



The **RITENEWS** OF MARYLAND

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND

FEB/MAR/APR 2016

FESTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, March 2

SPRING CLASS ORIENTATION

Wednesday, March 16

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 24

SPRING REUNION DAY

Saturday, April 16



*Duty is with us always,
as inflexible as Fate*

The
RITENEWS

of Maryland • Feb/Mar/Apr 2016

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GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL IN MARYLAND**

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Marlin L. Mills, 33°
EDITOR
Fred Spicer, 33°



ON THE COVER
Duty and Faith
4th Degree

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SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES
The Rite News
3800 North Charles St. • Baltimore, MD 21218
Office: 410-243-3200 • Fax: 410-243-8791
aasr@verizon.net

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A MESSAGE FROM
Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Greetings to one and all,

I hope this issue of The Rite News finds you well and your New Year off to a great start. 2015 was an exciting year for The Scottish Rite in Maryland. New degrees were presented and new versions of Master Craftsman were presented along with new class involvement. Our new Susquehanna Valley received their letters temporary for a new Chapter of Rose Croix and presented their first degree work from their traveling degree team. Watch for their 18th degree presentation this spring. If you are a Master Mason in Cecil or Harford County, there is something Rite for you in Bel Air.

This year is off to a very busy start. The VMAP Project for 2016 offers great ideas to help each Valley increase its membership. Our temple restoration is making progress slowly on a “pay as we go” basis. Maintaining this beautiful edifice is a very expensive undertaking. Our temple restoration and preservation fund is a 501(c)(3) as described by the IRS and your gift, donation or bequest may be entirely tax deductible. I thank you in advance for any assistance you may offer.

I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to each one of you who helped, in any way



with your time, talent or just by attending our events. It all makes a huge difference. I also want to congratulate our new officers for this year. I know you will have a very successful and rewarding term.

In closing, may I wish each of you a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

 **Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°** 
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Maryland



Grand Master of Masons in Maryland

By: MW Brother Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr., 33°



GREETINGS BRETHREN,

I am in the process of refreshing my faltering memory in preparation for the upcoming January lodge installation circuit. One of the charges to the Worshipful Master elect is: "You will promote the general good of society, cultivate the social virtues and propagate knowledge of the art." Reflecting upon this statement gave me cause to think how important it is for all of us to take heed of this point. You know, that in every part of our ritual lives, is a deeper meaning for us to discover.

Two men, William James, known as the father of American philosophy, and Napoleon Hill, author, help us to come to grips with the importance of

putting into practice the points made in this statement. James stated, "The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human can alter his life by altering his attitude."

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past. We can, however, impact the present and the future with our attitude and behavior.

Think about all the lives we touch with our vast masonic philanthropy. Understanding this fact that we, as masons, promote the general good of society every day.

The social virtues are defined in many ways today. We can relate social virtues to our masonic teaching when we think and review the lessons of the four Cardinal Virtues - Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice, taught to us as an Entered Apprentice.

Lastly, by propagating or fostering a growing knowledge of our art (ideas), we are better educating ourselves and others in our values and beliefs. Masons are believers in

incremental learning. After all, we teach by degrees.

One of the great truths taught within our walls is that we are not stuck with the nature we were born with. We have the ability to change and to transform ourselves into better men. Masons are builders and we have the ability to build the life we want. We are living stones to be shaped and reshaped by our masonic tools. This is a powerful message. Napoleon Hill said, "It takes half your life before you discover life is a do it yourself project."

We have promoted the idea that Maryland Masonry is a Pathway to Excellence. Aristotle said that excellence is not an act but rather a habit. Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort and intelligent execution.

"Action is the real measure of intelligence. The world has a habit of making room for the man whose actions show that he knows where he is going," Napoleon Hill.

In closing, I wish each of you and your loved ones a healthy and prosperous new year.



What Does Masonry Mean in Your Life?

By: Ill. Bennie G. Owens, 33°—Annapolis Lodge #89, Orient Personal Representative, MWPGM



WE SPEND MUCH OF OUR INTRODUCTION TO MASONRY learning catechism and factual information that we may not use on a daily basis. Is that what Masonry is all about? Many of our friends outside the fraternity believe that we are most interested in business or social connections. There is nothing wrong with making these connections, but that is not what Masonry is all about. If that were the only reason for being a Mason, we might as well buy our friends with money and save all the time and effort that we currently give to the fraternity. So, my Brethren, what does this fraternity really mean to you?

We can think of many lessons, like brotherly love, relief, and truth. These, of course, are the basis of what fraternalism means in our society. We can Square our actions, Circumscribe our desires, and keep our passions in due bounds. All of these things are great, and we should make them a part of our everyday life. Keep reaching for your thinking cap and tell

me what you really think about our fraternity. Is it a place that we attend occasionally and just relax for a while, or do we truly get involved in the ritual and business part of the Lodge? Unfortunately, there is only so much work to go around and we can't all be involved at one time.

As we continue to think about what Masonry means, let us consider each of the individual brothers that we meet and greet at every Masonic meeting. That is where the real brotherhood lives. Brethren, it is up to each of us individually to create real brotherly love by the way we meet and greet our brothers each time we see them. Too often, we do not have the opportunity to get to know each brother intimately. Very often, we do not know very much about the private lives of our membership. Sometimes, we do not ever know what they do for a living or anything about their

family lives. If we really want to grow Masonry, we must first grow ourselves as Masons and find out more about those we care about. Yes, brethren, I am guiltier than you all are. It is I who fails in this category more often than I succeed.

Now, let us put on our real thinking caps and discover the best way to save our fraternity by doing the simple job of knowing and cooperating with our brothers and trying to make them and us better Masons.

When you go to lodge, or Scottish Rite, or York Rite, or any of the collateral bodies of Masonry, let us see if we can establish a better relationship with each other. I know, we can't always remember all of the details, but at least we can always be more interested in what makes each of us the kind of person that we are. I would suppose that we can say that "Masonry is The Tie That Binds".


