

# The Fifth Manhattan District Association Bulletin



## Meeting Notice Of

5<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Association  
5<sup>th</sup> District Endowment Fund  
5<sup>th</sup> District Camp Fund for Underprivileged Children  
5<sup>th</sup> District Purple Circle Relief Fund

Monday  
January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 7:30pm  
Room 1531 Grand Lodge  
71 West 23<sup>rd</sup> St  
Also Online Zoom Meeting

[Register Here Registration Required](#)

## District Officers

President	W. Anthony Librizzi	(973)-402-1009 ( <a href="mailto:alibrizzi@pogaltd.com">alibrizzi@pogaltd.com</a> )
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	W. Steve Shapiro	(917)-414-7289 ( <a href="mailto:sbs@compuserve.com">sbs@compuserve.com</a> )
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	R.:W.: Rafael Preza	(718) 930-9571 <a href="mailto:rpbaron92@aol.com">rpbaron92@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	R.:W.: Richard Bateman	(212) 337-6637 ( <a href="mailto:AssistantGS@nymasons.org">AssistantGS@nymasons.org</a> )
Corresponding Secretary	Wor. Greg Feldman	516-242-1072 <a href="mailto:ifly@gapcpa.com">ifly@gapcpa.com</a>
Recording Secretary	R.:W.: Martin Richards	(917) 709-7703 ( <a href="mailto:MRich5715@gmail.com">MRich5715@gmail.com</a> )

## Meeting Agenda

Call to Order 7:30pm  
Invocation  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Welcome  
Election of Association and Fund Officers and Directors  
Remarks of Committees  
Remarks from the Members  
Remarks from the Staff Officer & District Deputy Grand Master  
Benediction & Closing



From the President

My Brothers,

I hope this communication finds you and your family in good health and spirits. To all my Brothers of the Faithful Fifth, I am sending you and your loved ones my warmest regards full of peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year. As we are entering into a new year we have to remember our masonic duties, and help those less fortunate than us. We have accomplished so much in 2022 but there is still much work that needs to be done. I want

to thank the brothers of Willard Sylvan Grove for their hospitality in hosting our November meeting. "Thank you so much my Brothers!" I am looking forward to our first meeting of the New Year; our trestle board is full and we have a lot to accomplish, and will have our elections for the association at this meeting. On our second meeting of 2023 we have our Annual District Table Lodge. Everything has to be put in place for this event to guarantee a smooth, pleasurable and profitable function. Our third meeting is the final meeting before going dark. There is so much work to do with limited time. It is important that we labor diligently in the quarries to assure success and get the most out of every meeting. I want to thank all the Brothers that helped me make 2022 a successful year for the Fifth Manhattan District Association and also thank The Masters and Warden's Association for all their help this past year. Travel safe and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless and protect you and your family.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Brother Anthony Librizzi  
President 5th Manhattan District Association  
(973) 865-2753 - [alibrizzi@pogalts.com](mailto:alibrizzi@pogalts.com)

From the District Deputy Grand Master



Greetings Brothers,

First and foremost, I hope that you and your families are doing well this holiday season, and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year! May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over us all and bring us blessings as we enter 2023. And may we remember that he who has his strength, health, and wisdom indeed has plenty. "So shall thy barns be filled with [plenty](#), and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."... "Happy is the man who findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." (Proverbs 3: 10, 13)

As I reflect on the past year, there were times of deep personal difficulty with my mom in a medically induced coma last January almost passing away, and miraculously making a slow and steady recovery, now in skilled nursing. I truly believe that the prayers and support from all the brethren have made this possible.

As I think about some of the happiest moments of this past year, I am reminded of the amazing work we have been able to do together. From the district wide 3rd Degree to

individual lodge's presentations, lectures, and sharing of joy and light. The fact that we've been able to travel the district and have events with 30 or 40 plus Brothers in attendance is a testament to YOUR Good and True work. Let's keep it up!

That said we still have a long way to go. There are many lodges still struggling and rebuilding. We must continue to support one another, continue to travel, and as part of this I am excited about the renewed interest and support for Masters and Wardens. And I encourage everyone to attend our first meeting of the year to hear about some of the updates, changes and ideas we have.

