



# FREE STATE Freemason

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



VOLUME 37, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2013



Maryland  
Freemasons  
come to the aid of  
**Erika Brannock**  
Page 10

**First Annual Grand Legacy Gala**  
with Jonathan Ogden Page 14



**FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS**

Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Free State Freemason*: the 1<sup>st</sup> day of **March** (Spring), **June** (Summer), **September** (Fall), and **December** (Winter) These dates ARE FIRM and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

**ARTICLE SUBMISSION**

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

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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 and address 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. **TEXT & COPY**

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.

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*The Maryland Free State Freemason is published four times annually for the members, families and friends of Ancient and Accepted Masons of Maryland. The views expressed in the Maryland Free State Freemason do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, or its officers.*

**SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES**  
 Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland  
 304 International Circle  
 Cockeysville, Md. 21030

Office: 410-527-0600  
 Fax: 410-527-1276  
[office@glmd.org](mailto:office@glmd.org)

Tom Foster • Editor  
 Jerry R. Arnold • Layout & Design

*Submitted articles should be between 250 and 600 words, and whenever possible, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits should be included. Check details at the left hand panel. Articles are subject to editing and, if published, become the property of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.*

# FREE STATE Freemason

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

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 2

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

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*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.*

*THE MASONIC FRATERNITY contributes over \$1 Billion each year to its philanthropic pursuits. Over \$750 Million of that in the United States alone. The Crippled Children's and Burns Hospitals sponsored by Shrine Masons are world famous for their ability to help those most in need.*

*FREEMASONRY traces its roots to the Middle Ages. It is from associations of stone masons, who built the magnificent cathedrals, castles, and monasteries of Europe that the fraternity started. Eventually, these groups began to accept members who were not actual working masons. At that time they adopted the term "accepted" Masons, and Freemasonry was born.*







# GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



We, as Freemasons, want to believe that what we are doing is really meaningful and that we are part of a common cause throughout the world.

As you are aware, a Grand Master gets the opportunity to travel to many jurisdictions throughout the United States, and occasionally to other countries. It is an invaluable experience in making sure we are doing everything we can to make our light shine as brightly as possible.

One jurisdiction beyond my travels, however, is Australia. Obviously that country is about as far from Maryland as one can travel. I recently read a copy of their, which is similar to our *Free State Freemason*.

There was an article written by Past Grand Master Br. Justice Austin Asche, entitled "Who are We?" The premise of the article was to comment on "Why the Fraternity has stood the tests of time." Certainly this is a question we regularly ask ourselves and I was not surprised with the points made by PGM Asche, as follows...

## MEMBERSHIP HAS DECLINED

*(Australia has not yet turned the membership corner)*

In Australia, there was a great expansion in membership after the 1939-45 War, as men desired to continue their "Spirit of Mateship". As these men grew older, it became more difficult to continue. During the past 10-30 years, "home anchors" have become a major reason for decline in attendance in Lodge meetings. The internet, e-mail, Twitter, Facebook, text messaging, etc. are contributors in men not going out in the evenings. (I would certainly add to that list that there are many family obligations that also take precedence).

The author indicates that this challenge should be an exciting one to overcome. As we in Maryland already

know, the success of Lodge attendance is primarily the quality of the meetings and programs. Brothers will attend and participate in those meetings that are worthwhile. And, of course, we should never underestimate the value of brotherhood within the Lodges.

## WE ARE BECOMING LESS SECRET

How many years has it been that Maryland Masons have realized this fact?

Here is one we can all relate to -

## OUR BUILDINGS HAVE IMPROVED

Maryland Open Houses certainly have taught us the value of spruced up facilities. It has, without question, been a key element in the increase of our membership.

## BETTER PUBLIC INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

In Maryland, our website, advertising, media campaigns, and focused publicizing of community and Lodge events have all been key elements in our recovery.

Then PGM Asche commented further about his view of the future of Freemasonry in Australia. Freemasonry will serve Australia "by providing good, responsible, and loyal citizens"... *Freemasonry will continue to be a force for good... and we continue to welcome men of whatever race, nationality, religion, or class*.

Lastly, he commented that "Freemasonry is moving again. It will not be spectacular progress, but it will be steady".

My brothers, I found this article most intriguing. When we sometimes wonder if we're on the right path in bringing our Fraternity back to the prominence it once enjoyed, we see that brothers on the other side of the earth are in common with our challenges, efforts, and rewards.

May the Supreme Architect watch over us in these most exciting times and may our efforts be pleasing to Him.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Gerald E. Piepiora  
Grand Master

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware

## ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



On Saturday, June 29, 2013, our Grand Lodge attended, for the first time, the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware Communication. As the latest Prince Hall Grand Lodge to be recognized by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland, it was a real treat for the Grand Master and 12 of the Grand Lodge officers to be formally invited to their 164th Annual Communication, which was held in Dover, DE.

We were most graciously received by **Grand Master Br. Franklin Chandler, Jr.** Their Communication was well attended by A.F. & A.M. and Prince Hall Grand Lodges from up and down the East Coast.

Grand Master, Br. Gerald Piepiora was asked to make comments and reminded the brethren of how honored we were to finally have the MWPH Grand Lodge of Delaware as Masonic partners and looked forward to many years of mutual cooperation and friendship. We understood what a truly historic event this was for both Grand Lodges. Grand Master Chandler and his delegation will reciprocate by attending The Grand Lodge of Maryland's Annual Communication.



