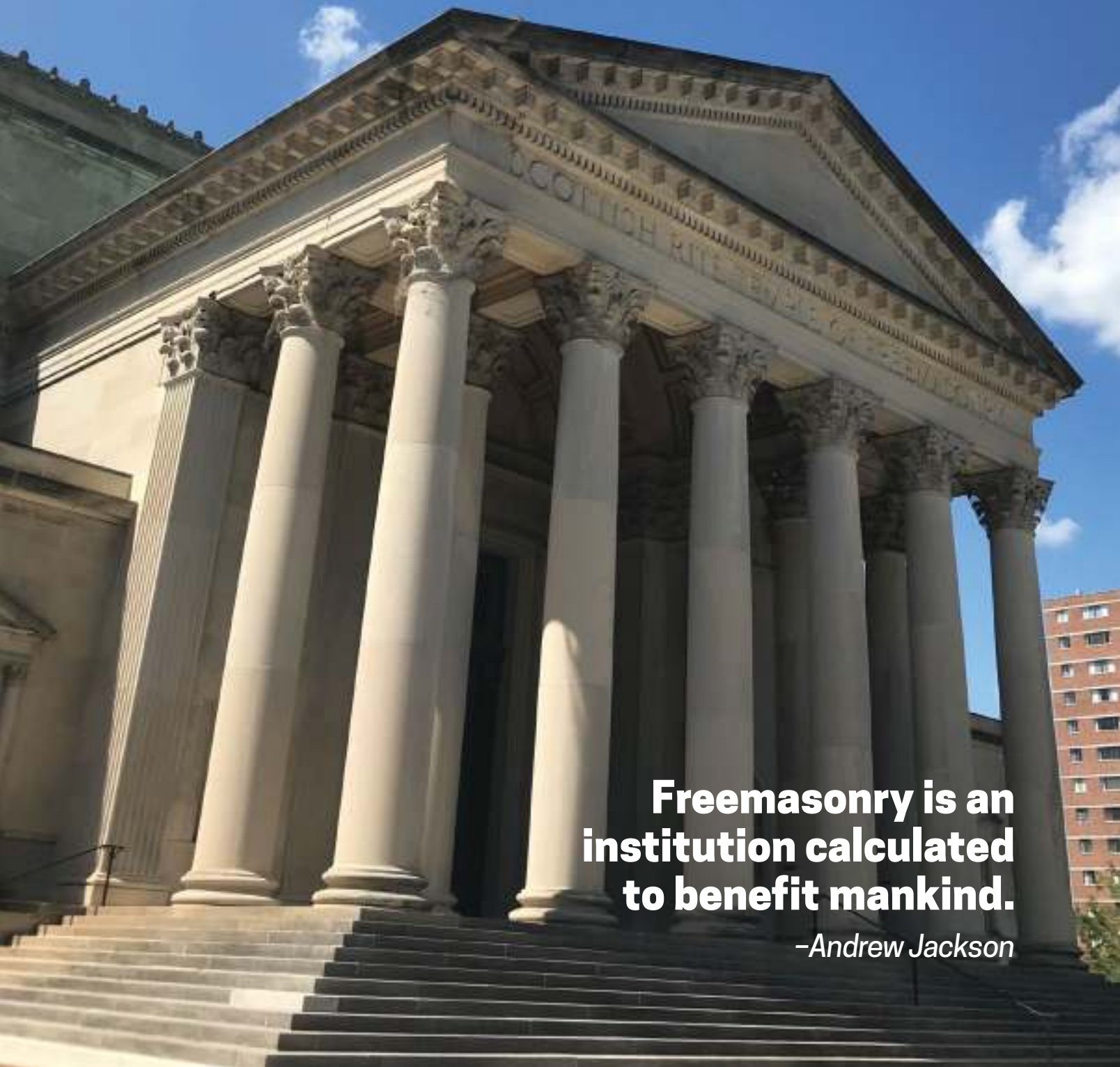




OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | NOV/DEC/JAN 2019-20

RITENEWS

OF MARYLAND



**Freemasonry is an
institution calculated
to benefit mankind.**

-Andrew Jackson



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Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind
—Andrew Jackson



Sovereign Grand Inspector GENERAL

Marlin L. Mills, 33^o

Editor

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A MESSAGE FROM

Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



I WISH EACH OF YOU THE BLESSINGS OF GOOD HEALTH AND MUCH HAPPINESS AS WE ENTER THE FALL SEASON.

GREETINGS TO ALL,

I hope this issue of our Rite News finds everyone well and your change of season pleasant. The mornings are a little cooler and the sun a little later in rising. Change is inevitable; as was the case during our 2019 Biennial Sessions. Illustrious Brother and Grand Commander Ronald A. Seale, 33°, retired after serving twenty-four dedicated years to our Supreme Council. He and his wife “Sunny” will remain in the Washington, DC area while spending more time with family and grandchildren.

Illustrious James D. Cole, 33°, Lt. Grand Commander and Past Grand Master of Virginia, was elected as the 19th Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. Both his qualifications and credentials are impeccable. As one with a vast Masonic and financial background, there is no doubt that our Scottish Rite will be in good hands. Our newly elected Lt. Grand Commander, Michael J. Smith, 33°, S.G.I.G. in South Carolina, Grand Master of Ceremonies for the Supreme Council and Past Grand Master of South Carolina, comes to us with an extensive knowledge necessary for the duties set before him. The Orient of Maryland extends our best wishes and congratulations to both of these fine men as they lead us into the future.

I also want to congratulate those men who were just

invested as Knight Commander of the Court of Honour and those who received the conferral of the Thirty Third and Last Degree, with the rank and dignity of Inspector General Honorary. These honors must be earned and never asked for. They do not come as a sign of retirement nor as an indication to just “sit on the sidelines”. These men have been elected as potential future leaders of our Orient. It is our hope that they will become even more active in promoting the mission of our Scottish Rite. Each is now an Honor Man among our ranks; men who understand and have committed themselves to work for the good of all—Not for a title!

