



# FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF  
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND



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# FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 2

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

**ARTICLES**

- Grand Master's Message ..... 4
- Message from the RW Deputy Grand Master ..... 6
- Tammie Houck-New Executive Director of MMH .. 9
- MCM Scholars 2015 ..... 10
- Washington Monument Time Capsule's  
Content ..... 12
- What is A Real Estate Holding Company  
and its Advantages ..... 14
- Grand Master's Letter for Assistance ..... 15
- A Masonic Temple Story ..... 16
- Grand Master's Ball Photos ..... 21
- Maryland DeMolay ..... 22
- Job's Daughters ..... 23
- Grand Lodge's Oktober Fest ..... 24



Cover, The Grand Master and Lady Pat arrive in style at the Grand Master's Ball held in June. See photos on page 21.



*FREEMASONRY is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.*

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## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

The Semi-Annual Communication is behind us. Thank you again for providing me the opportunity to serve as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Few have had this opportunity and I pledge my utmost effort to continue the work of my predecessors in moving Maryland masonry ever forward.

My sincere congratulations to each of the newly elected officers and various board members and I look forward to working with each of them beginning next November. I continue to be excited about Maryland masonry and for the inspiration I receive from you. With your continued assistance, together we will make Maryland Masonry a Pathway to Excellence.

Brethren, my goal is to continue to advance masonry within Maryland toward the future. To accomplish this goal I need your help. I often reflect on a quote from industrialist Charles Kettering who said, *"My interest is in the future because that is where I am going to spend the rest of my life there."*

It is not my goal to change masonry. Rather I believe that by applying the tenets and teachings of masonry in our daily lives and actions that masonry will change us for the best. In other words masonry attempts to create an environment which will assist good men to become better men. This is an important promise we make to all masons and one which we must always fulfill.

During the Semi Annual I reviewed our progress toward achieving the goals we set in November. The good news is that we are making progress in every area. However, there is always room to improve. I know that you are all working to not only improve yourself in masonry but to improve your lodge as well. Thank you for all you are doing.

We are beginning to see more lodges getting re-involved within their communities. Masonry has been responsible for numerous scholarships, community services, and charitable activities for years. This is all good but we also need to self-promote our activi-

ties. There is nothing wrong with being our own cheerleader. So do not hesitate to let people know who you are and what you are doing. Let the secret out!

We survive through our membership so our number one goal will always be membership. Our members are the real treasure of masonry and we must protect this treasure at all times. So what are we doing to perpetuate this goal? How do we increase our membership and strengthen our lodges. How do we develop our membership and keep the promise?

Historically our new members have come from a direct relationship with one of our members. What is different today is that a growing number of men are coming to us from television, radio, internet, websites and other sources. They are all coming with the expectation of becoming a better man as a result of being a mason. These men are looking toward becoming a part of something greater than themselves and to associate with other men who share their interests and beliefs and with whom they can connect. So what is our responsibility in this equation? How do we assist in making this happen?

I am going to answer those questions by endorsing our *"Grand Lodge Mentoring Program."* Brethren I cannot stress the urgency of putting this program into place within your lodge. Every study has indicated that a new mason will become more involved in our fraternity when he is exposed to a mentor early in his masonic career. Also our retention of men who progress through some form of mentoring program improves significantly. Our candidates deserve the best that we can offer from the very beginning. Please remember that we promote the idea of fellowship. The mentor is the guide for the new man in establishing his early fellowship within the lodge and we need to make certain that our lodges are inclusive especially with the new guy. You can be a mentor and help make a difference to a new brother trying to find his way.

Freemasonry's avowed purpose is to improve men by stimulating them to desire to seek or acquire knowledge. We encourage them to stretch their minds beginning with such things as catechism and ritual. However, this is not all there is. Education does not begin and end with just catechism and ritual accomplishments. We have to find additional methods to keep men involved in their pursuits.

So, we recently announced that we would be starting the new Maryland Masonic Academy to promote the idea of providing a

more formal continuing education process for our members. This is not a new idea as many Masonic jurisdictions have similar programs. The vision for this program is to have two venues initially. First, all participants will complete several written courses and upon completion they will be designated a *"Fellow of the Craft"* and receive a special certificate to commemorate their achievement. Following completion of this portion, the program will divide creating two pathways of study. One curriculum is designed for those men interested in becoming Master of their lodge by preparing them through a series of experiences including the Leadership Program. The second curriculum will focus on a more academic achievement in various areas of Masonic education. We are in the very early stages of development and more information will be forthcoming. I welcome your ideas and input as we strive to make this a first class Maryland program.

Brethren we are experiencing a progressive transition in our lodges as younger men begin to take the helm and endeavor to modernize their lodges. There are numerous challenges and opportunities which are causing some added strain on our newer leadership. One issue continues to pop up regarding Holding Corporations. There appears to be a lot of confusion as to what a Holding Corporation does and how it works. So I have asked our legal counsel, Bill Hooper, to address this matter in another article in this issue. I encourage anyone who is seeking some guidance from updating or amending their bylaws to realigning their Holding Corporations to contact Brother Hooper by calling the Grand Lodge.

