

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | NOV/DEC/JAN 2023-24

# RITENEWS

OF MARYLAND

**“...To make it the constant  
rule of their lives, to think  
well, to speak well, and  
to act well...”**

*A Bridge to Light, 20°—Master of  
the Symbolic Lodge*





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**Sovereign  
Grand Inspector  
GENERAL**  
Marlin L. Mills, 33°

**Editor**  
Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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### A MESSAGE FROM

## Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



### GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL.

I hope this issue of our Rite News finds everyone well and ready for the rapidly approaching holiday and winter seasons.

It has been an unbelievably fast summer. As I write this, the heat index in Baltimore is predicted to be 104 degrees. Yet, as you read this, the temperature will probably be in the 40s or 50s.

Change is inevitable, and change is happening throughout our Orient. Honors Day saw the advancement of our Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour and Inspectors General,

Honorary. I again extend my congratulations to each of these hard-working men. Our fall reunions have been completed with many new Scottish Rite men joining our valleys. The ring ceremony in Baltimore was made even more special this year as several men from the classes of 1973 received their 50 year service awards. The November 10, 1973 class was the largest in the history of Maryland Scottish Rite, when 793 men became Scottish Rite members; certainly a change in the membership roles.

***Change is  
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is happening  
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our Orient.***

In January, a somewhat sad but deserving change will occur as three of Maryland's Personal Representatives retire. Illustrious Brother E. Ray Iepko, 33°, G.C., who started his Scottish Rite journey in 1961, has completed 62 years of service to the Rite – 27 of which he has served as the PR for the Valley of Baltimore. Illustrious Brother Richard C. Miller, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Southern Maryland, joined the Scottish Rite in 1992 giving 31 years of service and was

appointed as PR in 2006 laboring just over 17 years in that role. Illustrious Brother Creed F. Parker, 33° became a Scottish right member in 2000 serving 23 years and was appointed Personal Representative in 2017, working six years as PR. These men have given a combined 116 years of service to our members. They have worked long and hard for their Valleys and the Orient of Maryland. I cannot express in print how valuable they have been; not just to me, but to the many hundreds of members of their Valleys as well as those whom they met across Maryland.

Yes, change is inevitable, and as they say "time marches on." New men and new leaders bring a new life into the Rite. Please extend your thanks and congratulations to these dedicated men, for they have served in person in the degrees, during activities and event, at every meeting, and they serve every member. I close by wishing them, and you all, the Blessing of good health and much happiness now and forever more.



Sincerely and Fraternally,  
**Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Inspector  
General in Maryland



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### SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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## Valley of Baltimore

BY: ILL. E. RAY LEPP0, 33°, GC—PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



**M**Y BROTHERS, when I became a Master Mason 71 years ago in August of 1952, I had no idea (or even a thought) about the journey I was just beginning.

As I pen my final article for the Rite News, I cannot help but think about the many, many wonderful men and women

I have had the honor to work with, especially in the Scottish Rite. I have never considered the past 61 years “work” because I have enjoyed it so much. From working the chairs in Lodge meetings, performing degree work, or working behind the scenes and building props that many men would see and use, it has all been a pleasure.

One highlight was when I was asked to aid in the expansion and finishing of, the second floor of the Scottish Rite Temple in Baltimore. Thousands of you have passed through those hallways and it has been an honor to meet and work with each of you. I encourage our newest members to get involved and be active in your Scottish Rite. From Officers and lead roles on stage to the many support and “behind the

scenes” activities; there is a place for you.

I do not have room in this magazine to express all that I wish to say, however I think that Albert Pike says it best: “What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. ...for me when I am dead, I wish my monument to be builded in the hearts and memories of my Brethren of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.” It is in those words that I feel most fortunate to have delivered to my fellow brothers for so many years at the completion of countless Reunions.

Thanks for the memories!

## The Maryland Council of Kadosh

BY: BRO. SHANE T. COLLISON, 32°—COMMANDER



It has been an enjoyable year and I would like to thank my Line Officers for their service to the Council.

***I would like to take the time to thank you for the opportunity to serve.***

**B**RETHREN, as my term as the Commander of the Council of Kadosh ends, I would like to take the time to thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a busy year for me, filled with several major life events for myself and loved ones; free time has been scarce.

Your continued support to the Line and the Scottish Rite as a whole is always appreciated. Congratulations to the elected and appointed officers for 2024. We look forward to your installation in January and working with you in 2024.

By the time this is published, the days will be getting shorter

and fall will be upon us. With the holidays just around the corner, this is a time to give thanks. Remember now all the things in your life you are grateful for and consider what you can do to give back. In my previous articles, I wrote asking for help reviving the 29th degree; I am grateful to say I have received interest in proceeding with this from the brothers and look to pursuing this next year.

As always, your continued support to the Council and the craft as a whole is always appreciated and I would like to personally thank every brother who has helped me this year.

Happy Holidays.