The Scottish Rite, like all institutions of higher learning, has begun our fall classes, Lodge meetings, and rehearsals. It is my pleasure to welcome you back from the summer break. You will find our schedule in this magazine and I hope you will be a regular attendee at each of our functions.

In closing, may I wish each of you the Blessings of good health and much happiness as we move into the fall season.



Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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





Grand Master of Masons in Maryland

BY: MW RICHARD, P. NAEGELE, 33° - ANCIENT BALTIMORE LODGE # 234



2020. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

SOME THINK OF an eye exam. Others remember an old television program. And still others a year. All are correct.

When you see things 2020, you see them more clearly without any aids. Looking at the future of Masonry requires this 2020 vision. Our vision for Grand Lodge is clear—Strong effective leadership in Lodges conferring degrees and teaching catechism, while maintaining involvement in the community. This vision should also be true for all subordinate lodges and appendant bodies. Keeping a clear focus on our vision for Masonry as a whole should

be the primary guide for any leader. Distractions from others can only hurt an organization.

The 2020 television program was always talking about the current news for the week. They espoused information to keep everyone informed on current events. Masonry has a similar purpose of letting the general public know who we are and not allowing the propaganda to define us. Our media awareness campaign does this quite well. It defines Masonry in a positive light and is not afraid to be hidden as was done in the past. A side benefit of this is creating interest for those who are of a higher moral and ethical standard and would make good Masons. The word of mouth to a friend is still the most effective way of attracting quality men, but thousands more are unknown to us and Masonry would benefit from their joining. This is nothing more than broadening the instructive tongue to reach more attentive ears.

But of course, 2020 as a year has a greater meaning. It will be the year when we see positive growth in all Masonic organizations. This sounds like a lofty goal, but it is possible if everyone works together. Instead of people and groups doing their own things, we need to function as a single unit and transmit that synergy

towards a common end—growth. When Blue Lodges grow, all other bodies will also grow. Petty jealousy must stop, and everyone must be treated with one aim (as I was taught in Eastern Star). We must also show kindness and forbearance towards one another. We all just need to practice this.

Before concluding, I wish to congratulate all who received honors this year. Each of the new 33rd degree Masons has worked long for Masonry in many areas. Their dedication to the craft did not go unnoticed. The recipients of the Knight Commander Court of Honor should be equally proud. The tireless efforts exhibited do eventually gain appreciation. I can tell you, when I received the letter for my KCCH, I was totally shocked. I sat in disbelief for several minutes pondering why me. I am sure others have felt this way and with time, patience, and perseverance, others will in the future.

Fall is in full swing and so is my first year as Grand Master. I am enjoying my travels around the state and witnessing the enthusiasm that is spreading throughout the lodges. Let us keep this up as we continue spreading the great works of freemasonry, while maintaining our integrity and uprightness as Masons.



WHAT IS THE FEAST OF TISHRI?

Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles after thou hast gathered in thy corn and wine.

Deut. 16:13

The Feast of Tabernacles also commemorates the ceremonies of the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple, which was begun in the year 2992 *A.L., and finished in a little more than seven years. In the year 3001 *A.L., six months after its completion, in the month of Tishri, the seventh month of the Jewish sacred year, the Temple was dedicated with reverential ceremonies to the one Living and True God. That these ceremonies would reach the highest religious significance, King Solomon postponed the dedication until the Feast of Tabernacles, the 15th day of Tishri, a day he well knew would bring every zealous Israelite to Jerusalem.

The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States has proclaimed the Feast of Tabernacles as the Feast Day of the Lodge of Perfection, the 15th day of Tishri, (October).

As did the Israelites of old and the New England Pilgrims, Scottish Rite Freemasons gather to acknowledge the mercies which God has poured upon them with lavish hand. It is a time of rejoicing, yet a time to pay humble adoration to the Great Architect of the Universe, without whose aid there would be no harvest.

**Anno Lucius - Freemasonry adds 4,000 years to our current calendar year (example: 2011 becomes 6011 A.L.).*

After the Ceremony, a "sit down" dinner will be served in the Banquet Hall & each attendee will receive a bag of fresh fruit

Date: Wednesday, November 20th, 2019 @ 7pm

Cost \$20.00 per person, children under 12 are free

Please RSVP to the Office by Monday, November 11th, 2019

410-243-3200



Valley of Baltimore

BY: ILL. E. RAY LEPP0, 33°, GC - PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE VALLEY OF BALTIMORE



MASONRY DOES THINGS in the world. Masonry teaches that each person has a responsibility to make things better in the world. Most

individuals won't be the ones to find a cure for cancer, eliminate poverty or help create world peace; but every man, woman, and child can do something to help others and makes things a little better. Masonry is deeply involved in helping people. It spends 1.4 million dollars every day in the United States just to make life a little easier, and the great majority of that help goes to people who are not Masons.

Some of these charities are vast projects like the crippled children's hospitals and burn institutes built by the Shriners. The Scottish Rite also maintains a nationwide network of speech and language clinics, centers

and programs. Each of these help children afflicted by such conditions as aphasia, dyslexia, stuttering and many other learning and speech disorders. The Scottish Rite also maintains a burn center of its own in Texas. Some services are less noticeable, like helping a widow pay the electric bill or buying coats and shoes for disadvantaged children and just about anything else you can think of in between. But with projects large or small, the Masons of a Lodge try to help make the world a better place. The Lodge gives them a way to combine with others to do even more good.

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
Hon. S. Dirk Wiker, 32°, KCCH
443-321-2724

Chesapeake Scottish Rite Club
Bro. Neil M. Noble, 32°
410-736-9245

Conowingo Scottish Rite Club
Timothy M. Dykes, 32°, KCCH
443-742-3388

Carroll Scottish Rite Club
Ill. Paul M. Lloyd, 33°
410-374-2569

Eastern Shore Scottish Rite Club
Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°
443-235-8950

Mid Shore Scottish Rite Club
Bro. Robert Sparks, 33°
410-634-2235

Scottish Rite Cheer Club
Ill. J. Fred Hobine, 33°
410-243-3200

Washington County Scottish Rite Club
Hon. Scott Paddock 32°, KCCH
301-988-7800



Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

BY: HON. DAVID L. LEBOWITZ, 32°, KCCH - HOWARD LODGE #101 - VENERABLE MASTER



FRATERNAL GREETINGS

My Brethren! It is with tremendous pleasure that I again write to you on behalf of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection. I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well, flourishing throughout the fall season.