Everyone should be aware that we have launched a new data management system which went live on July 1. This is a very user friendly system which will eventually enable every member to communicate with each other, to find a brother with a particular skill with whom they can do business and a number of other features. End-users will be able to see the *"Lodge Dashboard"* which will show the status of their lodge membership, the average age of their members all the way down to the average age of petitioners. Every member will be able to access his own personal information and be able to keep updated. This new management system will eventually relieve some of the burden our lodge secretaries experience as well. This is an exciting improvement in our effort to continue the modernization of Maryland masonry. Be curious and take a look.

Lastly, at the semi Annual you voted to move ahead in the restructuring of our Grand Lodge which will begin to address our future capability to best serve our membership. Following this direction, we have subjected the Masonic Homes to a management study. This study was completed before the Grand Lodge Communication but was not received in time for me to make a meaning-

ful report to you. After evaluating the survey report, we have been meeting and working with Tammy Houck, our new administrator at Maryland Masonic Homes, and her staff to bring about meaningful adjustments in the overall operations. This effort is geared to both increased efficiency and cost control of our services. We will share more with you as further progress is made in the betterment of our services at Bonnie Blink.

Also please recall that Medicare rehabilitation services were introduced late last year at the Maryland Masonic Homes. From the very beginning we have wrestled with numerous issues to make this program work for us. We are finally successfully resolving each of these challenges and others as they present themselves. For the first time we now offer a service that is not restricted to just masons and their families. We recognize the potential for Medicare rehab to be a positive income source for us thus reducing our negative cost of operations and which will ultimately enable us to expand our services to all of you at some future time. Please recommend the Maryland Masonic Medicare Rehab services to everyone you know.

Brethren, the beehive represents industriousness and is exemplified by the fact that Maryland masonry is much busier than in years past. I have personally observed a change in the general attitude of our members. Our brothers appear to be enjoying more of the benefits of masonry than in recent times. More social activities are being held to bring our members closer together as we renew our efforts to reestablish the idea that we are truly a Masonic family. Degree work is becoming common place throughout the state as we advance men toward the sublime degree of master mason. Your involvement at any level is truly appreciated by all.

I just finished reading a book called *"Expect to Win"* by John Mason. There was a reference in the book to author Kenneth Blanchard who observed, *"There is a difference between interests and commitment. When you are interested in something, you only do it when it is convenient. When you are committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results."* Brethren, now is the time to join with us in recommitting to your fraternity as we rebuild for the future.

God Bless each of you and your families and I thank you for all that you do to make **Maryland Masonry a Pathway to Excellence.**

Kenneth Stuart Wyvill, Jr.  
Grand Master

# MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

by Kostas "Gus" Vourvoulas, RW Deputy Grand Master



The Greatest Generation was the last group where the family was at the core of society. Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts uncles and cousins would gather together on weekends for dinners, picnics and other family functions. This is where children were taught devotion to God and love of family. Unfortunately since the 1960's the close knit family structure has been eroding. There does not seem to be time for the family to be together at any great length so the children can be taught the important values of life.

Masonry is an organization capable of bringing the entire family together. Order of the Eastern Star, Job's Daughters, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay contain something that can be enjoyed by the entire family. Wives and husbands are able to join the OES and take part in all the activities this organization has to offer. Raising money for our masonic youth and the Arthritis Foundation are some of their charitable endeavors. Bus trips, picnics and bingo are events that can all be enjoyed by the entire family.

Masonic Youth Groups are an exceptional setting for the family to participate in together. Parents can attend the Bethel, assembly or chapter meetings and witness the instruction their children are receiving. They are instructed in the moral values and social conduct that many of the youth of today have lost. Adults are always needed to become involved in these organizations. We encourage the parents in our fraternity to become active in our youth groups. You may be the person who put a child on the path to success.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> the first Grand Lodge Orientation for newly raised Master Masons was held at Mt. Ararat Lodge. To show how masonry can be a family organization, approximately fifteen new members and their

families were in attendance along with many other members of the craft. This program consisted of two speakers. Most Worshipful Grand Master Wyvill gave a general overview of Masonry to the brothers and their families. He shared how the Fraternity teaches men to be better husbands and parents. He emphasized the fact that our lodges take part in activities that make our communities better places in which to live.

Mrs. Christina Candler directed her comments to the ladies assembled. She spoke about the fraternity from a ladies perspective. Chris informed the ladies of lodge programs in which they are able to participate such as CHIP events picnics, Strawberry Nights, parades and other events lodges may sponsor. After the speakers had concluded their presentations the group retired to the social hall where light refreshments were served.

During refreshments the attendees were able to visit informational tables occupied by members of the collateral bodies of the Fraternity. The Order of the Eastern Star, the York Rite Bodies, Susquehanna Valley of the Scottish Rite, Jobs Daughters and DeMolay were represented. Information was distributed about the organizations to anyone who requested it. Several petitions for membership were received by several of the bodies during this event.

**Brother and President Franklin D. Roosevelt said "We cannot always build the future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future". We urge you to help build our youth for the future.**

The Grand Lodge hopes to sponsor several more of these orientations in the upcoming months throughout the state to give our newly raised Master Masons a better understanding of the opportunities available to them in our Fraternity.

Making Masons is the number one duty of every Blue Lodge. Over the past several years our constituent lodges have done a creditable job in this regard. We are very close to making positive gains in our membership rolls. In order for our fraternity to maintain this growth we must retain the brothers we are

initiating. We cannot let them slip out the back door. We must guard the "West Gate".

