



FREE STATE **Freemason**

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



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2011



First Annual **CORN HUSKING CONTEST**

Page 8

FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

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** 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:

PHOTOGRAPHS & ARTWORK

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.

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 7½" x 10"

Please use the following dimensions:

- Business Card—2" x 3½"
- Quarter Page—3¾" x 5"
- Half Page—5" x 7½" or 3¾" x 10"
- Full Page—7½" x 10"

Pricing for Single Issue	Annual—4 issues
Business Card - \$75. ⁰⁰	\$250. ⁰⁰ (Save \$50. ⁰⁰)
1/4 Page - \$200. ⁰⁰	\$700. ⁰⁰ (Save \$100. ⁰⁰)
1/2 Page - \$400. ⁰⁰	\$1,400. ⁰⁰ (Save \$200. ⁰⁰)
Full Page - \$700. ⁰⁰	\$2,500. ⁰⁰ (Save \$300. ⁰⁰)

Advertising Guidelines:

Your artwork should either be mailed or e-mailed to the Grand Lodge office at FSFM@glmd.org. We will accept .jpg, .bmp, and .pdf formats. We can **NOT** accept graphics embedded into .doc files. All requests for alterations must be made **prior** to the issue's deadline. If you have any specific questions about ad submissions, please contact the Grand Lodge office at office@glmd.org or (410) 527-0600



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

Free State Freemason
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, Md. 21030

Office: 410-527-0600
Fax: 410-527-1276
fsfm@glmd.org

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 Maryland. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

COVER STORY
FIRST ANNUAL CORN HUSKING CONTEST

PAGE 8



COVER: Ionic Lodge's Junior Warden, Charles Hazzard concentrates on husking corn at the first annual Corn Husking Contest held at our Harvest Homes Day, October first. See page 8.

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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

special significance is the revival of two dormant De-Molay Chapters that was directly attributable to the Open House.

We hope to follow this success with our second statewide **Open House** on May 5, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With your continued help we will continue to succeed.

In closing, please consider attending the 225th Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge on Saturday, November 19, 2011 beginning at 1:00 p.m. This will mark our kick-off to our 225th year in April 2012. Lodge Officers are requested to wear aprons and chain collars; Past Masters should wear breast jewels and aprons. Dark clothes, tuxedos or Grand Lodge blazer are appropriate dress as we begin to celebrate our past and build for the future. With your continued help and the Blessing of the Supreme Architect, we will achieve our goal of 25,000 Maryland Masons by 2025. That is fourteen years in which all of us will apply our working tools in the ongoing mission of the fraternity, namely, a Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

Since January 1st, our lodges have been receiving petitions and making Masons at a rate which is beginning to rival the post World War II years. Young men are responding to the media campaign as well as the community presence that our members exemplify and are "Asking a Freemason!" This is challenging for our lodges and lodge officers, yet most exciting and gratifying. To each brother and to collateral and coordinate bodies who worked our **Open House** on April 2, my special appreciation for your efforts. The prime mission, that of securing new members, was accomplished; yet, we also experienced a rejuvenation of our Masonic buildings, a day of brotherhood amongst the existing members who worked the event, and petitions for the OES and our youth groups. Of

The greatest of these is Charity

MASONIC CHARITY UPDATE

In August, members of five Lodges from Montgomery County, under the overall coordination of the York Rite of Montgomery County, conducted a MD CHIP program at the annual Montgomery County Fair in Gaithersburg. Over the seven-day event, 459 children were registered and data collected given to their parents. Special thanks go to Bros. John Austin and Tommy Marraffa, PM, officers of the York Rite bodies, for their ambitious and dedicated efforts to protect our children through the MD CHIP program.

On October 25 and 26, more than sixty school-based staff members and community professionals underwent training in the Maryland Model Student Assistance Program in Easton, MD. This valuable intervention strategy

for our at-risk youth is a continuation of the program begun in 1987 and is available cost-free to all Maryland schools through the support of Masonic Charities. The next training will be conducted in Hagerstown in the spring of 2012, for schools in Washington, Alleghany, Frederick, and Garrett counties.

Finally, Worshipful Masters of all Maryland Lodges will soon receive information packages for the 2012 **Masonic Charities of Maryland Scholarship Program**. To ensure a timely availability of information to all prospective applicants, please expedite the information to the schools assigned to your Lodge to afford all high school seniors the opportunity to apply. ♣

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 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, sons and daughters living at home. You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. Sorry, 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.



