

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | FEB/MAR/APR 2021

# RITENEVS OF MARYLAND





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FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2021

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#### ON THE COVER: "Knowina is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough;



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°



# **MAY I WISH YOU ALL A VERY** BEAUTIFUL, WARM SPRING AND MAY THE SUN SHINE BRIGHTLY ON YOU ALL.

#### **DEAR FRIENDS AND BROTHERS ALL,**

I hope this issue of our Rite The year 2020 was not the

News finds you well and ready for a warm, Covid-free New Year. perfect vision we had hoped for. Almost everything came to an abrupt halt. We did manage to get in our Fall Reunion, which was very successful. New members are the life blood of every organization. I hope you will join me in welcoming them to the Scottish Rite. I want to say thank you to each and every one of you who worked so hard to make this reunion a very memorable day for all.

Every unit performed almost flawlessly. The degree teams were on time and put on a performance that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Robing, property, sound and lighting were outstanding. The kitchen left no one hungry. The office staff kept up with everyone and met all their needs. The Class Director had both the class and the candidate in on time, every time. Thanks to each and every one of you for a job well done.

I want to add my congratulations to our new lines of officers in all of the Valleys. I wish you a very successful year. I ask each of you to review your work, learn your work and do the best you can.

As we head into spring, I can only hope the vaccine has started to be given and this virus fades into the history books. We have all had a life changing



experience and one that I hope none of us experience again.

Now, if we can, let's get out and help get behind our Lodges. We need everyone's help. It does not matter what part you may play, even down to just signing a petition. Anything is a help.

In closing, may I wish you all a very beautiful, warm spring and may the sun shine brightly on you all. May I also wish all of you the blessings of good health and much happiness now and forever.



Sincerely and Fraternally,

III. Marlin L. Mills. 33º Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland



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# **Valley of Baltimore**

BY: ILL. E. RAY LEPPO, 33°, GC-PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



**REETINGS** to the members of the Fall 2020 Class. On behalf of the Valley of Baltimore, I wish to extend our sincerest congratulations and welcome to each of you, our newest 32° Scottish Rite Masons. You have witnessed degrees demonstrating moral and philosophical lessons that expand on the Blue Lodge Degrees and represent the ultimate in personal character and perfection. Your next step to enjoying the Scottish Rite and to feel a part of the Rite is to get involved. This could be as simple as attending

the meetings of the bodies or returning to witness the degrees again; maybe even seeing one that you hadn't before. You can also become involved in the degree work. Roles and back ups are always needed for the degrees. If acting on stage isn't for you, there are many "behind the scenes" supporting roles that could use your energy. From robing and sound, to property and lighting, there is a place here for you.

I am looking forward to a long and close Masonic relationship with each of you.

# ILL. NORRIS E. CARTWRIGHT, SR. 33° **MEMORIAL CLASS**



# **Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection**

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



HOPE YOU ALL had a great holiday season and you and your families are healthy and happy!!! Happiness and contentment are integral factors in wellness. It is so important to reach for, or even invent things to make our everyday life much simpler and more enjoyable. Sometimes, it is just getting back to the "old time" things we all used to enjoy, such as a Sunday family drive (if visiting family, do not drop in, it will not be appreciated), reading a newspaper made out of real paper, taking a hike and making a batch of meatballs and sauce...I miss those days!!!

Now to the meat of the article. I would like to address some of the important tenets of the 5th Degree, Perfect Master. Since the Perfect Master

is not featured in the One Day Class, many of you may not be familiar with it. Our current rendition begins with Venerable Master Adoniram, addressing not only the new candidates but I feel the entire Congregation. From 1883 until 1935, it had

Happiness and contentment are integral factors in wellness. It is so important to reach for, or even invent things to make our everyday life much simpler and more enjoyable.

been the practice of the Scottish Rite to require candidates in this Degree to execute a last will and testament. There were two reasons for this. First, to impress upon them the uncertainty of life and that death could strike at any moment. Secondly, to teach the wisdom and duty of providing for their families and dependents.

The rest of the Conferral follows the candidate on his path representing our deceased



Grand Master Hiram Abiff back into the tomb on the anniversary of his death. As the Degree progresses, it instructs the candidate virtue, honor and concord among fellow Masons and how his worldly actions and influences will live on beyond the grave. Upon researching for this article, I found, in Albert Pike's "Morals and Dogma", a quote that pretty much sums the whole thing up. "A Perfect Master must avoid that which deceives, equally which that is false".

In closing, for any of you Brethren who have a desire to learn more about the Scottish Rite Degrees, I highly recommend the Master Craftsman program. I completed the first three courses and found them quite informative and enjoyable. Don't get me wrong, they are not all fun and games. There is work involved, including textbooks, quizzes and essays. The nice thing is that you can work at your own pace, either individually or with fellow Masons. I sincerely hope many of you do decide to explore this exciting opportunity.

P.S. Just for the record, as being the one who delivers the last will and testament speech, I thought it was only right to execute a new will, which I did in 2020.