## THE BAAL'S BRIDGE SQUARE

by Martin V. Appel, WM-Centreville Lodge No. 180 AF&AM

While doing research for **Centreville Lodge No. 180's Irish Night** I learned of the Baal's Bridge Square. What is the Baal's Bridge Square? Quite simply, it is the oldest artifact of Fraternal Masonry in Ireland and one of the oldest Masonic artifacts in the world.

This old brass square, known as the Baal's Bridge Square is recorded as being presented to Brother Michael Furnell, Provincial Grand Master, by Brother James Pain, (referred to as the Provincial Grand Architect). "In the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review*, 1842, p. 288, Bro. Furnell, under the date of 27th. August, 1842, printed a short note on this relic of antiquity, accompanying which is a facsimile sketch. He says that Bro. Pain, in 1830, had been the contractor for re-building Baal's Bridge in Limerick, and on taking down the old structure, he discovered under the foundation stone at the English town side, this old brass square, much eaten away. In the facsimile sketch, Bro. Furnell puts the date as 1517, which is a mistake, as the square bears the date 1507. A heart appears in each angle".

This ancient Square is being carefully preserved in the archives of Antient Union Masonic Lodge No. 13, Limerick,

which was warranted November, 1732, and probably "time immemorial" (In Ireland, lodges that predate the founding of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1725 are referred to as "time immemorial") like others of Ireland's ancient Lodges.

What is most significant about this old brass square? For me it is not that a mason placed one of his working tools under the foundation stone of an ancient bridge. For me it is the inscription etched, 606 years ago, by an ancient mason, expressing concisely the philosophy taught by our fraternity today;

*"I will strive to live with love & care upon the level by the square"*

For me it is validation of the link between modern Freemasonry and our ancient brothers.





# MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

by Kenneth Stuart Wyvill, Jr., RW Deputy Grand Master

The 2025 Committee has continued to work on several projects which included the final editing of the Constitution, the development of a more efficient Lodge Audit Report and the Maryland Mentoring Program.

## “Please have a seat on the sidelines among your Brothers.”

Stop for a moment, and imagine how many times those words have been repeated in our Lodges. Unfortunately, we must also ponder all the many new Brothers who have taken their seats only to lose interest in their Masonic membership.

*“If we want our newly Raised members to take an active part in Lodge life, we need to at least give them an introduction to Masonry. Ritual alone, no matter how well done, is not going to make a knowledgeable Mason or an active Lodge member. If we want a man who believes in Masonry, a man who is an active Lodge member, we have to take time to show, to teach and to guide that new Mason to a clearer understanding of the tenets of his profession as a Mason. In short, we cannot just Raise a candidate and then ignore him.”* – Bro. Wayne T. Adam, Past Junior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Maine

The Maryland Mentoring Program is being designed to address the development of a new member’s Masonic career path.

The program begins with his interest in submitting a petition and will continue with emphasis on developing his continuing interest and involvement in our organization at whatever level he aspires.

We plan to introduce this program into several Lodges in the near future so that we can provide some feedback to the Grand Lodge. Several regional “Train the Trainer” sessions will also take place around the state to expedite the implementation of the program. Regional Directors will be available to every Lodge to offer assistance.

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer now to help us move forward. Why would you want to be a Mentor? Please consider this thought from Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, “one of the most wonderful compensations in life is that we can never help another without helping ourselves”.



*“Please have a seat on the sidelines among your Brothers.”*

**In short,  
we cannot just  
raise a candidate and  
then ignore him.**

Brother Wayne T. Adam  
Past Junior Grand Warden, Grand Lodge of Maine

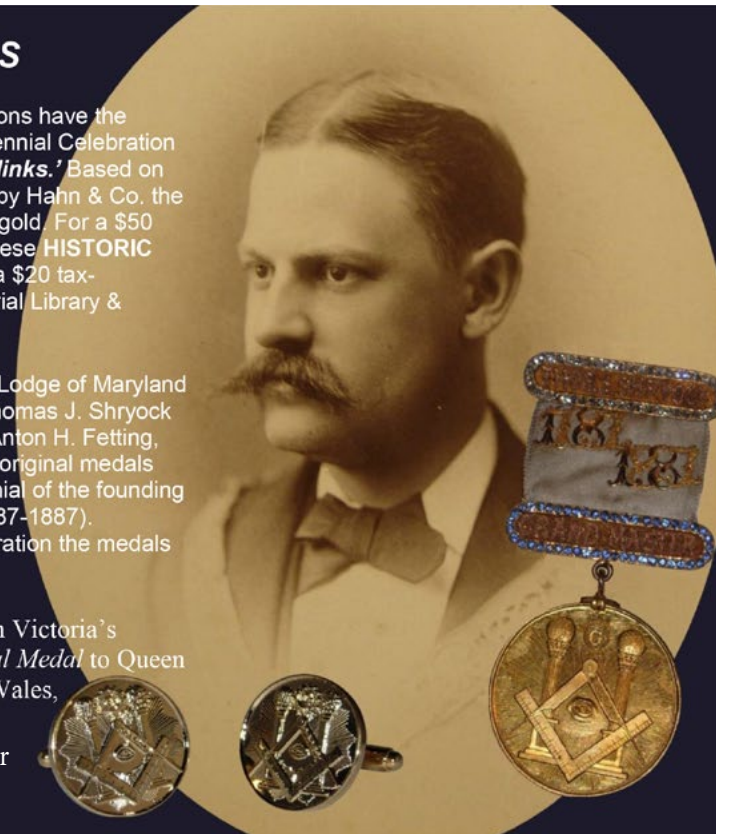
## THE CENTENNIAL CUFFLINKS

For the first time since the Centennial in 1887 Masons have the opportunity to renew the Masonic fervor of the Centennial Celebration with the museum’s release of *“The Centennial Cufflinks.”* Based on the 1887 *Centennial Medal* and crafted in Maryland by Hahn & Co. the cufflinks are made of solid brass layered in 14 karat gold. For a \$50 donation or more participants will receive a pair of these HISTORIC cufflinks. In addition, each \$50 donation represents a \$20 tax-deductible gift to The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum.

