

## From the Grand Master



Brethren,

It appears summer came early this year, and we have had some truly hot weather – likewise, things have been heating up in many of our Lodges. Our Lodges are seeing a steady flow of petitions for the three Degrees of Masonry, and many are working though the summer to keep up with the needs of these new Brothers.

In the past week alone I was with the Shield & Square Degree team in Medairy Lodge last Saturday where we raised five new Master Masons, last night in St. Columba Lodge with the Grand Line and raised five more Master

Masons, and tonight we were in Glen Burnie Lodge where we raised seven new Master Masons. And for the most part, these were young men in their 20s, 30s and 40s, which certainly is a great mix, and just what we need to carry this wonderful fraternity of ours into the future.

That my Brethren is the good news. The bad news is we are losing far too many Brothers due to suspension for non-payment of dues, and what a real shame this is.

I often wonder if there is a real effort going on in our Lodges regarding membership retention – are we contacting these Brothers to find out why they haven't been in touch, or are we just shrugging our shoulders, and going on to something else? I certainly hope this is not the case. Last year two of our Lodges lost thirty some members each, and one of them repeated this number again this year. Can you really afford to lose thirty some members a year? Do we explain that the proper way to leave the fraternity is by requesting a demit? Do we inform possession of a demit makes readmission into the fraternity a much easier method? Do we make them aware of what they are really losing when they are no longer members?

I recently received a letter from a Lodge that had a Brother who desired admission into Bonnie Blink, our Masonic Retirement Home. Normally this would not be a problem, that is what our Home is there for, and is something there for each and every one of you. The bad news is, this Brother had been suspended for NPD several years ago, and now needed help, but was no longer in good standing. His family had been taking care of him, and didn't understand the importance of paying his dues, and apparently neglected to keep him in good standing with his Lodge.

My Brethren, you may well be of an age where retirement is the furthest thing from your mind – at one time it certainly wasn't anything I gave a lot of thought to. But I can guarantee you – one of these days, if we are lucky enough to live a long life – retirement is going to be staring us in the face. And should you be unfortunate and fall on difficult times, one thing you can count on is, if you are a member in good standing of one of our Lodges, there will be assistance for you from our Masonic Home. Believe me, this is not a benefit you want to lightly throw away.

Worshipful Masters, do you have a membership retention committee? Are they being given the names of Brothers that are approaching the time when they will be suspended? Are they actively reaching out to these Brothers months before it becomes time to send that dreaded letter? Are you following up to see how their progress is? If you have any questions regarding any part of what I have written here, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

John R. Biggs, Jr.  
Grand Master

## 2008 Grand Line Officers

M. Worshipful Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr.  
R. W. Deputy Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.  
R. W. Sr. Grand Warden Spyridon G. Treklas  
R. W. Jr. Grand Warden Marvin E. Printz  
R. W. Grand Secretary Herbert Y. Holcomb, III  
R. W. Grand Treasurer William E. Gyr  
W. Grand Marshal Julius H. Poston  
W. Asst. Grand Marshal Jay W. Hodges  
W. Grand Lecturer R. Gary Pierce  
W. Asst. Grand Lecturer Paul H. Fishell  
W. Grand Chaplain Elwood L. Ulmer  
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Walter F. Burgess  
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Jack R. George  
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Leslie G. Metcalf, Sr.  
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Richard C. Oursler  
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Randall A. Schoch  
W. Sr. Grand Deacon Robert H. Hill, Jr.  
W. Jr. Grand Deacon R. Bruce Tanner  
W. Sr. Grand Steward Frederick A. Spicer  
W. Jr. Grand Steward Dan B. Lane  
W. Grand Standard Bearer Leslie G. Metcalf, Jr.  
W. Grand Sword Bearer Shawn R. Winpigler, Sr.  
W. Grand Pursuivant John B. Rogalski, Jr.  
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies Ronald A. Hill, Sr.  
Aide to Grand Master Thomas A. Keller  
Aide to Grand Master Charles W. Winkler  
W. Grand Tyler Gregory B. Hudnet  
W. Asst. Grand Tyler Mark E. Hartz  
W. Asst. Grand Tyler Richard H. Uren  
W. Grand Organist Ronald L. Unger  
W. Asst. Grand Organist Kenneth C. Mars  
W. Grand Photographer W. Grant Gibson

Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Free State Freemason*: **the 1st day of March (Spring), June (Summer), September (Fall), and December (Winter).**