I write to you with extraordinary news from our Officer Line! It delights me to recognize Past Venerable Master Gerald R. Phillips, who recently received the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and was coronated as an Inspector General - Honorary. Also of significance, Senior Warden D. Douglas Walters and Orator G. Andrew Martinez were bestowed with the rank and decoration of Knights Commander of the Court of Honor. A very hearty congratulations to these exceptional gentlemen!

I'm often asked why I became a Freemason, and also of my

membership within the Scottish Rite. While this question isn't often easy to address, and quite honestly - I don't believe that it can truly ever be explained, I frequently resort to discussing the pillars of Freemasonry, our obligations to one another and our Lodges, charitable works, and of course - knowing the location of lost treasures, secrets of the mystical universe, and hidden artifacts within the Oval Office of the White House.

“...IT IS ACTIVE AND PRACTICAL, AND NOT A DREAMER; IT IS SINCERE AND EARNEST, AND NOT A SHAM AND A LIE...”

-ALBERT PIKE

(Interesting note: I've examined the Resolute Desk from top to bottom and left to right and there are no ancient carvings contained therein.) However, when it comes to why I joined the Orient of Maryland, I can easily answer by saying that I read the Scottish Rite Creed and was immediately taken in by its themes. It reads: "Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish,

freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal". How many of you had a similar experience? Whether you remember its words or not, I have little doubt that you have experienced its contents within the walls of our beautiful temple.

This time of year is often a period of reflection. As Pike noted, "For Masonry does not consist of formulas in words, nor in ceremonies that would be useless if not symbols of higher truths, and great lessons in Morals and Philosophy; nor in loud professions, and fine theories; but in the earnest, continual, faithful performance of life's duties. It is active and practical, and not a dreamer; it is sincere and earnest, and not a sham and a lie". I ask each of you to consider your Scottish Rite Degrees and contemplate how you have inculcated those lessons into your daily life. Have you lifted the veil and studied the allegories and symbols contained within? I challenge you to consider each Degree's theme and look inward, for we are all Freemasons first in our hearts. Winter, particularly because of the holidays, seems to be the time when mankind is at its best. It seems as though it is colder outside, yet people seem to be warmer inside.



Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: HON. LISTER J. HAUGHTON-JAMES, 32°, KCCH - HIGHLAND LODGE #184 - WISE MASTER



GREETINGS MY BRETHREN ALL:

As I come to the close of my term as Wise Master of the

Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix, I would like to use this space to thank my line of officers who supported me and the Scottish Rite, Valley of Baltimore throughout 2019. We accomplished much this year in our Lodge Room and our degree work. I must also say thank you to all the Brothers who attended, as well as the guests that accompanied them.

The Maundy Thursday Ceremonial Feast may have been the highlight of my term as Wise Master. The beautiful ceremony of lights and the mystic toast

was very well attended. In this presentation, our Brothers and friends are presented with the immensity of the love of our great creator by inspiring them with hope and courage; for it is better to love than to hate, and we should not try to be better than others but to be better than ourselves.

I know that I will be leaving the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix in good hands as the officer's advance. Thank you once again for allowing me to serve as your Wise Master.

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Maryland Council of Kadosh

BY: ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES T. HILL, 33° - JEPHTAH #222 - COMMANDER



BRETHREN of the Scottish Rite, thank you so very much for permitting me to serve as the Commander of Kadosh for the year 2019. It has been an enjoyable year and I give thanks to the Council of Kadosh line officers and members for all their support and fine work as our year together draws to a close.

Congratulations to the elected and appointed officers for 2020. We look forward to your installation in January and working with you in 2020.

As the winter season approaches, it gives time for us to reflect upon the holiday season and give thanks to our Creator for the many manifold blessings and comforts we enjoy. It also gives us pause to reflect upon a major issue at hand:

membership.

As you know, our membership has declined significantly over the past 20 years. We see the effect of it in our Blue Lodges and affiliated bodies. It is incumbent upon each of us to do our part to reverse this trend and preserve our beloved

AS THE WINTER SEASON APPROACHES, IT GIVES TIME FOR US TO REFLECT UPON THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND GIVE THANKS TO OUR CREATOR FOR THE MANY MANIFOLD BLESSINGS AND COMFORTS WE ENJOY.

fraternity for future generations. So, if in your travels, you meet a man that you believe would make a good Mason, lead him to our doors. Our current Grand Master and Past Grand Masters over the years have spoken to the recruitment of new members and each of their messages has had a consistent

theme related to the quality of the men we accept. In your recruitment efforts, be selective to men who you believe will meet the standards and values we hold so dear. And bear in mind the words of PGM Yost's address on November 17, 1942 (reprinted from May/June/July 2016 issue of The Rite News).

.....My second comment is merely to repeat what I have said on numerous occasions before. Guard well the doors of your lodges, scrutinize with particular care every petition which is submitted to you, do not repeat the mistake which we made 25 years ago of making Masonry a popular movement, and having bargain sales, as it were, of all its high privileges. We still carry incubus of some of the mistakes we made during the last World War. Let us not, in our anxiety to improve our statistics or build our treasuries, lower the standards of Masonry or create problems for the Masonic generation which will succeed us. It is only as we keep in mind that Masonry is not a right which can be purchased, but rather a privilege which is to be conferred, that the honor and dignity of the fraternity will be maintained upon the high level to which rich traditions justly entitle it.....



