

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | NOV/DEC/JAN 2022-23

RITENEWS OF MARYLAND

"LET THE MASON NEVER FORGET that life and the world are what we make them by our social character..."

-A Bridge to Light





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-A Bridge to Light



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 WISH **EVERYONE THE BLESSING OF GOOD HEALTH** AND MUCH HAPPINESS THROUGHOUT **THE COMING HOLIDAYS AND** NEW YEAR.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL:

I still believe, that for such I think we are turning things

I hope this issue of our *Rite* News finds everyone well and reflecting on memories made this past summer. It is hard to believe that the holidays are just a few weeks away. Our Lodge and Valley meetings are well underway and Reunions just ahead. a long time, we have tried so hard to get men into Masonry, that we forgot to put Masonry into men. We began by making it easier to join, lowering the standards of ritual and degree work, and overlooked the "art of memory." We relaxed our standards of dress, as well as neglecting the teaching of the veiled meanings of our rituals, obligations, and customs. These solutions cheapen the institution and greatly reduce its value. I heard these very words spoken at the 2022 North East Conference of Grand Masters, hosted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Bro. Luis J. Gonzalez, Jr., 32°, a Past Master of Odenton Lodge 209, was asked to speak on the "survival of the craft" from a vounger generation's point of view. He went on to say that people will only join and stay involved in an organization in relation to its perceived value and the value provided. Therefore, we must provide value (both SR and Masonry in general). We have to be an organization worthy of one's investment of time, energy, and money; and it must be worth preserving.



around in Maryland. I now see our Lodges and Degree Masters taking more pride in their ritual work and having much better rehearsals, as well improving how we conduct our business. Although we sadly had several great men pass to the Celestial Lodge, this year has been very good for the Scottish Rite. Our Spring Reunions added over 100 new Scottish Rite Masons in Maryland. I believe that Masonry, in general, is picking up all across Maryland. I firmly believe that it is you, the membership, that are making the difference. I also trust that with your continued efforts we will hold ourselves to the highest standards in our ritual, degrees, and in our conduct with each other. We will then live up to the standards and expectations of the men who are drawn to our gentle fraternity.

In closing, I would like to again thank Past Master Gonzalez for the excellent presentation he made to the visiting Brethren. He truly made Maryland shine. Remember – together we can achieve anything, and anything worth doing is worth doing Rite.



Sincerely and Fraternally,

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





Valley of Baltimore

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



WISH TO EXTEND our sincerest congratulations to each of ▲ you, our newest 32° Scottish Rite Masons, from the Fall 2022 Class. I invite you to return to the Rite and get involved. Witnessing the Degrees again will help deepen your understanding of the lessons taught.

into your Scottish Rite experience will be returned to you in like measure. This could be as simple as attending the meetings of the bodies or returning to experience the degrees again. There are also many opportunities to be involved. You can become involved in the degree work itself. Roles and backups 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.

Remember, what you put

This year, I was proud to receive my 75-year DeMolay service award. DeMolay teaches a reverent story about honor and service (military, civil, political, or just casting a vote). Follow the teachings of DeMolay, so that you may take your rightful place in Masonic Leadership and always - God, Country, and DeMolay. Thank you.

I would also like to thank the outgoing officers for their service in 2022 and welcome the newly elected officers for 2023. Installation of Officers for the Valley of Baltimore will be Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 2pm. The ceremony is open, and I invite you and your family to attend. I wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and very Happy New Year.

MEREDITH CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX MEETING—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2022

Bros. David B. Bendyna, 32° and Eugene H. Van Pelt, 32°, from the Spring Class of 2022, were presented their Patents by the SGIG.



The Stoic Freemason: Memento Mori

ANNAPOLIS LODGE 89, LOGIA SOL NACIENTE 242



ARCUS AURELIUS once wrote, "You could leave life right now. Let that determine what you do and say and think." We, as Freemasons, learn this lesson as Memento Mori, (translated as "remember that you have to die") which is one of the most profound lessons of our Freemasonic journey. Memento Mori asks us to carry out our earthly duties without wasting time so, that when death comes, we have used our allotted sands of time to the best of our ability. Knowing our time is short is the grand perspective to keep in constant view. It reminds us of the worthlessness of earthly possessions and titles at death. For we, as Scottish Rite Freemasons, Memento Mori comes across further in the phrase, "Virtus Junxit Mors Non Seperabit" – "What Virtue Has Joined Together, Death Shall Not

Separate." Indeed, we, in our Freemasonic Brotherhood, are joined together in virtue.

at one time, gave each candidate time to reflect on his life's actions before initiation. The Chamber contained items to stimulate introspection: a human skull, some bones, bread, saucer with salt, another with read V.I.T.R.I.O.L. The French in his painting "Still Life with *a Skull,*" depicted two of these items: the skull and the hourglass – universal symbols of depicting the classic Memento contain items such as a jawless



BY: BROTHER G. ANDREW MARTINEZ, 32°, KCCH, VENERABLE MASTER—ALBERT PIKE LODGE OF PERFECTION,

Memento Mori admonishes us to finish our worldly duties before death knocks at our door.

