The Free State Freemason

a publication of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A. M. of Maryland



Volume 33, Issue 3 Summer 2010

2010 Summer School Schedule Grand Lodge, Cockeysville - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 6 - Entered Apprentice Degree Open full form EA degree Confer Degree Catechism

Tuesday, July 13 - Fellowcraft Degree
Open full form FC degree
Confer degree
Catechism

Tuesday, July 20 - Master Mason Degree Open full form MM degree Confer degree Catechism

Tuesday, July 27 - Multiple Topics Night Open in MM degree Receive MWGM and Gr. Line Lodge protocols/procedures Masonic Memorial Service

Tuesday, August 3 - Entered Apprentice Degree
Open full form MM degree
Call off and open EA lodge short form
Confer degree
Catechism

Tuesday, August 10 - Fellowcraft Degree
Open full form MM degree
Call off and open FC lodge short form
Confer degree with multiple candidates
Catechism

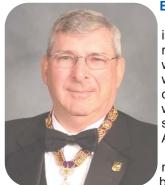
Tuesday, August 17 - Master Mason Degree Open full form MM degree Confer degree with multiple candidates Catechism

See Page 4 for State Area Summer School Schedule

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From the Grand Master

Brethren,



The Semi-Annual Communication is complete and we're busy implementing the changes that were approved by the members regarding a cipher book and other issues that were voted upon. It was very encouraging to note that every Lodge in the jurisdiction was represented by either the Officers of the Lodge or by someone who was appointed as proxy to represent the Lodge. That was the first time in a number of years that we had 100% representation. We will look forward to similar performance at the Annual Communication.

The abbreviated catechism that was demonstrated at the communication is nearing the point where Deputy Grand Lecturers will be able to teach catechism instructors of interested Lodges. Once

the Lodge is deemed proficient in the instruction of the abbreviated catechism, I will grant dispensation for the Lodge to use that form in lieu of the traditional catechism. The question of adoption of this form of catechism will be decided at the Annual Communication in November. You will hear more about the abbreviated catechism at the Summer Schools which will be starting on July 6th.

I encourage every Lodge to participate in the Summer Schools that will be held in Cockeysville on six consecutive Tuesdays and at schools held around the jurisdiction on the following Thursdays. These schools begin on July 6th and will be ending on August 17th. Each of the degrees will be exemplified twice during the July/August period and a special topics night has been scheduled for July 27th at the Grand Lodge. I strongly urge every officer of every Lodge to attend the summer schools in your area so that you will become proficient in your ritual work and be prepared to work in advanced chairs in the Fall.

Brethren, we are experiencing a level of degree conferral activity in our Lodges that we have not seen in many years. This news is both encouraging and disturbing. It is encouraging because we will likely see positive growth in membership this year for the first time in many years. It is disturbing because many of our Lodges are either unable to confer the three degrees on their own, or unable to teach the catechism to the newly made Masons, or both. The solutions to these problems require time, patience and interested persons willing to learn the work. If you are a person who has an interest in teaching catechism or occupying a chair in your Lodge, please let your Worshipful Master know. This problem will become progressively worse as we begin the advertising campaign in January and the number of petitioners rises beyond our current level.

The Grand Line Officers and I were recently invited to attend the conferral of the EA Degree at Chesapeake Lodge No. 147. It was encouraging to see the chairs filled with members (Officers) of Chesapeake Lodge and a number of members and visitors occupying seats on the sidelines. The work that was performed was excellent and the Officers should be proud. Thanks for the invitation and the great Maryland crab soup we had for lunch.

On June 15th, the Grand Lodge was invited to lay the cornerstone of the new town hall in North Beach. The Grand Line Officers assembled and marched to the site to the Scottish tunes emanating from the bagpipe played by WPG Tyler, C. Wayne Skidmore and the award winning Baltimore Forest No. 45, Tall Cedars of Lebanon Color Guard led by WG Sword Bearer, George B. Little. A commerative trowel was prepared for the ceremony and was used to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection upon the stones during the ceremony. The trowel was presented to the Mayor of North Beach with the request that it be displayed prominently inside the building when it is finished.

