



## Longtime Friend of MCF Comes “Home” to Ashlar Village



**Bro. James Ferris recently relocated from East Windsor to Masonicare at Ashlar Village.**

**A**fter decades of volunteerism and generosity to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF), Bro. Jim Ferris decided to make Masonicare at Ashlar Village his new home.

“I was finally ready,” Jim said. “I’ve been through a lot of operations and I have high blood pressure. It was time to make the move to Ashlar Village. But, when you come here, it’s a big change in your life. You’re moving away from family and friends. So the things that keep you going are the nice people you meet here at Masonicare and the activities they have. Being

at Masonicare is like going on a cruise. You do as much or as little as you want. And the care? You can’t beat it.”

Jim, 86, hopes that his love of photography will not only help him continue to maintain an active lifestyle, but also bring some enjoyment to his new neighbors at Ashlar Village. A self-described “camera nut” whose home office is decorated with photos from his global travels, Jim wants to provide tutorials to Ashlar Village residents who own digital cameras, but may have them stowed away in a drawer or collecting dust on a shelf. It’s a technology that some find intimidating, he said, but can become a rewarding hobby with a minimum of instruction.

“And photography keeps me going,” he said. “It gives me energy.”

A Hartford native, Jim grew up in an apartment on Wethersfield Avenue, the only child of Courtlandt and Amelia Ferris. “It was during the Depression,” he said. “We weren’t poor, but we couldn’t afford a car or a telephone. Dad was a hard worker – a coffee roaster and blender. He made sure we always had something to eat.”

Jim’s love of song began in his childhood as a member of the boys’

choir at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, and continued into adulthood when he turned “pro” with the “Top Hats” comedy barbershop quartet.

He was in his teens when he first met Jane Dewey, a pretty girl from the other side of town, on a blind date.

“The minute I saw her, I knew she was it,” Jim recalled. “It was amazing.”

They courted for several years before getting married on May 1, 1943, and eventually had two children – son Ken and daughter Janette (Jim’s wife, Jane, passed

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*All of these gifts to MCF have given me much pleasure in many ways.*

*Bro. James Ferris*

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away in 1987).

After World War II, Jim joined – and later became partner in – a company that did engraving of nameplates and electronic panels. The business grew exponentially by developing and manufacturing rotary tooling for cutting pressure-sensitive labels for printers throughout the world.

## The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut

74 Cheshire Road, P.O. Box 70

Wallingford, CT 06492

(203) 679-5555, (800) 562-3952

[www.masonicare.org](http://www.masonicare.org)

### Foundation Staff



**Jennifer A. King**

President

(203) 679-5555

[jkking@masonicare.org](mailto:jkking@masonicare.org)



**Eloise J. Mongillo**

Director of Development

(203) 679-5572

[emongillo@masonicare.org](mailto:emongillo@masonicare.org)



**Alison E. Koons**

Planned Giving Associate

(203) 679-5573

[akoons@masonicare.org](mailto:akoons@masonicare.org)



**Philip L. Rockwell**

Senior Foundation Associate

(203) 679-5555

[prockwell@masonicare.org](mailto:prockwell@masonicare.org)



**Adam J. Raider**

Communications Associate

(203) 679-5581

[araider@masonicare.org](mailto:araider@masonicare.org)



**Danielle M. Thibault**

Special Events Coordinator

(203) 679-5571

[dthibault@masonicare.org](mailto:dthibault@masonicare.org)



**Caitlin McCaffery**

Foundation Assistant

(203) 679-5598

[cmccaffery@masonicare.org](mailto:cmccaffery@masonicare.org)

 **The Masonic  
Charity Foundation**   
*of Connecticut*



### *Ferris - Continued from Page 1*

“I had several friends who were Masons,” he recalled of his decision to join the fraternity. “The majority of those I met were nice, honest guys with excellent values who watched out for one another. So that’s how I got into it. I enjoy the brotherhood.”