*The Centennial Medal* was designed by the Grand Lodge of Maryland Historian, Bro. E. T. Schultz, under Grand Master Thomas J. Shryock and executed by the founder of Fetting & Co., Bro. Anton H. Fetting, both Past Masters of Concordia Lodge, No. 13. The original medals were made as commemoratives to mark the centennial of the founding of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland (1787-1887). Distributed to members and guests during the celebration the medals soon became valuable souvenirs.

Grand Master Shryock while in England for Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee personally presented the *Centennial Medal* to Queen Victoria’s son, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII.

Contact the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 to Order



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The jeweler of the Grand Lodge, offers a line of Masonic jewelry and gifts. Custom & refurbished work to all types of Masonic Jewels & rings. Many ring styles in stock!



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- Appraisals • Estate sales • Jewelry Repair done on premises
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## STAY ACTIVE AND STAY WELL AT MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES

Many people believe that a move to a Retirement Community means that life slows down or even comes to a halt. At Maryland Masonic Homes, it doesn't have to! With many scheduled trips and activities, staying active is easy.

**Madeline Niner**, an Independent Living Resident and volunteer for the Gift Shop explains, "I am an active person and am able to participate in so many of the activities offered at MMH. The staff is so friendly and when they greet me by name, it helps me feel like part of a large family. I enjoy the musical entertainment, special programs, and church services. I have everything here that I need or want. I have made many new friends and we enjoy doing activities together. I am very happy and glad that I made the decision to live at Bonnie Blink!"



Call **Stacey Sedesse** at 410-527-1111 ext. 3268 to schedule a tour today and see what activities might suit your lifestyle!

## SPREADING THE WORD

There is much confusion among our Masons when it comes to Bonnie Blink, and the options available to them. Recently, I've had the pleasure of visiting Patuxent, Warren, Centreville, and Washington Lodges to speak about the many benefits of Maryland Masonic Homes. Collateral bodies such as the Grotto and Shriners have also hosted presentations so that their members have a better understanding of what to expect, how to plan, and how to access the benefits of MMH. If you are interested in having a presentation given at your Lodge, please contact **Stacey Sedesse** at 410-527-1111 ext. 3268.



I thought you had to turn over **all of your money** to come there...

### COMMON MISINFORMATION:

**While it used to be a requirement, the life care program ended in the 1980's. Today, residents maintain their savings and have more choices than ever!**

I thought you **had to be able to walk in** to be admitted...

### COMMON MISINFORMATION:

**There are many levels of care to choose from at MMH and you can be directly admitted into whichever level best suits your needs. It's never too late to come to Bonnie Blink!**

I thought the waiting list was so long that **it would take years to get in...**

### COMMON MISINFORMATION:

**Depending on what you are looking for, there may be an apartment or room readily available for you to move in.**

### Why Wait?

**YOU** maintain control of you assets.

**YOU** have the opportunity to move into any level of care (Independent Living, Assisted Living or Health Care).

**YOU deserve it!**



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MCSA

### RENOVATION UPDATE

The first phase is complete and second phase has begun. Residents joyfully returned to their new Home on July 8th. Comments that were heard: "just beautiful", "we could hold a dance in the new spa room! (shower room)", "I can't wait to get into that spacious tub!", "the flat screen TV is great!" and many, many positive accolades!

As previously stated, we are renovating our physical environment but we are also focusing on changing our culture to a person-centered care environment. In essence, we are shifting from a traditional medical model to an environment that provides a greater responsiveness to resident's wishes, interests, desire, and choice.

Residents and staff are excited as we continue to move forward on Bonnie Blink's modernization journey.

### CHARITABLE GIVING

Remember Maryland Masonic Homes can be YOUR charity of choice! There are many opportunities to give that directly benefit our residents. Please contact Jennifer Paul, Executive Assistant, 410-527-1111, ext. 3254 for more information.

The Masonic Communities and Services Association (MCSA) annual conference was held in early June in New Haven, CT. Eighty attendees were afforded educational sessions that included: Board development, philanthropy, labor law, medical technology, ethics in long-term care, home care services, environmental design and children's services.

In addition, *Masonicare* of CT hosted a two dining events and opened their Home to us. I once again am



proud to represent Maryland as I was installed as MCSA President for a second term.

Please consider giving a monetary donation toward an item on the Homes wish list. All donations are welcome! Your generosity allows us to continue to provide high quality equipment and services to your Brothers and Sisters!

