

# THE MASONICARE ANNUAL APPEAL NEWS

BY THE MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

Fall 2006



## John and Roberta Wettstone Visit the Neighborhood



The Wettstones

When John and Roberta Wettstone met on a blind date in Toledo, Ohio, little did they know what lay down the road ahead of them. John's career as an engineer would take the couple many places, eventually bringing them to the New Haven area in 1970 for what was to have been a four-year stay. But they loved the area so much, that thirty-six years later they are still in their beloved North Haven home. It has been an adventurous and rewarding road for John and Roberta.. Together they have raised four children, visited forty nine of

the fifty United States, and just this year, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Masonry first became a part of John's life in 1980, when he joined Corinthian Lodge No. 103 in North Haven. Once John retired, Masonry became even more of a priority for him and he became more actively involved. The Wettstones developed many good friendships among the Masons, and over the years, the couple saw several of these friends enter the Masonicare continuum of care. "Everyone we talk to agrees

The Wettstones have been faithful Masonicare Annual Appeal donors for many years now. They enjoy celebrating Grand Master's Day at Masonic Healthcare Center each year, and seven years ago, began attending the Annual Appeal donor breakfast at Ashlar Village – first as guests, and later as donor invitees. They have also been active participants in The Masonic Charity Foundation phonathons held each year in Wallingford. Through their many visits to the campus, the couple has become enamored with Ashlar Village and recently visited

*There aren't a lot of facilities where you can go from ambulatory to non-ambulatory and you're taken care of for life."*

the care is excellent, says John. "It's a wonderful organization, and I am really impressed with the good works I see. Good works bring good results."

the community in consideration of entering the continuum themselves. Roberta, a self-professed tomboy, loves the trees and the rural setting. "It's hard to give up the house our

## A Team Effort: Organizations Supporting the Cause

### The Ashlar Village Association

#### Friends of The Foundation for More Than Twenty Years



AVA Officers:  
back row left to right: Betty  
Goodnough, Harry Subkowsky  
front row left to right: Beth Mitchell,  
Marion Oonk

More than two decades ago, the Ashlar Village Association (AVA) was formed for the purpose of “communicating and cooperating with The Masonic Charity Foundation to promote a considerate, healthy, enjoyable and useful community.” Twenty-one years later, the AVA is certainly fulfilling their mission, as they continue to support The Foundation with the utmost generosity.

Every resident of Ashlar Village is automatically a member of the Association, and each year, a new president is elected for a maximum

term of two years. From this group, numerous committee structures are born from the interests of particular residents, and joined by others who share them. Past committees have included art interest groups, a trails committee, oral history projects, library committees, a specialty shop and the “Make a Difference Group”. “We have always been an outreaching group within the Masonicare community as well as the Wallingford community and other more far reaching charities,” explains Alene Tate, past president of AVA. And they prove this point with various charitable contributions to hospitals, homeless shelters, boys and girls clubs and the local fire department. But the majority of their support is graciously awarded to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

The Association raises funds primarily through the Village Store. This lively spot, located on the lower level at Ashlar Village, carries a wide assortment of grocery items and a nice selection of greeting cards for the

convenience of the residents. The operation is stocked and operated entirely by volunteers, and is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:45 to 12:00. Additional dollars come to the AVA through the Op Shop and Holiday Bazaar. The Op Shop, found among the storage cages on the basement level, is run by Ashlar Village resident Jean Kaas. The shop sells an eclectic mix of items generously donated by residents and meticulously cleaned by Jean, for very reasonable prices. The Bazaar, a special sale held each October by Jean and approximately sixty volunteers, is a wide assortment of Holiday items from Halloween and fall decorations to fine dishes and holiday ornaments.

With these proceeds, the AVA has faithfully supported The Masonic Charity Foundation’s mission and purpose over the years. Their contributions have taken the form of outright donations, gifts to the Annual and Holiday Appeals and sponsorships of the Masonicare Golf Classic and other special

*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.*

events. Their generosity continues to grow. This year, the AVA increased their traditional Masonicare Annual Appeal gift by \$500 for a total of \$2500. They also made an additional Annual Appeal donation to the tune of \$500, in the name of the AVA's board representatives, John Dilks and AVA current president, Harry Subkowsky, in response to a special board appeal mailing. Finally, the AVA extended an additional \$1500 in the form of a snack hole sponsorship at The 14th Annual Masonicare Golf Classic this August. Their enduring support is a wonderful reflection of the heart of this community, made up of the caring individuals who call Ashlar Village home. ☆

## George A. Allen Masonic Club Leaves Final Legacy

In 1921, a Masonic degree team was formed at the Hartford Electric Light Company under the guidance of George H. Allen. Because he was the driving force behind the club's success, the team became officially known as the George H. Allen club upon his death in 1931. Over the years, the club was extremely active portraying the Master Mason Degree for many newly raised brothers. Membership continued to rise with the merge of The Connecticut Power Company and the Hartford Electric Company in 1958, and again in 1967 with the formation of Northwest Utilities. Ultimately, membership peaked in 1983 with approximately four hundred and fifty members.

During this time it was common practice for the group to memorialize their departed brothers with gifts to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut.

Eventually membership began to decline, and in 1993, the club became inactive. This year, The George H. Allen Masonic Club found it necessary to disband and close its books, and the remaining members voted to donate the remaining funds in their treasury to The Masonic Charity Foundation. Thank you to the George H. Allen Masonic Club for their generous support over the years, and this final gift as they close their doors. ☆

### *The Wettstones.....Continued from page 1*

children grew up in," she admits. "It's a big decision, but you never know what the situation will be when the time comes, and we don't want to put the burden on our children of caring for us. We are trying to make it easy on everyone. Everything we hear about this facility is good and that's important." John agrees. "There aren't a lot of facilities where you can go from ambulatory to non-ambulatory and you're taken care of for life," he observes. The Wettstones are impressed with what they see, and consequently, they continue to support Masonicare. "You try to be helpful in whatever way you can." insists John. Not a surprising comment coming from a man who often plows the snow from his neighbor's driveways just because he is doing his own. Certainly the old neighborhood will miss the Wettstones if we are lucky enough to welcome them to our own. ☆



## 14th Annual Masonicare Golf Classic Most Successful Tournament to Date!

**O**n Monday, August 14th, The Masonic Charity Foudation of Connecticut held the 14th Annual Masonicare Golf Classic at the beautiful Race Brook Country Club in Orange, CT. We are thrilled to announce that the tournament was our most successful one to date, raising \$235,438.50 in support of the programs and services at Masonic

Healthcare Center, Ashlar of Newtown and Connecticut VNA's Pedi-Pal Program.

A big thanks to the one hundred forty-four golfers and forty-three volunteers who pitched in to show their support, and a special congratulations to Georgia C. Erickson, event chairman and the tournament's first woman chair. ★

**Donate Online!**

The Masonic Charity Foundation has recently introduced a new way to give. Donors may make gifts directly on the Masonicare website at [www.masonicare.org](http://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 or for Connecticut VNA's Hospice program.

**Contact The Foundation**  
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**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, President of The Foundation, at 203-679-5570.