

# The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland, U. S. A.

MASONIC TEMPLE  
225 NORTH CHARLES ST.  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201



## The FREESTATE FREEMASON

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 1977



A HOLIDAY MESSAGE TO EACH MARYLAND MASTER MASON

Dear Brother:

During these days our Christian brothers are preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ, while those of the Hebrew faith are celebrating the Festival of Lights - Chanukah. In celebrating these events we are called to rededication: The Christian to the One who came into the world that night when the sky was bright with a holy light and the angels sang their anthem - "Gloria to God in the Highest" ; and the Hebrew to God, for His part in leading the Maccabees in defeating the Syrian and Greek forces, once more freeing the Temple for their worship, and winning back their freedom from oppression.

Such commemorations are days of joy and gladness, when together as families, we express gratitude to God for His great love and mercy showered upon us all. In the exchanging of gifts, in all the beauty of the season, in our family and hearts, namely, that God loves us, that He always stands ready to forgive us, and will ever be the Source of our strength, comfort, hope and peace.

Our Ancient Craft Masonry teaches this glorious fact about God. As we move into the New Year, may we go with high hope in our hearts, desiring to commit ourselves to the daily living of the fact that God lives and works, in and through us when we let Him.

A Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah to all!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Roy H. Stetler, Jr.  
Grand Master

\* \* \* GRAND LODGE HIGHLIGHTS \* \* \*  
191st Annual Communication - Nov 15 & 16, 1977

AMENDMENTS TO GRAND LODGE CONSTITUTION:

- By two-thirds majority of votes present, following action was taken -
  - . ADOPTED - Requirement that Article XXIII and Standing Orders and Resolutions, pertaining to subordinate Lodges, be read in open Lodge on election night is no longer applicable. However, WM and Wardens will collectively read these provisions within thirty days after their installation and certify this fact to the Grand Secretary in the returns of the Lodge. (Effective now.)
  - . ADOPTED - Increase of the semi-annual dues for each member of a Lodge from \$1.50 to \$3.00 effective January 1, 1978.
  - . DEFERRED - Changing day and time of Semi-annual and Annual Communications of Grand Lodge from third Tuesday to third Monday; and holding a second day's session at the Annual Communication, if necessary.
  - . NOT ADOPTED - Permitting an amendment to be presented and acted upon at the same communication, if there is a two-thirds majority vote to waive the waiting period and requirement for written notice.
  - Optional Open Installations - Action postponed until the May 1978 Semi-Annual communication.
  - Revision of Grand Lodge Constitution - Will be presented for adoption at Semi-Annual Communication in May, 1978.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS ELECTED/APPOINTED:

MW Grand Master

Roy H. Stetler, Jr, D.D., No. 225

RW Deputy Grand Master

William M. Koenig, No. 210

RW Senior Grand Warden

John J. Drsata, Sr, No. 93

RW Junior Grand Warden

Austin N. Rowan, No. 176

RW Grand Secretary

Stanley R. Uppercue, No. 109

RW Grand Treasurer

Elias W. Nuttle, No. 128

RW Grand Chaplain

Eugene N. Richardson, No. 225

RW Grand Marshal

William M. Clark, Jr, No. 225

W. Senior Grand Deacon

Russell L. Jones, No. 149

W. Junior Grand Deacon

Albert S. Hahn, No. 189

W. Senior Grand Steward

Carl J. Wisner, No. 46

W. Junior Grand Steward

Baird R. Michelson, No. 34

W. Grand Standard Bearer

Marion F. Rickard, No. 140

W. Grand Sword Bearer

John R. Newcomb, No. 44

Grand Pursuivant

Ronald J. Catlett, No. 100

Grand Director of Ceremonies

Mervin A. Pentz, No. 128

Grand Tyler

Charles L. Hayes, No. 97

Grand Lecturer

Moses Appel, No. 25

Grand Organist

Edward C. O'Dell, No. 210

## ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS (Cont'd):

### Election - Board of Managers -

Harry E. Beck, No. 150  
John H. Hessey, IV, No. 124  
Wm Stuart Hommerbocker, No. 182

### Election - Board of Trustees -

John M. Baker, III, No. 109  
Joseph C. Bryan, III, No. 111  
William E. Wright, No. 66

### Grand Representatives -

#### . Appointments:

William M. Chelton, No. 225, Grand Lodge of North Carolina.  
Jackie R. Conn, No. 188, Grand Lodge of Panama.