Bro. Jim received his Master Mason degree in 1961 at Daskam Lodge No. 86 in Glastonbury. A short time later, he moved to East Windsor and joined Morning Star Lodge No. 47, which eventually merged into Composite Lodge No. 28. He is also a member of Sphinx Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.

MCF is a longtime beneficiary of Jim’s outstanding generosity and volunteerism. He served throughout the 1990s as a member of The Foundation’s Board of Directors, and always made charitable giving to MCF a priority. Jim is a member of MCF’s prestigious Baldwin & Cleaveland Societies, having established two life income agreements, namely a charitable remainder trust and a charitable gift annuity with The Foundation. Recently, he made an additional major gift to MCF to name the greenhouse at Ashlar Village in honor of Composite Lodge No. 28.

Jim has also been a consistent supporter of other MCF programs, including the Masonicare Annual Appeal, the Masonicare Golf Classic, as well as the former Masonicare Goods & Services Auctions. He has even made a donation to fund the purchase of computers for residents at Masonicare Health Center.

“All of these gifts to MCF have given me much pleasure in many ways,” Jim said. “Some of my gifts benefit me directly and I am glad to know they will ultimately help other Masonicare residents in the future.”

“Jim has been a great friend to MCF over the years,” said Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development, “and we deeply appreciate his support.”

## A Continuing Tradition of Support in the Treadwell Name

In September 2007, Ashlar Village resident Miriam Treadwell and her late husband, Bro. Nellis Treadwell, decided to show their support for Masonicare by establishing a charitable gift annuity with The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF).

With this annuity, Miriam and Nellis received an immediate charitable deduction and, as the survivor of the two, Miriam will continue to receive a steady stream of income for her lifetime.

The Treadwells' generosity was inspired by Nellis' long-standing association with MCF and Masonry. It was also a way of saying "thank you" for the excellent care he received on Masonicare's Wallingford campus later in life.

"In his last couple of years, Nellis' health really deteriorated," Miriam recalled. "The staff took wonderful care of him at the Masonicare Health Center. We were very impressed. It wasn't just a hospital to us. It was a feeling, too. So, when we had some CD accounts coming due at our bank, we knew we wanted to

do something for MCF and Masonicare. Nellis said, 'If it's okay with you, I'd like that annuity to go to Masonicare.' I supported that idea 100 percent. I was amazed not only at the rate of return being offered, but the tax deduction as well. With the charitable gift annuity, everyone benefits. I know this annuity is what my husband wanted. I'm sure that our gift will help other people, and that's what it's all about."

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*Miriam Treadwell*

**Ashlar Village Resident and Donor, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut**

Treadwells became members of MCF's Cleaveland Society. The timing was bittersweet, however, as Nellis passed away only two months later, in November 2007. Miriam made a gift to the Masonicare Annual Appeal last



Miriam Treadwell and her late husband, Bro. Nellis Treadwell, funded a charitable gift annuity to help support The Masonic Charity Foundation of CT.

year on her own, continuing the couple's tradition of annual support.

"I'm still very tied in with everything here," Miriam said. "My doctors are all affiliated with Masonicare and I saw what they did for Nellis."

Miriam and Nellis were first introduced in high school but, as she recalled with a chuckle, "I didn't interest him and he didn't interest me. He was a nice guy, but we were involved with different things. We'd say 'hello' while passing each other in the hallways, but that's as far as it went."

It took nearly 50 years for their paths to cross again.

Miriam stayed in her native Fairfield, where she eventually

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met and married the late Peter Slater, with whom she had two sons, Daniel and Roy. During World War II, she volunteered with the Red Cross as a nurse's aid at Bridgeport Hospital. Although she held a variety of jobs after the war, her favorite was running the Payroll Department at Fairfield University.

Nellis, meanwhile, grew up in nearby Easton and went to work at the Homer C. Godfrey Company in Bridgeport, a family-owned masonry supply business. Nellis was a salesman and eventually became the company's president.