## That’s all, folks!

BY: BRO. CHRISTIAN J. MIELE, 32°, KCCH-ELECT—VENERABLE MASTER

**I**N THIS, my farewell article as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all the men who have made my eight-year journey as an officer in this body both rewarding and memorable. I must, of course,

begin by thanking Ill. Gerald R. Phillips, 33°, who, in 2016, saw fit to appoint me to the Lodge of Perfection line during his term as Venerable Master. I would also like to thank my officers for their tremendous support this year: Hon. David A. Ente,

32°, KCCH, Senior Warden; Bro. Norman F. Henthorn III, 32°, Junior Warden; Hon. Earle D. Benson, 32°, KCCH, Orator; Bro. James A. Baugher, 32°, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. Pierre R. Lenoci, 32°, Assistant Expert; and Bro. Justin D. Em,

32°, Captain of the Host. Sadly, Maryland Masonry and the Scottish Rite lost a dear friend in April of this year when Bro. Randolph S. Disney, 32°, passed to the Celestial Lodge. Bro. Disney was serving as Expert of the Lodge of Perfection at the time of his passing and is greatly missed by all those who were fortunate to know him.

I would also like to express

my deep appreciation to the leadership of the Orient of Maryland and Valley of Baltimore for their guidance and good counsel this past year: Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General; Ill. Frederick A. Spicer, 33°, GC, Executive Director; Ill. E. Ray Leppo, Jr., 33°, GC, Personal Representative for the Valley of Baltimore; and Ill. Jason Q.

Standish, 33°, Office Manager for the Valley of Baltimore. Thank you for your support and for making my job easy!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my membership experience in the Scottish Rite and look forward to finding new ways to support this organization and its worthy mission in the future.



# Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: BRO. GEORGE G. CHRISTOFF, 32°, WISE MASTER



**R**EGULAR READERS of the Rite News of Maryland may have noticed that, during my term as Wise Master, I have taken the opportunity to address my thoughts and reflections on the lessons presented in the degrees of the Chapter of Rose Croix. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity and hope you have enjoyed reading them and that they have inspired you to consider what the lessons of each degree mean to you.

I am not a Masonic scholar, but it seems to me that the Eighteenth Degree or “Knight of Rose Croix” might be the most esoteric of the Chapter degrees and one of the most far reaching as it touches on everything we do.

It discloses the True Word as the lessons are presented through events in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. However,

it asks us to consider that this is not a Christian degree and that Scottish Rite Freemasonry is not only for Christians. It asks us to understand and take no offense to the fact that, for some, Jesus was the Messiah; for others a Prophet or wise teacher. It teaches that Scottish Rite Freemasonry endeavors to expound on fundamental, universal Truths that do not apply to any specific religion, but to all men of all religions.

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The degree addresses Charity, fueled by Faith and Hope. Donating to those in need is a noble endeavor, however, it seems to introduce an even more powerful charity. It is the charity of the heart and soul that allows us to recognize that in all that matters, we

are fundamentally the same, therefore, we are all brothers. It seeks to teach the “New Love” in which all virtuous men can join in brotherhood, regardless of religion or nationality. This is a profound concept and difficult to actively practice as it requires us to step outside of our philosophical comfort zones.

Finally, we are taught that Masonry endeavors to address the reconciliation of opposites. Good and evil, light and dark, truth and falsehood all exist by the will of the Creator. This is the natural order and beauty of the universe and harmony between opposites is a great law of the universe. We must recognize this, continue to promote Masonic virtues, and seek harmony in all things.

When taken in its entirety, this degree reminds me of another lesson from one of the most powerful documents ever written by man. I hope you recognize it, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ALL MEN are created EQUAL, that they are endowed by their CREATOR with certain unalienable rights....” The similarities are clear and emphasize how important it is that we continue to integrate our teachings into our understanding of the world and to shape our behavior accordingly.

## BALTIMORE REUNION DAY SCHEDULE\*



***In Memory of  
Ill. Henry C. McDonald, 33°  
November 4th, 2023***

Coffee & Donuts .....	6:30am – 7:30am
Class Check-In .....	7:15am (Classroom)
Opening Ceremonies .....	8:00am
Confer 21st Degree .....	8:15am – 9:00am
Class to Classroom .....	9:00am – 9:10am
Confer 25th Degree .....	9:15am – 9:45am
Confer 30th Degree .....	10:00am – 11:15am
Class Picture .....	11:30am
Lunch .....	11:15am for Casts 11:30am for Members
Lunch Ends .....	12:15pm
Confer 31st Degree .....	12:30pm – 1:15pm
Confer 32nd Degree .....	1:30pm – 3:00pm
Closing / SGIG .....	3:00pm

*\*Times are subject to change*



# The Grim Tyrant

BY: BRO. LUIS J. GONZALEZ, JR. 32°

**T**HE SYMBOLISM of death as the grand leveler is a reminder that death is the great equalizer. It doesn't matter who you are, what you have, or what you have done. It does not discriminate, nor care for your vocation, social status, or wealth. Death is a universal experience, inevitable and will come for us all! It is a reminder that we are all mortal and that our time on earth is limited. It brings with it grief, mourning and pain and the thought of it can be a great source of fear, anxiety and sobering. However, it can also be a thought of liberation, peace and acceptance. A thought that liberates us from our mortal fears and allows us to live our lives to the fullest. When we accept that death

is inevitable, we can focus on living a meaningful and fulfilling life. We can let go of our fears and regrets and embrace the present moment, letting go of our attachments to material

***Death is not  
the end, but a  
transition to another  
state of being***

possessions and relationships. Remembering that death is not the end, but a transition to another state of being, whether that be the afterlife or simply the end of consciousness.