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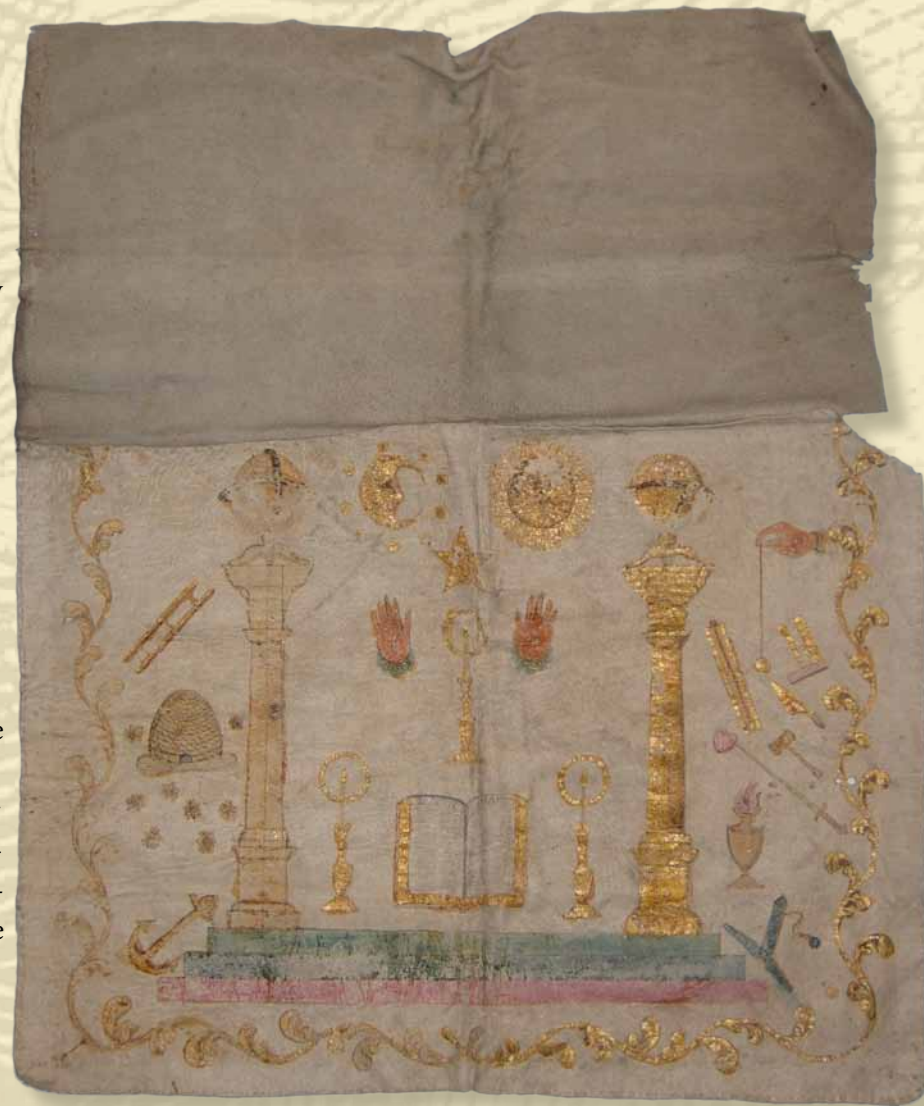
A NEW GIFT AND A DISCOVERY: MASONIC APRONS

By Edward Heimiller, Curator

Masonic regalia, particularly aprons, have long been a hallmark of the identity of a Mason. Much has been written about their significance and symbolism. Over the years the style, shape, and decoration have changed, but the symbolic meaning they embody has largely remained the same. Early painted, engraved, and needlework aprons dating from 1790–1850 testify to America's early artistic accomplishments. Others offer testimony to and a reminder of the fraternity's early membership. Currently the museum has on loan to the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland, Inc. Governor Hicks of Maryland (1798-1865) and Confederate General Isaac R. Trimble (1802-1888) for their exhibition "Personal Accounts of the Civil War Experience," April 29–November 12, 2011 at Mount Clare Museum House in Baltimore. Of course the most famous Masonic aprons are those associated with George Washington.

