

RITENEWS

OF MARYLAND

**“Remember Always
that all Masonry is
work... Labor, when
rightly understood,
is both noble and
ennobling, and
intended to develop
man’s moral and
spiritual nature...”**

Morals and Dogma, 314





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Sovereign Grand Inspector GENERAL
Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Editor
Fred Spicer, 33°, GC

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www.mdscottishrite.org

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Donations to our clinic, building or library are all tax deductible.
Donate online at www.mdscottishrite.org or call 410-243-3200

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

A MESSAGE FROM Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°



I WISH YOU ALL THE BLESSING OF GOOD HEALTH AND A SAFE AND HAPPY LABOR DAY.

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL;

I hope this issue finds you all well and enjoying the summer. As I write this, we are in the final days of spring and have just recently completed our Spring Reunions. I would like to congratulate these new members and welcome them all. I would also like to thank the members of the Baltimore class for their very generous contribution to the Temple Preservation Fund.

The Baltimore class, named in honor of Illustrious Brother William E. Gyr, 33°, was presented with thirteen very well performed degrees. Each cast is to be commended for the excellent work they did in conferring the degrees. It cannot go without saying that each degree was supported by the outstanding and dedicated work of the property and robing rooms together with the sound, prompting, and lighting staff, as well as the kitchen help. This is truly Scottish Rite Brothers working together to ensure that our new members receive only

the best experience possible; Brother to Brother and live on stage. Have you noticed how much the Knights of St. Andrew have grown in strength? Every Knight in kilt or tuxedo for a full honor guard presentation of the colors and escort duty. From start to finish, it was synergism at its best.

I freely admit that none of this could be accomplished without those who work “behind the scenes” and seldom get recognized. The office and building staff, kitchen staff, Executive Director, and other Brothers who jump in at the last minute to help out anywhere needed. My cap goes off to all of you!

I offer a very special thank you to all those who embraced the idea of “reunion” and came back to rejoin your brothers, helped support a new member, or witnessed the degrees.

In closing, may I wish you all the Blessing of good health and a safe and happy Labor Day.



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



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

SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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Valley of Baltimore

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



ASI SEARCHED for inspiration for both the cover art and my message for this issue of *Rite News* I did what I often do; go back to *A Bridge to Light* and other Scottish Rite reference material. While thumbing through the pages, the illustration of the 16° Apron caught my eye, so I paused and began reacquainting myself with the degree. Reading both *A Bridge to Light* and *Morals and Dogma* I was again reminded that Masonry is an active

endeavor that requires work; work that is sometimes difficult. Using the completion of the Second Temple as the backdrop of the degree, we are taught that, “The Soldiers of Truth, armed with the sword of courage and the trowel of untiring labor, can propagate Scottish Rite Masonry as a universal philosophy, a moral and political creed intent upon making good men better and thus a good world better.” (*Bridge to Light* p123)

I invite you back to your Scottish Rite this fall and look forward to seeing you. An outline of the fall calendar is included in this issue. Of course, you can always find the latest information on what’s going on in the Orient by visiting the calendar at www.mdscottishrite.org. Come labor with your Brethren. Find where your talents can fill a need – be it performing

in the degree work, assisting with props, music, costumes, or maybe even preparing a meal. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.”

I will close with a housekeeping request. If you have not already received it (or them), your 2025 Dues renewal(s) should be arriving very soon. Please take care to note that, as long as you are current, your 2025 membership card will be included on the renewal. For those of us that belong to the regional Valleys and have memberships in two or more Valleys, you will receive a dues notice and membership card for **each Valley**. Please be sure to make the correct payment to each Valley individually. As with your Lodge, your 2025 Scottish Rite dues are payable by the end of December 2024.

As always, I am looking forward to seeing you at the Rite!



The Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection

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




WHAT A GREAT degree cycle we just had! The temple was buzzing with activity, with brothers from all departments working together to make these degrees successful. I say every year at the orientation tour that volunteer effort is what drives the Rite, and it was on display in full force. I look forward every week to seeing everyone, and it seems like the classes always go

by too quickly. To all the newly made 32nd degree Masons, I congratulate you and welcome you to your Scottish Rite. Enjoy your summers, and I will see you all back in the fall for our next meeting of the Lodge of Perfection!

SPRING CLASS 2024



**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 \$30.00



Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix

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



let us not take them for granted and make time to participate in all the fellowship opportunities that our cable tow allows. Something that I am looking forward to this year is the Feast of Tishri. This program is open to anyone who wants to come, so ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to join you to learn something new. It is the custom of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction to celebrate two special feasts.

haste, the Hebrew people baked the bread before it was leavened. This they do as a remembrance. This fall, we will celebrate “The Feast of Tishri.” Tishri being the last month in the Hebrew calendar; it is the time for the final harvest. The significance of the Feast of Tishri rests on three factors: First, the wandering of the children of Israel in the wilderness for forty years; Second, the completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple; and third, the Harvesting Time and Thanksgiving to God for his blessing and bounty. This feast celebrates the culmination of all the labor that has expounded to develop the crops and admonishes us to store the grain or the fruit for use during the coming winter. We as Scottish Rite Masons celebrate the final harvest and prepare for the long winter. It has been said to be one of the most festive of Masonic occasions, and it is! The ceremony of the Feast of Tishri dates to the time of Solomon’s Temple. You will recall that Jesus and all males over the age of 13 made three pilgrimages a year to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage in the Fall was for the feast of the harvest, or Feast of Tishri. When King Solomon dedicated the first Temple, he was not dedicating a mere structure; he was praying

continues on page 8

We as Scottish Rite Masons celebrate the final harvest and prepare for the long winter. It has been said to be one of the most festive of Masonic occasions, and it is!

