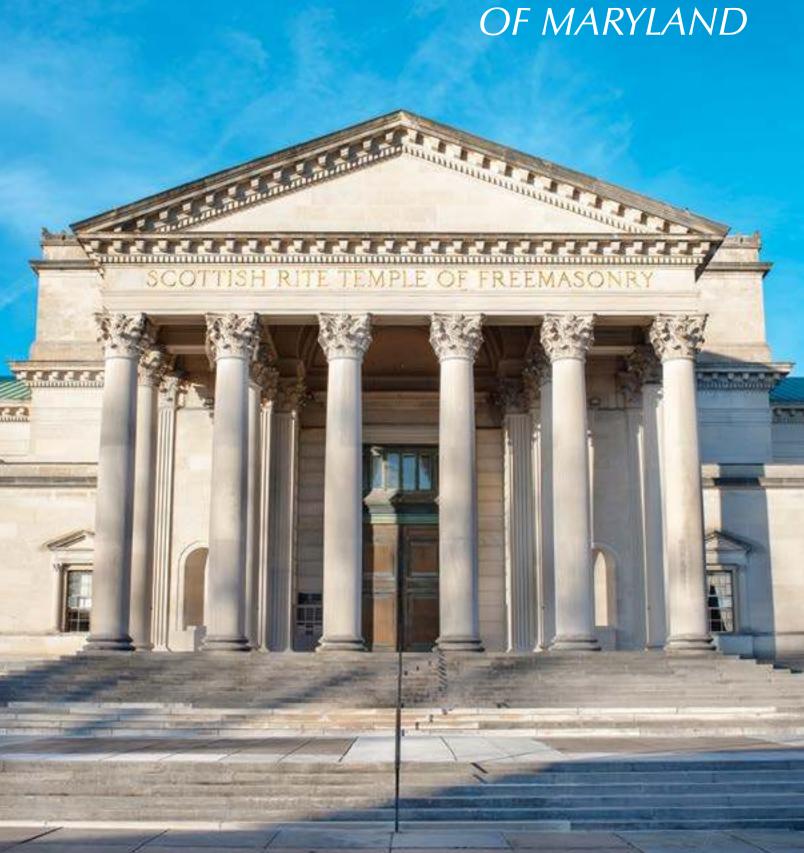
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | FEB/MAR/APR 2023

RITENEWS







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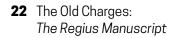
FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2023

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3 III. Marlin L. Mills, 33°

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Our Scottish Rite Childhood Speech & Language Clinic is a 501(c)(3) organization and all charitable gifts are tax deductible.

The *Rite News of Maryland* is published quarterly for the members, family and friends of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Orient of Maryland. The views expressed in the Rite News of Maryland do not necessarily reflect those of the Orient of Maryland or its officers.

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Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



I BELIEVE
THAT WORKING
TOGETHER,
WE CAN AND
WILL MAKE
MARYLAND
MASONRY AND
MARYLAND
SCOTTISH RITE
MASONRY
BETTER AND
STRONGER.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL:

I hope this issue of our *Rite News* finds everyone well and reflecting upon a wonderful Christmas, and your New Year off to a great start. Now we return to the reality of getting down to business. In my case, the reality of Scottish Rite Masonry in Maryland. How to help it grow, how to get members involved, how to assist the Valleys in their ritual, attendance, and community involvement, as well as long list of other important items.

Have you ever looked up the word reality? I found the following definitions: "the real circumstance that actually exists at present" and "the real circumstance that actually exists, or a situation that changed circumstances in one's life." A declining membership is a reality. A declining pride in one's work is a reality. A decline in ... is a reality.

Those who know me, know I am a bit old fashioned. I am not one who likes the "new-age" stuff – Zoom meetings, casual dress, "OK is good enough", just getting by is acceptable... I suppose these meet the definition of reality; "The true situation that exists at present." When I hear the word reality anymore, I think of those "reality" TV shows - Alone, Jerry Springer, True Confessions, Naked and *Afraid...* reality at its best, complete with TV crews, makeup artists, props, and lighting. Being "old fashioned", however,

I still believe in people. I believe in our members, and I believe in the dignity and importance of our degrees, and the messages they present. I believe in good ritual and degree work; not perfect, but good. I still believe that men properly dressed in suits or tuxedos conduct themselves a bit better than when they are in causal dress. Even their language is better. I still believe that "on time" means on time. I believe that when you wait for the one person "running late" you are telling those that arrived on time that he is more important they are. I believe that live, in person, face to face, and hand to hand is the way to meet; not zoomed in. It sounds like a space movie... "Zoom me up, buddy." I also still believe that com-

munity involvement attracts attention. There was a time when Presidents, Congressmen, Governors, Mayors, Judges, and business leaders were all members of a Masonic Lodge. I still believe that it is not titles that honor men, but rather that it is men that bring honor to titles. I still believe in you! I believe that working together, we can and will make Maryland Masonry and Maryland Scottish Rite Masonry better and stronger. Most importantly it will strengthen each of you the members.

continues on page 28





Valley of Baltimore

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



WOULD LIKE TO congratulate Bro. Christian J. Miele, Venerable Master of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection; Bro. George J. Christoff, Wise Master of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix; Bro. Shane T. Collison, Commander of the Maryland Council of Kadosh, and Bro. Scott G. Lapp, Master of Kadosh of the Chesapeake Consistory on their election and installation as presiding officers for 2023. Sincere thanks are extended to retiring officers: Hon. G. Andrew Martinez, Hon. Timothy B. R. Fenhagen, Bro. Joshua J. Crockett and Bro. A. J. Eisenrauch.