While the museum does not have an apron owned by George Washington, the museum does have an apron that was loaned to him when he attended a Lodge meeting in Frederic County, Maryland. Packed away in storage decades ago because of its condition and seldom exhibited, this apron was possibly worn to one of the first meetings of Hiram Lodge No. 28 in Frederick Town, Maryland (instituted in 1799 and lapsed in 1808).

While this apron is of great historical significance because of its association with George Washington it is not alone in the museum's collection. While the museum's large collection of aprons, numbering in the hundreds, may seem exhaustive, significant additions are still made. Recently an apron of ancient origin, circa 1815–20, was given to the museum. Presented by Darrell and Jackie Pratt through Michael P. Codori of Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge, No. 195, this Master

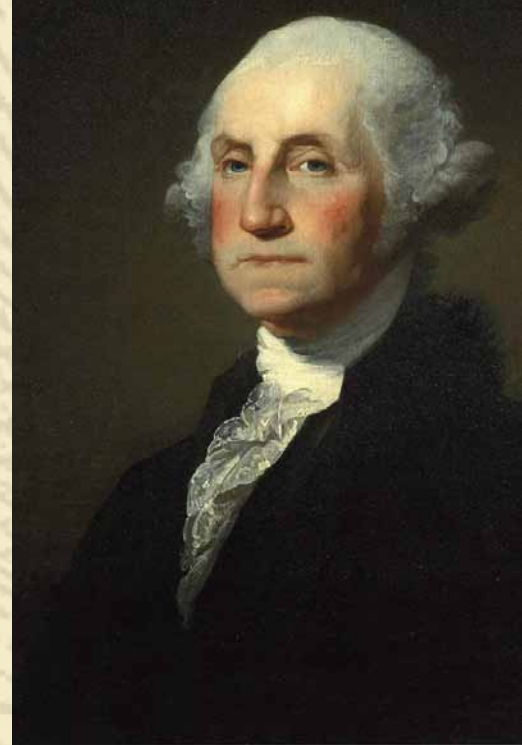


Mason's Apron descended in the Pratt family with no other history other than it belonged to a Mr. Forbes. Based on the age of the apron and the membership records retained by the Grand Lodge the Mr. Forbes in question was probably Brother James Forbes, one of the signers of the originally By-laws of Fells Point Lodge, No. 15 under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, later renamed Washington Lodge, No. 3 when the Lodge came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1787. Acquired late in life, as often was the case for the more elaborate aprons, this apron is an example of the engraved aprons that became popular during the Federal Period, roughly 1788–1825.

Signed "M.M. Peabody" the central panel of this apron is by a known engraver working in Ithaca, New

York. While none of his work is fully signed, a Moody Peabody, initiated as a Freemason in June 1814 in Eagle Lodge, No. 169, Ithaca, New York, is thought to be the same M. Peabody. His work relates strongly to Masonic engravings by C. C. Wright, also working in central New York State during the period. Like Wright, Peabody is also thought to have been a self-taught engraver. What is singularly striking about this apron being made from an engraved printed panel by Brother Peabody is that the only other apron with a panel by him in the collection also belonged to a member of Washington Lodge, No. 3, that of Joseph Mattingly, circa 1827.

These and other aprons are preserved in the museum's collection. As part of the museum's current preservation initiative, aprons and other light sensitive artifacts are on a rotational display in order to protect them from fading and to allow over time a greater number of items in the collection to be exhibited. Brother Forbes' apron has joined the ranks of the museum's selection of Masonic aprons currently on display through May 2012, along with the apron worn by Brother George Washington and other aprons worn by historically significant Masons, ♣



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL

By Glen Clary, Ambassador to the Memorial

The **George Washington Masonic Memorial** is an imposing telescoping structure off to the right as you approach the Potomac River and Woodrow Wilson Bridge from the East crossing into Virginia, and on the left from the south heading to the Potomac and Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Maryland. It is an impressive structure outlined against the sky. It is a building built by Masons to Honor one

of our greatest Masons, he was here, a farmer, a gentleman and the first President of the United States, George Washington. The chosen site for the Memorial is in Alexandria, Virginia, the community where he lived and worked as surveyor, was a member and Master of his lodge.

exandria and the Potomac River stands the Memorial and pride of all Freemasons. It is three hundred thirty feet high and the view from the top observation deck is worth the visit alone. The building holds many of George Washington's personal articles, books and family belongings. Much can be learned about "the Father of our Country" in this building, which is dedicated to him. It has been visited by Presidents, dignitaries and Freemasons from all over the world. He was a man well respected by people of the world.

