

The Free State Freemason

Spring Issue

May/June 2007

2007 Grand Line Officers

M. Worshipful Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr.
R. W. Deputy Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.
R. W. Sr. Grand Warden Gerald E. Piepiora
R. W. Jr. Grand Warden Henry C. McDonald, Jr.
R. W. Grand Secretary Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
R. W. Grand Treasurer William E. Gyr
W. Grand Marshal Julius H. Poston
W. Asst. Grand Marshal Jay W. Hodges
W. Grand Lecturer R. Gary Pierce
W. Asst. Grand Lecturer Paul H. Fishell
W. Grand Chaplain Donald C. Stottlemeyer
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Elwood L. Ulmer
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Richard C. Oursler
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Randall A. Schoch
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Walter F. Burgess
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Jack R. George
W. Sr. Grand Deacon Kostas Vourvoulas
W. Jr. Grand Deacon Charles L. Oursler
W. Sr. Grand Steward Frank H. Eberly, Jr.
W. Jr. Grand Steward John L. Shriver
W. Grand Standard Bearer Robert O. Ivey
W. Grand Sword Bearer R. Craig Wehrle
W. Grand Pursuivant Gene L. Purkey
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies Michael A. Caldwell
W. Grand Tyler Thomas F. Hess
W. Asst. Grand Tyler Patrick V. Drum, Sr.
W. Asst. Grand Tyler Richard H. Uren
W. Grand Organist Ronald L. Unger
W. Asst. Grand Organist Kenneth C. Mars
W. Grand Photographer W. Grant Gibson

From the Grand Master



Brethren, May has arrived and so has the GREAT SPRING WEATHER. I for one was beginning to wonder if the 40 degree weather was ever going to go away. Even without a thermometer, the abundance of convertibles and motorcycles on the road certainly indicate that our weather has improved, and that is a good thing.

This Masonic Year is well under way, and by the time you read this, my first Semi-Annual Communication will be history. I am pleased to have had a chance to visit with so many of you over the past 6 months. I hope to see many more of the Brethren on my travels around the State. I also look forward to visiting with many of you during the upcoming Summer Schools of Instruction. The schedule for these schools has been arranged by our Grand Lecturer and is included on page 4 of this issue.

I am happy to report that from last October through the end of March, our Lodges have accepted and acted upon 340 petitions for the three Degrees of Masonry. Brethren, I truly believe the bottom of the cycle has passed, and that we are now in the beginning of an upswing. That is truly wonderful news. Lodges are saying that they are having a hard time scheduling all of the Degree work – what a great problem to have. The Grand Line and I conferred the Master Mason Degree on eleven new Master Masons during the month of December, and on 6 more in January.

I have spoken to many of you at the Regional Meetings earlier this year on the necessity of your Lodge participating in a “Mentoring Program”. Brethren, this is such an important issue, that, if done properly will assure that our newly raised brothers are properly cared for. To confer the third degree, and direct them to “have a seat on the side”, MASONIC EDUCATION – is what we are charged to confer to our new members that they may grow and appreciate the fraternity, and all that it has to offer. If you need assistance in a mentoring program, please drop me an email or give me a phone call.

I am sad to report that on April 27th, Frieda Hopkins, wife of Past Grand Master Harvey T. Hopkins has passed away after a long illness. Burial services were held on April 30, 2007. She was a resident of our Homes, and had not been doing well for sometime now.

John R. Biggs, Jr.
Grand Master

Greatness is not standing above our Brothers and ordering them around - it is standing with them and helping them to be all they can be.

Family Tradition

On March 24, 2007 in Oakland Lodge No. 192, Bro. Stephen J. DeWitt was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. In attendance that night was his father Jeffrey DeWitt, two Uncles Todd and Randy DeWitt, and his Grandfather Clyde DeWitt.

Grand Master Biggs was also in attendance and was overjoyed to see the DeWitt family working together in Masonry.



Pictured Above - First row, left to right: Jeffrey W. DeWitt, (Father), John R. Biggs Jr. MWGM, Stephen J. DeWitt, (Candidate), Melvyn D. Sines II, WM.
Second Row, left to right: Todd A. DeWitt, (Uncle), Clyde E. Dewitt, (Grandfather), Randy A. DeWitt, (Uncle).

Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Free State Freemason*: **the 20th of January, April, July, and October.**

These dates are firm as the issue must be formatted and given to the printer the last day of these months.

Send mail to:
Grand Lodge of Maryland
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

410-527-0600 tel
410-527-1276 fax

FSFM@covad.net

Grand Lodge Website
<http://www.mdmasons.org/gl>

Article Submission

These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the *Free State Freemason* publication:

Original pictures or pictures from a digital camera on disk are fine - use the highest resolution.

Ink jet prints or newspaper pictures **will not reproduce satisfactorily.**

If you desire the return of pictures, they must have submitting individual's name on the back.