The two celebrations are “Maundy Thursday” and “The Feast of Tishri.” Maundy Thursday was a celebration of the “Passover,” when the Children of Israel were delivered from Egypt. In the Christian calendar it corresponds to the “Last Supper.” This feast is especially marked by using unleavened bread, indicating that in their

IBRING YOU fraternal greetings from the members of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix. I hope all of you are having an enjoyable summer and are preparing to pick up your working tools as we renew the labors of the chapter this fall. The Valley of Baltimore will have a schedule filled with activities for all Scottish Rite Masons. We have a Fall Class schedule to include Reunion Day. The Maine Lobster Fest on August 10th, as well as many other social events, to afford opportunities for families and friends to gather and enjoy our special fraternity. All our regular Lodge meetings are preceded by dinners and followed by speakers, which are open to everyone who wishes to participate and enjoy the fellowship. While we have become accustomed to all these events over the years,

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 hands. It is a time of rejoicing, yet a time to pay humble adoration to the Great Architect of the Universe, without whose aid there would be no harvest.

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

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

Date: Wednesday, November 20th, 2024, 7pm
Cost \$25.00 per person, children under 12 are free
Please RSVP to the Office by Monday, November 18th, 2024
410-243-3200



The Maryland Council of Kadosh

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



AS THE SUMMER and all the hot days begin to end, many of us are beginning to push our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or just some younger family members toward the upcoming school year. This yearly custom means we start purchasing the necessary school supplies, begin planning for the upcoming year,

and most dreaded of all, giving those many words of wisdom to our younger family members to drive forward and work hard. These words of insight do, however, spark a mention from former President Theodore Roosevelt, which reminds me why we do all that we do. He said that, “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

As Scottish Rite Masons, each of us work vigorously towards a goal within both our personal lives and within the Temple. Whether the goal is quick and easy or complicated and far away, the end is the same. We work in the direction of the target and find that precious honor that allows us to continue moving onward. Like many of

you, I have worked hard to get where I am today. It has not, however, been without challenges or grief, but my family and friends have helped me to continue moving in the direction that is so needed. Together, our effort has promoted me past the unknown results of this challenging work to the great reward.

So, each day, whether your goal would be to build relationships with any person you meet during your endeavors or completing that necessary task that has been on your “bucket list” for so many years, I implore you to remember that your hard work will pay you in abundance as it is still “... the best prize that life offers...”

Meredith Chapter Rose Croix
continues from page 6

for all mankind. It is the Brotherhood of Man that is the very cornerstone of our Masonic Brotherhood and philosophy. We, therefore, can give thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe and celebrate the festive day as a Day of Scottish Rite Thanksgiving. We can thank our Creator for our many blessings: home, family, friends and for a Country where we

enjoy the religious and political freedoms even greater than our Founding Fathers ever dreamed. It is no accident that we call ourselves “FREE MASONS,” for we believe in the universal freedoms. These times of celebration should also serve for all Scottish Rite Masons as a time of reflection; a time to examine our own involvement and contribution, and to rededicate ourselves

to the principles and causes of Scottish Rite Masonry. I hope you and your families will take advantage and participate in what will be a most memorable Fall Season in the Valley of Baltimore. On behalf of the members of the Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix, I look forward to being with you as we renew the labors of the Chapter.

Lessons From the Past

BY: BRO. ANTHONY J. GLASS, 32°—COMMANDER, KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW

IN OUR DEGREE WORK we often find ourselves immersed in the lands of the ancient Near East and propelled through time to the shattered remains of medieval Europe. Adjacent to our timeline is the saga of one of the largest military campaigns of written history: the conquest led by Alexander the Great. An interesting note is that Alexander was taught by Aristotle, who was taught by Plato, and therein lies a juxtaposition of cerebral philosophy and bloody ambitions. To the Greeks, then...well, to the Macedonians, we direct our attention for a short time.

In the summer of 3644 A.L., a boy was born to Philip II and one of his wives, Olympias. Prior to Alexander’s birth, she claimed to have experienced a dream that her womb was struck by a lightning bolt and a wildfire swept through the world. Whether this was a bonafide premonition, or a power play to position her infant above the babies born to her sister-wives will never be known. However, the fact remains that her son succeeded in spreading the flames of war to all corners of the known world.

A silver lining to the destruction of the ensuing wars was the establishment of a global network that linked far-flung cultures, religions, and philosophies. To unite and control this enormous empire, Alexander

decreed that Greek was to be the lingua franca and established more than a dozen cities bearing his name thus uniting the Greek archipelago to the Ganges River under the umbrella of Hellenistic culture. This provided a fertile ground for the transmission of hitherto unknown/forgotten wisdom and for Light to rise like a Phoenix.