Upon election to receive the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry it is imperative that a man is educated in certain aspects of our Fraternity. He must be informed of the responsibilities he will be undertaking over the next several months. His spouse must also be made aware of the time her husband will be away from home and what he is doing. This is the beginning of the "Mentoring" process.

The Maryland Mentoring Program has been developed over the last several years to assist our new brothers in gaining a better understanding of our Craft. The lodges who have taken full advantage of this program have realized great success. The new brothers assigned a mentor are more involved and are making substantial contributions to their future in Masonry, their lodges and masonry at large.

We have, unfortunately seen few of our remaining lodges taking advantage of this proven tool for developing and maintaining their membership. We

strongly urge all lodges who are not yet participants to adopt and receive the benefits from this outstanding program. Lodges will be receiving more information about this program in the near future.

As you can see my Brothers, masonry contains something for every member of the family. The days of the mother staying home and watching the children while the father went to a lodge meeting are over. The world is rapidly changing and we must be willing to change with it, while keeping our masonic values alive. William G. Pollard said "Learning and innovation go hand and hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow". We must be prepared to accept innovations and embrace them with enthusiasm and a willingness to see them implemented.

Please spread the "Great Light of Masonry" throughout our state and may the Supreme Architect of the Universe bless you and our entire Masonic Family.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Kostas "Gus" Vourvoulas, RWDGM

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## TAMMIE HOUCK NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES

MMH staff and residents extend a warm welcome to new Executive Director, Tammie Houck. Mrs. Houck gained much experience at MMH from 2010 to 2012 as the Assistant Director of Nursing and then as Administrator in Training. Since then, she has obtained her license as a Nursing Home Administrator and worked for HCR Manorcare Health Systems. Mrs. Houck was the Assistant Administrator for a large Skilled Nursing Facility in the Baltimore area and substituted as the Interim Administrator for both Baltimore and York, PA region facilities.

Obtaining her license in 1993 as a Practical Nurse, Mrs. Houck chose to work in the Geriatric field. *"This has been a decision that I have never regretted and continue to find this field to be very rewarding,"* she explains. She continued her education in Nursing, became a Registered Nurse in 2003, and obtained her Masters in Nursing Administration in 2011.

Mrs. Houck resides in Southern York County, PA with her husband and younger daughter. Her older

daughter married this past spring and lives in Abington, Maryland. Her husband, introduced to the Masonic Fraternity by his father, decided to become a member 25 years ago.

After returning to the Homes, Mrs. Houck has enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces of former coworkers, residents, and family members. She looks forward to rekindling these relationships and getting to know the new employees and residents who have moved in since she left.

Tammie Houck is truly excited about the future of Maryland Masonic Homes and the new services that are being offered. She explains, *"We are able to offer*

*the Baltimore County community a choice when going directly back home from the hospital is not an option. Now they can discover for themselves why Masonic Care is the Best Care."*



# MCM SCHOLARS 2015

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, eighty-nine Maryland high school scholars pictured below were presented with scholarships at the annual Masonic Charities of Maryland Scholarship Award Ceremony. Two of these superior students were awarded additional scholarships of \$5,000 (in honor of PGM C. David Haacke) and \$2,500 (in honor of Bro. Vernon Mules, past president of MCM). The active involvement of many Lodges across the state made this event and the financial support for these deserving students possible. With your dedicated support every year, this great work will continue and hundreds more of these great scholars will reap the benefit of academic support toward their future goals.



# CAPTURING MARYLAND PRIDE: WASHINGTON MONUMENT TIME CAPSULE'S CONTENTS

By: Edward Heimiller, Curator



The personal aspect of selecting specific items meaningful to a group of people or a certain place in time to convey a message to an unknown audience in the future raises a number of questions and is one of the driving factors of why time capsules capture our imagination. On Tuesday June 2, 2015 the contents of the 1815 capsule concealed in the cornerstone of Baltimore's Washington Monument, the nation's first civic monument to the memory of George Washington (1732-1799), were publicly unveiled at a news conference at the Walters Art Museum. At the same event and possibly more fascinating the capsule sealed in a wall niche in the base of the monument as part of the monument's centennial celebration in 1915 was opened live. As each item was retrieved from the 1915 capsule and carefully unwrapped by Terry Drayman-Weisser, the Director of Conservation and Technical Research at the Walters Art Museum, the items revealed the pride Maryland citizens held in recognizing their accomplishment in erecting the monument and in the state's critical role in defending the new nation during the War of 1812.

The contents of the time capsules are an exciting discovery for Baltimore as it forms a personal and physical connection to Maryland's past. The unveiling of the contents of the capsule from the 1815 cornerstone confirms the inventory of the contents recorded at the time of coins, a likeness of Washington, and newspapers of the day. The contents of the 1915 centennial time capsule proved to be far more extensive than previously thought. The first item to be retrieved was a large scroll with red, white, and blue silk ribbon spilling out from the ends. When unrolled it revealed a list of names, in fact signatures, of the subscribers for the bronze plaque installed inside the monument as part of the 1915 centennial celebrations. The third signature in the first column, of three, proved to be that of Thomas J. Shryock (1851-1918) with an inscription with a particular meaning for the fraternity: "Grand Master of Masons." Shryock was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland from 1886 until 1918. At the time of the centennial celebrations he was the longest serving living Grand Master in the United States. Other notable names include Henry Walters (1848-1931),

## The contents of the time capsules are an exciting discovery for Baltimore as it forms a personal and physical connection to Maryland's past.

the founder of the Walters Art Museum, and Dr. Henry Barton Jacobs (1858-1939), who lived in sight of the monument at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion in Mt. Vernon Place - home today to the Engineer's Club.

