



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | MAY/JUN/JUL 2020

RITENEWS

OF MARYLAND



**“Instead of
cursing the
darkness, light
a candle.”**

-Ben Franklin



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“Instead of cursing the darkness, light a candle.”

—Ben Franklin

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**Sovereign
Grand Inspector
GENERAL**

Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Editor
Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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A MESSAGE FROM

Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



I THANK EACH OF YOU FOR THE MANY THINGS YOU CONTINUE TO DO IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SCOTTISH RITE.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL,

Greetings to one and all. Finally, spring is in full force and the beauty of our Grand Architect is starting to show all around us. Trees are starting to bud, flowers are in bloom and the grass is starting to “green up.”

Have you ever given any thought to the fact that, in order to present a reunion, there are about 150 people involved? That means 150 men who work to make the reunion an enjoyable and memorable experience for those new men who have decided to join our Scottish Rite; as well as those who come to see some of the new degree presentations, witness the degrees over again or come in to show support for those putting on the degrees.

Reunion—the act or process of being brought together again as a unified whole—wouldn’t it be great if we could fill the auditorium with members and candidates? I guess I’m dreaming again of days long ago—of lessons taught and obligations taken by one and all. Today, a reunion would be a good thing for many. In this fast-paced world, it is easy to forget some of those lessons and obligations made to each other. I will aid... I will keep... I will not... A little reminder never hurt anyone.

A reunion is a chance to reflect, a time to remember, a time to share and a time to see each other as well as the new

faces joining us. Our Fall Reunion will be a coming together that will strengthen the bond of our Scottish Rite. It reminds us of our belonging. It’s a chance to share our history and our past but, most of all, it is a time for each us to welcome our newest members into the Rite. I cordially encourage each of you to invite a candidate for the Fall Reunion, as well as a Brother who has not attended for a while.

I wish each of you a wonderful spring and summer and look forward to a large reunion this fall.



Sincerely and Fraternally,

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



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Grand Lodge of Maryland

BY: ILL. RICHARD P. NAEGELE, 33°—MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN MARYLAND



REFLECTING THUS FAR on my tenure has truly been filled with highs and lows. Being able to present service awards to a 50, 60, 70 and even an 80-year mason is probably the greatest thing a Grand Master can do. Honoring our Brothers who have dedicated themselves to service to our great fraternity for such periods of time and committing their lives to doing good things for their fellow man is truly commendable. Another is the excitement displayed by a new Worshipful Master as he assumes the leadership in his lodge. The enthusiasm experienced at the installation should prove for a successful year.

The lows are more painful,

such as having to deal with individuals who forget what it means to be a mason with integrity and leading upright lives. The arguing and lack of civility demonstrated by members towards each other is also heart wrenching. The worst of all, though, is dealing with what I am at this moment, with the loss of my Grand Master Stephen J. Ponzillo, III. He has not only been an outstanding and respected mason by many in this country, but a true mentor and friend. How fitting was it for a man so rich with American and Masonic History to pass on President's Day. The outpouring of support was a true testament to PGM's character and respect for this fraternity. I, for one, will miss him greatly.

I want to remind everyone of Masonic Awareness Day on May 1st. It is a time to share your Masonic pride with your community of friends. In your travels that day, wear something with Masonic affiliation and post it on social media. Making the general public aware of our great fraternity may entice those worthy of seeking admission ask.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Rite or around the state, as we continue sharing this great fraternity as men of integrity living upright lives.

"Crossing the Bar"

By

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,

*And one clear
call for me!*

*And may there be no
moaning of the bar,*

When I put out to sea,

*But such a tide as
moving seems asleep,*

*Too full for sound
and foam,*

*When that which
drew from out the
boundless deep*

Turns again home.

*Twilight and
evening bell,*

*And after that
the dark!*

*And may there be no
sadness of farewell,*

When I embark.

*For tho' from out
our bourne of Time
and Place*

*The flood may bear
me far,*

*I hope to see my Pilot
face to face*

*When I have crost
the bar.*



Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

BY: HON. D. DOUGLAS WALTERS, 32°, KCCH—HOWARD LODGE #101—VENERABLE MASTER



GREETINGS BRETHREN!

I hope this edition of the Rite News finds you in good spirits, whether it be preparing for the Memorial Day holiday, taking in a ballgame at Oriole Park, or looking forward to those summer vacation plans with family or friends.

In this edition of the Rite News, we are sharing masonic stories and quotes to show the tenets of masonry are truly timeless!

“Professor Langdon,” called a young man with curly hair in the back row, ‘if Masonry is not a secret society, not a corporation, and not a religion, then what is it?’

‘Well, if you were to ask a Mason, he would offer the following definition: Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.’

‘Sounds to me like a euphemism for “freaky cult.”’

‘Freaky, you say?’

‘Hell yes!’ the kid said,

standing up. ‘I heard what they do inside those secret buildings! Weird candlelight rituals with coffins, and nooses, and drinking wine out of skulls. Now that’s freaky!’

Langdon scanned the class.

‘Does that sound freaky to anyone else?’

‘Yes!’ they all chimed in.

Langdon feigned a sad sigh. ‘Too bad. If that’s too freaky for you, then I know you’ll never want to join my cult.’

Silence settled over the room. The student from the Women’s Center looked uneasy. ‘You’re in a cult?’

Langdon nodded and lowered his voice to a conspiratorial whisper. ‘Don’t tell anyone, but on the pagan day of the sun god Ra, I kneel at the foot of an ancient instrument of torture and consume ritualistic symbols of blood and flesh.’

The class looked horrified.

Langdon shrugged. ‘And if any of you care to join me, come to the Harvard chapel on Sunday, kneel beneath the crucifix, and take Holy Communion.’

The classroom remained silent.

Langdon winked. ‘Open your minds, my friends. We all fear what we do not understand.’

–Dan Brown, *The Lost Symbol*

“Freemasonry teaches not merely temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, brotherly

love, relief, and truth, but liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it denounces ignorance, superstition, bigotry, lust, tyranny and despotism.”

–Theodore Roosevelt

“To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”

–George Washington

“Masonry aims at the promotion of morality and higher living by the cultivation of the social side of man, the rousing in him of the instincts of charity and love of his kind. It rests surely on the foundation of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.”