# Help Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19



# The Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: HARRY M. HARGER, 32°, KCCH, WISE MASTER-MT. ARARAT #44



**APPY NEW YEAR!** I hope this article finds everyone well after a challenging year. I'm proud and excited to be the Wise Master of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix for 2021.

The Chapter of Rose Croix is perfectly suited for inspirational reflection at the arrival of the new year as it is represented by a rose blooming upon a cross. This could symbolize self-sacrifice and suffering in the cause of humanity. The start of a new year is always a great time to pledge to be better!

The 15th through 18th degrees comprise the Chapter of Rose Croix. They contain some of the oldest haut degree material in the Scottish Rite. They instruct

us for the purpose of rebuilding the Temple and contain acquired knowledge meant to inspire a wish to climb toward a yet higher truth. The Chapter of Rose Croix also represents the ideals of Faith, Hope and Charity to guide our actions. By learning and practicing these words, we will be guided to one of the great enigmas of Nature.

Here is a synopsis of the importance of each of the degrees that you learned about in your classes:

#### 15th Degree-Knight of the East

This degree opens with the ruins that must be built again. It teaches us that there is a great Law of Ebb and Flow in Nature and that perfection is not a static state but an ongoing process which is gradual.



The Chapter of **Rose Croix is** perfectly suited for inspirational reflection at the arrival of the new year as it is represented by a rose blooming upon a cross.

#### 16th Degree-Prince of Jerusalem

This degree has a particular emphasis on the belief that God aids those who pursue good work, are faithful, and can practice the virtues of wisdom and morality with a hope of the future. These attributes embody the wisdom of all ages and the political creed which rests in the great pillars of Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood.

## 17th Degree-Knight of the East and West

This degree instructs you on the virtues of Union, Honor, Duty, Loyalty, Discretion and Silence. You will then be consecrated to Truth, Justice and Benevolence.

#### 18th Degree–Knight Rose Croix

This degree holds a place of high honor as one of the most philological and practical degrees in Freemasonry as it requires earnest thought and introspection.

I encourage all Scottish Rite Masons to read, observe and practice the many concepts you have learned. In doing so, vou will certainly make 2021 a truly happy new year. I hope to see many of my Scottish Rite Brothers this year!



# **Maryland Council of Kadosh**

BY: HON. CHARLES J. MATULEWICZ, 32°, KCCH-COMMANDER-PALESTINE LODGE #189



THINK ABOUT this past Reunion Day with our socially distanced class. In between communicating degrees and getting dressed to confer the 31st, I looked up into those rows of seats and was struck not by the size of the class, or the number of unfilled seats in our Temple, but rather I was struck by the proportionality problem that our gentle craft has before it. Walking to my car, I considered the class and our ample seating and, in doing so, I passed by a car with a bumper sticker reminding me: 2B1ASK1. And I realized that, at the time that Masonic call to action was first conceived, it was highly probable that everyone knew a Mason. Be it at work, a neighbor, a relative, or a friend. The fewer Masons there are, the lower our

proportion of total men in the world becomes. In this case, it is possible that the average man doesn't know a Mason, and, if they do, it is likely that they do not know of a Mason in their circle of acquaintance to ask.

What does that mean for Scottish Rite Masonry and how do we fill our seats? That's a question men with far sharper intellects than mine have worked on

There is an old chestnut that there are no new Masons in Lodge Rooms... but I pose to you there is a Scottish **Rite Mason in** the heart of every Brother in the Blue Lodge.

for longer than I have been alive but I will share with you what I will do this year as I get to serve you as the Commander of Kadosh. Whenever I am at the Rite, I will ask my Brothers why they joined the University of Freemasonry, what they enjoy about it and what they hoped they would achieve as part of it.

The quiet conversation with a Scottish Rite Brother illuminates the treasure that they found at the Rite and I believe there are as many versions of Scottish Rite Masonry as there are Scottish Rite Masons. I propose that, were you to travel to your Mother Lodge and have a similar conversation with our Blue Lodge Brethren, you will hear men who are looking for the very treasures our Scottish Rite Brothers discovered... the stories that they illuminated and shared with you.

What will our Council of Kadosh have in store for our 2021 Masonic year? We will put on degrees and festive boards. We will pass along some of what we found at the Scottish Rite to those who are looking for something in Freemasonry. And hopefully, each of us will strike up a quiet conversation in the Temple, learn a little more about our Scottish Rite Brethren than we knew before, and carry those treasures back into our Blue Lodges.

There is an old chestnut that there are no new Masons in Lodge Rooms... but I pose to you there is a Scottish Rite Mason in the heart of every Brother in the Blue Lodge. They have the ears to hear where we to have the story to tell. Stay safe my Brothers and I so look forward to seeing you at the Scottish Rite

# **Valley of Charles County**

BY: BRO. P. ANTHONY BALTA, 32°, VENERABLE MASTER CHARLES COUNTY LOP-ST. COLUMBA #150

**REETINGS** from the Valley of Charles County! I would first like to wish everyone a heartfelt safe and happy holiday! This past year has been stressful for all of us and I look forward to the next year being better.

