

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | NOV/DEC/JAN 2024-25

# RITENEWS

*OF MARYLAND*





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

**Editor**  
Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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### A MESSAGE FROM

**Ill. Marlin L.  
Mills, 33°**



**MAY I WISH  
YOU ALL THE  
BLESSINGS OF  
GOOD HEALTH  
AND MUCH  
HAPPINESS.**

### DEAR FRIENDS AND BROTHERS;

I hope this issue of our Rite News finds you and your family well and enjoying the crisp days of fall. As I write this, I am reflecting upon the huge and very successful Lobsterfest. Thank you to all who attended and who donated to our silent auction and especially those who helped prepare the delicious meal. It could not have been accomplished without you. We are now preparing for our fall 2024 class and lodge meetings. Time sure has a way of slipping away... It is much like the hourglass... Now and then, you need to take it and turn it upside down for a fresh start!

This past summer was a very productive one, with painting and installing new announcement boards (donated by Illustrious Brother Morris Bolayer and Sharon). Repairing broken and leaking pipes is always a problem. One this summer cost us over \$8,000 to repair. However, it could have been much worse.

The petitions for the fall class, named in honor of Illustrious Brother Teddy R. Barkley, Jr. are starting to come in. The new QR code on the petitions now allows for online submission which saves our office staff time and makes it very easy for the candidate to submit a petition. If you know someone you would like to see in your Scottish Rite, why not show him one of the new petitions?

Each of our Valleys are receiving petitions, and things are shaping up for the fall 2024 reunion. I look forward to seeing you as I travel around the Orient of Maryland, and I wish to see as many of you in your Scottish Rite as possible. The degree work is being done very well. However, in some places, much help is still needed, so why not get involved, even if it is just to sit on the sideline? Work can be much better when there are people watching.

In closing, I would like to take this final space to wish each and every family a bountiful Thanksgiving and the very merriest of Christmases, remembering the great creator who made all things possible, and for another New Year in these great United States of America. Now, may I wish you all the Blessings of good health and much happiness.



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



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.

### SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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# Valley of Baltimore

BY: ILL. JASON Q. STANDISH, 33°—ORIENT SECRETARY—REGISTRAR



**A**S WE BEGIN another August heatwave, with temperatures expected to reach the upper nineties and heat index of 100°+, it is hard to imagine that as you read this, it will (or should be) crisp and cool and maybe even the beginning of winter weather, our Fall reunions will be completed, and

we will be looking forward to the upcoming holiday seasons and a new year.

To all the new Scottish Rite Masons across the state – Welcome! I encourage you to get involved, as you are able. From degree work and support staff to officer positions in the constituent bodies, there are numerous ways to be an active part. Come as a “sideliner” and get to know your Scottish Rite and find your place in it. I also recommend that you take the opportunity to visit the other Valleys around the state; the calendar of events at [www.mdscottishrite.org](http://www.mdscottishrite.org) is updated regularly.

In addition to Degree conferals and regular meetings there are numerous events available to you and your family. Here in the Valley of Baltimore, our annual Feast of Tishri Celebration and

Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 20th and our Chocolate Soiree and Christmas celebration will be on Sunday, December 15th at 2:00pm. For more information on these, or other events, check the details on the online calendar, or call the Scottish Rite Office at 410-243-3200 and we will be happy to help.

In January our Valleys will be installing new officers in their constituent bodies. To all of the outgoing Masters, I offer my sincerest thanks for the work you have done for our Scottish Rite. To the incoming Masters and officers, I extend my congratulations on your elections and appointments. I would like to close by wishing each of you, and your families, all the best for a safe, happy, and healthy New Year!

## MARYLAND “SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY” LICENSE PLATES

Available through the Baltimore Office for SR Masons and their spouses.

The office is open M-F from 9am to 4pm, call 410-243-3200, or email [aasr@verizon.net](mailto:aasr@verizon.net) and the forms will be mailed to you.

**Cost is \$30.00**

# The Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

BY: HON. DAVID A. ENTE, 32°, KCCH—VENERABLE MASTER



**A**S MY YEAR as Venerable Master comes to a close, I want to thank all the members of my line who have made this year so great. I have great faith in them, and I am confident the Lodge of Perfection will continue living up to its name. The fall session is underway, and it’s a great time to be at the Scottish Rite! I want to thank my speaker, Brother Christian Valenza for

traveling down from New Jersey with me to talk about the interesting topic of Military Lodges, showing me the distance a brother will go to help another. Thank you all for your help throughout the year, and I look forward to seeing you all at the Rite!







# Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: BRO. D. SCOTT WILSON, 32°, WISE MASTER



**A S THE FINAL MESSAGE** as the Wise Master of Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix draws to a close, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all those who supported and assisted both the Chapter and myself in helping make this a successful year. Many thanks to the Sovereign Grand Inspector General Marlin Mills, Most Worshipful Grand Master Illustrious Fred Spicer, and Illustrious Jason

Standish for all of their support which enabled not just the Rose Croix Chapter but all the bodies at the Scottish Rite to continue to labor.