Ultimately the symbolism of death can be a difficult concept to come to terms with and is

a very personal one. It is up to each individual to decide how they will interpret it. However, as Freemasons, it is a powerful symbol that can help us to understand our place in the universe and is the persistent reminder that, in life, we should live by the tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth, through the exercise of love, compassion, and forgiveness. Understanding that if our labors in the quarries of life were performed with a pure heart, we should not fear the grim tyrant death, but welcome and receive him as the kind messenger sent from our Supreme Grand Master to translate us from this imperfect to that all perfect, glorious, and celestial lodge above where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

**Hasn't the  
So-Called  
Century of the  
Common Man  
Contributed  
to Making our  
Fraternity  
a Little Too  
Common?**

An old legend which comes to us from the Napoleonic Wars tells of a youth, too young to fight, who was permitted to carry the regimental banner. During one bitter engagement, his unit was advancing on the enemy under heavy fire. In his youthful zeal, the boy went so far ahead of the regiment that he was almost out of contact. The commanding officer sent a runner bearing the message, "Bring the standard back to the line."

With heroic recklessness, the lad sent back the ringing reply, "Bring the line up to the standard."

# Chesapeake Consistory

BY: BRO. SCOTT G. LAPP, 32°—VENERABLE MASTER OF KADOSH



**I**FIND MYSELF excited to start the fall after a great summer hiatus, gearing up for my favorite time of year in the Scottish Rite. Fall is a great time for Reunion and gives me the chance to once again participate in the Feast of Tishri, and the 32° as well as rejoin my companions in the Consistory and other bodies within the Rite. I hope to see most of you at these events, and again, if you would like to participate, just let us know. But, more important than performing, just come out and see what some of these events are about, especially the ones you are not yet familiar with, and build some relationships with each other. That is the crux of Masonry.

The Consistory has a great fall lineup for our meeting, with Dave Ente as our guest from the props and wardrobe department, and Charles

Matulewicz giving the after-meeting presentation on one of my favorite topics. Thank you again to both for their time and expertise.

I would also like to thank my line, who has supported me throughout this term, including Bill Holdren, my right-hand man for the year. He is a stalwart example of a good Scottish mason, ever present and helpful with his counsel. I am excited to have him as my successor, for he is going to have a great year in 2024.

Also, thank you to the other lodge Masters who also took their parts seriously this year, from trying to commit their parts to memory, to enlisting great orators for the topics of discussion, to the fine examples they set for the brothers behind them, and the mentoring of the newly enlisted. They strove to make their efforts just a little more special or sacrificing. These and other efforts made by everyone who demonstrates their leadership in the Temple is what forges new Masons to embrace the ideals and charm of our Fraternity, and with it, gives me hope that our membership trials and tribulations are just another phase for us to grow through.

I would also like to thank PGM Mills and MWGM Spicer for their guidance and continued

support. Their unparalleled attention to duty and their fraters, as well as exceptional Servant Leadership has been an inspiration to me since my joining the Scottish Rite and is what made my time motivating and more enjoyable than they will ever know. There are so many more to thank, but my space is limited. These are just a few examples of the myriad of brothers and friends I have found in the Temple and learned from this past year as Venerable Master of Kadosh. So, as my term winds down, I sit in contemplation of how best to thank all of you for your love and support and realize there isn't really any one thing to be grateful for. However, I can offer the only thing that is really required of me as a Mason; to return that devotion to our ranks and give you my pledge that I will step out of the East, not to exit the doors and turn off the lights, but to make room for others to follow and grow as I have, and promise to be there ready to support the next ones in their journeys. Most of all, I thank God for giving me the chance to share it all with you.





## ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

### Scottish Rite Family and Friends Picnic and Corn Roast



#### THE MEMBERS OF THE CUMBERLAND

Scottish Rite had another successful Annual Family and Friends Picnic and Corn Roast in the summer of 2023. We are grateful to Jamie and Linda Summerfield for hosting this annual event at their beautiful home and to all those who

attended for helping to make this casual event with family and friends a great success. We hope even more of our members will plan to bring their family members and others to take part in this fun day of food and fellowship next August. Details about this and other

events happening in the Valley of Cumberland are provided in the Valley newsletter and monthly e-news. Anyone who is interested in receiving copies of the e-news by email may sign up on the homepage of the Valley of Cumberland website at [cumberlandscothishrite.org](http://cumberlandscothishrite.org).

### Fall Capping and Feast of Tishri

#### THE VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND FALL

Ring and Capping Presentation and Service Awards will take place on Sunday, November 12 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

*continues on page 12*



### *The 18th Annual Robert Burns Supper*

February 3, 2024

Masonic Temple

Greene Street, Cumberland

Featuring

Traditional Scottish Fare by MISE EN PLACE

Musical Performances by Shanty Irish & Pipe Major Andrew  
Donlon of MacMillan United Pipe Bands

Tickets available at

[Cumberlandscothishrite.org](http://Cumberlandscothishrite.org) or 301-729-2491

**Benefits RiteCare Childhood Speech and Language Clinics**





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

**8th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt, Addison, PA**  
Saturday, November 4  
All Day

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

**Feast of Tishri and Fall Ring/Capping Ceremony**  
Sunday, November 12  
at 4:00 pm

**Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation Annual Meeting**  
Monday, November 20  
at 7:30 pm

**Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Annual Communication & Festival of St. Andrew**  
Monday, November 27  
at 5:30 pm

*Fall Capping continues from page 10*

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. Dinner is free for new

members and their presenter, service award honorees, children age 12 and under, and DeMolay members. The cost of dinner is \$15 for all other attendees. RSVP online at [cumberlandsctishrite.org](http://cumberlandsctishrite.org) or to Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield by email at [info@cumberlandsctishrite.org](mailto:info@cumberlandsctishrite.org) or phone at 301-729-2491.