While you are enjoying a quiet summer, making preparations for a busy Fall, the Grand Master and Deputy will be busy with the Maryland Shriners at the Annual Imperial Shrine Convention, with Grand Masters and Deputies from the jurisdictions in the Northeast Conference, the Grand Master's Ball, and other events throughout the summer. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Seafood Festival to be held on August 28th at the Tuckahoe Steam and Gas Show Ground, five miles north of Easton. This event is being planned and sponsored by the several Lodges on the mid-Shore. We will look forward to greeting you there. And, don't forget to attend one of a number of cookouts and picnics planned throughout the State. We are also planning on the annual gathering to watch the fireworks at Oregon Ridge Park across the valley from the Grand Lodge.

There are a number of Child ID events planned throughout the summer months so hone your computer keyboarding skills and come out to help with one or more of these events. You will meet a lot of very nice folks and maybe some new Brothers as well. This is just one of the many important projects we support that puts us in touch with our surrounding communities.

No matter what you do, or where you go this summer, it is my most sincere hope that you will do so safely and return refreshed in September so that you can pick up your working tools and return to labor in the quarries of Masonry because you will find much work to be done there.

Fraternally, Tom Velvin Grand Master 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 2nd week of these months.

Send mail to: Free State Freemason 304 International Circle Cockeysville, MD 21030

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

FSFM@glmd.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, 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 Plagues & 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 Advertising

The Free State Freemason is now offering advertisement space for anyone wishing to promote their business in our publication.

The printable area on each page is 9" X 12"

The Dimensions have been adjusted to fit the printable area. Please use the following:

Business Card - 4" X 2.25" 1/4 Page - 4" X 5.5" 1/2 Page - 9" X 5.5" Full Page - 9" X 12"

Single Issue

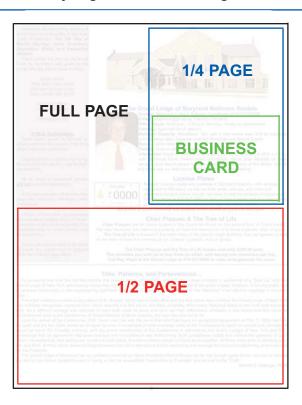
Business Card - \$75.00 1/4 Page - \$200.00

1/2 Page - \$400.00 Full Page - \$700.00

One Year - 4 issues

Business Card - \$250.00 (Save \$50.00)

1/4 Page - \$700.00 (Save \$100.00) 1/2 Page - \$1400.00 (Save \$200.00) Full Page - \$2500.00 (Save \$300.00)



Howard Lodge No. 101 Bull & Oyster Roast

Saturday, September 25, 2010 8pm - 1am

> to be held at: Michael's Eight Ave. Glen Burnie, MD

Tickets are \$40.00 per person

For tickets - call (410) 977-4702

Maryland DeMolay News

Maryland DeMolay is alive and well. We are heading toward summer with renewed energy and looking toward our annual Conclave in August. SMC Tommy Plourde has been very active this year attending many Installations and events of our Masonic Family.

We would like to thank all of the Masons and Lodges that have come forward with interest and questions about starting up a DeMolay Chapter. Our Staff has been in contact with several interested Lodges and plans are being formulated for having them become sponsors with active Chapters within the walls of their buildings. If you are interested in working with DeMolay but want more information about our fraternity, please visit our web site at www.mddemolay.org or DeMolay International's web site at www.demolay.org for more information. Please send a message to the Executive Officer or Executive Secretary on the People page under State Staff on the Maryland site that you are interested in joining us and you will be connected with the Chapter that is closest to you. Any time you have is invaluable to the young men of DeMolay.

As this article is being written, we have just come off an Open House event that was held by several Chapters throughout the State. We are happy to report that we will be initiating 15-20 new members into our ranks by this one day event. The Chapters opened their doors to prospective members and their families to explain and show them what DeMolay was all about. After this, the Chapters held a fun event for the attendees that helped solidify their interest. We are looking forward to bringing these new members the MSADC Degree Class on May 22nd in Frederick. This will also be the next class for the Warren Seipp Honorary DeMolay Chapter new initiates.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we report that Cpl. and Brother Kurt Shea was killed in Afghanistan while deployed with the Marines. Brother Shea was only 3 months passed his 21st birthday when he was called to be with the Grand Architect of the Universe. Bro. Shea was, by all accounts, a true DeMolay and Mason. He had served in Frederick Chapter as Master Councilor and was awarded the Chevalier. There were approximately 60 Masons in attendance for his Masonic service as well as many DeMolays from around the State for his DeMolay service. He was laid to rest in Frederick with full military honors. Bro. Shea is the second Past Master Councilor from Frederick Chapter to fall while deployed with

the Marines overseas. Bro. Charlie Cartwright was killed on his fifth tour of duty several months back. Our prayers are with the Shea's as they travel through this difficult time.