With that, special thank you to Worshipful Rich Yates for all that you have done, and to you and all the brethren who supported a yet again successful Toys for Tots drive. This is yet another example of the great work we can do.

I would like to thank every lodge and every person who has contributed to the success of our recent raffle initiatives, and the steps we are taking to ensure the Faithful Fifth's strength not only in unity but fiscally as well.

Lastly, please keep on your radar the upcoming events we will discuss in the district meeting, as well as St John's weekend, and the Battle Within Gala Veterans Day November 11th, 2023.

See you all at the meeting, and may the Great Architect of the Universe continue to watch over us all, our families, friends, first responders, military serving abroad, and veterans here at home! Again, many blessing for 2023!

Thank you,  
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Ryan Alexander Rodriguez-Wiggins  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Fifth Manhattan District  
c: 917-855-5949  
w: [ryan.rodriquezwiggins@sprinklr.com](mailto:ryan.rodriquezwiggins@sprinklr.com)  
p: [faithful5th2021@gmail.com](mailto:faithful5th2021@gmail.com)



## From the Grand Sword Bearer

Although Masonry is not a religion, there is an undeniable spiritual aspect whose threshold is the Great Light in Masonry; the Holy Bible. We see the role of the Chaplin in our Lodge as a significant and necessary element in Opening and Closing Lodge as well as within each Degree. I thought we would offer a small examination of the Bible verse for the Entered Apprentice. Each degree is framed by a verse and in turn, this verse offers insight to both us and the candidate.

### **Entered Apprentice Degree**

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore. Psalms 133*

As the candidate is stopped after the initial perambulation, these words are heard. These words, which intend to calm, speak to unity and fellowship: what a pleasure it is to “dwell together in unity” or to be in the presence of a body of men united together in mind and spirit of purpose. This peaceful unity is of utmost importance to Masons as it is the mortar or cement that binds us together as a fraternity.

The next section alludes to the oil running down his beard. Aaron, the elder brother of Moses, and his sons were appointed by God to be the High Priest and ministers of God for the children of Israel. God directed that an “oil of holy ointment” was to be poured upon Aaron and his sons as a blessing prior to their entry as priests into the tabernacle, containing all the holy vessels and the Ark of the Covenant, to minister and pray unto the Lord. This reference therefore alludes to the sacredness of such unity.

Finally, Mount Hermon was known to have copious amounts of humidity, even in the driest weather, which formed on the tents that it appeared as though it had rained the whole night. This precious dew or water provided continuous life giving growth to the plants and animals of the otherwise arid region; hence the allusion to life forevermore

The theme of the Entered Apprentice Degree then is that he is about to enter into a fraternal union with men of good character. This unity of good brethren is so precious that it is comparable to the holy anointing of the High Priest of the ancient Israelites. Further, his association with this fraternal unity promises to enrich his future life just as the dew of Mount Hermon and the mountains of Zion.

Our MDC courses will begin in the new year (probably around March so we align with the latest new candidate progression). All Senior Wardens should also be preparing for our next Master's Chair course (start thinking about your trestleboard for your year). Finally, your District Leadership is working on an Officer Course focusing on Your Station and Places. This will be in in-person intensive that all Officers (or those looking to become Officers) should attend. More to come as plans start to land for the new year.

**Masonic Development Courses:**

Our MDC courses will begin in the new year (probably around March so we align with the latest new candidate progression).

For those that completed the course this past year, I will be traveling to your lodge to ensure you receive a certificate and pin.

**The Master's Chair:**

All Senior Wardens should also be preparing for our next Master's Chair course (start thinking about your trestleboard for your year).

**Special Officer Course Coming to your District:**

Finally, your District Leadership is working on an Officer Course focusing on Your Station and Places. This will be in in-person intensive that all Officers (or those looking to become Officers) should attend. More to come as plans start to land for the new year.