October also marked the month where **The Grand Lodge of Maryland** was recognized by a display case at the Memorial. A distinctive display which depicted the history of the Grand Lodge down through the ages was arranged.

The Memorial is for all, not just Masons. Daily, tour guides will take you on tour of the building, introducing all to the multiple Masonic organizations and their displays, many unknown to you and visitors alike. You as a Mason are part owner of this building and support it through your Initiation Fees, Grand Lodge Assessments through your annual dues to your lodges, which are sent annually to the Memorial to maintain and to provide for programs sponsored by the Memorial. Many support the Memorial through individual donations and are recognized through the Memorial quarterly, "Light", newsletter. I thank you all for your support of the Memorial. I hope you all will make an effort to visit the building dedicated to our First President and Freemason. You will be glad you did. ♣



A display which commemorates the Grand Lodge of Maryland's facilities down through the centuries was prominently featured at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in October.

Today, high on Shooters Hill overlooking Al-

HARVEST HOME DAY



The sun broke clear and bright over the Grand Lodge on October 1st as brethren from across the state flocked to the annual **Harvest Home Day** at Bonnie Blink. The sausages, pancakes and pumpkin pie disappeared at an astonishing rate as our brothers renewed old friendships and reveled in the storytelling of the origins of the event.

Although dairy cows no longer roam the grounds, and acre upon acre of corn is no longer planted, many of our brethren earned their “*days wages*” in traditional

Bonnie Blink Barn Serves

UNIQUE PURPOSE

In its long history of service to the Masons of Maryland, for the first time and probably last, a Masonic Lodge meeting was held in the Bonnie Blink Barn. At the request of Worshipful Master **Thomas M. Chagouris**, dispensation was granted by **Grand Master Stephen J. Ponzillo, III**, for Warren Lodge No. 51, to confer the Master Mason degree on Brother **David Andrew Adler** in the barn at Bonnie Blink.

To make it a more special event, Worshipful Master Chagouris extended an invitation to the Grand Master and his officers to confer the degree. The Grand Master

fashion by competing in the first annual Cornhusking Competition. Lodges were invited to field a team of five men in a contest to determine who could shuck a bushel of corn first. Team members sported traditional Amish-style straw hats, a commemorative pin, and wielded authentic cornhusking pegs.

The competition was fast and furious, and in the end the team from Mt. Moriah No. 116 prevailed and claimed the coveted Cornhusking Cup. Congratulations! ♣

accepted, and the details were all worked out.

The barn was laid out as a lodge using bails of straw and for the brethren to sit on. Dress for the evening was jeans, overalls, flannel shirts and work boots. The Grand Line was smartly dressed in their blue Grand Lodge shirts and jeans.

Before the meeting was opened, the brethren feasted on Maryland crab soup, ice cold oysters, pit beef and turkey, just outside of the barn. The beautiful fall evening was filled with the smells of autumn leaves and meat grilling on the pit.

Worshipful Master Chagouris opened lodge and received the Grand Master with grand honors. The Grand Line then assumed the chairs and proceeded to confer a most impressive Master Mason Degree on Brother Adler. To make the degree a more memorable evening, Brother Adler was raised a Master Mason by his stepfather, Bro.

Avrum “Al” Tamres.

After comments by Worshipful Master Chagouris, Grand Inspector **David Sandy**, Deputy Grand Master Piepiora, Brother Adler and the Grand Master, he then closed Warren Lodge in peace and harmony, in the way only a Grand Master can. ♣



Sincerity No. 181

BELIEF IN ANGELS

By Bill Rogers, Senior Warden

When a co-worker of Sincerity 181’s Senior Warden approached him because he had seen Benjamin Franklin touting the virtue of Freemasonry on television, he had no idea the conversation would bring about an opportunity for the Brethren of Sincerity 181 to demonstrate first hand those virtues of which Bro. Franklin so eloquently spoke.