Our inheritance is due to the courage shown by our predecessors standing tall in the face of tyranny, defying the iron fist of oppression, and succeeding in conferring Light to future generations.

Exotic mystical traditions became known all over the ancient world, were translated to the vernacular and synthesized into common practices, paving the way into our hands today.

After Alexander’s untimely demise in 3677 A.L., four of his generals assumed control of portions of the empire. Arguably the most well known

was Ptolemy, who declared himself in control of the region we know as Egypt and sat at the capital of Alexandria, home of the library many of us would long to get lost in. Here, he began a dynasty that lasted until 3950 A.L. The effulgence of this cultural mixture is a wonderful study that any Mason could find immensely beneficial. As the saying goes, “You live by the sword, you die by the sword,” and by the time we reach the end of our journey through the Chapter Rose-Croix, the Ptolemaic Dynasty is a husk of its former self and succumbs to the gory might of the burgeoning Roman Imperium.

Throughout history, the heavy hand of war and the vicious onslaught of power-hungry men have routinely ravaged opportunities to polish and adorn the mind. However, one constant is the light of the soul shining through the darkness and carrying Wisdom and Knowledge to safe harbors. Our inheritance is due to the courage shown by our predecessors standing tall in the face of tyranny, defying the iron fist of oppression, and succeeding in conferring Light to future generations. This is our charge as Scottish Rite Masons. Indeed it is heavy, but the Supreme Architect does not dole out tasks that can not be fulfilled.


The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew and Cumberland's Emmanuel Episcopal Parish co-host the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans



THE CUMBERLAND KNIGHTS of St. Andrew and Cumberland's Emmanuel Episcopal Parish co-hosted the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans at the city's historic church in May with parishioners joining the Knights in receiving a blessing of their family or organizational tartans as part of the morning religious services. "Kirk" is the Scottish word for "church." Tartans, with their distinctive plaid, represent specific Scottish clans, regions, or regiments. The "Kirkin' O' The Tartans" is the presentation of a Scottish family's symbol, its

tartan, at church for blessing. After Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish forces were defeated by the English in 1746 in the Battle of Culloden, the wearing of tartans and the playing of bagpipes were forbidden in Scotland for many years. Wearing or displaying of tartans was punishable by death. During those years, some Scots wore concealed pieces of their tartan when they attended church. At a particular point in the worship service, they would secretly touch their hidden tartan cloth, and the minister would offer a blessing.

The first formal "Kirkin" in America was conducted at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., in 1941. Their minister at the time was Dr. Peter Marshall, born in Scotland, who was also Chaplain of the United States Senate. Beyond the particular heritage of Scotland and its people, the Kirkin' is intended to encourage all participants to reflect with thanksgiving on their own family and ethnic heritage, and to celebrate God's grace poured out for all generations.



The 19th Annual Robert Burns Night
 Saturday, February 1, 2025
 Masonic Temple
 Greene Street, Cumberland

Featuring
 Traditional Scottish Fare, Toasts, and Music

Proceeds Benefit RiteCare Speech and Language Programs
 Ticket Sales begin September 25, 2024 at cumberlandscottishrite.org



3rd Annual
Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Scramble
 Sponsored by The Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation

Oakland Golf Club
Saturday, September 21, 2024
Rain Date Saturday, October 5, 2024
18 Hole Scramble
 \$300 per Team (Foursome) or \$75 per Player - Lunch Included
 9:00 am Registration - 10:30 am Tee Time

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Hole Sponsor - \$100
- Friend of RiteCare - \$250
- SILVER Sponsor - \$1000 (Includes Team Registration)
- GOLD Sponsor - \$3000 (Includes Team Registration)
- PLATINUM Sponsor - \$5000 (Includes Team Registration)

Purchase a Sponsorship or Register a Team Online at cumberlandscottishrite.org

For more info contact
 Jason Finch at 301-416-4500 or Brent Lewis at 301-501-3130
 Proceeds Support



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at Cumberland Masonic Temple unless noted

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

Burns Night Committee
 Monday, August 19
 at 7:30 pm

Degree Cast Rehearsals
 Sunday, August 25
 at 1:00 pm

Degree Cast Rehearsals
 Sunday, September 15
 at 1:00 pm

Degree Cast Rehearsal (32nd Degree)
 Monday, September 16
 at 6:30 pm

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

Kid Walk/Kid Talk Walkathon
 Saturday, September 14
 at 10:00 am
 The Children's League Office, Cumberland

New Members Presented with Rings and Prayer Caps

THE FALL 2024 CONFERRAL & RE-UNION will be held at the Cumberland Masonic Temple on Saturday, October 12, 2024 beginning with light refreshments at 7:30 am. We look forward to welcoming a new class of members to the Valley. Petitions are available at cumberland-scottishrite.org, in the Temple lobby, or by contacting the Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield at info@cumberlandsctishrite.org or 301-729-2491.



Twelve new members of the Valley of Cumberland – pictured here with their family members – were presented with Scottish Rite Prayer Caps and 14° Rings during the Spring 2024 Capping Ceremony.