To our new Scottish Rite members, as well as those who have been around for a while, there are many avenues to get involved here at the Scottish Rite. Principal and support cast roles for degrees and positions with our technical departments (property, robing, lighting, and sound) are available and our Knights of St. Andrew are

always looking for new men to join their ranks. Of course, we would certainly like to see you at the constituent body meetings.

I invite everyone to review the calendar of upcoming events. Of course, there are the constituent body meetings that begin in February. Family and friends are always invited to attend the meals and presentations that are a part of meeting nights. Starting in March, we also have a full schedule of Degrees that will be presented. The Maundy Thursday service (April 6, 2023) is a particularly poignant ceremony. Remember, there is always a place for you here at the Scottish Rite.

FALL OF 2022 CLASS OFFICERS—ILL. WILLIAM D. DULA, 33° MEMORIAL CLASS



(left to right)

Bro. Christopher N. Wertz, 32° Class Orator

Bro. Daniel L. Scarritt, 32° Class President

III. Marlin L. Mills, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General

> Bro. Joseph P. Diseta, 32 Class Treasurer

Bro. Jasper lan O. Martinez, 32° Class Secretary

Bro. David A. Wineholt, 32° Class Vice President

An Architectural Treasure: The Scottish Rite Temple in Baltimore

BY: BRO. CHRISTIAN J. MIELE, 32°, VENERABLE MASTER—ALBERT PIKE LODGE OF PERFECTION—HIGHLAND LODGE #184

Ninety years after opening its doors, the Scottish Rite Temple in Baltimore continues to play an important role in the social and cultural life of the city. Its rich history is one with which every Scottish Rite Mason in Maryland should be well acquainted. To that end, and with the permission of the city's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, we reprint herein portions of the commission's 2007 "Baltimore City Landmark Designation and Special List Report" concerning the history and architecture of the building. Excerpts from this report appear verbatim below, with only slight edits and modifications.

Construction of the Scottish Rite Temple at 3800 North Charles Street began in 1930 with a ceremonial groundbreaking that included Mayor William F. Broening and the use of the historic silver spade that was used by Charles Carroll of Carrolton in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Baltimore Ohio Railroad in 1828. The building, which opened its doors in 1932, cost nearly one million dollars to complete, an eye-popping sum in the middle of the Great Depression. Over the years,



many big events were celebrated at the temple, including re-enactments of the Making of the Constitution in 1938 and the opening of additional rooms in 1951. Today, in addition to serving as the "headquarters" of the Scottish Rite in Maryland, the building is also the home of the Hilgenburg Childhood Speech and Language Center, a nonprofit pediatric clinic supported by Scottish Rite Masons that serves children with a wide range of speech and language impairments. The temple also offers a banquet hall and conference space for public and private events.

The building was designed by noted architect and Scottish Rite Mason Clyde N. Friz with the consulting help of the celebrated architect John Russell Pope. The building is described as being Italian Renaissance in style, although today many

would argue that it is more accurately Beaux Arts Classical in styling, with a columned portico which is based upon the Pantheon in Rome. The building is set in a large corner site at the intersection of 39th Street and Charles Street and enclosed by a low classical balustrade. Wide steps and terraces lead to the eastward facing portico that is set to give the impression of grandeur. There are eight massive thirty-four-foot tall columns which have Corinthian capitals with a portico ceiling that is beautifully arched and decorated on this façade. The columns support a classical pediment with a triangular entablature that contains the words "Scottish Rite Temple of Freemasonry" on the frieze sitting above three horizontal registers and hold a line of dentils above. The principal entry is through two large bronze doors. The building has a pair of symmetrical wings that have large windows that have entablatures and pediments that relate to the main entrance. The surfaces of the north and south facades are articulated but plain except for the windows and large un-fluted Corinthian pilasters.

continues on page 28



Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: BRO. GEORGE G. CHRISTOFF, 32°, WISE MASTER—WARREN LODGE #51

Brethren, as Wise Master of the Meridith Chapter of Rose Croix, I have the honor of writing this Message from the East. I hope to express some of my thoughts and feelings concerning those special relationships created by the Scottish Rite and some of the key lessons of the Chapter of Rose Croix. I only hope, in some small way, these thoughts reflect those of my Brethren.

I hope every Brother had a healthy and joyful holiday season, and that you had the opportunity to spend time enjoying the company of your family and friends.

And now, I trust, we are all ready to renew our labors for the good of the Scottish Rite, maintain our traditions, grow our brotherhood, strengthen our relationships, and make ourselves better men than we were yesterday. This will be no simple task because the Scottish Rite is coming off yet another successful year. Degrees were conferred, religious observances were held, charities were supported, and all business was conducted as usual.

A successful year is not particularly surprising since even during Covid and its uncertainties the Fraternity continued to move forward. But the last few years, in total, say a great deal about the values of the Scottish



Rite. There are relationships here that go beyond those of employment or social organizations. It goes by many names – friendship, brotherhood, extended family, but it is a bond that means we will not fail each other and we will not forsake the foundational values of the Scottish Rite.

Many of these values are the focus of the Chapter of Rose Croix. The 15th through 18th degrees are contained within the Chapter and stress the practice of Faith, Hope and Charity. These attributes are included in various lessons taught in each degree.

Specifically, among the many lessons of the 15th Degree (Knight of the East), I find three particularly important, and which I believe we practice on a daily basis.

First, we are taught that if

something is to have great value, it will require great effort. All that is necessary to verify that we practice this on a regular basis is to attend a degree cycle. Many Brothers are involved in each degree, contributing a great deal of time and effort for nothing more than the betterment of the fraternity and improvement of their brothers.