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

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

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

FSFM@glmd.org

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

### Article Submission

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

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

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

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

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

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



## The Grand Lodge of Maryland Ballroom Rentals

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

E-Mail: [glballroom@glmd.org](mailto:glballroom@glmd.org), Fax 410-316-9410

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

**Catering:** Approved list of caterers.

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

**Rates:** Call for information.

**Parking:** Free on site, 178 spaces.

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



## License Plates



Masonic License plates are available to Maryland Masons, with vehicles registered in Maryland, as well as their wives, widows, and sons and daughters living at home. You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. (*Motorcycle tags are not available*)

**Be proud of your fraternity and display these plates on your car this year.**

## Chair Plaques & The Tree of Life

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

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

**The Chair Plaques and the Tree of Life leaves cost only \$200.00 each.**

**This provides you with up to four lines on either, with twenty-one characters per line.**

**Call Ray Vogel at the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 to make arrangements for yours.**

## Free State Freemason E-Newsletter

The Free State Freemason is taking another step in moving Freemasonry forward. The publication can now be delivered right to your email!



The Newsletter will come as a PDF attachment every quarter.

For those brethren that are not online - **don't worry** - you will still get your copy mailed to you via USPS!

If you would like to begin receiving the Free State Freemason by email, send your name and email address to [fsfm@glmd.org](mailto:fsfm@glmd.org).

Be sure to specify that you want to begin receiving the e-newsletter so we can remove your name from the mailing list!

## FSFM HUNT

### Help us complete our collection

The Grand Lodge is missing a few issues of the Free State Freemason and we need your help in recovering them! If you have any of these issues, please contact the Grand Lodge office:

- Summer 2003
- Fall & Winter 2002
- Summer 2000
- Winter 1999
- Winter & Spring 1998
- Winter 1997
- Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall 1996
- Spring, Summer, Fall 1995
- and everything prior to Winter 1995

Completion of our collection will help us preserve our history, and will also allow our future Brethren to share in our wonderful heritage!

Contact Jason at 410-527-0600 or at [fsfm@glmd.org](mailto:fsfm@glmd.org) if you can help.

## Knights of Mecca

The Knights of Mecca, a Boumi Shrine group composed entirely of Past Masters of Lodges in Maryland, annually invite the Grand Master and his line of officers to attend one of their meetings.



At the first K.O.M. meeting following installation of a new Grand Master, if a member of the Shrine, he is presented with his Fez. The group deviated from this tradition in 2006, presenting Grand Master Biggs his Fez following the installation ceremonies.

The Knights of Mecca have a Degree team, under direction of Bro. Gus Vourvoulas, that are available to confer the Master Mason Degree in Lodges in Maryland, when invited by the Worshipful Master. For more information on this, contact Brother Vourvoulas.



## Collington Lodge Honors a Revolutionary War Hero

Collington Lodge No. 230 joined Bowie's Mayor and other residents on December 8, 2008 to honor Revolutionary War hero and Masonic brother Thomas Lancaster Lansdale.

The occasion was the rededication of Bro. Lansdale's gravesite in Bowie. Bro. Lansdale is the only known Revolutionary War veteran to be buried within the Bowie city limits.

Along with representatives of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, the Disabled American Veterans, as well as a Maryland military reenactment group, Collington Lodge paid homage to a true American hero. Collington Lodge donated a permanent marker which was installed adjacent to a brick memorial pedestal placed by the City.



Bro Lansdale entered Freemasonry on December 20, 1771 at the Lodge of Sincerity in the village of Rotherhithe, now a suburb of London. When war broke out with England, he joined the Maryland militia and served with another Masonic brother, General George Washington in battles in the New York area. Captured by the British in the holding action allowing the Continental Army to escape the encircling British, Bro. Lansdale spent time in horrible conditions as a prisoner of war. Promoted to the rank of Major in 1779, he served under General William Smallwood. As the battles raged back and forth, Bro. Lansdale was twice captured and became a prisoner of war. Bro. Lansdale died in 1803, presumably from injuries and illnesses he sustained while a prisoner of the British.



## Grand Lodge Annual Bull & Oyster Roast Results

What a great time was had by all in attendance. The food was superb, thanks to Atlantic Catering! Everyone commented on how great all the food was.

For the first time in memory, our Grand Lodge Bull Roast was sold out 3 weeks prior to the date. So take note, and make your reservations early next year.

## Bonnie Blink Daylight Lodge

On Tuesday, September 9, 2008, Bonnie Blink Daylight Lodge No. 1 will honor Most Worshipful Past Grand Master B. Hope Harrison. In 1989, MWPGM was the founder and the driving force behind the charter and establishment of Maryland's only Daylight Lodge. He was very instrumental in the selection of its first Worshipful Master Bro. Lunda W. Laird.

Most Worshipful Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr. and his 2008 Grand Line will also be in attendance. This will be an occasion to long remember. You do not want to miss this one!!