As my time comes near the end, I wanted to make sure to reflect back on the year to take due notice of my particular experiences. It was a true honor to serve as Wise Master and to have completed my 8th year of service on the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix. The position of Wise Master of the Rose Croix Chapter has encouraged me to continue learning what the five degrees within it are all about. I believe that over the past year, the one thing that seemed to resonate in all of the degrees of the Rose Croix, is the continual passing on of our beliefs and pillars.

The five degrees of the Rose Croix are great examples of the gifts we can give to the future. We hold a bond to give charity

to the poor whether masonic or not, to visit the sick and give to them necessities, each according to our means. We, as Scottish Rite masons, have one of the best opportunities to help the present culture with that gift of others before self.

In closing, I would like to thank all those in the Chapter Line, both past and present, who have supported me throughout the year and done an outstanding job in their duties. I wish the best of luck to the new Wise Master, and hope that his year will be as successful for him as mine has been. I would also encourage all Scottish Rite Masons who have not been able, to look into furthering their experience at the Temple by joining one of the bodies and working towards becoming the head of it. It is one of the finest experiences offered at the Scottish Rite and helps us to better understand the journey through our Masonic Journey.



# The Maryland Council of Kadosh

BY: BRO. JONATHAN R. STRICKLER, 32°—COMMANDER



**A S I BEGAN** to ponder the topic of my last article as the Commander of Kadosh, it has become extremely difficult to produce the inspiration to provide a just message to this noble group. However, it was on this day that I was listening to motivational speeches that have been posted over the

course of time. At that moment, I came across the encouragement to write my last message on the Hope that I have for this Fraternity.

The message that I bring now comes from the speech that was delivered by Admiral William H. McRaven during a commencement at the University of Texas at Austin. This inspirational message has been so well received that it has since been written in a book titled, *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life... And Maybe the World*. It is within that book that we learn that "Hope is the most powerful force in the universe."

I realize that I am but one person. However, this Fraternity teaches us that

Hope will continue to move the world closer to the perfect place because each of us will meet so many people and each of us can change the lives of that person, who in turn, changes the lives of another. Daily, I attempt to improve the lives of others. Some days I fail, but most days, it is my hope that I improved the outlook of that one person. If we continue to keep that idea that Hope prevails, we will be a part of a greater good.

In closing, I would like to thank all those that have supported me in my endeavor this year. To my wife, Lisa, and my children, Katie and Mia, I appreciate and am grateful for all your love and devotion. I hope I have done all the service that they wish to see.







# Chesapeake Consistory

BY: HON. WILLIAM R. HOLDREN, III, 32°, KCCH—MASTER OF KADOSH



**GREETINGS BRETHREN!** I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. It's hard to believe that 2024 is almost over! The Lobsterfest was a hit once again, and now we look forward to the

Chocolate Soiree in December. More importantly though, we've all had the great honor to serve the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Baltimore.

As my term in the Chesapeake Consistory comes to an end, I wanted to thank you all for granting me the honor and privilege to serve you as the Venerable Master of Kadosh. It has been an amazing experience. I must also thank each of my Line Officers for their service to the Consistory this year: Hon. Gordon A. Munholland, 32°, KCCH, Prior; Hon. J. Bradley Thomas, 32°, KCCH, Preceptor; Hon. Frederick L. Smith, 32°, KCCH, Chancellor; Hon. David E.

Martak, Jr., 32°, KCCH, Minister of State; Hon. Stephen M. Forster, 32°, KCCH, Master of Ceremonies; Hon. John H. Austin, 32°, KCCH, Expert; Hon. Joseph Tunno, 32°, KCCH, Assistant Expert; Hon. Christian J. Miele, 32°, KCCH, Master of the Guard.

I would also like to congratulate and share my well wishes for the newly elected officers of the 2025 Chesapeake Consistory!

Remember that our degree teams are already preparing for Spring 2025. If you know someone who wants to be a Scottish Rite Mason, or a man who you think would be a great Scottish Rite Mason, petitions can be found on the website!

## Upcoming Events Winter 2024/2025

Saturday, November 2nd	Reunion Day (Baltimore)	7am Coffee
<b>Sunday, November 3rd</b>	<b>Baltimore – Ring Ceremony</b>	<b>2pm</b>
Sunday, November 10th	Cumberland – Feast of Tishri & Capping	2pm
<b>Wednesday, November 20th</b>	<b>Baltimore – Feast of Tishri</b>	<b>7pm</b>
Thursday, November 21st	Susquehanna – Ring Ceremony	7pm
<b>Thursday, November 21st</b>	<b>Frederick – Ring &amp; Capping</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
Sunday, December 15th	Baltimore – Christmas Party	2pm
<b>Sunday, January 5th</b>	<b>Cumberland – Installation</b>	<b>2pm</b>
Sunday, January 12th	Baltimore – Installation	2pm
<b>Wednesday, January 9th</b>	<b>Charles County – Installation</b>	<b>7pm</b>
Thursday, January 16th	Frederick – Installation	7pm
<b>Thursday, January 16th</b>	<b>Susquehanna – Installation</b>	<b>7pm</b>
Saturday, January 25th	Frederick – Robert Burns	5pm

## WHAT IS THE FEAST OF TISHRI?

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

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

Israelite to Jerusalem. The Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States has proclaimed the Feast of Tabernacles as the Feast Day of the Lodge of Perfection, the 15th day of Tishri, (October). As did the Israelites of old and the New England Pilgrims, Scottish Rite Freemasons gather to acknowledge the mercies which God has poured upon them with lavish hand. It is a time of rejoicing, yet a time to pay humble adoration to the Great Architect of the Universe, without whose aid there would be no harvest.