Chesapeake Consistory

BY: HON. ROGER D. DUNN, 32°, KCCH - MT. MORIAH LODGE #116 - MASTER OF KADOSH



BRETHREN, as I put pen to paper for this article, we are basically over the summer heatwaves, and quickly approaching what I hope is an enjoyable and relaxing Labor Day weekend. As I consider the upcoming fall schedule of the Consistory and Scottish Rite, I happily look forward to being with and seeing the many Brothers who make the Fall Class possible, from our SGIG Marlin Mills and the men who handle the lights and audio, to the performers in each degree, to the men in the audience, and to the class members themselves. You are all truly Brothers. Many of you have become great friends, and I enjoy being with you. It is amazing to me that most of you were my Brothers first, and then those my wife and I have come to know and enjoy socially as friends. I don't know everyone in Maryland Scottish Rite, but I hope

to eventually. I have no intention of disappearing once I step down as Master of Kadosh.

Speaking of stepping down, this will be my last message to you before I turn over the responsibilities of the office to my son, Weston A. Dunn, 32°, in early January. I am quite proud to say that I leave the Consistory

WE EACH ARE INDIVIDUALS WITH TALENTS, SKILLS, AND INTERESTS. WE, AS A GROUP, WANT TO KNOW YOU, TO BECOME A FRIEND, A BROTHER...

in very capable hands. Wes and his Line will do us all proud. It has truly been an honor to serve you as Master of Kadosh, and I hope I have lived up to your expectations. I wish to thank all of the officers of the Chesapeake Consistory for a job well done. I could not have done it without your time, effort, and support.

Turning again to brothers, friends and family, I hope this is something we all ascribe to practice. What is this? It is a unique and special relationship, a "bondship", so to speak, that

transcends politics, religion, governmental boundaries, age, and distance. It is a special connection that you feel in your heart and in your mind. It is an eagerness to come out to the events of our fall calendar to partake in the activities and camaraderie to be found here, as we engage our Fall Class in the lessons of Scottish Rite.

Be sure to attend as many of the events and classes as you can, to meet and mingle, to renew friendships, to rededicate yourself to the time-honored moral compass that is Scottish Rite Freemasonry, and to be a part of something greater and more honorable than we are as individuals. Take a part, offer a hand, give your support.

We each are individuals with talents, skills, and interests. We as a group want to know you, to become a friend, a Brother, someone to care about, to share that sense of belonging. We want you to find that feeling of happiness to be with men you know who share similar cares, interests, and large goals. We want you to spend time with us, and to have that inner contentment that you are contributing to a better world and the betterment of mankind. You, as a person, have things to offer us as a group. Spend time with us.

Share.



Orient of Maryland Honormen for 2019

Please join the Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Maryland in congratulating the following Brethren who received
Honors in Baltimore on Saturday, October 13th, 2019

MARYLAND - 33°

Salisbury – William Newton Carey, Jr.
Baltimore – Robert William England –
Coroneted in DC on 8/20/2019
Baltimore – William Ernest Gyr
Baltimore – William Chester Hare, Jr.
Frederick – Robert Earl Morris
Susquehanna – Gerald Russell Phillips
Baltimore – Randall Lyle Watson
Baltimore – Steven Dirk Wiker
Cumberland – James McDaniel Snider

MARYLAND - KCCH

Susquehanna – Michael James Bowen
Southern Maryland – John Oscar Gatton, Sr.
Susquehanna – Wade Albert Giles
Baltimore – Roy Ross Hosier
Baltimore – George Andrew Martinez
Baltimore – Ian Matthew McIntosh
Frederick – Tommy Joe Morris
Baltimore – Barry Clifford Reusing
Baltimore – Darryl Jeffrey Smith
Baltimore – Donald Douglas Walters
Salisbury – Edward Anthony Welch
Frederick – Shawn Raphael Winpigler
Cumberland – James Zedeck Bosley
Cumberland – Samuel Joseph Lane



Valley of Frederick—Lodge of Perfection

BY: BRO. RICHARD BROWN, 32°, PHILANTHROPIC LODGE #168 - VENERABLE MASTER, FREDERICK LODGE OF PERFECTION #3

HEROES. Where would the world be without them? Where would we as Scottish Rite Masons be without them?

This past summer, the world marked the 50th anniversary of what some have called the most important event of the 20th century, when three incredibly brave men strapped themselves into the capsule atop a 363 foot tall Saturn V rocket and achieved man's dream of the ages by journeying to and returning safely from the moon. I was six years old then, but vividly remember going to a neighbor's house with my family to watch the Apollo 11 lunar landing on TV. They were my heroes. One of them, Brother Buzz Aldrin, was a Scottish Rite Mason.

In September, we marked Labor Day, a holiday meant to recognize the average working man and woman for the honest and hard labor they perform to put food on the table, a roof over the head, and clothes on the backs of their families. As our 22nd degree reminds us, honest toil is to be respected and, I would add, celebrated, and the workmen to be thanked. They, too, are heroes.

In October, the Scottish Rite celebrated Honors Day with 33° conferrals and KCCH investiture and capping ceremonies, which

honor our own Scottish Rite heroes who have devoted their best selves to serving the Rite and our communities.

In many religious traditions, including my own, November 1 is a day to reflect on the noble and Godly lives of family and friends who have passed away and to thank our Creator for their examples of how to live a life of service to God and neighbor.

**PLEASE, STOP AND
THANK YOUR
HEROES... STRIVE
TO EMULATE THEM
IN YOUR OWN LIFE
AND TRY TO FIND A
WAY THAT YOU
CAN BE A HERO TO
SOMEONE ELSE TOO.**

They were heroes to their families and their faith communities. Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, which occurred 81 years ago this November 9, was marked with the destruction of Jewish businesses and places of worship in Europe, and the arrests of thousands in the beginning of the Holocaust. These victims, too, were heroes for living their lives in quiet dignity according to their conscience

and worshipping their Creator according to its dictates in the face of terrible oppression.

Later in November, Americans pause to remember the sacrifice and service of our nation's military veterans who have given so much to protect our cherished freedoms and those of freedom-loving peoples all over the world. And later still that same month, at Thanksgiving, as we thank our Creator for the manifold gifts and comforts bestowed upon us, we also reflect upon the intrepid and principled men, women, and children who centuries ago left the familiar routines, faces, and places of home, to sail to our shores in search of a better life. They did this for themselves and future generations, and in many cases, to worship according to the tenets of their own consciences. They, too, were heroes.

