel of the Junior Warden, admonishes us to walk uprightly before God and man. It is one of the working tools of operative Masons, used to try perpendiculars.

14. JACOB'S LADDER without a clouded canopy or star-decked heaven, which he saw in a vision ascending from earth to heaven. The three principal rounds are denominated **FAITH, HOPE, and CHARITY.**

15. SQUARE WITHIN BOUNDS is a symbol formed by four stonemason's squares of equal arms superimposed one on the other to form a central square. This symbol has not been found in American or English books of Masonic symbolism and therefore may well be of French origin. There has been no interpretation found for it to date.

16. LIGHTS or BURNING TAPERS, like the three principal Lodge officers, refer undoubtedly to the three stations of the sun: its rising in the East (Worshipful Master), its meridian in the South (Junior Warden), and its setting in the West (Senior Warden). (See also [Nos. 30 & 31](#))

17. TROWEL, a working tool of the operative mason, is used symbolically for spreading the cement of Brotherly love and affection.

18. FIVE-POINTED STAR represents the five points of fellowship. Within the star is the letter "G," a well-known symbol of Freemasonry representing both God and geometry.

19. MOSAIC PAVEMENT, a representation of the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple. The Masonic Pavement is emblematical of human life, checked with good and evil.

20. STEPS are usually three in number. The six steps are said to represent degrees Washington received.

21. HOLY BIBLE, the great light of Freemasonry.

22. COFFIN has always symbolized death. It is found on tracing boards of the 18th century and, in that time, constituted a part of the esoteric symbolism.

23. SKULL AND CROSS-BONES are symbols of mortality and death and are so used in French degrees.

24. SPRIG OF ACACIA. The acacia tree is supposedly the shittah wood of the Old Testament. The name is sometimes spelled Cassia. It has long been used as a symbol of immortality.

25. SQUARE is the proper Masonic Jewel of the Master of the Lodge. It is one of the Great Lights in Freemasonry. It is the stonemason's square of two equal arms.

26. COMPASSES, the proper Masonic emblem of the Craft, and one of the Great Lights in Freemasonry.

27. BRICK WALL appears to represent the place in the Lodge occupied by the Altar. The Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses rest upon it, as do the three Lesser Lights. It composes nine rows of bricks, one upon the other. To give the symbolic meaning of the wall would be mere speculation.

28. ARK is emblematical of that Divine Ark which safely carries us over this tempest-tossed life. It is often shown with the Anchor.

29. SETTING MAUL, in operative Masonry, is used for setting stones, that is, tapping them to a firm seat in the mortar or urging them sidewise into place. It is considered by some to be a symbol of untimely death.

30. (See [No.16](#))

31. (See [No.16](#))

32. TREASURER of the Lodge wearing the Apron of his office and holding the emblem of his office, Crossed Keys.

33. TWENTY-FOUR INCH GAUGE symbolizes the twenty-four hours of day divided into three equal parts devoted to God, usual vocations, and rest.

34. SWORD POINTING TO A NAKED HEART demonstrates that justice will sooner or later overtake us; and that although our thoughts, words and actions may be hidden from the eyes of man, they are not hidden from the All-Seeing Eye.

35. TASSEL consists of a cord with tassels on the ends. It alludes to the Care of Providence which surrounds and keeps us within its protection while we govern our lives by the four cardinal virtues: temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice. The tassel may also represent the Mystic Tie, that sacred bond which unites men of diverse opinions into one band of Brothers.

36. LEVEL, the proper Masonic Jewel of the Senior Warden, symbolizes equality and reminds us that we are traveling upon the level of time, It is one of the working tools of an operative mason.

37. (See [No.8](#))

38. (See [No.9](#))

39. SUN, one of the Lesser light as a source of light it reminds the Mason of that intellectual light of which he is in constant search.

40. SEVEN SIX-POINTED STARS. The number SEVEN represents the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy. The **SIX-POINTED STAR** symbolizes Divine Providence, the star of David or Shield of David. It comprises two interlaced triangles, which have a number of Masonic interpretations.

41. LETTERS used symbolically in the Mark Master Mason's degree, Chapter of Royal Arch Mason.

42. BEEHIVE is the emblem of industry. It teaches us that as we came into this world rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones.

43. APRON. The Masonic Apron, which derives from the working apron of the stonemason, is in itself a symbol. It is an emblem of innocence, and the badge of a Freemason.