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

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

Date: Wednesday, November 20th, 2024  
Cost \$30.00 per person, children under 12 are free  
Please RSVP to the Office by Monday, November 15th, 2024  
410-243-3200



*Personal Representative to the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland  
Ill. Tommy J. Morris 33° and Lady Patty  
Cordially invite you to attend the*

## ***Annual Scottish Rite Frederick Valley Burns Night “A Red, Red Rose”***

**Saturday January 25th Two Thousand Twenty-Five at 5:00pm until...  
Frederick Masonic Temple, 6816 Blentlinger Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702**

*Join us for a full evening of live music and classic Burns night traditions which will make it  
the most Scottish experience you'll get this side of Hadrian's Wall.*



**The food:** Three courses of Burns Night classics with some fun additions, such as cock-a-leekie Soup. **The drink:** Nothing special, however bring a little Scotch for tasting to leave you spoilt for choice. **The fun:** Bagpipes, traditional haggis address and bill of toasts A full evening of classic Burns night traditions and live music. **Bonus event:** Whisky tasting: 25 January, 4:00pm  
Donations for Whisky Tasting: \$25 per person (Must be 21 years old or older)

**Attire:** Jackets and Tie, Kilts, Ladies dress/Kilts

**Cost:** Burns Supper Only \$55 per person, Families & Friends are invited

RSVP with Payment by 13 January 2025, no tickets will be sold at the Door.

RSVP to: Hon Don Vollmer (240) 439-1506, dovo51@yahoo.com

Make check payable to “KSA”, Mail to: Hon Don Vollmer, 3802 Cherry Lane, Jefferson, MD 21755  
email: dovo51@yahoo.com PayPal: dovo51@yahoo.com

## **Valley of Susquehanna**

**BY: ILL. WILLIAM T. IVEY, 33°—ASST. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**



appendant bodies of Maryland Masonry.

Our Valley has outgrown our current meeting lodge, Aberdeen 187. Due to this growth, we have requested, and been granted, permission to move to our new home lodge at Mt. Ararat #44 in Bel Air, Maryland. The generosity of the Aberdeen Lodge will not be forgotten. They graciously hosted us for over 6 years.

I want to take a moment to thank the officers, members, and trustees of Mt. Ararat Lodge for welcoming our Valley to your lodge. The hospitality has been very much appreciated. I would also like to congratulate all the officers of the Lodge of Perfection and Chapter of Rose Croix

on their wonderful work this year. The Degree Teams should also be recognized for their efforts. The degree work at our Valley would not be as successful without the work of all support members on the evenings when the degrees take place. I would like to highlight the great presentations our Valley's Knights of St. Andrew demonstrate at all meetings and functions. Collectively, all the groups make a great first impression on the new members. I look forward to the coming year with our new Venerable Master and Worshipful Master. I am in awe of the dedication and efforts that each member puts forth to make this organization a success and a true fraternity of men.

## **Grand Commander's Fellows' Conference**

**BY: BRO. KEVIN D. EDELMANN, 32°—VALLEY OF SUSQUEHANNA FELLOW**

**I T'S BEEN A WEEK** since attending the 2024 Grand Commander's Fellows conference, and as I reflect on that weekend, I can't help but think how honored I am to have been nominated to be part of such a prestigious program. The Grand Commander's Fellows program educates Brothers

about the Scottish Rite, the Supreme Council and issues facing the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction.

The conference took place at the House of the Temple in Washington DC. The first night started with a reception in the atrium, where we got to meet other Fellows and their wives

from around the Southern Jurisdiction as well as members of the Supreme Council including Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33°. After the reception, we were invited to the George Washington Banquet Hall for a delicious dinner.

*Continues on page 25*





## ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

### A Busy Summer at the Cumberland Scottish Rite

**SUMMERTIME IS A GREAT TIME FOR** members of the Cumberland Scottish Rite to reconnect with members, family, and friends outside of the formal business of the Valley. And the Summer of 2024 was bustling with events and activities. The season kicked off with great turnouts from Valley members at the Strawberry Night and the Kemp Lodge Annual Steak Feed in early June.

Late June saw members attending divine services together at Christ Lutheran Church in Lavale to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Baptist and honoring our ladies at Stonecroft Manor in Oakland at our Scottish Rite Summer Soiree.

The annual Cumberland Scottish Rite Family and Friends Picnic and Corn Roast in August continues to grow every year!

This year's event was bigger than ever with a large contingent of DeMolay members in attendance. Thanks to Jamie and Linda Summerfield for continuing to host this event at their beautiful home and to all those who attended. We hope even more of our members will plan to bring their family members and guests to take part in these fun Summertime events in 2025!