Valley of Southern Maryland

BY: ILL. JOHN W. LEROY, SR.—PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

WITH THE INSTALLATION of the new officers in January, our Valley was poised to confer the Lodge of Perfection and Rose Croix degrees on a worthy candidate. At the installation ceremony Ill. RC Miller, who has served as our Personal Representative for the past seventeen years, retired from his position. Ill. Miller was replaced by Ill. John W. LeRoy, Sr., who has served as the assistant for the past five years. Although Ill. Miller has retired as our Personal Representative, he is still continually active in the Valley.

At the last minute, our candidate was unable to receive the degrees. The decision was made to do a book study as we were



not conferring the degrees. The book chosen was *The Civility Mosaic* by Past Grand Master Russ Charvonja from the Grand Lodge of California. MWBrother Charvonja believes that incivility is tearing the moral fabric of our country, if not the world. He

believes that, because of our tenants and teachings, Freemasonry can be an answer to correcting this problem. The brothers who have participated in this study have enjoyed this deep dive. We are working on getting candidates for the fall.

SPRING 2024 CLASS OFFICERS—ILL. WILLIAM E. GYR, 33° MEMORIAL CLASS



(Left to Right)

- Hon. Allen L. Washington, 32°, KCCH
Class Director
- Bro. William J. Atencio, 32°
Class Orator
- Bro. William A. Tessier, 32°
Class President
- Bro. David W. Coffman, 32°
Class Secretary/Treasurer
- Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
- Bro. Leon L. Pettaway, Jr., 32°
Prelate

UPCOMING EVENTS *cont.*

3rd Annual Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Tournament
Saturday, September 21
at 9:00 am
Oakland Golf Club,
Oakland

Degree Cast Rehearsals
Sunday, September 22
at 1:00 pm

Knights of St. Andrew Business Meeting & Rehearsal
Monday, September 30
at 7:30 pm

Degree Cast Rehearsals
Sunday, October 6
at 1:00 pm

Cumberland Consistory
Monday, October 7
at 7:30 pm

184th Conferral and Reunion
Saturday, October 12
at 7:30 am

Cumberland Council of Kadosh
Monday, October 21
at 7:30 pm

Knights of St. Andrew - Initiation of New Members
Monday, October 28
at 7:30 pm



Valley of Salisbury

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



Left: Ill. Marlin L. Mills, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland, Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°, Personal Representative, and Ill. Benjamin D. Lowe, 33°, Assistant Personal Representative at the 2024 Installation Dinner for Valley of Salisbury. **Right:** Ill. David See, 33°, Director of Work, presenting JROTC the award at Pocomoke High School.

GREETINGS TO ALL Scottish Rite Masons from the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Brothers of the Valley of Salisbury have been busy this spring. We presented our full schedule to include the 4th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 18th & 30th Degrees to our newest member, Brother Stephen Weipert. He then received the 32nd degree with the Valley of Baltimore. We are honored to welcome our newest dual member, Jack McDuff, who is also Secretary for the Valley of Lower Delaware. Additionally, our Valley held a Ceremony of Renewal & Remembrance to honor those Brothers that passed to the

Celestial Lodge in the past year. Our Valley presented JROTC Awards at three area programs this school year: Ill. Arthur H. Tawes, 33°, Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General 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, presented at Snow Hill High school. Additionally, Ill. David See, 33°, led our Scholarship Committee in its important work to select two highly deserving area high school seniors for

multi-year scholarships. This is one of the long-standing community outreach projects in which our Brothers are honored to participate. It has helped numerous talented area students on the Delmarva peninsula achieve their academic goals. The Valley of Salisbury would like to recognize and congratulate Dean Goldsborough, 32°, KCCH who was selected as our Scottish Rite Mason of the Year for 2023. His leadership in the Lodge of Perfection Chapter of Rose Croix was instrumental to our success last year. We would also like to give well deserved recognition and gratitude to three pillars of our

Valley: Ill. Samuel Walker, 33°, our former Secretary, Jerry Hovatter, 32°, KCCH, our former Treasurer, and Ill. Skip Carey, 33°, our former Director of Works, for their many years of dedicated and selfless service to the Valley of Salisbury. The Valley literally could not have functioned without your tireless efforts. The Valley of Salisbury would like to invite any Scottish Rite

Brothers traveling through our area this season to visit and attend a meeting with us. Our schedule for the Fall 2024 is shown below:
Monday, September 9th
Conferral of the 4° & 6°
Monday, September 16th
Conferral of the 7°
Monday, September 23rd
Conferral of the 10°
Monday, September 30th

Conferral of the 14°
Monday, October 14th
Conferral of the 15°
Monday, October 21st
Conferral of the 18°
Monday, October 28th
Conferral of the 30°
All regular meetings are held in the Red Room of the Wicomico Lodge #91 at 110 N Division St, Salisbury, MD 21801 and begin at 7:30 p.m.

MORE FROM THE CUMBERLAND VALLEY

Cumberland KSA Chapter adds members

THE CUMBERLAND CHAPTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW added two new members to its ranks during this past spring. The Knights of the Chapter are shown here following the May initiation of new members Christopher Dillard and Timothy Friend.