Interpretations of symbols by the late Bro. Frank W. Bobb, librarian and curator of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania.

Officers 2009-2010

W.: Alexander Mulgrew (Jennifer) (845) 639-4664 Alec.mulgrew@verizon.net	Master
Br. Ronald Pomerance (Marion) (845) 357-8388 thepommo29@aol.com	Sr. Warden
Br. Howard Whitman (Joan) (914) 772-4491 hmwhit@gmail.com	Jr. Warden
R.: W.: Marvin Gess (Diane) (845) 357-5366 mg@rossandgess.com	Treasurer
R.: W.: Ronald J. Steiner (Joan) (845) 354-4192 nysmason@aol.com	Secretary
W.: Thomas Sassone (Ada) (845) 639-4664 tomsassone@optonline.net	Chaplain
W.: Louis Irizarry III (Rebecca) (845) 359-9550 blaqsheep96@aol.com	Chaplain
Br. John Gebbia III (Huang Mei) (914) 414-9440 OR_district.mason@yahoo.com	Sr. Deacon
Br. Richard Butts (Eraina) (845) 356-1238 buttie735@msn.com	Jr. Deacon
Br. Douglas Ward (Tracy) (845) 304-9003 douglas.ward@ms.com	Sr. Master of Ceremonies
Br. Shannon Heathcock (Carla) (845) 406-2721 shannon@storageeffects.com	Jr. Master of Ceremonies
W.: Nathan Metlitz (Carolyn) (845) 672-6821 acm783@aol.com	Marshal
Br. David Schwan (845) 639-7722 dschwan@redaschwanlaw.com	Marshal
Br. Richard Schwartz (Susan) (845) 354-2161 zjd10901@yahoo.com	Sr. Steward
Br. Antonio Reda (Vicky) (845) 639-7722 areda@redaschwanlaw.com	Steward
V.: W.: Scott Allan Klein (845) 359-6787	Tiler

Trustees

R.: W.: Martin Lindenberg R.: W.: Joel Rosenwasser Br. Richard Schwartz D.S.A.

Past Masters

Thomas Sassone	2008-09	R.: W.: Marvin R. Gess	1979	Jay Helfgott	affl.
David Richards	2007-08	R.: W.: Giles M. Purvis	1977	George Liberis	affl.
Louis M. Irizarry III	2006-07	Norman J. Greenberg *	1976	Nate Metlitz	affl.
R.: W.: Bruce Klein	2005-06	R.: W.: Harold J. Dresdale	1976	M.: W.: Carl J. Fitje	Hon.
R.: W.: Louis M. Irizarry II	2003-05	R.: W.: Martin Lindenberg	1975	R.: W.: Charles Antzelevitch	Hon.
Harry F. Anderson	2002-03	Sander A. Lefkowitz *	1974	R.: W.: Hon. Benjamin Gilman	Hon.
Harry E. Kramer	2001-02	Erwin L. Robbins	1973-74	R.: W.: Albert E. Mealey	Hon.
R.: W.: Peter J. D. Dedel	1999-01	Leonard J. Plotch *	1972	R.: W.: Norman E. Moon	Hon.
Harry E. Kramer *	1999-00	Henry Morris	1972, 1985		
Thomas P. Walden *	1997-98	R.: W.: Eugene W. Erickson	1971	* Tappan Zee Lodge No. 1125	
R.: W.: C.F. William Maurer III	1997-99	Charles K. Dunlop *	1969		
R.: W.: Glen L. Weinberg *	1994-97	Allen P. Oster	1969		
R.: W.: Joel Rosenwasser	1993-95	Henry Chait *	1967		
R.: W.: Mel Birnbaum	1992, 1995-97	Murray Kaplowitz *	1965		
Anthony Urbinato	1987-88, 1990	Robert Maidman *	1958		
George Bielski	1986, 1989, 1992	M.: W.: Neil I. Bidnick	affl.		
V.: W.: Scott A. Klein *	1984, 1992-94	R.: W.: Robert Blanke	affl.		
	1998-99	R.: W.: Daniel E. Jonas	affl.		
Richard H. Fassberg	1984, 1991	R.: W.: Ronald J. Steiner	affl.		
Gerald P. Rickard	1983	Alvin M. Russell	affl.		
Harold N. Eder *	1981	Stuart Sindell	affl.		
Barry Ronner	1980-82	Arthur S. Vener	affl.		
Eugene Foladare, DSA *	1979	Harry Sky	affl.		