There will be a lunch served after the meeting. All are welcome - bring your ladies and friends. In order for us to prepare properly for refreshments, we ask that you make reservations by calling one of the following:

PM Louis Bandell @ 410-252-6020

Email - [louemeral@comcast.net](mailto:louemeral@comcast.net)

PM Charles Beckhardt @ 410-833-6881

Email - [cabjr@carr.org](mailto:cabjr@carr.org)

SW Donald Cilento @ 410-288-2162

Email - [bugsgрма@aol.com](mailto:bugsgрма@aol.com)

Fraternally,  
John A. Young, Jr., PGM

## Friendship Lodge No. 84 Fraternal Visitation

Friendship Lodge No. 84 in Hagerstown recently hosted a visit from members of Oak Springs Lodge No. 41 and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. This was the first time members of the two local lodges met together. Over 70 Master Masons from three states were in attendance for this historic occasion.



The local Prince Hall Lodge was present to witness the Master Mason Degree being conferred on several new members by the Free State Shield and Square Club.



The new Masons are Benjamin Saylor, Gerard Kendle with the Hagerstown Police Department, and Ryan Shifflet with the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

## Grand Lodge of Maryland Summer School of Instruction 2008

### Grand Lodge 7:00 PM

July 8 - Fellowcraft  
Receiving Grand Master & Line  
July 15 - Master Mason  
July 22 - Entered Apprentice  
July 29 - Fellowcraft  
Aug 5 - Master Mason  
Aug 12 - Entered Apprentice  
Aug 19 - Master Mason  
Aug 26 - Master Mason

### Western Maryland

July 10 - Hagerstown 217 Fellowcraft  
July 24 - Columbia 58 Master Mason  
Aug 7 - Potomac 100 Entered Apprentice

### Eastern Shore

July 17 - Wicomico 91 Entered Apprentice  
July 31 - Cambridge 66 Fellowcraft  
Aug 21 - Centreville 180 Master Mason

### Centennial Lodge No. 174 7:30 pm

July 24 - Entered Apprentice  
July 31 - Fellowcraft  
August 7 - Master Mason  
August 14 - Special Topics

## 60 Year Service Award

On May 21, 2008, Urban T. Peters, Worshipful Master of Seat Pleasant Lodge No. 218, along with Dan Brewer, Senior Warden and Bayani Casanova, Grand Inspector traveled to the residence of Paul Edward Kraft.

On this occasion Brother Kraft was presented his Sixty Year member award by GI Casanova.



(Above - From Left: Bayani Cassanova, Grand Inspector; Bro. Paul Edward Kraft; Urban T. Peters, Worshipful Master. Standing: Dan Brewer, Senior Warden)



(GI Casanova pinning 60 year pin, WM Peters pinning the Grand Master's Pin)



## Traveling Brother Goes to London

Brethren,

I recently had the opportunity to visit London during a business trip the first week of May. All of my overseas travel being short notice (with typically a week's notice at best), I was pretty certain that it was going to be difficult to sit in an English Blue Lodge during the visit, however, I wanted to at the very least attempt to sit in a Lodge if possible. The business portion of my trip went smoothly and I had time to get around the city and see the major tourist sights, but was pleasantly surprised when I was warmly received by the United Grand Lodge of England and attended the installation of officers for Guyana Lodge No. 9626.

First, I would like to thank Brother Holcomb the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary and the wonderful staff of the Grand Lodge of Maryland for forwarding by email a letter of introduction for me to the Grand Chancellor (as well as providing a copy of the letter to carry with me). Upon arrival in London, I was in email contact with Brother David Spencer-Phillips of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge who did his best to accommodate me in the short time I was in town. Ironically, it was the gentlemen at the Regalia store across the street from Freemasons' Hall that provided some of the best information.



Shortly after arriving, I was able to do some sight-seeing and walked from my hotel to Drury Lane (which my kids thought was neat) until I found Great Queen Street and Freemasons' Hall. If I accomplished nothing else on the trip, I wanted to see the museum and Masonic store. I arrived and the building was a beehive of activity as I later was informed that the Royal Arch was conducting an installation of officers. The gentlemen in the Regalia Store (who also provided me a discount on some ties I purchased) explained to me the protocol of entering the building and reporting in to the Liaison Office. I went to the office, introduced myself, and was told a virtual list of events that I would be able to attend if I had the time. London has more Lodges than our state has, so there is always a meeting occurring daily (with the exception of weekends and holidays), so attending a meeting as a visitor was almost like choosing a movie to see.

