

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | FEB/MAR/APR 2026

RITE NEWS

OF MARYLAND

**“Contemplate the great
mysteries of God”**





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*Original oil painting by Br. Robert
H. White, 32°, from the Hall of
Scottish Rite Regalia, House of
the Temple, Washington, D.C.
Courtesy of the Supreme Council,
33°, S.J., U.S.A.*



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

Editor
Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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A MESSAGE FROM

Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



I WISH EVERYONE
THE BLESSINGS
OF GOOD HEALTH
AND MUCH
HAPPINESS TILL
WE MEET AGAIN.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL!

I hope this issue of the Rite News finds everyone well and their new year off to a great start. We finished 2025 spectacularly.

First, I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to our newest Scottish Rite Masons from the Honorable J. Frederick Hobine, 33° Fall Class. There are over 160 men who come together to make a successful reunion and present twelve degrees. If I have not personally said thank you to each one of you, please know that you are very much appreciated by all.

The Christmas Chocolate Soirée was another big hit with everyone. The visit by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus was enjoyed by the young and old alike. The Frederick Knights of Saint Andrew Ladies Auxiliary deserves a huge thank you for the many hours they put into making the chocolate and the arrangements for the Christmas program.

The new year has started with many new ideas and activities. A one-day class will be offered in March to those who have difficulty attending every Wednesday night for six or eight weeks in a row. Although I am not a big fan of a one-day class, I do realize there are many who work evenings or swing shifts (for example, our policemen, firemen, doctors, and nurses) and cannot attend a long reunion schedule. If you or a friend fits this situation, now is your opportunity to become a 32° Scottish Rite mem-

ber. You will find more information elsewhere in this magazine.

As we move deeper into 2026, let us all remember that this is the 250th anniversary of this great nation. Just think, 250 years of American independence all began with a sheet of parchment and 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Our Grand Commander, James D. Cole, has asked every valley in every Orient to get involved in this historic celebration.

This presents a golden opportunity for our Scottish Rite to reemphasize the important role that freemasonry has played in our country's history. It is my wish that every valley in the Orient of Maryland will get involved with their community and play an active role in celebrating this important milestone in the history of this great nation. I encourage every Scottish Rite Mason to join in this most historic celebration with a new, renewed love of country that will raise our nation and our gentle fraternity to new heights for years to come.

In closing, I wish everyone the Blessings of good health and much happiness till we meet again.



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. JOHN W. BRODBECK, JR., 33°—PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



I HOPE THIS MESSAGE finds you all healthy and well. It's hard to believe next week will be Thanksgiving. As I look out the window, cool weather and leaves are falling to the ground. I hope you were able to take the time to spend with your families in enjoyment of the holidays together.

We have just finished our Fall Class in honor of Illustrious Brother J. Frederick Hobine, 33°. Reunion Day was well attended. I wish to congratulate our newest Scottish Rite members and

welcome them back to see the degrees again and think of the lessons learned. Come back and be part of one of the degrees. Work behind the scenes.

To our degree masters, cast, behind the scenes teams in robing, lighting, sound, kitchen and property room; I thank you! I can't thank you enough for taking time out of your busy schedules to come to practices and degrees to make our Fall Class successful.

We are about finished for the year; we have our Feast of Tishri and then our Chocolate Soirée to finish the year and what a great year it's been here at our Temple.

As we start to prepare for our one-day spring class in honor of the late Ill. Wm. Raymond Bosley, Jr., 33°, we understand that coming out several Wednesday nights in a row is difficult so we will have a one-day class! Orientation will be March 11, 2026, and the Reunion Day will be March 21, 2026.

Please talk with your friends and brothers that are Master Masons of your lodges. Talk with them of your experience at the Scottish Rite and what types of programs we have here.

We also have a very special year coming up. Next year we will celebrate our 250th year of independence for our great country. Our Scottish Rite Valleys will be having some type of special celebration commemorating this great achievement in our history. Please get involved with your valley to make this a great day!

Scottish Rite Brothers – come out to your Temple and see the work that is going on here. If you can get involved with what we do here, you will make our good masons better men with the lessons from our degrees.

I'll close with these words to reflect on; **“Masonry is here for you—what you put into it; you will get that much more out of it.”**

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 and the forms will be mailed to you.

Cost is \$40.00



The Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

BY: HON. EARLE D. BENSON, 32°, KCCH—VENERABLE MASTER



BRETHREN, I am humbled and honored to serve as Venerable Master of our Lodge of Perfection for 2026. When I joined the Scottish Rite in 2016, sitting in this chair was the furthest thing from my mind. Yet as the years passed, I found myself reflecting on the many Venerable Masters who sat here before me—several of

whom were Brothers from my home lodge. Their example inspires me, and it is a privilege to follow in their footsteps.

