

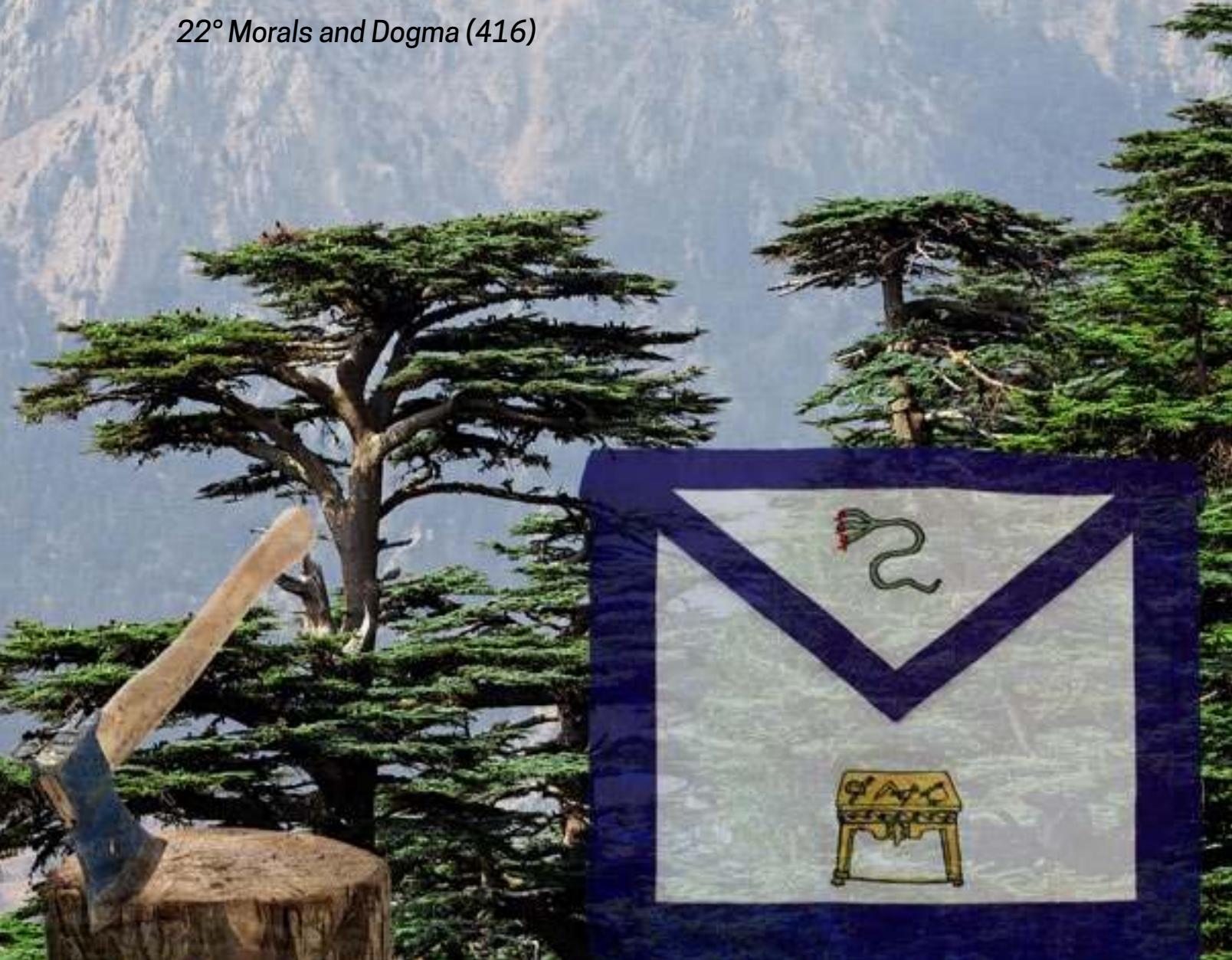


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE ORIENT OF MARYLAND | NOV/DEC/JAN 2025-26

RITE NEWS OF MARYLAND

**“Duty is with us ever;
and evermore forbids
us to be idle.”**

22° *Morals and Dogma* (416)





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

Editor
Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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A MESSAGE FROM

Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL!

I hope this issue of our Rite News finds you well and reflecting on a wonderful fall season. As I write this, I have just returned from one of the best Biennial Sessions on record and am now finalizing plans for our own Honors Day.

I must admit we have some fine competition. The Orient of Virginia put on a very nice conferral of the 33°. Men from around the world were given a memorable morning. The Orient of the District of Columbia is also preparing an

excellent presentation of the Knight Commander, Court of Honour. If you are like me, you are wondering what happened to summer. It seems we only had summer one week and now Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner.

I must thank everyone who helped with our Lobster Fest. It was the best so far and a total SELLOUT. Brothers and Ladies from Frederick and Baltimore did an excellent job with the service and preparation of the meal. Brother Brodbeck furnished the corn this year, which was both sweet and tender. Brother Charles Hardin drove all the way from Nashville, Tennessee to help serve hot butter for the corn that Fred had boiled to perfection. It was great teamwork by many, many folks and I want to thank each and every one; there is not enough space to name them all.