–William Howard Taft

“I ask of each Mason, of each member, of each brother, that he shall remember ever that there is upon him a peculiar obligation to show himself in every respect a good citizen; for after all, the way he can

Continued on page 27



Maryland Council of Kadosh The Origin of the Festive Board

BY: HON. DARRYL J. SMITH, 32°, KCCH—HIGHLAND LODGE #184—COMMANDER



ONE OF THE traditions of the Maryland Council of Kadosh is the Festive Board. It provides an opportunity for the knights, along with their family and friends, to enjoy each other’s company while partaking of a great meal and a glass or two of the wine of your choice. If wine is not preferred, then the participant can choose to participate by substituting juice or some other beverage. The Festive Board is a Masonic ceremony that consists of several toasts. The Festive Board differs from the Table Lodge. The Table Lodge has a similar ceremony that includes toasts. The Festive Board is open to the public, while the Table Lodge takes place in a tyled Lodge room.

In this article, I will examine the origin of the Festive Board. In a document from

the Provincial Grand Lodge of Berkshire, the author links the origins of the Festive Board to operative masons. “From the very earliest times, the Festive Board has been a key part of Masonic meetings. The origins for this may lie with the operative masons from whom today’s speculative Masonry is probably descended. The operative mason’s working day lasted

“FROM THE VERY EARLIEST TIMES, THE FESTIVE BOARD HAS BEEN A KEY PART OF MASONIC MEETINGS.”

from dawn to dusk and included meal breaks. These breaks for refreshment were much appreciated, especially the one at the end of the day when the masons could relax together. Hence, we find in early speculative masonry a continuing emphasis on the balance between work and refreshment.”

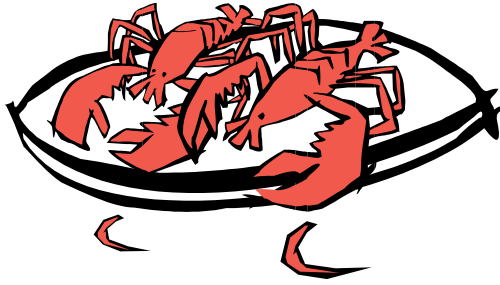
The [Caribbean Lodge](#) blog, in its article entitled *The Festive Board*, examines the origins of

the Festive Board further, “In the 14th century, operative masons came together to celebrate various religious festivals. Later, these gatherings were arranged for Masonic purposes.

On special days, operative masons gathered in an area of a building they were constructing, or in a temporary structure near the building site called a Lodge. They dined on meat and spiced ale. But as the tradition grew, so grew the menu. Later, the meal came to be held in a formal setting at which the Master would preside over the ceremonies and direct a series of toasts and celebrate in fellowship their operative guilds.

Continuing this tradition by sharing a formal meal in fellowship, offering toasts, singing traditional songs in unity and celebrating the Masonic spirit, remains a welcome and uplifting event within the Fraternity today.”

In modern times, the Festive Board still serves to promote the spirit of fraternal relations among the members of our craft and their family and friends. Every year, the Maryland Council of Kadosh continues this tradition which is in line with the Scottish Rites’ promotion of family activities.



**Annual
Scottish Rite**

Maine Lobster Fest

Saturday, August 8th, 2020

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Scottish Rite Temple

3800 North Charles Street

**Two 1 1/4 lb. Lobsters per
person**

Boiled Potatoes

Corn on the Cob

Cole Slaw

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Chesapeake Consistory

BY: BRO. WESTON A. DUNN, 32°—MT. MORIAH LODGE #116—MASTER OF KADOSH



to Drew Dudley’s Everyday Leadership TEDx Toronto 2010 talk on “subconscious leaders.” Essentially, Dudley describes leadership as a series of “lollipop moments” where one person changes the life or perspective of another through a seemingly simple gesture. The giver of the “lollipop” may or may not even be aware of its impact on the receiver, and the receiver may or may not have told the giver how it impacted them.

professions, our communities, and our families. Our actions impact others whether we are conscious of it or not. Just as we may unknowingly affect the lives of others, so too, our own lives or perspectives have undoubtedly been changed by someone else. Take a moment to share with them the impact they had on you.

Have a great start to your summer and keep creating “lollipop moments.”

I TRUST EVERYONE HAD a wonderful holiday season, filled with cheer and goodwill. My wife and I were fortunate to spend time with all our family and share in new experiences with our daughter. Did I miss winter? It seems like it never truly got cold, right? The snow just never happened. Now, as I sit in Baltimore’s Penn Station waiting for my next train, it feels like spring is right around the corner.

I would like to thank Hon. Brother Matulewicz, KCCH, for his enlightening presentation on Egypt and the 31st degree. At the end of the evening, I had a better understanding of research I have conducted on my own and I hope those who attended were able to do the same.

In a recent business meeting, I had the pleasure of listening

EACH OF US INFLUENCES PEOPLE EVERY DAY, IN OUR PROFESSIONS, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR FAMILIES.

It’s about behaving in a way that makes the life of another person better than before you arrived. The best part is people do this every day. Dudley frames his talk around leadership, but I feel his message extends beyond the traditional sense of the word. You don’t have to be a leader to influence others. Each of us influences people every day, in our

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Valley of Susquehanna

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

GREETINGS FROM THE Valley of Susquehanna! As of this writing, we are enjoying one of the warmest Februarys on record and it really feels like spring as we are preparing for the next Reunion. By the time this hits your mailbox, we will have completed the Spring Class and we will be looking forward to the warm summer months.

The members and officers extend congratulations to Bro. Randy S. Dietrich, 32°, who was selected as the Valley of Susquehanna Scottish Rite Mason of the Year for 2019. Randy is always at the ready to support our Scottish Rite; be it making/repairing set pieces, hauling/moving/setting up props for the degrees or meetings, or taking part in the degrees. He is a past Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, current Senior Warden in the Lodge of Perfection,

and Degree Master for the 18th Degree. Thank you, Randy, for all you do!

The Deer Creek Chapter of Rose Croix will present its ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal on Thursday, May 21st at 7PM. The Conowingo Scottish Rite Club is excited to be working with the APG Masonic Club on an outing to Ripken

Stadium this summer; more details TBA. Please visit our website at www.susquehannasr.org or email info@susquehannasr.org for Lodge locations for meetings and events. You can also join our email list and get automatic updates. Best Wishes to all for a safe and happy summer!





Excerpt from

Morals and Dogma—Secret Master, 4°

BY. ILL. ALBERT PIKE, 33° (1809-1891)

MASONRY is a succession of allegories, the mere vehicles of great lessons in morality and philosophy. You will more fully appreciate its spirit, its object, its purposes, as you advance in the different Degrees, which you will find to constitute a great, complete, and harmonious system.