Before I petitioned the Scottish Rite, Brothers from my lodge encouraged me in the familiar ways we all hear:

“You should join—you’ll get a lot out of it.”

“After every degree, you get a hot meal and a Klondike Bar.” And of course: “Remember, Earle... there’s always further light in Masonry.”

But the moment that truly sealed it for me happened while sitting with a group of Brothers in tuxes, laughing and talking, when one of them said, “Earle, all of us here are Scottish Rite Masons.” There was something powerful in that simple statement. It reminded me that the Scottish Rite isn’t only about

seeking further light—it’s about finding real camaraderie among those you call your Brother.

That spirit is woven through the 4th through the 14th degrees. These degrees remind us that we do not grow in Masonry alone. The 4° teaches that the search for Light begins with a choice, strengthened by the support of our Brethren. The degrees that follow call us to labor faithfully together and to practice duty, integrity, loyalty, and justice with mercy. By the time we reach the 14°, we discover that the real “treasure” of Masonry is not hidden—it is found in the unity, wisdom, and friendship we build side by side.

Brethren, thank you for your trust, your support, and your Brotherhood. I look forward to serving you in the year ahead.



Lino, Clarrissa & Jessie—Singers



Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: ILL. RICHARD E. THURFIELD, JR., 33°—WISE MASTER



IN OUR BLUE LODGE DEGREES, our lessons are practical, moral, and philosophical. These degrees focus on specific and actionable lessons towards self-improvement. The Lodge of Perfection degrees continue these kinds of lessons, with focus on duty, character and justice.

Taken together, I look at those

first fourteen degrees as lessons of the *square*. The square is fixed at a right angle and does not change. The lessons it provides are similar. They do not change over the course of our lives.

Right is right, wrong is wrong, and we can use the lessons of the square to draw specific straight lines for ourselves. These lessons are not subjective. They simply are exactly as they appear.

The Chapter Rose Croix, however, is different. The four degrees bring us lessons of the compasses. The points of the compasses expand and contract giving us circles and shapes of various sizes. Using the compasses is an art, not a science. The way they are applied is subjective. So too, the lessons of the Chapter Rose Croix provide us with deeper philosophical and spiritual lessons that

can be interpreted and applied differently by each of us. No two men will take away the same lesson from any of the four Rose Croix degrees. Applying these lessons in our lives is an art, not a science. These degrees cause us to ask questions of ourselves that only we can answer and there is often no right or wrong.

I hope as the Wise Master this year, you and I can, as Brothers, discuss the questions these degrees cause us to ask and share our answers so that we might learn as much from each other as we do from the degrees themselves.

I thank you for your confidence and support in electing me to serve as Wise Master of the Meredith Chapter, and I look forward to a year of growth and enjoyment with you as Knights of the Rose Cross.



At the Rite Cheer Thanksgiving Lunch, Ill. John S. English, 33° received his certificate for completing the Master Craftsman Ritual & History Course.

ONE-DAY CLASS SCHEDULE

MARCH 21ST, 2026

In Memory of Illustrious Wm. Raymond Bosley, Jr., 33° – RWPGT

(Timeline Subject to Adjustments)

6:30am – Coffee & Donuts

7:15am – Class Check-In

8:00am – Opening Ceremonies

4th degree – Secret Master: Your first steps into our sanctuary are duty, reflection and study. They teach us to honor those relationships to God, family, country, Masonry. The apron is white and black, with a letter “Z” and all-seeing eye. The jewel is an ivory key with the letter “Z” on the wards. The lessons of the 4° are secrecy, obedience, and fidelity.

14th degree – Perfect Elu (Grand Elect, Perfect and Sublime Mason): In this degree, we learn to reflect and look into ourselves. We should strive to be true to ourselves and our God. The apron is white silk, bordered in gold, with the Ineffable Delta in the Center. The jewel is a quadrant (compass open to ninety degrees) topped by a crown, and with a nine-pointed star on the obverse, and a five-pointed blazing star (with the Tetragrammaton) on the reverse. The compass is opened on a segment of a circle, inscribed with the numbers 3, 5, 7, 9.

18th degree – Knight Rose Croix: This degree teaches that life and its strengths come from God. The rose signifies the dawn and the cross is a sacred symbol of antiquity in many cultures. To be tolerant of others’ errors and faults. The apron is of white leather or satin, bordered in red, with a skull and cross-bones, a red passion cross, and three red rosettes. The grand jewel is a gold compass open on a quarter circle. A rose-cross is between the legs

of the compass, and under it is a pelican, tearing its breast to feed its seven young, on the obverse, and an eagle with wings extended, on the reverse. On the circle are the letters I.N.R.I.

11:45am – Class Photo

12 noon – Lunch @ \$5.00 per person, no cost for candidates

12:45pm – Reconvene in auditorium

30th degree – Knight of Kadosh, or Knight of the White and Black Eagle: The lesson of this degree is to be true to ourselves, to stand for what is right and just in our lives today. To believe in God, country and ourselves. There is no apron, but the jewel is a gold Teutonic cross, enameled in red, with the letters J.’.B.’.M.’. on the obverse, and a skull transpierced by a poniard on the reverse.