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Valley of Baltimore

By: Ill. E. Ray Leppo, Jr., 33°, Grand Cross — Personal Representative



THE FALL CLASS OF 2015 was conducted in memory of William T. McLaughlin, 33°. His wife Pat and children were present when Bill was honored at the Ring Ceremony. Congratulations

to the Officers of the four bodies of The Scottish Rite for a successful year. John M. Lister, 32°, KCCH, Venerable Master – Lodge of Perfection; Andrew L. Vineberg, 32°, KCCH, Wise Master – Chapter of Rose Croix; John A. Austin, 32°, Commander – Council of Kadosh; Kostas Vourvoulas, 33°, Master of Kadosh – Consistory. I applaud you on a job well done. The KSA in the Valley of Baltimore, under the direction of David Ente, 32°, KCCH have made strides in membership, participating at events and working on the goals to attend the KSA gathering in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The degrees and casts under the direction

of Thomas Velvin, Director and Henry McDonald, Asst. Director of Work, were well presented with the additions of the 25th and 27th degrees. The diplomats (S.R. members assigned to visit Blue Lodges in hopes of Rite membership) are out visiting and educating our fellow Masons. If you would like to be a diplomat, please contact Ill. Bro. Kenneth R. Taylor, 33°, Chairman. I thank everyone who participated in making 2015 a good year for the Rite and I hope 2016 will be even better.

Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

By: Hon. Gerald R. Phillips, 32°, KCCH– Aberdeen Lodge #187– Venerable Master



BROTHERS, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to be your Venerable Master for the upcoming year. I wish to thank all of you for entrusting me with this very important position. I never thought this day would come or that I would be a part of something so great and

honorable. I remember starting out in Masonry, going into the unknown with a very good friend by my side. Friendship is a wonderful thing and, if it wasn't for that dear friend and brother, this time may never have come. He stood by me in all the degree work of the Blue Lodge and also introduced me to the Scottish Rite.

I started out in the Scottish Rite by going to a one day class in 1972. It was a very long and fast day. What did I learn from it? At the time, it was hard to say. As a career soldier, it was very hard for me to attend anything. I longed for the time when I could be part of something great and honorable. I attended a few things here

and there, but never anything of permanence. My greatest supporter through my Masonic journey has been my beloved wife of 50 years. Her family has a great history of Masonic tradition.

As we move into the New Year, let us focus on the road ahead. Let us go forward with the idea of improving ourselves as well as improving the lives of others. As Scottish Rite Masons, let us live up to our traditions and principles of brotherly love, helping others and promoting good will wherever we may be. Take care my brothers. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Temple.

Class Officers for Fall 2015



(Left to Right) Bro. Leslie G. Hodgson, 32° - Class Secretary; Bro. Paul J. Cottrell, 32° Class Vice-President; Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33° - Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland; Bro. Allen L. Washington, 32° - Class Orator; Bro. Arthur F. Jeyes, 32° - Class Treasurer; Not Pictured: Bro. Brent A. Kidd, 32° - Class President

OUR SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

Open to all members and their families

We pay tribute to the Officers of our clubs, to the founders and leaders, past and present, and to the members for their cooperation in promoting the Scottish Rite way and the Masonic understanding and fellowship that go with it. For year-round activities and meetings of these clubs, call:

Arundel Scottish Rite Club

Ill. Kenneth R. Taylor, 33°
410-782-9297

Chesapeake Scottish Rite Club

Bro. Stephen G. Hall, 32°
410-937-2878

Conowingo Scottish Rite Club

Hon. William D. Gunn, 32°, KCCH
410-939-1798

Carroll Scottish Rite Club

Ill. Paul M. Lloyd, 33°
410-374-2569

Eastern Shore Scottish Rite Club

Arthur H. Tawes, 33°
443-235-8950

Mid Shore Scottish Rite Club

Bro. Robert Sparks, 32°, KCCH
410-634-2235

Scottish Rite Cheer Club

Ill. Charles E. Winebrenner, Jr., 33°
410-243-3200

Washington County Scottish Rite Club

Bro. Robert Reiff, 32°
301-302-6550

NEW Hellenic Society Social Club

Bro. John Stathopoulos, 32°
410-592-2929

Meredith Chapter Rose Croix

By: Hon. Daniel L. Roberts, 32° KCCH – Pythagoras Lodge #123 - Wise Master



BRETHREN, thank you for electing me as Wise Master. It is an honor and a privilege to be elected to lead the office of Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix for 2016. Just being a member of one of the oldest and greatest fraternal organizations in the

world is an honor. On behalf of all the officers of Rose Croix, we certainly look forward to humbly serving and supporting all our Scottish Rite Brethren.

As we move forward into the New Year 2016, I wish a joyous and prosperous year for all my brethren and their families. From my heart, there is a profound desire for the success of masonry throughout Maryland. As a red hat in the Scottish Rite, we are offered an opportunity to lead our brethren. We are challenged to work hard to support and improve our fraternal institution on a daily basis. Recruiting new members and encouraging support and participation in

Scottish Rite activities, give strength and foster bonding of our brethren. Complacency is not a part of this great institution. Spreading further light in masonry is our goal and deed.

In the coming year, I look forward to seeing everyone at our Chapter Meetings for the Spring Class, Maundy Thursday, Fall Class, and Memorial Service which we shall proudly present to you. Let us make 2016 a great year and show support for this great Scottish Rite Institution in Maryland.

Maundy Thursday Observance & Dinner

Thursday, March 24th, 6:30pm

All Scottish Rite Masons are encouraged to attend and the portrayal is open to friends and family of all Scottish Rite Masons.

In the Scottish Rite, darkness often refers to the disappearance of truth and justice in the world. As the symbolic lights are extinguished, we reflect upon this loss. By re-lighting them, we reinforce our belief

that, as Knights Rose Croix, it is our duty to throw off the mantle of sorrow and darkness and to emulate those historical figures who have brought truth and knowledge to mankind. This solemn Ceremonial is an important part of the ritualistic work of the Chapter Rose Croix and expresses our commitment to the living of a conscientious and enlightened life.



The Symbols of the Mystic Banquet

1. The Matzo, or unleavened bread, is also called bread of affliction. It is symbolic of the bread which the Hebrews made when they hastily left Egypt, because they did not have enough time to allow their dough to rise. The Matzo is the most important symbol of the Passover.
2. The Moror, or bitter herb (represented by a small slice of horseradish) is symbolic of the hardships which the Israelites endured while they were slaves in Egypt.
3. The Haroses, a paste of apples, nuts, spices and wine, is symbolic of the mortar the Israelites used, when they were slaves, in the construction of the Pharaoh's treasure cities, Pithom and Ramses.
4. The Shank Bone, a roasted bone, is symbolic of the Paschal Lamb that was sacrificed and eaten on the eve of Passover.
5. The Hard Boiled Egg, is symbolic of life and the springtime when nature renews life.