### Cumberland KSA Honored Clan

**THE CUMBERLAND KNIGHTS OF ST. Andrew** was recognized as the Honored Clan at the 36th Annual Garrett County Celtic Festival (GCCF) this Summer. The nonprofit GCCF saluted the Cumberland KSA Chapter for its active philanthropy on behalf of RiteCare and its support of local educational scholarships and other charitable initiatives. GCCF is a regular sponsor and partner of the Chapter's annual Robert Burns Night fundraiser for RiteCare. Officers and members of the Cumberland KSA Chapter led a parade of sixteen clans and presented the colors during the opening ceremony.

The GCCF celebrates the cultural heritage of Celtic peoples from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, and Galicia and their influence on Appalachia with a daylong festival by the bonnie banks of the Youghiogheny River



in the Town Park in Friendsville, Maryland. As part of the event, Valley of Cumberland Assistant Personal Representative and KSA Past Venerable Master Sam Lane gave a presentation to festival attendees on the history and purposes of the Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrew with particular attention to the charitable work of the Cumberland Chapter.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

##### 9th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt

November 2  
Location: Addison, PA

##### Cumberland Lodge of Perfection

November 4 at 7:30 pm

##### Feast of Tishri & Fall Capping

November 10 at 2:00 pm

##### Foundation Annual Meeting

November 18 at 7:30 pm

##### KSA Annual Communication & Festival of St. Andrew

November 25 at 5:30 pm

##### Cumberland Lodge of Perfection

December 2 at 7:30 pm

##### Scottish Rite Holiday Party

December 3 at 6:00 pm  
Location TBA





## ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

### Ackerman Participating in Scottish Rite Fellows Program

**BRO. CHRISTOPHER ACKERMAN, 32°** recently attended the Scottish Rite Grand Commander's Fellows' Workshop in Washington, DC. The Fellows Program was established by Past Sovereign Grand Commander C. Fred Kleinknecht, 33° as a way to expand education and communication within the Scottish Rite. In even-numbered years, the SGIG or Deputy of participating Orients designates one or more Fellows from his Orient based upon the member's perceived enthusiasm, dedication, and eagerness to support the Rite.

The biennial Fellows Workshop and other educational experiences and opportunities to interact with SGIGs and Deputies of the Supreme Council offer an exciting opportunity for Fellows to expand horizons, meet

new friends, and contribute to the success of our Rite. Further, this program is intended to develop and expand the network of Fellows as a resource to assist Valleys in meeting challenges and to provide useful perspectives to the Grand Commander and Supreme Council from Valleys across the Southern Jurisdiction.

For many, the Fellows experience can be an important step toward the development of their future potential as leaders in Scottish Rite and beyond. Current SGIGs have been Fellows, as have Past Grand Masters, Personal Representatives, Valley Secretaries, and other vital officers and leaders. Bro. Ackerman is currently serving as Commander of the Cumberland Council of Kadosh and as Master



Bro. Christopher Ackerman, 32° and his wife, Kelly, at the House of the Temple.

of Kadosh in the cast for the Valley's 32nd Degree Conferral team. He is an active member and officer of Potomac Lodge No. 100 and is involved in various other Masonic and community activities.

### Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew to Host 3rd Annual Festival of St. Andrew

**THE CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF THE** Knights of St. Andrew will host its 3rd 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 25 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. 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 [cumberland-scottishrite.org](http://cumberland-scottishrite.org) or to Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield by email at [info@cumberlandscottishrite.org](mailto:info@cumberlandscottishrite.org) or phone at 301-729-2491.

### RiteCare Clinic Receives Gift of Educational Toys

**VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND** member Joe Kennedy and his wife Marsha recently donated a Toniebox Audio Player Bundle to the Valley's RiteCare clinical partner, The Children's League, for use in its four regional speech clinics. The Toniebox is a screen-free portable audio player that allows children to play audiobooks, songs, and stories by placing one of more than 200 available Tonie characters on top of the box. When the character is in place (there's a magnet that guides it into the correct spot) it will play the pre-recorded content on the Tonie. By playing with these fun Tonies and exploring their imaginations rather than screens, children expand their vocabulary through songs and stories taught by superheroes, princesses, and more.

Children's League Executive Director Cathy Growden expressed her appreciation for the donation that will benefit children receiving speech therapy, "The donation of a Tonies Starter Set from Marsha and Joe Kennedy enhances the RiteCare Speech Clinic and provides a unique way for our speech therapy children to learn and to build speech and reading skills."