Are You Part of the Fire?



How great it is to be an Ali Ghan Shriner!! As Ali Ghan Shriners prepare for an exceptional "Hot Sands" ceremonial with 40+ candidates joining our fraternity, I cannot help but feel the pride knowing our Shrine Masons are taking an interest

and active role in their respective Blue Lodges by spreading the "fire" to brother Master Masons.

Being part of an organization such as Freemasonry and Shriners, is much like being an ember in a fire. If the ember is in the center of the fire, it glows brightly and provides warmth to those around. If the fire is stirred and the ember is knocked to the outer edge of that fire, it cannot be as hot as before, but it will still give off some warmth. If, on the other hand, the ember rolls away from the body of the fire, it will eventually grow cold and will not give off any warmth. Unlike the fire ember, which has to be moved by someone else to provide a change in temperature, it is up to each of us- as individuals- to move ourselves to create that special glow and warmth within our fraternity.

The question and challenge: Will you get involved and give that warmth, goodwill, comfort and aid to those about you; or, will you turn your back and walk away from the very body that has the capability of changing lives? Of helping make your fellow man better?

There is still a fiery body within Ali Ghan Shrine as evidence proves with the welcome addition of these "new" 40+ Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Are you creating warmth in your lodge or, are you one of those embers that have rolled away causing the fire to dwindle? Remember, one ember cannot give heat for very long if it stands alone, but if other embers (you) together would gather around it, a lot of heat can be generated.

I offer my most sincere thanks to the Shrine Masons of Ali Ghan for gathering around and creating the warm and successful fire that burns within. Yes, it is GREAT to be an Ali Ghan Shrine Mason

> Yours in the Faith. R. Francis "Fran" Shives, Potentate Ali Ghan Shriners

Masonic Service Association

The Grand Master's MSA, "Masonic Service Association", Charitable Program Volunteers are asking for your "HELP". We are requesting each lodge or any individual to provide funding for our Veterans who are in need. These donations are "Tax Deductible" and go directly to our Veterans who need the most help. In addition to providing hospital in-patient visitation programs and presenting comfort items on each visit we are asking each lodge for a yearly monetary donation of \$50.00 to specific Veterans activities that are in need. This year we have selected the "The Blind Veterans" program. Many of these veterans (over 10,000) have been blinded by military action and need assistance. We hope by your cash and/or check donations will help our "Blind Veterans" cope with their unfortunate injury.

Anyone or any Lodge desiring to help our Veterans can do so by sending a check made payable to "MSA" (at the lower left of your check place "Baltimore-VAMC -1111"). This will direct your donation to the "Blind Veterans" and mail it to David L. Schneider 1114 Ingate Road Baltimore, MD 21227. If you prefer you may your check payable to "MSA" and your donation will help our National organization with supporting men and women working in admissions, recreation therapy, arts and crafts, escort service, just to name a few of our charitable activities.

Please note this quote from one of our most famous Veterans:

"A regular pension system must be established for those who might be "maimed and wounded" in battle: certainly it was not right that they were "unfit for service and turned upon an uncharitable world to beg, steal, or starve!" - George Washington

Our State area volunteers continue to do an excellent job with their Veteran Programs.

If you live near any of these representatives please contact them and give them some muchneeded support. They are Bob Perry Columbia Lodge No. 58 Phone No. 301-898-7706, Anthony Pollygus Mt. Ararat No. 44 Phone No. 571-243-8179, Randy Schoch St. Columba Lodge No. 150 Phone No. 301-567-6760 and David L. Schneider State Coordinator 410-247-4039.

On behave of our Masonic volunteers and the countless men and women patients who have given all but their lives to keep us free, the Grand Master and the MSA says thank you.

> David L. Schneider. State Coordinator Masonic Service Association



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Above: Bill Snyder, Jim Landerkin and Ollie Strong presenting \$100.00 checks to Dallas Renninger of the Baltimore Veterans Hospital



2010 Summer School Schedule State Area - Thursdays

July 8 - Medairy No. 140 - 7:00 p.m. Entered Apprentice Degree

July 15 - Cambridge No. 66 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowcraft Degree

July 22 - Potomac No. 100 - 7:00 p.m. Fellowcraft Degree

July 22 - Centennial No. 174 - 7:30 p.m. Entered Apprentice Degree

July 29 - Wicomico No. 91 - 7:00 p.m. Entered Apprentice Degree

July 29 - Centennial No. 174 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowcraft Degree

August 5 - Columbia No. 58 - 7:00 p.m. Master Mason Degree

August 5 - Centennial No. 174 - 7:30 p.m. Master Mason Degree

August 12 - Chester No. 115 - 7:00 p.m. Master Mason Degree

August 12 - Centennial No. 174 - 7:30 p.m. Special topics

The Festive Freemason By Steve Chadburn



Bro. Steve Chadburn, Past Master and professional cartoonist captures the comedies of Masonic life in his new book, "The Festive Freemason."