Secondly, we learn nothing is static, and that opposites are a part of nature. Therefore, we need to continually reinforce our values and build our relationships to buffer the natural ebb and flow inherent in all things. Adherence to our ritual work, public religious observances, and charitable activities are some of the things we all support on a daily basis, thereby strengthening the Fraternity internally and creating community awareness and goodwill.

Finally, we are taught that freedom of thought is paramount. I believe that no specific religious, political or intellectual dogma is forced upon any brother and that, within the framework of our fundamental values, each man is left to chart his own path.

In summary, we should be proud of the way we conduct ourselves and honored to be counted among the men of the Scottish Rite. Thank you, be safe and God Bless.

The Maryland of Kadosh

BY: BRO. SHANE T. COLLISON, 32°—COMMANDER—CONCORDIA LODGE #13

BRETHREN, first I would like to thank everyone for electing me to serve as the Commander of the Maryland Council of Kadosh. With the New Year upon us, the days will be getting longer, and a new class of the Scottish Rite will begin.

The Council of Kadosh consists of the 19th through 30th degrees and are the philosophical and chivalric degrees. The Council was responsible for uniting these degrees being taught separately during the eighteenth century in Paris. As combined, these degrees received a major rewrite by the then Grand Commander of the Southern District of the United States, Albert Pike. Unifying the message taught; "The lesson of this degree is to be



The Council
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chivalric degrees.

true to ourselves, to stand for what is right and just in our lives today. To believe in God, country and ourselves."

The 29th Degree, the Knight of Saint Andrew, is of particular interest to me having been a part of the Valley of Baltimore's Knights of Saint Andrew and having not seen the 29th degree yet. The 29th degree is said to be one of the most important degrees as it touches on the importance of virtue, truth, and honor. Most especially, this Degree teaches the necessity of challenging the frivolous power of ignorant people.

I look forward to serving as the Commander this year. Thank you for your continued support to the Council and the craft as a whole.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF KADOSH—FESTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, September 21st, 2022







Chesapeake Consistory

BY: BRO. SCOTT G. LAPP, 32°-VENERABLE MASTER OF KADOSH-WARREN #51

all the great things that we will be doing together at the Scottish Rite this year. We have faced the worst (I pray at least) of the pandemic and are starting to bounce back. People are returning and those here are beginning to build the energy that has been recently lacking in our lodges and meetings. So, 2023 will be the year where we continue and build on that momentum.

One of the primary ways we are trying to get back to our "pre-pandemic fighting weight" en masse, is to move back toward traditions. I want our

meetings to promote participation and creativity, and thus a better masonic experience, instead of just going through the motions as we go through the chairs. The Consistory will be engaging in discussion and action to better us as a whole. Most of the lodges within the Scottish Rite have already had discussion amongst our contemporaries and have pledged to strive to get our meetings "off book". Most of the chairs involve little memorization, and if you are about to become the master of any of the lodges, then you should be ready for it. Please try your best to have your dialogue set to memory by our first meeting. I will do my best to get mine down by the March 1st meeting as well. If anyone needs a practice for that, please let me know.

But that is only the start. There are more great things in the works for the Scottish Rite this year and I encourage you all to come out and see. And if you have a Brother from the blue lodge that doesn't know what the Rite is all about, then bring him in and enjoy our Scottish Rite together. Without Fraternity, we have nothing.

PRESENTATION OF 50 YEAR PINS AND CERTIFICATES

Sunday November 6th, 2022—Fall 2022 Ring Ceremony and Service Award Presentations



III. Gerald R. Phillips, 33° (9/16/1972) and III. Paul M. Lloyd, 33° (11/23/1972) were presented their 50 Year Certificates by the III. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



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



THE SYMBOLS OF THE MYSTIC BANQUET

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

Meredith Chapter
Of Rose Croix

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

Thursday, April 6th, 2023 6:30PM

Cost for this event: \$20.00 per person.

Please RSVP to the office @ 410-243-3200 by Wednesday, March 29th, 2023





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Grand Lodge 2022







ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

Members Recognized for Service to Rite

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND

welcomed four new members and recognized several longtime members for their distinguished service to the Scottish Rite during the Fall Capping and Ring Ceremony in November. Celtic Harper, Janet Jones provided a beautiful selection of prelude and incidental music during the program, and members of the Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay International shared a presentation in recognition of the chapter's 100th Anniversary.

During the ceremony, new members Larry Hartz, Ronald Martin-Minnich, Daryl Smith, and Benjamin Svonavec were presented with their prayer caps. After stepping through the ceremonial ring with their presenter, they received their Scottish Rite ring and patent from Personal Representative Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33° and the officers of the Lodge of Perfection.

Kenneth A. Robertson, 33° (Fall '72) was presented with a fifty-year pin and certificate in recognition of his service. During his five decades of membership, Brother Robertson has made significant contributions to the Valley of Cumberland as an officer in the various bodies, as a cast member in the ritual degrees, and as a Masonic





(L to R) 50 Year Member III. Kenneth Robertson, 33° with his lady Lois; A. Craig Rotruck with Personal Representative III. Jamey S. Hill, 33°

FALL CAPPING AND RING CEREMONY

New members were welcomed and longtime members were recognized for distinguished service.

scholar providing education and mentorship to members of the Scottish Rite and other Masonic organizations. He is a Past Master of Queen City (Ohr) Lodge No. 131.