If you have been disappointed in the first three Degrees, *as you have received them*, and if it has seemed to you that the performance has not come up to the promise, that the lessons of morality are not new, and the scientific instruction is but rudimentary, and the symbols are imperfectly explained, remember that the ceremonies and lessons of those Degrees have been for ages more and more accommodating themselves, by curtailment and sinking into commonplace, to the often limited memory and capacity of the Master and Instructor, and to the intellect and needs of the Pupil and Initiate; that they have come to us from an age when symbols were used, not to *reveal* but to *conceal*; when the commonest learning was confined to a select few, and the simplest principles of morality seemed newly discovered truths; and that these antique and simple Degrees now



stand like the broken columns of a roofless Druidic temple, in their rude and mutilated greatness; in many parts, also, corrupted by time, and disfigured by modern additions and absurd interpretations. They are but the entrance to the great Masonic Temple, the triple columns of the portico.

You have taken the first step over its threshold, the first step toward the inner sanctuary and heart of the temple. You are in the path that leads up the slope of the mountain of Truth; and it depends upon your secrecy, obedience, and fidelity, whether you will advance or remain stationary.

...

MASONRY is useful to all men: to the learned, because it affords them the opportunity of exercising their talents upon subjects eminently worthy of

their attention; to the illiterate, because it offers them important instruction; to the young, because it presents them with salutary precepts and good examples, and accustoms them to reflect on the proper mode of living; to the man of the world, whom it furnishes with noble and useful recreation; to the traveler, whom it enables to find friends and brothers in countries where else he would be isolated and solitary; to the worthy man in misfortune, to whom it gives assistance; to the afflicted, on whom it lavishes consolation; to the charitable man, whom it enables to do more good, by uniting with those who are charitable like himself; and to all who have souls capable of appreciating its importance, and of enjoying the charms of a friendship founded on the same principles of religion, morality, and philanthropy.

A Freemason, therefore, should be a man of honor and of conscience, preferring his duty to everything beside, even to his life; independent in his opinions, and of good morals; submissive to the laws, devoted to humanity, to his country, to his family; kind and indulgent to his brethren, friend of all virtuous men, and ready to assist his fellows by all means in his power.



Response for the 2019 Outgoing Officers

BY: HONORABLE BRO. DAVID L. LEBOWITZ, 32°, KCCH



GOOD AFTERNOON, Having been assembled within this beautiful Scottish Rite Temple, it is my distinct privilege to deliver the response of the presiding officers for the past year on behalf of:

The Honorable Lister J. Haughton-James, 32°, KCCH, The Illustrious James T. Hill, 33° and The Honorable Roger D. Dunn, 32°, KCCH.

I wish to thank the Valley of Baltimore and Orient of Maryland for bestowing their trust and confidence in our leadership through election to the stations of Venerable Master of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection; Wise Master of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix; Commander of the Maryland Council of Kadosh and Master of Kadosh of the Chesapeake Consistory.

Our election to serve within

these roles for 2019 was made possible only through the tireless efforts of the outgoing Line Officers of 2018, and those who have traversed through the chairs in years past. We humbly acknowledge the work of:

The Honorable William A. Zarychta, 32°, KCCH, Past Venerable Master, The Honorable Robert W. Reynolds, 32°, KCCH, Past Wise Master,

The Honorable Cory S. Wright, 32°, KCCH, Past Commander, and The Honorable Robert N. Carhart, 1r., 32°, KCCH Past Master of Kadosh.

As the Illustrious Albert Pike, 33° noted, “the true Mason labors for the benefit of those that are to come after him”, and we were proud to exemplify their steadfast dedication to the prosperity of the Scottish Rite.

It is also of paramount importance to recognize those outside the Fraternity who have made our ascension possible, especially our families and friends, as well as the membership of our Blue Lodges and other appendant Masonic bodies. Their ongoing support, as we have traveled within the Fraternity, allowed this auspicious occasion to become a reality.

At this time, I must offer my personal gratitude to the Illustrious David W. Rabe, 33°, who

initially brought me into the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection and introduced me to his officer line. Thank you for this honor, and for your continued counsel and friendship within these hallowed halls of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Some ask whether Masonry is relevant today, and I often wonder the same as I look around at the current world we occupy. And then I think back to my initial three degrees at Howard Lodge No. 101, and the impact on my life that those lessons taught me. I recall my experiences here at the Scottish Rite and the degrees that are worked here in this Temple and elsewhere throughout the State of Maryland. And those lessons joined those of my blue lodge. And then I think of the time spent with the extraordinary Brothers and their families that I consider myself extremely fortunate to have crossed paths with throughout my travels. I have attended Lodge meetings in countless cities of the United States and experienced masonic events in multiple countries throughout the world, but it is the effects of Freemasonry in my day-to-day life as a husband and father that are treasured.

My answer is a resounding yes—Masonry is as exceptional as it has been throughout the millennia.



ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

2019 Freemason of the Year



HON. RICHARD R. GORNALL, 32° KCCH, was recently recognized as 2019 Freemason of the Year by the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite. Bro. Gornall received the award in recognition of his distinguished service to the Cumberland Scottish Rite, to the Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay for Boys, and as President of the Cumberland Masonic Temple, Inc. Gornall exemplifies the tenets of Freemasonry in his professional and private life and in his service to the fraternity and larger community.

Pictured L to R: Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°, PR; David M. Gornall, 32°; Hon. Richard R. Gornall, 32° KCCH; and Barbara Gornall.



tion through the event, local community leader John Balch has committed \$5,000 to the Children’s League in additional matching funds. The 2020 Burns Supper featured performances by local Celtic favorite Shanty Irish and professionally graded bagpiper Andrew Donlon who has won contests in the United States, Canada and Scotland as a soloist and bandsman, as well as a presentation on the history of Freemasonry in Allegany County by historian Albert Feldstein.

Pictured L to R: Jamey S. Hill, 33°, PR; Brent Lewis, 32°; Cathy Growden of the Children’s League; Jerry Robinette, 33°, Valley Secretary; Hon. Sam Lane, 32° KCCH, Burns Supper Chairman; Hon. Mike Kamauff, 32° KCCH; Elmer W. “Bud” Miles, Jr, 33°, Valley Treasurer; and Daniel Stitt, 32°, Venerable Master of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew..

13th Annual Burns Supper Benefit

THE 13TH ANNUAL BURNS SUPPER, hosted by the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew, reached a record level in fundraising for the event to support Chil-

dren’s League RiteCare Clinics in Cumberland, Oakland, and Keyser, WV. In addition to the \$20,000 raised by the Cumberland Scottish Rite Founda-



Valley of Cumberland Officers 2020



THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS were elected to serve as body heads for the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite Bodies and installed in office on January 12, 2020: Ill. James M. Snider, 33°, Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection; Daniel C. Stitt, 32°, Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix; Michael W. Kerns, 32°, Commander, Council of Kadosh; Robin L. Summerfield, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh, Consistory; Scott R. Paddack, ° KCCH President, Washington County Scottish Rite Club.