Each cartoon follows the Masonic and family lives of Masons in the UK as seen through his eyes. This collection of cartoons is sure to amuse and entertain you.

Look for clips from his book in future issues of the Free State Freemason

"The Festive Freemason" is now available on Amazon.com!

Grand Lodge Bookkeeping

All bookkeeping, bill paying and invoicing for the following four entities is performed at the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland, 304 International Circle:

 Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland (FEIN: 52-0226260)

Maryland Masonic Homes

(FEIN: 52-0567507)

• Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

(FEIN: 01-0911124)

 Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. (FEIN: 52-1470411)

Please keep in mind a few things:

- 1. It is very important to identify your payments and or checks. Include invoice numbers or add a description in the Memo when making a payment. We can't always know what your payment is for.
- 2. Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library and Museum **and** Masonic Charities of Maryland are both classified as tax exempt 501(c)(3) entities.
- 3. Grand Lodge of AF & AM of MD and Maryland Masonic Homes are both classified as tax-exempt 501(c)(8) entities.

As always, please call if you have any questions about our billing or how to make a payment. We are here to assist you!

Rosie Frevel, Assistant Controller Bettie Dunkin, Controller

Reminder to Worshipful Masters

The deadline for submitting your synopsis for the Grand Master's Awards Program is October 31, 2010. If you need a copy of the requirements for this program, please contact the Grand Lodge office. There is still time to participate in this rewarding program. Participation ensures that your lodge will have a successful and enjoyable year!

Volunteer Needed:

Maryland Masonic Homes is currently looking for someone to assist with organizing our resident library.

No experience necessary, just someone with extra time and would be willing to assist! Please contact Jennifer Paul at 410-527-1111 ext. 3254 if you are interested! Thank you in advance for your time!

Scholarship Winners Honored At MCM Banquet

On Sunday, June 13, thirty-nine high school seniors across Maryland were honored by the Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) with scholarship checks of \$1,000 each and a banquet, attended by their families Lodge representatives, guests, and officers of the Grand Lodge.

Milt McKenna, Student Behavior Specialist from the Maryland State Department of Education, commended the students on their achievement and challenged them to ever-higher accomplishments through continuing education. Following the invocation delivered by Bro. and Grand Treasurer William Gyr, Mike Codori, MCM President, spoke of the importance of these students to our future, the hard work it took to achieve these awards, and the dedication of parents and Masons to the support of their accomplishments. Victoria Koslak from Elkton High School, Cecil County, one of the \$1,000 recipients, was also awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship, named in honor of PGM C. David Haacke, the founder of MCM.

Grand Master Velvin presented scholarship awards to outstanding leaders of the Job's Daughters, DeMolay, and Rainbow Girls, for their work in leading these important Masonic youth organizations.

This enterprise, as well as the Maryland Student Assistance Program, is able to continue through generous donations from Lodges, individual Masons, and organizations. The mission of Masonic Charities youth is and has always been to support the needs of our Maryland youth. With your support, this will continue.



Grand Lodge of Maryland's

New Years Eve Party - December 31, 2010 7:30pm - 12:30pm

Dancing to the sounds of The Doug Sorensen Orchestra

Ticket sales begin October 1, 2010 - \$175.00 a couple

The 2010 MCM, Inc. Scholarship Award Recipients





The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland and the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum presents,



A Date with the Roosevelts



Franklin D. Roosevelt Portrayed by: Jonah Triebwasser

Friday, October 29, 2010 Show - 7:30 PM

The Grand Lodge of Maryland 302 International Circle Cockeysville, MD 21030







Theodore Roosevelt
Portrayed by: Jim Foote

Sponsored by the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland

FREE to Masons, their guests and the public.
Reservations Required

Reservations must be made by October 15, 2010 and a ticket secured.

Preceding the 7:30pm performance, a reception will be available for \$22.00 per person at 6:00pm in the Grand Lodge Ballroom including fruit, cheese, and hot and cold hors d'ocuvres.