After I was informed of my work schedule and was able to plan accordingly, I arrived at the Liaison Office at Freemasons' Hall early so that the proper documents could be drawn

up and my letter of introduction forwarded to the Lodge I was to attend. I went up to one of the many meeting rooms where all the brothers were preparing for Lodge and introduced myself to Worshipful Brother David Woon Soong, the Almoner of Guyana Lodge No. 9626. I was handed a Summons (much like our Trestleboard) and introduced to the Secretary, W. Bro. Andrew Haynes. I want to thank Guyana Lodge for their hospitality in allowing me to attend their installation, and apologize for leaving early as I had to get back to work that evening. Before I left though, I presented the Lodge with Mt Ararat No. 44's Bi-Centennial commemorative coin as a token of the visit.

I would like to also thank Brother Graham Bettinelli of Harmony Lodge No. 5835 who sat with me in Lodge and explained many of the differences between the English and Maryland traditions. I learned a lot and thank him for expanding my Masonic experience.

Fraternally,  
William Barrell  
Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44  
Senior Steward

## Masonic Charities of MD, Inc. Annual Golf Classic

MCM, Inc. invites you to attend the MCM Annual Golf Classic. The tournament will be held at Rocky Point Golf Course in Essex, MD. The proceeds of this event will be used to support Masonic Charities of MD, Inc. scholarships and student assistant programs, and to continue to grow Masonic Awareness, and Brotherhood.

Format: 4 Person Captain's Choice  
Date: Monday October 13, 2008  
Check-in: Begins at 7:00 AM  
Time: 9AM Shotgun  
Fee: \$75 per person  
\$300.00 per foursome

Includes: Greens Fees, Golf Cart, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Beverages, and Prizes

Contact Tournament Director, Bob Ivey at:  
[mcmgolf@comcast.net](mailto:mcmgolf@comcast.net)

*Date: July 26, 2008*

*Mors d'Oeuvres 6:00pm*

*Reception 7:00pm*

*Dinner 7:30pm*

*Dancing 8:30pm - 11pm*

*Top Shelf  
& Open Bar*



# Grand Master's Ball

*a Black Tie Event*

*Menu:*

*Jumbo Lump Crab Cake & Vilet Mignon*

*Or*

*Chilean Sea Bass*

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND

302 International Circle  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

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

*\$75.00 per person*

*Contact Linda Hagan: 410-527-0600*

RSVP by July 16, 2008

Only 300 tickets will be sold.

**No Tickets Sold At the Door!**

Entertainment by:  
**The Fabulous Hubcaps**  
[www.thehubcaps.com](http://www.thehubcaps.com)

## From the Potentate Boumi Shrine



Fellow Brethern,

I can't tell you how much Dorothy and I enjoyed the wonderful turn out of Nobles, their Ladies and Friends that we had for the Potentates Gala. We have been told by many that were in attendance how much they enjoyed the entertainment. If you were unable to be with us you missed a wonderful party. The food was good, the show was great, and the dance music was superb. Thanks again to everyone that worked so hard to make the night as special as it was.

The spirit of fun and fellowship that was seen at the Gala was also experienced at this year's Carnival held on the grounds of our Boumi Shrine Center. Although inclement weather hampered a couple of the days, the word was spread to the community and we were rewarded with higher attendance numbers which equated to higher revenue counts.

At the end of June, we will head to St. Louis for the Imperial Shrine Convention. I know Boumi will be well represented by those Nobles and their Ladies that attend the convention.

Two other events in the future that we all have fun doing are the Beer Brigade at the State Fair and the MASA Convention at Virginia Beach. Noble Ray Link is heading both of these events. Every one who works the State Fair has a wonderful time and you get to meet a lot of wonderful people. Ray will also handle your reservations for Virginia Beach. If you are part of a Unit, you can meet Nobles from other Temples in friendly competition and everyone enjoys the parade.

Dorothy and I are looking forward to the rest of the year being full of the same kind of hard work and the same kind of fun.

Again remember it is our Fraternity and can and will be only as good as you make it.

Yours in the Faith,  
Charles W. Needer, Jr.  
Illustrious Potentate.  
Boumi Shrine Center

## Brunswick Lodge No. 191 1st Table Lodge

WM Reese C. Grams cordially invites you and all Masons where so ever dispersed to our 1st ever Brunswick Lodge No. 191 Table Lodge!

It will be held at Brunswick Lodge No. 191, 321 Brunswick Street, Brunswick, MD (next door to Brunswick Post Office) on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 6:30PM.

The cost is \$10 per Ticket. Tickets are available in advance or at the door.

RSVP by Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Contact John Younkins @ 301-432-0084

Brother Steve J. Ponzillo, III will be the guest speaker for the evening.

