

THE MASONICARE ANNUAL APPEAL NEWS

BY THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

Spring 2005



Returning the Favor

Ashlar Village Resident Shows His Gratitude



Morris Gamm

From the town's first paperboy to its first Attorney Justice of the Peace, Morris Gamm was a regular fixture in the small farming community of Hamden, Connecticut. Even as a boy, Morris was a hard worker, helping his mother around the family general store and delivering newspapers while attending school. After graduating from high school at the young age of sixteen, Morris attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied English. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1933 and began practicing law in Hamden in 1934. He subsequently became the Special Town Attorney and Town Counsel. Among his numerous civic accomplishments, Morris

donated his time to work with handicapped children and other disadvantaged individuals, and was one of the original founders of the Hamden Jewish Community Center.

A 32nd degree Mason and member of Day Spring Lodge No. 30, Morris and his wife, Lillian, moved to Ashlar Village in 1987, making the couple two of the original "pioneers." Morris became an active member of his Ashlar

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Village community, participating in resident plays, growing vegetables to share with the residents and staff, and, in 1991, serving as President of the Ashlar Village Association.

Morris is among The Foundation's most generous Annual Appeal donors, represented by his membership in its Builder's Society. Additionally, Morris has named The Foundation as a beneficiary of his estate and made a generous outright gift in 1996 in

memory of his wife, Lillian, earning him a position in The Foundation's prestigious Baldwin Society. "I feel I owe Masonicare," he explains. "Where else could you find everything you need? It's amazing. We have everything here except major surgery, and if you need that, they'll arrange it for you. The night security and administration are so helpful. All you have to do is ask." Following a stroke, Morris entered rehabilitation at Masonic Healthcare

Center. He recalls that the cards, the phone calls, and the outpouring of well-wishers were overwhelming. "I was so used to helping everybody...now I needed some help. There was no place I could have gotten the loving care and affection from nurses, aides, occupational therapists, The Foundation...they were all so good to me." Today, Morris continues to live in his beloved cottage. "Living in Ashlar Village is heavenly," he concludes, "and I'm going to stay here until they carry me out." ☆

Friends of the Foundation



Joe and Jane Misencik

As retired Connecticut teachers, Jane and Joe Misencik educated our youth for twenty-four years, and these days they are teaching the rest of us the true meaning of philanthropy. From gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut to Friday afternoon bingo, their donations of time, money, and possessions over the years have been truly inspiring.

Joe and Jane are an active and exciting pair. They are avid college basketball fans and have traveled extensively. Each of them holds a Bachelor's of Science, a Master's in Education and a sixth-year professional degree. The couple worked as elementary school educators for twenty-four years, until they retired together at the young ages of fifty-one and fifty-two. Their colleagues were surprised to see them go so soon,

but Jane felt it was time to stay home and care for her mother.

They spent the next several years caring for Jane's mother, until, at the age of 101, she became a resident at Ashlar of Newtown. Joe and Jane would visit every day, taking her out to a highly anticipated lunch every Thursday. "She would get her hair done every Thursday morning before lunch," Jane fondly remembers. When she passed away in 1994, two days shy of her 104th birthday, the Misenciks hit the road, traveling across the country and abroad. In fact, they have been to every state in the United States, not to mention visits to Europe and Canada.

The Misenciks have a long Masonic history, and have been donating to the Annual Appeal for many years. Joe is a forty-year member of Washington Lodge No. 19 in Monroe, Connecticut and Jane is a fifty-year member of Azalea Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star. During her time as Worthy Matron of Azalea, Jane would visit members in nursing homes across the state. She recalls that Masonic Healthcare Center and Ashlar of Newtown always stood out among them. "When my own

mother needed care, I knew this (Ashlar of Newtown) was the place. They gave her wonderful care," raves Jane, "and we now give faithfully to the Quality of Life Fund through the Annual Appeal as a direct result of her excellent experience at Ashlar of Newtown."