The Valley of Charles County started 2020 with a mission: to become certified in the 4th Degree Ritual and get closer to obtaining our final Charter. We received our Letters Temporary from the S.G.I.G Ill. Marlin Mills, 33° in July 2019. I am happy to report that on October 16, 2020 the 4th Degree Team, led by Bro. Michael "Spike" Porter, 32°, performed well and was certified proficient by Ill. Fred Spicer, 33° G.C.

This was the culmination of months of practice and dedication despite the restrictions due to COVID-19. Once the Valley was certified, we did not sit back and relax. On October 30, 2020, and with the help from Bro Jason Standish, 32° KCCH and Bro Richard Thurfield, 32° KCCH from the Valley of Baltimore's Degree team, the Valley of Charles County was able to introduce 8 new Master Masons into the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Lodge of Perfection! A very special thank you to Ill. Marlin Mills, 33° and Ill. Fred Spicer, 33° for all their help and support in making our new Val-



ley come to life. While we still have much work to do, we know that, through perseverance and teamwork, we can make this a Valley that everyone is proud of.

What made this evening more special was the newly initiated Brothers were all from Beehive



Pictured Front Row (L-R): Ill. Marlin Mills, 33° S.G.I.G., Bro. Ryan Jones, Bro. Willie Galtney, Bro. Ron Walls, Bro. Charles Lewis, Venerable Master Hon. Joe Myers, 32° K.C.C.H., Bro. John Countryman, Bro. Rodney Bowyer, Bro. Randy Barnes, Bro. Jeff Burch, 32°. Back Rows (L-R): Bro. Craig Meinhardt, 32°, Bro. Shawn Cooper, 32°, Bro. Spike Porter, 32°, Bro. Jeremy Anderson, 32°, Bro. Tony Balta, 32°, Bro. T.D. Prout, Bro. Joe Saia, 32°, Bro. Brian Castillo, 32°, Bro. Mike Clark, 32°, and Bro. Reggie Eda, 32°

We are excited to have our newly obligated Brothers join us as we continue to spread the Light into 2021.

Lodge #66 MWGLPHAMD. We believe this was an historic occasion and just one of the many steps towards bridging the gaps to bring the two Grand Lodges in Maryland closer than ever. We are excited to have our newly obligated Brothers join us as we continue to spread the Light into 2021.

Speaking of 2021, The Valley is not slowing down one bit. After elections and an installation of a new Venerable Master, the Valley is getting geared up to becoming proficient in the 14th Degree. We also have plans to continue to work with our Blue Lodges and Youth Groups to better serve the community through charity.

# Maundy Thursday Observance & Dinner

#### **ALL SCOTTISH RITE MASONS** are

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

In the Scottish Rite, darkness often refers to the disappearance of truth and justice in the world. As the symbolic lights are extinguished, we reflect upon this loss. By relighting them, we reinforce our belief that, as Knights Rose Croix, it is our

THE SYMBOLS OF THE MYSTIC BANQUET

they were slaves in Egypt.

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

**Meredith Chapter** Of Rose Croix

# MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

Thursday, April 1st, 2021 6:30PM

Cost for this event: \$20.00 per person.

Please RSVP to the office @ 410-243-3200 by Wednesday, March 24th, 2021

# Valley of Susquehanna

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



**'M SURE THAT** this and many other publications will be L full of this redundant sentiment: 2020 was a challenging year! Just when we thought (or hoped) that we had turned a corner and things were returning to "normal", we were informed such was not the case. As a fraternity, we have found ways to overcome and adapt to some of these situations. We have also been provided with an opportunity for introspection, both on the personal as well as corporate level, to assess what this Brotherhood means to ourselves, our Brethren, and to the world at large. Our Scottish Rite Degrees are replete with themes of refinement, tempering and allusions to alchemical transformation. These refinements do not come absent of somewhat extreme environments or events. It may be too soon to

see how the events of 2020 will refine and temper our organizations, but Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived!

Creating a new Valley is not without its own challenges. When the Chesapeake Lodge of Perfection was chartered in 2013, we had 22 members. Eight years later, we have grown to 102 members, added the Deer Creek Chapter of Rose Croix as well as the Susquehanna Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew and established our own charitable foundation. As we move into 2021, the future looks bright for the Valley. We are settling into our new home at Aberdeen Lodge very nicely. If circumstances allow, please come visit us this spring. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7 P.M. Please check out our events page at www.susquehannasr.org to

4. The Shank Bone, a roasted bone is symbolic of the Paschal Lamb

that was sacrificed and eaten on the eve of Passover.

1. The Matzo, or unleavened bread, is also called bread of affliction.

to rise. The Matzo is the most important symbol of the Passover.

It is symbolic of the bread which the Hebrews made when they hastily

left Egypt, because they did not have enough time to allow their dough

2. The Moror, or bitter herb (represented by a small slice of Horserad-

ish) is symbolic of the hardships which the Israelites endured while

3. The Haroses, a paste of apples, nuts, spices and wine is symbolic

of the mortar the Israelites used, when they were slaves, in the con-

struction of the Pharaoh's treasure cities, Pithom and Ramses.