Pictured L to R: Robin Summerfield, Brett Bean, Mark Weatherholt, Jamey Hill, Sam Lane, Dwight Metcalf, Dillard, Venerable Master Mark Lathrop, Friend, Ed Kave, Michael Kerns, Richard Haines, Gary Trail, Jerome Robinette, and Christopher Ackerman.



**Spring Class
Valley of Baltimore**





Valley of Susquehanna—10 Years of Masonic Labor of Love

BY: ILL. CHARLES J. WHITE, JR., 33°—WISE MASTER



THE VALLEY OF SUSQUEHANNA celebrated its tenth anniversary this past November. During this time, the Valley has seen substantial growth. The Valley of Susquehanna started with a few members in 2013, and today there are almost one hundred and fifty. One might ask how this occurred? It is from leadership and a willingness of its membership to achieve the goal of making the Valley the place where Scottish Rite Masons in Harford and Cecil Counties wanted to be a member.

When the Valley began, it was only one Lodge, the Lodge of Perfection, meeting at Mt. Ararat in Bel Air. Later as the Valley membership grew, so did the Valley of Susquehanna, to have both a Lodge of Perfection and Rose Croix Chapter, with the

hope that one day we might be able to expand to confer all the degrees locally in Harford and Cecil County. Later, the Valley moved from Bel Air to Aberdeen Masonic Lodge to be more centrally located with both Harford and Cecil Counties and to help with its growth and encourage membership to attend the meetings.

The key to growth in our Valley is found in the Blue Lodges. Once a brother was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, a diplomat is present on the degree night to welcome him to the fraternity and introduce him to the Scottish Rite. After the brother completes his catechism in the third degree, the diplomat then follows-up with the new brother to remind him of the upcoming fall or spring class that he could join as a member. It is this execution of following up with the brother that makes him feel he is wanted and encouraging the prospective member that he needs to continue his Masonic education and seek further light in Masonry with the Scottish Rite.

As the Valley continues its success, I believe it can be summed up best by Brother Benjamin Franklin:

Masonic Wages

Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who looks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.

These are truly the tenets of our craft: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth; said so eloquently by Brother Franklin and the basis of the growth and success of the Valley of Susquehanna, a Valley that I am proud to be a member of. “We do the work for work’s sake, and not for the reward.”

Congratulations to Illustrious Ralph L. Perry, 33°

Personal Representative for the Valley of Susquehanna

Celebrating his 50th Year Anniversary in the Scottish Rite!



Knights of St. Andrew Valley of Baltimore





Maryland DeMolay

BY: STATE MASTER COUNCILOR MATTHEW MCKAY

MASONIC FAMILY: As the weather is getting warmer many of our chapters are planning events outdoors and having fun all around the state. For many of our members, DeMolay is a place they can feel safe and have fun. Over the past months chapters as well as the state association have been planning and executing amazing events. Many members came to the statewide flag football tournament and rifle competition. Each event was an amazing time for brotherhood and camaraderie. Also, recently the Maryland court of Chevaliers held their annual softball game versus the active DeMolays. After a rigorous game the DeMolays received the victory. This marks the second game in a row the DeMolays won after a 30-year streak of the Chevaliers winning.

When the weather gets warmer that means that it is almost time for Conclave the Maryland DeMolay fun weekend and semiannual meeting where we will install new state leaders. This weekend has young men excited for months. Many can't wait to see their brothers from across the jurisdiction and have a good time. From sports to games or the endless amount of food, Conclave is an amazing time for the young men, but we also get to elect and install our new

2024 - 2025 MD DeMolay leaders. During Sunday's banquet, the jurisdiction will give out its yearly awards for chapters or individual DeMolays who have done exceptional work for the order and excelled in the teaching of DeMolay. This day will also be the installation. Looking forward, this is not the only event coming up. Right before Conclave MD DeMolay, we will hold the Ronald J. Shaffer Ritual Tournament. This year

it is being held in western Maryland. Here, young men from across the jurisdiction will compete in various ritualistic pieces. There are many group and individual competitions, so the young men can show off their ritualistic talents.

I would like to thank you for the continued support you have given to Maryland DeMolay and its chapters. If you need anything, please feel free to reach out.



Who Am I?

BY: HON. JEFFREY A. VILKAS, 32°, KCCH

GOOD DAY MY BROTHERS. I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I was born in 1875 in Hamilton, Missouri to a Baptist preacher father and homemaker mother. I was one of twelve children, number seven to be exact. Crazy thing is that in those days, it was a privilege to become an adult. Only six of my parents' children did. I, being one of them, felt very lucky. That's not to say life wasn't without tragedy as my father was very strict and had a lot of rules. Do you believe I had to start paying for my own clothes at age eight!? I had big plans though. I was going to be a lawyer and have my own practice! Well life doesn't always go as planned. My father died while I was in college, and I had to come home. That set me on a path that I didn't expect at all. I got a job at a small corner store called the Golden Rule store.