32nd degree – Master of the Royal Secret: The lessons of this degree are that “genuine brotherhood requires mutual regard, opinion, esteem and charity”. We always look for the good in all, and make allowances for other’s shortcomings. We trust the Supreme Architect to lead us to friendship, morality and brotherly love. The apron is white, lined in black, with a double-headed eagle and a plan of the Camp of the Princes. The jewel is a golden Teutonic cross, with a double-headed white and black eagle in the center.

3:45pm – Closing Ceremonies

Petition for the Class on Page 31



Maryland Council of Kadosh

BY: HON. ROY L. RAFTER, JR., 32°, KCCH—COMMANDER



GREETINGS, BRETHREN. It is with the utmost gratitude that I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you, and to the Scottish Rite, Baltimore Valley, for granting me the honor of serving as Commander of the Council of Kadosh for the ensuing term. As I considered the subject for my first article, I was reminded of a passage from the Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide that has long inspired reflection.

Within the philosophical and chivalric degrees of the Council

of Kadosh—specifically the 26°, Prince of Mercy—we are guided to contemplate the great mysteries of God: mysteries that surround us daily and yet elude even the greatest minds. How is it that seeds, nearly indistinguishable in appearance, when planted in the earth and nourished by rain, spring forth into such diverse forms—one becoming a mighty oak, another a fruit-bearing tree, another a fragrant flower? From colorless air and brown soil arise shades of green, the vivid beauty of a rose, the delicacy of a carnation, and the rich hues of apples and oranges. By what process do such wonders emerge from a tiny seed?

Even the fruits themselves—the apple and the orange—differ profoundly in texture, taste, and aroma. Where do these qualities originate? How are new seeds formed within them, ensuring the continuation of this remarkable cycle?

We speak of centrifugal force as a tendency toward motion,

yet what force generates that tendency? What moves the arm at the command of the will, and where does the will itself originate? How does the image of an external object imprint itself upon the eye and become sight? How do vibrations of the atmosphere become hearing—the roar of a tornado, the voice of the ocean, the trill of a bird, or the melody of an instrument?

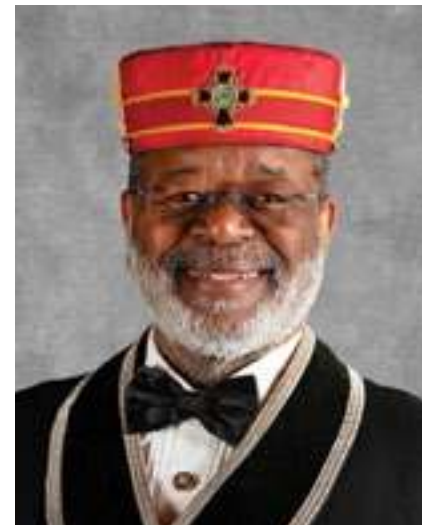
Our senses remain mysteries, and we ourselves remain mysteries. Such are the wonders of God's universe.

The Degrees of the Scottish Rite invite us to pause, reflect, and seek deeper understanding within each lesson. If you have not yet consulted A Bridge to Light or the Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide, I encourage you to do so. Likewise, I urge you to attend the Degrees at your local Scottish Rite Valley, for each experience offers new insights.

Thank you again, my Brethren. I look forward to seeing you soon in our Scottish Rite labors.

Chesapeake Consistory

BY: HON. J. BRADLEY THOMAS, 32°, KCCH—VENERABLE MASTER OF KADOSH



Inculcated

HAVE YOU INCULCATED the various obligations or lectures in your Masonic journey?

From the very beginning, when we are initiated as an Entered Apprentice, we have repeated or acknowledged obligations. Additionally, we have heard or memorized many lectures that guide us to be better men and Masons. However, do we live by those principles?

To become a better Mason, I believe we should delve into what the words and principles state. Our Creed says, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” words that I learned at a young age and have attempted to live by. All the Masonic bodies of which we are members have obligations or lectures designed to improve

us further. Some you listen to, others you recite, but have you gone back to review and be circumspect about what the words convey? In the degrees of the Symbolic Lodge, the Obligations instruct you on how to live your life, especially as it relates to Masons, if not the rest of the world. It provides the basis for moving forward into the other Masonic bodies, where more lessons are taught. The lectures, which some find difficult to memorize, provide principles and actions by which to live our lives. Charges further reinforce matters about our behavior. Aside from the printed words, there are examples among us of men who are beacons for those principles by which we should live.

To become a better Mason, I believe we should delve into what the words and principles state.