Reservations for the reception and/or program may be made by contacting the Office of the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 or by email at office@glmd.org

No reservation is final until confirmed by the Grand Lodge.

304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030 • 410.527.0600 • Fax: 410.527.1276

MD Student Assistance Program: New Training Model

Since 1987, the Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) training, sponsored by the Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM), has focused on the effect of the use of alcohol and other drugs on the lives - both academic and persona - of Maryland teens in middle and high schools. However, other dangerous factors, such as depression, suicide, violence, bullying, poverty, homelessness, and others, have emerged to further threaten our youth. This prompted the MCM to turn to a new MSAP training model, the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP), which emphasizes these additional threats and compliments the central intervention strategy that is crucial for the school teams to address these problems with the students in their care.



This 2-day MMSAP training is scheduled for October 20 & 21, in Rockville, at Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195. Several schools, from elementary through high, are slated to participate in this new model, which serves to better-prepare them to address the needs of their at-risk students. As in the past, MCM will sponsor this MMSAP training and continue its support for the youth of Maryland. It is through your donations and support of MCM that this is made possible. Thank you for your continuing collaboration in this important effort.

Mid-Shore Seafood Festival Saturday, August 28, 2010

1:00pm - 3:00pm Held at the Tuckahoe Steam &

Gas Show Grounds

Tickets in Advance - \$27.00 At the Gate - \$30.00 per person (Kids 6-12 \$10.00 Under 6 free)

Sponsored by the Mid-Shore

Masonic Lodges:

Cambridge Lodge No. 66 Centreville Lodge No. 180 Chester Lodge No. 115 Choptank Lodge No. 138 Coats Lodge No. 102 Granite Lodge No. 177 Nanticoke Lodge No. 172 Temple Lodge No. 128

Ticket Information Call (410) 527-0600



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Residents and staff enjoyed National Nursing Home Week with MMH Family Feud, talent show, horse racing, and a competitive Wii bowling tournament. The Environmental Services Department (pictured above) proudly displays the winning trophy.

Masonic Quiz

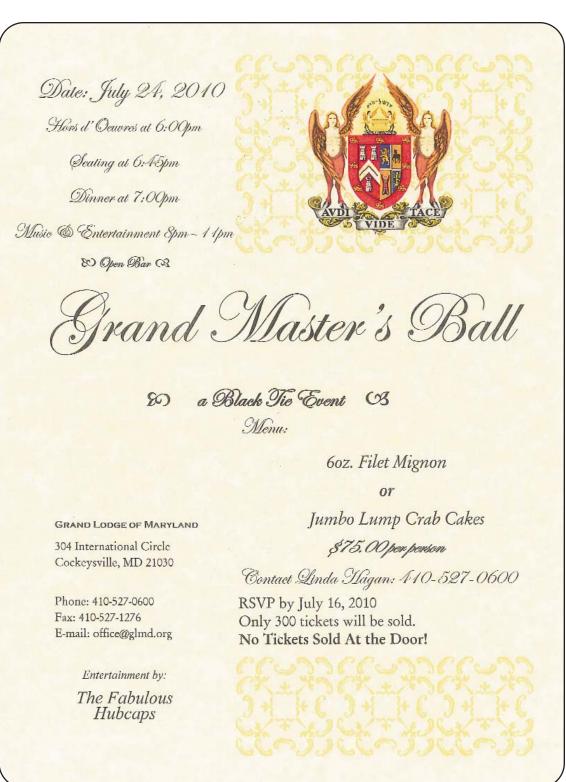
The following quiz is constructed from examination questions contained in the Grand Lodge Portals of Freemasonry publication. This publication was developed for use in 1999 for the "One Day Class". Since that time is has been used by MW Grand Masters as an alternative catechism, upon the request of a Worshipful Master is a brother is unable to fully complete the standard catechism.

This is most frequently done for brother in the Armed Forces assigned overseas. Often the brothers, upon their return to Maryland, are required to complete the standard catechism.

In order to acquaint the Craft with the Portals publication, we are excerpting questions from the exam which accompanied it.

We will publish the answers to these questions in the Fall issue of the Free State Freemason. If you would like a copy of the Portals of Freemasonry, please contact the Grand Lodge office.