The Chamber of Reflection, water, an hourglass, a mirror, a sulfur, a scythe, and a sign that painter Philippe de Champaigne mortality, which encourage reflection on both the meaning of and, the fleetingness of, life. Indeed, paintings and photographs Mori compositions nearly always skull resting on two femurs, an hourglass, or a book with glasses abandoned mid-read (suggesting the temporary nature of human life.) Even clocks in these compositions depict the Latin phrase "tempus fugit" or "time flees".

Memento Mori admonishes us to finish our worldly duties before death knocks at our door. Since death can come at any moment, we only have so much time to accomplish that which is noble and good in life. Thus, while Memento Mori takes us symbolically into the light, it also, at the end, takes us into the dark. It is the "trial and proof of earth," the 'amor fati' (love of fate) we experience as we travel through life's journey. While we cannot escape the end, we can revel in the journey.

Seneca wrote, "Let us prepare our minds as if we'd come to the very end of life. Let us postpone nothing. Let us balance life's books each day. The one who puts the finishing touches on their life each day is never short of time." So... in a positive light, in reflecting upon the solemn thought of Death, we should leverage our Scottish Rite lesson of equilibrium and balance Memento Mori with Memento *Vivere*, "remember that you have to live." There is a beautiful balance between life and death and we should reflect daily on our mortality and the transient nature of it to live the richest, fullest, life we can.



Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: HON. TIMOTHY B. R. FENHAGEN, 32°, KCCH-WISE MASTER



MRS. SILENCE DOGOOD: **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S BEST KEPT SECRET**

REETINGS BRETHREN. As this year winds to **J** a close, I'd like to take a moment and explore a set of letters penned 300 years ago by our esteemed brother, Benjamin Franklin. Though some may recognize these letters from the cypher used in the National *Treasure* movie, I can assure you, there is no treasure at the end of this article. However, what I can offer is a glimpse into one Benjamin Franklin's earliest publications.

Before we can understand the letters in question, let us look first to the earlier years of Franklin. To this, we may shed some light on Franklin's initial development and zeal towards the art of grammar.

After just two years of proper schooling, and being a mere 10 years old, Franklin's father pulled him from his education and brought him to work in the family shop. At the age of 12, he became a printer's apprentice under his older brother James. And although Franklin only had two years of schooling, his interest in learning never swayed. To this point, it was not unusual to find Franklin glued to any books he could get his hands on, and even penning his own poems to further develop his skills in the art of grammar. With this in mind, we can see how Franklin's admiration, with all things grammar, did not just start at a young age but was given the opportunity to grow even more during his time as a printer's

apprentice. Fast forward a few years, it's now 1722 in colonial Boston and Mrs. Silence Dogood has been the talk of the town. Alas, but who is this, Silence Dogood?

At this point, Franklin is now 16 years of age and working for his brother's printing press called The New England *Courant*. Though this paper is less than a year old, it quickly gained notoriety throughout Boston as being the one that would push the boundaries of discussion.

A clever young Franklin, so determined to print a writing of his own, devised a plan to create an alias known as Mrs. Silence Dogood, which would come to be his first of many aliases used. The most popular of which being Richard Saunders was for the Poor Richards Almanac. With his new alias of Silence Dogood, Franklin wrote his first submission in the form of a letter and slipped it under the door of The New England Courant newspaper whose staffers went on and printed it in their paper. With the first letter being so well received. Franklin went on and wrote an additional 13 letters. hence why we refer to them as The Silence Dogood Letters.

In these letters, Franklin was able to approach sensitive topics of society, both eloquently and humorously, which otherwise would have been considered improper. Some topics included vices, religion, government, and even women's rights.

Of the 14 letters though, it is hard to overlook the following quote that Franklin boldly included, and which would take him nearly five decades to achieve.

"Without Freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as Wisdom, and no such thing as public Liberty, without Freedom of Speech..."

continues on page 26

Chesapeake Consistory BY: BRO. A. J. EISENRAUCH, 32°, MASTER OF KADOSH-CENTREVILLE LODGE #180



N MY RESEARCH for subject matter for these articles, I have used a variety of Masonic publications. In that effort. I have found that the Scottish Rite Journal offers a great deal of material. It is my favorite publication and I look forward to receiving my copy. Of particular interest are the articles by the Grand Commander James D. Cole 33[°]. For me, he always has a point and presents it using an everyday object. In the last two issues, he refers to a dark window in his house in one and a small paper bag in the other. I really liked the small paper bag article as it brought back memories of my childhood. My father was a grocer and a butcher and owned a corner grocery store in a blue-collar neighborhood in Baltimore. Brown paper bags are what customers used to carry

home their groceries. Back in the 1940's and 1950's people didn't drive to the supermarket, they walked to corner stores, sometimes daily and, occasionally, multiple times in a day. Another article in the May/ June issue "Gentlemanliness, Freemasonry & A True Example of Both" by Nicholas Gregory, 33°, of Spartanburg, South Carolina also brought back memories. What is the definition of a gentleman? Bro. Gregory quotes John Walter Wayland's definition.