A photograph of a marble bust known regionally as the Colossuses is another item of note recovered from the capsule. The Colossuses, a mammoth marble bust of George Washington draped in classical garb, has been a fixture in the museum in the base of the monument since it was acquired in 1834 by the monument's board of managers. After a work by Giuseppe Ceracchi (1751-1801) sculpted between 1791 and 1792 the bust's early history is uncertain. It is generally thought that the bust was obtained from the estate sale of Dr. William Howard (1793-1834), a member of Cassia Lodge, No. 45 (merged with Amicable-St. John's Lodge, No. 25) and a son of John Eager Howard (1752-1827), who donated the land for the monument. The photograph, which is thought to be the earliest visual record of the Colossuses, illustrates the striking contrast of the lime-wash that was originally applied to the face to give it a lifelike quality, now almost undetectable to the naked eye on the bust today.

Other items retrieved from the capsule illustrate Maryland's pride at the turn of the century in Baltimore's role in defending the nation after the humiliating defeat and burning of Washington, DC, during the War of 1812 and in being the birth place of poem, The Star-Spangled-Banner (The Star-Spangled Banner, eventually would be adopted the United States' national anthem in 1931). Only the year before, in 1914 Maryland hosted the Star-Spangled Banner Centennial week to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of North Point, in which the British were repulsed and during which Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) penned "The Star Spangled Banner" off the shores of Fort McHenry. Held during the week of September 7 through 12, 1914 a number of items in the capsule serve as reminders of the week's events. One of the items capturing the patriotism felt at the time is a colored image entitled: "The Wonderful Human Flag" depicting an American flag composed of sixty-five hundred school children taken at Fort McHenry on September 12, 1914. Other items include one of the earliest existing photo-

Continued on page 14

graphs of the Declaration of Independence taken in 1903, as well as reproductions of portraits of several American patriots including Francis Scott Key (1779-1843), Major General Samuel Smith (1752-1839) and Lieutenant-Colonel George Armistead (1780-1818).

A number of newspapers documenting the events of the day as well as the monument's centennial were recovered. Ironically on the back of one of the 1915 newspapers articles on the monument was the report of the Masonic funeral of Grand Master John M. Carter (1843-1915). In 1862 he was appointed Private Secretary to Maryland Governor Augustus W. Bradford (1806-1881) and later became Secretary of State under Governor Thomas Swann (1809-1883). He was made a Mason in Annapolis Lodge, No 89 in January of 1866, subsequently demitting to join Fidelity Lodge, No. 136. He served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland from 1878 to 1879. He was a close confidant of Grand Master Shryock. His death just prior to the 1915 centennial celebrations on Saturday July 3, 1915 was strongly felt by the

fraternity. The 1915 centennial rededication ceremony was held on July 5 and not July 4 due to objections on holding the celebrations on a Sunday.

While the types of materials placed in the monument's 1915 centennial celebration time capsule differ from the contents of the 1815 cornerstone capsule they are in many ways an extension. The contents of both capsules are a testament to the patriotic zeal and pride felt in Maryland and serve to document the growth of the nation both physically and mentally. As the Washington Monument in Baltimore continues to serve as a memorial to one man it is now interesting to see for the first time what items were placed in these capsules to record an earlier time and serve as symbols for a better tomorrow.

July 4, 2015, a ribbon cutting ceremony will mark the bicentennial of the cornerstone laying and completion of the restoration of Baltimore's Washington Monument. On Saturday September 26 the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland will perform the Masonic rededication of the monument. Members are strongly encouraged to attend.

## WHAT IS A REAL ESTATE HOLDING COMPANY AND ITS ADVANTAGES?

A holding company is, in its simplest terms, an entity that exists solely for the purpose of owning for another an asset(s) such as real estate, patents, or stock of another corporation. It does not have any operations, activities or active business of its own. Instead, its sole purpose is to own assets for someone else.

A holding company may take the form of a corporation, limited partnership or a limited liability company. A holding company is beneficial in that it protects the asset of one entity should there be a liability claim on the part of another entity. For example, let us assume that Lodge A is a very large and active lodge. Not only does it own its lodge building, but also has a large treasury. The combination of the real estate and the treasury would therefore constitute Lodge A's assets. Should someone be seriously injured while attending a function at Lodge A's property, all of Lodge A's assets would be at risk. By forming a holding company, Lodge A could transfer the title of its lodge building to the holding company, thereby protecting its treasury from risk of loss. In such an example the injured party can only take action against the holding company which would be protected by its liability insurance company and not Lodge A. Its cash assets are totally shielded.

In the case of a masonic lodge, a non-stock, non-profit corporation makes the most sense. To create such an entity requires the filing of Articles of Incorporation with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation and paying an initial fee which can range in the area of \$150.00 to \$200.00, and an annual fee thereafter of approximately \$300.00 to have the "charter" renewed. It is important that the corporation does not make a profit or it will be taxed by the IRS and the State of Maryland on that profit.

It must also be kept in mind that in case of a masonic lodge, the holding company exists only for the benefit of the lodge and its members. While it must have the appearance of and be an independent entity, it exists solely for the benefit of the members of the masonic lodge and is to conform itself according to the wishes and desires of the members.