Qty.	Description of Need	Cost Per Item
10	Ceramics Class (for purchase of ceramic items/firing of items)	\$100.00
2	Specialized Eating Utensil Sets	\$100.00
15	Maintenance Free Outdoor Furniture (tables/chairs/benches)	\$300-\$600
8	Extra-wide, Deep Wheelchairs	\$500.00
2	High-Back Wheelchair	\$850.00
1	Low Air Loss Alternating Pressure Mattress	\$1,500.00
3	Linked Senior - a life enrichment tool (full portal digital entertainment system)	\$3,700.00
1	Touch to Play Interactive Computer System	\$4,395.00
1	Whisper Glider	\$5,395.00
1	Automated Wheelchair Accessible Eye Exam Chair	\$5,550.00



# MARYLAND FREEMASONS COME TO AID OF ERIKA BRANNOCK

Each Lodge was made aware of the situation at hand, and within days the donations began to pour in from every region in Maryland. In fact, in just a few short weeks, **the entire amount required had been met and surpassed!**



This summer, at a ceremony in the Grand Lodge's Corinthian Room, **Erika Brannock** was presented with a check for \$10,000 by MWGM Piepiora. The event was the culmination of an incredible effort by Masons from across the state to provide aid to this very brave woman.

For those who have not heard the story, Ms. Brannock was in the crowd at the finish line of the Boston Marathon when the terrorist bombs exploded. As a result of this horrible act, Ms. Brannock, a school teacher, had one leg amputated. The other was severely damaged. After spending many weeks of recovery in the hospital, Erika was preparing to return to the home of her parents to begin the rehabilitation process. An issue of immediate need was that the home would require a remodeling project in order to make a bathroom handicapped-accessible.



Fortunately, Brannock's parents contacted Bro. Bob Knight of Washington Lodge No. 3, who is a home improvement contractor, for an estimate. When Bro. Knight heard the story, he was confident that we, as Freemasons, would be able to come to the aid of this family. He came to the Grand Lodge and outlined the story to MWGM Piepiora. Our Grand Master made the immediate decision that the Grand Lodge would match, on a dollar for dollar basis every donation made by the Brethren to meet the \$10,000 required to renovate the bathroom.

Each Lodge was made aware of the situation at hand, and within days the donations began to pour in from every region in Maryland. In fact, in just a few short weeks, the entire amount required had been met and surpassed!

Bro. Knight worked nearly non-stop to ensure the bathroom project would be complete by the time Erika returned, and worked closely with the family to provide special extra touches.

By the time the check presentation ceremony took place, Erika's bathroom was complete.

The check presentation was truly a heart-warming occasion. Erika won over all in attendance with her bright smile and brave demeanor and stated, *"The Freemasons of Maryland will always have a special place in my heart for all that they have done*



*for me. I can't begin to thank them enough for their generosity and compassion".* Perhaps symbolic of the event, Grand Master Piepiora presented Erika with a Martha's Heart Pin, which she said she would wear with pride. All four Baltimore television stations sent news crews to cover the presentation, as well as The Baltimore Sun, and local radio. Every report filed reflected very positively on Freemasonry.

Today, Erika continues on her recovery. She has recently been fitted with a prosthetic leg and for the first time in many long months, she stood and took the first steps in her new life. It will still be a long road until her recovery is complete, but the Freemasons of Maryland will remain in her corner to help. Donations to her cause continue to come in to the Grand Lodge to help offset her ongoing medical costs. In the near future, Ms. Brannock will receive another large check from the Grand Lodge which represents the total funds collected to date.

To contribute to this ongoing effort, please send checks made out to the Grand Lodge of Maryland with *"Erika Brannock Fund"* in the memo line. Every dollar raised will go directly to Erika. Checks can be mailed to:

**The Grand Lodge of Maryland  
304 International Circle  
Cockeysville, MD 21030**







Notes from The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum

## BICENTENNIAL OF DR. CRAWFORD'S LASTING LEGACY

By: Edward Heimiller, Curator

**D**r. John Crawford (1746–1813) was the eighth Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland, serving in this position from 1801–1805 and 1807–1813. He was born in Northern Ireland on May 3, 1746. The second son of a clergyman, his upbringing infused him with a refined moral character and principles. At about the age of seventeen he was sent to Trinity College in Dublin. Soon afterwards he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Leyden in Holland, an institution held in high esteem.

Dr. Crawford was engaged as the ship's surgeon aboard the East India Company's ship *Marquis of Rockingham*, making two voyages to Bombay and Bengal between 1772 and 1774. Shortly after his marriage in 1778 he was appointed to the honorable and lucrative position of Surgeon to the naval hospital in Barbados. After a tremendous hurricane ravaged the island in 1780 he dispensed all the medicines in his possession with a liberal hand to all who needed them, without personal compensation.

In 1782 the wretched state of his health compelled him to return with his family to England. During this voyage his wife, to whom he was attached, died and left him with two infant children. He proceeded on to England, where he remained until he recovered his health. He then re-

turned to Barbados. Around 1790 he moved to the Dutch colony of Demerara, assuming the position of Surgeon-Major. It was from the observations afforded to him while overseeing the military hospital under his charge that he began developing his theories regarding the causes and transmissions of disease.

Toward the end of 1794 ill health again obligated Dr. Crawford to return to England and later to Holland. While in Holland arranging some affairs with the Government the colony of Demerara was transferred to the British. Upon his return to England he was offered the same appointment by the British Government, which he held before under the Dutch. However, the pressing solicitation of his brother-in-law to come to the United States and the hope that accepting this invitation might prove more advantageous to his children induced him to decline the post in Demerara and he embarked for the United States in 1796, settling in Maryland.