I will not reprint what is secret, but ask you to examine yourself against what we are taught. How much have you inculcated from the printed or spoken words? Are you a beacon for Masonry? We wear Masonic symbols, but are the actions we

show the public examples of what we are taught? I am not saying we will be 100 percent every moment of the day, but over the course of the day, do the majority of our actions positively represent us?

If we live by the inculcated principles of Masonry, we can look back and be proud of our words and actions. We treated others with courtesy, dignity, and respect. We were good citizens in our communities. If those statements are negative, we should consider circumspection of how we can improve. Reading and relearning the principles is one method, but I say a better method is to seek the aid of those who model what a good Mason is. He is the one that you look up to, maybe silently, and model his behaviors. There are many examples of Brothers who live by our principles. Become a wallflower to observe those around you and listen, more than talk, and inculcate the lessons they provide. It is only then that you can become what you hope to become.

Maryland Council Of Kadosh—Spring Meeting & Open Festive Board

Wednesday, February 25th, 2026

Meeting @ 6:30pm W/ Dinner & Festive Board to Follow—\$25.00 Per Person.

Please RSVP to the Office @ 410-243-3200



ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

Who Needs Who? Reframing the Meaning of Membership in Freemasonry

BY ILL. ROBIN L. SUMMERFIELD, 33°—SECRETARY-REGISTRAR



RETHINKING THE QUESTION

For generations, organizations like churches, civic clubs, and fraternal societies have measured their vitality by one familiar yardstick: membership. Growth was the goal, retention the strategy, and numbers the measure of success. But today's world tells a different story. Institutions of every kind are wrestling with the same question: How do we remain relevant?

In Freemasonry, that question takes on special meaning. Our lodges, like many traditional organizations, have spent decades focused on recruiting new members to keep the lights on and the traditions alive. Yet perhaps it is time to pause and ask a deeper question—not how

to get more members, but why. Who, after all, needs who?

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

For much of the last century, membership was viewed as a civic duty. Men joined lodges, churches, and clubs because that's what good citizens did. Today, those cultural assumptions have shifted. Modern life moves at a relentless pace. Work demands, family obligations, and digital distractions leave little space for contemplation or connection.

At the same time, people—especially younger adults—are searching for something deeper. They long for authenticity in their relationships, meaning in their actions, and purpose in their lives. Ironically, these are exactly the qualities that Freemasonry has nurtured for centuries.

Inside a Masonic lodge, a man finds what the outside world often denies him: reflection, fraternity, moral instruction, and mutual respect. He learns not what to think, but how to think—how to listen, to serve, and to improve himself. These are timeless needs, not relics of a bygone era.

BEYOND RECRUITMENT

If our approach to membership begins and ends with recruitment numbers, we miss the point. Freemasonry's goal is not institutional survival—it is personal transformation.

The lodge should not be presented as an organization in need of saving, but as a sanctuary of growth. When a man is invited to become a Mason, he is not being asked to preserve a building or a tradition—he is being offered a chance to strengthen his character, deepen his understanding, and find his place in a community that values integrity and service.

When lodges focus on mentorship, education, and meaningful engagement rather than headcounts, something powerful happens. Men stay not out of obligation, but because the fraternity speaks to their highest aspirations. Growth follows naturally when Masons live their teachings visibly in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

THE TRUE DIRECTION OF NEED

So who needs who? Certainly, Freemasonry needs dedicated

continues from previous page

members to sustain its work. But perhaps the greater truth is that our world needs what Freemasonry provides: civility in discourse, integrity in leadership, charity in action, and humility in service.

In a time when division and distraction rule the day, the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are more relevant than ever. Freemasonry offers a steady light to those who seek balance and meaning amid uncertainty.

Our mission, then, is not simply to add to our numbers but to extend the value of our

fraternity to others. The men we might invite into our lodges are not recruits—they are seekers. They may be looking for the very lessons and friendships that changed our own lives.

A PERSONAL CALL TO SHARE THE LIGHT

Each of us knows someone—a friend, a neighbor, a coworker—who is searching for something more substantial than the surface-level connections of modern life. They may not know to call it Freemasonry, but they are looking for it all the same.

Let us share with them what we have found. Not for the sake of filling chairs or keeping

charters alive, but because the world is hungry for the kind of quiet strength, moral clarity, and brotherly care that our Craft instills. Freemasonry should not be presented as an organization in need of saving, but as a sanctuary of growth. When we extend that invitation, not as a recruitment pitch but as an act of fellowship, we honor the true purpose of our fraternity.

Because in the end, the answer to “Who needs who?” is simple. Freemasonry needs men of character and faith—but more than ever, men need Freemasonry.