Dr. Edward L. Root, 32° (Fall '77) was recognized for forty-five years of membership. Dr. Root has provided an excellent example of Masonic leadership and service as a member of the Maryland State and Allegany County Boards of Education.

continues on next page





ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

continues from previous page





(L to R): 40 Year Member III. David Hall, 33° with his lady Judy; 45 Year Member Edward Root with Personal Representative III. Jamey S. Hill, 33°

Bro. Root provided training to countless educators in our community and across the state as a faculty member of the Frostburg State University Department of Education.

Ill. David L. Hall and Bro. A. Craig Rotruck, 32° (Fall '82) were recognized for forty years of service to the Scottish Rite. Bro. Hall received the honorary degree of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 1995 and was coroneted as Inspector General Honorary in 1999. In addition to his service to the Scottish Rite, Bro. Hall and his wife Judy have served McKinley Chapter No. 12 Order of the Easter Star with distinction for many years. Bro. Rotruck serves as a funeral director in the Preston County, WV region. He is an active member of his Masonic lodge as well as the Kingwood Rotary Club, his church, and the Preston County Health Board.

Other members of the Valley who received service awards in Fall 2022 included: 60 years – Edward L. Shafferman; 55 years – George D. Ayers and Ernest E. Combs; 45 years – Thomas J. Alt, Garrett H. Carskadon, Frederick L. McKenzie, and David Jesse Wilson; and 40 years – James N. Furlow, Jack M. Lewis, Wesley A. McGraw, and Glendon L. Merritt.

Spring Reunion Dedicated to Ill. James M. Snider, 33°

THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND

Scottish Rite will host its 181st Reunion dedicated to Ill. James McDaniel Snider, 33° on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

Illustrious Dr. James Mc-Daniel Snider, 33° was born on September 10, 1946 and passed to the celestial lodge above on November 13, 2022. Brother Snider served as Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix in 2016 and as Venerable Master of the Cumberland Lodge of Perfection in 2020 and 2021. He was deeply involved in the ritual and esoteric work of the Valley, traditionally providing an overview of the Rite and its degrees during conferrals and portraying roles in the 14th and 32nd degrees.



Pictured (L to R): Hon. Samuel J. Lane, 32° KCCH; III. James M. Snider, 33° and Hon. Michael L. Kamauff, 32° KCCH.

He was recognized as Spring 2018 Ritualistic Champion and as Freemason of the Year in 2021. Brother Snider was a longtime Director of the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation, where he served as Chairman in 2020 and 2021. He was serving as the Valley's Treasurer at the time of his passing.

Brother Snider was an active and dependable member of the Cumberland Scottish Rite. But he was much more. He was a dear friend, brother, and mentor to many within the fraternity and the larger community; someone from whom his brethren would frequently seek advice and instruction. Dr. Snider was a lover of knowledge who constantly sought further light in Masonry and consistently reflected those attributes of a prudent and temperate character to which every Mason should aspire. His life left a strong and positive impact on the Valley of Cumberland and our community.

Fall 2022 Class with 30th Degree Cast & Crew



Seated L to R: Daryl Smith of Columbia Lodge No. 58; Benjamin Svonavec of Meyersdale Lodge No. 554; Larry Hartz of Kemp Lodge No. 154; and Ronald Martin-Minnich of James W. Bowers Lodge No 173. Standing L to R: Mark C. Weatherholt, 32° KCCH, Samuel J. Lane, 32° KCCH, Mark E. Lathrop, 32°, Michael W. Kerns, 32°, Kenneth D. Shook, 32°, Edward L. Kave, Jr., 32° KCCH, Dwight C. Metcalf, 32°, James B. Kalbflesh, 32°, and Richard E. Haines, 32°.





ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

Scottish Rite Club of Washington County Meets Monthly

Contact President Jim Carraway for Info at 717-387-2311

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

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, February 6 at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Council of Kadosh

Monday, February 20 at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Monday, March 6 at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Celebrate a Fruitful Year





TOP: New members of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew (front row center) Richard Haines, Jason Bennett, and James Kalbflesh. KSA Officers (back row, pictured left to right) Senior Deacon Brett Bean, Expert Emeritus Mark Weatherholt, Knight Commander Emeritus Samuel Lane, Senior Warden Michael Kerns, Venerable Master Dwight Metcalf, Chaplain Emeritus Michael Kamauff, Personal Representative Jamey Hill, Junior Warden Mark Lathrop, and Asst. Personal Representative Jerome Robinette. **LEFT:** Members of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew concluded their Annual Communication with a Wild Game Dinner to mark the Festival of St. Andrew.

THE CUMBERLAND KNIGHTS OF ST.

ANDREW welcomed new members in October and celebrated a successful return to activity during 2022 at the Chapter's Annual Meeting in November and a plentiful bounty among the lodge's outdoorsmen with the Chapter's inaugural Festival of St. Andrew

and Wild Game Dinner.

The Knights welcomed members and friends to the Festival of St. Andrew with a wild game menu prepared by Bro. Robin Summerfield featuring pheasant from the 7th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt as well as fresh local venison and trout provided by

members. The program included a presentation on St. Andrew the Apostle by Bro. Samuel Lane, a toast to the United States by Bro. Michael Kamauff, a prayer in honor of St. Andrew by Bro. Mark Lathrop, bagpipe performances by Bro. Jay Cochrane, and singing of "Blessed be the Tie that Binds" accompanied by Bro. Jason Bennett on piano.

The evening's events provided

testimony to the tenets of brotherhood and selfless service represented by St. Andrew and Knights of the order named in his honor. Newly elected officers Venerable Master Michael W. Kerns, Senior Warden Mark Lathrop, and Junior Warden Brett T. J. Bean and the Knights of the Cumberland Chapter look forward to making this festival an annual tradition.