In October, men will have gathered from across the Orient of Maryland to make our new Honor Men proud. I am sure it was a great day for all – due to the work of many and I thank everyone for their efforts! Now, as winter approaches, we will be getting ready for another Christmas Chocolate Soiree complete with Mr. & Mrs. Claus and a beautiful train garden. Right behind this excitement will follow the installation of officers Orient-wide. I invite you all to come out and support the new Officers in your Valley

as they lead us into 2026. I am still wondering how 2025 got away so fast. You always hear that "time flies when you're having fun." Every time I turn around, Fred is telling me that my article for the next issue is due... It seems like I just wrote one – so I know I am having a great time!

I invite you to join us at a meeting, or for some of the many events happening in your Valley and around the Orient. Don't forget about your Scottish Rite Clubs either. They always have a delicious meal as well as usually having an interesting speaker. I encourage you to bring a friend. He may want to join; and new members are our future.

In closing, may I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, Happy New Year! Now I must go start on the Valentines issue, Happy Valentines Day Ladies!



Sincerely and Fraternally,

III. 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



we'll celebrate with our **Honors Banquet**—a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a great meal, fellowship, and recognize our new honorees.

Our fall season began with the **Lodge of Perfection on September 3rd**, followed by meetings of our other bodies over the next three Wednesdays, leading up to our **Fall Class in honor of Illustrious Brother J. Frederick Hobine, 33°**.

To our Brothers involved in degree work—whether in robing, lighting, sound, or the property room—thank you for your dedication. If you'd like to get more involved, please speak with a degree master or stop by the office. There's always room for more helping hands.

For those who haven't visited the Rite in a while, we invite you to return, witness the degrees, and reconnect with your Scottish Rite family. We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events.

I'll close with a wise reflection shared by a Brother:

“Masonry is here for you—what you put into it; you will get that much more out of it.”

Wishing you a healthy and joyful fall and holiday season.

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: BRO. NORMAN F. HENTHORN III, 32°—VENERABLE MASTER



for the first time, discovering the richness and depth of our traditions. These new Brothers are not only part of our present—they are the future of our Rite, the men who will carry forward our values and ensure that our labors endure for generations to come.

Such meaningful experiences do not happen by chance. They are the result of many hands working faithfully behind the scenes. From our cast members, who bring the degrees to life; to the lighting and sound crews, who create the atmosphere that draws us in; to the robing room team, who prepare each costume with meticulous care; and to the staging crews, who transform our spaces into settings worthy of our teachings—to all of you, we say thank you. Your time, skill, and dedication make these moments truly unforgettable for each of our candidates.

As we look ahead, let us remember why we first knocked at the door of Scottish Rite Masonry: to improve ourselves, to serve others, and to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. Each degree, each meeting, and each act of fellowship offers us the opportunity to live those values more fully.

We are now well into our current degree cycle and rapidly approaching Reunion Day. This is always a time of great excitement, as candidates encounter the lessons of the Scottish Rite

serve. To our long-standing Brethren—thank you for the example you set and for your steadfast support.

**As we look ahead,
let us remember
why we first
knocked at the door
of Scottish Rite
Masonry: to
improve ourselves,
to serve others,
and to strengthen
the bonds of
brotherhood.**

In the words of Illustrious Brother Albert Pike, “*Above all things let us never forget that mankind constitutes one great brotherhood; all born to encounter suffering and sorrow, and therefore bound to sympathize with each other.*” May these words guide us in the months ahead.

On behalf of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection, I wish you and your families a joyous and blessed holiday season. May the coming year bring renewed inspiration, deeper fellowship, and the enduring light of Masonry in all that you do.



Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: BRO SEAN F. DOBBS, 32°—WISE MASTER



GREETINGS BRETHREN. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As we enter fall and prepare for our last Meredith Chapter of Knights Rose Croix meeting this year, I find myself looking back on the year with gratitude taking inventory of all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Now that I am older and have a family of my own, I find myself constantly reminded of how grateful I am for my parents and the generations of Americans before me.

As I take inventory of all the things I am grateful for over the past year, several things come to mind, like the love and joy I share with my family when we succeed and the love, support, and lessons we share when one of us fails. One experience from this summer that I am grateful for, and keeps coming to

mind, is taking my family to a Fourth of July pool party at a dear friend's house. For the past 4 years I have been in charge of putting on the fireworks display at this party, and I love it. Every year it has gotten bigger and bigger because I'm kind of like Tim the Toolman when it comes to these things. I think we, as Americans, are never satisfied with the results, it seems like when given the choice we always prefer bigger/better/faster/stronger. Frankly, I love that about our country's history. Nevertheless, when we try to achieve those improved outcomes, there's always a lot left to chance.

For example, with the fireworks display, there are steps you can take to try to ensure improved results, like getting your friends to chip in more money and looking at YouTube to see what each firework display is supposed to look like. Sequencing and timing are also important. Of course, the right music is a must. Nevertheless, sometimes there are fireworks that are just "duds," probably due to some type of manufacturing flaw, or something jarred loose in transport.