The co-worker has a grandson named, Mark who is an “Angel”. Mark is not an angel in the “Biblical” sense; this is a term of endearment bestowed upon children suffering from “*Angelman Syndrome*” (AS). AS is a neuro-genetic disorder that occurs in 1 in 15,000 live births and is often misdiagnosed as cerebral palsy or autism. Characteristics of AS include; developmental

delay, lack of speech, seizures, and walking and balance disorders. Individuals with Angelman Syndrome will require life-long care. Each year, all across America, the **Angelman Syndrome Foundation** sponsors a Walk-A-Thon to raise money and awareness of this little known but devastating disease. Families along with their “*Angels*” gather for a symbolic walk, to network and share stories of coping with the disease and hopes for a cure.

When WM **Charles Beckhardt** and the other members of Sincerity No. 181 learned of the event and the challenges of the children and families involved, they unanimously elected to make a generous financial contribution to the cause; and with permission and assistance from the Grand Lodge, made plans to conduct their first ever CHIPs event during the May 21, 2011 **VA/DC/MA Walk-A-Thon** held in Columbia, Maryland where they registered 48 special needs “*Angels*”.

The event sponsors expressed their gratitude for the professional and caring manner in which Sincerity 181’s members worked patiently with both “*Angels*” and parents, and have shared a desire to have Sincerity return next year for this annual event. ♣



Photo Credit: Bill Rogers and Donna Morrison

DOOR TO VIRTUE ROAD RALLY

On June 11, 2011, Door to Virtue Lodge No. 46 conducted its first ever road rally! Five teams participated. They were:

1 Hercules: Bro. **Mike Krionderis** of Laurel Wreath No. 149 and his wife **Val**.

2 Newbies: Bro. **Mike Raab** of Door to Virtue No. 46 and his friend **Sean Javins**.

3 Tea for Two: **Joan McGrath** and **Donna Helm**, wives of Bro. **Frank McGrath** and Bro. **Jim Helm** of Door to Virtue No. 46.

4 Speed Racer: **Barbara McComas**, Secretary and Past Matron of Door to Virtue No. 46 OES, her husband **Bruce**, and daughter **Melissa Fosnaught**, Past Matron of same.

5 Frankie and Jimmy: Bro. **Frank McGrath** and Bro. **Jim Helm** both of Door to Virtue No. 46, and Jim's grandson, **Mason Smith**.

The first team, **Newbies**, launched at 10:45 with the other teams following in fifteen minute intervals. Team **Speed Racer** followed, then **Tea for Two**, **Frankie and Jimmy**, and **Hercules**.

Teams were told to go to the Southwest corner of the Westminster Cemetery, find the Masonic memorial of the open book, and return with proof (rubbing) of the year dedicated (1870).

Next, teams went to Opera House Printing on E. Main St in Westminster. A plaque mounted on the wall de-

clares the building was erected as an Odd Fellows meeting house in 1854. Teams were told to make a rubbing that included the name of the masonic organization.

An historic school house in Uniontown, MD., was the next destination. This stop is symbolic of a school that Door to Virtue operated in the 1820's while the lodge was located in Uniontown. Teams completed a 'masonic' word search.

Plymouth Lodge No. 143 in Union Bridge, MD., was the next stop. This lodge houses a brick that is reported to be part of the original foundation of the spring house that Door to Virtue used as a meeting place when it was founded in 1811. Teams were given Lincoln Logs® and told to construct a house.

Returning to Westminster, teams were told to go to McDaniel College and look for the Old Main monument. This monument was the corner stone of the first building of the college in 1866. The brothers of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 46 conducted a Cornerstone Ceremony at the time the original building was erected. Teams were told to have one person stand on the monument and strike a flying superman pose while a teammate took a picture! Teams then returned to Door to Virtue lodge.

Bro. **Eric Helm**, the rally master, directed teams to the anteroom of the lodge where a podium once owned by Francis Scott Key stands. The teams were told to sing the National Anthem. Upon conclusion, the ending time was recorded.

At the conclusion of the rally, Bro. **Eric Helm** presented the trophies. The **Speed Racers** were presented with the first place trophy, the **Newbies** second place, and **Frankie and Jimmy** third. Honorable mentions were given to the fourth place team of **Tea for Two**, and all applauded when **Hercules** arrived fifth.

All participants and assistants were given a collectable octagonal poker chip and commemorative glass following the rally. ♣



THE WINNER:
SPEED RACER

GRAND LODGE LISTSERVE

Several years ago, the Grand Master of the time made a decision that a list server would be a good way for members of the Fraternity in Maryland to receive notices of upcoming events and other important information that requires timely dissemination. The services of a company that provides list services (listserv) was secured and the Maryland Masonic Listserv was born. This service is paid for by the Grand Lodge using a portion of your annual per-capita payment and is renewed annually.