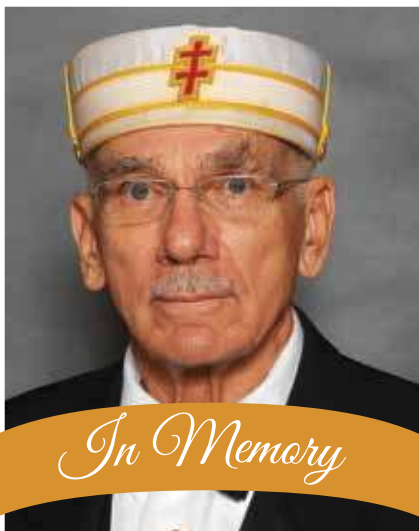
The Four Cups of Wine commemorate the four promises made by God to Moses to redeem the Israelites and bring them out of bondage.

Cost for this event - \$20.00 per person.



Spring Class of 2016 In Memory of: Illustrious Ronald L. Unger, 33°

May 10th, 1939 – May 16th, 2015
Member of Jephthah Lodge #222
Master Mason – 10/23/1967
14° - November 5th, 1993
18° - November 6th, 1993
30° - November 6th, 1993
32° - November 16th, 1993
Invested KCCH – October 3rd, 2001
Coroneted 33° - October 4th, 2005



In Memory

Maryland Council of Kadosh

By: Hon. Randall L. Watson, 32°, KCCH – Ancient Baltimore #234– Commander of Kadosh

THE NEW YEAR BEGINS

symbolically with Janus both looking back at the year that was and ahead to the year that will be. As the first message as Commander, I congratulate Past Commander John Austin, 32° for a successful term. I also thank Past Commander Hon. Tom Marraffa, 32°, KCCH for appointing me to his line of officers, thus starting me on my personal journey within the Council.

The 30th Degree (Knight Kadosh) is the capstone of the Council. The third section of the Degree uses many impressive symbols, but at the center is the mausoleum erected to the memory of Jacobus Burgundus Moliensis (Jacques DeMolay), as a reminder that although the flames of avarice consumed his mortal flesh and his spirit returned to God who gave it; but the memory of his example of heroic fidelity lives on in the human conscience, and serves as the perpetual law to govern the Knights Kadosh. We do not present this symbol to the aspirant in the spirit of lamentation and sorrow for the murdered and regret for that which has been lost; but as an inspiration to goad each of us on in our faith and pursuit

of establishing the reign of freedom, peace and toleration in the world.

In 1919, at the beginning of what would become the Masonic youth group of the Order of DeMolay, Ill. Frank S. Land, 33° was serving as Commander for the DeMolay Council of Kadosh in Kansas City, MO. The young men forming the group were looking for a name, and asked “Dad” Land about some of the Masonic heroes – he told them the story of Jacques DeMolay and the destruction of the Knights Templar by King Phillip the Fair of France, and they immediately adopted it. The ritual of the Order drew upon the lessons of his heroic life and martyr’s death and included a dramatic presentation of his trials to impart a graphic conception of the loyalty that is faithful unto death; and which serves as an enduring basis of broadly built human character.

The Order of DeMolay came to Maryland two years later, in 1921, with the first chapter instituted east of the Mississippi River. As a Senior DeMolay, and in this 95th anniversary year of Maryland DeMolay, I am especially honored to be serving as Commander of Kadosh.



Please come out and join us at the Festive Boards that will be held in conjunction with both of our Council meetings. They are open ceremonies, so not only are wives and family welcome, but this can be used as an opportunity to bring a Masonic Brother who is not yet in the Scottish Rite. You can also bring a non-Masonic friend who might be interested in learning more about our great fraternity.

Once again, it is an honor to be permitted to serve as Commander this year. Thank you for your support and all that you do in the cause of the Craft and our Rite.

Chesapeake Consistory

By: Ill. William D. Hooper, 33° - Tuscan Lodge #202 - Master of Kadosh



WHEN I BECAME A 32° SCOTTISH RITE MASON many, many years ago; it never crossed my mind that, one day, I would be writing this article as Venerable Master of Kadosh of the Chesapeake Consistory. To be elected to this position, for me, is one of the many highlights of my masonic career, and I am indebted to all who have seen fit to elevate me as such. I pledge to each member of the Valley of Baltimore, and the Scottish Rite in general, that I will endeavor to be worthy of your confidence.

I congratulate our outgoing Venerable Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, the Illustrious Kostas Vourvoulas, 33° for a job well done in 2015 and wish him well in his upcoming future endeavors. I am sure masonry will be in good hands and well-guided for the foreseeable future.

Looking forward to 2016, I am hoping to have some interesting guest speakers for our meetings, and I encourage all who are able to attend. I promise that the speakers who I have invited will discuss topics of great interest.

We have all been taught that the tenants of a Freemason are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. There are no better principles than these three principles by which we live our daily lives. Think about each one and ask yourself - do I live by and practice these simple maxims? Do I avoid hypocrisy and deceit in my dealings with my fellow man? Do I attempt to relieve the distressed? Do I attempt to

conciliate true friendship with those whom I associate with? Masons, by and large, practice what they preach. Because of these principles, Masons are the type of men that I am proud to associate with and call my Brothers. If there are those among you reading this article that do not always abide by our simple tenants because they have not attended lodge in a long time, and perhaps do not totally remember their first degree lecture, try going back to your lodge to witness a first degree and get a refresher course.

While you are at it, why not also attend the degree conferrals for the new spring class here at the Scottish Rite. You’ll be glad you did.

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HONORMEN 2015 – VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND

The four men from Cumberland Consistory who received honors on October 10, 2015.



L to R: Harold E Harris, 32°, KCCH, Oakland MD, William R (Chip) Zimmer, 32°, KCCH, Hagerstown, MD, Kenneth R Wilson, 33°, Cumberland, MD, and Michael L Kamauff, 32°, KCCH, Frostburg, MD.

The Cumberland Consistory is honored to have these four men receive recognition for the work and support they give to the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite. We look forward to their continued service to Scottish Rite.



This picture was a fun picture taken after the Scottish Rite Honors Banquet on the Banquet Hall stage. Members of the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite posed with the new Honor Men and the Grand Master Wyvill, 33°, Deputy Grand Master Vourvoulas, 33°, Past Grand Master Owens, 33°, and SGIG Mills, 33°.