Up to this year, we had no duds and the firework displays just got better and better. However, this year, some of the fireworks were definitely duds, and

I was left scratching my head. After the fireworks this year, everyone still came up and told me how great they were and, in my mind, all I could think about were the duds. When I was getting the kids in the car and packing up all our stuff to leave, I looked at my wife and said I wish it had gone better. She looked at me and said she thought it was great. I don't know if she was lying to me or if between wrangling the kids while I was having fun shooting off fireworks, she missed the duds. Honestly, I don't really care which one it was, but every once in a while, in moments like that, I take stock of how grateful I am for her and all my family and friends that support me when I succeed, and especially, when I fail.

Just like the love and support I get from my family, my Masonic Brothers have always been there for me through the good times, and especially, through the bad times. Sometimes that support comes through tough love and corrective advice we might not want to hear, but we must keep in mind that our oath demands we are all acting in our collective best interests. As such, I am eternally grateful for all the love, even the tough love, and support I get from the Brotherhood.

continues on page 22

Cordially Invited by

Ill. Marlin L. Mills 33°, SGIG & Lady Brenda

Annual Scottish Rite Christmas Soirée “Celebrating the Season with Chocolate & Cheer”

Sunday December 14th, 2025

2:00pm until 5:00pm

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



*Holiday Festivities: Enchanting Christmas Music, A magical Walk-through Bethlehem
Nativity, Whimsical Train Garden
Decadent Chocolate Delights—Silky, smooth, and irresistible confections await you:
Chocolate Fountain, Wine & Hot Chocolate Bar, Handcrafted Cookies & Treats, Rich,
Decadent Chocolates by Ill. Tommy Morris, 33° & Lady Patty*

**Families & Friends Welcome! | \$10 per Person, Children under 5 Free
RSVP Today! Call the Office at (410) 243-3200**

**All donations from the Nativity & Train Garden benefit the Scottish Rite Temple Fund
and Scottish Rite Charities.**



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, refreshments will be served in the Banquet Hall & each attendee will receive a bag of fresh fruit

Date: Wednesday, November 19th, 2025
Cost \$30.00 per person, children under 12 are free
Please RSVP to the Office by Friday, November 14th, 2025
410-243-3200

Chesapeake Consistory

BY: HON. GORDON A. MUNHOLLAND, 32°, KCCH—MASTER OF KADOSH



joined to be part of our fraternity and get to know each other with a tight camaraderie of similar minded men. Others joined to be part of a charitable organization while still others joined to learn and study the esoteric mysteries of the fraternity. These are the top answers I have heard when asking this question.

I became a Freemason from friends I met when I was in need of help. They befriended me initially, when I was in need. I wasn't a Mason at the time. I was also impressed with the way they worked together to help give back to the community. From getting to know them, I eventually joined the fraternity and I am proud that I did.

I realize now, that at the core

of my answer and to all I have talked to is the simple fact that we all joined to be part of something universally greater than ourselves. To be part of something that will continue after we have left this mortal realm and gone up to that celestial lodge of beyond. To leave something behind of ourselves to help make this world a better place. We all do that everyday in our own way. Our time is short in this mortal sphere, but the impact of our actions and our work can be left behind forever in improving the world. How is that done? By following the tenets of our profession: brotherly love, relief and truth. Isn't this another way to say camaraderie, charity along with an understanding of the esoteric mysteries?





Cumberland KSA Chapter Adds Members

THE CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF THE Knights of St. Andrew welcome Brothers Mark Pelletier, Matthew Hunt, and Gary Trail III to its ranks at its Spring communication. The Chapter will hold its Annual Communication and initiation for new members on Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:30 pm followed immediately by the annual Festival of St. Andrew, which features a menu of wild game prepared

by the Knights of the Chapter. The Festival of St. Andrew is a stag event that is free and open to Scottish Rite members and guests. However, the event is limited to thirty attendees and reservations are required. Register to attend at cumberlandscottishrite.org.

The Knights of the Chapter are shown here following the initiation of new members Mark Pelletier and Matthew

Hunt. Standing L to R: Jamey Hill, Jamie Summerfield, Mark Weatherholt, Sam Lane, Michael Kerns, Pelletier, Chris Ackerman, Venerable Master Brett Bean, Mark Lathrop, Hunt, Dwight Metcalf, Ronald Martin-Minnich, Richard Haines, James Arnold, and Gary Trail III. Kneeling: Timothy Friend and Stephen Gray.

Ceremony of Lights and Feast of Tishri Honor Departed Brethren

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025, THE Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite gathered in solemn remembrance for the annual Ceremony of Lights, a moving tribute honoring the memory of Brethren who passed away in 2025. The ceremony reflected the enduring light of fraternity and faith, even in the face of loss. This year's observance paid tribute to six dedicated members of the Valley: Billy B. Bruck, 32°, Darrin M. Hott, 32°, Steven D. Eaton, 32°, Robert E. Engelbach, 32°, KCCH, Donald M. Maloof, 32°, and James A. Hott, 32°. The ceremony was led by Wise Master Samuel J. Lane, 33°, with assistance from cast members Robin L. Summerfield, 33°; Mark E. Lathrop, 32°; Timothy E. Friend, 32°; Lawrence P. Hartz, 32°; Mark R. Pelletier, 32°; Stephen J. Gray, 32°; Michael W. Kerns, 32°, KCCH; James E. Arnold, 32°; Richard E. Haines, 32°; Secretary-Emeritus Jerome F. Robinette, 33°, and Personal Representative Jamey S. Hill, 33°. Mark Weatherholt, 32°, KCCH sang a moving rendition of The Lord's Prayer.