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past six years, the number of subscribers has varied from around 100 members to over 200 members and currently stands at 200. Anyone interested in becoming a subscriber can send an email to glmaryland@listserv.com with the word "Subscribe" as the subject of the message. There is no need to place any text in the body of the message. The listserv will send a reply message back informing the requester that his/her request to subscribe has been received and the administrator notified. The administrator will review the request, and either approve it or disapprove it. The requester will then receive another email from the listserv confirming the approval or disapproval. The only requirement for membership in the listserv is that the requester be a Mason in good standing. He can be an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, or Master Mason.

Once the member has been approved, his email address is automatically added to the membership list and he will begin to receive messages. At the present time, all members receive every message/notice posted to the listserv. There is an option to only receive a weekly summary which is not recommended for normal users.

If a member's email address changes, the member should send an email to the listserv, with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line, then a new message from the new email address with "Subscribe" in the subject line. If the member forgets, send an email to thomasvelvin@gmail.com and provide both email addresses in the message.

POSTING NOTICES

Members and non-members can request that a notice be posted to the listserv by sending the information to be posted in an email addressed to glmaryland@listserv.com. The notice topic should be placed in the subject line and the content of the notice should be placed in the body of the message or composed in MS Word with the ensuing file

(???.doc) attached to the message.

Once the message is received by the listserv, the administrators will be notified that a notice is awaiting review and approval. When the administrator approves the posting, a message containing the posted notice text and graphics will be sent to every member. Generally, the review and approval by the administrators is performed within an hour or two, however, the approval may take longer depending on the availability of the administrators.

Notices can be any of the following: Death notices/memorial service information, Lodge meetings, Special programs at upcoming Lodge meetings, Lodge sponsored events such as chicken suppers, ham & oyster dinners, apple dumpling sales, etc., CHIP events, DeMolay/Jobs Daughters/Rainbow activities such as car washes, spaghetti dinners, etc., Scottish Rite and Rite Club events, York Rite events, Shrine and Shrine Club events or anything of general interest to the Fraternity that needs to be disseminated in a timely manner.

Remember, the administrators will make a determination as to the worthiness of the posting when they either approve or disapprove the posting.

There have been some problems with spam being sent to the listserv for posting which have all been discarded instead of being sent to the list. The administrators have taken the stance that the members do not wish to receive advertising for Viagra and Cialis among other things.

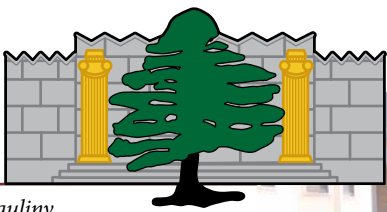
REPLYING TO LISTSERVE MESSAGES

Please remember that the listserv is a one-way service. Sending a reply to a message received from the listserv is a waste of time and valuable Internet bandwidth. PLEASE do not reply to messages you receive from the listserv. If you feel that you must reply, send an email to the originator of the posting, not the listserv.

If you have questions, please contact the Grand Lodge office at office@glmd.org. ♣



A Message from the TALL CEDARS



By Senior Deputy Grand Tall Cedar Todd Pauliny

Grand Tall Cedar of Baltimore Forest No. 45 **George Mackley** and the Cedars of Baltimore Forest would like to thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland **Stephen J. Ponzillo III** for joining us at the 2011 Tall Cedar Convention in Wildwood, NJ. We were proud to have him march in the parade with us. Our Color Guard took first place in the parade as well as the competition. The Cedarettes also claimed first prize in the float competition and second place in the walking unit competition. The three local MDA families that our forest supports were able to make it and a great weekend of fun, frolic and fellowship was had by all.

Last year we started collecting tabs from aluminum cans to benefit MDA and are looking for help from other Masonic bodies, please contact me or anyone in the forest for more information.

Retired Men's Club meets Tuesdays at 9am for poker and pinochle, continental breakfast is just \$2.00. Golf Club

A Message from the MARYLAND DEMOLAY

By Dad Carl A. Michel, Jr., Executive Secretary MD DeMolay

Greetings from **Maryland DeMolay!** We are extremely excited over the interest to form new DeMolay Chapters from the Lodges around our Jurisdiction. We are pleased to be working on these endeavors and look forward to bringing news in the near future as we progress.