R.:W.: James William Gregg  
Grand Sword Bearer  
Grand Lodge for the State of New York  
Fifth Manhattan Masonic District



From the District Advisor

As members of the Masonic Fraternity, we are individually imbued with the charge to relieve the troubled and indigent, and to bring comfort to the distressed Master Mason, the widowed and orphaned. The benevolent nature of our gentle Craft was first illustrated in Brother William Preston's "Illustrations of Masonry" written in 1772, where he states emphatically that "to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly

on Freemasons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view.”

In reading today’s headlines, it should come as no surprise to predict an upsurge in the number of petitions being received from Masons and Non-Masons seeking our help, aid and assistance. As such, we should become familiar with the mechanisms in place to answer that call when it arrives.

Our District is very fortunate and has had the foresight to establish through the generosity of our members and Lodges an emergency fund whose mission is to fulfill that promise we have all made as Master Masons; to help, aid and assist distressed Masons, their Widows and Orphans. The idea for such a worthy fund was conceived after Hurricane Sandy visited New York in 2012 with its unrelenting path of flooding and destruction along our coastline.

Several of our Brethren were directly and adversely affected by this super-storm and found themselves in dire need of physical and financial assistance. Ten years since that fateful event, our District stands tall and prepared to fulfill our sacred promise, should the need ever materialize once again. Today, our Fifth Manhattan Purple Circle Relief Fund (PCRF) has accumulated over \$78,000 earmarked for such emergencies. A big thank you is owed and deserved by our Past District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Edward M. Weigert, who spearheaded the formation of this fund and to our Fifth Manhattan Endowment Fund who has been a major contributor to the PCRF. But most importantly, to each of you my brothers for your continued support of the PCRF.

In tandem with our Fifth Manhattan District's PCRF, the Grand Lodge of New York nearly three-quarters of a century ago answered the call of the distressed. The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Benevolence was established in March 1949. In addition to providing help and financial assistance through the Committee, and where appropriate through the member’s Lodge and District; the Committee assists the distressed in seeking further help from government agencies, community service groups, and private and other Masonic resources.

Assistance provided by the Committee can be arranged under three basic categories: (a) short-term emergency financial assistance; (b) long-term planning which may necessitate institutional care or assisted living facilities; and (c) legal or other professional advice and counseling.

While the Committee has broad flexibility, the following policies are currently in place to facilitate the granting of assistance to those in need:

- 1) Financial aid will primarily be given to Master Masons, their wives, widows, orphans and dependent minor children.
- 2) Individuals seeking assistance should first contact the Master or Secretary of the Masonic Lodge that they or their family member is or was affiliated with in order to make their situation known.

- 3) The Master upon notification should appoint an investigating committee charged with the responsibility of visiting the distressed person's home, and to help the applicant to complete the required application form. (The short form is to be used for applications seeking \$500 or less, and the long form is for applications seeking amounts greater than \$500.)
- 4) The Investigating Committee must indicate that the distressed person is found to be in genuine need and is worthy of receiving the same. The application needs to be completed in its entirety as it is crucial in assisting the Committee in making its decision.
- 5) ) In cases where the application for help, aid and assistance is granted, the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Benevolence will seek the cooperation and participation of the District and the Lodge to which the applicant or applicant's relative is a member.

If you are a Brother in need, or you know of a Mason or qualified family member that is in distress; you are encouraged to contact the Master of the appropriate Lodge and make the situation known. We frequently find that those in need of help are reluctant through their pride to ask for help, but this doesn't diminish their need for assistance. If this situation applies, please feel free to contact the New York State Chairman of the Masonic Benevolence Committee, Wor. Brother Hugh C. Dungey at telephone number (631) 716-0292 or via e-mail at [hdungey@optonline.net](mailto:hdungey@optonline.net) for more information or for an application.

In closing, let me part with these words spoken by Brother Winston Churchill, "It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what is required." My brothers, may the GAOTU continue to watch over you and your loved-ones and keep you safe.

Fraternally,  
Richard W. Bateman  
District Advisor  
Rick Bateman, District Advisor



## From the Purple Circle Relief Fund

Greetings Brethren of the Fifth Manhattan District:

I am sure this message finds you, your family and loved ones well and looking forward to an amazing 2023!.



With a New Year in front of us, the energy towards success is re-ignited and will drive us towards reaching new goals! Let's see that the Purple Circle Fund takes to new heights in continuing to grow the Fund further!