Forming a holding company and the management of a real estate holding company in particular can be a daunting. Should your lodge wish to create a holding company it is recommended that legal and accounting firms that can advise on how to structure and initiate the process and to make sure you are in full compliance with tax regulations should be engaged. It is important to start off correctly to insure that the process is correctly done.

My Brethren,

I am writing to ask each of you to consider making a donation to a most worthy cause that has recently come to my attention. Our craft has a long tradition of supporting children. In this case, the granddaughter of a Maryland Mason needs your help. I was made aware of little Jordyn Raines' condition through a letter from her grandfather, Bro. Ronald Jones, who is a more than fifty year member of Glen Burnie Lodge No. 213.

Jordyn is six years old; a vibrant girl full of love and life. She was also born with an extremely rare genetic condition called Arterial Tortuosity Syndrome. In layman's terms, this means that all of the arteries throughout her body are extremely twisted and kinked. As a result, her heart has to work extra hard in order to provide the necessary blood flow to her essential organs. This means Jordyn is highly susceptible to high blood pressure and aneurisms. She is receiving treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she is the first patient with her condition they had ever seen. In her young life, she has already gone through over a dozen surgeries to keep her arteries open.

Jordyn desperately needs open heart surgery to save her life. There is only one surgeon in the country with experience in treating this rare condition - located at the Lucille Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto, California. She will have most of her major arteries, including her aorta, reconstructed this September. This serious procedure will require many weeks of hospitalization.

Jordyn's family has medical insurance, but the cost of this valiant effort will be extreme - not just for the actual procedure, but for travel expenses such as airfare, hotels, car rental and more. I have personally met little Jordyn and her family and am truly touched by their bravery as they face this tremendous challenge. It is my strong belief that the only thing they should be concerned with is the long term health of this young girl - not in the dire financial straits this surgery will cause.

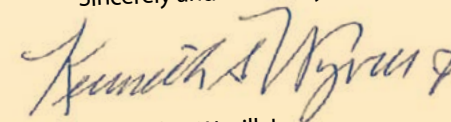
Brethren, the vast majority of Maryland Masons are fathers and grandfathers. We have been greatly blessed, in large part, with seeing the children of our families raised in good health. I am asking each of you to consider making a donation to support Jordyn Raines and her family.

I have pledged that the Grand Lodge will match every dollar donated to this worthy cause on a dollar for dollar basis up to \$5,000. Every donation, large or small, will help - and know that every penny donated will go directly to covering the expenses the Raines' family incurs in this life-saving undertaking.

Won't you please consider taking a moment today to send in a donation of any amount to help this brave young lady? Checks can be made payable to The Grand Lodge of Maryland. Please note on the memo line "The Jordan Raines Fund". Mail your donation to The Grand Lodge of Maryland, 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

We have risen together as a group before to accomplish great things. It is my prayer we can do so once again to bring relief and restore peace to Jordyn and her family.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.  
MW Grand Master





# A MASONIC TEMPLE STORY...

WITH A  
HAPPY  
CONCLUSION



These days members of Prudence Lodge No. 190 have a happy story to tell. A story about how our small town lodge managed to survive even though faced with losing the masonic temple we all cherished and of which most of us have many fond memories. A story about persistence, of making use of the individual talents of the brethren, and of what some believe to be divine intervention in finding a building suitable for our own temple and then guiding us through the construction phase. A story about something that was simply meant to be.

But before we begin to talk about our new building, let's first talk a bit about the old and how Prudence Lodge came to find itself in a predicament.

## Our Old Temple

To the best of our collective knowledge, sometime between 1904 and 1906 Prudence Lodge #190 took up residence on the second floor of a building on Main Street in Mt. Airy. The building was built by the members of the lodge, using individual lodge members' money. However, during the depression the members who had provided funding for the building are believed to have found themselves in some financial straits and in order for them to recover the money they had invested, the building was sold to one of the members and in part rented back to the lodge at a favorable rate. Fortunately, the building featured commercial space on its first floor and the income for that space was what most interested the landlord. For a long time the commercial space was a movie theatre. A post office, auto parts store, and other ventures have also occupied the space over the years.

Our favorable rental arrangement went on for many years. When the member who owned the building died, his family maintained possession of the building and continued subsidizing the Lodge until 2005 when they sold the building to a local real estate investor/developer. When the building went on the market, the Lodge was not financially able to make a bid for the property. Fortunately the new building owner, though not a Mason, was very benevolent to the Lodge and for many years allowed the members to continue to stay on in the building at a low rent, which was way below market.

## The Need for a New Temple Location

However, fast forward to 2011. In light of the severe downturn in the economy, the building owner advised us that he had to take on partners in the property and that he would no longer be able to continue to extend the reduced

rent arrangement. We were presented with a rent schedule which was to take effect almost immediately and would have raised our rent from \$250 per month to over \$900 per month, as well as making us responsible for about \$2,000 a year in property taxes; a very difficult challenge for 80 members paying only \$66 yearly dues.

This news was a serious kick in the stomach for a lodge that had such a long history in Mt. Airy and a membership that truly loved their beautiful lodge room. There was no getting around it, unable to afford such a high cost of occupancy, we would have to leave the building that had been our home for over 100 years.