5. The Hard Boiled Egg, , is symbolic of life and the springtime when nature renews life.

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



# It may be too soon to see how the events of 2020 will refine and temper our organizations, but Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived!

see what we have planned. The spring and fall degree schedule will be posted soon.

On a personal note, this will be the last Rite News article that I will compose as Secretary of the Valley of Susquehanna. As of the new year, I will be passing my quill to the very capable and eager hands of Bro. Ed Dickson, 32°. To serve as the Valley Secretary for Susquehanna has truly been an honor and a labor of love.

# MARYLAND **"SCOTTISH RITE OF** FREEMASONRY" **LICENSE PLATES**



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The Office is open M-F from 9am to 4pm @ 410-243-3200 or you may email aasr@verizon.net and the forms will be mailed to you. Cost is \$30.00



# **ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP**

# Fall 2020 Capping Ceremony and Service Awards

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND recognized thirty-three members for reaching forty or more years of service to the Rite including Charles Dicks and William Firey, who have both reached seventy years of service, during the Fall Capping Ceremony and Service Awards on November 8, 2020. Brother Jack Murray was in attendance to receive an award for 50 Years of Service and Brothers Dwight Metcalf, Gary Beachy, William Hunt, and Delmar Sliger each received awards for 40 Years of Service. In addition, Bro. William Kerns, who reached fifty years of service in 2017, was presented with a Scottish Rite 50 Year Prayer Cap by Wise Master Michael Kerns and Personal Representative Jamey Hill.



**Clockwise from** top; (L to R) Asst. Personal Rep. Robin Summerfield, Dwight Metcalf, Gary Beachy, William Hunt, Delmar Sliger, and Personal Rep. Jamey Hill; (L to R) Personal Rep. Jamey Hill, Jack Murray, and Laura Murray;(L to R) Wise Master Michael Kerns, William Kerns, and Personal Rep. Jamey Hill



# Fall 2020 Conferral and Reunion

**SEVEN NEW MEMBERS** were welcomed into the Scottish Rite during the Valley of Cumberland's 173rd Fall Conferral and Reunion on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the Cumberland Masonic Temple. The many new members of the cast and stage crew are to be commended for an excellent presentation of the ritual. As a growing number of members who have dedicated themselves to degree work move into welldeserved retirement, it is indeed encouraging to see other brethren, many of them new to the Rite, joining the ranks to preserve the high-quality ritual work of the Valley for years to come. During the presentation of the 30th Degree, attendees were also treated to an outstanding presentation of the Mysterious Ladder of Kadosh by special guest Vincent Cruciani, Sovereign Prince of the Keystone Council of Princes of Jerusalem, Valley of Scranton, AASR, NMJ and Master Masonic Scholar of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge.



**Front Row, L to R:** Venerable Master James Snider, M. Vincent Cruciani; new members Randy Bishop, Class President James Carraway, Class Orator Michael Oden, and Barry Wilt, Jr.; and SR Executive Director Fred Spicer. **Back Row, L to R:** New members, Michael Ringler, James Kalbflesh, and Walter Gilbert.



# News from the Cumberland Valley

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

All Events At Cumberland Masonic Temple Unless Otherwise Indicated

Schedule is contingent upon state and local regulations. Check cumberlandscottishrite.org or contact Secretary Jerry Robinette at 301-729-6778 for updates

MON, FEB 1 Lodge of Perfection and Cumberland SR Foundation 7:30 pm

SAT, FEB 6 KSA Robert Burns Supper – Masonic Temple 5:00 pm

**TUES, FEB 9** SR Club of Wash County, Morris Frock American Legion 6:30 pm

MON, FEB 15 Lodge of Perfection 7:30 pm

(continued on next page)



# **ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP**

# **Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Initiates New Knights**

THE CUMBERLAND KNIGHTS of St. Andrew added five new Knights to their ranks in 2020. The Knights of St. Andrew provide a variety of service to the members of the Orient of Maryland, including providing arches of

steel and escort services for dignitaries and guests at special events, presentation of colors, assisting with Scottish Rite degree ritual, participating in parades, and conducting fundraising events to support RiteCare.

Membership is open to all 32° members of the Valley of Cumberland. Members who earn the honor of the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour become Knights Emeritus.

Front Row, L to R: New members Mark Lathrop, Steve Gaudette, Michael Kerns, Ghini Khalsa, and Dwight Metcalf; Senior Deacon Robin Summerfield, and Junior Deacon Bert Green, Jr. Back Row, L to R: Jr. Warden Michael Kamauff, Chaplain Joe Cushall, Asst. Chaplain Bud Miles, Venerable Master Daniel Stitt, Sen. Warden George Witherington, Jr., Personal Rep. Jamey Hill, Knight Commander Sam Lane, and Expert Mark Weatherholt

# Kid Walk/Kid Talk Walkathon Goes Virtual

**VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND** Members Jamey Hill, Robin Summerfield, Jerry Robinette, and Jim Snider visited the Cumberland RiteCare Clinic in September to kick off the annual Kid Walk/Kid Talk Walkathon in support of the Children's League, which manages three RiteCare Clinics in Cumberland and Oakland as well as Keyser, WV in partnership with the Valley of Cumberland.