Front Row: Michael R. Wade, 32° KCCH; Jerome F. Robinette, 33°, Valley Secretary; Elmer W. Miles, Jr., 33°, Valley Treasurer. **Row 2:** Harry E. Cox, 32°, Robin L. Summerfield, 32° KCCH, Scott R. Paddack, 32° KCCH, Daniel C. Stitt, 32°; **Row 3:** Roger P. Douglas, 32° KCCH, James M. Snider, 33°, Thomas L. Paxton, 32°; **Back Row:** George M. Witherington, Jr., 32° KCCH, Mark E. Lathrop, 32°, Michael L. Kamauff, 32° KCCH, David A. Tibbetts, 32°, Samuel J. Lane, 32° KCCH.

Buck-A-Cup

THE CUMBERLAND SCOTTISH RITE 2019 Buck-A-Cup Fundraiser raised \$7,000 to support RiteCare at The Children's League. Buck-A-Cup Chair Sam Lane

and other Scottish Rite members recently presented awards to local restaurants and servers in recognition of their support for the effort.

Scholarship Endowment

DURING THE FEBRUARY 17 MEETING of the Cumberland Scottish Rite, David Jones, Executive Director of the Allegany College of Maryland Foundation, provided an overview of current programs and initiatives at the college. In addition to the more than 3,000 students working toward degrees at ACM, the college's Center for Continuing Education provides job training, professional development, and workforce development education to more than 7,000 local residents every year. Following Jones' presentation, ACM student Paige Meadors, who is the recipient of a Leonard and Jane Schwab Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarship, expressed her appreciation for the financial support as she pursues a major in Psychology at ACM with plans to transfer to Frostburg State University to complete bachelor and graduate degrees. The Leonard and Jane Schwab Scottish Rite Foundation Scholarship was endowed by the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation with a bequest from Ill. Leonard Schwab, 33°, and his wife Jane.



Commemorating The Greatest Generation

BY HON. TOMMY J. MORRIS, 32°, KCCH, COLUMBIA LODGE NO 58—PAST MASTER

THIS YEAR WILL BE especially significant when it comes to honoring and remembering our fallen brothers who halted tyranny in its tracks, from Brother George Washington and his Generals to countless others. This year, there will be numerous remembrance ceremonies to commemorate the end of World War II, which happened over 75 years ago this year. While many of our brothers of that war have passed on, there are still more who walk with us, visit our temples and share their incredible stories. From those who witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor to those who endured the cold at the Battle of the Bulge, they

ensured the inevitable defeat of the Tyrants of Japan, Germany, and Italy. We will pay homage to their sacrifices and others who secured victory for America and its allies. It's critically important for us to preserve our history now before it's too late. I was reminded of this as I reflected on the passing of some of our brethren who proudly served their nation and continued to serve their communities as Freemasons. People ask us why we become Freemasons, why we serve our country and why we do ceremonies of remembrances. I believe it's to commemorate our fallen brothers, our founding fathers, and people who are

still serving to stop Tyranny and promote Life, Liberty and Freedom of thought for generations to come.

Please join us in commemorating the Greatest Generation and all of our fallen brothers.

If you know a World War II veteran or a family member of a brother that served, consider making a small donation to the Temple Preservation fund in their name to commemorate their service and to help preserve our history.

The Scottish Rite Temple Restoration Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization and all charitable gifts are tax deductible.

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



Valley of Charles County

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



OUR VALLEY has made positive strides applying themselves in learning Scottish Rite degree ritual. As anyone who has learned a degree role or part knows, there is no “me” in a well-orchestrated degree, its takes teamwork. It’s great to see a degree team apply themselves and grow over a season. Especially when starting from scratch. Over the months of practice, things start taking shape, and all the moving parts start taking form. Yes, there are days when bolting over to the lodge for degree practice is a “challenge”, especially after a long day at work or if feeling under the weather. However, more time than ever, the time spent transitions into “good time spent”.

As the degree takes shape, we grow and take shape fraternally. The 4th degree (Secret Master),

like other degrees, has many personable lessons that are offered to us for our own interpretation and, when applied in a way that we can connect with the message, is “value added”.

Masonry is duty, and it honors the reward of work, which is the performance of duty. Have we assumed those duties? Do we disregard reward and remain satisfied with the esteem of our conscience alone? When applying the message of the 4th degree, we, as Masons, embrace honor in our actions, and prefer duty as a consequence of the positive resulting effect. Being faithful to your principles, your God, to your fellows, and your community, will do honor to yourself, those you come in contact with and impact.

If the honors of Secret Master and other Masonic lessons are not applied and embraced, the honor is degraded (Morals of Dogma). If you are not already doing so, consider volunteering to assist in one of your Valley’s degrees, or assist with a committee. The added value to [you] and your Valley is assured to be “good time spent”. Please come visit the Valley of Charles County when you have the opportunity!

Our meeting time/location is as follows:

The third (3rd) Friday of each month (Sept to May) at 7:30 PM.

Location: 710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646.

Visit us online at: stcolumba150.org





Orient of Maryland





Installations for 2020





19th Century Scottish Rite in Maryland

BY: ILL. S. DIRK WIKER, 33°—ANNAPOLIS LODGE # 89—PAST WISE MASTER



THE SCOTTISH RITE in Maryland during the nineteenth century, especially the latter half, was very interesting to say the least. Our early Scottish Rite endured some very turbulent times, encountered irregular bodies, and saw some high-profile defections. The chaos eventually faded, and order prevailed to set up the success of Maryland's Scottish Rite in the 20th century.

The official Scottish Rite was born in Charleston, SC in 1801 but the Southern Jurisdiction (SJ) would not find its way to Maryland until nearly 60 years later. In the early 1790s, there were two organizations in Maryland that had degrees resembling those of what we now consider the Scottish Rite. A Rose-Croix Chapter attached to the Lodge *La Verite* was founded in Baltimore by brethren that settled here from Saint Domingo (present day Haiti) but it only lasted a short while. There is also some evi-

dence that a "Rite of Perfection" was established around the same time by Henry Wilmans. It is not clear when it ceased to exist, but this order may have existed into the beginning of the nineteenth century. The next comparable organization in Maryland would be an irregular Cerneau Scottish Rite body.