Cumberland DeMolay Celebrates 100

THE CUMBERLAND DEMOLAY was recognized by the Valley of Cumberland for its renewed energy and membership growth as the chapter celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2022. Members of the Chapter provided a presentation on the purpose and activities of the Masonic youth organization during the Scottish Rite Fall Capping and Ring Ceremony.



Pictured with members of the Chapter (L to R) Senior DeMolay III. David Hall, 33°; Senior DeMolay Bro. Carl Trostle, 32°; Chapter Dad Bro. Brett Bean, 32°; Derrick Bray; Joshua McKay; Joshua Stewart; Senior DeMolay Bro. Mike McKay, 32°; Ashton Middleton; Julian McKay; Matthew McKay; and Senior DeMolay III. Paul G. Shircliff, 33°.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cumberland Consistory Monday, March 20 at 7:30 pm

181st Conferral & Reunion
Saturday, April 1
at 7:30 am

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Monday, April 3 at 7:30 pm

Kirkin' of the Tartan Sunday, April 16 Time/Location TBA

Cumberland Chapter of Rose Croix **Monday, April 17** at 7:30 pm

Ceremony of Lights & Spring Capping Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 pm











Scottish Rite Fall 2022





















Valley of Susquehanna

BY: HON. WILLIAM T. IVEY, 32°, KCCH, ASST. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE—ABERDEEN LODGE #187

SIWRITE THIS ARTICLE, I think about the great vear our valley has had. With 30 new brothers becoming Scottish Rite Masons in the Susquehanna Valley, our membership climbed to 138 strong. It was refreshing to see this enthusiasm in the fraternity. After much downtime in society over the past few years due to the pandemic, it is wonderful to watch Brothers from our Valley do such a wonderful job in reaching out to the Blue Lodges and spreading the word on the great benefits of Light one can gain in the Scottish Rite. This is a great effort by both the Rose Croix Chapter and The Lodge of Perfection, and I look forward to watching our Valley grow, not just in membership, but in <u>ac-</u> <u>tive</u> membership. Active members are what helps our Valley grow and when I watch so many active brothers not only in the Valley, but in Masonry, it can be very motivating in many ways

for others to join. Our personal attributes reflect to the craft and when one is enthused, brothers will want to surround themselves with those brothers and the areas that they are excited about. When one is not, brothers may not follow.

I look forward to working with our new officers in this year of 2023. I know that they have a great year planned with masonic events and adding degrees to their wonderful degree teams this year.







A Word from Dr. Albert G. Mackey, 33°

March 12, 1807-June 20th, 1881

Probation and Due Proficiency of Candidates before Advancement.

There is, perhaps, no part of the jurisprudence of Masonry which it is more necessary strictly to observe than that which relates to the advancement of candidates through th

ment of candidates through the several degrees. The method which is adopted in passing Apprentices and raising Fellow Crafts—the probation which they are required to serve in each degree before advancing to a higher—and the instructions which they receive in their progress, often materially affect the estimation which is entertained of the institution by its initiates. The candidate who long remains at the porch of the temple, and lingers in the middle chamber, noting everything worthy of observation in his passage to the holy of holies, while he better understands the nature of the profession upon which he has entered, will have a more exalted opinion of its beauties and excellencies than he who has advanced, with all the rapidity that dispensations can furnish, from the lowest to the highest grades of the Order. In the former case, the design, the symbolism, the history, and the moral and philosophical bearing of each degree will be indelibly impressed upon the "Masonry was a progressive science, and not to be attained in any degree of perfection, but by time, patience, and a considerable degree of application and industry."

mind, and the appositeness of what has gone before to what is to succeed will be readily appreciated; but, in the latter, the lessons of one hour will be obliterated by those of the succeeding one; that which has been learned in one degree, will be forgotten in the next; and when all is completed, and the last instructions have been imparted, the dissatisfied neophyte will find his mind, in all that relates to Masonry, in a state of chaotic confusion. Like Cassio, he will remember "a mass of things, but nothing distinctly."

A hundred years ago it was said that "Masonry was a progressive science, and not to be attained in any degree of perfection, but by time, patience, and a considerable degree of application and industry." And it is because that due proportion of time, patience and application, has not been observed, that we so often see Masons indifferent to the claims of the institution, and totally unable to discern its true character. The arcana of the craft, as Dr. Harris remarks, should be gradually imparted to its members, according to their improvement.

There is no regulation of our Order more frequently repeated in our constitutions, nor one which should be more rigidly observed, than that which requires of every candidate a "suitable proficiency" in one degree, before he is permitted to pass to another. But as this regulation is too often neglected, to the manifest injury of the whole Order, as well as of the particular lodge which violates it, by the introduction of ignorant and unskillful workmen into the temple, it may be worth the labor we shall spend upon the subject, to investigate some of the authorities which support us in the declaration, that no candidate should be promoted, until, by a due probation, he has made "suitable proficiency in the preceding degree."