This year, we will look to explore new fund-raising along with the District Leadership, to not only Build to make the Fund stronger, but equally to include all to enjoy Brotherly Love as we do these events together.

The Purple Circle Relief Fund is a cornerstone to our Fifth Manhattan District - the support it provides for those Brothers who need it most when life may present a challenge when least expected is paramount. Being able to assist these Brethren and their families when warranted not only highlights one of our most cherished obligations, but equally defines what our Fraternity stands for – Love, Relief & Truth - where the high, the low, the rich and the poor may continue to meet in the perpetuation of love and friendship.

**\*\***With that sentiment, the Purple Circle Relief Fund is honored and equally overwhelmed by the Charity of our own District association, The Endowment Fund. As of this writing (Dec. 9), the Endowment Fund has generously donated **\$10,000** to the PCRFB! What a tremendous way to end the year, and truly demonstrate the benevolence of our own Brethren within the District. The entire Fifth Manhattan District thanks the Officers of The Endowment Fund for their charity and goodwill year in and year out.

Brethren of the District - You may also make your donation using the QRC and link below.

I thank all the Lodges of the District and the Brethren within for their time and continued support, have a great 2023 and let's keep Building the Fund!

Sincerely and fraternally,  
RW Chad Benton Ploth  
President  
Purple Circle Relief Fund

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=GWYSFC56T7ZMA](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GWYSFC56T7ZMA)



***Use the code above to make your donation or you can mail your tax-deductible donation to :***

Purple Circle Relief Fund  
71W 23rd St Box. K4

## From the Underprivileged Children's Camp Fund



My Dear Brothers,

Here we go again! Another year passed and a new, and hopefully better one beginning. I pondered the last 2 years over the holidays recalling good times and some bad. Some Brothers, family and friends lost and new ones made. I want us to concentrate on the good ones. We finally were able to meet at Lodge. We were able to celebrate birthdays, weddings and holidays together. We were able to share collations with our Brethren. Our Lodge meetings moved from virtual to in person and we made new Brothers. Yes my Brothers many good memories to concentrate on and more to come.

Now is the time to begin thinking of the warm summer days ahead. The Camp Fund would like to help any child who wants to enjoy a summer camp get there. Here is the information on the 2023 Camp Turk term. Let us know if we can help. We are here for you.

1. Registration will open up on **January 1st**. Please go to our website [www.campturk.org](http://www.campturk.org) to register.
2. The cost for camp is **\$1,300 for two weeks**. Registrations received after June 1st will be an additional \$200.00 per session.
3. There is a non-refundable deposit of **\$250.00** for each session you register for.
4. **Registration deadline is JUNE 1st. All fees and medical information are due on this date!**
5. Financial aid will be available beginning January 1st so if you need or know someone who can use a little extra help please call or email us for a Scholarship Application. Deadline to apply is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. **We are bringing back the referral program. If you have a friend you would like to bring to camp, they will include your name on their application when they apply and you will receive a \$50.00 refund at the end of camp FOR EACH NEW friend you refer.**
7. We will be offering 2-week sessions only. You can however sign up for boys/coed or coed/girls for 4-weeks (no pick up required in between sessions).
8. There is no busing provided.

**Boys – July 2nd to July 15th**

**COED – July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Girls – July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 12th**

See you in the quarries,

Warmest Fraternal Regards  
RW Ed Weigert  
President



## From the Masters & Wardens Association

Greetings brethren of the Fifth District,

I hope all the brethren and families are in good health and have a great holiday and happy New year, As we move forward into 2023, The District is continuing to Build and prosper, our events and charity work are in full effect and attendance and support is raising. I would like to let everyone know that we had a very successful Toys 4 Tots drive this year, we collected almost \$600.00 and about 180 toys, thank you, to all the brethren of the district for making this a success.

The Masters and Wardens Association is working on restructuring leadership, Membership and duties of its members and have a new direction for the 2023 year, The District needs your dedication and support to make this a success. I would like to thank all the Brethren of the district for their continued efforts and dedication to growing our district into one of the best group of Masons and brethren there is.