## Cumberland Area Freemasons Celebrate Festival of St. John the Baptist



**MEMBERS OF THE CUMBERLAND** Scottish Rite were joined by local Freemasons and their families at the annual celebration of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in June. The group received a

warm welcome from Rev. Daniel Swanson and the congregation at Christ Lutheran Church and took part in religious services commemorating the birth of one of Masonry's two Patron Saints.

## Ackerman Named One of "40 Under 40" in Allegany County



**CHRISTOPHER ACKERMAN, A** member of the Spring 2023 Scottish Rite Class, was recently featured by Allegany Magazine in the publication's Annual 40 Under 40 Edition highlighting young professionals who are making a difference in the community.

While he is a highly regarded Obstetrician & Gynecologist with UPMC-Western Maryland and is active in a number of community organizations, in his interview with the magazine Ackerman specifically mentioned his involvement with Potomac Lodge No. 100, the Scottish Rite, and Ali Ghan

Shriners. Indeed, Brother Ackerman has distinguished himself in both the ritual work and volunteer activities of his lodge and other Masonic bodies; he currently serves as Junior Deacon of his Blue Lodge and provides mentorship to new members, he regularly attends practices and stated meetings of his lodge and the Scottish Rite, and welcomes the opportunity to support the success of charitable and social events.

We congratulate Brother Ackerman on this well-deserved recognition and appreciate the positive image of Masonry he presents to the community.

### UPCOMING EVENTS *cont.*

**Cumberland Lodge of Perfection Annual Elections**  
Monday, December 4  
at 7:30 pm

**Officer Orientation & Installation Rehearsal**  
Monday, December 18 at  
6:00 pm

**Open Installation of Officers**  
Sunday, January 7  
at 2:00 pm

**Cumberland Lodge of Perfection**  
Monday, January 15  
at 7:30 pm

**Buck-A-Cup Awards at Lavale Arby's**  
Tuesday, January 16  
at 3:00 pm

**Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew Burns Supper Rehearsal**  
Monday, January 29  
at 7:30 pm

**18th Annual Robert Burns Supper**  
Saturday, February 3  
at 5:00 pm



## ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

### Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew to Host 2nd Annual Festival of St. Andrew

**THE CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF THE** Knights of St. Andrew will host its 2nd Annual Festival of St. Andrew the Apostle featuring a menu of wild game and Scottish fare following the Chapter's Annual Communication on Monday, November 27 at 5:30 pm at the Cumberland Masonic Temple. Scottish Rite Freemasons and their guests are invited to attend the dinner beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Gospel of John informs us that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist and one of two disciples who followed Jesus after John had pointed him out, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God." Andrew's first

act of discipleship was to find his brother, Simon Peter, and bring him to Jesus. We might call Andrew the first missionary among the disciples.

Tradition has it that Andrew traveled to Scythia where he was crucified by angry pagans on an X-shaped cross.

St. Andrew has been celebrated in Scotland for over one thousand years, with feasts being held in his honor as far back as the year 1000 AD. However, it wasn't until 1320, when Scotland's independence was declared with the signing of The Declaration of Arbroath, that he officially became Scotland's patron saint. Since

then, St. Andrew has become an integral part of Scottish society. The flag of Scotland is the saltire, also known as St. Andrew's Cross, and the ancient town of St. Andrews was named due to its claim of being the final resting place of St. Andrew.

There is no fee to attend the Festival. However, reservations are required and donations to the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation will be accepted. RSVP online at [cumberlandsctishrite.org](http://cumberlandsctishrite.org) or to Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield by email at [info@cumberlandsctishrite.org](mailto:info@cumberlandsctishrite.org) or phone at 301-729-2491.

### Garrett County Celtic Festival

**THE CUMBERLAND KNIGHTS** of St. Andrew presented the colors as part of the 2023 Garrett County Celtic Festival held in Friendsville in June. The festival features a variety of Celtic traditional music and arts as well as Highland Games. It is a highlight of the year for the Knights of St. Andrew.



## The Value of Your Time

BY: HON. DAVID E. MARTAK, JR., 32°, KCCH—SECRETARY—VALLEY OF SUSQUEHANNA



**G**REETINGS FROM THE Valley of Susquehanna. It is hard to believe that 2023 is drawing to a close and 2024 will soon be here. Behold how swiftly the sand appears to be running through the hourglass. Perhaps it feels this way because the trials and tribulations we have experienced over the past few years have made time appear to drag on. Now that life is back to "normal", time seems to fly by. Time is our most valuable resource, and we are taught as Masons to divide our time appropriately. As a Scottish Rite Mason, how can you make the best use of your time to help your Valley? As a Valley Secretary, it is my duty to inform you there are many ways to do so. Do you enjoy ritual? If so, ask to be part of your Valley's various degree teams. Do you desire to advance as a line officer? If so, make your

current elected officers or your Personal Representative aware of this desire so they can assist you. Do you enjoy the knowledge and education provided in our various degrees? Perhaps you could give a presentation at one of your Valley meetings. Do you enjoy the brotherhood aspect? Maybe you could assist in preparing meals or organizing events.