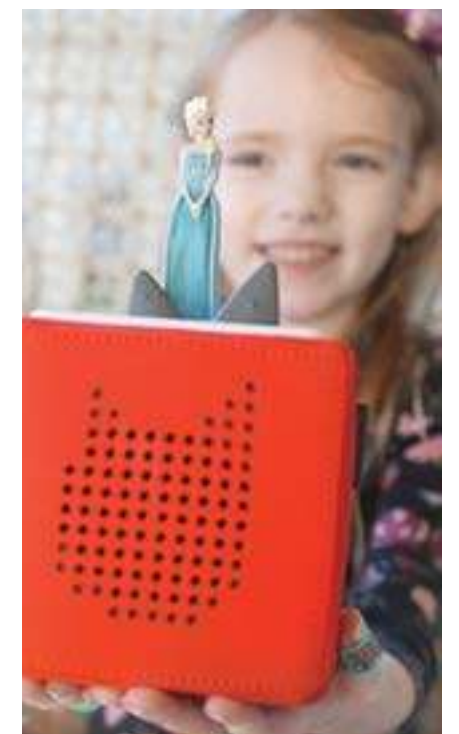
Angela Mandell, RiteCare Speech Pathologist at the



L to R: Michael Kamauff, James Summerfield, Marsha Kennedy, RiteCare Therapist Angela Mandell, Joe Kennedy, and Jamey Hill with TonieBox Audio Player Bundle.

Cumberland clinic, added, "Tonies are good for imagination building and screen-free play."

The Children's League would welcome donations of additional Tonies to add to their collection! Individual Tonies and Bundles are available for purchase at [us.tonies.com](http://us.tonies.com) and other retailers. For more information, contact Valley of Cumberland Secretary Robin Summerfield at [info@cumberlandscottishrite.org](mailto:info@cumberlandscottishrite.org). of Kadosh in the cast for the Valley's 32nd Degree Conferral team. He is an active member and officer of Potomac Lodge No. 100 and is involved in various other Masonic and community activities.







## Annual Maine Lobster Fest







## Valley of Salisbury Capping & Ring Ceremony Spring 2024



*Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland  
Ill. Marlin L. Mills 33° and Lady Brenda  
Cordially Invite you to join us for the*

## *Annual Scottish Rite Christmas Soirée “A Winter Wonderland”*

*Sunday December 15th, 2024  
2:00pm until 5:00pm  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
3800 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218*



*Featuring Christmas Music, a walk-through Bethlehem, Nativity, a Train Garden*

*Silky, smooth, delicious and decadent chocolates...  
Wine, Hot Chocolate bar, Chocolate Fountain, cookies and other tasty treats  
By Illustrious Tommy Morris, 33° & Lady Patty*

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

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





## Grand Commander's Fellows' Conference

BY: BRO. CHRIS D. ACKERMAN, 32°— VALLEY OF CUMBERLAND FELLOW

**H**EADING TO WASHINGTON D.C., I continued to ask myself and reflect about searching for more light. Being a Freemason has always been a goal of mine, as I was seeking something larger than self. The Scottish Rite exemplified my aspirations – but still, how do I seek *more* light? Becoming a Grand Commander's Fellow was not only a sparkle of light – but a metaphoric baseball stadium-sized flood light. I had the unique opportunity to converse, break bread and network with a community of brothers that became much more, a *family*. Not to mention, spending the weekend at the



House of the Temple is absolutely stunning. The conference was more than just finding light, but learning how to transmit the light I've obtained and



shine for others. It truly became something that I will cherish and remember throughout my Masonic journey.

## Grand Commander's Fellows' Conference 2024

BY: BRO. DAVID CLINE, 32° - VALLEY OF FREDERICK FELLOW

**I**N AUGUST 2024, I attended the Grand Commander's Fellows Class at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. Unsure of what to expect, I left with an unforgettable experience.

The summit began on Friday with a welcome reception, where I met Scottish

Rite Masons from around the world, including Minnesota, California, Alabama, and Taiwan. Among the 125 fellows present, all were under 45, with most in their 30's and 40's.

Saturday featured multiple talks from various U.S. presenters. Grand Commander James D. Cole opened with remarks,

followed by S.G.I.G. Len Proden, who emphasized leadership and taking initiative. S.G.I.G. Billy Sloan discussed strategies for engaging, retaining, and developing valuable members of the Scottish Rite. Admiral Sizemore, 33° explained how the Grand

*Continues on page 25*

## Eyes to See and Ears to Hear—The See of Charleston

BY: HON. CHARLES J. MATULEWICZ, IV, 32°, KCCH

**M**Y BROTHERS, as we resume labor at the Scottish Rite, we have an opportunity to see our Craft through a fresh set of eyes. Each meeting and degree conferral, you will hear the 'See of Charleston' referenced. But what exactly is the See of Charleston, and why does it matter to us as Scottish Rite Masons?

In the rich tapestry of Masonic history, the founding of the Scottish Rite stands as a cornerstone—a moment shaped by the vision and commitment of a few Brothers who sought to deepen and enrich the Masonic experience. On May 31, 1801, in Charleston, South Carolina, eleven dedicated men, led by John Mitchell and Frederick Dalcho, gathered to establish what would become the Supreme Council, 33°, Southern Jurisdiction. This was not merely the birth of an organization; it marked the dawn of a new era in Freemasonry, one that would extend its reach far beyond the confines of the Blue Lodge.

These Brothers, whose names now echo through the halls of our tradition, were not simply participants in a historical moment; they were architects of a future that would

expand the boundaries of our Craft. Charleston, more than just a meeting place, became the cradle for a new Masonic body—a beacon that would light the way for countless Masons in their quest for knowledge and spiritual growth. But why Charleston? What did this city possess that warranted such a monumental decision?