## Grand Lodge of Maryland Annual Crab Feast/Bull Roast

Sunday, August 3, 2008

at **Baltimore Forest Tall Cedar Building**  
**2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, 21234**

Food – 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm

DJ for dancing – 2:00 pm till 6:00 pm

**MENU:** Steamed crabs. On the pit; Choice Beef, Turkey, Country Smoked Ham. Crab Cakes, Cream of Crab Soup, Bar-B-Que Pork Ribbies, Bar-B-Que Chicken, Sauerkraut & Kielbasa, Hot Dogs with Baked Beans, Peas & carrots, Corn on the Cob Fresh Fruit Bowl, Assorted Cheeses & Crackers, Vegetables with Dip, Pickled Beets, Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings, Potato Salad. Draft Beer and Soda. Cake, Coffee and Tea last hour.

For Tickets: Call Ray Vogel, 410.527.0289

or Jason 410.527.0600

Price \$31.00 per person

After 7/25, price \$37.50 pp

All seats reserved /Tables of 10

No Refunds - No Tickets sold at door

Make checks payable to:

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

## Masonic Child ID Program Collington Lodge No. 230

On Saturday June 7th, Collington Lodge No. 230 publicly unveiled the Maryland Child Identification Program (MDCHIP) at Bowiefest. Collington's machine and one on loan from the Grand Lodge worked continuously from 11 am until 6:30 pm. During this time, we processed ninety-five (95) children. Added to the five children we processed during our training session weeks before – We have now processed our first 100!

This is quite the success considering the parents and children waited patiently for the process. I personally think this is great indicator of the importance of this service for parents considering the heat index was above 100 degrees. Additionally, Collington handed out more than 40 "Rain Checks" for CHIP to be processed at the Collington Temple on June 21st starting at 10 am.

Collington received numerous positive comments and feed back with regard to the programs importance and in one case, shock that we were providing the service "Free of Charge." We were also approached by one non-profit group interested in hosting a MDCHIP event.

Finally, let's not forget our annual sales of cotton candy, popcorn and drinks to benefit the C. Elizabeth Reig School here in Bowie. Unfortunately sales were off this year. Certainly the weather had a lot to do with that. However, we did have sales just short of \$400.

All of this could not be possible without the involvement of membership and their families. Thank you to all who participated at this event. A special thanks also goes out to several brothers and their families from St. Albans Universal Lodge who spent hours working the computers and processing children.

Sincerely & fraternally,  
Chris Pierson, Chaplin

## Scottish Rite Cruise

Join Dr. Hans Wilhelmsen, Lady Leah and the Scottish Rite on an 11 Night Alaska Cruise Tour Beginning June 22nd – July 3rd, 2009

Sailing Aboard the Radiance of the Seas  
Schedule:

Day	Pre-Cruise Tour Arrangements
<b>6/22/09</b>	Fairbanks Hotel –Sophie Station (You will be met & transferred from airport)
<b>6/23/09</b>	El Dorado Gold Mine Tour Fairbanks City Tour Riverboat Discovery Sternwheeler
<b>6/24/09</b>	Rail A.M. - Fairbanks to Denali Tundra Wilderness Tour
Overnight in Denali – McKinley Village Lodge	
<b>6/25/09</b>	Free Time in the Morning Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge (subject to change)
<b>6/26/09</b>	Depart by Motorcoach to Anchorage Transfer to Seward (Cruise itinerary may change without notice as conditions warrant)
Board the Radiance of the Seas in Seward	
<b>6/27/09</b>	Hubbard Glacier
<b>6/28/09</b>	Juneau
<b>6/29/09</b>	Skagway
<b>6/30/09</b>	Icy Strait Point
<b>7/01/09</b>	Ketchikan
<b>7/02/09</b>	Inside Passage (Cruising)
<b>7/03/09</b>	Vancouver British Columbia
Cat L (inside decks 9 & 10)	\$1,940.00 pp dbl occ
Cat D1 (Balcony stateroom deck 9)	\$2,880.00 pp dbl occ
Cat JS ( Junior Suite w/balcony deck 10)	\$3,480.00 pp dbl occ
Cat GS (Grand Suite w/balcony deck 10)	\$3,880.00 pp dbl occ



By Judy Falk Warsaw

Prices are per person double occupancy. Government taxes, fees and fuel surcharge are additional at \$394.00 per person.

Contact Judy Warsaw at:  
(410) 494-1414 or (800) 395-9550  
www.cruisesplusinternational.com



## MD CHIP – a PR Homerun!

Collington Lodge No. 230 jumped into the Maryland Child Identification Program (“CHIP”) with both feet and their debut event was a resounding success! In addition, they handed out over 30 Rain Checks for families to bring their children to the Lodge on Saturday, June 21 to go through the CHIP process.