. Presentations: To Morton Karpa, No. 108 a Jewel from G.L. of So. Africa.

Grand Inspectors - Retirements: The Grand Master expressed his deep thanks for the invaluable services rendered to the Grand Lodge by -

#### Balto City & County

Walter W. Conway, No. 51  
John W. Getterman, No. 151  
Gustav V. Horn, No. 160  
George E. Peachner, No. 97  
Walter T. Peregoy, No. 88  
George Resnick, No. 108  
Harry S. Scott, Jr, No. 13

#### State Area

Walter J. Blank, No. 193  
Marvin L. Craighead, No. 209  
Glenn E. Gilliam, No. 194  
Charles H. Grove, No. 53  
George M. Harris, No. 46  
Donald N. Messick, No. 221  
Robert W. Wyand, No. 197  
William H. Courtney, No. 216

IN MEMORIAM: Among the 544 Brothers who have passed from this life to life Eternal since May were:

- . Bro. C. Elwood Smyrk, No. 165, RWPSGW, RWPJT; on June 25, 1977.
- . Bro. George S. Riley, No. 189, RWPJGW, PGI; on October 9, 1977.
- . Bro. Claud Shaffer, No. 146, RWPGS; on October 15, 1977.

SICK REPORT: Cards would be appreciated by the following from their friends:

- . MWPGM W. NORMAN PENN, 2901 Ohio Ave, Baltimore, MD 21227.
- . RWPSGW Wm Penn Testerman, Oak St., Princess Anne, MD 21853.

Grand Lodge Visit to Harrisburg Lodge No. 629: 146 Master Masons accompanied the Grand Master to his home town and the mother lodge of his father, Bro. Roy H. Stetler, Sr. In the presence of 400 Master Masons, our Grand Lodge Officers conferred the MM Degree on Bro. Robert Richard Sale, Jr. of York Lodge No. 225. The blend of personal ties, ritual, hospitality and good fellowship made this a rare and memorable event. Representing the Grand Master of Pennsylvania, Bro. John L. McCain was his Deputy, Bro Walter P. Wells. Also attending on the ceremonies was Bro Richard B. Morrow, II, WM of Harrisburg Lodge and Bro John R. Ashby, WM of York Lodge No. 225.

Open House, Grand Lodge Temple: Rain did not dampen attendance when 753 Masons, families and friends took tours, saw films and were entertained by the Boumi Temple Chanters, Balto Forest No 45, TCL, stringed band. Assisting were GIs, Jobies, Rainbows and DeMolays. Chairing this successful event was PGM W. Norman Penn assisted by the Open House Committee and co-workers.

Corn Husking and Harvest Home Day: 4,967 Masons were treated to a day of ample food, fellowship and entertainment topped off with a message from Bro. Wilmer E. King, 33°, Commander-in-Chief, Harrisburg Consistory urging us to spread the light of Masonry as a force for good in our society and world. Award winners were Glen Burnie, No. 213 with 546 members present; Patapsco No. 183 was second with 252 members present. Oakland No. 192 came the longest distance with 5 members; Evergreen No. 153 with 16 members was second. Monocacy, No. 203 had 50% of their members present; Plymouth, No. 143 was second with 42% present. Entertainment was furnished by the Boumi Temple Clowns and the Pote's Little Symphony; and units of the TCL Baltimore Forest No. 45. Chairing this great undertaking was Bro Harvey T. Hopkins assisted by an able and devoted staff.

Youth: Effort is essential if we are to have a healthy organization dedicated to teaching young people moral and sound spiritual truths. They must receive strong support from the parent Body that gave them birth. Help your son, grandson, relative or friend resist the temptations of the times and build character and a sound future society. Any young man 13 to 21 can receive information through: Maryland State DeMolay, P.O. Box 9811, Eudowood Finance Branch, Towson, MD 21204. ♦WASHINGTON COLLEGE-Scholarship: February 1, 1978 is deadline for applying for George D. Stowman Memorial Scholarship open to sons of Masons who are/were members of Maryland Lodge. Inquire from : Mrs. Susan H. Wright, Director for Financial Aid, Washington College, Chestertown, MD 21620.

MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES: ♦ Tremendous job done by Board of Trustees which loses Bro Donald M. Jett, No. 68 who was recognized by the Grand Master for long service, leadership, judgment, interest and concern. ♦ Negotiations on sale of most of Bonnie Blink land delayed by zoning challenge. No problem with purchasers. Settlement no later than September, 1978. ♦ Every lodge should now have active member on Masonic Homes Liaison Committee to promote Homes, Endowment Fund and other activities. Keep Bro Edward T. Brueckmann informed of assignments and changes of Lodge representatives. ♦ Outstanding report given by Mrs. Wilma L. Stone, Homes Administrator in company with Asst. Bro James A. Hotchkiss, Jr, No 152; Dr. Karfin, Medical Director; and Chap. Robert W. Current. Management improvements cited in Nursing Staff, Food Service, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Administration, Security...all in support of 150 residents unable to provide for themselves. ♦ Donations to Homes during Grand Lodge session amounted to \$2,255.75 with Bro Leslie G. VanFossen, No. 198, as always, with checks in hand.

Blood Donor Program: Bro Edgar G. Dodd, No. 146 and staff commended and awards given to 3, 4 and 5 gallon donors.

Harmony: Special thanks were given to Bro Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr, No. 225 whose fine voice exemplified "Music" as one of the seven liberal arts & sciences.

♦♦ WORKSHOPS: Will be held on dates, places & time shown under "Forthcoming Events". Attendance mandatory for WMs, Wardens, Sectys, GIs & DGLs. Committee: Joseph G. Bryan, III (Chmn), Stanley R. Uppercue, Arthur L. Gosnell & William M. Koenig. Subjects include: "Role of WM", "Lodge Programming", "Secty Responsibilities", & "Subordinate Lodge Problems". Many DGLs like Jackie R. Conn, No. 188 had started holding critiques with WMs on events of year. One held at Collington No. 230 on Dec. 2.



\* \* \* LODGE NOTES \* \* \*

- Mt Nebo No. 229 (WM Richard L. Ayres); Howard No. 101 (WM Clarence E. Goetz); Jephtha No. 222 (WM James M. Sadler); and Patapsco No. 183 (WM Elmo F. Cross) - For the ninth year, these Lodges have assisted hospitalized Brothers to attend Chapel Services at the two Veterans' Hospitals in the Baltimore area.
- York No. 225 (WM John R. Ashby); Mt Hermon No. 179 (WM Wm P Queen, Jr). Efforts of members of these Lodges resulted in successful arrangements for Grand Lodge visit to Harrisburg. In particular, JW Wm F. Mortimer, Jr (No. 179) and SD Thomas A Teer. Surplus from Bus fares (\$140) donated to Masonic Homes Endowment Fund in memory of Grand Master's mother.
- Wheaton Lodge No. 228, Wheaton (WM R. Lawrence Stephens) held an "Open Air Meeting" on Sugar Loaf Mountain near Frederick where the MM Degree was conferred on Bro Douglas Leon Louia. Chairs were filled by Senior Wardens of Montgomery County Lodges and other County officers. A rare treat...a verdant Temple... a starry-decked Heaven...soft, golden flickering flames of the lesser lights. Should be repeated.
- Montgomery No. 195, Rockville (WM James A. Van Meer). Would you believe one of their members, Bro Arthur Sullivan has donated 14 (fourteen) gallons blood!!
- Kensington No. 198, Kensington (WM William A. McGrath, Jr) proud of Bro Robert K. DeLawder who was awarded U.S. Dept of Commerce Silver Medal on Oct 26th by Secty of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps for work on Nautical charts including first national metric chart.
- Thomas J. Shryock No. 223, Hollywood (WM Rupert C. King). Amid family and friends, Bro Joseph J. Hill, Educator Lodge No. 554, San Francisco, Cal., was presented 50 year service pin by GI Wiley L. Tilton, No. 174. Dr. Krebs of St Mary's College gave talk on Oil Pollution. Dinner was prepared and served by newly-raised Master Masons and their wives. At Ladies Night, Lodge was presented with gifts from Bethel No. 42, I.O.J.D. (Honored Queen, Grace Donhiser); and from Julia Halla Chapter No. 107, O.E.S. Donation of \$161 presented to Bonnie Blink from profits from dinners held once a month at Lodge.
- King David's No. 68 (WM Fred M. Cole). As reported by PMs House & Dolle, Bro. Edwin J. Twelbeck & PM Frederick Ball were presented 50 year Grand Lodge Service Emblems by Bro Lee Morrow (VP, Grand Inspectors, Baltimore) in the presence of their families. Congratulatory remarks were given by PGM John R. Fogel. PMs Kirschke and Dolle spoke reminiscently on the honorees' achievements. Entertainment to 170 members and guests provided by Scottish Rite Singers introduced by PM House and conducted by PM Earl Bittner, No. 189. Fresh strawberries and ice cream climaxed a most delightful evening.
- Friendship No. 84, Hagerstown (WM Wm C. Herchenrother). Activities through this year and continuing into the next include: Friendship (Ladies) Night with 200 reservations on hand; conferring MM degree by WM on son, Brian; Joint banquet with Hagerstown No. 217 (WM Nelson K. Alexander) preceding attendance at St. John's Night Divine Services (Dec 4th); After election of officers (Dec 12th) ladies will be invited to hear Masonic Choir caroling, presentations made to Widows, awards to Sesquicentennial Program participants, then refreshments.