The Valley will continue its commitment to remembrance with the Feast of Tishri,



Caption: Stephen Gray, 32° relights a candle as part of the Valley of Cumberland's 2025 Ceremony of Lights.

This year's observance paid tribute to six dedicated members of the Valley:

Billy B. Bruck, 32°

Darrin M. Hott, 32°

Steven D. Eaton, 32°

Robert E. Engelbach, 32°, KCCH

Donald M. Maloof, 32°

James A. Hott, 32°

scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., where members who have passed since the April ceremony will be honored. In addition to these annual memorial observances, the Valley ensures that every brother's legacy endures through the Memorial Patio in front of the Cumberland Masonic Temple, where the names of all departed members are permanently inscribed. The Ceremony of Lights stands as a reminder of the eternal bond of brotherhood and the light that each member brings to the Scottish Rite.



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

10th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt | Addison, PA
Saturday, November 1 at 8:00 am

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, November 3 at 7:30 pm

"A Day in the Big Apple"
Saturday, November 8 at 5:00 am

Visitation to Columbia Lodge No. 58
Monday, November 17 at 7:30 pm
Carpool from Cumberland Masonic Temple at 5:30 pm

Feast of Tishri and Fall Capping
Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 pm

KSA Annual Communication and Festival of St. Andrew
Monday, November 24 at 5:30 pm

Bro. William Smallwood Firey Celebrates 75 Years of Service to the Scottish Rite



PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE JAMEY
S. Hill recently paid a visit to Brother William S. Firey to present an award recognizing his 75 years of membership in the Scottish Rite. Brother Firey shared his appreciation for the recognition by his Scottish Rite brethren and that he was blessed to be in such good health and sound mind. His son, Ross,

said that Brother Firey has been adamant about his desire to remain a member in good standing. We encourage every member, regardless of their age and level of participation to share their wishes regarding membership in their Blue Lodge and other Masonic bodies with family members to avoid unwanted breaks in membership.



THE CUMBERLAND SCOTTISH RITE

presented the Scottish Rite JROTC Medal to two Garrett County JROTC cadets in 2025. Cadet Lt. Col. Jorjaray Beane of the Southern Garrett High School Rams Squadron and Cadet Col. Kambria Kyle of the Northern Garrett High School Huskies Squadron each received the medal and certificate along with a small financial award to support their educational pursuits. Cadet Kyle, pictured here with Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield and Venerable Master Jamie Summerfield, reported to the United States Military Academy at West Point in June. She is the first person, male or female, in the history of Northern Garrett to accept an appointment to West Point. To be eligible to receive the Scottish Rite JROTC Award, the Cadet must have contributed

the most among cadets on campus to encourage and demonstrate Americanism by deeds or conduct during participation in extracurricular activities or community projects; demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class; and demonstrated outstanding leadership by exhibiting qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship, and patriotism.

The Cumberland Scottish Rite is proud to participate in the Scottish Rite JROTC Program for High Schools in partnership with the JROTC program leadership at Northern Garrett High School and Southern Garrett High School. Other high school JROTC programs within the Valley of Cumberland are encouraged to contact Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield at (301) 729-2491.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Continued)

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, December 1 at 7:30 pm

Scottish Rite Holiday Dinner at Stonecroft Manor
Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00 pm

Officer Orientation and Installation Rehearsal
Monday, December 15 at 6:00 pm

Open Installation of Officers
Monday, January 5 at 6:30 pm

Cumberland Lodge of Perfection
Monday, January 19 at 7:30 pm

Deer Creek Chapter of Rose Croix

BY: HON. CHRISTOPHER J. RICCI, 32°, KCCH—WISE MASTER



You get out of it what you put into it

A PHRASE SAID FREQUENTLY among Masons. I remember when the investigation committee came to my house after I petitioned my blue lodge, one of the men summed up Masonry for me in these exact same words: You get out of it what you put into it. I have heard them time and time again over the last 13 years that I have been a Mason.

While I have invested considerably in our beloved fraternity and received much in return, I suggest that this phrase can be better put. Masonry, at its core is charity which is a vital part of the foundation of our gentle profession. This obviously includes charity in the traditional form of donating time and money. It also encompasses

charity in the nontraditional forms of charitable understanding of different views, tolerance, opinion, and respecting others and affording them the ability to be their authentic selves.

Also, we can and arguably should be charitable to ourselves as doing so is one way we grow and become better men. Charity allows us to be a part of the Supreme Architect's grand plan, providing us with meaning and purpose. Charity affords us as Masons the opportunity to actually practice Masonry, and be better husbands, fathers, employees, bosses, members of society, and in turn making us better men and smooth our rough ashlar.