The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from goodwill and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humble if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.



As Bro. Gregory points out, this definition is a very daunting challenge for any man, but he points out that, as Master Masons, we strive to perfect ourselves. As a young man in my teens, I was very impressed with a gentleman who lived across the street from the grocery store. He was retired from the Railroad, No matter the weather, he was dressed in a three-piece suit, white shirt and tie and a pocket watch on a gold chain in his vest. He spent hours each day sitting on his front steps watching as the kids played ball in the street. He would call me over at times to give me advice. He seemed to me to fit the definition of a gentleman. He was a Master Mason.





Maryland Council of Kadosh

BY: BRO. JOSHUA J. CROCKETT, 32°, COMMANDER—AMICABLE-ST. JOHNS LODGE #25



ET OUR LABORS RESUME! I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones in good health. I suspect that you are reading this message with fond memories of summer well in the rearview mirror. However, I must admit, the latter portion of August and

the entire month of September might be my favorite time of the year. Selfishly, August is an opportunity to celebrate my birthday. This celebration of life is always a great time to reflect on the year that was and plan for the year to come. The month of September always reminds me of the first day of school. I am sure that we can all recall the joyful anxiousness associated with seeing old friends and making new ones. The resuming of our Masonic labor elicits very similar emotions.

Across the jurisdiction, our blue lodges and valleys have picked up where they left off in June. Degrees are being rehearsed, costumes are being prepared, the lights are ready, the stage is set, and the great lessons of the Scottish Rite will soon be safely lodged in the repository of the hearts and minds of our newest Scottish Rite brethren.

As the Commander of the Council of Kadosh, I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to lead our Council. The joys of brotherhood, selecting our new leaders, and voting on new candidates is further amplified by our extremely popular festive board. If you missed our September meeting, please mark your calendar for our next meeting and festive board. It is truly an amazing night, full of great food, fun, and fellowship.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF KADOSH MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2022



WHAT IS THE FEAST OF TISHRI?

Deut. 16:13 - Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles after thou hast gathered in thy corn and wine.

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

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

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

Date: Wednesday, November 30th, 2022, 7pm Cost \$25.00 per person, children under 12 are free Please RSVP to the Office by Monday, November 21st, 2022 410-243-3200

Israelite to Jerusalem.

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

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



Valley of Frederick

BY: BRO. ROBERT C. BROWN, 32°, BRUNSWICK LODGE #191-VENERABLE MASTER



WHAT'S THE POINT? YOU ARE! (a personal reflection)

ERUSING the merchandise in a flea market the other day, I came across a child's activity book from many years ago that contained several different kinds of word and math puzzles. Flipping through its pages, I came across a section of "connect-the-dot" pictures where one had to use numbers or the letters of the alphabet to successfully complete each playful task.

Later, in another area of the flea market, I came upon items related to Masonry - a ring, some cufflinks, a tie bar, and in the corner of the stall, an old framed Scottish Rite patent.

Later, while reflecting upon these seemingly unrelated

events. I had an "aha" moment. As we each continue to create our own Scottish Rite and Masonic tapestry, we are really engaging in our own large scale "connect-the-dot" activity. The Blue Lodge gives us the first three dots if you will, which are followed by our next 29 degrees (or 29 dots). It becomes our task to connect each dot by participating as a cast member in the conferral of a degree or by increasing our knowledge about each degree through reading A Bridge to Light, Morals and *Dogma*, or other related Masonic writings. For a visual reference, one can picture in his mind the double-headed eagle of the Rite, but with the border consisting of

32 dots. Completing a connect-thedots activity usually appears to be a linear construction resting upon a single sheet of paper. In Masonry, we are also taught to connect the dots in three dimensions. Keeping in mind that the synonym for a dot is a point, pause for a moment and reflect upon the Middle Chamber Lecture wherein we learn about a point, a line, a superficies, and a solid. As we receive each of the degrees of the Scottish Rite, we not only progress along the length of line from one degree to the next, but we also get to add the joy of the dimensions of fellowship (our superficies) and

further knowledge of our Craft (our solid).

The leadership roles of the Valley also provide another dimension. Serving in the chairs, perhaps even as Venerable Master, can add to the growth of Masonic character and provide additional opportunities to meet and interact with Scottish Rite Masons across the state.