The Valley of Cumberland

By: Ill. P. Gary Shircliff, 33° - Personal Representative for the Valley of Cumberland

THE CUMBERLAND SCOTTISH RITE Fourteenth Degree Capping Ceremony was held Sunday, November 22, 2015, at the Masonic Temple in Cumberland. Eleven men were initiated on October 24, 2015. Seven men were in attendance on November 22, 2015 to receive their 32° black cap. Over 60

people attended including children, wives and members. Membership Prism Awards were made to four members who were top line signers for the fall class. Service awards were presented to three men present and 12 service awards will be sent to those not able to attend who have reached milestones

of 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 years of service in Cumberland Scottish Rite. Ill Fred A Spicer, 33°, Executive Director of the Orient of Maryland was present and gave remarks on behalf of SGIG Mills who was unable to attend. A dinner followed in the banquet hall for those attending.



Picture #1 (DSC 0005) Members receiving Membership Award Prisms for being top line signer. L to R: Charles J Hout, 33°, Assistant Personal Representative, Robert H Shaffer, 32°, Paul W Borrer, Jr, 32°, Travis L Brashears, 32°, Marvin E Printz, 32°, and Paul G Shircliff, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Cumberland. Jerome F Robinette, 33°, Secretary/Registrar and Master of Ceremonies is in the background.



Picture #2 (DSC 0014) Service awards presented. L to R: Charles J Hout, 33°, Harry J Foreback, 32°, KCCH, 50 year service award, Clifton J cook, 32°, 55 year service award, Theodore R Robb, 32°, 40 year service award, and Paul G Shircliff, 33°.



Picture #3 (DSC 0022) Picture of Richard P Hite, 32° after receiving his blackcap, shown with his wife and three children.



Picture #4 (DSC 0024) Picture of Jason S Landis, 32° and son, Zander after receiving his black cap. Zander escorted his father through the Scottish Rite Ring.

BROTHERS CALLED
FROM LABOR TO
ETERNAL REST

Norman P. Mills
William T. Drummond, Sr.
William S. Wilson
Ralph G. Matthews
Harold W. Price
John H. Butz
Guy E. Tracey, Jr.
Joseph E. Blevins
Robert J. Nelson, Jr.
Francis L. Bollinger
Emory Jarnagin
Marion L. Butler
Donald H. Cully, Sr.
Edward C. Deegan, III
John A. Demetriades
Ralph D. Green
Joseph H. Koepper
Ernest L. Powell
Bernard C. Reynolds
Walter H. Smith
Norman R. Thiele
Paul A. Guntzel
Herman C. Engel, Jr.
Louis H. Sandlass
Marion B. Wells
Robert E. Zimmerli
George E. Blume
George J. Arendt, Jr.
Herman C. Engel, Jr.
Edward M. Fritz
Dale C. Grace
Frederick H. Habicht, Jr.
Richard H. Uren
Marion B. Wells
Robert E. Zimmerli
George E. Blume
Louis H Sandlass
James L Mc Carty
J. Thomas Landerkin

The Promise of Further Light!

THE SCOTTISH RITE MASTER CRAFTSMAN (SRMC) program is an exciting course designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. Upon completion of each program listed below, the participant will be rewarded with a medal or pins to denote multiple completions. Currently, there are three programs that are meant to be taken in the following order:

PROGRAM I: The Symbolic Lodge will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the “High Degrees” began to develop soon after the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike’s book, Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry, along with Arturo de Hoyos’s Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide (3rd ed.) will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.

PROGRAM II: Scottish Rite Ritual and History consists of six lessons, utilizing the Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, and A Bridge to Light (4th ed.) by Rex Hutchens, 33°, Grand Cross, as its textbooks.

PROGRAM III: Scottish Rite Philosophy uses Albert Pike’s Morals & Dogma, Annotated Edition, by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross and returns to the ritual of the Scottish Rite to re-explore it on a deeper level, by looking for the moral lesson imparted in each degree and then applying that lesson to one’s everyday life. The course consists of 33 quizzes, grouped into 10 sections.

Scottish Rite Ritual and History - has been used in the last two Scottish Rite Classes in Baltimore as the education component to the degree conferrals. This course will again be taught in the Spring 2016 Class. It is not a requirement to participate in the class, but is offered for those who have the time and desire to delve deeper into the meaning of our degrees.

For those who are already members of the Scottish Rite, there are a limited number of seats available with the Spring Class for those who prefer a group experience in taking the course.

The cost is \$40.00 and includes the “Ritual Monitor and Guide” and “Bridge to Light”. Please call the office @ 410-243-3200 to enroll, space is again, limited.

The Phoenicians and a Passage to Ethiopia

By: By: Hon. Charles J. Matulewicz, 32° KCCH – Palestine Lodge #189



IN THE LEGEND of the third degree, we see three ruffians seeking to escape prosecution for their crime by making their way to the port city of Joppa. This course of action makes little sense for two reasons:

the first being that the sea port of Joppa is on the Mediterranean coast which, during the biblical period of Solomon, would be impossible to reach Ethiopia from this port (until the Suez Canal was finished in 1869). The second and more compelling is that the men of Tyre were descended from the Phoenicians who were one of the widest spread peoples of the ancient world.

Looking at the problems of geography and the seafaring tradition of the Phoenicians, we, as Masons, must look at the use of Ethiopia as a symbol as opposed to a literal safe haven if we are to understand its inclusion in our ritual.

ACCIDENTS OF GEOGRAPHY

Looking at a map of biblical Israel during the time of Solomon we are struck with Joppa being situated along the western coast, roughly 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem. Biblically, the quality of the anchorage made it the port of Jerusalem. It was to Joppa that Hiram floated down from Tyre, the fir trees of Lebanon (2 Chron 2:16), and, later, Zerubbabel, acting on the edict of Cyrus, caused to be brought here cedar trees from the same mountains (Ezra 3:7). But without the use of the Suez Canal, it is impossible to sail from this sea port to Ethiopia, as a ship would need to venture across the Mediterranean, through the straits of Gibraltar, and around the horn of Africa to do so. This would be expensive, dangerous, and incredibly unlikely due to the situation of Elath and the Red Sea.