Pictures should have accompanying documentation detailing who is in the picture and what the picture represents if not accompanied by an article. Articles must be typewritten.

Articles can be submitted to the editor by e-mail, fax, regular mail or dropped off at the Grand Lodge office.

All In The Family

by Tim Bryce, PM

Have you ever gone to a family reunion? Typically, you find the patriarch and matriarch overseeing the activities, the middle age offspring actually doing all of the work, a lot of kids running around and getting into harmless trouble; then there's eccentric "Uncle Joe" and "Aunt Mildred" who live in their own world and bend your ear about the old days. The real nut cases, who we normally like to keep locked up in the closet, either stay away or make themselves presentable and are on their best behavior. Families represent a quirky blend of idiosyncrasies which, to the outsider, appears strange and a little like bedlam. But family members have all adapted to the environment and if you look beyond the madness there is actually a remarkable sense of harmony to the group, warts and all. I think this is because each member of the family is acutely aware of the strengths and

weaknesses of everyone in the group and deals with them accordingly. And when push comes to shove, the members put their differences aside and do what is best for the family overall.

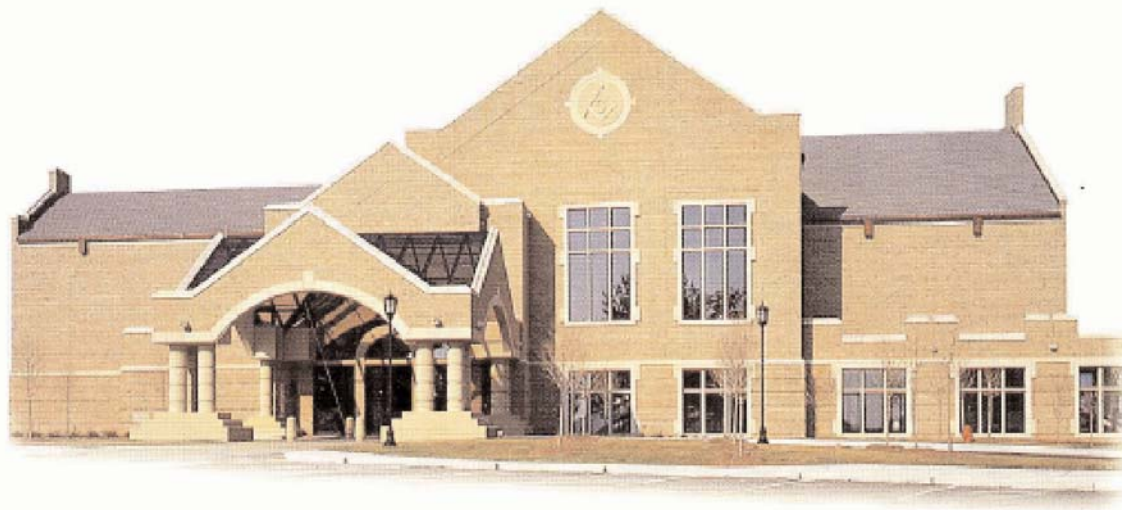
I tend to see a Masonic Lodge as a family. It has its share of characters and personalities and, No, not everyone gets along, but it is a family nonetheless, complete with a patriarch (the Worshipful Master), and "Uncle Joes" (Past Masters). The "offspring" are of course the Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft with their unbridled enthusiasm. Like families, not all Lodges behave the same. Some are very combative and thrive on fighting. Occasionally one of the members gets battered and either the police are called (Grand Lodge) or the family member files for divorce and remarries (transfers to another Lodge). But the fact remains, we are all looking for that family where we can accept the mannerisms of the rest of the members and call home. The only

real difference between a family and a Lodge is blood lines. As the old saying goes, "You can choose your friends, but you cannot choose your family."

The only time we should be concerned about the welfare of a Lodge is when the family becomes dysfunctional. Lodges too often squabble and dig themselves into a rut, and are at a loss as to how to get out of it. For example, we cannot amicably settle our differences and, as a result, the Lodge becomes grid locked. To remedy this, family counseling is advised. Unfortunately, we see too little of this in Freemasonry. To me, this is a duty for the Grand Lodge to perform, which should offer wise counsel as opposed to dictating policy.

To my way of thinking, every Masonic communications, be it a Craft Lodge or Grand Lodge, should be a celebration of family for it represents a rare opportunity for the members

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The Grand Lodge of Maryland Ballroom Rentals

Contact: Raymond J. Vogel, Ballroom Coordinator at 410-527-0289

E-Mail: glballroom@covad.net, Fax 410-527-0289

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Monday - Friday by appointment.

Catering: Approved list of caterers.

Ballroom Capacity: Receptions, 320, with a nice dance area. 410 for banquets without dance area. Separate room for Weddings and Special Events.

Rates: Call for information.