I had a blast working there, so much so that in 1898 after being there only a few years, I was offered a 1/3 partnership. After a few state moves, a marriage and two kids, I bought out the other two thirds of the company. Now I can move east, west or wherever else I want to and open a store. First though, I have to change the name. Let me think on that one a bit. Now let's jump years to 1913 or so. I have the name and have been using it while I expand my stores and brand. Oh yea, I ended up in Utah of all places due to health issues but mostly because of the banks and railroads being there. While in Utah I was the first man initiated into Wasatch Lodge No. 1 F& AM of Utah, April 18, 1911. I joined the Scottish and York Rites shortly after and was delighted to become a 33rd Degree in 1945. I received the Gold Distinguished Service

Award by the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, in Missouri, in 1958. I loved being a Mason, and I always wore a large ring showing my Masonic pride. My family and I know that nothing was easy for me. We went through all the hardships of owning a store, good and bad. I was married three times and had six amazing children, who themselves had kids. Every time they go in a mall, they can see my hard work and their name in lights. Think you know who I am yet? During a visit to a store of mine in Iowa, I met this kid named Sam. He went on to open a store named Wal.....something. Guess he did okay too. I laid my working tools down February 12, 1971, in the Bronx, New York. I was 95. Brothers let me introduce myself properly. My name is James Cash Penney Jr., you may know me by my store brand J.C. Penney.

9th Annual Masonic Bird Hunt to Support Rite Care

Saturday, November 2, 2024
On Point Outfitters, Addison, PA



Limited Space Available!

\$185 per Shooter (\$75 Deposit)

- ➔ A Guide and Dog for Each Group of 5
- ➔ 4 Pheasants and 2 Quails per Shooter
- ➔ Exciting prizes!

Carpool from Little Sandy's at Keyser's Ridge at 8:00 am, Breakfast on your own
Contact Rob Elliot for Details at 724-984-1484, RSVP at cumberlandscottishrite.org





Five Principles for Effective Leadership

BY: BRO. LUIS J. GONZALEZ, JR., 32°—PAST MASTER, ODENTON LODGE #209

LEADING A MASONIC LODGE involves embodying timeless principles that guide effective leadership within the fraternity. Here are the Five Principles for the effective leadership of a Masonic Lodge:

1. Inspire with Vision and Purpose:

At the core of Masonic leadership lies the ability to inspire brothers through a compelling vision and purpose. A true leader articulates a clear vision that resonates with the aspirations and values of the brethren. They ignite fervor and dedication, rallying the Lodge around a shared mission that transcends individual ambitions. Here's how to inspire your brothers:

- **Define Your Vision:** Clearly articulate your vision and its significance. What do you aim to achieve? Why does it matter? Ensure your vision aligns with Masonic values.
- **Express Your Vision:** Master the art of conveying your vision with clarity and passion. Use language that stirs emotion and conveys a vivid picture of the future you envision.
- **Lead by Example:** Exemplify the principles you uphold. Let your actions speak volumes, showcasing your unwavering commitment to the Lodge's

vision and purpose.

2. Empower through Trust and Collaboration:

Effective leadership within a Lodge hinges on empowering the brethren through trust and collaboration. A true leader empowers others to unleash their full potential by providing support, guidance, and autonomy. Here's how to empower your brothers:

- **Foster Trust:** Build trust through transparency, honesty, and reliability. Respect differing opinions and demonstrate integrity in all interactions.
- **Delegate Authority:** Grant brethren the autonomy to make decisions and take ownership of Lodge matters. Encourage innovative solutions and problem-solving.
- **Provide Support:** Ensure brethren have the resources and mentorship needed for success. Foster a culture of learning and growth.

3. Lead through Service and Humility:

In Masonic leadership, service and humility are paramount. True leaders prioritize the well-being of others over personal gain, embodying humility and empathy. Here's how to lead through service and humility:

- **Prioritize Others:** Center

leadership on serving the needs of the brethren. Listen actively, show empathy, and support their growth.

- **Lead by Example:** Demonstrate humility in decision-making and acknowledge the expertise of others. Serve as a mentor and advocate for the development of the brothers.
- **Show Gratitude:** Express appreciation for the contributions made by the brothers. Celebrate successes collectively and recognize individual efforts.

4. Treat Others with Respect and Dignity:

Respect and dignity form the bedrock of Masonic leadership. Leaders value each brother's unique perspective and contributions, fostering inclusivity and unity. Here's how to uphold respect and dignity:

- **Lead with Empathy:** Understand the perspectives of the brethren and show compassion for their experiences. Foster open communication and transparency.
- **Value Diversity:** Celebrate the diversity of Lodge members and create an inclusive environment where all feel welcomed and valued.

- **Lead by Example:** Set a standard of respect and professionalism in all interactions. Treat others with kindness and uphold ethical standards.

5. Acknowledge Others' Achievements:

Recognizing achievements of brethren is essential for fostering a supportive Lodge community. It inspires motivation, strengthens relationships, and promotes a culture of appreciation. Here's why acknowledgment matters:

- **Motivate Excellence:** Validate the efforts of brethren and inspire continued dedication to Lodge values and goals.
- **Foster Appreciation:** Cultivate a culture of gratitude and camaraderie within the Lodge, enhancing cohesion and morale.

- **Build Trust:** Strengthen bonds among brethren through acknowledgment, fostering trust and collaboration.

- **Promote Inclusion:** Recognize achievements across diverse backgrounds, promoting a sense of belonging for all members.

- **Inspire Growth:** Set a benchmark for excellence and encourage brethren to strive for continuous improvement.