Charleston was a city alive with culture and commerce, a place where old-world traditions met new-world ideals. It was here, amid this fertile ground, that the early Masonic degrees found a foothold and began to flourish. The city's unique blend of intellectual fervor, spiritual exploration, and vibrant fellowship made it the perfect setting for what would become the "Mother Council of the World."

Choosing Charleston as the seat of the Supreme Council was not merely a matter of convenience. It was a deliberate decision, recognizing the city's symbolic and practical importance. As a bustling port and crossroads of ideas, Charleston was ideally positioned to nurture the growth of the Scottish Rite. Here, new philosophies could be exchanged and adopted, laying a foundation upon

which the Rite could expand across continents.

In Masonic terms, the "See" refers to a seat of authority, a central location from which leadership exercises its jurisdiction—a headquarters of sorts but also a spiritual home. Thus, when we speak of the "See of Charleston," we are referring to the birthplace of the Scottish Rite's Southern Jurisdiction, the spot where our Supreme Council was first constituted. It represents more than just a geographic location; it is a touchstone, a reminder of our origins and the values that the founding Brothers hoped to impart—a commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, enlightenment, and brotherhood.

Even after the Supreme Council moved its administrative headquarters to Washington, D.C., Charleston remained our symbolic "See." It was in this city that the principles of Freemasonry were expanded, deepened, and organized into the 33-degree system that we recognize today. Charleston continues to be a source of continuity and connection, anchoring the Scottish Rite to its founding principles while encouraging us, its modern stewards, to continue the work

*Continues on page 26*





## Grand Lodge 2024







# Brockman Scholarships—Valley of Baltimore

BY: HON. CHARLES F. REID, III, 32°, KCCH

**T**HIS PAST MAY, the Education Committee of the Maryland Scottish Rite met and conducted interviews of the finalists for this year's John W. Brockman Fellowship awards. Each candidate was a graduate student who was completing the first year of their graduate program at a Maryland university leading to a Master's Degree in Speech/Language Pathology.

The recipients of the Brockman Fellowship awards for the 2024-2025 school year were:

- Alyssa Alagon  
Towson University
- Kayla Belzner  
Towson University
- Amy Gionfriddo  
University of Maryland
- Amanda Jackson  
Loyola University

It was obvious to the Committee that each award recipient was an excellent student and showed great potential to be an outstanding professional in the field of speech and language pathology.

The Brockman Fellowships are part of a two-pronged approach the Scottish Rite takes in helping children and adults (such as those individuals who have suffered a stroke and need clinical



Brockman Fellowship awardees pictured clockwise from top left: Alyssa Alagon, Kayla Belzner, Amy Gionfriddo, and Amanda Jackson.

assistance to regain verbal skills) with speech and language problems. Brockman Fellows receive training that should enable them to help children and adults for the long term. In the short term, we provide direct support to children and adults in need of speech and language pathology service by providing

space in our Baltimore Scottish Rite Temple for a speech and language clinic.

# Still Waters Run Deep

BY: BRO. ANTHONY J. GLASS, 32°— KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE VALLEY OF BALTIMORE KSA

**S**cottish Rite Masonry is an excellent example of the sheer volume of information made available to each of us, most of which is directly practicable if we have the ears to hear. Exploring the multitude of topics can and will provide opportunities for study for the rest of this lifetime, and sometimes one may find himself wondering where to explore next. What is the most meaningful? What is the most applicable in daily life? Does this phrase mean what I think it means? Certainly, there is no single correct answer that fits each of us, yet always remember my Brothers: "seek and ye shall find". Luckily for us, we don't need to search for too long as the very first degree of this Rite yields great returns.

Stillness. Calmness. Silence. Tranquility. These qualities were so important to the ancients that they were personified as Ἡσυχία (Hesychia). She was the daughter of Δίκη (Dike), the

Greek goddess of Justice. The discovery of the Prisse Papyrus, written circa 2100 AL, revealed that the skillful use of silence was extolled by a vizier known as Kagemni; the weight of this wisdom coming from the direct subordinate to the Pharaoh should not be taken lightly. This papyrus is considered – but not proven – to originate in the Old Kingdom circa 1700 AL.

It is interesting to see the concepts expressed by the ancients articulated in our degree work, with profound wisdom of ages long past presented right up front in the initial lessons. Are we not encouraged to keep emotions in check from the very beginning of our Masonic career? Travel back to the moment you began this appendant journey and recall what you were exposed to in the first Scottish Rite degree. In what posture were the candidate's hands placed? What, then, was placed in his hand? Consider the

tranquil gravity of the Fourth degree, why this serves as the foundation for the remainder of your journey and why this lesson serves to prepare you for service to Brethren and to the community at large.