Please, stop and thank your heroes. Thank your favorite teacher. Thank your mentor at work, a favorite boss, or a talented and helpful colleague. Thank the police officer on the corner. Thank your parents, grandparents, and siblings. Thank your Masonic mentors. Think about what makes them heroes in your eyes, and the eyes of others. Strive to emulate them in your own life and try to find a way that you can be a hero to someone else too.



Valley of Frederick—Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: HON. BRO. TOMMY J. MORRIS, 32°, P.K.C., PVM, PGTC, WISE-MASTER, FREDERICK CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX



MASTERS & BRETHREN,

Every good story begins with “Once Upon a Time”—Illustrious Ronald Seale 33°, Past Grand Commander. As the next chapter of my story continues, I will begin by stating that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a Scottish Rite Fellow representing the Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland. Being selected as a fellow has been a defining moment. It moved me personally to strive to improve myself and re-explore things on a deeper level, to promote human progress, and teach others to think and give them the gift of liberty of thought to know what is useful or even true and how to apply these lessons to our everyday life.

It also moved me to strive to be good and to use reason to make the world a better place, and people to better their lives that Scottish Rite Freemasonry might thrive.

Nearly one year ago in my acceptance speech as the Commander, Frederick Council of Kadosh, I talked about how this year would be more than just a celebration of the Craft and Scottish Rite Families. It would also be about a journey, “charting the course for our future in freemasonry”. When I was elected Commander on the 98th anniversary of the Lodge of Perfection No. 3, I said, “We would succeed in getting our Letters Patent of Perpetual Constitution for the Frederick Council of Kadosh”. This momentous accomplishment was realized through the self-sacrifice and hard work of the active members of the Valley of Frederick. Our Ladies and Brethren gave a full measure of devotion to Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Strength, my friends, is paramount. Without a doubt, each of our achievements makes the Scottish Rite strong, relevant, and poised for another influential century of service to our Nation and to God.

As this chapter draws to a close for me and the birth of a new journey unfolds, I want to remind each of you, my brethren, of the importance of membership. New members are necessary to be strong and to lead Scottish Rite Freemasonry into its next century. Scottish Rite Freemasonry began with a vision that has withstood the test of time. That vision was to improve human progress, promote liberty of thought, freedom of conscience, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere and to give young people a foundation for future success. Our members are key to that vision. I encourage you to heartily speak with brother Master Masons to apply for membership in the Scottish Rite without awaiting a specific invitation.

The world will little note, nor long remember us as individuals, but it will never forget what we do here as Scottish Rite Freemasons. Our work will ever remain unfinished. But through our increasing membership and dedication to the great tasks remaining, the light of Freemasonry will continue to glow as it has done for the past 200 years.



Valley of Susquehanna

BY: HON. JASON Q. STANDISH, 32°, KCCH - HARMONY LODGE #53 - SECRETARY




IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE that when you read this, the weather should be cool and crisp, considering that as I write this, we are coming off a particularly hot spell – even for August. Just like the weather, Masonry provides for cycles and seasons. We will be winding up our fall degree schedules and preparing for the holiday season, as well as gearing up for our spring conferrals. (Not to mention the work in our Blue Lodges.)

This past summer, I had the opportunity to work as a driver at our Biennial Session in Washington, DC, providing me with a particularly unique memory. As I waited at my designated spot on a particularly hot Monday morning, I watched in my rearview mirror as one of the other vans pulled up and

dropped off a passenger. I had to do a double-take in my side mirror as I saw that the man walking up the street was our Sovereign Grand Commander, Ronald Seale. I glanced at the dashboard clock and then it hit me; he was no longer our Grand Commander; it was after the executive session where a new Grand Commander had been elected. As I watched him walk down the street, I was impressed with what I saw. You might expect that a man who had just stepped down from the pinnacle of our Scottish Rite to look downcast or even a little sad. What I saw was a man who held his head high and, with a smile, gave a friendly wave to a passerby as he crossed the street. Like many, I only know him by reputation, but this scene really struck me. Having dedicated his all to our

craft, he was now ready to let someone else take the reins so that he could move on to his next chapter. In that, I found a valuable lesson. For those of us who feel called to and aspire to leadership in this fraternity, let us do it humbly, fervently and fully so that when it is time for us to let go and let others take the reins, we do so with a smile and not a tear.

The Valley of Susquehanna looks forward to seeing you at our meetings, degree work, and events. Please check our website www.susquehannasr.org for locations and times as we continue to visit the Lodges in our region. You can also sign up for our Currents e-newsletter and get a link to our smartphone app. The Spring 2020 Calendar of events will be posted very early in the new year.



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A Poem from

Bro. Joseph Rudyard Kipling

DECEMBER 30TH, 1865-JANUARY 18TH, 1936



Regarding his Masonic Experience, he wrote:

“I was Secretary for some years of the Lodge of Hope and Perseverance, No. 782, E.C., Lahore, English Constitution, which included Brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered by a member from Brahma Somaj, a Hindu, passed by a Mohammedan, and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course, on the level, and the only difference anyone would notice was that at our banquets some of the Brethren, who were debarred by caste rules from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat over empty plates.”

“IF”

If you can keep your head when all about you,
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster;
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!



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The Master Mason Friend Who:

1.

Is interested in learning of the philosophies of the World, both of this and other ages.

2.

Would like to join with other earnest men in an absorbing study of present day problems;

3.

Would appreciate turning, for just a little while, from the constant struggles of day to day existence to commune with the noblest intellects of all time, brought to him in matchless degrees.

4.

Enjoys viewing worthwhile drama, well presented;

5.

Finds the hearty fellowship and good-will of other men inspiring and enjoyable.

6.

Is willing to enter into true fraternity with other men when he finds them worthy; and

7.

Has caught the gleam of Masonic inspiration from his Blue Lodge work and is ready to seek the truth still further;

Should petition to become a Scottish Rite 32° Mason!