In 1812 he was appointed Lecturer on Natural History by the Regents of the Medical College of what would become the University of Maryland. With the support of Bro. Rev. Dr. William E. Wyatt (1789–1864), Pastor of St. Paul's Parrish and Professor of Theology at the University of Maryland, he was able to establish the 'Baltimore General



Dispensary' and served as one of its most valued managers until his death. He was also an early member of the 'Hibernian Benevolent Society' and one of the founders of the 'Bible Society of Baltimore,' founded with the noble purpose of dispensing the Holy texts. He was also instrumental in establishing the Maryland State Penitentiary. He further distinguished himself by introducing the use of vaccines in Baltimore to combat smallpox.

Early in life he had conceived a favorable impression of the Masonic institution and is generally believed to have received his degrees sometime while in the employ of East India Company. After becoming a resident of Baltimore he sought admission and was elected a member of Amicable Lodge, No. 25 (now Amicable-St. John's, No. 25) in December 1798. Shortly afterwards he was elected Master. In June of 1799 he was elected Deputy Grand Master and was re-elected to the position the following year. In May 1801, he was elected Grand Master and was continuously re-elected until his death in 1813, with the exception of one year when he asked to be excused (1806). He was also active in the collateral bodies. At the re-organization of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia on January 21, 1807, he was



Penitentiary

elected Grand High Priest, and was the Chairman of the Committee that framed the first Royal Arch Constitution for this jurisdiction.

On May 5, 1813 he fell victim to a sudden and violent illness to which he succumbed four days later. On the following day the Grand Lodge and the Subordinate Lodges in Baltimore bore his remains in a solemn procession to the Presbyterian grave-yard on the corner of Fayette and Greene Streets, where the Grand Lodge subsequently erected a monument to his memory. As a further sign of regard, after his passing an engraved likeness by American artist David Edwin (1776–1841) was commissioned by Cassia Lodge, No. 45 (now part of Amicable-St. John's, No. 25). An example of this print was subsequently presented to the museum by Cassia Lodge, No. 45 in 1911 and now hangs in the library.

Dr. Crawford was survived by one daughter, Eliza Anderson Godefroy (1789–1839). At the time she was married to Maximilian Godefroy (1765–1838), the architect who designed the old Masonic Hall on St. Paul Street and other public buildings in Baltimore, most notably the Battle Monument. Due to his substantial debts Dr. Crawford's library, reputedly to have been a collection unparalleled in the city of Baltimore, was sold by subscription and purchased by the Faculty of Physic of the Medical College, establishing what would become the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Health Sciences & Human Services Library. Today 569 volumes that once graced his library are treasured and maintained in the *Theodore E. Woodward Historical Reading Room* reflecting his educational background and medical interests. Though his theories on the causes and the spread of disease were a source of ridicule and were not accepted by his peers until after his death, he is now considered one of the pioneers in the medical profession for his advancement and use of vaccination. ♣



Medical College





# Grand LEGACY Gala

First Annual  
Grand Legacy Gala with  
**JONATHAN OGDEN**

Baltimore Ravens great **Jonathan Ogden** was the guest of honor at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Grand Legacy Gala on Friday October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Lodge. Patrons had ample opportunity to meet and chat with the NFL legend and recent Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee. The amiable Ogden spent the evening recounting stories of his amazing career and posed for picture after picture with everyone in attendance. While enjoying fine food and drink, guests also had the opportunity to bid on an impressive selection of Baltimore sports memorabilia and many other items. Baltimore sports broadcaster Scott Garceau served as emcee for the event.

Mr. Ogden and his family also took the time for a private tour of the Grand Lodge conducted by none other than MWGM Gerald E. Piepiora himself—and even had the opportunity to wield the massive Grand Lodge sword, which the 6’9” Ogden actually made seem much smaller.

The Gala was established as a joint charitable effort to support Masonic Charities of Maryland and the Jonathan Ogden Foundation. Although Mr. Ogden is not a Freemason, the mission of both his charity and ours is quite similar. Masonic Charities of Maryland, of course, is established to support Maryland’s children through academic scholarships, the Maryland Masonic Child Identification Program and in training public school personnel to identify and assist children at risk. The Jonathan Ogden Foundation provides academic and athletic support to public school students throughout the greater Baltimore region.

As ticket sales to the Grand Legacy Gala were open to the general public, the event was also an excellent opportunity to showcase Maryland Freemasonry and our charitable efforts. In-



deed many of the patrons from the local community spent quite a bit of time talking to the Masons in attendance and expressed keen interest in our noble fraternity.

The first time event was made possible by the diligent work of a small group of volunteers who spent long hours over a short span of weeks to ensure the evening would be a success, and when the receipts had been counted, nearly ten thousand dollars had been raised to support these two most-worthy charities.

Although spending an evening with a sports legend was indeed memorable, all in attendance agreed that the sense of community and fellowship experienced made it all the better. Many thanks go out to all who made the evening possible, especially those who supported and attended the gala. Be sure to be on the lookout for other such events in the future that support our fraternity’s charities and serve as a reminder of a basic tenet of Freemasonry—serving our community. ♦

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## MASONIC CHARITIES OF MARYLAND SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

More than 350 students, parents, Worshipful Masters, and guests gathered on Sunday, June 9, in the Grand Lodge Ballroom to recognize and honor the best and most deserving high school seniors across Maryland and to present them with scholarships to support the beginning of their college careers. This banquet event, the sixth of its kind, continues to illustrate the support from Maryland Masons for the youth of our state. Contributions from Lodges to help defray the cost of this event, coupled with the time and dedication the scholarship selection teams from each Lodge devoted to this enterprise proves the commitment of Maryland Masons to helping others.