A 50-year Mason affiliated with Ashlar-Aspetuck Lodge No. 142 in Easton, Bro. Nellis was first encouraged to join the fraternity by his father and younger brother. Throughout his life, Miriam said, Nellis devoted much of his free time to the Masons.

"He loved the camaraderie that came with being a Mason, but he also could see the good they were doing," said Miriam.

In 1986, Miriam and Nellis, both since widowed, became reacquainted after joining the committee to organize their 50th high school reunion. Even though decades had passed, Miriam recognized Nellis immediately.

"He hadn't changed," she said. "Then he called

me up and asked if I'd like to join him for lunch to reminisce a bit. I thought, 'Why not?'"

Seven years later, they were married. They shared a cottage at Ashlar Village for 12 years before Nellis' declining health prompted them to move into an apartment.

For much of their time here together, Miriam and Nellis promoted Ashlar Village by volunteering to attend functions with, or opening their home to, prospective residents. Miriam still enjoys making visitors and new residents feel as welcome as she felt when she first arrived at Ashlar Village.

"The minute I came in," she said, "I didn't feel like a stranger. Ashlar Village became home. I've told many people that this is the place to be. You can have a wonderful life here without the responsibility of a house. You can just enjoy yourself and be taken care of. My boys would worry about me when I was living alone, but now they're absolutely thrilled that I'm here."

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*For more information about the benefits of establishing a charitable gift annuity with The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, please contact Alison Koons, Planned Giving Associate, at (203) 679-5573.*

**American Council on Gift Annuities: Rates for 2009\***

SINGLE LIFE

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Rates</i>
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%
90+	9.5%

TWO LIVES (JOINT AND SURVIVOR)

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Rates</i>	<i>Ages</i>	<i>Rates</i>
65-65	4.9%	85-85	7.0%
65-70	5.0%	90-90	8.3%
70-70	5.2%		
70-75	5.3%		
80-80	6.1%		
80-85	6.5%		

\* Rates effective February 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009

## The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut Honors 2008 Cleaveland and Baldwin Society Inductees

In the fall of 2008, The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF) honored the following Ashlar Village residents for their new or renewing support of the Cleaveland and Baldwin societies during its Annual Benefactor Luncheons held October 21st and 23rd in the Knapp Auditorium:

### New Gifts to the Cleaveland Society

James C. Ferris  
Estate of Robert C. Hector  
Robert P. & Doris B. Holmberg  
Gladys L. Hunter (Mrs. Robert W.)  
Estate of Henry H. & Edythe M. Knapp  
Irving M. & Madeline A. Pease  
Florence Sherwood (Mrs. Walter T.)  
Mildred J. Specht  
Estate of Ruth J. Wilson

### Additional Gifts to the Cleaveland Society

Ashlar Village Op Shop  
Ann Curtis (Mrs. Erle)  
Ferdinand Hartog, Jr.  
Jean S. Kaas  
Christina G. Smith (Mrs. Richard N.)

### New Gifts to the Baldwin Society

Estate of Gertrude S. Racine

### Additional Gifts to the Baldwin Society

Estate of Harry W. Rankin

The **Cleaveland Society** was established in 2005 in grateful recognition of the individuals and organizations that have made unrestricted contributions of \$10,000 or more in a 12-month period to The Masonic Charity Foundation. Members' gifts take many forms, such as life income agreements, outright gifts, and confirmed bequests, as well as gifts of life insurance and retirement plan assets. These donations can be used in their entirety to support the healthcare programs, facilities and services offered by Masonicare and its affiliates.

The **Baldwin Society** recognizes those who have made one or more gifts in the amount of \$10,000 or more in a 12-month period to the MCF Endowment Fund. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are held in trust and are never spent, with only the earnings available to support the programs, services and facilities of Masonicare and its affiliates.

## Bequest Language

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut deeply appreciates all bequests. 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, at (203) 679-5555.