Visit www.mdscottishrite.org to download a petition



Valley of Charles County—Lodge of Perfection

BY: HON. JOSEPH D. MYERS, 32°, KCCH - VENERABLE MASTER



GREETINGS ALL, let us introduce ourselves, we are the “Valley of Charles County”! We are proud to be the newest Scottish Rite Valley in the Orient of Maryland! On Saturday, July 13th, 2019, the Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33 Degree, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland, issued our Valley’s “Letters Temporary” and installed our Lodge of Perfection officer line for the ensuing term. We had an outstanding turn out for our inaugural open-installation, which included comments from the Illustrious William G. Sizemore, II, 33 Degree, Grand Executive Director of the Supreme Council for the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction. Our installation was combined with a “meet and greet” open house. We not only had visiting Brethren from all parts of Maryland and Washington D.C,

but also were honored with a Job’s Daughters Bethel 62 presentation. This was followed by an amazing catered lunch and fellowship that lasted into the afternoon.

THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET TO CONTINUE “PRESERVING THE PAST, WHILE MOVING INTO THE FUTURE”...

This past spring, we had 19 Brethren attend the Valley of Baltimore Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Spring One Day Class, and as result, are now 32nd degree Masons (most of which have expanded their Scottish Rite knowledge by pursuing the Master Craftsman Course). We are also happy to say that we are well on our way with becoming proficient in the 4th degree “Secret Master”; we have a VERY energetic group! The year 2019 is exceptionally special in that not only have we stood up a new Valley this year, but our host Lodge/ Masonic Center (St. Columba

#150) is celebrating their 150th anniversary! It goes without saying, the stage has been set to continue “Preserving the Past, While Moving Into The Future”...

Becoming a new Valley offers exciting times, of which, presents challenges, excitement, and fraternal bond. We thank the many Brethren who came together to make the stand-up of the Valley of Charles County happen. It started with a vision and quickly became a reality.

We are very fortunate to be under the mentorship of the Illustrious Fred Spicer, 33 Degree, Grand Cross, Orient of Maryland Executive Director. He has been instrumental in providing us guidance and much appreciated encouragement during this process.

Please come visit us, we look forward to seeing you!

We are located in La Plata, MD, residing at the St. Columba Masonic Center. Our meeting time/location is as follows: 3rd Friday of each month (Sept to May) @ 7:30 PM Location: Valley of Charles County, 710 Lodge Street La Plata, MD 20646 St Columba Masonic Center stcolumba150.org



Valley of Charles County

LETTERS TEMPORARY—SATURDAY, JULY 13TH, 2019 | CHARLES COUNTY LODGE OF PERFECTION

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Hon. Bro. William A. Zarychta,
32°, KCCH

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Hon. Bro. Joseph D.
Myers, 32°, KCCH

Senior Warden

Bro. Paul A. Balta, 32°

Junior Warden

Bro. Jeffery S. Birch, 32°

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Bro. Keenen D.
Edmundson, 32°

Captain of the Host

Bro. Craig J.
Meinhardt, 32°







The Matthew Cooke Manuscript c1450

(ONE OF THE OLD CHARGES)

THANKS BE TO GOD, our glorious Father, the founder and creator of heaven and earth, and of all things that therein are, for that he has vouchsafed, of his glorious Godhead, to make so many things of manifold virtue for the use of mankind. For he made all things, to be subject and obedient to man. All things eatable of a wholesome nature he ordained for man's sustenance. And moreover, he hath given to man wit and the knowledge of divers things and handicrafts, by the which we may labour in this world, in order to therewith get our livelihood and fashion many objects, pleasant in the sight of God, to our own ease and profit. To rehearse all these matters here were too long in the writing or telling, I will therefore refrain; but I will nevertheless, tell you some; for instance, how and in what manner the Science of Geometry was first invented, and who were the founders both thereof and of several other crafts, as is declared in the Bible, and other histories. How and in what manner this worthy Science of Geometry took its rise, I will tell you, as I said before. You must know that there are seven liberal sciences, from which seven all other sciences

and crafts in the world sprung; but especially is Geometry the first cause of all the other sciences, whatsoever they be.

These seven sciences are as follows:

The first, which is called the foundation of all science, is grammar, which teacheth to write and speak correctly.

The second is rhetoric, which teaches us to speak elegantly.

The third is dialectic, which teaches us to discern the true from the false, and it is usually called art or sophistry (logic).

The fourth is arithmetic, which instructs us in the science of numbers, to reckon, and to make accounts.

The fifth is Geometry, which teaches us all about mensuration, measures and weights, of all kinds of handicrafts.

The sixth is music, and that teaches the art of singing by notation for the voice, on the organ, trumpet, and harp, and of all things pertaining thereto.

The seventh is astronomy, which teaches us the course of the sun and of the moon and of the other stars and planets of heaven.

Our intent is to treat chiefly of the first foundation of Geometry and who were the founders thereof.

As I said before, there are seven liberal sciences, that is to say, seven sciences or crafts that are free in themselves, that which seven exist only through Geometry. And Geometry may be described as earth-mensuration, for Geometry is derived from geo, which is in Greek "earth", and metrona or "a measure". Thus, the word Geometry compounded and signifies the measure of the earth.

Marvel not because I said that all sciences exist only through the science of Geometry. For there is no art or handicraft wrought by man's hands that is not wrought by Geometry, which is a chief factor (notable cause) thereof. For if a man works with his hands, he employs some sort of tool, and there is no instrument of any material in this world which is not formed of some sort of earth (ore), and to earth it will return. And there is no instrument or tool to work with that has not some proportion, more or less. And proportion is measure, and the instrument or tool is earth. And Geometry is earth-mensuration, therefore, I affirm that all men



live by Geometry. For all men here to this world live by the labour of their hands.

Many more proofs could I give you that Geometry is the science by which all reasoning men live, but I refrain at this time because the writing of it were a long process.