Raynovich Named Fall 2025 Ritualistic Champion



ILL. THEODORE RAYNOVICH III

was recognized as Valley of Cumberland Ritualistic Champion for Fall 2025 by Personal Representative Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33° during the Valley's Feast of Tishri in November. Raynovich, who is the longtime Captain of the 18° cast, has played roles in the 18° and other degrees as a member of the Oakland degree team for more than thirty years. The Valley Executive Committee selects a member of the cast or crew to be recognized as Ritualistic Champion following the convocation of each class

in the Spring and Fall.

In addition to his distinguished service to the Scottish Rite, Raynovich (*pictured here with his wife Debbie Raynovich, Past Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Order of the Eastern Star*) is Past Master of Oakland Lodge No. 194 and currently serves the Grand Lodge of Maryland as a Deputy Grand Lecturer. He served as W. Grand Pursuivant in 2019 and is a 2023 recipient of the Grand Lodge of Maryland Warren S. Seipp Medal.

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ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

2026 Burns Night to Support RiteCare
Saturday, February 7, 2026
at 5:00 pm

Star Gala – Masonic Temple Awards and Fundraiser
Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, February 16, 2026
at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, March 2, 2026
at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Consistory
Monday, March 16, 2026
at 7:30 pm

187th Conferral and Reunion
Saturday, March 21, 2026
at 7:30 am



Knights of St. Andrew Host Annual Festival of St. Andrew

THE CUMBERLAND KNIGHTS OF St. Andrew celebrated the Festival of St. Andrew the Apostle in November with their annual Wild Game Dinner featuring a game menu provided and prepared by members of the chapter. This free event open to members of the Chapter and their male guests includes toasts, prayers, and songs commemorating the “First Apostle” and promoting fellowship among the brethren. Membership in the Knights of St. Andrew is open to all 32° Scottish Rite Masons.

Knights assist on various committees in the Valley, participate in parades or civic activities, promote fundraising events, and aid in special events.

Their flexibility and enthusiasm make the Knights of St. Andrew one of the Valley’s most active and desirable organizations.

It is an excellent way to nurture and develop future leaders as they learn their organizational and leadership skills, explore the inner structures of their Scottish Rite Centers, and thus gain a deeper admiration for our Order and Brethren who work in Freemasonry as a whole.

The next conferral and initiation of new Knights is scheduled for Monday, March 30th at 7:30 pm. Petitions are available in the Temple foyer or can be downloaded online at cumberlandscothtishrite.org/ksa-membership.



The Valley of Cumberland 186th Fall Class with members of the 32° Cast.
L to R: Hon. James B. Kalbflesh, 32°, KCCH; James E. Arnold, 32°; Kenneth D. Shook, 32°; Ill. Jason Q. Standish, 33° (Orient Secretary); Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33°; James L. Rowland, 32°; Robert D. Toth, 32°; Steven L. Fitzgerald, Jr., 32°; Josh Stultz, 32° (Valley of Frederick); Jhorden C. Lashley, 32°; Timothy E. Friend, 32°; Thomas E. Ferleman, 32°; Hon. Michael W. Kerns, 32°, KCCH; Ill. Mark C. Weatherholt, 33°; and Chistopher D. Ackerman, 32°.



The Officers of the Valley of Cumberland present toasts as part of the 2025 Feast of Tishri.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Continued)

Spring Masonic Bird Hunt
Saturday, March 28
at 7:30 am
Addison, PA

Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew – Initiation for New Members
Monday, March 30, 2026
at 7:30 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7:30 pm

Kirkin’ of the Tartans
Sunday, April 19, 2026
at 10:00 am
Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland

Cumberland Chapter of Rose Croix
Monday, April 20, 2026
at 7:30 pm

Ceremony of Lights & Spring Capping
Sunday, April 26, 2026
at 2:00 pm



ECHOES FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

News from the Cumberland Valley



Knights of St. Andrew—Valley of Baltimore

BY: BRO. ZACHARY C. BOOTH, 32°—KNIGHT COMMANDER



MY BRETHREN, I hope this finds you well and warm as by the time you read this, we will be well into winter here in Maryland. For those that do not know me, my name is Zach Booth, I am the Senior Warden of Palestine Lodge No. 189 in Catonsville, MD, and the Knight Commander of the Knights of St. Andrew of the Valley of Baltimore for 2026.

As I write this, we recently wrapped up Reunion Day for Fall 2025, as well as Feast of Tishri. As I usually do after Reunion Day, I like to reflect on the degrees, the brethren I get to see, and Reunion Day in general. Sitting back this evening, I am reminded of the word Duty. Our duty to God, our country, ourselves, and in particular here, the Scottish Rite. Freemasonry teaches that duty is not merely an obligation, but a guiding principle that shapes a Mason's character.

In the Scottish Rite, we are reminded about duty from the start of our Scottish Rite journey in the 4th degree:

Inflexible as fate and exacting as necessity, rising with us in the morning and watching at our pillows at night. Duty is with us always, imperative as destiny.