Yet, through a certain lens, this notion of getting out of Masonry what you put into it may contrast with the fundamental value of charity. Charity at its core is not about us, but about others. Charity is about what we do for them and how we enrich their lives, not our own. Charity is a far-reaching conscious choice that affords us the opportunity to put Masonry into practice in our lives and community. In the first degree we are taught that charity is the greatest thing we can apply our energy to because it extends beyond the grave. Similarly, the Illustrious Albert Pike reminds us Scottish Rite Masons that what we do for

others remains and is immortal.

Instead of explaining Masonry as "you get out of it what you put into it", it may be better elucidated through the lens of Masonic charity. I suggest that we may better define the Masonic experience as "THEY get out of it what YOU put into it". The more energy we put into being a better man and smoothing our rough ashlar, the more our spouse gets out of Masonry, the more our children, grandchildren, employees, employers, and neighbors get out of Masonry. The more we put into memorizing and delivering exceptional degree work, the more we put into having meaningful meetings, the more we put into fellowship, the more we put into being a good Scottish Rite Mason, the more our fellow Masons get out of it.

Adopting this philosophy, I believe, is essential to save our gentle craft. Each year it seems that our Grand Lodge has fewer Masons than the year before. If Masonry is approached from the posture that THEY get out of it what YOU put into it, we begin to understand the gravity of our actions and the impact they have on the world around us. Seeing the energy we pour into Masonry and the excellent work we do may inspire good men to petition

continues on next page

Knights of St. Andrew—Valley of Baltimore

BY: BRO. RICKY D. SMITH, 32°—KNIGHT COMMANDER



other events, one positive and one not so positive, occurred and the quiet didn't happen.

We learn in Masonry, as we go through the three degrees of craft Masonry, that change will happen. Sometimes it's the change of schedules. Other times it is the change in our thinking and behavior as the great lessons of Masonry are revealed to us. Those great lessons cause us to evolve and change hopefully into better men and Masons.

Change also exists in the Scottish Rite as the lessons of the higher degrees are revealed to us. Our thinking and our views on the rest of the world are changed which also changes our behavior. Hopefully these changes come with some quiet time so we can contemplate the lessons from the degrees and make the most of the positive changes in ourselves.

In my personal life, the changes from this summer will

continues from previous page

our blue lodge. Those men may then in turn find a greater purpose in life through the energy they put into Masonry and the impact it has on others. These men may further improve themselves through the 29 degrees

of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and inspire others to become Masons through the good work that they do.

I encourage you to adopt this philosophy and fully embrace the gravity of the work we do as Masons. Understand that what you put into Masonry directly

increase the time I spend with other Masons. Some of that time will be in the Lodge and some will not. All of it will be positive experiences to continue my journey to being a better man. I believe that we should all try to look at life's changes.

In other changes, the Knights of St. Andrew in the Valley of Baltimore will be holding elections this fall to elect a new line of officers. So there should be a change of author of this column soon. If you are interested in joining the Knights of St. Andrew and providing service to your Valley, please talk to one of the brothers wearing a kilt or a tartan sash, we would be happy to discuss membership with you.

impacts the experiences of, and enriches the lives of, your family, community, and brethren. As new Masons come into your valley, remember that THEY get out of it what YOU put into it.



Lobsterfest 2025





Valley of Salisbury

BY: ILL. EDWARD A. WELCH, 32°, KCCH—VALLEY SECRETARY

THE VALLEY OF SALISBURY has had a very active year. During our Spring session we presented a full schedule of degrees to include the 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 18th & 30th to our newest members, Brothers Marquis Matthews, Patrick Roy, and Christopher Veters. We also held our Ceremony of Renewal & Remembrance to honor those brothers that ended their labors in the past year. Then during the Fall session, we offered the 4th, 7th, 14th, 18th & 30th degrees.

Ill. David See, 33°, led our Scholarship Committee again this year to select several highly-deserving area high school seniors for \$1,000 per year scholarships (for up to four years). Our Brothers are justifiably proud of this long-standing community outreach project. The funds provided have assisted countless area students to pursue their goal of attending college. Awardees must demonstrate academic excellence, extracurricular leadership, and a defined college major that requires working with area youth upon graduation.

Our Valley presented JROTC Awards at three area programs this school year:

Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°, Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector made the presentation

at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, Maryland; Ill. David See, 33°, Director of Work, presented the award at Pocomoke High School; and Edward Welch, 32°, KCCH, Valley Secretary, coordinated the presentation at Snow Hill High School.

The Valley of Salisbury recognized Michael Youse, 32°, KCCH, who was selected as our Scottish Rite Mason of the Year for 2024. Mike has served as our Almoner for many years and exemplifies Masonry in all aspects of his life.

Most importantly, our Valley solemnly remembered with great reverence our long-time former secretary Ill. Samuel

Walker, 33°, who passed to the Celestial Lodge earlier this spring. His legacy of good works will live on for all that knew him.