Elath is an ancient Hebrew port city, controlled by the Israelites during the time of Solomon. This port city was located at the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba which extends into the Red Sea, and served as the sea port linking the Kingdom of Solomon to the traders of Arabia and the riches of the Kingdom of Ethiopia. This port would have provided the most direct route to Ethiopia and would have been known by the men of Tyre, particularly if we are to read the Bible. We see that Solomon saw the value of the sea port. We read that Solomon built a “navy of ships”

at Ezion-Geber beside Elath; from there it sailed to Ophir manned by his servants and those of Hiram, king of Tyre (I Kings 9:26; I Chron. 8:17). Solomon actually sourced gold for the Temple at Ophir.

Biblically, we associate Ophir with Ethiopia, and the tradition of the Queen of Sheba. Let’s read that passage from Kings one more time.

“And King Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. And Hiram sent in the navy, his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to King Solomon.” (1 Kings 9:26-28)

Given the geography, and the fact that men of Tyre are documented actually building ships next to the most likely port city to embark for Ethiopia from, and actually went to a city biblically associated with Ethiopia and the Queen of Sheba (The Ophir was the Brother of Sheba) and came back to Jerusalem with materials for the very building, the ruffians were working on it seems increasingly unlikely that the workmen would have headed to Joppa to make their way to Ethiopia. The logic of the route, even for panicked ruffians fleeing justice, does not make sense.

TO BE CONTINUED...

32°
KCCH



John W. Brodbeck, Jr.

Timothy M. Dykes

Kevin S. Emery

William E. Gyr

Harold E. Harris

E D Hennings

Thomas R. Johann

Michael L. Kamauf

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Honormen 2015
33°
IGH



James R. Stevens

Drew M. Taylor

L. Evans Votta

Steven W. Walls

Cory S. Wright

Donald A. Wyand

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Jason M. Taft

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Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr

Valley of Cumberland 33rd Inspectors General Meeting

Thirty-Third Degree members of the Valley of Cumberland met on August 18, 2015 for a Social Gathering at the Cacapon Resort State Park Lodge Restaurant. Fourteen men and their ladies enjoyed a delicious dinner. Following the

meal, Fred Widmyer, 33°, talked about the Shrine Hospitals. He will be the Chairman of the Shrine Board of Directors at the Philadelphia Hospital for 2016. Paul G Shircliff, 33°, spoke about October 10th Honors Day and encouraged all to

attend and support the Valley's honorees. Guests introduced were Mark Recard, 33°, PA (Northern Jurisdiction) and Paul Zimmerman, 33°, WV. Chairman of the affair was G Frederick Widmyer, 33° and Cochairman was David L Hall, 33°.



First Row (L to R) Mark Recard, 33°, Paul Zimmerman, 33°, Paul G. Shircliff, 33°, Charles J. Hout, 33°, Charles C. Doll, 33°, David L. Hall, 33°, and Jerome F. Robinette, 33°.

Second Row (L to R) Jamey S. Hill, 33°, R Francis Shives, 33°, Lonnie R. Jackson, 33°, Frederick E. Reel, 33°, M. Robert Wheatley, 33°, Donald K. Hansel, 33°, and G. Frederick Widmyer, 33°.

Valley of Southern Maryland

By: Ill. Kenneth Hopkins Sebra, 33° - Thomas J. Shryock Lodge #223

THE VALLEY OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND had a very successful 2015 Fall Class. There were four very enthusiastic candidates that were a real delight to work with. They seemed to be really interested in learning more and participating in the degree work. Brothers Robert E. Allen 32°, Colin K. Boynton 32°, Jeremy K. Deal 32° and Stuart J. Fittrell 32° are a significant addition to the Valley of Southern Maryland.

Our Director of Work, Hon. Thomas Barnhart, 32° KCCH, always does an excellent job.

No matter how well you plan, there are always a few last minute adjustments and Tom knows how to do it so no one even realizes there has been a problem.

We finished the Fall season with two family programs, the Feast of Tishri and our Christmas program. Our ladies really step forward and do most of the work. I never really understand this because they are our guests for these events.

Venerable Master Brother Dennis Leland, 32° and Wise

Master Jonathan T. Brand, 32° have given the Valley of Southern Maryland a very successful year. In addition to their normal duties, they have filled in wherever needed. Thank you for a very successful 2015.

If you are ever in Southern Maryland on the first or third Wednesday, stop in at the Valley of Southern Maryland. You will be among friends and I know you will see someone you know.



The Fall Class of 2015 in Memory of William T. McLaughlin, 33°

The Class Picture for Fall 2015 will be available in Mid-January.

A limited numbers of past class pictures are available at the Scottish Rite Office for \$15.00.

An American Hero - Valley of Cumberland

IRVIN WALLACE (BUTCH) JOHNSON, age 91, is an American hero in our City of Cumberland, MD. Mr. Johnson started his journey of service to his country in 1943 after dropping out of high school. The Army drafted him in February of 1943 and he received his basic training in Fort Jackson, SC. He was assigned to the 87th Infantry Division, 345th Infantry Regiment, Company K.

In early October 1944 the company was shipped out from Camp Kilmer, NJ.

Their designation was to France and then into Germany. Mr. Johnson eventually became a Staff Sergeant and a squad leader. His position required him to take the lead in his squads fighting assignments. German Pill-Box's were a nasty element of killing American soldiers. Butch took the lead to destroy those concrete bunkers in order to protect his men and many other American

troops. Butch was wounded in action in Germany in February of 1945 and shipped to Paris for recuperation in an Army hospital.

An officer came to his bedside to pin a Silver Star on his pajamas and told him that a citation would be formally presented to him at a later date. The citation never was presented.

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, with the help of William "Bill" Emmer a retired WV Air National Guard Lieutenant Colonel, whose family lives in Frostburg, the citation was formally presented. The presentation was made at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Cumberland, MD. Major General William E. Rapp, Commandant, Army War College and chief of legislative liaison in the Office of the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon officially presented the distinguished Silver Star to Butch. Also presented were the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple

Heart Medal. Citations were presented from Congressman John Delany, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Ben Cardin, Delegate Michael McKay, County Commissioner William Valentine, and Mayor Brian Grim, who designated the day as "Irvin Johnson Day in Cumberland".

Over 150 friends and family attended the celebration and refreshments that were served in the Social Hall of the church following the presentations. Pictures were taken and members of his Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Shriners joined to congratulate him in receiving honors that were long over due.

Irvin (Butch) Johnson is a member of Queen City Lodge #131, Cumberland, and is a 33° Scottish Rite Freemason in the Orient of Maryland. He is a Personal Representative Emeritus for the Valley of Cumberland, and a member of the Ali Ghan Shriners.