The opportunities to provide value to your Valley are endless.

***The most important thing you can do for your Valley is to MAKE TIME and be an active member.***

However, the most important thing you can do for your Valley is to MAKE TIME and be an active member. Attend our meetings. Enjoy the brotherhood before and after our meetings during refreshment. Learn the lessons being taught as the degrees are being conferred. The more time you make to attend, the more comfortable you will feel, the more knowledge you will attain, and the more friendships you will make among some of the best men you will ever

know. I have personally made some of the best friendships a man could ask for because of our fraternity. Stretch forth your hand and I promise you a brother will extend his in return. All too often we see that on the shoulders of a few rests the fraternity. We can change that. We need to change that. How? Time, patience, and perseverance accomplish all things.

Make time to be a part of this wonderful fraternity. With that time, have patience in knowing that knowledge will come, and friendships will be made. And have the perseverance to press onward through any obstacles you may experience in the beginning. Loiter not by the wayside and be an active member of your Valley. You will be a valued member of our fraternity because you made time to do so. Stretch forth your hand to assist our fraternity and I promise that you will be paid back with an immeasurable masonic wage.





**Annual Maine  
Lobster Fest**  
*August 12th, 2023*







# The Ancient Practice of Magic

BY: S. DIRK WIKER, 33°

*And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.<sup>1</sup>*

**ERIK WEISZ, BETTER KNOWN BY** his stage name Harry Houdini, remains one of the most renowned magicians and escape artists in modern history. He was not only a celebrated entertainer but also a proud Freemason. He drew his magical inspiration from Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, who is widely recognized as the father of modern magic. In fact, Brother Harry even adopted his stage name from Robert-Houdin. The magic practiced by Brother Houdini was primarily focused on entertainment and the art of illusion, but ancient practices of magic centered around the interaction with spiritual entities.

Stephen Skinner, a contemporary author and scholar of magic aptly defines magic as:

*...the art of causing change through the agency of spiritual creatures rather than via directly observable physical means: such spiritual creatures being compelled or persuaded to assist...<sup>2</sup>*

Whether you believe in spirits or not, they have played a significant role in all major cultures and religions of the world, even within the three western religions that most of us in the United States are familiar with. According to the scriptural texts of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, people have been interacting with spiritual beings from the beginning of recorded history.

The primary scriptural text of Judaism, the Torah, has many references to spiritual beings. Otherworldly beings besides God include Satan, angels, and cherubim. Other spiritual creatures of questionable natures include the “sons of God” and the Nephilim mentioned in the book of Genesis.

God (Allah) and Satan (Iblis) are also found in Islam. Like in Judaism, angels are very important and some prophets are even seen as spiritually elevated beings that deliver messages to mankind like the angels. The Quran mentions another type of being called the Jinn. These beings were created from a smokeless fire and can be good, evil, or neutral. There is even a chapter named after them in the Quran titled *Surah Al-Jinn*. The Quran mentions that Solomon (Sulaiman) had control over the Jinn and other Islamic texts such

as the Tafsir specifically state that Solomon used Jinn in construction projects, including the Temple. Most westerners recognize the Jinn in popular stories as “Genies” who can be trapped in an oil lamp.

The Christian New Testament references several spiritual entities in addition to the trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. An angel announces the birth of Christ and there are multitudes of angels described in the Book of Revelations. Revelations also describes cherubim and seraphim as well as the four living creatures similar to Ezekiel’s vision with faces of a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus directly interacted with demons and cast them out. Based on the workings of Jesus, the practice of casting out demons exists today in the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches utilizing the ritual of ceremonial magic known as exorcism.

One of the central figures of Freemasonry, King Solomon, is said to be the greatest practitioner of magic in history. *The Testament of Solomon* is a pseudepigraphical text from the 1st or 2nd century AD that tells the story of King Solomon’s encounters with a multitude of demons while building the Temple in Jerusalem.

According to this text, a

demon named Ornias torments a young man favored by the king. Solomon prays for assistance and receives a ring from the archangel Michael with God’s seal in the form of a pentagram, a symbol very prominent in the Scottish Rite. This ring enables Solomon to command demons. Solomon lends the ring to the young man who, by throwing it at Ornias, marks him with the seal and subdues him. Solomon then orders Ornias to use the ring to subjugate the prince of demons, Beelzebub.

Now in control of this principal demon, Solomon learns that Beelzebub was once the chief angel in heaven. King Solomon summons and interrogates several demons and learns how to counteract their ill-effects upon mankind, and the hierarchy of spiritual beings that controls each of them. Through the use of his magical powers, Solomon compels all of these demons to construct certain portions of the Jerusalem temple. The text closes with King Solomon falling for a pagan woman and being tricked into making a sacrifice to her pagan god. The spirit of God immediately leaves Solomon and his magical powers cease.

The text of the *Testament of Solomon* is a rich blend of Jewish and Christian beliefs, combined with elements of Greco-Roman and Egyptian mythologies. This text subtly indicates that the “wisdom” of Solomon that he prayed for in the Bible is this

magical power of controlling demons.