Their generosity certainly doesn't stop there. The Misenciks volunteer their time every Friday afternoon at Ashlar of Newtown, leading resident bingo. Joe does the calling while Jane assists the residents in filling out their bingo cards and choosing their prizes. In the summertime, they volunteer at the Ashlar of Newtown summer concerts, out-trips and picnics. On

**"When my own mother needed care,
I knew this was the place..."**

Grand Master's Day the pair works in the craft tent and assists residents on the Masonic Healthcare Center campus. They have also donated items for the auction block at The Autumn Leaves Dinner Dance, attending the event to show their support. "You get far more out of it yourself than you ever give," they say of their volunteer efforts. "We enjoy it! We really miss it when we can't be here." We are quite sure that they are missed as well. ☆



Jolly Mariners Square Club

As their name might suggest, the Jolly Mariners know how to have a good time. The group, founded in 1957 by Ashlar Village resident Emil Usinger Sr. and a few of his Masonic friends, consists of twenty-five active members from Ansantawae Lodge No. 89 in Milford. The lively gang meets on the third Wednesday of every month at a different member's home, where they appoint a steward for the evening to insure libations are made available to all attendees. According to George List, Purser of the Jolly Mariners Square Club and a thirty-year Mason, "we are a fun group, dedicated to fishing, boating and drinking beer, but not

necessarily in that order!" They even have a special song they perform at every meeting and any function where there are three or more Jolly Mariners in attendance. But the gentlemen are about more than just having fun. They are also generous supporters of The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

This year, the group will sponsor their fourth annual golf tournament at the Woodhaven Country Club, and as in past years, will split the proceeds between Ansantawae Lodge and The Masonic Charity Foundation. The tournament, held each August and open to all interested men and women, consists of forty golfers playing eighteen holes, and a picnic luncheon at Milford Landing afterwards. "We have members who live at Ashlar Village, and we have had members go through rehabilitation at Masonic Healthcare Center who liked what they saw," says George. "We thought that donating half of our proceeds to Masonicare would be a good way to support their cause."

The Mariners will celebrate their anniversary of fifty years in 2007 and are planning a gala affair to mark the milestone. Meanwhile, they are busy preparing for the fourth annual golf tournament and encourage interested golfers to join in on the fun in support of Masonicare.

If you would like more information about the Jolly Mariners Square Club Golf Tournament, contact George List at (203) 874-8337. ☆

Donate Online!

The Masonic Charity Foundation has recently introduced a brand new way to give. Donors may now make gifts directly on the Masonicare website at www.masonicare.org. Just log on, click on "make a donation" and supply the necessary information. Online donations may be designated for the Annual Appeal, Hospice or Holiday Appeal (November through January only.)

The Foundation's Bequest Language

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut deeply appreciates gifts of all kinds. Should you wish to remember The Foundation in your Will, we encourage you to provide the following bequest language to your attorney:

"I give, devise, and bequeath \$_____ (sum of money), or _____% (percentage) of my estate, or all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, CT."

Bequests provide important revenue in support of the mission of Masonicare, enabling us to provide the highest quality healthcare programs and services to our residents and patients regardless of their ability to pay. If you wish to discuss a bequest to The Foundation, please contact Jennifer King, Vice President of The Foundation at 203-679-5570.



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Holiday Appeal Wraps Up

Each December, Masonicare strives to share a little holiday warmth with our residents and patients. This is made possible by generous donations to our special Holiday Appeal and Holiday tree auction at Masonic Healthcare Center. We are pleased to announce that the 2004 Holiday Appeal raised \$62,723.00, which was used for decorations, baked goods and festive parties for the residents of our Masonic homes. In addition, caregivers carefully selected and hand-wrapped personalized gifts for our residents.

We would like to express our gratitude to all who donated to this appeal and helped spread a little holiday spirit among those who call Masonicare home.★

If you would like more information regarding the Masonicare Annual and Holiday Appeals or any of our fundraising events, please contact Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development for The Foundation, at (203) 679-5572 or Michelle Strouse, Development Coordinator, at (203) 679-5571.



Masonicare Annual Appeal Giving Societies:

Trustee's Circle	\$5,000 or more
Master's Circle	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Builder's Society	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Foundation Society	\$500 - \$999
Fellow Society	\$250 - \$499
Cornerstone Society	\$100 - \$249
Apprentice Society	\$1 - \$99

If you would prefer not to receive any future fundraising communications from The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, please write to us at MCF of CT, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492. In order to ensure that we accurately reflect your request, please provide your full name and street address. Please note that it may take six to eight weeks to make your request fully effective.