The Knights of St. Andrew display their duty here at the Scottish Rite by serving the Valley of Baltimore in any way we can. Be that escorting brethren in the auditorium, presenting the flags of our nation and state, assisting with events held at the temple, filling in for a degree, or working behind the scenes for a degree, our duty is to the Scottish Rite.

The Valley and the KSA are always looking for brethren to help. If you are interested in assisting here at the Scottish Rite, behind the scenes or on the stage, please make me or one of the other Knights of St. Andrew aware. I, along with the other Knights of St. Andrew look forward to serving the Valley and Orient this coming year. Please reach out to me if you need the KSA to assist you with any happenings at the Scottish Rite.



On Thursday, November 20th, 2025 the Civitan Club of Baltimore (President Nancy Simms) presented our SGIG with a very generous donation to our Hilgenberg Childhood Speech & Language Center.



Orient of Maryland – Honormen for 2025 Inspectors General Honorary



John H. Austin, 33°



Randy S. Dietrich, 33°



Brent A. Lewis, 33°



Clarence O. Staigerwald,
Jr., 33°



Charles J. Trost, 33°



Allen L. Washington, 33°



Mark C. Weatherholt, 33°



Edward A. Welch, 33°



Shawn R. Winpigler, 33°

Not Pictured
Ill. Gary J. Kennedy, 33°

Orient of Maryland – Honormen for 2025 Knights Commander Court of Honour



John R. Countryman,
Jr., 32° KCCH



Stephen Z. Deinlein,
32°, KCCH



Stephen M. Forster,
32°, KCCH



David M. Gornall, 32°, KCCH



Earl F. Griffin III, 32°, KCCH



John P. Hilderbrand, Sr.,
32°, KCCH



Thomas E. Holland, 32°, KCCH



Marvin F. House, 32°, KCCH



James B. Kalbflesh,
32°, KCCH



Randolf R. Kauffman,
32°, KCCH



Christopher A. Kiner,
32°, KCCH



Mark E. Lathrop, 32°, KCCH



Aaron S. M. Lyons, 32°, KCCH



Leon L. Pettaway, Jr.,
32°, KCCH



James P. Royal, Jr., 32°, KCCH



Michael C. Smith, 32°, KCCH



Jonathan R. Strickler,
32°, KCCH



G. Wilson Tharpe, 32°, KCCH



Robert E. Wilson, Jr.,
32°, KCCH



Patrick A. Word, 32°, KCCH



Maundy Thursday Observance & Dinner

ALL SCOTTISH RITE MASONS are encouraged to attend and the portrayal is open to friends and family of all Scottish Rite Masons.

In the Scottish Rite, darkness often refers to the disappearance of truth and justice in the world. As the symbolic lights are extinguished, we reflect upon this loss. By re-lighting them, we reinforce our belief that,

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



Meredith Chapter
Of Rose Croix

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER

Thursday,
April 2nd, 2026
6:30PM

Cost for this event:
\$35.00 per person.

Please RSVP to the office
@ 410-243-3200 by
Friday, March 27, 2026

THE SYMBOLS OF THE MYSTIC BANQUET

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

The GMW: Cherished Reminder of Fraternal Unity

BY: BRO. DAVID R. SANDY, 32°

THE GMW holds a position of profound importance within Freemasonry, where it serves as much more than a simple password or piece of ritual. It represents a climax in the Masonic journey, embodying the philosophical and spiritual aspirations that lie at the heart of the Craft.

Central to Masonic tradition is the allegory of the "Lost Word". The secrets of a Master Mason were lost through tragic circumstances, and what remains are substitutes that serve until the original can be recovered. The story of loss and searching represents the human condition itself: our separation from perfect knowledge and our perpetual quest to reclaim it.

Practically speaking, the GMW is a mode of recognition, allowing brothers to identify one another and confirm their legitimate standing within the fraternity. However, its significance extends far beyond identification.

The manner in which the word is shared (specific physical positioning) reinforces that Masonic knowledge is not held in isolation but is inherently communal. This teaches us of the broader notion that we are mutually dependent upon one another in our journey toward

light and understanding.

The GMW marks a transformative moment in a Mason's journey. Its revelation comes only after the candidate has passed through symbolic trials, demonstrated his commitment to Masonic principles, and proven himself worthy of the full confidence of his brothers. It signifies the candidate's elevation to full membership and his readiness to bear the responsibilities of a Master Mason. It thus becomes a milestone marking spiritual and moral development, not merely the accumulation of information.

The strict obligation to keep the GMW inviolable serves multiple purposes. Most obviously, it protects the integrity of Masonic recognition and prevents impostors from fraudulently claiming membership. But more profoundly, it is a reminder of important virtues: service, discretion, integrity, self-discipline, and brotherhood.

In an age where privacy is increasingly rare and private matters are routinely exposed, the Masonic commitment to inviolability stands as a counter-cultural affirmation that some things retain their power and meaning precisely because they are not broadcast to the world. The GMW is valuable not because

of its content alone, but because of what the practice of keeping it does to form character.