The Valley of Salisbury cordially invites any Scottish Rite Brothers traveling though the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland this fall to visit and attend a meeting with us. All regular meetings are held in the Red Room of Wicomico Lodge #91 at 110 N Division St, Salisbury, MD 21801 and begin at 7:30 p.m. Please contact our Valley Secretary for a complete schedule of meetings.

All photos by Ill. David See, 33°



Engraved gavels were presented to last year's Commander David Melvin, 32°, KCCH, Wise Master Dean Massey, 32°, KCCH, and Venerable Master David Long, 32°, KCCH.



Clockwise from top right:
Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°, Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General presenting our Valley's Scottish Rite Mason of the Year Award to Michael Youse, 32°, KCCH.; Cap and Ring are presented to Brother Jeffrey Daisey, 32°; Valley of Salisbury conducts Ceremony of Renewal & Remembrance in Spring 2025.



Cordially Invited by
Ill. Tommy J. Morris 33° and Lady Patty

Annual Scottish Rite Frederick Valley Burns Night. “Address to the Haggis, Robert Burns”

Saturday January 24th, 2026 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. This 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 a little Scotch tasting will 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: 24 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 12 January 2026, no tickets will be sold at the Door.

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

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

Unfurling the Rose

BY: BRO. ANTHONY J. GLASS, 32°

MY BROTHERS, may I have the honor of posing a seemingly simple question: what is it that we do? We are charged to aid the development of those around us, to labor endlessly to improve the world we share. Masonry prompts us with several topics I have come to call “quiet questions”, sparks that encourage research and are not followed with a definitive answer. One of these questions is presented to us at the inception of our journey: the question of self and Other. We know that we are physically accompanied after we knock at the door to Masonry. Recall, if you will, the admonishment issued after the first question. If a reminder is helpful, see page 21, lines 9 and 10, in the Maryland Masonic Manual.

The following are some historical examples from those who have wrestled with this very question.

The PGM, or Greco-Magical Papyri, a collection of working notes discovered in Egypt in the 19th century and dating back to at least the period of Roman occupation and potentially spanning the centuries to the 6th century BC, contains a wide variety of activities and incantations. One of the most relevant to the conversation at hand being the Stele of Jeu the hieroglyphist, also known as the

Headless Rite (Betz, Hans Dieter, *The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation*, 1986, p 103), where the speaker calls forth upper powers to release the subject from malefactors and replace them with the spirit and will of the One that Has No Beginning and No End.

The Hermetic tradition speaks at length of the union of light and matter as fundamental to the Work, exemplified when the Mind speaks to Hermes Trismegistus (Edition by Warwick, Earl, *The Divine Pymander*, 2015, p. 75-87)

In an early fourth-century letter to Marcellinus, St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, outlines an already well established protocol of Psalm recitation, by which an individual invokes the assistance of Deity in all manner of worldly situations.

Rabbi Kaplan’s treatise on the *Sefer Yetzirah* (Kaplan, Aryeh, *Sefer Yetzirah: The Book of Creation*, 1993, p. 57) states that Malkuth is found in Keter, and Keter in Malkuth. As we have all participated in the 4th and 5th degrees, further attention to the study of this topic is recommended.

Various Golden Dawn-derived orders (the Golden Dawn itself being somewhat derived from activities of the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia) begins and ends many activities with

a drawing down of Light and invocation of divine assistants (Cicero, Chic and Tabatha, *Self-Initiation Into the Golden Dawn Tradition*, 2002, p 82-84, 650-652, 681-682, 696-698). Less accessible, but still available, are the plethora of grimoires from the 13th-18th centuries, such as the Clavicula Salomonis and the Arbatel de Magia Veterum.

Even Zarathustra, who should be familiar to all Scottish Rite Masons, sings to us of Divine guidance and assistance in the Gathas. A clear example is found in Spenta Mainyu Gatha, Song 15 – kai moi urva (Jarfarey, Ali, *The Gathas, Our Guide*, 1989, p 44); indeed the entire collection of Gathas is a study unto itself.

Our predecessors may have lived in different cultures, subscribed to different religious beliefs, and had different pressures imposed upon them – but do we not labor in the same checkered quarries? Even the progenitors of our Rite are a world away from us, but all are reaching from the past to induce action.

I ask you again, my Brother, what is it that we do? Do we slog away in the quarries, hewing stones of our own muscle? Do we fell the mighty cedars of Lebanon, throw them over our burly shoulders, and march them straight to Jerusalem?

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Unfurling the Rose

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Pray we do not stand watch over our brothers to ensure they do the work on our behalf. Do we sail on the winds of kairos with a true and trusty friend making darkness light before us? This is my quiet question to you.

Rose Croix

continues from page 6

As Wise Master of Meredith Chapter Rose Croix this past year, I know there has been a dud or two in the display, but I have definitely felt the love and support of the Brotherhood throughout, and it's been an honor to be of service. I encourage all of you to offer that type of love and support to your brethren and surround yourself with brothers that give you that type of love and support.

PLASTER WORK IN THE AUDITORIUM



Message from Grand Commander Cole

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

“In 2026, Americans will mark the 250th Anniversary of the establishment of the United States; Across the land we will celebrate freedom, independence, and the American Way in our respective communities.