Master Craftsman I Program – Essay for Quiz 3

By: Brother Che F. F. Hackett, 32° - Palestine Lodge #189

THE DEGREES OF THE SCOTTISH RITE provide an eclectic blend of various disciplines and beliefs to tell a tale of the quest for enlightenment, suffering, persevering, rebuilding, justice, fairness, and liberty. The degrees are presented in such a way that we may be lulled into a sense of an audience member simply observing a play, or reading a book, but soon we realize that the lessons taught on stage and in the pages are really about us. The temple being re-built is really that of each of our own internal temples found within us.

The Chapter of The Rose Croix continues the adventurous saga of where the Lodge of Perfection left off. We immediately note that there are various belief systems and philosophies in these Degrees, from the Pythagorean Tetractys, Hebrew mysticism (the Kabbalah), Hebrew history, and Christian Doctrine.

One of the things that struck me as especially interesting and surprising is the fact that even in the Chapter of the Rose Croix Degrees, they very much mimic, reflect, and continue the elements from the Lodge of Perfection, otherwise known as The Ineffable Degrees. Of special note is the application of the teachings and philosophies found within the Kabbalah, where even God's name is ineffable. The Degree further reflects the Kabbalistic belief that God's real name and the idea of God is inexpressible, incomprehensible, and ineffable. It cannot be conceived of by human thought, as the idea of a Supreme Being is indeed one that goes beyond that of what the human brain has the capability of conceiving.

I've always been particularly fond of the ideals of 'Liberty', so it came as a real surprise to me learning the etymology of the word, while studying for

this exam. On page 113 of "A Bridge to Light", it describes the origins of the English word 'liberty' as stemming from the Latin word 'liber' which means 'bark' (as in the bark of a tree) upon which paper and thus books were made from, and thus a relation to the word 'library'. The idea of books in those days was one of a tool that influenced free thought, and the spreading of ideas, wisdom, and knowledge – thus the eventual creation of the word 'liberty'.

Another worthy item of note that struck me as very interesting while studying for this quiz, is the lesson of Zerubbabel, in which we are taught, via the struggles he has faced, that a virtuous life does not mean an easy life --- there will always be obstacles to navigate. This is a very relatable lesson, and a very important one.

An American Hero



Pictured: Left to Right 1st row: Jerome Robinette, 33°, George Smith, 33°, Irvin (Butch) Johnson, 33°, and John Steven Spence, 32°, KCCH.

2nd row: Bruce Whitacre, 32°, Lonnie Jackson, 33°, Kenneth Wilson, 33°, Robin Summerfield, 32°, Thomas Bryant, 33°, Gary Freeman, 32°, KCCH, Paul Shircliff, 33°, Jamey Hill, 33°, Wayne Couter, 32°, and Joe Kennedy, 32°.



Interestingly, on November 7th at the annual Fort Hill High School-Allegany High School Football game, Irvin (Butch) Johnson was brought to the football game because of the recent presentation of his military honors. Also asked to join him on the field were 3 other World War II veterans in recognition of Veterans Day on 11/11. A picture was published in our local paper (and is listed above as Johnson Football pic). Cumberland Scottish Rite was very pleased to see that along with Butch Johnson (seated in WC) were (in back) Ernie Combs, 32° and Robert (Buddy) Bosley, 32° who both served in World War II and have been active members of Scottish Rite. The third gentleman standing is Paul Long who is a 1937 graduate of Fort Hill High School and was wearing his service uniform. (He is not a member of Scottish Rite). A Marine is also shown in uniform who was Mr Johnson's escort. Mr Johnson is a Personal Representative Emeritus to the Valley of Cumberland.

Maryland DeMolay

By: Dad Carl A. Michel, Jr, 32° - Liberty Pickering Lodge #219 - Executive Secretary

THANK YOU. Two words which everyone should say but most find hard to remember.

Maryland DeMolay has had much to be thankful for through the efforts and support of all Maryland Masonry. It would be easy to cite the generous efforts of our Scottish Rite, Grand Lodge, Shrine Temples, York Rite, Eastern Star, Tall Cedars and all other collateral bodies and thank them for their support during speeches and in letters, but that only reaches those in attendance or who are fortunate to receive the letters. These types of thank you's, while extremely important, do not adequately convey our heartfelt thanks to you, the individual person.

Many of you help support us in ways you don't realize. We have all heard a story where a Brother informs us that they were at a function for work or family and talked about Maryland Masonry with those not yet members.

Many of these stories revolve around a ring that is spotted or a lapel pin that looked like their grandfather's. When the conversation begins, it is usually a brief explanation or elevator speech on our Fraternity. Many of you have expanded on the conversation to include other facets of our collateral bodies including DeMolay. You may talk about the youth groups as a whole and you may not use the names directly, but you explain that there is a group for young men and two groups for young ladies. While this may not seem like much, you are our advocate.

**WE THANK YOU FOR
SPREADING THE WORD OF
THE MASONIC YOUTH!**

DeMolay around the Jurisdiction continues to keep busy in the community and make you proud of their efforts. The Nelson J. Briggs Chapter has been very active assisting the Friends of the Harford County Public Library with their upcoming book sale

by moving furniture and setting up the area and at Pet Valu in Abingdon as they washed dogs to raise money for The Humane Society of Harford County. We will continue to make you proud and bring you more stories from other chapters around the Jurisdiction, Paying it Forward in our communities.

We would also like to congratulate Dad William Eppig on receiving the Warren Sepp Award and Dad Albert Kaestner, Dad Chuck Ridgeway and Dad Robert England on receiving the Francis E. Larrimore Medal at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Finally, we would like to congratulate our Junior Past State Master Councilor, Spencer Schuch and his father Dad Karl Schuch on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason together in Patapsco Lodge No. 183.

Until next article.



Council of Kadosh *Spring Festive Board* Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016

Council Meeting opens at 6:30pm with the Festive Board calling on at 7:15pm.

Price is \$15.00 per person, which includes your "Firing Glass"

Open to all



The Knights of St. Andrew – Valley of Frederick

By: Bro. Tommy J. Morris, 32° , Columbia Lodge #58 – Knight Commander



OYEZ, OYEZ, OYEZ-

Knights, Brethren,

As another year comes to pass, individuals and organizations will look back and reflect on the highlights of the past year. For individuals, those highlights may be the birth of a child or grandchild, a marriage, promotion or career change. I hope this year has brought you and your family many moments to cherish for years to come. For the Knights of St. Andrew, it truly has been a remarkable year. As a New Year dawns, I think it's an appropriate time to give thanks to you. Thank you for all that you do for the Freemasonry. Thank you for all you do for families and youth.