So, how is this deemed a success? Let’s take a look...

- ID records on over 100 children have been developed (Collington held a training session at the Lodge a few weeks before Bowiefest to get familiar with operating the CHIP system and 5 of their children were test cases. All successful, too.)

- Thirty or more families will visit the Lodge on June 21. A Masonic information table will be staffed and supplied (refreshments and brochures).

- The Masons and their families had the opportunity to interface directly with 100+ families at Bowiefest – demonstrating and discussing Masonic principles.

- This event was heavily advertised by the City of Bowie event organizers (no cost to the Lodge), who were excited to have the CHIP booth offered at festivities. The City gave MD CHIP a prime spot in several of the advertising media.

- Several organizations, including the City of Bowie Police Department, approached Worshipful Master Ray Denmark at Bowiefest to request the MD CHIP presence at their specific events.

Collington’s investment in the MD CHIP program is certainly a public relations home run. The Lodge’s dedication and the public’s interest make CHIP a grand slam for the community, the Lodge and Maryland Masonry.

How do I know? I was there. Families were lined up at the CHIP booth before Bowiefest opened at 11:00 past the 6:00 closing time. With the cooperation of the Grand Lodge loaning a 2nd CHIP machine and a height chart, and the efforts of 10 people all day long (in 90 degree heat), the families of 95 children can rest a little easier now...thanks to the Masons. That’s spreading some serious Light!

Your Public Relations Committee continues to endorse the MD CHIP program as a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate Masonic principles, give something back to the community in a very visible way and involve many of your members and their families. If we can help your Lodge, please contact us.

Ron Block, Chairman

CSM Frank J. Prochazka (RET)  
300 International Cir.  
Cockeysville, MD 21030-1300



Dear CSM Frank J. Prochazka (RET):

America has always called upon the Army to do the hard jobs, and her Army has always answered the call. We are a free Nation, a Nation looked upon by billions of people around the world as the standard-bearer of freedoms – freedoms guaranteed by our great Soldiers and by the veterans who have served our great country in the active Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve.


We are an Army of tradition. Our greatest tradition is service to our country, and in that service we ask our Soldiers to carry out tough missions all around the world. Today, answering the Nation’s call may take them into harm’s way in our Global War on Terrorism, a war that touches us all and one that we must win.

As today’s Soldiers serve, the traditions and legacy passed on by Army veterans in previous conflicts sustain them so they can do what must be done to protect our freedoms. Our Army would not be the best in the world without the service of its veterans who continue to provide support and exhibit patriotism. You make a difference to today’s Army and to our country.

Please accept the enclosed Army lapel pin. It symbolizes the partnership between our Army, her Soldiers, their families, and veterans – a partnership as old as the Nation itself. It is a partnership America has always been able to depend on. As our partner, we hope that you will wear this pin with pride, as a statement of our shared commitment to support America’s Soldiers.

We thank you for the honor of your past service with our Army and for your continued support of our Soldiers.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Schoemaker  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff



Francis J. Harvey  
Secretary of the Army



## Maryland Masonic Homes Resident Recognized for Service

Prior to Memorial Day, Bro. Frank J. Prochazka, member of Patmos Lodge No. 70, and resident of the Maryland Masonic Homes, was presented with the above letter along with a lapel pin from the United States Army for his dedicated service as a soldier and as a Company Sergeant Major.

Now retired, Bro. Prochazka accepted this award with the same pride as he had while serving this country in the United States Army. He, along with every soldier dedicated to protecting our beloved Home, past, present and future, deserves this kind of recognition and the respect of his peers and brothers.

Should you find yourself visiting the Masonic Homes and see Bro. Frank, please congratulate him on this notable award!



## Celebrating Young People's Accomplishments

On Sunday, June 8, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. at the Grand Lodge, Masonic Charities of Maryland held its first annual Gala Scholarship Awards Banquet. Attending were thirty-seven of the fifty 2008 Scholarship Winners from throughout the State of Maryland. Each of the thirty-seven winners received a \$1,000.00 scholarship from MCM. Brother Stephen J. Ponzillo, III served as Master of Ceremonies. Ryan Snow, a graduating senior from Easton High School in Talbot County was the first winner of MCM's C. David Haacke Memorial Scholarship Award of \$5,000.00. Ryan will attend the University of Maryland, College Park and plans to study Business Administration.

Attending the event and bringing congratulations and greetings to the MCM Scholars and their families was Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Grasmick commended MCM on its over twenty-four years of serving the youngsters of Maryland and congratulated the scholars and their parents for their accomplishments.