Cerneauism was extremely problematic for both the Southern Jurisdiction and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) for most of the 19th Century. Joseph Cerneau brought the 25 degree *Order of the Royal Secret* to New York in 1807 and soon expanded his system to 33 degrees to match the Supreme Council in Charleston. When the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction was formed in 1813, Cerneau's version of the Scottish Rite was in direct competition with the two regular Supreme Councils in America.

On May 15, 1820, the Rose Croix Chapter *La Verite* was reconstituted by Joseph Cerneau. The reconstituted Chapter was named *La Trinite Unity* and a *Grand Council of Princes of the Royal Secret* was formed. Some influential Maryland Masons were admitted as members to this Maryland Cerneau body, including future MWGM John H.B. Latrobe. The Morgan Affair caused the Maryland Chapter and Council to have a very short

lifespan and no records exist of it after 1826.

There are indications that Maryland masons were members of the NMJ in the 1850s, including MWPGM Charles Gilman. In 1861, the A&ASR, SJ finally reached Maryland. Albert Pike, assisted by Albert Mackey, constituted and installed officers for a Grand Consistory. James Stirrat was installed as the Grand Commander in Chief and Thomas Cunningham as the Deputy. Because of the Civil War, this new Scottish Rite body was fairly inactive.

In 1867, Thomas Cunningham was made the Active Inspector General for the state of Maryland. During this time, the NMJ was trying to expand into Maryland and there was some general opposition to the Southern Jurisdiction among Maryland Masons. The Supreme Council, SJ held its Biennial Session in Baltimore in 1870 in the hopes solidifying its presence in Maryland and weakening this opposition. Albert Pike reorganized the Grand Consistory in order to revitalize it since it had remained mostly dormant since before the war. At this session, Grand Commander Pike put forth a proposal to establish a Court of Honor and it was unanimously approved a month later. So the SJ honors of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor



(KCCH) and Grand Cross were put in motion at this Supreme Council session in Baltimore.

The Scottish Rite in Baltimore during the 1770s was very successful and the membership consisted of the most active Masons in the state. In 1872, MWGM H.B. Latrobe was “healed” by Sovereign Grand Commander Pike since he was originally a Cerneau Scottish Rite Mason from the 1820s. Thomas Cunningham resigned in 1878, and Gilmor Meredith became the Active Inspector General for Maryland.

Near the end of this decade, Pike became aware of the practice in Baltimore of only allowing York Rite Knight Templars into the Scottish Rite. This effectively disallowed anyone that was not of the Christian faith. In 1881, Pike came to Baltimore and constituted a new Lodge of Perfection called the *Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection No. 4*, consisting of mostly Jewish members. The existing Scottish Rite members were upset because they were notified that this was happening at the very last minute. In addition, they were also dismayed with the charges brought against them and because this new LoP was to be immediately subordinate to the Grand Consistory of Maryland. Adding further fuel to the fire, they learned that the Grand Commander had widely distributed a circular letter denouncing the Baltimore Scottish Rite’s exclusion practices.

The existing members all quit and surrendered the charters for *Mizpah Lodge of Perfection No. 3*, *Orion Rose Croix Chapter No. 1*, and *De Molay Council of Kadosh No. 1*. The ex-members formed a group called the “Old Guard” and still sought affiliation with a Scottish Rite body. They first reached out to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, but since it was agreed that Maryland was in the SJ, this inquiry went nowhere. They then looked at the two active Cerneau Supreme Councils headquartered in New York. After initially recognizing that they were both irregular, several brothers, led by F. J. S. Gorgas, affiliated with the Peckham Cerneau Rite. Brother Gorgas was one of the most influential Masons in the state and also the Dean of the University of Maryland Dental School. Gorgas was promoted, in due course, to the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Peckham Cerneau Supreme Council.

The Southern Jurisdiction was still only confined to Baltimore within the state, but the Cerneau council created consistories in Baltimore, Cumberland, Frederick, and Annapolis. During this same time period, the Southern Jurisdiction established new bodies in Baltimore that many current members of the Valley of Baltimore would recognize today. In addition to the *Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection*, the following bodies were constituted in the mid-1880s: *Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix*

(named after the IG for MD), *Maryland Preceptory of Knights Kadosh* (Council), and *Chesapeake Consistory*.

Sovereign Grand Commander Pike was so upset with the Baltimore defectors to Cerneauism that he issued a special book titled *The Book of Infamy*, which included the names of fifty of these men, starting with F. J. S. Gorgas. William H. Shryock, future Grand Treasurer and brother of the soon to be MWGM Thomas J. Shryock, was also included in this book. Bro. W. H. Shryock soon after withdrew from the Cerneau organization.

Gorgas was involved in a controversy in 1889 because he met with a Scottish Rite body with connections to the Grand Orient of France in April of the previous year. This had been deemed an irregular body since 1870 when they removed the requirement of a belief in Deity. Gorgas expressed his regret to MWGM Shryock for putting him in an awkward position by the widespread knowledge that he had violated a Standing Resolution of the GL of MD. Further, he stated that he realized the “effect upon Symbolic Masonry which the dissensions of rival Scottish Rite organizations have occasioned,” and he vowed to sever his ties with the Scottish Rite as soon as it was possible. He resigned as Grand Commander in 1890. Around this same time period, the Grand Lodges in America rejected Cerneauism,

Continued on page 27



Worshipful Master's Installation Speech 2020—Patuxent Lodge #218

BY: BRO. JOSE E. VAZQUEZ-CRUZ—WORSHIPFUL MASTER

I WISH TO THANK YOU ALL for attending the open installation of officers for Patuxent Lodge No. 218. A special thank you to our MWGM of Masons in Maryland, Bro. Richard P. Naegele and his grand line for performing the installation, which if I'm not mistaken, is the third and final one of the day with many more to come before the month is over.

This has been a journey full of ups and downs, trials and triumphs. My journey started back in 2007, when I thought I was joining the fraternity, only to find out it was not part of this great fraternity of brothers I'm a part of now. However, in December of 2016, I was laying on my couch recovering from a knee surgery and saw the Maryland Freemasons' commercial late one night and went online and applied for information. My lovely wife knew of what occurred previously to me and told me to give it another try and that what happened ten years prior was not how the fraternity truly was.

So, I get a call in February of 2017 from then WM Kenyatta Galbreth, who invited me to come meet and greet the brethren. He told me to come dressed in a dark suit and tie. I didn't really understand why at that time

but I do get it now. I met with Bros. Marlon Curtís and Gerald Poe, who asked a few questions of me and what I was hoping to get out of the fraternity. Then, in May of that year I, along with four others, were initiated. In October, we were passed and between November and December, we were all raised to the sublime degree of master mason.