When contemplating dots and points, there is one other Masonic symbol that comes to mind. It appears in Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol, in every wellgoverned Lodge, and as the corporate logo for a well-known department store (Target). Masonry refers to it as the circumpunct. It is the "point within a circle" which we have "embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines" and upon which rests the Holy Scriptures. The point is us, as individual Brothers, and is bounded by a circle of proper personal conduct.

One final point (please pardon the intended pun). Lodges and Valleys need to have points and dots. They need to be places where fellowship and strong moral conduct can grow and strengthen men to be better men. Otherwise, what's the point?

Valley of Susquehanna

BY: EDWARD DICKSON 32°, SECRETARY—VALLEY OF SUSQUEHANNA



HIS SPRING along with other Maryland Valleys, our Valley participated in a one-day reunion presented by the Baltimore Temple. We surpassed our expectations and increased our membership in a way that opens opportunity.

Reunions have insightful positive environments. Not only do they increase membership, they give us an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and warmth of the Valleys, the Orient and of the Scottish Rite. An opportunity to communicate face to face, share thoughts and hear about what other valleys and blue lodges are up to. The amount of knowledge present is overwhelming. This is when we can talk and ask questions in a casual atmosphere.

Our Valley is strong and continuing to move forward. These new brothers who, along with their enthusiasm and

future and maybe our leaders.

We all come from various backgrounds, but we are united in our passion to "build that temple not made by hands".

Now the work really begins, retention. Our plan is to create a path that attracts and maintains interest by involvement. Being part of a process gives the sense of acceptance and promotes a positive willingness to stay the course. Additionally, participating in the Knights



Valley Brethren enjoying a free dinner.



prospective, will become our

of the Double Headed Eagle Program, joining our KSA or assisting with other support can fill that need.

Continuing our support by maintaining a positive line of communication is important. Our Newsletter and texts help but nothing beats human contact. Anytime we gather it is so important to make that contact. Take a second and show your appreciation.

We all come from various backgrounds, but we are united in our passion to "build that temple not made by hands". Some members may need time to get comfortable socially. Some, like the Past Masters and Officers, hit the ground running. There is no one way that works for all, but brotherly love and respect make it possible.

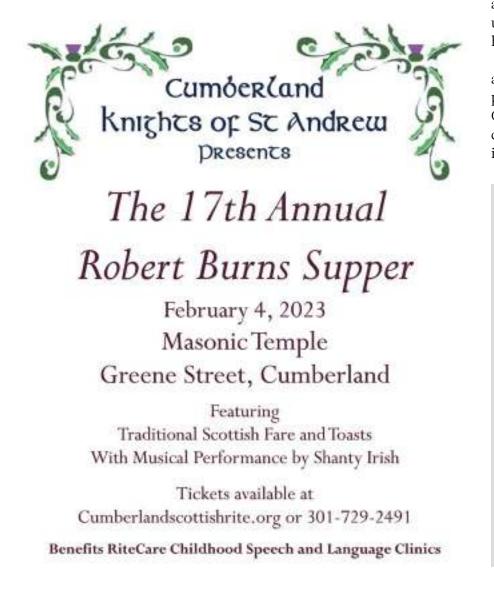


ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

Fall Capping and Feast of Tishri

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND Fall Ring and Capping Presentation and Service Awards will take place on Sunday, November 13 at 4:00 pm followed by the Feast of Tishri at the Cumberland Masonic Temple. All members of the Valley of Cumberland

are encouraged to attend to welcome our newest members and their families, celebrate the service of longtime members, and remember those brethren who have passed from our rolls to the Celestial Lodge above since the spring.



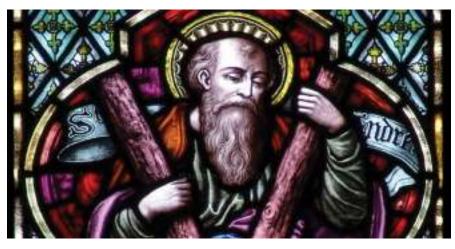
By observing the Feast of Tishri, Scottish Rite Masons share the fraternal spirit and reaffirm our dedication to human concord and the brotherhood of all men. As Brothers, we resolve to build, as King Solomon did, peace for all mankind. We pray blessings upon you and hope to be honored with your presence. The program will also include a special recognition and presentation by the Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2022.

> The Feast of Tishri is free for new members and their presenter, service award honorees. children ages 12 and under and **DeMolay members.**

The cost of dinner is \$15 for all other attendees

RSVP online at cumberlandscottishrite.org or to Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield by email at info@cumberlandscottishrite. org or phone at 301-729-2491.