Also attending the event were the Worshipful Masters and representatives of Masonic Lodges throughout the state as well as parents and guests of the Scholarship winners.

Due to the generosity of Masonic Bodies and individual Masons, this event was gratis to all attendees. Appreciation is extended to Monumental Commandery, No. 3, K.T. for its \$5,000.00 donation, Patmos Lodge, No. 70 and Mr. and Mrs. Royce Watson for their \$1,000.00 donation and to the following for their \$100.00 donations: Mr. David W. Wessel, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Cloud, Jr., Brunswick Lodge, No. 191, Cambridge Lodge, No. 66, Charity Lodge, No. 134, Columbia Lodge, No. 58, Concordia Lodge, No. 13, East Gate Lodge, No. 216, Hiram Lodge, No. 103, Howard Lodge, No. 101, Ionic Lodge, No. 145, Liberty Lodge, No. 219, Maryland York Rite College No. 58, Medairy Lodge, No. 140, Mt. Hermon Lodge, No. 179, Nanticoke Lodge, No. 172, Odenton Lodge, No. 209, Patapsco Lodge, No. 183, Pentalpha Lodge, No. 194, Salem Lodge, No. 196, St. Columba Lodge, No. 150, Thomas J. Shryock Lodge, No. 223, Union Lodge, No. 48, and Washington Lodge, No. 3

To make this event a success, MCM appreciates the assistance of Atlantic Caterers, the Grand Lodge of Maryland, the MCM Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors, Mr. Ben Wills, of the offices of Brother Louis Freidman, Mrs. Marie Ponzillo, Brother Richard Slechter, videographer, Brother Grant Gibson, Grand Photographer, and Brother Herbert Y. Holcomb, III, Grand Secretary.

## 2008 Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. Scholarship Awards Recipients 1st Annual MCM Scholarship Awards Banquet



*2008 Scholarship Recipients (alphabetical): Jonathan Barkley, Robert Barthelmes, Adora Bowman, Brandon Brereton, Annie Bukowski, Denia Chapple, Kerry Cornelius, Alexis Cowger, Karen DeLauter, Hannah Devine, Maria Diaz, Shabnam Emdadi, Matthew Freeman, Samantha Frey, Lexi Gentry, Alan Gnegy, Keith Green, Kristian Gregory-Lee, Tamara Griffis, Jennifer Haymaker, Hannah Henningsgaard, Bryant Howard, Christopher Lyons, James Massey, Jr., Tonya McLean, John Morris, III, Stephanie Oswald, Caitria Page, Melanie Perira, Amanda Poole, Allison Rice, Koby Sarubin, Marissa Schade, Shakinah Simeona, Megan Smith, Ryan Snow, Tanisha Stanford, Anthuy Ta, Katherine Trego, Britta Troxell, Jessica Vossler, Casey Watts, Ryan Wetzel, Centeria Whaley, Kiersten White, George Williams, Margaret Williamson, Alice Wolfkill, Julia Wright, Martine Mbita Ze*



*The recipient of the C. David Haacke Memorial Scholarship, Ryan Snow from Easton High School. Ryan plans to attend University of Maryland - College Park. Pictured Above: Most Worshipful Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr.; Ryan Snow; and President of the Board of Directors for Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc., Stephen J. Ponzillo, III*



## Frederick Knights Templar Scholarship Fund

The Community Foundation of Frederick County is pleased to announce that Jacques Demolay Commandery 4, Knights Templar, Frederick has created a scholarship fund honoring longtime member Charles Hartman. The Charles E. Hartman Scholarship Fund will provide annual scholarships to Maryland residents pursuing advanced certificate training or post-secondary education in the welding or construction trades at Frederick Community College.

Lifelong Frederick resident Charles E. Hartman, past owner of Frederick Welding Company, has been a Mason and a member of Jacques Demolay Commandery 4, Knights Templar, for more than 50 years. Hartman has participated in many Masonic civic and charitable causes, especially the Demolay youth group which is dedicated to helping young men age 12 to 21 develop civic awareness, personal responsibility, and leadership skills while gaining practical, hands-on experience in preparing for life in today's society.

During a recent portrait unveiling of Hartman, The Knights Templar of York Rite Masons of Frederick honored him for his lifelong service to the community as a businessman, a philanthropist through many Masonic charities that benefit the Frederick community and the nation, and to Freemasonry in Frederick and Maryland, said member Dennis Brekhus.



"Charles Hartman has always maintained and fostered an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood that led to Masonic success in supporting those less fortunate and in need," said Brekhus. "It is fitting that we honor him with The Charles E. Hartman Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation to provide assistance to young people who wish to pursue a career in welding or the construction trades." The first scholarships from the Fund will be awarded in June, 2009.