THIS HAS BEEN A JOURNEY FULL OF UPS AND DOWNS, TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS.

What a journey then. We thought we made it, not realizing the magnitude of what had occurred. Then, I was installed as a Senior Steward and, in the same year, advanced to Senior Deacon. Then 2019 came along and I was nominated and installed as Senior Warden with the expectation that I get certified to become WM for this current year.

Ok, I can tell from some of you out there that you are questioning what I was thinking. To be honest, I wasn't! I was just trying to help out as best as I could for the better of the Craft, again not realizing, during the year, the magnitude of it all.

Then, it became real once I started to become certified,

nominated and elected.

I don't recommend to any new brother out there to do this in one year—it's a strain. My wife can tell you that she's probably heard me going over and over and over and over everything I had to remember to be able to recite. I think there may have been a few times where she probably wanted to call the guys in the white jackets to take me to the happy place.

I say all this because the journey for me was well worth it especially to see the brothers in Patuxent Lodge No.218 come together in such strong support to help me along to become certified so this day could happen.

To all our Past Masters, Bros. Gerald Poe, Marlon Curtis, Kenyatta Galbreth, Melvin Mason, Melvin Harrison, Rudy McCumber, William Hines and a slew of others for which I don't have all the time to name - because of each of you and your assistance know that we, and especially myself, are grateful. I also wish to send out a special thank you to Bro. Ron Block our Deputy Grand Lecturer who guided me even when I wanted to jump off a bridge, to see me through and to certify me.

Grand Master, I thank you and your Grand Line once again for coming out and supporting me.

I know a swinging spot
where the tea is hot...

You are cordially invited by
The Knights of St. Andrew
Ladies Auxillary

To the

5th Annual Afternoon Tea

Sunday, June 7th
2 o'clock in the afternoon

\$20 per person donation
RSVP No later than May 18th
to Lady Evelyn Vollmer
6816 Blentlinger Rd
Frederick, MD 21702
ksaladiesaux@gmail.com



The Circumpunct

BY: BRO. STEPHEN R. TWOMEY, II, 32°—NANICOKE LODGE # 172

THE CIRCUMPUNCT is one of the very first symbols that the newly entered apprentice encounters upon being initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry and possibly, one of the first things he allegorically represents, even before encountering this symbol in the lectures, both on his first trip around the lodge in a circular fashion, as well as when he kneels at the altar in the center of the path he has just traversed.

In English, the circumpunct is defined as the Encircled dot. The word appears to have come from two Latin words Circum and Punctum. Circum means around or in a circle and it also means on both sides. Punctum means little point, dot, or spot.

Before we explore the rich ancient history and philosophy of the circumpunct, let's see what our first degree lecture has to say about it. We're informed in the ritual that "there is represented in every well-governed Lodge, a certain point, within a circle; the point representing an individual Brother; the Circle, the boundary line of his conduct, beyond which he is never to suffer his prejudices or passions to betray him."

That may be one explanation, but I tend to agree with Albert Mackey. This is what he had to say on the matter, "*this explanation, trite and meagre as it*

is, may do very well for the exoteric teaching of the order; but the question at this time is, not how it has been explained by modern lecturers and masonic system-makers, but what was the ancient interpretation of the symbol, and how should it be read as a sacred hieroglyphic in reference to the true philosophic system which constitutes the real essence and character of Freemasonry?(Mackey, *The Symbolism of Freemasonry*)"

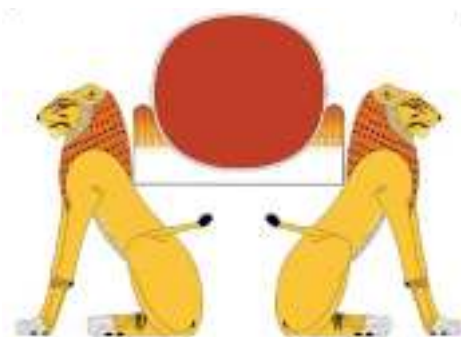
How long has this symbol been used? Loughcrew is an area near Oldcastle, Ireland. It's home to a group of megalithic tombs dating back to the 4th millennium BC. It is one of the four main passage tomb sites in Ireland and is a protected National Monument. Based on the stone arrangement at this site, it would appear that the ancient people that inhabited Ireland were no strangers to the point within the circle. I'd be willing to bet, given enough time, that we could identify a multitude of examples of this symbol or idea throughout ancient culture.

Hieroglyphs are believed to have originated in Egypt around 3250 B.C. The point within the circle can be found amongst the hieroglyphs of the ancient Egyptians and was used as a solar-phallic symbol to represent the eternal nature of the sun god Ra. The Karnak temple complex

is just one of many examples demonstrating that this symbol has ancient roots.

Similar to the the circumpunct, as found in Freemasonry with the two Johns, we find many instances of similar themes that were used in Egypt. For example, this stone carving that is believed to be two baboons with the hieroglyphic representation of the Sun perfectly in the center. Baboons in ancient Egypt are believed to have been associated with wisdom, science, and measurement. The Egyptian god Thoth was also said to be represented by a baboon and was associated with the moon. This theme of the unification of the active Sun and the passive Moon reoccurs throughout many traditions holding great spiritual significance.

Another symbol from ancient Egypt is the akher lions. We again see the symbolism of opposing figures with a representation of the Sun in between them. This particular representation of the Sun is known as the Akhet and is said to represent the Sun on the horizon. The Akhet is also associated with birth, death and rebirth. Akhet was also the first of three seasons in ancient Egypt and was known as the flooding season. The 3 seasons were 120 days each, so the year was essentially divided into 3



Clockwise from top left: Sri Mansala, Lingam-Yoni Egyptian hieroglyphics at the Karnak Temple Complex, Egyptian stone carving of two baboons and the Sun, Ancient Egyptian symbol of the Aker Lions.

great Divinities, whose worship was, according to Varro, inculcated upon the Initiates at Samothrace (Morals and Dogma).”

In Hinduism, Shiva Lingam stones are egg-shaped stones from the Narmada River in Onkar Mandhata, India, as seen in the center of this stone sculpture. They are often paired with the yoni stone, which is the round base like part of the sculpture. The Shiva Lingam represents the male phallus or creative energy, while the yoni stone symbolizes the female womb or receptive energy. In Hinduism, the Shiva Lingam represents the god Shiva, while the yoni is the symbol of his partner, the goddess Shakti. When the stones are used together, they are called the lingam-yoni. The lingam is placed inside of the yoni to represent eternal creation and renewal. It’s also representative of the creative male energy united in equilibrium with the female receptive energy.