Our District OLP and DD message websites will continue to promote all of our activities and events, and keep all the brethren informed and up to date on what the district is doing. Please continue to send us your lodge events and support our lodges and district.

Happy Holidays

Thank You,  
W.: Rich Yates

**Follow us on:**



<https://district-22-ny.ourlodgepage.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/775765273268482>



## From the Assistant Grand Lecturers

Happy New Year Brothers,

As we reflect on the 2022 year and while most people start making new year resolutions. One must stop and think about this annual process of making for non-Masons. I say non-Masons because as Masons we are constantly looking to improve ourselves. Daily traveling away from our rough flaws and working/moving toward making them smooth. But if we did have District Wide New Year's Resolution for 2023. I would like to suggest that we focus on lifting up newly made Masons and supporting them whenever they attempt Masonic work for the very first time or their first year. And not look an opportunity to tear them down. Yes, it is okay to instruct but be mindful of how we do it. Brotherly Love would be the best way to approach and encourage them. Remember as Masons we are "builders". "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self." -Ernest Hemingway See you in the Quarries My Brothers! Upcoming Events and School of Instructions: \*March 9th, 2023 at 7:30pm- The Grand Lectures Convention Work of the Evening: Second Degree Ceremony (first half only) And Middle Chamber Lecture Hosting Lodge: Amity Lodge 323, on the 8th Floor \*March 15th, 2023 at 7:30pm- School Of Instruction Work of the Evening: The Middle Chamber Lecture (Study, Learning and Presentation Techniques) Hosting Lodge: True Craftsman 651 Presented by V.: W.: Tarantino Smith \*TBD-School of Instruction on Masonic Funeral Ritual\* (More information on this will be released soon)

Sincerely & Fraternally,

V.:W.: Bro. Greg Feldman  
516-242-1072  
greg@feldman114.com

V.:W.: Bro. Tarantino Smith  
646-298-6252  
[middlechamber3@gmail.com](mailto:middlechamber3@gmail.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS  
SEE FLYERS AND DOCS BELOW**

# Last Chance to Buy Raffle Tickets! Drawing is at the District Meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023



**DON'T MISS IT!**

**The Fifth Manhattan District Association**  
3 Day Romantic Weekend Raffle  
April 21st to 24th 2023

*the* INNS of AURORA

Raffle Donation \$20 per Ticket \* 6 for \$100  
All Profits to Support the Fifth Manhattan District Association and Events for the Lodges of the District

Drawing February 12th 2023-Winner need not be present Raffles available online by CC or Debit Card Full Details Available at [DDMessage.com](http://DDMessage.com)  
[Order Your Raffles HERE](#)

FINGER LAKES WINE COUNTRY





***AMITY LODGE #323***  
***Free and Accepted Masons***

Brothers,

The Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of Amity Lodge #323 cordially and fraternally invite you to join them for an interesting evening fill with  
Masonic History and Education.

**FREEMASONRY AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**  
**LECTURE BY MOISES GOMEZ**



Thursday Evening 7:30 PM  
Lecture begins at 8:00 PM  
Room 2 East Grand Lodge

Seating is Limited  
Please Reserve Your Seat ASAP  
[E\\_Weigert@hotmail.com](mailto:E_Weigert@hotmail.com)  
Light Refreshments to be Served  
Lecture will also be Zoomed by Reservation ONLY  
[Click Here to Reserve](#)



# TRUE CRAFTSMAN'S LODGE NO. 651

Presents

## AN EVENING OF MASONIC MUSICAL MAGIC OPEN TO ALL



Alessandro Minci Brother Master of the Numa Pompilio Lodge No.1334  
Frosinone, Italy.

Fills the evening of Masonic Musical Magic with his Classical Guitar

Wine and Cheese Reception to follow  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Grand Lodge  
Concert begins at 7pm

Donation \$30 per person  
R.S.V.P.

R.: W.: Martin Richards  
917-709-7703

W.: William Morales Jr.  
917-838-4018

[Mrich5715@gmail.com](mailto:Mrich5715@gmail.com)

[Mountairy96@yahoo.com](mailto:Mountairy96@yahoo.com)

**RESERVE YOUR SEATS HERE**