A similar story is found in the Babylonian Talmud. King Solomon wished to build the Temple in Jerusalem but did not know the location of the shamir, a magical worm capable of cutting through stone. Solomon sent his chief minister to seek the advice of Asmodeus, the king of demons, who revealed the shamir’s location but warned of its dangerous power. Solomon then used his wisdom to subdue Asmodeus, ultimately obtaining the shamir and successfully building the Temple. Mentions of Solomon’s use of the shamir is also found in the Zohar, the most well-known kabbalistic text.

The Zohar also attributes magical powers to Solomon and his ability to engage with and control spiritual entities. Although our Masonic ritual echoes the biblical explanation why no metal tools were used in the construction of the Temple, these traditions offer a different perspective.

This tradition influenced medieval magical practices by providing a source of information on the names, characteristics, and powers of different demons, as well as the symbols and rituals needed to control them. Some of these elements were incorporated into grimoires, or books of magic, such as the Key of Solomon and the Lesser Key of Solomon, which were widely circulated and used

by magicians and occultists.

Magical practices focused on theurgy and interaction with angels, demons, and other spiritual beings were eventually included in some Masonic orders of the 18th century. The *Gold and Rosy Cross* and the *Order of Knight Masons, Elect Priests of the Universe* (Elus Coën) are two well-known examples. Symbols used in orders like this and from other esoteric practices, such as alchemy, were embraced by several high-degree systems, including the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

The concept of magic has evolved significantly over time, from its origins in ancient cultures to its current forms in modern society. While most people today associate the word “magic” with stage performances and illusions, its ancient form has had a profound impact on various aspects of human culture and history. Magic has been intertwined with religious beliefs, shaping mythologies and folklore that continue to inspire literature and art. Its influence has even affected our fraternity through symbols and esoteric philosophies woven into our rituals. Despite our society’s reliance on empirical evidence and technological advancements, the appeal of magic as seen in its original form remains strong, revealing the complexity and depth of human desire for

*continues on page 28*





# Master Craftsman Essays

BY: BRO. JAMES A. BAUGHER, 32°

I found the Legenda of the Lodge of Perfection interesting. In these two brief essays, the initiate is encouraged to discern the truth from an interpretation of the Masonic Legend of the Death of Hiram stating “The Degree of Perfection is so called because it completes and perfects the third degree.” When receiving the third degree. I was intrigued how the names of the assassins, Jubela, Jubelo, and Jubelum appeared to follow the rules of Latin grammar being indicative of the feminine, masculine and neuter respectively. The Legenda interprets Jubela as a symbol of ‘pontifical power and sacerdotal power’ who strikes Hiram in the throat with a rule. The Greek word for rule is ‘canon’ alluding to how religious canon law was used to stifle free speech, hence the blow to the throat ‘where the organs of speech are located’. Jubela has a feminine ending corresponding to its representation of religious authority, specifically the Church of Rome, which calls herself “Mother Church”. Jubelo, representing the civil government, strikes Hiram over the heart with a square. The square represents the rigid unity between civil and religious authority, typified by Imperial Rome which used its power to stifle dissent

emanating from the heart, the ‘Seat of Affection’. Jubelo has a masculine ending indicative of tyrannical despotism. Finally Jubelum “is a fit symbol of the mob, blind and unreasoning beating down and crushing with brute force whatever resists its mad rage....hating cultivation and enlightenment”. Jubelum strikes Hiram with the mallet in the forehead, “the seat of intellect”. Jubelum has a neutered ending indicative of the masses of the mob of society or military soldiery, male and female.

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I was surprised In reading the Legenda of the Thirty-Second Degree how Pike views the majority of masons (and mankind) as ignorant and unsuitable for initiation into the ancient mysteries. “While masonry remained in the hands of the select and wise few, it was a science and a religion. But it fell into other hands and became what it is to the multitude. Few masons there know the profound meanings of their symbols.....the initiations of the Ancient Mysteries have ceased; because those fit to be initiated no longer find initiators.....for all except a few, the road to light is lost”. I found these statements to be

puzzling in light of the Holy Doctrine revealed in the Thirty-Second Degree “that the human spirit is a ray of divine light”. A ray of light is not different from its source. If each human spirit is a ray of divine light, then why would the road to the light be lost for all except a few? As light can escape through the slightest crack, what obscures the light or blinds those who cannot see it in themselves or emanating from others? Pike’s metaphor reminds me of the modern psychology’s concept of self-actualization although it does not seem as self-centered, as Pike seems to indicate the initiate is able to recognize the light within himself as well as within others. This metaphor of light is limited by language and must, in addition to being apprehended by words, be experienced physically and/or metaphysically to be fully comprehended. For example, words have limited ability in expressing the concept of an apple to a blind person. Such a person can fully realize an apple by holding it, tracing its outline, and biting into it.