Kid Walk/Kid Talk is one of the largest annual fundraisers to support the Children's League. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic,



the 2020 event was held virtually, with team members registering online and walking on any date they chose between September 19th and September 30th. T-Shirts were donated by Bro. Michael Kerns and distributed to participants and sponsors.

In addition to providing support for online registration and promotion of the virtual walkathon, the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation was pleased to present a donation of \$3,800 to the Children's League raised by the Valley membership as part of the event.

# **Gary Shriver Named Fall 2020 Ritual Champion**

GARY SHRIVER was recognized as the Valley of Cumberland's Fall 2020 Ritual Champion for his outstanding ritual work and leadership of the 4th Degree Ritual Team. Shriver joined the 4th Degree Team as Orator in 2017 and assumed the responsibilities of Degree Captain in the Fall of 2019 following the passing of longtime Degree Captain Harvey Hogamier. Under Shrivers' leadership, the team has added several new cast members from Washington County to deliver high quality ritual to new members as they receive their first introduction to the Scottish Rite. Congratulations to Bro. Shriver and the members of the 4th Degree Team.



# Western Maryland RiteCare Corner

#### **DR. ANGELA MANDELL** of the

Children's League provides speech teletherapy for a young RiteCare client named Lydia, who is a 6-year old girl participating in speech therapy for an articulation impairment. She resides in Ridgeley, WV and has been receiving treatment at the Cumberland RiteCare clinic for one year. Her older brother has also received services in the past

for a speech sound impairment. Due to precautions related to the Coronavirus pandemic, Lydia and a number of other RiteCare clients are currently receiving services via tele-practice.





# News from the Cumberland Valley



L to R: Personal Rep. Jamey Hill, Gary Shriver, Fall 2019 **Ritual Champion** Aaron Lea, Secretary Jerry Robinette



UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

MON, MAR 1 Chapter of Rose Croix 7:30 pm

SAT, MAR 6 **Class Orientation and** Conferral of 4° & 14° 10:30 am

**TUES, MAR 9** SR Club of Wash County, Morris Frock American Legion 6:30 pm

**MON. MAR 15** Lodge of Perfection 7:30 pm

**FRI, MAR 19** Thing-A-Ma-Jig Variety Show - Ali Ghan Shrine Center 7:15 pm

**SUN. MAR 21** Chapter of Rose Croix – Ceremony of Lights 2:00 pm

MON, MAR 29 KSA Business Meeting & Parade Planning 7:30 pm



# Fall 2020 Scottish Rite Photos







 Fall 2020 Scottish Rite Photos continue on next page

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# **Fall 2020** Scottish Rite Photos (cont.)



# 2020: A Year Unlike Any Other BY: CHRISTIAN J. MIELE, 32°-WORSHIPFUL MASTER, HIGHLAND LODGE #184, A.F. & A.M.-ORATOR,

# ALBERT PIKE LODGE OF PERFECTION, VALLEY OF BALTIMORE, ORIENT OF MARYLAND, A. & A.S.R., S.J.

**ERSEVERANCE.** When my officers and I began planning for the 2020 Masonic year last fall, we certainly could have never imagined what was in store for us! Just nine weeks into our term, and for the first time in the 233-year history of Maryland Masonry, lodges were prohibited from meeting in person by order of the governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a time of real uncertainty for the Craft. But, in Masonry as in life, great challenges often give rise to still greater opportunities. Before long, Highland, like many of its sister lodges across the state, found new and innovative ways to keep the light of Masonry shining during this dark hour. Virtual meetings and online social gatherings-while certainly no substitute for the fellowship experienced in a physical lodge-saw us through this unprecedented time. I suppose, in some ways, the distance between us made our ties as Masons grow even stronger. I, for one, will never again take grips and green beans for granted!

While the lifting of the moratorium on in-person meetings in late June was certainly a positive and welcome development, it posed a series of new challenges for Highland's leadership team. In preparing to reopen

the Lodge in early July, we had to first take measures to ensure that our Communications would be held in accordance with CDC guidelines, local public health regulations, and Grand Lodge requirements. We then had to navigate an endless wave of building use and occupancy restrictions imposed by the City of Baltimore. Some weeks our Lodge was permitted to occupy its building at 50 percent capacity and others, a mere 25 percent (with new restrictions often going into effect with little or no notice). Needless to say, we became pretty good at calling audibles at the line of scrimmage this year! At one point, Highland even held a Communication at the Grand Lodge in nearby Baltimore County to avoid having to arbitrarily restrict meeting attendance to just twelve brothers due to the 25 percent occupancy limit at that time. This whole experience brings

to mind that portion of the Master's lecture in the Second Degree, whereby we learn of the endurance of Freemasonry through the ages. This lesson about perseverance became Highland's mantra this year. Like our ancient brethren, we didn't let adversity derail our mission. Instead, we maintained a laser-like focus on



advancing our noble cause. Perhaps the achievement we are most proud of is reclaiming our position as the #1 ranked lodge in the state for membership growth—a badge of honor synonymous with Highland in decades of old. We also carried out an ambitious program of charitable giving, community service, brotherhood-building, and Masonic education this year, and showed our support for Maryland's Masonic youth programs, all in a safe manner. Finally, we completed a \$70,000 renovation of the first floor of our temple, culminating in the establishment of the Highland Lodge Museum and Library to preserve, promote, and honor our rich history.