Following the invocation by Grand Chaplain Bro. Elwood Ulmer, our speaker, Bro. Anthony Bell, a fellow Mason from

RIGHT:

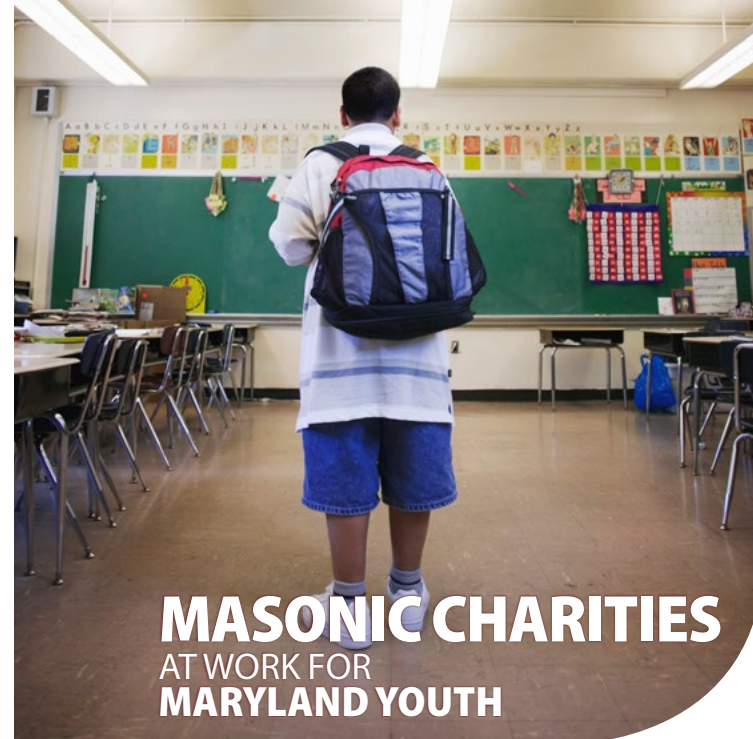
*C. David Haacke Memorial Scholarship* winner, Kathleen Yu, from Richard Montgomery High School, in Rockville, is seen receiving her \$5,000 award from Deputy Grand Master Kenneth Wyvill and Bro. Richard Naegele, the MCM Scholarship Chairman, whose work to make this program a success each year deserves commendation.

FAR RIGHT:

Also feted at this banquet were the *Grand Master's Masonic Youth Scholarship Award* recipients Nicole McKinley, Grand Worthy Advisor (International Order of Rainbow Girls-MD), Alicia Hill (International Order of Job's Daughters-MD), and Joseph G. Speck (International Order of DeMolay), with Deputy Grand Master Wyvill.

Prince Hall, representing the MD State Department of Education, challenged the students to strive for excellence and to maintain their diligence in pursuing their career goals through academic rigor. The scholarship recipients represent the promise of our future.

With the expansion of the scholarships to one for each Lodge this year, our banquet audience grew to fill the Grand Ballroom. Gazing out upon the audience of excited and successful students, their proud parents, and the many Lodge representatives, in addition to the MCM Directors, it was a day to remember for everyone who participated to make this a proud day to be a Maryland Mason! Our best wishes to all the scholarship recipients, as we look forward to an even larger turnout next year.



### Masonic Model Student Assistance Program Training

On August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, more than 45 Carroll County educators participated in the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) training in Westminster, MD. Thanks go especially to the members of Door to Door Virtue Lodge No. 46, who hosted the training and provided delicious meals for all who attended. It is just this sort of collaboration between Maryland Masons and the Maryland Student Assistance Program that provides our Maryland youth with the supports and assistance so greatly needed in this ever-more challenging world. The photo below shows the participants, MMSAP trainers, Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) Directors, and MD MMSAP coordinator (Step Mika) gathered for a celebratory picture. These fine, dedicated educators will take this new training to their schools, where they will be better-prepared to identify and assist our students most at-risk for substance use, violence, depression, bullying, and a host of other threats to their health and success. Since 1987, more than 25,000 Maryland educators have been trained in MMSAP, supported entirely by Masonic Charities.



### Maryland Child Identification Program (MD CHIP) Montgomery County Fair

From August 9<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>, more than 730 children who attended the annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, in Gaithersburg, MD, were "enrolled" in the MD CHIP, coordinated by dedicated members of the York Rite [bodies] of Montgomery County and assisted by brothers from the five (5) Masonic Lodges in the county. The photo below depicts the CHIP tent at the fair. This event, the third of its kind in Montgomery County, attracts hundreds of patrons whose children benefit from the sincere care illustrated by the many volunteers who work tirelessly to interact with and record information on youngsters to use by their parents in the event of loss or abduction. In one instance, at a MD county fair about two years ago, a recently-enrolled child became lost and was found within a short time by authorities after the parents shared the data recorded in the CD with searchers. It really works, thanks to your support through contributions to MCM and volunteering to man these MD CHIP events.