## Ill. Henry C. McDonald, 33°

3/29/1935 – 11/17/2023



Raised in Concordia Lodge #13 ..... 11/12/1997  
Scottish Rite 32° - Valley of Baltimore ..... 4/25/1998  
Worshipful Master of Concordia Lodge #13 ..... 2001  
WG Sword Bearer - Grand Lodge of Maryland ..... 11/15/2003  
Scottish Rite - KCCH Investiture ..... 11/23/2003  
RW Junior Grand Warden - Grand Lodge of Maryland ..... 11/18/2006  
Scottish Rite - Coroneted 33° - IGH ..... 8/28/2007  
Scottish Rite - Venerable Master, Albert Pike LOP ..... 2007  
Worshipful Master of Ancient Baltimore Lodge #234 ..... 1/17/2016  
Scottish Rite - General Director of Work ..... 2016-2023





## Excerpt from Grand Master Warren S. Seipp's Address at the Annual Communication—Tuesday, November 15th, 1927

### ...CONDITIONS IN THE PAST

few years have made such changes in our methods and modes of living, that I am fully convinced we should change our laws to meet them. For instance, I would strongly recommend a revision of the law concerning reinstatement after suspension for nonpayment of dues. I also believe that a time limit should be placed upon every member, beyond which, dues should not be allowed to accumulate. It is also strongly recommended that our own membership be required to show dues cards before being admitted into any Lodge, including their own. I sincerely trust this matter will be given serious consideration by the Grand Lodge....

...Extreme Care should be taken to safeguard our portals. No man should be argued into Masonry. Committees should be urged to do their duty and told how to conduct themselves



Warren Stitt Seipp  
Grand Master of Masons in Maryland  
1920-1930



when appointed. A real mason would never give tongue to an idle rumor without first verifying the truth of the statement, and in connection with our Fraternity, this one thing has caused no end of annoyance by the practice of certain individuals in trying to tell all that they knew. For he who tells all that he knows often tells more than he knows. Let your slogan be "Cooperation". Should anything occur with which you do not agree, it is the easiest thing in the world to check and find out the truth of the matter before casting it to the four winds of Heaven. (Editor's Note: Must have been interesting times).

Our criticisms should be for ourselves, our work should be for the Fraternity, and the results will be a coalescence that will result to the greater glory of God.

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31-Aug	Boston, Massachusetts	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
01-Sep	Portland, Maine	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
02-Sep	Saint John, NB (Bay of Fundy)	11:00 AM	
03-Sep	Saint John, NB (Bay of Fundy)		10:45 PM
04-Sep	Cruising		Cruising
05-Sep	Halifax, Nova Scotia	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
06-Sep	Cruising		Cruising
07-Sep	Cape Liberty, NJ (rv. Metro)	7:00 AM	

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Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland.  
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Sunday December 10th, 2023  
2:00pm until 5:00pm  
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**All donations for the Nativity and Train Garden go the Scottish Rite Charities.**

## 2023 Biennial Session of the Supreme Council, 33°

Monday, August 21st, 2023 | Washington, D.C.

*The Valley of Charles County, Orient of Maryland—Lodge of Perfection*



Representing the Valley was  
Illustrious William A. Zarychta,  
33° who together with the  
Sovereign Grand Inspector  
General in Maryland, the  
Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33°,  
received the Charter from  
the Sovereign Grand  
Commander James D. Cole, 33°  
at the session.

## The Making of a Mason “At Sight”

Brother Thomas J. Shryock, Grand Master of Masons in Maryland in 1897,  
exercised this prerogative and says:

“By virtue of the authority in me vested as your Grand Master, I convened an ‘Emergency Lodge,’ and made ‘at sight,’ His Excellency Lloyd Lowndes, Governor of Maryland, a Mason. An erroneous idea has arisen in the minds of many of the Fraternity as to the ceremony of making a Mason ‘at sight,’ and to erase this wrong, and perhaps damaging, impression, I deem it but proper to say that in the making of a Mason ‘at sight’ by

the Grand Master, the Candidate is required to pass through all the forms and ceremonies incident to the conferring of the three degrees, in the same manner that an applicant does in applying to a Subordinate Lodge. The impression of some, that the Grand Master, by virtue of his authority, touches a man on the shoulder and creates him a Mason, is entirely erroneous, and as I know that this impression does exist to a

certain extent, I think it proper to here state, so the Craft may understand it throughout our Jurisdiction, that such is not the case. The making of a Mason ‘at sight’ is one of the Landmarks of the Fraternity, the prerogative of the Grand Master, and I have on two occasions exercised that prerogative, as much for the purpose of not allowing it to become dormant as for any other reason.”

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Wallace W. Peters, 32°

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Thomas M. McCleaf, 32°

Joseph Gagliardi, Jr., 32°

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Charles F. Ramsay, Jr., 32°,  
KCCH

Louis C. Maisel, Jr., 32°

George T. Sura, 32°

Roy P. Elder, Jr., 32°

James E. Franklin, 32°





# 2023 Class Essays

## MASTER CRAFTSMAN ESSAY

I found it interesting that the number of degrees, their names and even their content has changed over time. Freemasonry appears to be an organization that values tradition. Many belief systems, both religious and secular, tend to canonize and revere their traditions and rituals such that they may ultimately become more important than the truths or ideals they were originally meant to symbolize. Often, adherents to a belief system are no longer aware of the origins and deeper meanings that their practices symbolize. Albert Pike’s wisdom can be seen in the preface to ‘Morals and Dogma’ where he expresses the Scottish Rite sense of the word ‘dogma’ as doctrine or teaching as opposed to the ‘odious’ sense that it has become in other systems. I found it interesting that Albert Pike sought in his revisions to the rituals to ‘to recover and restore the ethical and philosophical truths he believed the original framer of the degrees intended to teach’. Other belief systems may have

such an effort as threatening and destructive. My impression is that Freemasonry views symbols and rituals not as the terminal objective, but rather as aids in pointing us to hidden truths. With this in mind, I look forward to learning more about the Knight of the Sun Degree which the text describes as presenting “a lesson on the nature of the symbolism and teaches candidates how symbols work and how to use them”.