It was our fervent desire, this past year, to not only move Highland Lodge forward, but also Maryland Masonry as a whole. And though, as I write this, it seems inevitable that the recent spike in coronavirus cases may once again bring in-person Masonic activities to a halt, we should have every confidence that Masonry will withstand whatever comes our way.

We've done it before, and we'll do it again.

We will persevere.



# Grand Lodge of Maryland A.F.A.M. Installation of Officers-November 21st, 2020









# **Excerpt from Ramsay's Oration–December 1736**



Chevalier Andrew Michael Ramsay, a Scotsman, was tutor to Charles Edward Stuart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie," and his brother in their French exile. Ramsay joined the Horn Lodge in Westminster in 1730, about the same time the Third Degree was being introduced. In 1737, he was the Grand Orator of some Masonic body in Paris and gave an oration, apparently as part of the initiation of new members. It is famous because it contains, in one place, most of the major components of the high degrees.

"Mankind is not essentially differentiated by the tongues spoken, the clothes worn, the lands occupied or the dignities with which it is invested. The world is nothing but a huge republic, of which every nation is a family, every individual a child. Our society was, at the outset, established to revive and spread these essential maxims borrowed from the nature of man.

We desire to reunite all men of enlightened minds, gentle manners and agreeable wit, not only by a love of the fine arts but, much more, by the principles of virtue, science and religion where the interests of the Fraternity shall become those of the whole human race ... where the subjects of all kingdoms shall learn to cherish one another without renouncing their own country."

"Our ancestors, the Crusaders, gathered together from all parts of Christendom in the Holy

Land, desired thus to reunite into one sole Fraternity the individuals of all nations. ... these superior men, without gross selfish interest, without even listening to the inborn tendency to dominate, imagined such an institution, whose sole aim is to unite minds and hearts in order to make them better ..."

"...The second requisite of our Society is sound morals. (Whilst) the religious orders where established to make perfect Christians and the military orders to inspire a love of true glory, the order of the Freemason is to make lovable men good citizens, good subjects, inviolable in their promises, faithful adorers of the God of Love, lovers rather of virtue than of reward".

"... We also have our secrets: they are figurative signs and sacred words composing a language sometimes mute, sometimes very eloquent that we

use to communicate with one another at the greatest distance, to recognize our Brothers of whatsoever tongue. ..."

"... The word FM must not be taken in a literal ... and material sense as if our founders had been simple workers in stone or merely curious geniuses who wanted to perfect the Arts. They were not only skillful architects (...) but also religious and warrior Princes who designed, edified and protected the living Temples of the Most High. And ... whilst they handled the trowel and mortar with one hand, in the other they held the sword and the buckler. Our order therefore must be considered as ... an order founded in the antiquity, renewed in the Holy Land by our ancestors in order to recall the memory of the most sublime truths amidst the pleasures of the society. The Kings, Princes and Lords returned from Palestine to their own lands and their established

divers Lodges. At the time of the last Crusade many Lodges were already erected in Germany, Italy, Spain, and France and from thence in Scotland, because of the close alliance between the French and the Scottish.

James Stuart of Scotland was Master of a Lodge at Kilwinning, in the west of Scotland in 1286, shortly after the death of Alexander III, King of Scotland ... After the deplorable mishaps of the Crusades(...the great Prince Edward, son of Henry III, King of England ... brought back the colony of his Brethren from the Holy Land into England ... declared himself protector of

the Order, conceded to it new privileges and then the members of this Fraternity took the name of Freemasons after the example of their ancestors.

But he also further states: ".. the religious discords which embarrassed and tore Europe in the XVI century caused our Order to degenerate from the nobility of its origin. Many of our Rites and usages (...) were changed, disused and suppressed ...Thus many of our Brothers forgot the spirit of our laws ad retained only the letter and shell"

".....The beginnings of a remedy have already been made. It

# Why I Became a Job's Daughter

BY: MISS BRIANNA TACKETT, MISS JR JOBIE OF DELMAR



**OME WOULD SAY** it's in my

One summer, while visiting my family in Kansas, we attended an installation. I saw how much fun that my cousins were having. I ran up to my mom and told her that I wanted to be a Jobie. When we moved to Maryland, my mom remembered what I had said and asked if I still wanted to join. I said, "yes", and the rest is history. When I joined, I was extremely quiet and would try to hide behind my mom. My mom would not let me hide behind her and said to me, "I had my time, this is your time to shine". Job's Daughter's has

blood or that I was des-Utined to be a Jobie. I have four aunts, two cousins, and my mom who were/are in Job's Daughters. When we would visit our family in Kansas, she would take me to their Grand Session or Bethel installations.