Parking: Free on site, 178 spaces.

Information: Foyer is marble with a fantastic staircase. Ballroom is 55 ft. x 111 ft., with hardwood floors. Twelve brass chandeliers, dance area depends on table setup. A must see in person to really experience the beauty of this facility. Call us and come see our Ballroom in this beautiful Hunt Valley setting.



License Plates

Masonic License plates are available to Maryland Masons, with vehicles registered in Maryland, as well as their wives, widows, and sons and daughters living at home.

You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. Ray is available during regular business hours Monday through Friday. **Be proud of your fraternity and display these plates on your car this year.**

Chair Plaques & The Tree of Life

Chair Plaques are for chairs located in the Corinthian Room on the second floor of Grand Lodge. You may have your own name on a plaque, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Tree of Life is located in the main lobby of the Grand Lodge Building. You can sponsor a leaf on the tree, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Chair Plaques and the Tree of Life leaves cost only \$200.00 each. This provides you with up to four lines on either, with twenty-one characters per line. What a wonderful way to remember someone. Call Ray Vogel at the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 to make arrangements for yours.

(Continued from page 2)

of the family to get together, show photos of their children and grandchildren, and talk on the level. And when push comes to shove, to help each other. Brothers should be warmly received at the door and made to feel at home. In particular, this also applies to sojourners who are looking for a home away from home.

We are called "Brothers" for a specific purpose, that we might treat each other with the same respect and dignity that we would to another member of the family. In other words, our behavior in Lodge is a direct reflection of our behavior at home. Makes you wonder doesn't it? Perhaps we need to sharpen our socialization skills and remind ourselves of our family obligations.

Tall Cedars of North America Goodwill Ambassador

Pictured below is the Supreme Tall Cedar of North America, Brother Gareth G. Diem from Lancaster County, PA, along with Goodwill Ambassador for the year 2007, Ami Shank. Ami was born in Lancaster General Hospital, PA on April 23rd, 1993 and was diagnosed with Charcut-Marie Tooth on her ninth birth-



day.

Ami lives in Elizabethtown, PA along with her parents Kevin and Kammy and her sister Hanna. She has a poodle named Oscar whom she loves very much. Ami is an eighth grader, who loves math, listening to music, basketball, and animals. She is also a member of Elizabethtown's Moose Teen Club. Her favorite hobby is collecting dolphins. Ami raises money for MDA so that she can go to summer camp, which she loves and looks forward to each year.

Ami is very excited about having been chosen to represent the Tall Cedar Foundation as our Goodwill Ambassador for 2007 and is looking forward to meeting many people and traveling.

The Tall Cedars of Lebanon is a Masonic affiliated organization with over 14,000 members in 102 chapters, called Forests throughout the United States. Since 1951, the Tall Cedars have provided continuous financial support to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, contributing over \$14.5 Million to the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon and have the distinction of being the first organization to provide financial support to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

From the Potentate Ali Ghan Shriners

Brethren & Nobles,

Yes, it is truly GREAT TO BE A SHRINE MASON! Ali Ghan Shriners can and should be extremely proud of the many accomplishments made thus far in such a short span of time. These positive strides are largely due to the very evident enthusiastic spirit that has permeated our various Units and Clubs. As Potentate, I could not be more proud and pleased of our Nobility's efforts, and the motivation to achieve greater degrees of success.

But what is success? Does it come in the form of a trophy or a public citation? Many have discovered that success is more than tangible things. To paraphrase a noted author - success is being able to laugh often and love much; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthier child or a happy parent; success can also be the knowledge that one life breathes and walks better because you have helped in some way.

All of us are familiar with the story of the little engine that thought he could. By repeating over and over, "I think I can, I think I can," that little engine accomplished unbelievable feats of strength. Why? All because of his positive and enthusiastic attitude. The Nobility of Ali Ghan has demonstrated this same type of spirit and, realize that anything conceived and is believed, will most definitely be achieved.

Since our Ali Ghan Shrine Installation, we have experienced a resurgence in the desire to become members of our Shrine; a fantastic Shrine Promotional Booth at the Allegany County Home Show; an active Shrine Speakers Bureau providing programs to a variety of community/civic organizations; vast improvements in our dining facility plus, the addition of a new Chef and Manager; a great Valentines dance; a very moving Shrine Memorial Service; a profitable Shrine Circus; an excellent Hospital Screening Clinic in Frederick; and most importantly, we continue our strong dedication and loving service to the children in need of our help at Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Ali Ghan Shrine Nobles, be proud of yourself and what YOU have accomplished thus far. Always remember: "Without dreams, there is no hope; without hope, there is no purpose."

Keeping Dreams Alive,

R. Francis "Fran" Shives

MASONIC EDUCATION from the Grand Lecturer, Bro. R. Gary Pierce

THE TYLER

The Tyler is a very important member of the Lodge. Many years ago it was recorded that "There might never have been Lodges for Masonic purposes had there not been a Tyler present to guard the Lodge from intruders".