Masters of the Royal Secret have climbed a mountain of philosophy, yet it serves us to always have one foot at base-camp. To always remember that silence has a profoundly positive effect on prudence and temperance, it bolsters fortitude, and it allows justice to speak more clearly. Each of us have valid reasons why different degrees speak to us and which lesson most helps us to polish another rough corner off our ashlar. If you haven't seen the Fourth degree in a while, come and see the excellent degree work conducted in our Valleys. Maybe, just maybe, your ears may hear something that you need to hear at this point in your life.

**Grand Commander's Fellow's**  
*Continues from page 20*  
Commander's team supports the Valleys and outlined available resources. After lunch, Dean Alban, 33° and Daniel W. Robinson, 33° spoke on engagement tools like the Master Craftsman Program, Scottish Rite Research Society, Tyler's Place Podcast,

Monday Morning Masonry, and the Scottish Rite YouTube Channel. The Grand Commander then closed the afternoon by providing a biennial update and addressing questions on finances, reconciliation, and his role in the worldwide body of the Supreme Council.

As a younger 32° Mason,

witnessing the Scottish Rite's commitment to engagement and passion was inspiring. The summit made it clear that the organization is actively investing in its young leaders as it plans for the future. This experience reinforced the enduring relevance and forward-looking vision of Scottish Rite Masonry.





## BALTIMORE REUNION DAY SCHEDULE\*



### *In Memory of* **Ill. Teddy R. Barkley, 33°** *November 2nd, 2024*

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*

## Knights of St. Andrew—Valley of Baltimore

BY: ANTHONY J. GLASS, 32°— KNIGHT COMMANDER



**T**HE BALTIMORE CHAPTER of the Knights of St. Andrew has been hard at work and our numbers are growing. During this past Reunion Day we were honored to make five more Knights; as they had proven their drive and dedication throughout their time as Squires, we were proud to unanimously nominate each of them to be full voting members. Earlier in the year we voted to accept updated Bylaws and color guard variants, which allow us to provide each

Knight with unique opportunities to support the Valley and help the Chapter establish long term planning. This Fall we will be voting on next year's officer line and will again stand ready to provide presentation of the Flags, escort duty, assist in guiding our new class members as they begin their journey in the Scottish Rite, and complete ad hoc tasks. *Labore est orare*, and we have fun too.

Do you feel a call to stand to our muster? Any 32nd degree Mason can join the Knights of St. Andrew: we have Chapters in the Valleys of Baltimore, Cumberland, Frederick, and Susquehanna that would greatly appreciate your dedicated service. You can speak to any Knight at your next meeting or complete an application found online at [mdscottishrite.org/knights-of-st-andrew/](https://mdscottishrite.org/knights-of-st-andrew/). Our yoke is light, and the value you can provide is tremendous. Additionally, the regalia are quite fun.

Please know that there are other ways to support the efforts of the Rite as well. Our Brothers in robing, staging and props, lighting, prompting, parking, the kitchens, and the Almoners could use your helping hands. This list is not exhaustive, so consider your interests and reach out.

Perhaps you are reading this but have not attended your Valley's meetings or degree work in a while. It would be great to catch up with you over a meal, share thoughts on the engaging speaker presentations, and watch the excellent degree work together. The Christmas Chocolate Soiree is good fun and always a hit with the family, so save the date of December 15th and send a note to the Office in Baltimore to reserve your tickets.

We thank the leadership of the Orient of Maryland for their support and look forward to an excellent Fall session.

### ***The See of Charleston***

*Continues from page 21*

begun by those visionary Masons over two centuries ago.

Charleston stands as a testament to what we can achieve

when we come together, united by shared values and a commitment to strengthening our Craft. The "See of Charleston" is more than a historical reference; it is a call to action. It encourages every Brother to honor the past,

engage actively in the present, and build a future that upholds the values and ideals that have guided the Scottish Rite since its inception.

As we look forward, let us remember that the story of the

Scottish Rite is not just about the past but a continuous journey of growth and enlightenment—a journey that began in Charleston and one that we, as Scottish Rite Masons, are privileged to continue. By embrac-

ing this journey, we ensure the vitality of our Craft for generations to come, honoring the legacy of those who came before and leaving a lasting imprint for those who follow. My Brothers visit the Scottish Rite, visit your

Blue Lodge and as you come out to the Rite, listen for references to the See of Charleston. I hope to see you in the classroom.





# Recent Charitable Contributions

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**IN MEMORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS**  
In Memory of Bernard S. Brown, Jr.  
by Jason and Lisa Standish  
In Memory of Reginald A. Traband  
by Jason and Lisa Standish

## Brothers Called From Labor To Eternal Rest

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Steven W. Walls, 32° , KCCH  
John W. True, 32°  
Bernard Letcher, 32°

## Grand Commander's Fellow's Continues from page 11

We finished off the evening with a wonderful tour of the House of the Temple.  
The next day started with breakfast and opening remarks from Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33°. Illustrious Brother Cole's message encouraged us to be enlightened, to learn more about the Scottish Rite and to help educate others. We then learned from a series of presenters about topics including Leadership, Membership, the Operations at the Temple, Membership Services and what the amazing staff is doing for our organization. One of the most important messages I took from these presentations was to get involved. Don't sit and wait, be bold. If you see a need, step up and help. Leadership is about love and devotion, taking care of the people around us.  
To continue this amazing organization, we need new members. This starts in the Blue Lodges by asking our Brothers, and by getting them involved and keeping them engaged. We then finished our education with a Biennium Update and Town Hall with our Grand Commander James D. Cole 33°. After our presentations, the Grand Commander had an amazing surprise for us that was awe inspiring and reflective. I won't ruin the surprise for any future Fellows, but this was an experience I will always remember.