is only necessary to continue, and to, at last, bring everything back to its original institution. This work cannot be difficult in a State where religion and the Government can only be favourable to our laws. From the British Isles, the Royal Art is now repassing into France, under the reign of the most amiable of Kings, whose humanity animates all his virtues, and under the ministry of a Mentor, who has realised all that could be imagined most fabulous......"

taught me to be confident, take responsibility, teamwork, to try new things, and the importance of community service. I have made many friends and longlasting memories.

I will forever be grateful for joining Job's Daughters and for all the Job's Daughters before me. I hope that one day I can share this organization with future generations. I do not have any sisters of my own, but I consider the girls in Job's Daughters to be my sisters. As Christina Rossetti said, "For there is no friend like a sister"

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AS OF 12/3/2020

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# **Brothers Called** From Labor To **Eternal Rest**

Ronald F. Carlson, 33°

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David L. Young, 33°

David L. Schneider, 33°

# Washington's Address Resigning his Commission to President Thomas Mifflin and the Confederation Congress

Annapolis, MD–Tuesday, December 23rd, 1783

MR. PRESIDENT—The great events on which my resignation depended having at length taken place; I have now the honor of offering my sincere Congratulations to Congress and of presenting myself before them to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the Service of my Country.

Happy in the confirmation of our Independence and Sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable Nation, I resign with satisfaction the Appointment I accepted with diffidence. A diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our Cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The Successful termination of the War has verified the most sanguine expectations, and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my Countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous Contest.

While I repeat my obligations to the Army in general, I should



# I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.

do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge in this place the peculiar Services and distinguished merits of the Gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the War. It was impossible the choice of confidential Officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me Sir, to recommend, in particular, those who have continued in Service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my Official life, by commending the Interests of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them, to his holy keeping.

Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of Action; and bidding an Affectionate farewell to this August body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.

# St. Columba Lodge #150, LaPlata

## BY: SPIKE PORTER, PM, 32° & SHAWN COOPER, WM, 32°-ST COLUMBA LODGE #150

**UR LODGE** has toured the George Washington Masonic Memorial (GWMM) a few times in the past, and this gave us the idea to do something special for our members and host a meeting there. While some of our Brothers have been there, none of us have ever been there for a Lodge meeting, especially an Entered Apprentice Degree. As the current Worshipful Master, I was hoping the Lodge could meet in the Spring of 2020, but COVID-19 put a monkey wrench in my plans. When businesses reopened, I again contacted the GWMM staff, and we determined 18 Nov 2020 was our best date. As luck would have it, we just received a petition for a new member. The stars aligned, and we prepared to perform the Entered Apprentice Degree at the GWMM! The Lodge officers jumped at the chance to not only sit in the GWMM but to perform the ritual. We posted the event on our Facebook page and pushed it out to our email list. People from all over were RSVP'ing to be there. The Grand Master provided dispensation, and excitement built!

The 1st Degree Team practiced and was thrilled to know over 50 Brothers planned to attend this historic night. Then COV-ID-19 struck again. The GWMM notified us two days before the event that we had to limit the attendance to a maximum of 25. Our hearts sank, but we made the announcement, and we knew many would be disappointed. The show must go on. On the day of the event, everyone was excited and arrived early to make sure they learned the footwork for the flag

If you are looking to host a meeting outside your home lodge, this would be a great venue. It is not every day you get to host a Lodge meeting or confer a degree in a National Historic Landmark. We highly recommend it!

ceremony and the Lodge's layout. Our candidate was excited about this, but we assured him not to get too excited because we could not top this for his next two degrees. The GWMM staff was very accommodating with showing us all the light-



ing locations, and then we were ready to start. Our candidate Blake had his friend Bro. Gary as his conductor, making it even more special. We were fortunate enough to have an authentic replica of George Washington's gavel presented to the Lodge in 2019 and honored it for this special occasion.

The North Room was ornate with a history of sculpted wooden beams, chairs, benches, and a beautiful altar. Although hard to take at first glance, the team quickly got to work and performed a remarkable degree. Everyone in the room made incredibly supportive comments for our newest Brother, and he seemed to relish the night. This was a night to remember, not just for Brother Blake, but for the entire officer line! Conferring the Degree at the GWMM was akin to being an actor in a small theater that no one heard of and then finally getting to perform on Broadway, simply amazing!

The GWMM staff commented that only three lodges a year might rent the room. So, if you are looking to host a meeting outside your home lodge, this would be a great venue. It is not every day you get to host a Lodge meeting or confer a degree in a National Historic Landmark. We highly recommend it!