The word Tyler (tiler) is derived from the days of operative masons in the building trades. As the building was nearing completion, it was the tyler who closed the building by covering the roof with tiles of slate or wooden shingles. When the tyler closes the inner door of the

lodge he is symbolically covering the lodge from all intruders as the operative mason covered the building from the elements

The Tyler, who in some Lodges, is elected by open vote in the Lodge, must be a Master Mason well versed in the lodge rituals and Masonic protocol. In many instances the Tyler is the first member of the lodge who the visitors and members are greeted by. His duties vary from Lodge to Lodge but some are common to all such as:

·Guard the Lodge entrance.

·Ensure that no one passes into the Lodge who is not qualified to do so.

·Ensure that every member of the craft has registered and is properly clothed.

·Introduce all visitors to the Senior Deacon.

·Be aware of the "knocks" and answer them promptly and correctly.

In Chivalry the sword is the ensign or symbol of Knighthood. In Templarism, the sword is said to be endowed with Justice, Fortitude and Mercy. The original Tyler's sword was not straight but wavy in shape symbolizing the sword that guarded the gate to Eden. The Tyler carries a sword but does not have a scabbard to sheath it in as "The Tyler's sword should ever be drawn ready for the defense of his post".

Source: The Newsletter of the Committee on Masonic Education Volume 18 No.1

Masonic Humor

Pat & Bill had been Lodge Brothers for many years. They had promised each other that the first to go to the Grand Lodge above would return to tell the other whether there really were Lodges in Heaven and what they were like. By and by, it came to pass that Bill went first.

One day shortly after, Pat was working in his garden when he heard a whispered voice, "Pssst... Pat!" He looked around but saw nothing.

A few moments later he heard, now quite clearly "Pat! It's me, Bill!"

"Bill" Pat exclaimed, "Are you in Heaven?"

"Indeed I am" said Bill.

Pat paused for a while to get over the shock and then said "Well, Bill, are there Lodges up there in Heaven?"

"There certainly are, Pat. There are Lodges all over and they are quite magnificent, equal or better to the one that was on Charles Street. The meetings are well attended, the ritual is word perfect, the festive board fantastic and the spirit of Masonic Fellowship is all pervasive."

"My goodness, Bill," said Pat, "It certainly sounds very impressive but for all that you seem rather sad. Tell me old friend, what is the matter."

"Well, Pat, you are right. I have some good news and some bad."

"OK, so what's the good news?"

"The good news is that we are doing a 3rd this coming Wednesday"

"Great" said Pat. "What's the bad news then?"

"You're the Senior Deacon!"

National Sojourners

The National Sojourners, Inc. and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., both have similar Americanism Programs in recognizing outstanding Junior and Senior Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) Cadets. The similarity is that each organization presents a Certificate and Medal to such Cadets at their Military Awards Ceremony held at the end of the school year. There are ROTC Units for all of branches of military service. The Junior ROTC are High School students and the Senior ROTC are University students. Many of the Junior Cadets go on to college and continue their ROTC program or go directly into military service where their ROTC education is highly recognized for their leadership potential. The Senior Cadets get a direct commission as 1st Lieutenants in their Unit's branch of service.

Baltimore Chapter No. 7 of the National Sojourners and The Scottish Rite, Valley of Baltimore, have presenters of these Certificates and Medals and they go to many area High Schools and Universities for this purpose. When the occasion is such that both organizations are represented at the same ROTC Awards Ceremony, a single presenter can make both presentations. Such was the case on May 28, 2007 when Ill. Brother Oliver W. Strong, 33°, was at the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Maryland, for their Senior ROTC Military Awards Ceremony, held at The Glass Pavilion on campus. Brother Strong is shown below with Cadets James Robbins (L) and Christopher Cottrell (R) of the Blue Jay Battalion, having just made presentation to these two outstanding Cadets. Another "double presentation" was made, two days prior, at Loyola College, in Baltimore, Maryland by Ill. Brother John S. English, 33°. His account of the Awards Ceremony was just as equally impressive.



By scheduling the presenters in this manner, the most efficient use of limited manpower is utilized. Had more presenters been available, two each of four presenters could have easily traveled together to these venues and shared in one another's company and enjoyment, in the process. If you would like to be a part of the Americanism Program for the National Sojourners and/or the Scottish Rite in your area, get in contact with your local NS Chapter Secretary or SR Masonic Center Office and let them know. Here is your chance to become a working member for your organization in a most easy and enjoyable way.

Miss International Job's Daughters

Becky Fayer is presently Miss Maryland Job's Daughters, and will be heading to the mid-west July 26th to compete in the Miss International Job's Daughters. We will certainly be rooting for her, and wish her the very best. She attends a local college and is in a program that will lead to the rank of ensign in the Navy.