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew to Host Festival of St. Andrew



THE CUMBERLAND CHAPTER of the Knights of St. Andrew will hold its Annual Communication on Monday, November 28 at 5:30 pm followed by a celebration of the Festival of St. Andrew the Apostle at the Cumberland Masonic Temple. All Scottish Rite Freemasons are invited to attend.

Andrew the Apostle, who is the patron saint of Scotland, is referred to in the Orthodox tradition as *Protokletos*, which means "the first called", based on the Gospel of St. John's description of him as a follower of John the Baptist who became the first disciple of Jesus Christ and recruited his brother Simon Peter to join him in leaving all things to follow the teacher.

He is generally recognized as one of the disciples who was

closest to Christ, present both at the Last Supper and on the Mount of Olives and other important occasions. According to tradition, Andrew founded churches in what is modern day Turkey, Greece, and Ukraine before being crucified by pagans on an X-shaped or "saltire" cross, now commonly known as a "St. Andrew's Cross." The Festival will include a menu of wild game and Scottish fare. There is no fee to attend. However, reservations are required and donations to the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation will be accepted. RSVP online at cumberlandscottishrite.org or to Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield by email at info@cumberlandscottishrite.org or phone at

301-729-2491.



News from the Cumberland Valley

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

Scottish Rite Club of Washington County **Contact President Jim** Carraway for informaton at 717-387-2311

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, November 7 at 7:30 pm

Feast of Tishri and Fall **Ring/Capping Ceremony** Sunday, November 13 at 4:00 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, November 21 at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Annual Communication & Festival of St. Andrew Monday, November 28 at 5:30 pm

continued on page 14



ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

UPCOMING EVENTS continued

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection-**Annual Elections** Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm

RiteCare Client Christmas Party Saturday, December 17 at 12:00 pm

Officer Orientation & Installation Rehearsal Monday, December 19 at 6:00 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, January 2 at 7:30 pm

Open Installation of Officers Sunday, January 8 at 2:00 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, January 16 at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Consistory Celebrates a Century of Service

THE CUMBERLAND CONSISTORY hosted a Festive Board in recognition of its 100th Anniversary. The program, under the direction of Master of Kadosh Sam Lane, 32° KCCH, included a delicious dinner, toasts offered by the officers of the Consistory, and an excellent address by RW Deputy Grand Master Ill. Frederick A. Spicer, 33° GC.

Other special guests in attendance included MW Grand Master and SGIG Marlin L. Mills, 33° accompanied by several members of his 2022 Grand Line and visitors from across the Orient of Maryland. Hon. Mark Widmyer, 32° KCCH presented a citation on behalf of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan recognizing the Consistory's 100th Anniversary.





Oakland RiteCare Opens a New Clinic at Garrett Family Medicine



THE CUMBERLAND SCOTTISH RITE

Foundation's RiteCare clinical partner, The Children's League, recently announced a new location for its Oakland RiteCare Speech and Language Disorders Clinic to Garrett Family Medicine, 69 Wolf Acres Drive in Oakland.

GRMC Senior Vice President for Patient Care Services Kendra Thaver expressed her confidence in the capacity of the Children's League to partner with the health system to meet community need, "Their work exemplifies the mission of our hospital to provide more specialty care to the residents of our region."

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Garrett Regional Medical Center and grateful to them for making such a wonderful space available to provide free speech therapy for children," said Cathy Growden, executive director of The Children's League.

With financial support from Foundation. The Children's League has provided free RiteCare services in Cumberland since 1997. Based on increasadditional locations in Keyser The Children's League

the Cumberland Scottish Rite ing need across the region, The Foundation provided funding to open a second clinic location in Oakland in 2017 followed by two and Petersburg, West Virginia. accepts referrals for children with speech or language difficulties from pediatricians, professionals, and parents at 301-759-5200 or by email at to childrensleague@yahoo.com.



Pictured L to R: Children's League representatives Sherri Fredlock; John Athey, President; Cathy Growden, Executive Director; and Rebecca Alkire, Speech Pathologist; and Garrett Regional Medical Center representatives Carol Wilson and Kendra Thayer.



News from the Cumberland Valley

UPCOMING EVENTS continued

Buck-A-Cup Awards @ Lavale Arby's Tuesday, January 17 at 3:00 pm

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Burns Supper Rehearsal Monday, January 30 at 7:30 pm

17th Annual Robert **Burns Supper** Saturday, February 4 at 5:00 pm









Annual Maine Lobster Fest August 13th, 2022





























Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland. Marlin L. Mills and Lady Brenda Cordially invites you to attend our

Sunday December 11th, 2022 2:00pm until 5:00pm Scottish Rite Masonic Center 3800 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218



Featuring Christmas Music, a Walk through Bethlehem Nativity, a Train Garden, Silky, smooth, delicious and decadent chocolates...