In conclusion, leading a Lodge is not just about administrative tasks; it's about embodying timeless principles that resonate with the core values of the fraternity. The five principles outlined: inspiring with vision and purpose, empowering through trust and

collaboration, leading through service and humility, treating others with respect and dignity, and acknowledging others' achievements, serve as a roadmap for effective leadership within any organization. By adhering to these principles, leaders can create an environment where brothers feel inspired, empowered, and valued. Through servant leadership, transparency, and inclusivity, leaders can nurture a strong sense of community and foster personal and collective growth. Ultimately, by embracing these principles, Masonic leaders can uphold the traditions of the fraternity while guiding it towards a future of continued excellence and unity.





Ring Ceremony
Valley of Baltimore—Spring Class 2024





Final Thoughts

BY: ILL. MARLIN L. MILLS, 33° —SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL:
I hope this issue of our Rite News finds everyone well enjoying the waning days of summer and preparing for the final summer holiday, “Labor Day” weekend.

This is the 130th annual Labor Day when we pause to honor some of the great heroes of the American story... “The American Worker.”

As I thought about Labor Day, I could not help but think of the hundreds of men and women who are laboring in hundreds of different jobs to rebuild the “Francis Scott Key Bridge.”

A bridge that was dedicated in memory of the author of our National Anthem, Brother Francis Scott Key who penned:

“O’ say can you see, by the dawn’s early light, what so proudly we hail’d at the twilight’s last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight. O’er the ramparts we watch’d were so gallantly streaming? And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there, O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O’er the land of the FREE and the home of the brave?.....

.....O’ long may it wave o’er the land of the FREE and the home of the brave!

Eighty-one words every single

American should know by heart!
(we seldom hear the last verse)

These words reminded me of our most recent holiday, the 4th of July, “INDEPENDENCE DAY”.

Freedom for these United States was hard fought for by Masons, Scottish Rite Masons, and Patriots who wanted FREEDOM.....” FREEDOM of conscience, FREEDOM of thought, FREEDOM for Civil and Religious liberty, FREEDOM for the sovereignty of the people, and the exercise of citizen control.

FREEDOM, as we enjoy it, continues to be a challenge to defend even today.

Today, across this great nation, crime is at an all-time high and continues to get worse regardless of some news reports. I have heard the old saying “figures don’t lie, but liars figure.” I think this means that facts and numbers don’t misrepresent the truth by themselves... it takes someone to manipulate the facts and the figures in order to misrepresent the truth.

Crime in this country is out of control and our FREEDOM to move about freely is at stake.

Juvenile crime is worse now than it has ever been. It seems that our politicians think probation and a “new study” will solve the problem! Not a chance!

What has happened to

consequences or punishment? Even in the early days of this Great Nation, there was punishment, often immediate and very severe. People knew if they committed a crime there would be serious consequences.

Yes, much more severe than the courts hand out today. We are told by many that we should be more understanding, kinder in nature, and more gentle. Look where that has gotten us today. Crime runs rampant!

People are afraid to go out at night, afraid to park their car on the street, afraid to have a package left on their doorstep, afraid to even go walking, jogging, or attending Lodge meetings, and why? Because there are NO consequences and NO punishment when a crime is committed. All thanks to many of our elected officials and appointed Judges.

Probation, suspended sentences, early release, time off for good behavior, home detention, work release*, home detention with a monitoring bracelet?

These are not punishments, or at least not serious punishments that teach a MEMORABLE LESSON!

I do believe that anyone can make a mistake and, in some circumstances, may deserve a second chance but NOT three, four, or more chances.

continues on page 28

Recent Charitable Contributions

AS OF 5/28/2024

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In Memory of James T. Hill by Marlin and Brenda Mills

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In Memory of Robert J. Seidel, Sr. Marlin and Brenda Mills

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In Memory of William E. Gyr by Ancient Baltimore Lodge No. 234

IN HONOR OF CONTRIBUTIONS

In Honor of Bro. George L. Schnader IV, 32° by Carolyn Anderson London

Brothers Called From Labor To Eternal Rest

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Roger P. Douglas, 32°, KCCH

Robert J. Seidel, Sr., 32°



Final Thoughts

continues from page 26

What happened to the old saying “If you do the crime, you MUST do the time?” Perhaps some Judges have forgotten this or not yet been a VICTIM. How about, “If you can’t do the time... DON’T do the crime.”

It seems that our prisons have been ordered to reduce the population (inmates), our jails ordered to reduce the population, youth detention centers have been closed, and juvenile centers where juveniles were once required to attend school classes and do chores while in detention are all a thing of the past.

The brilliant idea to “defund the police” has placed our cities, our Police Departments and Correctional officers in a position where they can no longer “Protect and Defend” themselves, not to mention our families, our Brothers and Sisters, nor, our businesses!

For example, look how many stores are closing because of crime, how many have to keep items under lock and key, and how many have had to install cameras and hire extra security to hopefully reduce theft and keep us safe while in the store or on the parking lot, especially at night. This only increases the cost of everything you buy.

How many times have you seen on the news where dozens of juveniles rush into a store and steal as much as they can

carry out?

Do you ever hear of punishment or consequences for these offenders? Noooo!

Remember “Spare the rod, spoil the child?”