## **For Dick Buschel, Being Neighborly Just Comes Naturally**

**A**sk an Ashlar Village resident what they enjoy most about living here, and they might rave about the activities, or easy access to the Masonicare continuum of senior care, or the simple joy of not having to shovel a snow-covered driveway in the depths of winter.

But Bro. Dick Buschel said that what he loves most about Ashlar Village is spending time with great people.

“I can get up every morning, open my door, walk into the Duck Inn, and if there’s ten people in there, every one will say ‘good morning, how are you?’ It’s just good to have meals with friends. We talk and laugh and have fun. I’m very happy at Ashlar Village. Everybody is good to me, and so kind. The doctors and nurses at Masonicare Health Center are great, too.”

Dick recently showed his support for The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut (MCF) and Masonicare through a generous gift to the 2008 Masonicare Annual Appeal. Gifts from residents like Dick improve the quality

of life for patients and others throughout the Masonicare community when no other funding sources are available. By making a contribution of \$520 or more, Dick became a valued member of the Masonicare Society.

A Mason for 54 years, Bro. Dick was raised in Apawamis Lodge No. 800 in Mamaroneck, NY but later joined Compass Lodge No. 9 in Wallingford, where he is a Past Master. That he ended up at Compass Lodge at all, he said, was something of a happy accident.

“After my late wife and I moved to Connecticut,” Dick recalled, “we were walking around Wallingford one day when she spotted the Masonic Temple. She turned to me and said, ‘Why don’t you go in?’ So I went inside and climbed a long flight of stairs. There was a man there who wasn’t a Mason, but he put me in touch with someone who was a member of the lodge. I filled out a petition a short time later, and here I am.”

Dick recently became a member of the new Masonic



**Bro. Dick Buschel, a supporter of the Masonicare Annual Appeal, recently joined the new lodge at Ashlar Village.**

Lodge, currently under dispensation of the Grand Lodge, here on the Ashlar Village campus: Ashlar Lodge No. 332. He is also a member of the Square Club.

Born in Harrison, NY, Dick was one of eight children. As a teen, he got a part-time job in a factory in Port Chester that manufactured wooden shower units for the Army. In the summers, he caddied at Rye Country Club, helping to spark a lifelong love of golf.

After a brief stint in the Army during the latter stages of World War II, Dick became an electrician like his father. In all, he held that trade for over 40 years.

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“It was a good living for me,” Dick said. “I did well. But in the early 1970s, the economy went downhill and there was less work for electricians. I was fortunate to get a job in the maintenance department of an insurance company. I worked with good people and I enjoyed it immensely. Then, as things got busier in the electrical industry, I was able to go back to that.”

Dick moved to Ashlar Village in 2005, shortly after the passing of his wife, Virginia. Since then, he’s gained a reputation for being a helpful neighbor to other residents.

“I’m not bragging,” he said, “but I guess it’s in my nature to be helpful. It’s so much easier to be pleasant than it is to be mean.”

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, July 18, 2009**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

## AN AMERICAN

## IN PARIS

## Jazz Brunch

Co-Presented by  
The Ashlar Village Association  
and The Masonic Charity Foundation  
of Connecticut



### **AV Residents Increase Participation, Donations to 2008 Appeal**

**A**shlar Village residents rang in the New Year with a new record of increased giving and participation in the 2008 Masonicare Annual Appeal.

In 2007, 58% of Ashlar Village residents had participated in the Masonicare Annual Appeal, donating \$42,738.00 towards the cause. In 2008, participation increased to 60%, with Ashlar Village gifts ringing in at \$56,393.86.

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut wishes to thank Ashlar Village Appeal Chair Ferdinand Hartog for his assistance with the 2008 campaign.

Beneficiaries of the Masonicare Annual Appeal include the Masonicare Health Center, Masonicare at Newtown, and Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, meeting the needs of residents and patients when no other funding source is available.

*Thanks to all who participated!*