# Maryland Council of Kadosh Festive Board 2020













# Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

SOUTHERN JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ORIENT OF MARYLAND

Mail to: A&A Scottish Rite 3800 North Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone - 410-243-3200 Fax - 410-243-8791 Email - aasr@verizon.net

		]	Date	20
To the Officers and Members of: ALBERT PIKE LODGE OF PERFE MEREDITH CHAPTER OF ROSE O		MARYLAND C CHESAPEAKE	OUNCIL OF KADOSH CONSISTORY	
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME		LAST NAME	
have never applied for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees, and bear true faith and allegiance to the Supreme Council of the TI applied for any of the degrees, explain fully as to date, place a	hirty-Third Degree of the Souther nd to what bodies such applicatio	n Jurisdiction of the Ur n was made.)	ited States of America. (Not	e: If applicant has previous
am a Master Mason in good standing in			Lodge No.	·
Location	Under the jurisdictio	n of the Grand Loc	lge of	
Date Raised If 1	raised in a Maryland Lodge	e, have you passed	exam in 3rd degree Cat	echism?
Residence				
(Street Address)	(0	City or Town)	(State)	(ZIP Code)
(Street Address)	(C	'ity or Town)	(State)	(ZIP Code)
And I have resided at my current residence preced	ling date of this petition for	r		months/years.
Home Phone Cell Pho	ne	Email Ad	dress	
Date of Birth	Place of Birth			
		(City or Toy		(State)

My Occupation, position, or trade is that of (State fully nature of your duties. If retired, please indicate your former duties and employer.) Employed by

Spouse's Name

Recommended by two members in good standing in the Maryland Scottish Rite Bodies,

(Name of Firm or Gov't Agency)

(1)				
	(Printed name of Recommender)	(Phone Number)	(Signature)	(Scottish Rite ID Number)
(2)				
	(Printed name of Recommender)	(Phone Number)	(Signature)	(Scottish Rite ID Number)

(Address)

1. The Supreme Council requires the acceptance of the following fundamental principles: The inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, underlying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the entire separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America. Do you approve wholeheartedly of these principles? (Yes or No)

2. Have you ever been held or expressed opinions contrary to the foregoing or been affiliated with and organization which has? : If your answer is in the affirmative, give particulars: (Yes or No)

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Signed

#### **INITIATION FEE: \$250.00** INITIATION FEE INCLUDES:

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# **Upcoming Events**

Wednesday, February 3rd	. Baltimore—Albert Pike Lo
Wednesday, February 10th	Baltimore—Meredith Ch
Wednesday, February 17th	. Baltimore—No Meeting -
Wednesday, February 24th	Baltimore—Maryland Co
Wednesday, March 3rd	. Baltimore—Chesapeake
Wednesday, March 10th	Baltimore—Spring Class
Wednesday, March 17th	. Baltimore—No Meeting-

### Spring Class in Memory of III. Hans R. Wilhelmsen 33°, SGIG Emeritus

Wednesday, March 24th	Baltimore—Confer 4th & 5th—Class/Opening Ceremonies	6:30pm/7pm
Wednesday, March 31st	. Baltimore—Confer 9th, 10th, 11th & 13th Class/Opening Ceremonies	6:30pm/7pm
Thursday, April 1st	Baltimore—Maundy Thursday Dinner with Ceremony to Follow	6:30pm
Wednesday, April 7th	. Baltimore—Confer 14th & 15th—Class/Opening Ceremonies	6:30pm/7pm
Wednesday, April 14th	Baltimore—Confer 18th & 20th—Class/Opening Ceremonies	6:30pm/7pm
Saturday, April 17th	. Baltimore—Reunion Day—21st, 27th, 30th, 31st & 32nd	8am
Sunday, April 18th	Baltimore—Ring Ceremony	2pm
Updated 10/30/2020		

# **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**

III. S. Dirk Wiker, 33° 443-321-2724

443-235-8950

**Conowingo Scottish Rite Club** 

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

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

astern Sho	re
I. Arthur H. Ta	av
	_

III. Robert Sparks, 33° 410-634-2235



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odge of Perfection—Dinner/Meeting6	6:30pm/7pm
napter of Rose Croix—Dinner/Meeting6	5:30pm/7pm
- Ash Wednesday	
ouncil of Kadosh—Meeting/Festive Board 6	5:30pm/ 7pm
Consistory—Dinner/Meeting	5:30pm/7pm
s—Dinner/Orientation6	6:30pm/7pm
–St. Patrick's Day	

#### e Scottish Rite Club

ves. 33°

## **Mid Shore Scottish Rite Club**

#### **Scottish Rite Cheer Club**

III. J. Frederick Hobine, 33° 410-243-3200

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# **VALLEYS OF MARYLAND**

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#### 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, 301–910–1906

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, 301-729-6778 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, 301–471–8777

#### 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*, 410–742–6548

#### 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, 301–904–6468

#### SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

Meets Third Thursday 7:00pm www.susquehannasr.org Masonic Temple 20 Howard Street, Aberdeen, MD 21001 Ill. Ralph L. Perry, 33°, Personal Representative Hon. Jason Q. Standish, 32°, KCCH Secretary, 410-688-4688