In 2012, then WM Bro. Ken Barnhart, asked Prudence Lodge member Bro. Jim King, a local commercial real estate professional, to begin searching for a suitable location to rent space for a new lodge meeting room. At the same time, discussions were held with some of our past masters to put in place a contingency plan that would allow us to continue to hold our charter and keep Freemasonry in Mount Airy.

As luck would have it, we were not able to find a suitable space to rent and had little prospect of being able to continue for any extended period of time to keep our current lodge space at an affordable rate. Things were looking pretty bleak for Prudence Lodge. However, this bit of "misfortune" in not finding a place to rent would eventually turn out to be a real blessing.

In November of 2012 Bro. King learned that a rental property, a former church, he had been watching for sometime was soon to be vacant and was going to be put up for sale. The listing real estate agent was an associate of Bro. King's so a visit to examine the property was arranged and Bro. King, PM Jim Stargel (at the time SW), PM Ron Burner, and then WM Ken Barnhart got their first look at the building.

The layout of the building was similar to many small Methodist churches built in the day, a small vestibule or lobby and a sanctuary with a center isle and rows of pews all facing the altar. On each side of the altar was a beautiful



stained glass window and the one to the right seemed to catch all of our attention immediately. It featured a message at the very bottom in the center which read, "To all the builders, past, present & future." Looking back on this day, we have all admitted that the message in the stained glass window touched our hearts and souls and bound us to this property in such a way that we had to do whatever we could to save this building, and in the process continue



masonry in Mount Airy for future generations.

Our adhoc committee reported our findings to the membership of the lodge at our next regular communication. After conducting our due diligence a recommendation was made to form a holding corporation and purchase the property, which the members approved. In January of 2013 our offer was submitted contingent on an inspection, the approval of the town for special exception/substitution of use zoning, and approval of financing. Our contract was accepted, our building inspection was conducted and the process of obtaining the town's approval was initiated.

Bro. Ed DuFala, had previous experience before zoning boards and also knew many of those public officials in the town we would have to deal with. Ed agreed to represent the lodge at the town public meetings relative to our zoning request. We also hired an attorney to represent us before the planning commission.

The initial feedback from the town was not promising, as we did not meet even the basic zoning requirements. A plan was then devised that, over time, would win the necessary zoning. Bro. Dufala worked diligently with the town planning administrator, and our attorney, coordinating endless emails, documents, and records to meet requirements before each public hearing. PM Burner and Bro. Dufala also met with the neighbors, as well as with previous members of the church, to gain their support.

After approximately 16 months, and many different town meetings, we received the town's approval for our use, our financing was secured, and we settled on the property on May 5, 2014.

When the purchase contract was signed the lodge didn't have enough money to buy the building, much less renovate it. PM Burner said that he would work with Bro. Todd Kellner, our treasurer, on developing a financing plan. As part of that process a spread sheet was created for the budget then current, and it revealed that our individual membership dues fee of only \$66 a year was far too short to meet our projected needs.

A committee was then formed to evaluate our financial needs and the committee recommended raising individual dues to a level necessary to cover the actual budget. After much discussion and letters to the members, the dues were increased to \$176 a year, an amount which covers the actual cost of operating the lodge. Amazingly, our monthly mortgage payments on the new temple building are actually less than what the rent was at our old temple.

Even with all the excitement surrounding being able to move to a new building, a building which the lodge would own, leaving our old temple building brought a sense of sadness. On June 3, 2014, Strawberry Night, we held our last regular communication in the building that Prudence Lodge No. 190 had called home for over 100 years. When WM Jim Stargel banged his gavel to close the meeting that night there was nothing but silence, a mournful silence, for what seemed like an eternity. Nobody moved, nobody spoke.

But the excitement of renovating our new building would soon overtake the sadness. A new chapter had been opened for Prudence Lodge. It was time to move on.

### **A Bit of History On Our New Property**

The church building was built in 1910 and was first named Love Chapel, after Reverend Edgar Love, who at the time was the Bishop of the local conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Its name was later changed to Warren Chapel. In 1937 a fire destroyed the upper floor of the church but its members realized its importance to the community and rebuilt it.

Some time in the 1960's the Warren Chapel church became a part of the United Methodist denomination, although it closed its doors as a United Methodist congregation in June, 2007. In October, 2007, a new organization named Warren Community Church-Love Chapel, was

formed with Reverend Ernest Thomas at the helm as the founding pastor.

### **Renovating The Building (Our Vision Of King Solomon's Temple)**

Under the direction and supervision of PM Burner (a Builder), and assisted by Bro. Daniel Clearwater, both carpenters by trade, renovation of our new building began in earnest soon after settlement. When the members first started demolition many asked how much did we intend on removing. PM Burner just said, "Keep going and I'll let you know when to stop".

Between the mold and the old dangerous electrical wiring, and a total lack of insulation, the building needed to be completely opened up. So by summer's end, most interior walls were removed and all the exterior wall framing was now exposed. Also, after an inspection, the floor joists were found to be inadequate so that would require additional time and money to correct. But by October, building permits were obtained and the build out began in earnest. Bro. Dave Webber, a professional engineer, pro-



vided the necessary design and stamped drawings for the structural issues.