Pictured above , from left: Lori B. Schuessler, Grand Guardian of Maryland; Becky Fayer, Miss Maryland Job's Daughters; John R. Biggs, Jr., Grand Master; Kara Jordan, Miss Congeniality; and Rochelle Bell, Grand Bethel Honored Queen.

Grand Lodge Summer School

Dress is business casual.

No tank tops, short pants, sandals, etc.

Grand Lodge - 7:00pm

- 7/10 Grand Master's Lodge will open school. Three catechisms.
- 7/17 Master Mason Degree
- 7/24 Entered Apprentice Degree
- 7/31 Fellowcraft Degree
- 8/07 Master Mason Degree
- 8/14 Entered Apprentice Degree
- 8/21 Master Mason Degree
- 8/28 Final Evening - Master Mason Degree & Certificates

State Schools - 7:00pm

- 7/12 Friendship #84 - Master Mason
- 7/19 Centennial #221 - Master Mason
- 7/26 Brunswick #191 - Fellowcraft
- 8/02 Cambridge #66 - Fellowcraft
- 8/16 J. W. Bowers #173 - Master Mason
- 8/23 Temple #128 - Master Mason

Centennial #174 - 7:30pm

7/19, 7/26, 8/02, 8/09 - The three degrees and a special events evening on the last night.

Refreshments will be served after each school.

Grand Lodge of Maryland Board of Managers



Front Row from left: Charles J. Morgan, Jr.; John R. Biggs, Jr., MWGM; Thomas M. Velvin, Jr., RWDGM; Back Row from left: Ron Schwartz; Lenny Cohen; Dick Dickerson; Bill Gyr, RWGT; Thomas Chagouris; Herbert Y. Holcomb, III, RWGS; Ed Kraft; James Coker. Members of the Board of Managers not pictured: Bob Chase, Cliff Friel, Joe Edmonds.

Maryland Masonic Homes Board of Trustees



Front Row from left: Paula O'Neill, Executive Director of MMH; John R. Biggs, Jr., MWGM; Herbert Y. Holcomb, III, RWGS; Back Row from left: Raoul Frevel; William Hooper; Bill Gyr, RWGT; Charles Codd; Tom Landerkin; Dave Schneider; Lenny Cohen; Bruce Tanner; Marlin Mills; Al Tamres; George Hunt, Chairman of Executive Committee. Members of the Board of Trustees not pictured: Ray Vogel, Joe White.

MMH Volunteer Banquet

On April 19, 2007, the Maryland Masonic Homes staff hosted a banquet for the resident and community volunteers. There were over eighty volunteers and fifteen MMH employees from 5 different departments in attendance.



Paula O'Neill, Executive Director, opened the evening with a hearty "Thank You" to all the volunteers. Mrs. O'Neill, along with employees from Activities, Nursing, and Dietary were more than eager to help serve a wonderful meal, including a strawberry short-cake dessert while Charles Fraim, Director of Plant Operations, served drinks.

R.W. Grand Secretary Herbert Y. Holcomb, III brought fraternal greetings from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, John R. Biggs, Jr., and a special "Thanks" from the Grand Lodge of Maryland.



The volunteers were given certificates of appreciation and gifts from the Masonic Homes, while the floral centerpieces were given to the person who found a red star under their dinner plate.

Annual Grand Master's Ball

July 28, 2007
7:00pm – 11:00pm

Black Tie Preferred

For tickets call Linda Hagan at 410-527-0600
Only 300 tickets will be sold.
\$75.00 per person

RSVP by July 13, 2007

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

Jumbo Lump Crab Cake & Filet Mignon
Or
Chilean Sea Bass

Open Bar

Entertainment – Crystal Strings Orchestra
and the Mario Monaldi Band

"The Old Masters Wages"

I met a dear old man today
Who wore a Masonic pin,
It was old and faded like the man
Its edges were worn quite thin

I approached the park bench where he sat
To give the old brother his due
I said, "I see you've traveled east
He said, "I have, have you"

I said, I have and in my day
Before the all seeing sun
I played in the rubble with Jubala
Jubilo, and Jubalum.

He shouted, don't laugh at the work my son
It's good and sweet and true
And if you've traveled as you said
You should give these things a due.

The word, the sign, the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer,
The vow that all have taken
Who have climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason
are never paid in gold
but the gain comes from contentment
when you're weak and growing old.

You see I've carried my obligations
For almost fifty years
It has helped me through the hardships
and the failures full of tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and my body
Death is near but I don't despair
I've lived my life upon the level
And I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew
And the old man in the park today
has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic Brothers
The only secret is to care
May you live upon the level.
May you part upon the square.