### DONATIONS

Your consistent financial support is crucial to the continuation of these valuable MCM initiatives, as well as the MCM Scholarship Program. All contributions to **Masonic Charities of Maryland**, a 501C3-designated charitable organization, are tax-deductible and well-appreciated. Contributions may be sent to MCM at the Grand Lodge office in Cockeysville. If you are a Federal employee, you may donate through the Combined Federal Campaign (code 57589) or, if you are a Maryland state employee, through the Maryland Charity Campaign. Masonic Charities of Maryland is an extension of the charity demonstrated by all Maryland Masons in their care for the children of Maryland.





## ESDRAELON'S LODGE OF LOW VALE AT THE QUARRY

by Jerry R. Arnold, PM

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, four brothers of Esdraelon Lodge no. 176, were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Stephen Paul Mattlin, Bradley Kent Mattlin, Kenneth Ray Mattlin, Jr., and Larry Lanier Smith all received their third degree in Masonry on that early summer day. A unique aspect of this degree was the majority of the new Brothers were the third generation for the Mattlins in Esdraelon Lodge. But what really made it special was the location where the degree was performed.

With special dispensations from both Grand Lodges of Maryland and Pennsylvania, the degree was conferred at the Quarry in Delta, Pennsylvania. This location is unique for many reasons. It once produced the finest slate in the world, extracted by the Welsh settlers in the late 1800's. The slate industry thrived until the early 1900's when new technologies replaced slate roofing. Long since abandoned, the Quarry filled with water and remained in its private solitude for years. Recently acquired by the Mattlin family, it became the site of this special Lodge of Low Vale.

The Lodge rehearsed for weeks preceding the event with the assistance of Bill Richard, the Deputy Grand Lecturer. Three of the Brothers were to get the abbreviated Third degree, with the full-form following last. Following two days of rain, the Officers of Esdraelon were concerned that the weather would impact the event. Days before the event, the decision was made to rent a large tent to accommodate the site, should the weather prove to be inclement. With conflicting weather forecasts, the morning broke overcast, but with no rain. The four Master Mason candidates and Lodge officers arrived early to set things in motion. Tractors were lined up and attached to wagons, the meats were

placed in the cooker, all of the implements of the degree, along with extra aprons were conveyed to the site.

Doughnuts, pastries, and coffee greeted the Brothers as they arrived at the 6-M company. Excitement was in the air as all were in anticipation of the upcoming degree. Visitors from various Maryland and Pennsylvania Lodges gathered that morning to see this unique event. At 8:30 AM, the brothers began to find seats in one of four wagons to be conveyed to the Quarry. Four



The officers and Brother who help with the Lodge of Low Vale.

large farm tractors pulling wagons filled with Brothers crossed Atom Road and began the ascent up the ridge over a newly widened muddy dirt road. After ten minutes of traveling up through the green woods, the site of the Quarry emerged on the right through the trees. Along the way the Brothers saw the Masonic emblem branded on various cut trees.

The Brothers disembarked and walked a short distance down to the site. For Brothers who couldn't make the short distance, small vehicles drove them to the final destination. All were overwhelmed by the beauty of the location as the Quarry spread out before them. Many took photos of the scenery and posed before the vista. Some Brothers, after arriving at the site, began texting to those Brothers not present.

The Quarry is almost a mile long with steep cliffs along its edge. Quarrymen once worked along the bottom of the Quarry,



Worshipful Master Josh Mattlin with the Quarry behind.

removing the slate from the pit. Pumps removed the water that gathered near the bottom. Since the operation shut down, the pumps were removed and the pit filled with water. The water is now very deep and green. The ridge that this Quarry resides in is unique in the way the slate is arranged. Instead of the normal horizontal layer of sheets of slate, here in Delta, the slate has been pushed vertical from geological forces. This makes the Quarry one of the most dangerous one in the world as the sheets of slate can slide down trapping and killing the Quarrymen as they work. Even now, abandoned as it is, it's a very dangerous area near the edges.

All of the furniture of the Lodge of Low Vale was made from local lumber by the Mattlin family, and the emblems were carved from slate. The altar and stations were rough-hewn wood, and the three lights were lanterns. Holes were drilled within the local rocks to hold the staffs and flag. Behind the Worshipful Master's chair, the Quarry, in all of its splendor, created a breath-taking vista and backdrop.

As this was also a Degree performed by the Past Masters, the following brothers filled the stations; Josh Mattlin and Bill Mattlin as the Worshipful Masters, Jimmy Preston as Senior Warden, Mike Randow as Junior Warden, Ricky Randow and

Henry Jones as the Deacons, Jerry Arnold and Roy Randow as the Stewards, Keith Myers as Chaplain, and Wilson Tharpe and Bud Ramsey as Secretary and Treasurer, and Bill Randow as the Tyler. The ruffians were Donnie Robinson, Harvey Yale and George Welford.

The degrees were performed excellently and impressed all of the Brothers. Surrounded by the beauty of the location, the songs of birds filling the air, and the fresh scent of the rain-cleared forest, the event was a symphony for the senses.



All of the furniture for the Lodge of Low Vale was created by members of the Mattlin Family. The Masonic emblem is branded into the wood.

After the degrees and presentations to the newly raised Brothers, all of the Brothers loaded again into the wagons and traveled down the ridge back to the 6-M company for a feast of pit beef, turkey, and ham. During this feast many Brothers talked about the degree and the beauty of the location. As the meal finished, the Brothers began to leave and travel home.