And now, I will enter further into the matter. You must know that among all the crafts followed by man in this world, Masonry has the greatest renown and the largest share of this science of Geometry, as is stated in history, such as the Bible, and the Master of History,” and in the Policronicon a well authenticated (or trustworthy) chronicle, and in the history called Beda De.

Imagine Mundi, and Isodorus Ethomolegiarum Methodius Episcopus & Martiris. And many others say that Masonry is the chief part of Geometry and so methinks it may well be said, for it was the first founded, as is stated in the Bible, in the first book of Genesis and the fourth chapter. And moreover all the learned authors above cited agree thereto. And some of them affirm it more openly and plainly, precisely as in Genesis in the Bible.

Before Noah’s Flood by direct male descent from Adam in the seventh generation, there lived a man called Lamech who had two wives, called Adah and Zillah. By the first wife, Adah, he begat two sons, Jabal and Jubal. The elder son Jabal was the first man that ever discovered geometry and masonry, and he made houses,

and is called in the Bible the father of all men who dwell in tents or dwelling houses. And he was Cain’s master mason and governor of the works when he built the city of Enoch, which was the first city ever made and was built by Cain, Adam’s son, who gave it to his own son Enoch, and give the city the name of his son and called

**THERE ARE SEVEN
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ONLY THROUGH
GEOMETRY.**

it Enoch, and now it is known as Ephraim. And at that place was the Science of Geometry and Masonry first prosecuted and contrived as a science and as a handicraft. And so we may well say that it is the first cause and foundation of all crafts and sciences. And also this man Jabel was called the father of shepherds. The Master of History says, and Beda De Imagine Mundi and the Policronicon and many others more say, that he was the first that made partition of lands, in order that every man might

know his own land and labour thereon for himself. And also he divided flocks of sheep, that every man might know his own sheep, and so we may say that he was the inventor of that science.

And his brother Jubal or Tubal was the inventor of music and song, as Pythagoras states in

Polygonicon, and the same says Isodorous. In his Ethemolegiis in the 6th book he says that he was the first founder of music and song, and of the organ and trumpet; and he discovered that science by the sound of the weights of his brother’s, Tubal-Cain’s, hammers.

And of a truth, as the Bible says, that is to say, in the fourth Chapter of Genesis, Lamech begat by his other wife Zillah a son and a daughter, and their names Tubal Cain, that was the son, and the daughter was called Naamah. And according to the Policronicon, some men say that she was Noah’s wife; but whether this be so or not, we will not affirm.

Ye must know that this son Tubal Cain was the founder of the smith’s craft and of other handicrafts dealing with metals, such as iron, brass, gold and silver as some learned writers say; and his sister Naamah discovered the craft of weaving for before her time no cloth was woven, but they span yarn and knit it and made such clothing as they could. And as this woman Naamah invented the craft of weaving it was called woman’s-craft.

Continued in next issue



Lobsterfest 2019





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The Clinic Corner

BY: SARA SEMESKY, M.S. ED, CCC-SLP



GREETINGS! My name is Sara Semesky and I am pleased to have recently become the Clinic Coordinator at the Hilgenberg Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Center. I'm currently in my fourth year as a Speech-Language Pathologist at HASA and in my second year at The Scottish Rite. Additionally, I'm happy to introduce Hayley Boyle, our newest Speech-Language Pathologist who is a recent graduate of Loyola University and currently completing her Clinical Fellowship, a mentored professional experience necessary for all new clinicians. Hayley has a strong ability to connect not only with her clients but also with their families, which is a key element of successful therapy. Her energy and expertise make her a truly valuable asset to our team.

This fall, the clinicians of our center have been very busy, as we've continued to travel to local private schools to provide speech

and language screenings, evaluations, and therapy services. Serving in the school setting offers the opportunity to collaborate with teachers and support staff and enhance each student's communication skills. Additionally, students are able to practice their speech and language strategies in a familiar and functional environment. We also continue to treat many clients within the clinic, both during and after school hours.

We're so grateful to the Masons for providing a robust variety of testing and therapy materials to keep our clients motivated toward achieving their communication goals!

In late September, we hosted one of our biggest annual fundraisers, Basket Bingo. All who attended had a wonderful time, winning prizes, enjoying food and drinks, and getting to know our pathologists. We would like to thank everyone for their participation in this fantastic event and their

generous contributions to the Scottish Rite Charitable Fund. We're also looking forward to our annual Holiday Party in December! With crafts, refreshments, gifts, and even a visit from Santa, it's one of our most memorable events of the year.

As we continue through the winter season, we will work diligently to provide families with strategies to improve communication skills both in and out of the therapy setting. Here are some fun and easy ways to incorporate language skills into winter activities:

- Making hot chocolate, cookies, or even building a snowman can provide opportunities to practice *sequencing* and *following directions*
- Dressing for cold weather can provide opportunities to learn *object functions* and *body part identification*
- Driving through your neighborhood to look at holiday lights and decorations can provide opportunities to discuss *descriptive concepts (color, size)* and *actions*

The Hilgenberg Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Center wish you a peaceful holiday season and thank you for your continued support in our mission to bring communication skills to the families we serve!




Supreme Council Biennial Session







Summer 2019 Photos



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Sponsored by The Presbyterian Home of Maryland. The development of Carsins Run at Eva Mar as a CCRC is subject to the approval of the Maryland Department of Aging.





Short Talk Bulletin

Masonic Maturity

VOL. LVII NO. 1 — JANUARY 1979

The following is an excerpt from a speech delivered to Pyramid Lodge No. 869, Vilseck, Germany, by Dr. (med) Hugo Thomas, Past Grand Master, American-Canadian Grand Lodge, within the United Grand Lodges of German Freemasons, on September 21, 1978.

..... our Masonic achievements do not end here, for out of this service comes a sense of personal fulfillment, fine fellowship, and mutual endeavor that improves and strengthens both leaders and workers. Here in the Craft, we build character in men. We make men better and thus build a better world. It is a goal and a challenge for all to share - family, friends, members, officers. Let each of us at every Election and Installation of Officers express gratitude for the accomplishments of past officers, accept the leadership of the new Brethren, and assume the full responsibility of our important role in Freemasonry.