Grand Master's Cruise 2008

Join Most Worshipful Grand Master John R. Biggs and the Grand Lodge for a Fabulous Cruise Event on the Beautiful Celebrity Journey sailing to Bermuda from Cape Liberty New Jersey for 7 Nights on May 25th 2008.

Celebrity Cruise Line has recently acquired the beautiful Journey and she will be setting sail for Bermuda next May 25th for seven nights from Cape Liberty New Jersey. The Journey is a sophisticated, upscale, yet comfortable vessel carrying slightly more than 700 guests. Your cruise experience will be enhanced by the standard butler service with every cabin, welcome fruit baskets, fresh-cut flowers, pillow menu, and many upgraded amenities. The Celebrity Journey offers a traditional Celebrity cruise experience in a more intimate environment, with one staff member for every two guests, gourmet cuisine and beautifully appointed accommodations.

SS-Sky Suite w/Veranda (380 sq ft)
\$1,880.00 per person
IA-Premium w/Veranda (253 sq ft)
\$1,575.00 per person
Cat 6-Standard ocean view (161 sq ft)
\$1,490.00 per person
Cat 9-Inside Stateroom (151 sq ft)
\$1,430.00 per person
Additional Port taxes/govt. fees added
\$289.00 per person

Bus transportation will be available from Baltimore to Cape Liberty New Jersey at approximately \$85.00 per person round trip. These arrangements are incomplete right now but will be made known to you as soon as I have more information.

A deposit of \$250.00 per person will be due at time of booking to lock in your space. It is always best to get your deposit in early, as it guarantees the best choice of cabins. A final payment will be due on March 1st, 2008.

If you want to purchase cancellation insurance, please ask when you call.

For additional information, please contact Judy Warsaw at Cruises Plus, 410-494-1414 or use our toll free number, 1-800-395-9550. I will be handling this cruise personally and will oversee every detail as they develop. I look forward to speaking with you all.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service



MW Grand Master John R. Biggs and Lady Pat (front center) and the Members of the Grand Lodge and their Ladies at the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service.

Annual Family Day Picnic

The Annual Family Day Picnic will be here before you know it. The time and location of the Family Day Picnic is as follows:

Saturday, June 16, 2007

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Maryland Masonic Homes

Food will be provided by the Maryland Masonic Homes. You may bring your family, children, friends and neighbors. To help defray expenses, we are asking all adults to make a donation of \$5.00. Donation boxes will be placed at the head of the food service line.

Ride the shuttle from the Grand Lodge parking lot to the east lawn. Shuttle will begin at 10:15am.

Games, music and entertainment will be provided. Please bring your lawn chairs.

Grand Lodge of Maryland's Annual Crab Feast & Bull Roast

Sunday, August 5, 2007

Baltimore Forest Tall Cedar Building
2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21234

Food - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

DJ for Dancing - 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Menu:

Steamed Crabs. On the pit; Choice Beef, Fresh Ham, and Country Smoked Ham, Maryland Crab Cakes, Cream of Crab Soup, Buffalo Wings, Bar-B-Q Chicken, Sauerkraut & Kielbasa, Hot Dogs & Baked Beans, Peas & Carrots, Corn on the Cob.

Fresh Fruit Bowl, Assorted Cheeses & Crackers, Fresh Vegetables with dip, Pickled Beets, Potato Salad, Taco Salad, Draft Beer, Soda.

Cake, Coffee and Tea last hour.

Price \$30.00 per person

All Seats Reserved - Tables of 10

No tickets sold at the door

For Tickets: Call Ray Vogel, 410-527-0289

Make checks payable to:

Grand Lodge of Maryland

304 International Cir.

Cockeysville, MD 21030

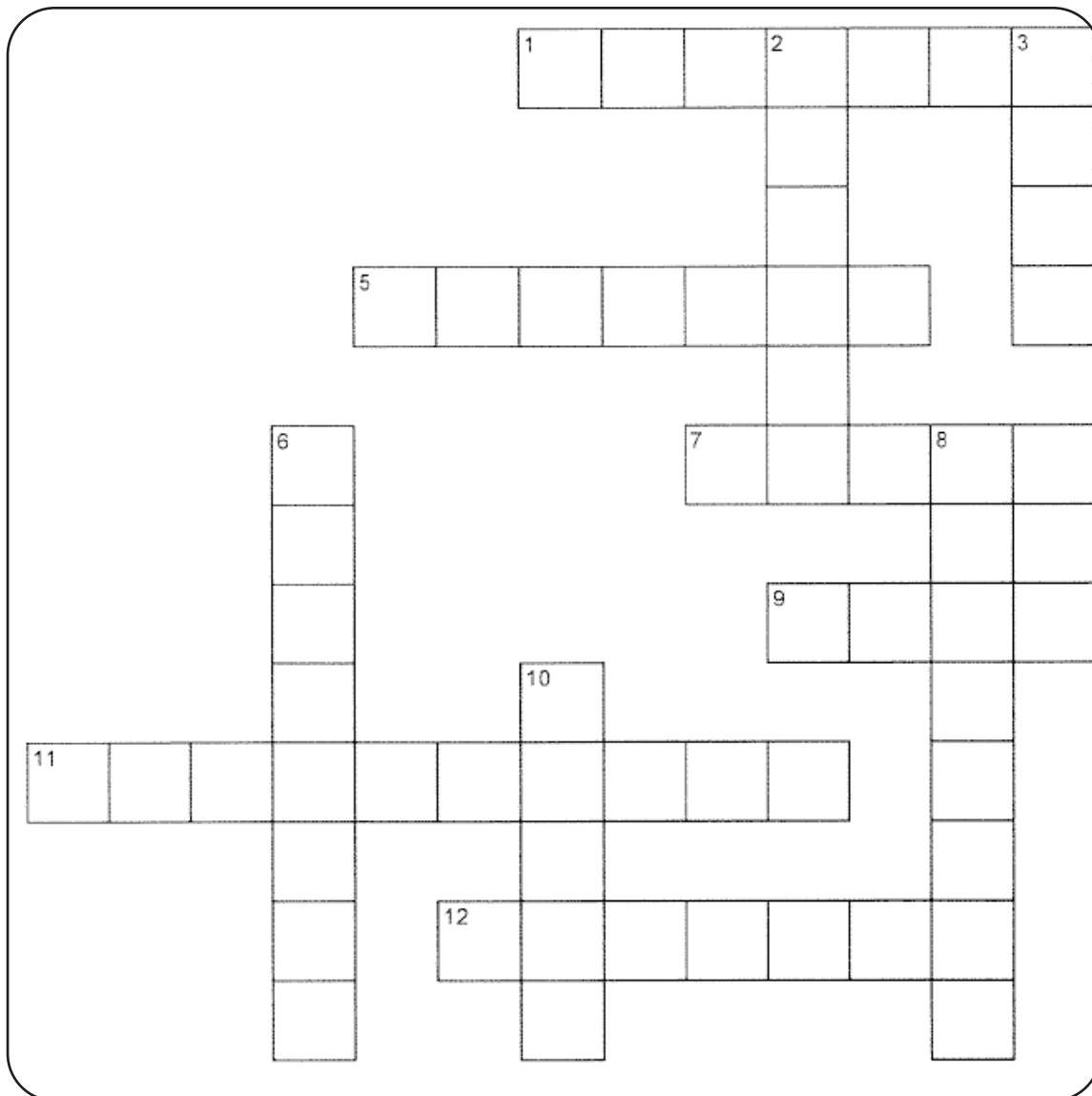
Oktoberfest

Germania Lodge No. 160 will be hosting its 2nd Annual Oktoberfest on October 20, 2007 starting at 6:30pm until 10:30pm at the Grand Lodge Ballroom.

This event will feature Traditional German music by Heidi Und Heimat Echo Band, catering by Old World Deli, German beer, etc. including German folklore, Schuhplatter Trachten Dancers and other entertainment.

You are invited with spouses and friends to join us at this special happy event.

Tickets are \$35.00 per person. For tickets, call Rolf Sorg at 410-252-1386 or Wolfgang Herdecker at 410-391-2037.



The Petition

Brethren, how many times has someone asked you "...so how do I become a Mason?" Have you always been prepared to respond? More than likely, the only information you would have been able to give at the time was a phone number to your Lodge Secretary or to the Grand Lodge.

It seems as though the time it takes from when someone asks how to join to when he receives his first degree takes far too long. That is the reason why we are including a petition for membership in this issue of the Free State Freemason.

As the average age of membership increases, it is becoming more demanding to seek additional members with the same enthusiasm and zeal as our senior members.

In my experience, most members are not sure as to what they can and can not say about the fraternity and the good work that we do. This is not a secret society! The only secret is that no one really knows (except for members) what we believe in and stand for.

Being a young Mason, I can not help but notice the age gap in our membership and the ever present need to increase our numbers - not only so we can fill chairs in Lodge, but so we can keep our ritual alive.

A few years ago, a program was designed to bring in good men with the same morals and beliefs that we hold true. The Solomon II program allowed members to actively seek membership, without soliciting, from men of good

character who already display Masonic traits.

Unfortunately, Solomon II is not as productive in Maryland as intended to be. It should be every Mason's desire to keep this great fraternity active and flourishing in Maryland.

Keep this petition with you. You never know when you may encounter a man whom you would be proud to call "Brother."