The appreciation is sincere and heartfelt from those who benefit from our many great, inspirational and impactful events. Here is just a small sampling of how your membership, leadership and volunteer efforts help others every day of the year in every community in our great Nation. The Knights and Ladies engaged in community events such as the Bicentennial Masons walk and rededication of the cornerstone, Frederick Celtic Festival, and St. Andrews Society events. Our most notable achievements included fundraising for the Rite Care, Breast Cancer Family support, Frederick Chapter of DeMolay, assisting a distressed worthy brother from Columbia Lodge # 58 AF&AM to pay his dues, and raising \$500 donation for the Scottish Rite Temple fund.

The Scottish Rite Temple fund supports the building where our future members will develop their commitment to Freemasonry. While our Temple rivals many great works in Masonry, Our Scottish Rite Masonic Center is over 80 years old and still requires a few structural improvements and

is now in need of repair and attention. I would like to call for action, and challenge each and every Scottish Rite Valley or Scottish Rite Mason to match our generous donation of \$500 or make a small donation to the Scottish Rite Temple fund. The Scottish Rite Temple Restoration Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization and all charitable gifts are tax deductible. Necessary and long overdue alterations must be made to the Temple in order to ensure the preservation of our Masonic history, ceremonial rooms, treasured symbols, ancient books, and prized artifacts, and the promotion of Freemasonry to future generations.

In closing, I ask that you please take the time to thank a Knight or Lady for their selfless service, courage, indomitable spirit and for their dedication.

To my fellow Knights and Brethren, on behalf of the Knights of St Andrew and its auxiliary, thank you for your kind consideration. I salute you! "Regnum Dei Intra Te"

VMAP: How Do You Eat An Elephant?

By: Ill. Bro. Maynard Edwards, 32° - Mt. Ararat Lodge #44



THERE'S AN OLD VAUDEVILLE JOKE THAT GOES LIKE THIS:

How do you eat an elephant?
One bite at a time!

Admittedly, it's not a very funny joke, but it does contain some simple wisdom. Any task, when large enough can be overwhelming. But if you break it down into smaller pieces, you'll be surprised as to how much you can accomplish. Which is why this joke, as cheesy as it is, is germane to the discussion of the Valley Membership Achievement Project, better known as VMAP.

If you've taken a look at the VMAP booklet, it's quite possible all the lists and check boxes and requirements made your head swim a little. However, it is advisable that instead of looking at that booklet as a whole, scan the lists and see what one item jumps out at you as being doable. Maybe a task you can handle on your own, for the good of your Valley, or maybe one that you'll need a team of Scottish Rite brothers to help with. Either way, your actions will immediately accomplish the overall goal of VMAP, and that is to improve the Scottish Rite

experience for yourself and all of our brothers.

If you have not seen the VMAP instruction book, you can download it at <http://scottishrite.org/vmap-workbook/>

Here's a quick for instance: Flipping through the first few pages, you will see a section on Membership Recruitment. Under that heading there is a long list of check boxes. One of those boxes says "Valley Maintains a list of newly raised Master Masons". Perhaps at your next Blue lodge meeting, you could get the names and contact information for the new guys? Perhaps you could offer to mentor those new guys as they begin their Scottish Rite journey? And maybe you could give them a ride to the temple on the reunion day?

Each of those things are easy to handle, but those small bites put a big dent in the elephant that is VMAP. So take a few minutes, look through that booklet and find two or three items you'd like to tackle. Then contact your valley secretary, and let them know you want to help.

You'll be surprised at how much better your own AASR experience will become, and how quickly that big elephant will disappear from your plate.

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Evelyn Comer in loving memory of
Marvin A. Comer, 33° who loved the
Scottish Rite Temple

The Clinic Corner

By: Sarah Spicer, M.S., CF-SLP



WE AT THE SCOTTISH RITE CHILDHOOD SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CLINIC send our greetings in this brand new year! We hope that you are staying safe and warm (and out of the weather) this winter season. There have been several recent changes here at the clinic that we wish to share.

I personally wanted to greet everyone through this Clinic Corner. My name is Sarah Spicer; some of you may already know me from Masonic functions. I am a Speech-Language Pathologist Clinical Fellow (that is what the “CF” after my name means). As a Clinical Fellow, I diagnose and treat children with speech and language disorders under the partial supervision of seasoned Speech-Language Pathologist, Chrissy Wandishin. I hope to obtain my full certification this May. I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to provide the children of this beautiful clinic with speech and language services.

At the end of last year, we were joined by our lovely receptionist, Victoria Shilling. Victoria was previously a medical receptionist at the Calvert Medical Group and an administrative assistance for Sylvan Learning Systems. Along with experience and expertise, Victoria brings a dedicated work-ethic and a smiling face to the clinic. One of our recent Brockman scholarship recipients also joined our clinic as a graduate student clinician at the end of January. Jordyn Kovelseski is a Speech-Language Pathology graduate student from Towson University. Although she is here to learn from us, we are also learning from her! We are so lucky to welcome both Jordyn and Victoria to our clinic family.

We are pleased to report that Eleni Bowden and her family welcomed a healthy baby girl on September 27, 2015. At the beginning of January, Eleni Bowden returned from maternity leave and has gracefully juggled “two children under two” and her clinical responsibilities. We don’t know how she does it! Please come down to the clinic and welcome Eleni back – she might even show you pictures of baby “Ellie” Bowden.

Our clinic recently experienced an upheaval of sorts: a new Electronic Medical Records system was implemented.

If you have ever suffered through a dramatic change in processes or procedures, you can imagine how excited all of us were (not). No one was more surprised than we were to discover that Prime Suite was more efficient and streamlined than our previous system. Plus, Prime Suite is accessible from any computer, laptop, or tablet. We are pleased to report back that our ability to document new findings, track a patient’s progress, and communicate between professionals has improved significantly.

With warm weather on the horizon, we are starting to anticipate our second summer literacy camp. Designed for any young child starting to read, our literacy camp boosts the confidence of budding readers and develops essential skills. Activities like finger painting in foam and tracing letters in malleable kinetic sand keep the campers excited to come back the next day. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Scottish Rite for making this literacy camp possible. Funds were used to buy educational materials, books, and supplies for the program.