Plus Wine, Hot Cocoa bar, Chocolate Fountains, cookies and other tasty treats By Brother Tommy Morris, PM & Patty Morris

Families & Friends are invited | \$10 per Person, Children under 5 Free. Please call the office to RSVP (410) 243-3200

All donations for the Nativity and Train Garden go the Scottish Rite Charities.

ANNUAL SCOTTISH RITE CHRISTMAS SOIRÉE

"A Very Vintage Christmas"





The Common Gavel Hurts

BY: BRO. LUIS J GONZALEZ JR. 32°, PM, ODENTON LODGE NO. 209, A.F. & A.M. OF MARYLAND

O EVOLVE as a person is the most difficult process you will ever undertake. If you think you will wake up one morning and it will be as easy as clicking a button, you are sadly mistaken. In fact, it is that easy, but clicking that button has many profound consequences.

The truth is you will lose friends. You will lose them because you will realize they are no longer in sync with your goals and aspirations, and no longer vibrating on your same frequency. This will happen to you with family, at work, at school, and in all areas of your life.

As you pick up the common gavel and begin the process of divesting your heart and conscious of all the vices and superfluities of life, you will create an inevitable distance from your current circle of influences. You will not understand what is happening to you, and this will leave you confused and with many questions. You will look for moments of solitude to reflect and think about your new

way of seeing and understanding the world.

With a fresh new perspective, you will begin to bring more awareness to your actions and your life. You will be fully engaged in the present moment. You will become more connected with your inner self and realize the mistakes you have been making.

The more you swing the gavel and begin to delve into the inner most parts of your heart and interior self, you will realize and discover emotions you never knew you carried. You will realize you have been denying your negative aspects, and emotions like envy, excess anger and overbearing resentment from the past, which had taken parasitic residence in your being. You will realize that you have only been sweeping them under the proverbial rug, and now is the time to do the cleaning.

Self-observation is a very painful process for the mind, as it is often incapable of offending itself by calling itself envious,

hateful, cowardly or distrustful. But once you accept it, everything changes. It's ok and normal to feel bad, depressed or lonely. Those are the times to utilize the tools and lessons of the craft. Additionally, look for books, videos, and new information that helps you strengthen this phase of your life.

As you go through this process, you will begin to feel attracted to places and activities you would never have imagined. You will meet people and conciliate true friendships with those you would have kept at a perpetual distance. You will realize how everything and everyone is connected and see the prints of the supreme architect of the universe, all around you.

By taking up the common gavel and undertaking the evolutionary journey, you will grow and become a better person for yourself and for others. Only then will the universe begin to reveal its answers to you and will you discover your true self.

A Cache of Magazines and Hamlet's Mill

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



HILE MY FROSTY BEARD may lead many of the Brethren to believe me wiser than my years, I will admit that I, in fact, am a millennial carrying all the baggage that that designation brings with it. This is a story of discovery because, beard aside, I am still young enough to delight in periodic Masonic discovery. As I was moving some boxes in the basement of my Lodge, I found a pile of venerable Masonic magazines. To my surprise, I discovered a pile of Scottish Rite Magazines which at the time were called 'The New Age' with the byline: 'A Monthly Publication Devoted to Freemasonry and Its Relations to Present Day *Problems*'. Flipping through issue after issue, I saw recurring themes; what does Masonry mean today(?), and how do we apply these tools to our lives(?).

Issues from the 1920's through the 1950's all touched on these subjects and left me with a profound impression that Masons

same mental exercises to understand the Craft and work its lessons into our daily lives.

Visit your Blue Lodge, visit the Rite... and I hope to see you in the classroom.

How many caches of treasure like this collection of periodicals are in the basements of our Lodges or are tucked away in the corners of attics waiting for a reader to happen upon them? This thought has a parallel to our Blue Lodges, my Brothers. Like those essays and articles crafted by our predecessors, which were relegated to a basement room, I wonder how many men have not been able find the light of Masonry because our Lodges have been tucked away... with Masonry preserved behind the doors of the Temple instead of being carried into the world? The universality of the questions in 'The New Age' made me think of another parallel when you consider the Masonic experience. There were two authors in the 1960's who examined the parallels of myth and the universality of human experience. These two academics: Giorgio de Santillana and Hertha von

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have been working through the

Dechend, worked on an idea that became the book Hamlet's Mill. the thesis was that the procession of the equinoxes was built into myth by neolithic humans and has served as a common touchpoint throughout the ages to a degree that those reciting the myth don't even need to understand the underlying idea embedded in the myth... they only have to tell the story and pass it forward until future generations shall find out the right.

That idea that the information embedded in myth just needs to be preserved in the telling of the myth until a future audience shall rediscover its meaning is the one that came to the front of my mind as I went through the pile of magazines I discovered by chance and I will wager that it will be one that comes to mind whenever I see the degrees as our Scottish Rite returns from its summer break. So why would I tell you this story? Brethren our Scottish Rite degrees have embedded within them the moral lessons taken from cultural traditions across the globe and those lessons are not meant to be locked away in the confines of our Lodges because they will only be found by a new generation of Masons if they are carried into the world by Masons like you and I. Visit your Blue Lodge, visit the Rite... and I hope to see you in the classroom.