- Q. What is the purpose of Freemasonry?
- Q. What is a Lodge?
- Q. What instruments were you received upon and to what should they remind you?
- Q. What are the rights of a Fellowcraft Mason?
- Q. Who was responsible for building the Temple and why was it built?
- Q. How may one vote in Lodge?
- Q. What do we say after prayer and what does it mean?
- Q. If the purpose of secrecy is not to keep the candidate in the dark, what is its purpose?
- Q. What are the names of the two pillars and what do these pillars symbolize?
- Q. Who composes the Grand Lodge of Maryland?



Maryland Masonic Homes Bonnie Blink®

Resident Interview



The Maryland Masonic Homes hosts a variety of residents from all walks of life, however, there is always a common bond between them that exceeds all else, brotherhood. When Samuel Hottle decided it was time to move into a Retirement Community, this com-

monality made the Masonic Homes an easy choice. "I knew I could trust everyone," Mr. Hottle stated, "and I knew I would run into many people that I know." This indeed proved to be true as upon the first night entering the Dining Room he recognized faces from years ago.

Mr. Hottle is a 33rd degree Mason, a member of the Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 and in the past very active in the Scottish Rite. As he had a knack with a camera, he was often asked to take photographs of different events which brought him to Bonnie Blink on many occasions. The building itself so impressed him that he knew, even then, that if he ever needed a place to go, this would be home.

Although Sam retired as a Sales Manager of a family owned manufacturing company, he had spent most of his earlier years in the air as a pilot. Now he resides high on the hill overlooking Hunt Valley in a large 1 bedroom apartment with a small office where he spends a lot of time emailing his friends and family. Mr. Hottle was proud to show off his new home to at his recent 90th birthday party where guests attended from Massachusetts to New Mexico. When asked how he is enjoying his new life, Sam states, "If I had to do it all over again, I would do it a lot quicker."

Greetings from the Hill!



Welcome Spring! There has been a bustle of activity at Maryland Masonic Homes these last few months. The grounds are flourishing with color as the trees and flowers are blossoming. The Homes campus is absolutely beautiful this time of year.

We are making the necessary repairs to the property from the massive snow storms. Much of the work is being done by our in-house and talented maintenance crew.

Pictured below is the Homes Chapel with our newest addition – upgraded and enhanced chancel lighting. Thank you to the members of Warren Lodge for their generous monetary donation through the Worthy Charities Program for this lighting. As Reverend Henry Thompson expressed, "The canvas painting has been given a new life as it stands out of the shadows of years past and proclaims its true message on behalf of our Lord."



Many Lodges, Eastern Star, Resident Council and individual members have assisted us when we have had a specific need. Currently we are in need of monetary donations towards the purchase of an automated optical projector. This would greatly enhance the quality of the exam of our residents by Ophthalmologist Dr. McGinn. Total cost of the projector is \$1,300. Please forward your donation to Paula O'Neill, Maryland Masonic Homes, 300 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

National Nursing Home Week was celebrated May 9th through the 15th. Residents and staff enjoyed this annual event with MMH Family Feud, talent show, horse racing, and a competitive Wii bowling tournament.

Once again I am honored to represent Maryland at the annual Masonic Communities and Services Association (MCSA) conference. At Elizabethtown, PA this year, the Best Practices Committee I chair began formulation of a strategic plan to define practices, gather data and determine the most effective means to share learning opportunities with Masonic, OES and children communities. I am very excited to also announce my nomination and acceptance as Vice President of MCSA. I look forward to serving and adding another level of Masonic value and support to our Home.

Each quarter a 'featured' department is spotlighted. Social Services is a vital component to the operation. Rebecca Miller (Becky) is



a licensed Social Worker and a strong resident advocate.

Becky participates with the clinical team to assess, enhance and support the resident's psychosocial and long-term needs. Working within all levels of care, Becky most enjoys spending time and talking with resi-

dents. Residents love when she brings her dog Bella to work.

Enjoy the lazy days of summer and please join us for one of the many opportunities to volunteer. Accompany your Lodge at the Homes during a Sunday Chapel service or Friday night entertainment or visit a resident sponsored by your Lodge. The door is always open on the Hill!

Blessings, Paula L. O'Neill, N.H.A. Executive Director

	Yes, I would like information about Maryland Masonic Homes
	Name:
	Address:
1934	
2009	Phone #:
	E-Mail:
	Level of Care Interested In:
	Healthcare
	Assisted LivingIndependent Living
Maryland	_ '
Masonic	Mail to: Maryland Masonic Homes 300 International Circle
Homes	300 International Circle Cockevsville, MD 21030