In unity and solidarity, let's continue the great work of Masonry, exemplify the principles we so heartily endorse, and do our utmost to promote the growth of our order in numbers and caliber, so it exerts its influence long after our own years

on earth have ceased. Make it be true that Masonry "has grown in the years fulfilling—the highest hopes and inspirations of its early Brothers." Let us do our work in the new Masonic Year to "stand the test of time." We need builders, not joiners; crewmen, not passengers; and the program of the Lodge should be so arranged that all Brothers are attracted to our meetings and given a chance to actively participate in and push forward our real objectives. We need the skill of them all, but do not expect perfection in a man just because he is a Mason. If you do, you will be disappointed. Masonry makes men better, but no human agency makes them perfect. If he is a Mason, you have a right to presume he is a fairly good man, but do not condemn the Institution, even if a few Masons turn out bad. Even the great Teacher himself had a Judas. Our aim and purpose are to receive good men, keep them good, and make them better. Judge the Order not by a few failures but by the average of its successes. The average is high and gives standards to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide. Each of us must be a working and acting instrument within our society of Brothers, which will enable us so to live, that men might better under-

stand who we are and whom we serve. Masonry can form us into a stronghold and landmark for goodness and nobility in the middle of evil and enlighten us to show the way out of darkness. It can and does serve as a peaceful pacemaker in the midst of turbulence, a magnetic force influencing mankind by its pure principles. In our profession as Masons, we must have the boldness to speak and act as such. It should be so obvious from the things we say and do that we have been inspired "with the symbolic purity and perfection of our institution." Our responsiveness to these noble gifts should be with humble gratitude, but also a willingness to achieve perfection in our weakness and to regulate our lives accordingly. Paraphrasing Brother Goethe: "Only he deserves his Freedom, his Life, and his Light, who daily earns it anew." Truly, only in this manner may we grow in knowledge, faith, and contemplation; in understanding and experience; in hope and charity; in brotherly love and the boundless joy of eternal salvation through Light in Masonry.

Our daily work in Freemasonry should be distinguished by enthusiasm and excellence. We are obligated to minister each according to the best of his



ability; while we “volunteer” our daily services, we are simultaneously “drafted” by those same obligations, and solemnly charged to preserve the purity of the Fraternity unsullied. We are forever reminded and encouraged in doing so by the writer of Ecclesiastes: “Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might. Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.” This is true of all tasks assigned to us, minor or important: that we be true and faithful custodians of our Masonic heritage. When we combine fidelity with faith, we know we shall succeed, and only then can we truly hope the LORD will bless our decisions and actions.

When thus spiritually prepared, I believe I can truthfully state, that Germans, Americans or Canadians or any other nationality should not be elected Master of a Lodge or to any Lodge Office.

We are summoned to elect only Free and Accepted Masons.

If we distinguish in any other way how we select our leaders, on Lodge or Grand Lodge level, we violate the teachings of the LEVEL ... In Lodge all men are equal, and in the sacred walls of the Temple we are constantly reminded to forget the division or existence of different creeds, professions, or nationalities.

I believe that the attainment of Master of a Lodge is not and was never the ultimate goal of our great Order. Our great purpose

and objective is to seek admission into a Lodge and become as great a Mason as humanly possible, to receive Light, more Light and further Light, allowing the Mystic Tie to weave its wonderful message into our lives. I even sometimes think, there are certain advantages to keeping in office for more than one year that rare Master or officer who has been touched with the tender message of Masonry and who has those qualities of administration and leadership so badly needed for all well-governed organizations.

IN OUR PROFESSION AS MASONS, WE MUST HAVE THE BOLDNESS TO SPEAK AND ACT AS SUCH.

The purpose of Masonry is to bring men from darkness to Light. Therefore, may we set aside the quest for any single honor of office and search for more Light in Masonry. So, if we can find this great Light through capable leadership through a Brother, especially gifted, - who loses? Certainly not a seeking Brother or a Lodge. The office must and should seek the man; not the man, the office. It really only matters that our leaders be Masons capable of leading and

will never promote their own advancement to any office other than that highest of all offices-- serving his Brothers!

.....Quality of character automatically makes the possessor a leader by virtue of his example. Masonry’s task is to produce that quality. Further acclaim and prominence are not Masonry’s objective, though we take satisfaction when these things come to a Brother who merits them. Our prayer then is that he will always be a Mason in the most profound sense.

Masonic leadership, as I understand it, means consistently exercising those qualities which are inculcated in our lectures, so that each Mason is an example for good wherever he goes; leadership through example and with truth.

I have no doubts that this Masonic maturity will continue to be the guideline of all Masters who govern this good Lodge.

.....Brother William Preston expressed it well: “Virtue is true nobility, and Wisdom is the channel by which it is directed and conveyed. Wisdom with humility and virtue alone distinguish Masons.”

May our Heavenly Father bless your lives in the same bountiful measure in which He has blessed ours and may He supply your every need. And late, very late in life, you may be transmitted from the fading honors of an earthly Lodge to the mansion prepared for the faithful, in another and a better world.

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Upcoming Events 2019–20

Saturday, November 2nd	Reunion Day 21st, 27th, 30th, 31st & 32nd	7:30am
Sunday, November 3rd	Baltimore Ring Ceremony	2pm
Wednesday, November 20th	Baltimore Feast of Tishri	7pm
Sunday, December 15th	Baltimore Christmas Party	2pm
Sunday, January 5th	Baltimore Installation	2pm
Sunday, January 12th	Cumberland Installation	2pm
Thursday, January 16th	Frederick Installation	7pm
Saturday, February 1st	Cumberland – Burns Dinner	TBA
Wednesday, February 5th	Baltimore – LOP, Dinner	6:30pm
Wednesday, February 12th	Baltimore – Rose Croix, Dinner	6:30pm
Wednesday, February 19th	Baltimore – Council Festive Board	
Wednesday, March 4th	Baltimore – Consistory, Dinner	6:30pm

Schedule subject to change