Pike has this to say about the active and passive principles: “These two Divinities, the Active and Passive Principles of the Universe, were commonly symbolized by the generative parts of man and woman ; to which, in remote ages, no idea of indecency was attached ; the Phallus and Cteis, emblems of generation and production, and which, as such, appeared in the Mysteries.

Continued in next issue

equal parts, although the calendar did wander a bit because as we know there are 365 days in a year. What’s important here, though, is the reoccurring theme of two opposing forces with a third mediating force between them. This brings to mind the ancient Egyptian Gods Isis, Osiris, and Horus.

Albert Pike elaborates on this

theme and says: “In the Mysteries was also taught the division of the Universal Cause into an Active and a Passive cause; of which two, Osiris and Isis or the heavens and the earth were symbols. These two First Causes, into which it was held that the great Universal First Cause at the beginning of things divided itself, were the two



Masonic Dates

BY: ILL. S. DIRK WIKER, 33°—ANNAPOLIS LODGE # 89

IN OUR WESTERN CULTURE, we commonly use a yearly dating system that began with the birth of Christ. The calendar used throughout most the world is called the Gregorian calendar, named after Pope Gregory XIII. This calendar, introduced in 1582, corrected the leap year issues in the Julian calendar. The year numbering system, or calendar era, that we commonly use is Anno Domini, which is Latin for “Year of Our Lord.” Throughout your experiences in Freemasonry, you may have noticed that different yearly numbering systems are used. Symbolic Masonry uses one system, and appendant and concordant bodies sometimes use their own particular systems. Each masonic body has a reason for using these alternate dating systems for depicting the year.

In the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, we use Anno Mundi (In the Year of the World). This system derives from the Hebrew calculation back “to the creation of the world” (לבריאת העולם). This calculation methodology is based on the Masoretic Hebrew text primarily using biblical genealogical information.

The current year in the Scottish Rite is A.:M.:5780. This is calculated by adding 3760 to our current common year. Since this calendar era follows the

Jewish calendar, add an additional year if the date falls after Rosh Hashanah (around September). As an official example, the date on title page of the 1857 Supreme Council session held in New Orleans reads:

On the 20th, 21st, and 23rd day of the month called “Sebat,” A.:M.: 5617, corresponding to the 14th, 15th, and 17th days of February, in the Vulgar Era, 1857.

In the Symbolic or Blue Lodge, we use Anno Lucis (In the Year of Light) for the date year. This is simply calculated by adding the current common A.D. year to 4,000. After the Masoretic text was published, it became popular to use an approximation of 3760 and the number was rounded to 4,000. This dating system was widely adopted within Freemasonry in the 18th century. For instance, the title page of Anderson’s Constitutions of 1723 states that it was published “In the Year of Masonry” – 5723. Anderson’s Constitutions also refers to the calendar era *Anno Mundi* in several places.

Each of the three bodies of the York Rite also have their own calendar that differs from the common *Anno Domini* era. These bodies use a dating method that is directly relevant

to the degrees.

The Royal Arch uses *Anno Inventionis* (In the Year of Discovery). This date is produced by adding 530 to the current date. 530 B.C.E is the traditional date of the building of the second Jerusalem Temple when certain sacred objects were discovered while clearing the rubbish of the first Temple that was destroyed by the Babylonians.

The Cryptic Council uses *Anno Depositionis* (In the Year of the Deposit). The same items discovered at the beginning of the building of the second Temple were deposited there around 1000 B.C.E. So the calculation of the year in the Council of Royal and Select Masters is to just add 1,000 to the current year.

Anno Ordinis (The Year of the Order) is used by Knights Templar Commandaries. This is calculated by subtracting 1118 from our current year. 1118 A.D. is the year the Order of the Knights Templar was founded so the current date for Masonic Templars is 902 A.O.

There are more calendar eras used in Freemasonry as well and they all have a specific purpose that relates to the traditions in their degree rituals. These five, however, are the ones that most Masons would encounter most often.



The Clinic Corner

BY: BRITTANY O'NEILL, M.S. CCC-SLP



HAPPY SUMMER from the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Center! We are so excited to be completing another year of servicing contracts at our local private schools as well as continuing evaluations and therapy directly at our clinic! We have been so fortunate to continue to build relationships with three nearby schools, providing individual and group treatment to students during their school day. While our caseloads continued to flourish as the year progressed, we love having the opportunity to work with our school-aged population, collaborating with teachers and other related professionals to promote their academic and social success!

Even though another great school year has come to an end, we are able to offer services at our clinic to help these students learn and maintain their speech and language skills. Our ses-

sions offered at the clinic are a great way to increase parent involvement, allowing them to directly observe and participate in therapy, increasing their understanding of skills and using strategies to promote at home during their activities of daily living!

We know that summer can be a busy time of year; many clients take family vacations, children attend camp, and many parents elect to take a break from services to recharge and relax! However, there are many activities family can incorporate into their summer routine to continue to target speech and language skills while still having fun! Here are some activities your family can try:

TAKE A NATURE WALK OR HIKE: walk around your backyard or neighborhood; explore a new city or a local park! Ask your child WH questions (who, what, when, where, why, how) to prompt them to describe what

they see, hear or feel. Make predictions about what you may see next! Find items outside that start with a specific speech sound!

DESIGN ARTWORK: find different art supplies that are accessible and have your child develop a summer scene (i.e. playing at the beach, swimming in the pool, etc). Ask your child to describe what is happening in their picture! Given your child directions to follow, such as using a specific color crayon, drawing a specific item.

GO TO THE LIBRARY: the public library is a great place to not only develop speech and language skills, but also to promote socialization! Look for story time or reading groups at your local library; encourage your child to pick out a new book and read it to you! Reading is a great opportunity for a parent to model a slow rate of speech and to over-exaggerate targeted speech sounds!

These are just a few ideas! We love helping parents develop functional and fun activities to promote their child's development.

Our clinical staff is wishing everyone a safe and fun summer and we thank you for contributing to our success at both our clinic and at the schools we service!



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AS OF 2/27/2020

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IN MEMORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Ill. Charles J. Hout, 33° by Marlin and Brenda Mills

Continued from page 5

best do his duty by the ancient order to which he belongs is by reflecting credit upon that order by way in which he performs his duty as a citizen of the United States.”

–Theodore Roosevelt

Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy

begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.

–Benjamin Franklin

“There are no strangers in Freemasonry, only friends you’ve yet to meet.”