One interesting feature of the new temple is the painted tin ceiling directly above the altar. Our old Lodge room also had a painted tin ceiling and carrying the same theme over to our new building was meant to pay tribute to our former lodge home. After many discussions about the new ceiling design, the members who worked on the renovation on a regular basis finalized the current design. Tin ceiling panels and crown moulding were picked and the pastel colors of the old ceiling were duplicated. Untold hours were spent by brethren hand painting the design on the tin panels.

New stairs and a handrail design were also decided and much thought went into choosing the carpeting and designing the tile work. The center floor tile pattern was

actually finalized as it was installed. Except for the electrical, ductwork, drywall, handrails and heavy carpentry, all the demo, carpentry, painting, and flooring work was carried out by the operative members of the lodge. The architecture, design, and all finishes were also chosen by the members.

Renovation costs are currently borne by members of the lodge. Donations by the membership toward that cost have unfortunately fallen short of expectations, simply because we believe many members who do not regularly attend meetings do not read their trestle board and therefore aren't fully aware of the situation. We hope, however, that this matter will be rectified in the future.

In a preceding paragraph you might have noticed that the word "builder" was capitalized when included in the description of Brother and Past Master Ron Burner. Brother Ron is a builder in the truest Masonic tradition.



Over the forty plus years of his construction career he has renovated several old and historic structures.

Ron sees renovating old structures as more of a calling than a job. He approaches a project like ours not with budgets and drawings and the latest version of the most nifty project management software on the market, but more so like a steward or historian. Jokingly some of us refer to him as the "Temple Whisperer" because he insists that he didn't design the new temple; that he had no grand plan



or vision but rather let the building speak to him and then just followed its instructions.

The lodge room design turned out to be minimalist and strikingly very different.

Interestingly we never drew up exact plans to work from, the actual execution of what to do next simply evolved from the rooms as we went along. The walls are mostly bare and this has caused some to question the lack of wall decorations. However, we believe the room's plain design allows us to better showcase the beautiful original lodge room furniture we are so fortunate to have. The beauty of these items was never really noticed or appreciated before, simply because our old lodge room was filled with too much "stuff". And the room architecture, even



without any furnishings, is strikingly beautiful and a true gem. But now let's get back to our progress...

### The Project Is a Success!

JRPM Jim Stargel served as our lodge's liaison between all the building inspectors and contractors during the 11 month renovation. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, he had the honor of traveling to the county seat at Westminster to pick up our newly issued occupancy permit and on April 7<sup>th</sup>, even though the lodge building was not quite finished, WM Kevin Drabczyk banged the gavel to open our first lodge communication in our very own temple building. We then spent every day until the dedication, which was scheduled for Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, trying to get the building ready. The laying of sod was completed only the day before the dedication was held and we prayed it wouldn't rain.



On dedication day, fifty-four masons marched down the street and assembled in front of the building along with other guests. Speakers at the ceremony included GM Kenneth Wyvill, WM Drabczyk, PM Burner, Town Councilman Ken Phebus and Carroll County Commissioner Richard Rothschild. Finally, the ribbon was cut, and everyone retired to our very own social hall for food and drinks.

The fact that we have a social hall is very significant to the brethren at Prudence Lodge. Previously we had no such hall and any dinners or social activities had to be conducted in our former lodge meeting room or at an off-site location. But now with our new building, we were enjoying the fruits of our labors as we and our honored guests made use of the social hall that came with the new building.

During the entire process of acquiring and renovating the property it was evident that the Great Architect of the Universe had blessed Prudence Lodge by bringing together a group of men who could perform much of the needed work themselves, gratis, rather than the lodge having to pay for the services of a general contractor and for other services needed to complete the project. Many of the members brought skill, enthusiasm and dedication to the job. And as Masonic tradition would expect of Master Masons, those with the greatest skill and vision taught those with limited or no operative building experience so that they too could pitch in and help make our new lodge home an affordable reality.

In the end, all the important work was handled "in-house". And as many brothers involved in the project will likely attest, the months spent side-by-side, laboring together and learning from each other, further bonded our members in Masonic brotherhood. We couldn't have asked for anything better.



# MARYLAND DEMOLAY

by Dad Carl A. Michel, Jr., Executive Officer, Maryland DeMolay

Brethren, we have several exciting announcements to bring to you. In June, our State Officers along with several advisors attended the DeMolay international Supreme Council Sessions in Orlando, Florida. While at the Sessions, it was clear that DeMolay and Freemasonry parallel in their concerns and needs in today's world. Many

topics I hear being discussed everyday around our Fraternity that were discussed in these meetings. For many years DeMolay's have enjoyed a Life Membership with no yearly dues. This year the International body debated ringing dues back to DeMolay. After an extended discussion, it was decided to keep the Life Memberships in place with no yearly dues. The topic turned to membership and the discussion was over a new formal group for younger men between the ages of 9 and 11. This

new group was discussed and a vote was taken to formally accept this new entity called the Squires. This program will have yearly nominal dues and be a separate program from the DeMolay Chapter including their own ritual! The highlight of the Sessions was the Saturday Night Banquet where our own Dad William "Bill" Eppig, was presented a prestigious award from the Grand Master of DeMolay, Dad Derrick Sprague. Grand Master Sprague presented a Golden Eagle to Dad Eppig as the Executive Officer of the Year! Dad Eppig has been working hard with Maryland DeMolay since he first came into DeMolay in the early Eighties. Under Dad Eppig, we have opened new Chapters, witnessed an increase in growth most of the years he has been at the helm and recently he was asked to be the Executive Officer of Nation's Capitol DeMolay in DC

along with continuing to serve Maryland as Executive Officer. Dad Eppig's enthusiasm is contagious. The members, advisors and extended Masonic Family enjoy his style of leadership. He allows the young men of our organization and others working with Maryland DeMolay to truly steer the direction of our Jurisdiction. He allows them to make mistakes and learn valuable lessons in the process, always there to help and make suggestions without being dictatorial or condescending. It was fantastic to see Dad Eppig's achievements recognized by Grand Master Sprague.