Jason M. Sentz,

Oriental Lodge No. 158

Editor, Free State Freemason

Contact the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 for any of the following publications about the Fraternity and membership:

- »10 Reasons to Become a Mason
- »Friend to Friend
- »What's a Mason?
- »Greetings to a Mason's Lady
- »Freemasonry, A Way of Life
- »Maryland Master Mason Handbook
- »Lodge System of Masonic Education - Handbook for Candidates Coaches
- »Complete Idiots Guide to Freemasonry



Every applicant must have been a resident of the State of Maryland for 12 months and must state whether he has or has not, heretofore, applied to any Lodge, anywhere, to become a Mason.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of

Lodge, No. _____

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland

The undersigned respectfully prays that he may be initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry and become a member of your Worshipful Lodge.

He declares his belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

He further declares that he is free by birth, unbiased by improper solicitations of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other improper motives; that he is prompted solely by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, and a desire of knowledge; that he freely and voluntarily offers himself a candidate; and that, if his petition is approved, he will conform to the Ancient Usages and Customs of the Fraternity.

Name in full (Do not use initials) _____ (First Name) _____ (Middle Name) _____ (Last Name)
 Age _____ yrs. Date of Birth _____
 Place of Birth _____ (City, County or Province) _____ (State or Country)
 Occupation _____ (State specifically and in detail the character of the occupation; and if employed, give the name and business of the employer.)

Name of Employer _____
 Business of Employer _____
 Business Address _____
 Residence of Petitioner _____ (Give Street, Number, Town, Zip and Post Office)

Which is in _____ City or _____ County
 Where I have continuously resided since _____ Immediately before that my residence was at _____ for _____ years preceding that at _____ for _____ years, and before that at _____ for _____ years.

* Have you any physical infirmities? Yes _____ No _____
 Have you petitioned any Lodge before? Yes _____ No _____
 If so, what Lodge? _____
 Have you ever been rejected by any regularly constituted Lodge of Masons? _____
 If the answer is Yes, give the following information:
 Rejected by _____, Lodge, No. _____, located at _____, Date of Rejection _____ (City) _____ (State)

* Have you ever been convicted of any crime? _____
 Fee enclosed \$ _____

I have read carefully all of the answers to questions on this petition and take full responsibility for them, and the signature is my own handwriting.

Signature of Applicant _____
 Residence Telephone No. _____

(Prior to signing, ALL SPACES MUST be filled in.)
 * If answer to either or both is Yes, furnish full and complete details on separate sheet.

Petition of

Mr. _____

Address _____

Date _____

Dates of Action

Committee

E. A. _____ 20

F. C. _____ 20

M. M. _____ 20

Proficiency _____ 20

Report _____ 20

Elected _____ 20

Rejected _____ 20

**TO THE SUBSCRIBER OF THIS PETITION FOR THE DECREES
IN FREEMASONRY**

As the exact nature of the institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain features and phases of that institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages required that men should come to its door entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity but from a favorable opinion of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of men; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor, and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

It should be clearly borne in mind that Freemasonry is not to be entered in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission must not be sought from mercenary or unworthy motives. Anyone so actuated will be bitterly disappointed. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help the distressed and afflicted to the extent of his ability.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that Freemasonry is not a benefit Society, although the practice of charity is a fundamental virtue taught in Freemasonry. We do not pay so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay or other benefits, or to make provisions for those we leave behind. There are other excellent societies founded for this purpose.

Loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification in Freemasonry, and those only are acceptable who cheerfully conform to every lawful authority. Disloyalty in any form is abhorrent to the teachings of Freemasonry and is regarded as a serious Masonic offense. Freemasonry is not contrary to the beliefs of any man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with his civil, moral or religious duties.

No Master Mason may make application for membership in any Masonic order or appendant organization which requires as a requisite for membership, membership in a subordinate Masonic Lodge, until he has successfully passed the Master Mason Catechism.
Ref.: Article XVI, Section 6, D.

CANDIDATES WILL GIVE REFERENCES

Name

Address

Name

Address

Name

Address

Name

Address

Recommendations must be made by members of the Lodge petitioned.

I recommend the petitioner as worthy, and certify that I have been personally acquainted with him for years immediately preceding this date.

Signature of recommender Recommender's Account No.

(Print name here)

Date

I recommend the petitioner as worthy, and certify that I have been personally acquainted with him for years immediately preceding this date

Signature of recommender Recommender's Account No.

(Print name here)

Date

Solomon II Petition? Yes No

Signature of "Builder"

Builder's Lodge No. Dues Card Number

The Secretary must have the statements hereon verified by the Grand Secretary's Office before referring to the Committee.

NOTICE

This form of Petition for Initiation and Membership was adopted by the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland, at its Annual Communication held November 19, 1913, and must be strictly complied with. The Master must require all blanks to be properly filled out, and the Secretary must file and preserve this paper among the archives of the Lodge.

Henry M. ...
Grand Secretary

Amended by the Grand Lodge May 18, 1919; May 20, 1947; November 17, 1948; November 16, 1949; May 18, 1954; May 20, 1958; May 19, 1970.