The GMW retains its significance throughout a Mason's life. Each time it is taken up in ritual, it represents centuries of tradition and it connects each Mason to a chain of transmission stretching back through generations, linking him to a timeless fraternity that transcends geographical and temporal boundaries. It serves as a reminder of all that a Mason promises to keep inviolate. It is far more than a password or ceremonial formula. It is a symbol of a bond of fraternal recognition and trust, a mark of spiritual progression, and a living mystery that continues to inspire contemplation. By it, we participate in an ancient tradition of seeking light in darkness, of building spiritual temples while continuing to develop good character, and of recognizing that the most profound truths often lie beyond the reach of ordinary language. The GMW is a perfect symbol for the enduring bonds of brotherhood in Freemasonry.



Honors Day – Response for the Inspectors General – Honorary

BY: III. CLARENCE O. STAIGERWALD, JR., 33°



ILLUSTRIOUS SOVEREIGN GRAND Inspector, distinguished members of the Supreme Council, Illustrious Brethren, (honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:)

We stand before you tonight humbled beyond words. To be counted worthy of this honor is not something we ever presumed, and we accept it with gratitude, reverence, and a renewed sense of duty.

To the Supreme Council, thank you for your confidence. To the Brothers who recommended us and to those who taught, challenged, and encouraged us along the way, we are deeply indebted. To the Brethren of our Lodges and Valley, you have been our teachers and traveling companions. And to our families—who know better than any of us the unseen hours given to

our Craft—thank you for your patience, love, and unwavering support. This honor belongs as much to you as it does to us.

Tonight is sometimes spoken of as a culmination. We cannot see it that way. This cap is not a destination; it is a summons. The 33rd degree is not a crown to rest upon the brow, but a reminder to bend the knee—to rededicate oneself to the quiet work of brotherly love, relief, and truth. If there is any merit in our being here, it is only because we have stood on the level with good men who steadied our hands, squared our corners, and showed us where the Light was when we could not find it for ourselves.

In the Scottish Rite, we often speak of ideals that are as old as our Craft and as urgent as our times: integrity, justice, tolerance, service, devotion to country, and reverence for the Divine. These are not museum pieces to admire; they are working tools to be used. The world beyond our tiled doors is hungry for them. In a noisy and divided age, let us bring order from chaos—first in our own hearts, then in our homes, our lodges, and our communities.

We have been taught to meet on the level, act by the plumb, and part on the square. May

those not be words we recite but habits we live. The square reminds us to deal honestly; the compasses to circumscribe our passions; the level to honor the dignity of every person we meet; and the trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection—especially where there are cracks that others would widen.

To be a Mason is to be a builder. We build not only temples of stone and timber but lives of character, families of strength, and communities of compassion. The rough ashlar each of us brought to the quarry is still being shaped, stroke by stroke, lesson by lesson, mistake by forgiven mistake. If this degree means anything to us, it is the call to keep working—to keep improving ourselves in Masonry so that we might be of better service to others.

Service must be more than a word on a banner. It must be sleeves rolled up and hands put to work. Whether it is supporting our learning centers and scholarships, lending our skills to a Brother in need, mentoring a new Mason, or simply showing up with a listening ear and a willing heart—this is where our ideals meet the world's needs. Titles and jewels may open doors, but service opens hearts.

We are mindful, too, of those who are not with us tonight—mentors who laid aside their working tools, friends who journeyed part of the way and then were called to the eternal East. Their counsel still speaks; their example still guides. May we honor them not with sentiment alone but by living the lessons they embodied.

Brethren, we are entrusted with a reputation that we did not build alone. Generations before us carved a good name for this Rite and for our Craft by their integrity and charity. Let it never be said that the light grew dim on our watch. Let our Lodges be havens of civility in an uncivil time, and our homes places where honor is practiced when no one is watching. Let us

prove, by steady lives and quiet deeds, that the teachings we cherish are more than symbols on a trestle board—they are a way of life.

If I may make one personal pledge tonight, and ask my brethren to join me, it is this: I will strive to be worthy of the trust you have placed in us, not by speaking more, but by listening more; not by being served, but by serving; not by seeking honors, but by earning them in the only way that matters—through consistent, faithful labor. Hold us to it, Brethren. If ever you see us stray from the level or lean from the plumb, set us right. Whisper Good Counsel in our ear. That is the covenant of true Brotherhood.

To my Brothers who will one

day travel this path, know that no honor in our Craft is pursued; it is recognized. Tend your quarry. Mentor the young. Care for the aged. Keep faith with your obligations. The Craft does not need our perfection; it needs our persistence.

I close by expressing gratitude and with hope for all here tonight. Gratitude for the Light that has been entrusted to us; hope that together we will magnify it. May the Grand Architect of the Universe guide our steps, bless our families, guard our country, and keep our Brotherhood strong and true.