We want to thank everyone reading this for your continuous, tireless support. The work we do is only possible because of you! You are welcome to visit anytime.



Fall 2015



Fall 2015



Respect for the Organization.....Or Self-Respect

By: Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33° - SGIG of Maryland

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS WERE THINKING in the 1920's or 30's when they planned, built and paid for these huge, magnificent edifices we refer to as Temples? Times were hard, families struggled and the Great Depression was about to cause the collapse of businesses, industry and families. Yet, all around this great nation, men of faith and ambition pressed forward to building temples like no one had seen since the great structures of Greece, Rome and England.

Had they lost their mind to build Grand Lodge buildings and Scottish Rite Temples that are recognized today as some of the most beautiful in the United States? In volume after volume of minutes, dictation programs and speeches we can see that future generations were mentioned and plans made for those structures to stand the test of time. Yet, nowhere is there mention as to how they were to be maintained or who was going to pay the tremendous cost that would follow.

In 1933, just about the time many of our Temples were being completed, one dollar was equivalent to \$17.92 in today's dollar. (ref. dollar time inflation calculator) The Great Depression had hit every State and territory in this country. No one was spared the hardship.

Yet, you do not read of Lodges filing bankruptcy or Lodges sold at public auction; instead they opened, had meetings, collected dues, paid bills due and maintained. True that some, like ours were never completely finished but they managed.

HOW?

Was it respect for the organization or was it self-respect that failure was not an option?

"I have paid my dues for 30 years."

I truly think it had to be both. What has happened in eighty or eighty-five years. Have we lost respect for the organization or have we lost our self-respect?

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend a very nice ceremony and dinner hosted free of charge to the members, their friends and families. A donation box was set up by the door in hopes that some of the cost for the meal would be recovered. I

happened to be standing nearby talking with friends when I saw a family about to leave. The member had brought his wife, his son, daughter-in-law and their two children. What caught my attention was the young man stopped at the donation box and started to take out his wallet when his father grabbed his hand and said "Don't you put any money in there. I have been paying my dues here for thirty years and we don't owe anything." The young man looked at his father and said "It's a donation." To which his father replied "That's what I pay my dues for, let's go." Off they went – but – they were not the only ones. I asked the Valley Representative the next day how much was received in donations. I was told there were 187 people in attendance and donations totaled \$52.00. Respect for the organization or self-respect?

Today, across the country, we have Lodges closing, Lodges merging, buildings being sold and yes some even being foreclosed on. Are times as hard as they were in the 1930's? Do we not make more today than any time in the history of the world? Our buildings today are long since paid for (thank goodness) yet we struggle just to pay bills and do daily maintenance, not to mention the extreme cost of repair and upkeep.

"I have paid my dues for 30 years."

Today our dues are \$72.00 per year and \$20.00 of that comes right off the top to pay your Supreme Council assessment, leaving your Valley \$52.00 to operate on. \$52.00 per member to pay salaries, benefits, electric, gas, telephone and daily maintenance (mops, trash bags, cleaning supplies and toiletries, etc.). This does not include any of the major capital projects, such as emergency steam pipe repairs, emergency roof leaks, pipe leaks, and new Health Department code improvements. Nor does it cover capital requirements such as stopping water intrusion from years of neglect, or old clay pipes finally breaking and having to be excavated 15 to 20 feet below grade. Baltimore has not even started on their front steps that are crumbling under our feet or the front wall that is caving in more each year. Emergency repairs were made to the front portico to prevent the massive columns from collapse.

Should I go on? Probably not.

If we took the entire \$52.00 from all 5000 members it would not cover the cost of just the steps. Sadly, there are not 5000 members who pay

dues. Suspension, late payments and other causes decrease our income greatly. How did our forefathers do it? Dues were far less then than they are today. Donations were greater? More pledges made? More left in wills from estates? Looking back all this was true, they gave much more way back then.

Today, donations are needed more than ever. Our Temple is over 85 years old and the effects of time, weather and wear show everywhere. Our steps front steps are crumbling under our feet, water and steam pipes are rusting away and creating leaks throughout the building. Plaster walls and ceilings show leaks rapidly. Donations are important and are very much appreciated, large or small.

Respect for the organization or self-respect? What has happened? Our forefathers would be ashamed to see the state of affairs some of our Lodges and Valleys are in.

They all had respect for the organization. They all had self-respect! What has changed? We still take the same oaths, we still place our hand on the Good Book and take the same obligations and we still call each other Brother. What has happened? Have we changed? Do we still have respect for the organization? Do we still care about our buildings and furnishings?

I wonder what our grandchildren or great grandchildren will say about us. Will they wonder if we had lost our minds for NOT maintaining these beautiful buildings? Will they wonder if we did not have respect for the organization by not setting up trust to ensure that their generation and those generations to come would not find themselves in the shape we are in today? I just wonder what the next generations will say about us.

Upcoming **Events** Winter/Spring 16

Wednesday, February 17th Dinner @ 6:30pm (\$10.00) Meeting @ 7:30pm	Lodge of Perfection	6:30pm
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Wednesday, February 24th Dinner @ 6:30pm (\$10.00) Meeting @ 7:30pm	Chapter Rose Croix	6:30pm
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Wednesday, March 2nd Meeting @ 6:30pm Festive Board to follow \$15.00 Open to All	Council Festive Board	6:30pm
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Wednesday, March 9th Dinner @ 6:30pm (\$10.00) Meeting @ 7:30pm	Consistory	6:30pm
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Wednesday, March 16th Introduction to the Scottish Rite & Building Tour – Dinner to Follow	Spring Class Orientation	6:30pm
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Wednesday, March 23rd	Degrees – 4th & 5th	6:30pm
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Thursday, March 24th See Page 9 of this magazine	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
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Wednesday, March 30th	Degrees – 7th, 11th & 13th	6:30pm
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Wednesday, April 6th	Degrees – 14th & 15th	6:30pm
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Wednesday, April 13th	Degrees – 18th & 20th	6:30pm
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Saturday, April 16th Confer 21st, 25th, 27th, 30th & 32nd Degree Lunch @ 12noon - \$5.00	Reunion Day	7:30am
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Sunday, April 17th Ceremony Begins @ 2pm Dinner to Follow \$15.00	Ring Ceremony	2:00pm
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