Grand Master's Ball 2022













History of Freemasonry in Maryland, 1827-1913

BY: BRO. EDWARD T SCHULTZ, 32°

PREFACE

HEN, SOME YEARS AGO, our old "Masonic Hall," on St. Paul Street, was sold and delivered to the City of Baltimore, by reason of unwarrantable thoughtlessness, many old record books, documents, manuscripts, etc., the accumulation of many years, stored in the attic of the old building, were suffered to find their way to the paper mills and there destroyed, whereby much interesting historical matter relating to Freemasonry in Maryland was forever lost to the fraternity.

In his investigations, during the past few years, the author and compiler has found many interesting manuscripts, documents and records, still remaining in the archives of the Grand Lodge, that have never been in print; while many others, of great interest, have lately been discovered in the possession of individuals, some of whom were never members of our fraternity. This accumulation of matter is now quite large, and it would seem almost a criminal neglect, not to make an effort to secure its preservation, that it may be hereafter available to those who are soon to succeed us.

An institution worthy of

membership, ought to preserve its history, while we ourselves ought not to be unmindful that as our predecessors made history for us, so we are daily making it for our successors. In 1797, Bro. George Keatinge, Worshipful Master of Baltimore Lodge 22, published under the authority of the Grand Lodge, his "Ahiman Rezon." This little work contains the proceedings of the several Conventions held preliminary to the formation of our Grand Lodge, from 1783 to 1787, when the organization was fully completed at "Talbot Court house, "now the town of Easton. It further gives briefly, the proceedings of the Grand Lodge from its organization to 1797.

This book is now very rare, only four copies are known to be extant in this State, one in the archives of the Grand Lodge presented by the late Bro. Nicholas Brewer, another in the archives of Concordia Lodge, another deposited in the Maryland Historical Society, and one in the possession of Mr. Charles G. Kerr, grandson of David Kerr, who was Grand Master at the time of its publication.

In 1817, Bro. Samuel Cole, Past Master of Concordia and Cassia Lodges, published "The Masonic Library or Ahiman Rezon," under the supervision of a

committee appointed by the Grand Lodge. This most admirable work has been extensively quoted by Masonic writers in this and other countries: a second edition was issued by Bro. Benj. Edes in 1826, but both editions are becoming quite rare. With the exception of these two Masonic works, there have been no books issued attempting to give the history of Masonry in this State, and neither of these touch upon the subject prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge.

From 1797 to 1820, very brief portions of the transactions of the Grand Lodge were occasionally printed on a single sheet. The late Brother David Martin, while Grand Tyler, gathered together from time to time, these detached sheets, also manuscript copies of the missing years, had them bound and presented to the Grand Lodge. But this work is now missing, and it is not known into whose hands it has fallen. The Grand Lodge is without its printed proceedings from 1797 to 1820, and its files are far from complete in this respect, from the latter date.

It has therefore been suggested by many leading members of the fraternity, that the present work

continues on page 26

Seventh Degree: Provost and Judge

BY: HON. J. WINFIELD CLINE, 32°, KCCH, VALLEY OF SPOKANE—ORIENT OF WASHINGTON

N RITUAL OF the seventh degree, Provost and Judge, there are only three characters who act out the drama, or lesson, of the degree. Uriah and Naboth, both workmen on the Temple, have a disagreement which will undoubtedly escalate and need to be settled by the judges. Seeking to have an advantage in court, each goes individually to Zabud, an officer, and asks him to favor their cause when the case goes before the judges. Although he is a friend of each, he rebukes both of them for trying to gain an unfair advantage before the law. His position is most succinctly expressed in his statement: "As a fellow of the Craft, I have called you 'Brother,' but as a Provost and Judge, you are a stranger."

Thus, the central lesson of the degree is that, as Masons, we are to be just in our judgments of others, for we, too, may some day be judged and will hope that those who weigh our case will also be just, equitable, and impartial. As in all degrees of the Scottish Rite, the colors and symbols on the apron represent the duties and lessons taught in the degree. For instance, the hand of justice holding the scales on the flap of the apron of the seventh degree represents the justice and impartiality we are to strive for in all of our judgments



of others, for we know not what their motives are. This is a fairly straightforward symbol and, like many symbols, it appears on an apron more than once. (The scales also appear on the aprons for the eighth and sixteenth degrees). However, there is another element to this apron that is not found on any other apron of the Scottish Rite: a pocket. What are we to make of this design feature? How does it represent the lessons and duties of this degree? What does it symbolically teach?

