



## Swing into Spring

Ashlar Village Event a Swinging Success



*Blanche Newman and Doris Holmberg join the conga line*

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, seventy-nine Ashlar Village residents attended the very first Swing into Spring event, held in the Ashlar Village activity room. The big-band themed event, co-hosted by The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and the Ashlar Village Association, with the help of some wonderful Ashlar Village volunteers, was a great success. Guests were treated to an evening of music by The Roger Young Trio, a delectable spread of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails prepared by the Ashlar Village dining staff and lively conversation with their friends and neighbors. Residents

enthusiastically joined in to sing along to their favorite old tunes and many even decided to cut a rug on the dance floor, breaking into a conga line before the night was through! Drawings were also held for twenty-six fun and unique door prizes, all donated by residents and local businesses.

While the ticket price to attend covered the cost of food and drink, the donations from corporate sponsorships netted an additional \$8,680, all in support of The Masonic Charity Foundation of CT. As an added bonus for attendees, \$5 of each ticket purchased is

tax deductible. The Masonic Charity Foundation was very pleased with the outcome, and looks forward to bringing Swing into Spring to Ashlar Village again next year.

### The 2005 Helping Hands Volunteers

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the 2005 Ashlar Village Helping Hands volunteers in ensuring the success of Swing into Spring!

Sharon Albone  
Florence Coolidge  
Jean Dyson  
John Geil  
Robert Holmberg  
Jean Kaas  
Selda Lippa  
Frank Malin  
Daisy O'Garro  
Marion Oonk  
Thomas Palmatier  
Margaret Porter  
Yvonne Siggelkoe  
Alene Tate  
Doris Winchester

# Ashlar Village Association

## Looking out for Residents and The Masonic Charity Foundation



*Jack Normington restocks the cooler shelves in the Village Store*

This year, Ashlar Village proudly celebrates its twenty-year anniversary. Just a few short months after the beloved Village opened its doors, it became evident that an organization should exist to promote and further the common interests of the Ashlar Village residents. Thus, the Ashlar Village Association (AVA) was born. The AVA adopted its first bylaws in February of 1986, for the purpose of “communicating and cooperating with The Masonic Charity Foundation to promote a considerate, healthy, enjoyable and useful community life in accordance with the purposes of The Foundation and Ashlar Village Inc.” Twenty years later, its purpose remains the same.

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, based on the interests of 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, current 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. The majority of their support, however, 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, meticulously cleaned by Jean, for very reasonable prices. The Bazaar, run by Jean and approximately sixty volunteers, is held each October. The special sale is a wide assortment of Holiday items from Halloween and fall decorations to fine dishes and holiday ornaments.

The Ashlar Village Association, in turn, generously supports The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut through outright donations, gifts to the Annual and Holiday Appeals and sponsorships of the Masonicare Golf Classic and Swing into Spring special events. Alene sums it up beautifully. “Ashlar Village continues to be a community of caring individuals who support The Masonic Charity Foundation’s mission and purpose, and our contributions are a reflection of this caring support.”

# Tribute Giving

## Generous Contributions Come in All Forms



Bea Gerstenblatt

Ashlar Village residents agree there are many staff members and residents who often go above and beyond the call of duty and have found that tribute giving is a wonderful way to thank them for their efforts. Tribute gifts offer a unique opportunity to show others you care in the form of a **memorial gift**, expressing sympathy to the family of the deceased, or an **honorary gift**, recognizing a job well done or a friend or loved one's birthday, anniversary, retirement or other special occasion.

Bea and her sister Ines Gerstenblatt are regular supporters of the tribute giving program, and use it often to thank those who have made an impression. "We appreciate what the staff does for us," says Bea, "...the dining room staff, the housekeeping and maintenance staff, transportation... all of them. Since we

are not allowed to tip, this is a way of showing our appreciation." Adds Estelle Miehle, "One thing you notice when you live here is a very familial feeling...it's like we adopt the kids in the dining room. You feel like you have your grandkids around. They know us and we know them."

Tribute gifts are a wonderful

expression of caring and are easily made using the Tribute Giving envelopes which are periodically sent to Ashlar Village residents or can be found in the Ashlar Village administration office. The Foundation will notify the honoree or the family of the deceased of your gift, keeping all gift amounts confidential, and, as an added bonus, these gifts are fully tax-deductible.

## Support Through Charitable Gift Annuities

The Charitable Gift Annuity program of The Masonic Charity Foundation remains a favorite among Ashlar Village residents. Thank you to the many Ashlar Village residents who have established an annuity with The Foundation.

If you are interested in securing a fixed income stream at a highly competitive rate, while simultaneously supporting the good work of Masonicare, please contact The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at 679-5555.

### Charitable Gift Annuity Rates Effective July 1, 2005

Single Life		Two Lives - Joint and Survivor	
Age	Rates	Age	Rates
65	6.0 %	65 - 65	5.6 %
70	6.5 %	65 - 70	5.7 %
75	7.1 %	70 - 70	5.9 %
80	8.0 %	70 - 75	6.1 %
85	9.5 %	80 - 80	6.9 %
90 and over	11.3 %	80 - 85	7.3 %
		85 - 85	7.9 %
		90 - 90	9.3 %

# Leaving a Legacy

## Bequests to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut



A gift in your Will, also known as a “bequest”, is a wonderful way to support The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut and a powerful statement to others of your belief in the mission of Masonicare. Our donors are pleased to know that charitable bequests are also fully deductible for federal estate tax purposes. Every bequest and gift is important to The Foundation. Working with your advisor, you can best decide what makes sense in light of your total assets and your need to provide for other beneficiaries. Some of the types of bequests are:

Pecuniary Bequest - This is a bequest of a specific dollar amount. For example, “I give and bequeath the sum of \$25,000 to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, Connecticut.” This amount will not fluctuate if your estate increases in value after you have signed your Will. Assuming your executor has sufficient other assets to pay

expenses, debts, taxes and the like, this bequest will not be reduced.

Percentage Bequest - This is a bequest of an amount equal to a fixed percentage of the value of your estate at the time of your death. For example, “I give and bequeath to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, Connecticut, an amount equal to 10 percent of my adjusted taxable estate (as defined for federal estate tax purposes.)” While the percentage will stay fixed, the amount ultimately passing to The Foundation will depend upon the value of all your assets passing under your Will upon your death. Care must be taken to ensure that you have sufficient assets in your probate estate to affect this type of gift.

Residuary Bequest - This bequest directs that The Foundation receives all or a portion of the balance of your estate after all necessary costs and pecuniary bequests have

been met. A residuary bequest is a gift of whatever remains in your probate estate. For example, “I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Inc., located in Wallingford, Connecticut.” If you have more than one “residuary beneficiary,” you should make sure that the total passing to the residuary beneficiaries equals 100 percent.

By working with your attorney to craft your Will to include a gift to The Foundation, you will enhance the lives of residents and patients of Masonicare for years to come. If you would like more information on charitable bequests, please contact Jennifer King at The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut at 203-679-5555. If you have already named the Foundation in your Will, we thank you and would be grateful if you would let us know of your intentions!