Recent Charitable Contributions

AS OF DECEMBER 21ST, 2022

CHARITABLE DONATIONS
The Christoff Family Charitable Gift Fund
The Scottish Rite Foundation
Barry C. Reusing
Jesse & Hertha Adams' Charitable Trust
Charles R. Dashiel, Jr.
Michael J. Loher
John M. Raines, Jr.
Wayne V. Shaff
Roy E. Shepherd
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Brothers Called From Labor To **Eternal Rest** John A. Dunnigan, Sr., 32° Joseph F. Baird, 32° Robert L. Tabler, Jr., 32° Leslie L. Frisch, 32° Baron L. Edwards, 32° Edward F. Barnes, 32° Magdi G. Henein, 32° Joseph W. Shaw, 32°

Joseph W. Shaw, 32°

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James M. Snider, 33°





The Old Charges: The Regius Manuscript

NE OF THE oldest Masonic documents to be discovered, it was written between 1350 and 1450 and has been dated by authorities at about 1390. It is in the form of an epic poem and was probably the work of a priest or monk who had access to older Masonic documents. Transcribed by James Halliwell around 1840, it was mentioned in an inventory

of John Theyer's library in 1670. The latter was sold to Robert Scott, with a new inventory dated 1678. The Manuscript then became the property of the Royal Library until 1757 (hence its name Regius), at which time it was donated to the British Museum by King George II. The original is in the language of Chaucer – a translation follows this introductory section.

The Regius poem sets out the basic tenets of Masonry. It contains fifteen articles and fifteen points, that are instructions to Masons on proper behaviour, conduct and manners in various places, including the workplace, the church, and with employees. Much of the fifteen articles and points deal with proper workplace conduct. The following is a summary of the main points:

SUMMARY OF THE FIFTEEN ARTICLES

- 1. The master mason must be worthy of the confidence of the lords; he must pay the fellows a fair wage with the lord's money
- 2. Every master mason must attend a general assembly, unless he can give a good excuse
- 3. The master mason shall not take on an apprentice for less than seven years and must lodge him during his apprenticeship
- 4. The master mason must not take any serfs as apprentice
- 5. The master mason shall take on neither bastards nor cripples
- 6. The apprentice shall be paid less than the fellows, but his salary shall increase as he progresses
- 7. The master mason shall employ neither thieves nor murderers a sensible precaution
- 8. The master mason may discharge an incompetent worker and replace him with another
- 9. The master mason must make sure that the foundation of the building is well-laid
- 10. The master mason must never take over, or meddle with, the work of another master mason, or be fined a penalty of ten pounds (that was a lot of money back then)

- 11. A mason shall not work at night, except to study
- 12. One shall not disparage the work of one's fellows
- 13. The master mason must give his apprentice a complete education
- 14. The master mason shall not take on an apprentice unless he has enough work for him
- 15. The master mason must not leave his fellows astray, because he must care about their souls

SUMMARY OF THE FIFTEEN POINTS

- 1. A man of the craft must love God and the holy church as well as his fellows
- 2. Masons must be paid for holidays
- 3. The apprentice must keep secret all that his master tells him and all that he hears or sees in chamber
- 4. The apprentice shall not be false to his craft, nor to his master or fellows, since the same law as theirs applies to him
- 5. Masons must receive their salary from their master humbly. The master must discharge a mason before noon if he has no more work for him

- 6. Quarrels between masons must be settled amicably, after the day's work is done or on a holiday
- 7. A mason shall not sleep with the wife of a master nor a fellow's wife or concubine
- 8. A master can allow a fellow to mediate between himself and other fellows
- 9. Fellows must take turns serving at table, buying the food and accounting for what they spent
- 10. A mason shall not support anyone who persists in wrongdoing; they shall be called before an assembly and excluded from the craft
- 11. A mason must teach another, whose work is imperfect, in a friendly manner

- 12. Masters, fellows, lords and local authorities shall agree in assembly to promulgate laws for the craft, and punish those who do not respect them
- 13. A mason shall swear never to steal, nor be accomplice to a thief
- 14. A mason must swear to be true to his master, his fellows and his king
- 15. He who disobeys the laws of the assembly shall be called before it to make amends. If he persists in his fault he shall be excluded from the craft and imprisoned, and his goods confiscated

AFTER THE FIFTEEN ARTICLES and points there is another section titled "The Four Crowned Ones". This is in reference to Severius, Severian, Carpophorus and Victorian, who were martyred by Roman emperor

Diocletian. Since nobody in early times knew their names, Pope Melchiades proclaimed that they would be celebrated on the same day as five other martyrs, Claudius, Castor, Symphorian, Nicostratos

and Simplicius, who were ordered by emperor Diocletian to be sealed in lead cases and dropped in the sea because they refused to sculpt him an idol. The "Four Crowned Ones" relates part of their story.

SECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT

- -Foundation of Masonry by Euclid in Egypt
- -Introduction of Masonry into England under King Athelstane
- -The Moral Duties, fifteen articles
- -The Moral Duties, fifteen points
- -Another ordinance of the art of geometry
- -The story of the Four Crowned Ones
- -The Tower of Babylon
- -The Seven Liberal Arts
- -An admonishment about Mass and how to behave in Church
- -An instruction on Good Manners

A POEM OF MORAL DUTIES

Here begin the constitutions of the art of Geometry according to Euclid.

Whoever will both well read and look
He may find written in old book
Of great lords and also ladies,
That had many children together, certainly;
And had no income to keep them with,
Neither in town nor field nor enclosed wood;
A council together they could them take,
To ordain for these children's sake,
How they might best lead their life
Without great disease, care and strife;
And most for the multitude that was coming
Of their children after great clerks,
To teach them then good works;

continues on next page





The Old Charges

continues from previous page

And pray we them, for our Lord's sake. To our children some work to make, That they might get their living thereby, Both well and honestly full securely.

FOUNDATION OF MASONRY BY EUCLID IN EGYPT

In that time, through good geometry,
This honest craft of good masonry
Was ordained and made in this manner,
Counterfeited of these clerks together;
At these lord's prayers they counterfeited
geometry,

And gave it the name of masonry,
For the most honest craft of all.
These lords' children thereto did fall,
To learn of him the craft of geometry,
The which he made full curiously;
Through fathers' prayers and mothers' also,
This honest craft he put them to.