## MASTER CRAFTSMAN ESSAY

Sometimes, the beginning is not the best place to start a story. In the 32°, we learn not about the Royal Secret but are reminded of the 14°, where we learned the Lost Word. In the 18°, we learned the True Word. Throughout this educational process we have seen how the ancient history, religion, moral lessons, all presented as symbols, allegories, and parables were meant to teach us philosophy. The philosophies of making us better men and reminding us that this exercise is a never ending journey.

The philosophy also teaches us that we must continue to improve our relationship with our fellow men, no matter how we find them.....also a never ending process. The content of the Scottish Rite ritual I have found to be extremely enjoyable reading although I am not sure I “get it” is on the first reading. Getting back to the beginning. In the beginning, I was merely a Master Mason. I think of the “lesson” in the first section in the “Reception” of the 32°, wherein on p. 827 the author states, “.....Many are satisfied with Masonic Rites or Degrees that are but shadows and teach nothing of value”. That was me. I’m not sure why I decided to join the Scottish Rite, I’d like to think I wanted to learn more. This has been a great experience. I believe that another exercise is to practically apply what we have learned to daily life. I began to understand that when I observed all the work, effort and time the Scottish Rite Brothers exemplified by conferring the degrees to the candidates. All I can say is thank you to Brothers and I hope to do the same.

*The Ancient Practice of Magic continues from page 19*

understanding and connection to the mysterious and unseen forces that shape our lives.

## Footnotes:

1. Kings 6:7 (King James Version).
2. Stephen Skinner, *Techniques of Graeco-Egyptian Magic* (Singapore: Golden Hoard Press,

2014), 16.

3. See 18°, 24°, 27°, 30°, and the 32°
4. Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 68a-b

# Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 1st.....	Baltimore—18th & 20th .....	7pm
<b>Saturday, November 4th .....</b>	<b>Reunion Day (Baltimore).....</b>	<b>7am Coffee</b>
Sunday, November 5th .....	Baltimore—Ring Ceremony.....	2pm
<b>Wednesday, November 8th.....</b>	<b>Baltimore—Feast of Tishri.....</b>	<b>7pm</b>
Thursday, November 16th.....	Susquehanna—Ring Ceremony .....	7pm
<b>Thursday, November 16th.....</b>	<b>Frederick—Ring &amp; Capping .....</b>	<b>7:30p</b>
Sunday, December 10th.....	Baltimore—Christmas Party.....	2pm
<b>Sunday, January 7th .....</b>	<b>Baltimore—Installation .....</b>	<b>2pm</b>
Wednesday, January 10th.....	Charles County—Installation.....	7pm
<b>Thursday, January 18th .....</b>	<b>Susquehanna—Installation .....</b>	<b>7pm</b>

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------------------	-------------------	-----------------

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Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address) (City or Town) (State) (ZIP Code)

Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address) (City or Town) (State) (ZIP Code)

And I have resided at my current residence preceding date of this petition for \_\_\_\_\_ months/years.

Employed by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Firm or Gov't Agency) (Address) (Telephone Number)

My Occupation, position or trade is that of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please fully name of your duties. If retired, please indicate your former duties and employer.)

I am a Master Mason in good standing in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of \_\_\_\_\_  
(City or Town) (State)

Date Raised \_\_\_\_\_ If raised in a Maryland Lodge, have you passed exam in 3rd degree Catechism? \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

I attest that I have never applied for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees, and now respectfully petition to receive the Degrees, from the Fourth to the Thirty-Second inclusis promising always to bear true faith and allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.  
(Note: If applicant has previously applied for any of the degrees, explain fully as to date, place and to what bodies such application was made.)

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## The Master Mason Friend Who:

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

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

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

4. Enjoys viewing worthwhile drama, well presented;

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

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

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

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## VALLEYS OF MARYLAND

**Illustrious Marlin L. Mills, 33°**

*Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland*

### BALTIMORE VALLEY

*Meets on Wednesday 7:30 P.M.*

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

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

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

### CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

*Meets Third Friday 7:30 P.M.*

Masonic Temple  
710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646

**Hon. William A. Zarychta, 33°**  
*Personal Representative*

**Bro. Reginald J. Eda, 32°, KCCH**  
*Secretary, 301-910-1906*

### CUMBERLAND VALLEY

*Meets on Monday 7:30 P.M.*

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

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

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*Secretary, 301-910-1906*

### FREDERICK VALLEY

*Meets on Thursday 7:30 P.M.*

Masonic Temple  
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**Ill. Creed F. Parker, 33°, Personal Representative**

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### SALISBURY VALLEY

*Meets on Monday 7:30 P.M.*

Masonic Temple  
110 N. Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland 21801

**Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°, Personal Representative**

**Ill. Samuel Walker, 33°, Secretary, 410-742-6548**

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND VALLEY

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**Ill. Richard C. Miller, 33°**  
*Personal Representative*

**Ill. Alfred Girard, 33°, Secretary, 301-904-6468**

### SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

*Meets Third Thursday 7:00pm*

Masonic Temple  
20 Howard Street, Aberdeen, MD 21001

**Ill. Ralph L. Perry, 33°, Personal Representative**

**Bro. David E. Martak, Jr., 32°, KCCH**  
*Secretary, 443-686-0853*

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