This presents a golden opportunity for the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry to reemphasize the import role that Freemasonry has played in our country’s history.

Realizing that every Valley and Orient has a unique set of opportunities and challenges, each must make their own decision as to their level of engagement and involvement.

This occasion in 2026 presents an historic opportunity for our Orients and Valleys to reinforce, renew, or reinvent your connections and partnerships with your own community.”



Stand Watie and the Universality of Freemasonry

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



HISTORY DOES NOT care much about neatness. It offers us no shortage of contradictions, paradoxes, and men who defy easy categorization. Stand Watie: Cherokee leader, Confederate general, and Freemason is one of those men.

He was born Degataga in 1806, back when the Cherokee Nation was still doing everything it could to hold the line against American expansion. By the 1830's, that line had worn thin. Brother Watie became part of the Treaty Party Cherokee leaders who signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, trading ancestral lands east of the Mississippi for the promise of sovereignty out West. It was a decision that cost him dearly. His brother and cousin were assassinated for signing that

treaty, and Watie himself dodged several attempts on his life. But he believed the treaty was not betrayal rather it was survival. A hard compromise in a world that offered no soft landings.

Fast forward to the Civil War. The Union had broken promise after promise to the Cherokee. The Confederacy, for all its sins, offered a deal: autonomy, land, and formal recognition of tribal sovereignty. Brother Watie took it. He raised the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles and fought as a Confederate serving under Albert Pike. He was eventually promoted to brigadier general, the only Native American to reach that rank—and became the last Confederate general to surrender, on June 23, 1865. He did not do it for the romance of Dixie. He did it because it was his last card in a long and brutal game.

And through all of this... he was a Freemason.

Brother Watie was a member of Rising Fawn Lodge No. 38, under the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. He wasn't an outlier in that regard... many Cherokee leaders sought initiation into the Craft. Why? Because in a world bent on denying their legitimacy, Freemasonry extended something radical: recognition. In the lodge, Brother Watie

could sit beside a Georgia planter or a northern merchant, exchange the same grips, speak the same allegories, and—at least within those walls stand on equal footing.

That apron wasn't just a symbol. It was a passport.

According to discussions in Civil War research forums and historical side notes that don't always make the textbooks, just before the War between the states erupted, Albert Pike helped usher Stand Watie into the 32nd degree of the Scottish Rite. Watie was already involved with the Knights of the Golden Circle, a pro-Southern secret society that leaned hard into esotericism and expansionism. Pike reportedly helped Watie ascend the higher degrees of the Rite. It is one of those moments where history, myth, and the Craft swirl together... and not always comfortably.

Because here's the paradox: Brother Watie was not only a man of the First Nations but was also a slaveholder. Inside the lodge, he participated in a fraternity that preached equality; outside of it, he fought for a cause rooted in inequality. Pike himself, Confederate general, poet, philosopher, and Masonic colossus wore the same contradiction like a sash. Both men

spoke the language of universality, even as their lives bent toward exclusion.

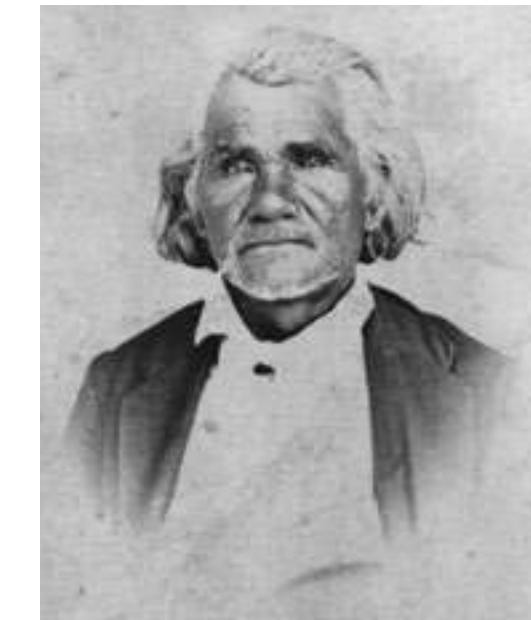
So what do we make of that?

Well... maybe it means that universality of Freemasonry is real but fragile. It's not automatic. It doesn't flow from our titles or regalia. It has to be chosen, lived, practiced. The apron doesn't absolve us rather it invites us to do the work.

In some ways, Brother Watie lived that out. He built bridges across cultures. He reached for order in chaos. He fought for a version of sovereignty he believed would preserve his people. But in other ways, he fell short (through the tyranny of necessity) binding himself to a cause that stood squarely against the freedoms he hoped to protect. And maybe that's the point. Freemasonry doesn't promise perfection. It offers tools. Symbols. Language. It gives us a shared framework, a trestle board for building something better but only if we pick up the working tools and use them.

Brother Watie's life reminds us that universality is not a birthright. It is a discipline. And discipline requires practice... repetition... humility.

Among Masons, Brother Watie's legacy is still debated.



Was he a pragmatist who used the tools available to protect his people? Or did he compromise the Craft's ideals by siding with oppressors?