Esdraelon Lodge now has four new Brothers who will have a lifetime of stories to recall how they got their Master Mason degree at the Lodge of Low Vale in Delta, Pennsylvania. Many other Brothers will relate how they spent their morning on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and experienced something unique and impressive outside, overlooking The Quarry.

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111 Fulford Avenue, Suite B  
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## Ionic Lodge

No. 145 in Reisterstown has been assisting in a community effort to restore the historic Reisterstown Community Cemetery, originally created by the town's founder, John Reister in 1764. A number of the brothers have been volunteering their time and efforts in providing the labor needed to help the volunteer community organization leading the restoration efforts to prepare and restore a 160 year old brick wall which marks the cemetery's boundaries. In doing so, many of these "speculative" Masons have had the opportunity to use some "operative" skills.

The cemetery has a number of strong links, not just to the community but also to the history of the country. The Reisterstown Community Cemetery is on three quarters of an acre of land donated by Reister. His intent was to create a non-denominational cemetery that would be open to everyone, regardless of race, in the community. Since then, over 600 residents from the

area have been buried there. Among the interred are: six veterans of the Revolutionary War, nine patriots who signed the Oath of Fidelity to the Colonies, 24 who fought in the War of 1812, two veterans of the Mexican American War, five who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War and three who fought for the Union.

Ionic Lodge has a special connection to the cemetery because there are a number of Masons, including several Past Masters who are buried there. The Brothers of Ionic Lodge have been assisting with the work by helping to repair the wall around the property as well as spreading the word about the cemetery. They have been spending a number of weekends assisting in an "operative" style by preparing the original brick and fieldstone wall foundation for restoration by a professional brick mason. This effort by the lodge will be reflected in years to come as the past comes to light again.



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# BOUMI SHRINERS

By Jay Irwin Block, *Illustrious Potentate*, 2013

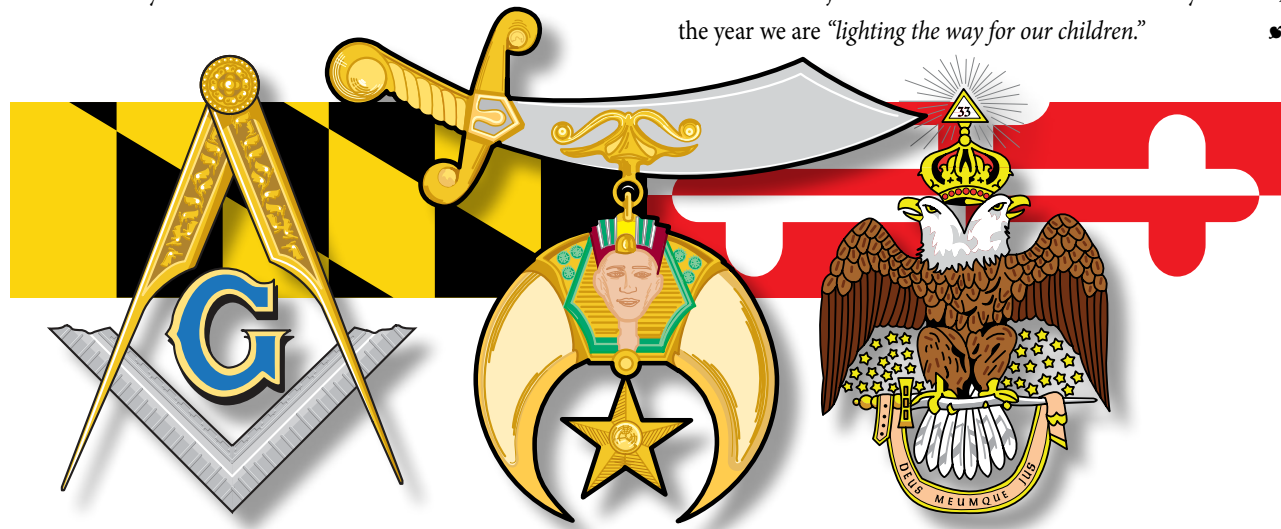
Greetings Brother Maryland Masons from the Boumi Shriners. I wish to thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master, **Gerald Piepiora**, and the Sovereign Grand Inspector, **Marlin Mills**, for continuing the lines of communication among all of us. Although there may be problems in other jurisdictions, in Maryland, we remain united in our Masonic heritage and fraternal camaraderie.

I have been honored by our Grand Master, who sat with me at the *Indianapolis Shrine Convention* where we were able to discuss the issues at hand and truly appreciate the close bond we have, individually and fraternally. My Lady Gina and I are looking forward to seeing the Grand Master and his wife at the MASA Convention as well as other events scheduled through the rest of the year.

Following the success of both the Masonic and Boumi Open Houses, we are looking to repeat the Boumi event this Fall. We hope all who are interested come with others who are not yet Masons to see what opportunities lie ahead for all of us and our families. Also, as we have hosted our Veterans with a breakfast on November 11<sup>th</sup> of the year, this year we have opened our doors to our ladies, acknowledging that our freedom today is because of their sacrifices in the past. Please check out website, [www.boumishriners.com](http://www.boumishriners.com) for details of these and other events.

My Lady Gina and I have truly enjoyed this year and look forward to the upcoming events remaining until this term has ended.

Please come join us as we continue to celebrate the year 2013, the year we are "lighting the way for our children."



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