LODGE NOTES...Friendship..(Cont'd) Monthly Supper/Round Table Discussions planned next year prior to regular meetings. On Feb 27 Masonic Info Program with Ladies present.

- Palestine No. 189, Catonsville. SW Charles S. Kelley reports that Grand Master & Deputy will attend annual dinner & installation of officers. On Jan 26, Tall Cedars Band entertains - All are invited (Masons, family & friends). On Mar 9th, Grand Line confers MM Degree - all brothers invited. Bus trip to St Cecile Lodge, New York, planned in May. Interested? Get details from our Secretary, Bro. Albert S. Hahn, 2 Maple Ave, Catonsville, MD 21228.
- Collington No. 230, Bowie (WM Jack Calloway). 25 year pin presented to Bro Richard P. Whitford on behalf of Santa Ynez Lodge, Cal. Bro Whitford served as Assoc. Guardian, Bethel 59, IOJD where daughter is member; wife is member of OES; son is member of Raymond Campbell Carlton DeMolay Chapter.
- Silver Spring No. 215. (WM John L. Crull, Jr). Can you top this? PM John B. Nutter has donated 15 gallons of blood over the years!!

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\* \* \* FORTHCOMING EVENTS \* \* \*

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| Jan 6 | G.L. Visit, Concordia No. 13, Baltimore - Installation of Officers. |
| 14    | Workshop, Masonic Temple, Bel Air, 10:30 AM to 4 PM.                |
| 21    | Workshop, Masonic Temple, Hyattsville, 10:30 AM to 4 PM.            |
| 28    | Workshop, Masonic Temple, Cambridge, 10:30 AM to 4 PM.              |
| Feb 4 | Workshop, Masonic Temple, Hagerstown, 10:30 AM to 4 PM.             |
| 11    | Workshop, Masonic Temple, Baltimore, 10:30 AM to 4 PM.              |
| Mar 9 | G.L. Visit, Palestine No. 189, Catonsville, MM Degree               |
| 14    | G.L. Visit, Freedom No. 112, Sykesville, MM Degree.                 |
| 28    | G.L. Fraternal Visit, Camp Springs No. 224, Camp Springs.           |
| Apr 2 | G.L. Religious Service, Cheverly Methodist Church, Service - 11 AM. |

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\* \* \* MASONIC RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR \* \* \*

- To be an enthusiastic and concerned Mason.
- To live Masonry - extoll its virtues - give a copy of "Freemasonry: A Way of Life" to a proper person - respond to the question: "How can I join?"
- To save a Brother from suspension for non-payment of dues; or one about to Demit.
- To offer suggestions and support Lodge programs. Attend Lodge!
- To support our Youth - Jobies, Rainbows & DeMolays.
- To support our Aged through support of our Masonic Homes.
- To study, to listen, to learn something new about Masonry, and share it.
- To accept and adapt to changes which are helpful to the Craft.
- To support your Lodge's Blood Donor Program.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR: ● For John A. Hughes. Next issue will have article on G.L. Museums & Library. ● We are working on improvements to the format, readability and content of this newsletter. Appreciate suggestion from \*Secy, Laurel Wreath Lodge. If you have suggestions, items for publication, comments, etc, please forward to: Editor, The Freestate Freemason, % S. H. Lipshitz, 522 Nelson Street, Rockville, MD 20850. \* (John M. Chamberlin)