Both can be true. We do not need to resolve that tension. In fact, it might be the very thing that makes him worth remembering. Stand Watie is not just a historical figure—he's a test case. A cautionary tale. A mirror.

Brother Watie reminds us that Freemasonry, for all its symbols and solemnities, still depends on human beings making better choices. Not once. Not in theory. But again, and again, and again.

So, my Brothers visit your

Blue Lodge. Visit the Rite. Shake hands with someone whose path you might never have crossed otherwise. Not because it's easy. Not because it's neat. But because this whole corpus of symbols and allegory... this Craft, this experiment in brotherhood, only really works if we decide to carry outside our Temple's sacred precincts the lessons that we are taught in it. Speculative Masonry gets you a dues card, applied Masonry changes the world for your children's children.

And if you're ready to wrestle with these questions more deeply... I hope to see you in the classroom.

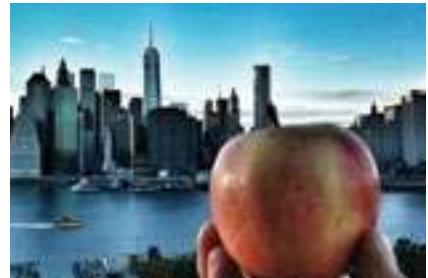


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Proceeds support The Cumberland Masonic Temple Capital Projects Fund

Reflections

BY: HON. JEFFREY VILKAS, 32°, KCCH

WHEN WE "lose a brother", what a thing to say, the goofball in me wants to smile, chuckle a bit and say check behind the couch, bet he's there. I hate that term to begin with, because we don't "lose" anyone, we don't misplace a person, we forever miss the man. What we lose is the experience he had to guide. The advisor he once was through his stories, his experiences and any other way he chose to guide.

Sometimes it might have been as simple as a handshake. The person we might have looked up to and talked so highly about. A best friend, a brother or the guy you simply waved to at every Masonic event but never really knew his real name. Because everywhere you went, people would say hello to him and call him different names. The one you heard most, however, was brother. Was he an active blue lodge member? A Past Master of a lodge? Did he help within an appended body, or did he belong to every one of them? Did he have the long list of letters after his name? Did he just quietly donate his time when he could? What truly did we lose? These are questions to ask yourself next time you hear someone say, "we lost someone".

I could tell you, from my perspective, as the writer of this article, that if someone laid

down their working tools, we lost everything. We lost everything that person could do, would do or will ever do. Who will fill their shoes? This article was not written to get you to feel the pain of loss or sway things to my way in your mind. It's solely to get you to think, get you to pick up the phone, go to lodge, be active in the world.

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light on for me.

But what I want most for you, dear reader, is to pass on the wisdom, tell the jokes, take all the pictures, even if people tell you they don't want to see any more food pictures. Leave nothing left undone. Do, however, leave some things unsaid. Love with your whole heart and never stop telling people how you feel, make the mistakes and learn from them. Then make some more. Trust me if you need help with knowing the difference, we're great at pointing out mistakes, especially when you're doing things in a closed lodge. Admit when you're wrong, it doesn't show weakness, it shows growth. Go to the lodge get-together. Say hello to brothers and learn their names. Take your place in someone's memory. And, for God's sake, wear the funny hat!





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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 5th	Baltimore Confer 18° & 20°	7pm
Saturday, November 8th	Baltimore Reunion Day	8am
Sunday, November 9th	Baltimore Ring Ceremony	2pm
Sunday, November 16th	Cumberland Feast of Tishri & Fall Capping	2pm
Wednesday, November 19th	Baltimore Feast of Tishri	7pm
Thursday, November 20th	Frederick LOP & Ring Ceremony	7:30pm
Monday, November 24th	Cumberland Annual KSA Meeting & Festival of St. Andrew	5:30pm
Monday, December 1st	Cumberland LOP	7:30pm
Sunday, December 14th	Baltimore Christmas Soirée	2pm
Monday, December 15th	Cumberland Officer Orientation & Installation Rehearsal	6pm
Thursday, December 18th	Frederick Council & Election of Officers	7:30pm
Sunday, January 4th	Baltimore Installation of Officers	2pm
Monday, January 5th	Cumberland Installation of Officers	7:30pm
Thursday, January 15th	Susquehanna Installation of Officers	7pm
Thursday, January 15th	Frederick Installation of Officers	7:30pm
Monday, January 19th	Cumberland Lodge of Perfection	7:30pm
Wednesday, January 21st	Southern Maryland Installation of Officers	7pm
Wednesday, February 4th	Baltimore Albert Pike LOP	7pm



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DATE

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME
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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 name of your direct employer, if any, please indicate your former position and employer _____

I am a Master Mason in good standing in _____ Lodge No. _____

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

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

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Spouse's Name _____ Recommended by two members in good standing in the Maryland Scottish Rite Bodies:

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

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

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(Note: If applicant has previously applied for any of the degrees, explain fully as to date, place and to what bodies such application was made.)

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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
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 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

Hon. Randy S. Dietrich, 32°, KCCH—Secretary,
443-847-1761

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