We ALL know “RIGHT AND WRONG” and when you do something wrong (ILLEGAL) there should be consequences and serious punishment!

I believe the PUNISHMENT MUST fit the crime! I also believe that crime will NEVER be reduced until the criminal is hurt worse than the victim!

Some may not like this one, however, I sincerely believe that recidivism is very low when the proper punishment is applied.

Crime is a sign of OUR society’s failure to defend our citizens!

President John F. Kennedy once said, “If the status quo was the American way, we would still be just 13 small colonies struggling along on the East Coast.”

It sure seems today that we all are struggling with the crime epidemic!

We as Masons and Scottish Rite Masons should not accept the status quo.

We should stand up and encourage our elected officials to take the steps necessary to fund and support our Police Officers, Correctional Officers, and the Departments they work for.

They should also support reopening our prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers and homes. Perhaps even build more!

They should always support and defend the American citizen, our brothers, and our sisters of this great nation.

Remind them of YOUR right to vote and your right to be free from CRIME!

This Labor Day I would like to ask you to think about these two holidays that we often refer to as the beginning and the end of Summer.

July 4th and September 2nd** Very important days in America!

Then, please remember the many men and women, many of whom were Masons and Scottish Rite Masons who joined in the revolutions and those who labor today so that we may all enjoy the Freedoms that we as a FREE Nation have!

In closing, may I wish you all the Blessing of good health, much happiness, and safe travels.

* May be considered to help a family depending on the severity of the crime.

** Always on the first Monday regardless of the date.

The Master Mason Friend Who:

1. Is interested in learning of the philosophies of the World, both of this and other ages.
2. Would like to join with other earnest men in an absorbing study of present day problems;
3. Would appreciate turning, for just a little while, from the constant struggles of day to day existence to commune with the noblest intellects of all time, brought to him in matchless degrees.
4. Enjoys viewing worthwhile drama, well presented;
5. Finds the hearty fellowship and good-will of other men inspiring and enjoyable.
6. Is willing to enter into true fraternity with other men when he finds them worthy; and
7. Has caught the gleam of Masonic inspiration from his Blue Lodge work and is ready to seek the truth still further;

Should petition to become a Scottish Rite 32° Mason!

Visit www.mdscottishrite.org to download a petition

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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 duties. If retired, please indicate your former duties and employer.)

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

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

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

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Spouse's Name _____

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

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

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

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

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

I attest that I have never applied for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees, and now respectfully petition to receive the Degrees, from the Fourth to the Thirty-Second 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

INITIATION FEE INCLUDES:

14° Trilite Ring (May be upgraded to 10K Gold for additional fee),
32° Patent and Bridge to Light Book

AT LEAST \$100.00 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS PETITION.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SCOTTISH RITE

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Select one: _____ MasterCard _____ VISA _____ Discover

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You can now submit a petition online! Go to www.mdscottishrite.org/membership and select the appropriate Valley. Not sure which Valley to petition? Contact the Scottish Rite office at 410-243-3200 or info@mdscottishrite.org and we will be happy to assist you!



Illustrious Teddy R. Barkley, Jr., 33° Memorial Class

Fall 2024—Candidate's Schedule

Wednesday, October 2nd Spring Class Orientation 7:00pm
Soup and Sandwiches served at 6:30pm in the Banquet Hall

Wednesday, October 9th Confer the 4th & 5th Degrees 7:00pm
Candidates Report to the Classroom at 6:30pm

Wednesday, October 16th Confer the 11th & 13th Degrees 7:00pm
Candidates Report to the Classroom at 6:30pm

Wednesday, October 23rd Confer 14th & 15th Degrees 7:00pm
Candidates Report to the Classroom at 6:30pm

Wednesday, October 30th Confer 18th & 20th Degrees 7:00pm
Candidates Report to the Classroom at 6:30pm

Saturday, November 2nd Reunion Day 8:00am
Confer 21st, 25th, 30th, 31st & 32nd Degrees
Candidates report to the Classroom at 7:30am

Sunday, November 3rd Ring Ceremony 2:00pm
Candidates and Guests report to the Classroom by 1:45pm

**While it is required for candidates to attend during the above highlighted dates and times, we understand that due to family or work responsibilities, this may not always be possible. If for any reason candidates cannot attend during any of the above, please call the Scottish Rite Office at 410-243-3200, so other arrangements can be made.*

VALLEYS OF MARYLAND

Illustrious

Marlin L. Mills, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland

BALTIMORE VALLEY

MEETS ON WEDNESDAY 7:30 P.M.

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

Ill. Frederick Spicer, 33°, GC—Executive Director

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

CHARLES COUNTY VALLEY

MEETS 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,
301-729-2491

FREDERICK VALLEY

MEETS ON THURSDAY 7:30 P.M.

Masonic Temple
6816 Blentlinger Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702

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

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

SALISBURY VALLEY

MEETS ON MONDAY 7:30 P.M.

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

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

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

SOUTHERN MARYLAND VALLEY

MEETS ON WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M.

Masonic Temple
24410 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood,
Maryland 20636

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

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

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

MEETS THIRD THURSDAY 7:00PM

Masonic Temple
20 Howard St., Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

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

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

www.susquehannasr.org