Thank you for this honor. May we ever meet on the level, act by the plumb, and part upon the square.



At the Rite Cheer Thanksgiving Lunch, III. John S. English, 33° received his certificate for completing the Master Craftsman Ritual & History Course.



Valley of Susquehanna

BY: ILL. RANDY S. DIETRICH, 33°—VALLEY SECRETARY



Keeping Masons

MASTER MASON, York Rite Mason, Scottish Rite Mason, Shrine Mason, etc. Where your passion lies is not the most important part here. While we all have a story as to why we became a Mason, why is also not the most

important part here. What keeps you a Mason is what I would like to discuss. What keeps you active? What keeps you coming to Lodge, to the Temple, to the Shrine? Why are you still involved? Is it the work, the fraternity, the fellowship? What do you enjoy?

We all know the importance of bringing in new and younger members. We need new blood both to keep the lodges running financially as well as doing the work. But let us not forget that once we bring them in, we need to keep them in. Sometimes it seems like we have a revolving door and that brothers come in for a time and then go right back out.

I have come to understand certain things as I have aged. One is, if you do not enjoy doing something, you will not

continue to do it. That goes with most anything, including Masonry.

Masonry, on most all levels, is shrinking. We hear about it everywhere we go. We need to find things that our brothers will enjoy. This is not a complex idea but just a simple one, as I am not the deepest of thinkers.

When you are with new Masons, invite them to functions you may be attending. Make them feel welcome. We all do that, I hope. But also try to help them find their passion and what they enjoy the most. Encourage them to explore, visit, and participate. While their passion may not be the same as yours, it may even be in another Masonic body, but if you can help them find it, you may just help the Fraternity keep a Mason.



Ill. Wm. Raymond Bosley, Jr., 33°

10/28/1930 – 08/15/2025



Raised a Master Mason in Pickering Lodge No. 146 June 04, 1952
Scottish Rite 32° May 6, 1964
Invested KCCH September 16, 2007
Coroneted 33° September 17, 2011
RW Grand Treasurer 2002–2006
Potentate Boumi Shrine 2015
AASR Treasurer 2012–2025



Reunion Day – Fall 2025



**Council of Kadosh
Festive Board
Fall 2025**





Honors Day 2025





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Roy P. Sanders, 32°



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 4th	Baltimore - Lodge of Perfection	7:30pm
Saturday, February 7th	Carroll County SR Club	5pm
Saturday, February 7th	Cumberland – Burns Night	5pm
Wednesday, February 11th	Baltimore – Chapter Rose Croix	7:30pm
Monday, February 16th	Cumberland – Lodge of Perfection	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 25th	Baltimore – Council & Festive Board	6:30pm
Monday, March 2nd	Cumberland – Lodge of Perfection	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 4th	Baltimore – Consistory	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 11th	Baltimore – Spring Class Orientation	6:30pm
Monday, March 16th	Cumberland – Consistory	6:30pm
Saturday, March 21st	Baltimore – One Day Class	6:30am
Saturday, March 21st	Cumberland – One Day Class	7:30am
Monday, March 30th	Cumberland – KSA Initiation	7:30pm
Thursday, April 2nd	Baltimore – Maundy Thursday Ceremony	6:30pm
Monday, April 6th	Cumberland – Lodge of Perfection	7:30pm
Sunday, April 19th	Cumberland – Kirkin’ of the Tartans	10am
Wednesday, April 15th	Baltimore – Spring Ring Ceremony	6:30pm
Monday, April 20th	Cumberland – Chapter Rose Croix	7:30pm
Sunday, April 26th	Cumberland – Ceremony of Lights	2pm



ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

SOUTHERN JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ORIENT OF MARYLAND

Mail to: A&A Scottish Rite
3800 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218-1805

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

DATE

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME
------------	-------------	-----------

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Residence _____

(Street Address)

(City or Town)

(State)

(ZIP Code)

Mail Address _____

(Street Address)

(City or Town)

(State)

(ZIP Code)

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 _____

(State fully nature of your duties. If retired, please indicate your former duties and employer(s).)

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 inclusive, 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.)

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

(Signature of Applicant in Full)

INITIATION FEE: \$250.00

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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. Frederick Spicer, 33°, GC—Executive Director

Ill. John W. Brodbeck, Jr., 33°—Personal
Representative

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

CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

MEETS SECOND WEDNESDAY 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 J. 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

Ill. Edward A. Welch, 33°—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 L. Girard, 33°—Secretary, 301-904-6468

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

MEETS THIRD THURSDAY 7:00PM

Masonic Temple

136 E Gordon Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Ill. William T. Ivey, 33°—Personal Representative

Ill. Randy S. Dietrich, 33°—Secretary, 443-847-1761

www.susquehannasr.org