He learned best, and was of honesty,
And passed his fellows in curiosity,
If in that craft he did him pass,
He should have more worship than the less,
This great clerk's name was Euclid,
His name it spread full wonder wide.

Yet this great clerk ordained he
To him that was higher in this degree,
That he should teach the simplest of wit
In that honest craft to be perfect;
And so each one shall teach the other,
And love together as sister and brother.

Futhermore yet that ordained he,
Master called so should he be;
So that he were most worshipped,
Then should he be so called;
But masons should never one another call,
Within the craft amongst them all,
Neither subject nor servant, my dear brother,

Though he be not so perfect as is another;
Each shall call other fellows by friendship,
Because they come of ladies' birth.
On this manner, through good wit of geometry,
Began first the craft of masonry;
The clerk Euclid on this wise it found,
This craft of geometry in Egypt land.
In Egypt he taught it full wide,
In divers lands on every side;
Many years afterwards, I understand,
Ere that the craft came into this land.

INTRODUCTION OF MASONRY INTO ENGLAND UNDER KING ATHELSTANE

This craft came into England, as I you say, In time of good King Athelstane's day; He made then both hall and even bower, And high temples of great honour, To disport him in both day and night, And to worship his God with all his might. This good lord loved this craft full well, And purposed to strengthen it every part, For divers faults that in the craft he found; He sent about into the land After all the masons of the craft, To come to him full even straight, For to amend these defaults all By good counsel, if it might fall.

THE MORAL DUTIES. FIFTEEN ARTICLES

An assembly then could let make
Of divers lords in their state,
Dukes, earls, and barons also,
Knights, squires and many more,
And the great burgesses of that city,
They were there all in their degree;
There were there each one always,
To ordain for these masons' estate,
There they sought by their wit,
How they might govern it;
Fifteen articles they there sought,
And fifteen points there they wrought,

HERE BEGINS THE FIRST ARTICLE.

The first article of this geometry; -The master mason must be full securely Both steadfast, trusty and true, It shall him never then rue; And pay thy fellows after the cost, As victuals goeth then, well thou knowest; And pay them truly, upon thy faith, What they may deserve; And to their hire take no more, But what that they may serve for; And spare neither for love nor dread, Of neither parties to take no bribe; Of lord nor fellow, whoever he be, Of them thou take no manner of fee; And as a judge stand upright, And then thou dost to both good right; And truly do this wheresoever thou goest, Thy worship, thy profit, it shall be most.

SECOND ARTICLE.

The second article of good masonry, As you must it here hear specially, That every master, that is a mason, Must be at the general congregation, So that he it reasonably be told Where that the assembly shall be held;

And to that assembly he must needs go, Unless he have a reasonable excuse, Or unless he be disobedient to that craft Or with falsehood is overtaken, Or else sickness hath him so strong, That he may not come them among; That is an excuse good and able, To that assembly without fable.

THIRD ARTICLE.

The third article forsooth it is,
That the master takes to no 'prentice,
Unless he have good assurance to dwell
Seven years with him, as I you tell,
His craft to learn, that is profitable;
Within less he may no be able

To lords' profit, nor to his own As you may know by good reason.

FOURTH ARTICLE.

The fourth article this must be,
That the master him well besee,
That he no bondman 'prentice make,
Nor for no covetousness do him take;
For the lord that he is bound to,
May fetch the 'prentice wheresoever he go.
If in the lodge he were taken,
Much disease it might there make,
And such case it might befall,
That it might grieve some or all.

For all the masons that be there Will stand together all together. If such one in that craft should dwell, Of divers disease you might tell; For more ease then, and of honesty, Take a 'prentice of higher degree.

By old time written I find
That the 'prentice should be of gentle kind;
And so sometime, great lords' blood
Took this geometry that is full good.

FIFTH ARTICLE.

The fifth article is very good,
So that the 'prentice be of lawful blood;
The master shall not, for no advantage,
Make no 'prentice that is deformed;
It is mean, as you may hear
That he have all his limbs whole all together;
To the craft it were great shame,
To make a halt man and a lame,
For an imperfect man of such blood
Should do the craft but little good.

Thus you may know every one, The craft would have a mighty man; A maimed man he hath no might, You must it know long ere night.

continues in next issue

COULD YOUR CHILD HAVE A SPEECH OR LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT?



DOES YOUR CHILD

- Have a limited vocabulary?
- Have difficulty using language to communicate needs, wants or feelings?
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Valley of Baltimore

BY: BRO. JEFFREY A. VILKAS, 32°—CRESCENT LODGE #240

GOOD DAY MY BROTHERS.

I'd like to tell you a little about myself before I tell you who I am. I was born in Baltimore on Thursday, January 18, 1951. The same day that the NFL took control of the failing Baltimore Colts organization. So, you can see I already needed to change some things in my city. I was born to parents who were shopkeepers in Baltimore and lived a simple life. Myself one of the seven children they graced the world with I being the third. I'd love to say that life was easy, but nothing really is. I was a very impressionable young man but was always looking and trying to help others out in any way possible. After graduating high school, I attended Howard University and received my BA in political science.

Figured out who I am yet?
After joining Phi Beta Sigma
and becoming a member of
Prince Hall Masonic fraternities,
I attended the University
of Maryland School of Law to

get my Juris Doctor in 1976.

Now, for some brothers, this would have been enough to take a little break and revel in my accomplishments at this point. I'm not one to sit and relax for long. I took the longest test I've ever taken a year later and was admitted to the bar in 1977. Staying in Baltimore, I was a fantastic lawyer if I may say so myself.