The second piece of news was the recently passed DeMolay Conclave he weekend of July 15<sup>th</sup>. With a fabulous attendance of members, advisors, family members and dignitaries, Conclave again eclipsed the year before. State Master Councilor Spencer Schuch, along with the Conclave Committee through one heck of a year-ending conclave. The attendees were busy every minute they weren't awake. The culmination of the weekend was the installation of Bro. Cameron Newman as the new State Master Councilor of Maryland DeMolay. State Master Councilor Newman is from Cumberland Chapter, Mountain Lodge No. 99, is a member of the Eastern Star and has traveled plenty of miles over these past few years to reach this goal. We are looking forward to a fantastic year and invite you all to attend as many of SMC Newman's activities as you can this coming year. SMC Newman was installed by Past State Master Councilor Dad Michael W. McKay, Delegate from District C1. Delegate McKay made a lasting impression on the assemblage of 200 persons as he installed SMC Newman. SMC Newman can't wait to get started and strengthen our bonds with the Masonic Family as well as work hand in Hand with his fellow Masonic Brothers. Until next time.

## THANKS

The Maryland DeMolay Foundation would like to express thanks to the following contributors for their generous donations: • Karl F. Ballwanz, III • Irvin Johnson • Ron Bird • John B. Kincaid • William E. Chaney • Howard Matthews • Robert Drechsler • Terry Myers • Robert England • Mrs. Joseph B. Price, Jr. • Richard Gornall • Paul R. Reinke, Jr • William R.C. Grau, Jr • Kenneth A. Robertson • Allen Haney • Paul G. Shircliff • J. David Hughes • Michael Steiner • Jeffrey Johns • Kenneth Wyvill •

These contributors are supporting the work of Maryland DeMolay in providing program opportunities to our young men....the Masons of the future. If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to: MARYLAND DEMOLAY FOUNDATION, INC. P.O. BOX 724, REISTERSTOWN, MD 21136-9998

# JOB'S DAUGHTERS

By Mom Chris Candler

The Job's Daughters of Maryland kicked off the new Grand Guardian term in Ocean City at the Princess Royale Hotel. The second weekend in May, usually Mother's Day weekend, the adult leadership of Job's Daughters of Maryland changes. The daughters and adults travel from around the state to Ocean City Maryland for a weekend full of fun, fellowship, games, awards, banquets and the installation itself. There are many other people from the various Masonic organizations both in Maryland and the surrounding jurisdictions that join the Jobies for this event.

The fun kicks off on Thursday night with a pool party for everyone. The hotel closes the pool area to their other guest and the Jobies take over and enjoy some fun splashing around.

Friday was a busy day for everyone. Many of the daughters have entered items in the Grand Librarians competition. This is a competition where the daughters can show off their creative talents and skills. There are many different categories that they can enter items into. The range of categories include such items as sewing, quilting, photography, favors, scrapbooks, wearable art, graphic design, needlework, jewelry, carrying pieces, favors, jams and jellies, sweetbreads, cake decorating, cupcake decorating, cookie decorating, promotional items, original writings, and poems. The girls must turn in their entries by noon on Friday. The bethels also participate as a group and create promotional banners and Bethel badges. The young ladies of Maryland are very talented!

There were sand castle creations and beach games scheduled for Friday afternoon; even though it was a foggy day that did not stop the girls from having fun on the beach.

Friday night brought the formal opening of the session. It was the final meeting for the 2014-2015 Grand Guardian Pam Savoie and her partner, Associate Grand Guardian Dan Stone. There was a special flag ceremony that the daughters participated in and membership streamers were awarded to many of the bethels. The color of the streamer that was awarded was based on the number of new daughters that the Bethel initiated during the past grand guardian council term.

After all of the pomp and circumstances of the evening everyone enjoyed playing mini golf at a local mini golf

course. There was a course outside and another inside. Not everyone played mini golf; some just enjoyed pizza and fellowship. The Misses even shared an ice cream.

Saturday morning brought another showcase of the daughters' talents. Many had signed up to participate in the Choral and Talent competition. There were daughters that sung in groups, others that sung alone, some danced, others played instruments. There were some bethels that did a group skit. We even had one daughter show us her tae kwon do moves.

Saturday evening everyone attended a formal banquet. After dinner, awards were given to the daughters for the Grand Librarians competitions, Choral and Talent competition as well as ritual awards. The evening ended with the new Grand Guardian council installation. Mom Happy Estes-Butler and Dad Jim Cloud began their term as Grand Guardian and Associate Grand Guardian of Maryland.

Sunday morning brought the end to a fabulous weekend. We had a church service and then headed home. It was a weekend filled with lots of laughs and fun. The daughters of Maryland had fun and enjoyed showing off their talents to everyone.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining Job's Daughters please visit our website, [www.mdjobdaughters.org](http://www.mdjobdaughters.org)



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