To truly understand the symbol of the pocket on this apron, we must remember two of the primary teachings of the Blue Lodge that we learned as an Entered Apprentice. First, that the symbols of Freemasonry, taken from architecture and operative masonry, are used to teach us lessons that will help us as we build our own personal temple,



that is, the temple of our character. That is why one of the first things that happens to us after

being made a Mason is to be placed in the Northeast corner of the lodge as a symbol that we are not only the newest cornerstone of the Fraternity, but that we have just laid the first stone in our own Masonic edifice. Thus, Freemasonry is a guide to living out Paul's exclamation, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within

you?" (I Corinthians 6:19). The second lesson from the first degree that we need to keep in mind is that the lambskin, or white leather apron, is emblematical of "a purity of life and rectitude of conduct" and that "the record of your life and actions [should] be as pure and spotless as this fair emblem" (Shaver's Monitor, Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Kansas, 27). The apron, then, is an outward symbol of the inner life of the Mason. So we are to use the tools of Masonry to build the temple of our character, and the apron should inspire us to keep our life, our thoughts, and our deeds as spotless and unblemished as its surface. We are told that the pocket on the apron of a Provost and Judge is used to hold the plans for the temple (A Bridge to Light, p. 39).

continues on next page



Seventh Degree continues from previous page

The pocket is at the center of the apron, just as the heart is at the center of the body. We hold, then, in our hearts the plans or blueprints that we use to guide us in our actions with others, our thoughts about others, and they way in which we generally conduct our lives—the plans for our personal temple.

Often an element from the ritual is symbolized or typified on the apron of that degree. So it is here. The ebony box which hangs in the east is an important part of the drama of the seventh

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degree. The box represents the human heart. As Mackey notes, "...in the human heart are deposited the secret designs and motives of our conduct by which we propose to erect the spiritual temple of our lives" (Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, quoted in A Bridge to Light, p. 39). The box is such an important symbol from the ritual that it deserves a place on the apron. However, rather than simply having a picture of an ebony box on the apron, the pocket is a way of actually having a receptacle on the apron, underlining the importance of its

meaning. We have already seen that the pocket on the apron is also a symbol of the human heart, which holds our motivations. Thus, the pocket and the ebony box, both receptacles for the plans for the temple, are the same thing.

During the degree, the Venerable Chief Provost says, "The records of the tribunal were kept in a box of ebony, the key of which was committed to the Chief Provost and Judge." He also says that, "The [jewel] represents the key of the Chief Provost and Judge, with which he unlocked the box of ebony that contained the records of the tribunal...Keep the key ever in your possession." And what better place to keep one's keys than in a pocket!

Of course, the thing about pockets is that you never know what's in them. Just as others do not know what is in our hearts (what our "plans" contain), so

we can't ever really know what is in the hearts of others or what their motives are. That is why Pike is so adamant in the lecture of this degree that we should be as forgiving of others as we are of ourselves. We should be impartial, cautious, and merciful. And we ought not to judge, unless we are willing to stand under the same judgment.

Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix continues from page 6

In conclusion, while this is just a small glimpse into the Silence Dogood Letters, we can see that even at a young age, Franklin had a way of capturing the attention of others through his creative grammar and his neverending pursuit of knowledge.

History of Freemasonry in Maryland–Preface continues from page 24

shall embrace the full and entire proceedings of the Grand Lodge from its formation to the close of this publication. Attempts have frequently been made to have a reprint of the transactions of our Grand Lodge, most noteworthy among them, were the efforts of the late Grand Master Bro. John N. McJilton, which proved unavailing solely from the impoverished condition of the Grand Lodge treasury unfortunately, it's condition in that respect has not improved.

Statement of Unity–Signing Ceremony







ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2022

at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. Ill. James D. Cole, 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction; Ill. Corey D. Hawkins, 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction; Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and Ill. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33º -Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction; met and signed a "Statement of Unity" between the four Scottish Rite Jurisdiction

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Subject to Applicable State Executive Orders, Local Statutes and Edicts of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland

Wednesday, November 2nd Valley of Baltimore— Confer 18th & 20th Degrees
Saturday, November 5th Baltimore Reunion Day— Confer 21st, 25th, 30th, 31st & 32nd Degrees 8am
Sunday, November 6th
Thursday. November 30th Valley of Baltimore—Feast of Tishri
Sunday, December 11th Valley of Baltimore—Christmas Party
Monday, January 2nd Cumberland Valley—Installation of Officers
Sunday, January 8th

In Memory of Paul R. Miller by Marlin and Brenda Mills

In Memory of Pete M. Hicks by Marlin and Brenda Mills

In Memory of Thomas M. Green by Marlin and Brenda Mills

In Memory of Pete M. Hicks

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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 Bro. Edward T. Dickson, 32° Secretary, 443-619-2627