–Author Unknown

The excerpt from the book, *The Lost Symbol*, in the story cited above is an example of how Masonry is perceived by

non-Masons; however, the last line, “We all fear what we do not understand” applies to all. The quotes shared were made by Masons, some of whom served as President of the United States. Their words are as true today as when they were first written.

Wishing you and your families safe travels. Have a wonderful summer!

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Brothers Called From Labor To Eternal Rest

In Memory of Ill. Stephen J. Ponzillo III, 33°, MWPGM by Marlin and Brenda Mills

In Memory of Ill. Charles W. Ridgeway, 33° by Marlin and Brenda Mills

In Memory of Ill. Charles J. Hout, 33° by E. Ray Leppo, Jr.

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Ill. Charles J. Hout, 33°

Ill. Stephen J. Ponzillo III, 33°, MWPGM

Ill. Charles W. Ridgeway, 33°

Continued from page 19

and the SJ and NMJ were the only two recognized Scottish Rite organizations by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Article XVII of the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Maryland now explicitly lists each recognized body of our GL. The only two recognized Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite bodies are the Southern Jurisdiction and the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Near the end of the century, things stabilized and the

foundations were laid for our present day Scottish Rite in Maryland. The Grand Consistory eventually transitioned into the “Orient of Maryland” and besides Baltimore, there are now Valleys in Bel Air, Cumberland, Frederick, Hollywood, La Plata, and Salisbury.

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Christmas 2019







An Opinion For Consideration

BY: BRO. LUIS J. GONZALEZ JR. 32°, VALLEY OF BALTIMORE, ORIENT OF MARYLAND,
SENIOR WARDEN OF ODENTON LODGE NO. 209, ODENTON, MD.

FOR DECADES NOW, Masonry has seen a decline in membership. You only have to peruse the book of lodges over time and see the membership numbers have declined. This has led many Masons to believe the solutions lie in making the Craft easier to join, lowering the standards regarding ritual, dress, etc., or all of the above. I argue people will only associate with or join an organization in relation to its perceived value and the value to be obtained. These solutions cheapen the institution and strip it of its value.

The idea of value is a part of human nature. The moment we make something cheap and easy to obtain, it becomes less attractive. Establishing value begins with the petitioning process. Every petition asks the sponsors the length of time they have known the petitioner. The moment a sponsor signs the petition of an inquirer he does not know, or just met, he has devalued the institution. This action essentially cheapened the institution, and subconsciously conveyed the message, “Masonry is of little value and is willingly given away to anyone.” Ask yourself, would you allow just anyone into your home to socialize with your family? By signing a petition without establishing a friendship and rapport with the petitioner,

you have done just that! You have invited them into the Masonic family.

For centuries, the Craft has thrived on the psychological effects of exclusivity. In 1772, masonic scholar William Preston wrote in his work *Illustrations of Masonry*, “Were the privileges of Masonry to be common, or indiscriminately bestowed, the design of the institution would be subverted; for being familiar, like many other important matters, they would soon lose their value, and sink into disregard.” Bro. Preston understood the value of exclusivity and that not every man should be made a Mason. He recognized the mystery and mystique surrounding the institution. He appreciated the notion of it being a “Secret Society,” an institution in possession of ancient knowledge and wisdom. He knew that when something is exclusive, not everyone could have it, and by nature people want what they cannot have. While this may seem contrary to the idea of growth, making something exclusive can often be the number one driver of sales. Exclusivity is not just about the have and have nots, but it distinguishes the brand, solidifies its identity, and carves out or reinforces its niche.

The power of exclusivity commences with the scarcity

principle. No different from supply and demand, the scarcity principle dictates that the more exceptional, challenging or unattainable something is, the more it is valuable. This elusive value triggers a sense of inquisitiveness and urgency within the person. While fulfilling their curiosity is fulfillment in itself, exclusivity produces a myriad of other psychological rewards including a sense of belonging and importance. To be one of the few with access to this ancient knowledge puts them in an elite group, which creates a robust sense of belonging and community. According to Maslow, this sense of belonging and community is at the center of the human hierarchy of needs.

Ultimately, the brethren must decide that Masonry is a thing of value. By upholding the highest standards, we distinguish ourselves from any other social club or institution within our communities. We must ensure that our meetings and activities differ from those of other organizations. Our meetings should have a deliberate focus on the pursuit of personal growth and improvement for the benefit of humanity. The gift of Freemasonry, like all valuable and precious things, is to be guarded and given only to those found worthy.



VALLEYS OF MARYLAND

Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland

BALTIMORE VALLEY

Meets on Wednesday 7:30 P.M.

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
3800 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Ill. E. Ray Leppo, Jr., 33°, GC
Personal Representative

Ill. Frederick Spicer, 33°, GC
Executive Director, 410-243-3200

CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

Meets Third Friday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646

Hon. William A. Zarychta, 32°, KCCH
Personal Representative

Bro. Reginald J. Eda
Secretary, 757-869-4596

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Meets on Monday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
15-21 Green Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°
Personal Representative

Ill. Jerome Robinette, 33°
Secretary, 301-777-0498

FREDERICK VALLEY

Meets on Thursday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
6816 Blentlinger Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702

Ill. Creed F. Parker, 33°
Personal Representative

Ill. Scott Cameron, 33°
Secretary, 240-446-4889

SALISBURY VALLEY

Meets on Monday 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
110 N. Division Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°
Personal Representative

Ill. Samuel Walker, 33°
Secretary, 410-968-0667

SOUTHERN MARYLAND VALLEY

Meets on Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

Masonic Temple
24410 Mervell Dean Road
Hollywood, Maryland 20636

Ill. Richard C. Miller, 33°
Personal Representative

Ill. Alfred Girard, 33°
Secretary, 301-862-3683

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

Meets Third Thursday 7:00pm

www.susquehannasr.org
Lodge location varies,
please check website or call

Ill. Ralph L. Perry, 33°
Personal Representative

Hon. Jason Q. Standish, 32°, KCCH
Secretary, 410-688-4688

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Upcoming Events 2020

Saturday, May 2nd	Cumberland—Ladies' Night	6:30pm
Monday, May 4th	Cumberland Council of Kadosh	7:30pm
Thursday, May 21st	Susquehanna LOP/CRC—Remembrance & Renewal	7pm
Thursday, May 21st	Frederick LOP	7:30pm
Monday, June 1st	Cumberland Strawberry Night	6:30pm
Thursday, June 18th	Frederick Strawberry Night	7:30pm
Saturday, August 8th	Lobsterfest	2pm

Schedule subject to change