I had a short stint as a lawyer in court, only nineteen years.
(I hope you get the joke)

After being in court for so long, as most lawyers do, I had the urge to help in other ways. I ran for the House of Delegates in Maryland in 1996 and won. It made me excited to serve people who I knew my whole life and some I met over time. After serving my great state of Maryland in the House for fourteen years. I got that proverbial itch again and wanted to move my life and career further forward while still being true to myself.

I served in the Maryland General Assembly as Chairman of the legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and as the first African American speaker pro tempore which is the second highest position in the House. While doing all these things, I served on many boards and created a youth program in Israel.

Unfortunately, I hung up my working tools on October 17, 2019 at age 68, and was the only African American lawmaker to ever lie in state in the nation's capital. Hopefully, my ideas and love for life will live on through my works and the impressions I made on others.

Brothers without further ado – my name is Elijah E. Cummings

GOOD DAY MY BROTHERS.

I'd like to tell you a little about myself before I tell you who I am. I was born on May 26, 1907, Some would say I was a very healthy 13 pound baby boy born in Winterset, Iowa. I know what you're thinking already and, yes, that is bigger than a baby lamb's birth weight but, hey, it's Iowa.

Very shortly after being brought into this world, my family and I moved to California. I thrived in the Golden State in many ways. Growing up, I was always told that I was bright and challenged myself every day to do better. In high school, I was the "jock" but I was also on the debate team so, in my mind, it evened out for someone so good looking. This made me a more well-rounded person, to some degree.

When I graduated from high school, I wanted to join the US Naval Academy. However, my grades said otherwise. I mean, come on, football and sun, what could go wrong. Right? I did, however, get it together shortly after that. I attended the University of Southern California for pre-law and found myself in two fraternities - the Trojan Knights and Sigma Chi. But my time in USC came to an end when I lost my athletic scholarship after I broke my collarbone.

continues on next page

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Valley of Baltimore

continues from previous page

I didn't have the heart to tell the coach it was due to surfing, not football. I knew a lot about fraternities from my time in De-Molay as a youngster. So, I fit in well with brotherly love. Know who I am yet?

After the college situation, I found myself looking for something more in life. I tried a few things, but my heart never wanted to settle until, one day, I walked onto a movie set in 1926. That was it – I tell ya brothers. I had found my calling. I appeared in 179 films and television shows. I have been the envy of so many men because of the female costars I got to act with over the years. Many of them already huge stars in their rights.

Among all the lights, cameras and action at work and being a father of seven children, time tends to wear you down. In 1970, I started to want a quieter life, somewhere I could blend in. I joined Marion McDaniel's Lodge #56 in Arizona. Shortly after obtaining my initial

degrees, I needed more light. I thirsted for it. York Rite, Al Malaikah Shrine in Los Angeles and the Scottish Rite to obtain my 32 degrees followed.

My last movie was a big one in 1976 for me because I knew I needed to step away. I laid my working tools down on June 11, 1979, due to an ongoing cancer fight. Looking back, I can say I lived to the fullest. A real cowboy.

Brothers, if you haven't guessed me already, I am Marion R. Morrison, better known as John Wayne.

Scottish Rite Temple continues from page 5

The unfluted pilasters are on the north and south facades which support a similar entablature to the front east façade. The sides contain forty-foot high arched windows and are crowned with scroll volute. A large marble urn is located at the base of the window on the north side but not the south side. The rear or

westward façade is a flat stone relieved by three large inset panels with arches resting on plain pilasters and crowned with keystones. The structure presents itself as one of the finest examples of the Beaux Arts Classicism style in use of decorative elements, physical massing, and site orientation.

Message from Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°

continues from page 3

In closing, I want to welcome each one of you into a wonderful New Year. One that is full of happiness and good health for all.

I believe in you all.



Sincerely and Fraternally,

III. Marlin L. Mills, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspecto

Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland



MARYLAND "SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY" LICENSE PLATES



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Cost is \$30.00

Upcoming Events | Schedule Spring 2023

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

Wednesday, February 1st	Baltimore—Albert Pike—Lodge of Perfection
Wednesday, February 8th	. Baltimore—Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix
Wednesday, February 15th	. Baltimore—Maryland Council of Kadosh
Wednesday, February 22nd	
Wednesday, March 1st	Baltimore—Chesapeake Consistory
Wednesday, March 8th	. Baltimore—Spring Class Orientation
Wednesday, March 15th	. Baltimore—Confer 4th & 5th
Wednesday, March 22nd	. Baltimore—Confer 11th & 13th
Wednesday, March 29th	Baltimore—Confer 14th & 15th
Wednesday, April 5th	
Thursday, April 6th	Baltimore—Maundy Thursday6:30pm Dinner, Ceremony to Follow
Wednesday, April 12th	. Baltimore—Confer 18th & 20th
Saturday, April 15th	. Baltimore—Reunion Day—21st, 25th, 30th, 31st & 32nd 8am
Sunday, April 16th	. Baltimore—Ring Ceremony2pm

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1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

4

Enjoys viewing worthwhile drama, well presented;

5.

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

6.

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

7.

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

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Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland

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Ill. E. Ray Leppo, Jr., 33°, GC

Personal Representative

Ill. Frederick Spicer, 33°, GC

Executive Director, 410-243-3200

CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

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Masonic Temple

710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646

Hon. William A. Zarychta, 32°, KCCH

Personal Representative

Bro. Reginald J. Eda, 32°

Secretary, 301-910-1906

CUMBERLAND VALLEY

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Masonic Temple

15-21 Green Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°, Personal Representative

Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°

Secretary, 301-729-2491

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

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