The Mason's Knights Templar body is one of the many organizations that seek the guidance and expertise of the Community Foundation to honor members by providing scholarships to students and grants to non-profit organizations in keeping with the mis-

sion of the organization. Because of the trust donors have placed in the Community Foundation, more than \$17 million has been returned to the Frederick County community since 1986.

Those interested in helping students pursue a career in the construction trades may make a secure online donation to The Charles E. Hartman Scholarship Fund by visiting [www.cffredco.org](http://www.cffredco.org) and clicking on "contribute" in the upper righthand corner. Donations by check, with the Fund's name inserted in the memo line, may be made payable to The Community Foundation of Frederick County and mailed to 312 E. Church St., Frederick, MD 21701. All donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law. Additional information about the Community Foundation is available by calling 301-695-7660.

## Masonic Corvette Club

Brethren, do you own a Corvette? If so, would you be interested in becoming a member of a Masonic Corvette Club? If you answered yes to both of these questions, contact M.W. Bro. Jack Biggs by email: [k3sp@comcast.net](mailto:k3sp@comcast.net) is my home email, and [mwgm0708@glmd.org](mailto:mwgm0708@glmd.org) is my email address at Grand Lodge. You may also call me by telephone at the Grand Lodge office – 410 527-0600. If I am not in the office, as I travel a lot, ask for my voice mail. Leave your name, phone number, email address if you have one, the best time to contact you, and most importantly, the year and model of your Vette. If you don't hear from me quickly, try again – I didn't get your email.

This club will probably never have dues, will probably never have regular meetings, but will get together occasionally for an enjoyable drive together somewhere, in their favorite mode of transportation, enjoy lunch or dinner at some pre-determined location, and share tales of interest concerning this great American classic sport car, with a little Freemasonry thrown in on the side – what a great way to spend a day.

Don't have a Corvette, why not consider one - they aren't that expensive, and are sure a lot of fun to drive. The classics of the 50 and 60s are out of reach price-wise for a lot of us; however, very good deals can be found for Vettes from the 70s 80s and even 90s, ranging from \$5000 to the upper teens in cost. The C-5 models, which began in 1997, are amazingly comfortable to ride in, roomy, with a trunk that easily handles luggage for a weekend, with lots of power, and are amazingly good on gas. Most anyone with a Corvette will be happy to assist you in finding a good deal.

If you were at Harvest Homes Day last October, you saw a good number of these guys, and will see them again this October. Like the Masonic fraternity, to be one – ask one.

## Degree Teams

Brethren, there are, in this Grand Jurisdiction, several Degree teams sanctioned by the Grand Lodge that do a great job of the conferral of the Master Mason Degree. First, of course is the Grand Line, and this Grand Master is very proud of his Grand Line and the excellence they achieve in their conferrals.

Following the Grand Line, in no particular order, is the Knights of Mecca, a Boumi Shrine club composed of Past Masters of our various Lodges, primarily in the Baltimore area, and is headed up by Bro. Gus Vourvoulas, D.G.L. at large; the Hagerstown Tall Cedars Degree team, also composed of Past Masters of Lodges in that area, and Ali Ghan Shrine Degree team, operating out of Cumberland, both headed up by Bro. Fred Reel, D.G.L. at Large; the Shield and Square Degree team, which is composed of officers of various law enforcement agencies and fire fighters, from all corners of our Grand Jurisdiction, and is presently headed up by Bro. Gary Pierce, G.L.

Each of these teams operate under dispensation of the Grand Master, and to maintain this dispensation, must regularly conduct rehearsals, and demonstrate their proficiency in the Degree conferrals to an assigned Deputy Grand Lecturer. Needless to say, the Grand Line needs no dispensation to operate, however, they too rehearse their work.

If you would like to participate in one of these teams, all that is necessary, is to meet their membership requirements, and let them know of your interest. At present, the Shield and Square degree team is the only one team not requiring their members to be a Past Master, however, you must be in law enforcement or a fire fighter. If you meet this requirement, then select a part you would like to do, learn it, and let them know of your desire. Each of these teams benefit by having new members that are interested in being a part of bringing new Masons to still further light in our wonderful fraternity.

In addition, our Grand Master has no problem with a Lodge using one of these teams to confer the Master Mason Degree in an Accelerated Class, however he does expect a Lodge to do the majority of the conferrals though the year with their own officers. Degree teams are there to provide something a little different for the members of your Lodge.

While the Shield and Square team enjoy greatly being called upon to raise a Brother who is a fire fighter or one in law enforcement, there are no restrictions on any of these teams as to who they may raise.