That evening we all met back at the House of the Temple with our wives/significant others for a spectacular formal dinner. I can't thank the Grand Commander and his staff enough for such a wonderful and enlightening weekend.  
The best part of this weekend was getting to meet all the other Fellows from around the Southern Jurisdiction. I met amazing Brothers from Florida to Hawaii and every state in between. I even got to meet some great Brothers from Maryland that I hope to see again. The friendships we made this weekend will last a lifetime and the network of Brothers will give us the resources we need to be a successful Grand Commanders Fellow.







# Maryland DeMolay

BY: HON. CARL A. MICHEL, JR., 32°, KCCH—EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**M**ARYLAND DEMOLAY is off to a great start with our new term and a new set of State Officers. At our annual Conclave in July, we elected and installed a new State Master Councilor, Brother Ethan Shoemaker, and Deputy State Master Councilor, Brother Gabe Castro, as well as a full core of State Officers. Conclave was a great weekend filled with lots of fun, brotherhood, water she-nanigans, and some business. We also welcomed some new members into our Order. Our most recent Jr. Past State Master Councilor, Brother Matthew McKay and SMC Brother Ethan Shoemaker worked hard to plan such a successful Conclave. At our Conclave, we were honored to have the State Master Councilors of Delaware and Virginia, and the Deputy State Master Councilor of Virginia in attendance, as well as many other dignitaries from various Masonic organizations throughout our area.

Summer continued into August, where we sent nine of our Maryland DeMolays to Pennsylvania DeMolay's Keyman University for a week-long leadership conference. We had a great mix of Jurisdiction Officers and Chapter Officers there to learn leadership skills to bring back to the Maryland Jurisdiction and their Chapters, as well as



networking with DeMolays from nine other States and Canada. At the end of August, we hosted an entertaining End of Summer Membership Madness Blast at Dave & Buster's where we shared DeMolay with some potential new members while having a lot of fun playing games with our Brothers.

In September, we will be well represented at the DeMolay

Mid-Atlantic Tournament of Champions Ritual Competition in Pennsylvania. Later in September, Maryland DeMolay will be sending the State Master Councilor, Deputy State Master Councilor, and two adult Advisors to the DeMolay International Region 1 and 2 Super Regionals Leadership Conference in Connecticut.

Early in October, we will be



hosting our annual Maryland DeMolay Honors and Awards Day where we celebrate and honor those in our ranks who have achieved great things within our Order.

Many of our Chapters have been having various fun events to help share DeMolay with friends and new members, like the second annual water war at Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Chapter, the DeMolympics at Nelson J. Briggs Chapter, an ice cream social at Frederick Chapter, and an annual kickball

game at Cumberland Chapter which also included the Louis G. Lower Squire Manor. We are also well into a new membership campaign put out by DeMolay International called Membership Madness, fashioned after the March Madness basketball tournament. Many of our Chapters have qualified in Q1 of Membership Madness and will be moving on to the next level of this membership challenge. We are always looking for young men to join our amazing organization. It's not often that you can find

an organization that has been around for more than 100 years and still continues to thrive while teaching timeless values, character building, leadership, and helps one to forge lifelong friendships and brotherhood, especially in these troubling times. We are very grateful for all of the sponsoring bodies and other Masonic groups that have supported us in the past, and continue to offer their support into the future so that we can continue to share DeMolay and do what we love.



## 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. Frederick Spicer, 33°**, GC—Executive Director

**Ill. Jason Q. Standish, 33°**—Secretary/Registrar,  
410-243-3200

### **CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY**

#### **MEETS THIRD FRIDAY 7:30 P.M.**

Masonic Temple  
710 Lodge Street, La Plata, MD 20646

**Ill. William A. Zarychta, 33°**—Personal  
Representative

**Hon. 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

**Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°**—Secretary,  
301-910-1906

### **FREDERICK VALLEY**

#### **MEETS ON THURSDAY 7:30 P.M.**

Masonic Temple  
6816 Blentlinger Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702

**Ill. Tommy J. Morris, 33°**—Personal Representative

**Ill. Scott Cameron, 33°**—Secretary, 301-846-0406

### **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

**Hon. Edward A. Welch, 32°**, KCCH—Secretary,  
443-235-6758

### **SOUTHERN MARYLAND VALLEY**

#### **MEETS ON WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M.**

Masonic Temple  
24410 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood,  
Maryland 20636

**Ill. John W. LeRoy, Sr., 33°**—Personal Representative

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

### **SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY**

#### **MEETS THIRD THURSDAY 7:00PM**

Masonic Temple  
136 E Gordon Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

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

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

[www.susquehannasr.org](http://www.susquehannasr.org)