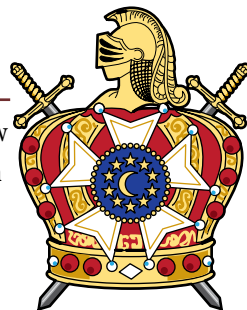
We are currently working with Patapaco Lodge No.183 and Solomon's Lodge No.121 after a vote by these Lodges to sponsor new Chapters. Dad **Richard P. Naegele** has been working to coordinate Dad Training with members of these Lodges in preparation for the start-ups. The training these men receive is the first step toward the satisfying reward of mentoring young men throughout the State. It is obvious to all of us in **Maryland DeMolay** that the *Open House* held in April by the Lodges around Maryland has had a positive impact on us and them. We look forward to the challenges laid before us by this successful campaign and welcoming new advisors and members within the DeMolay family.

It was a pleasure and honor to have **MWGM Stephen J. Ponzillo, III** join our contingent in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the DeMolay International Sessions. The DeMolay Universe was centered in Grand Rapids as the members and advisors from around the world were met to discuss the



The 1st place winning Tall Cedars Color Guard were joined by Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland Stephen J. Ponzillo III.

is looking for new members, Cedars and non-Cedars are welcome, contact **Don White** at 410-437-5719. Tuxedo/Parkville division meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Please come out for a great meal. ♣



future of DeMolay and elect our new International Officers. Dad **William "Bill" Eppig** surprised State Master Councilor **Nicholas Lawson** with MWGM Ponzillo presenting him with his Past State Master Councilor Jewel while at sessions. State Master Councilor Lawson left for the Air Force days before his term ended at our Conclave this July. The members and advisors of Maryland DeMolay are very proud of SMC Lawson and all he has been able to accomplish during his term. The seventh candle in our circle, Patriotism, will shine a little more brightly as SMC Lawson begins this new chapter in his life.

We would like to thank all of the Lodges and members of our Masonic family who have supported Maryland DeMolay. Your generosity through the years has been greatly appreciated. You're most recent generosity in taking out ads and boosters in our Conclave Booklet has enabled us again to keep the cost of attending Conclave to a minimum for our members. During these trying financial times, your support makes it possible for our members to continue enjoying the fun and fraternity that is the cornerstone of our organization. ♣

The University of Freemasonry SCOTTISH RITE

Unless you live under the infamous rock, you have heard about the several hundred men in the "pipeline" to become new Master Masons in Maryland. What a wonderful problem it has created! New members, new young men, men everywhere, every lodge seems to be growing. Not so long ago, instead of talking about so many men, it was, how do we keep lodges active without new members?

Now, talk is "How do we keep these new men as active Masons? How do we keep them from getting bored and dropping out?" The backbone of our entire Fraternity is the "Blue Lodge." Everything starts and revolves around the Blue Lodge. Think about it—without a current Blue Lodge dues card, you can't participate in any lodge or collateral body. This is where the collateral bodies can help. They can provide many avenues to pique the interest of men who may tire of just sitting on the sideline. The Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine and Tall Cedars all have much to offer.

The Scottish Rite, often called "The University of Freemasonry," takes the degrees of Masonry and expands the foundation laid out in the first three degrees. For those seeking a better understanding of what the symbolism and the philosophies of the degrees represent, the Master Craftsman Program is an excellent source. This in depth program was developed by the Supreme Council and can be taken as a self study program or in a group session. Exams are taken, graded and returned to the participant, and upon comple-

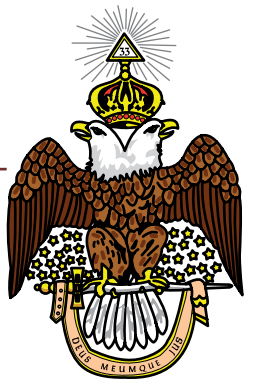
tion, a certificate and pin are presented during a ceremony at the Scottish Rite. This program has become so popular and has so many successful completions that an all new **Master Craftsman II** course is now available.

If written study is not exactly your way of understanding or participating, there are dozens of ways you can become involved without sitting on the sidelines.

There are 29 degrees with hundreds of parts, both speaking and non-speaking, robbing, stage lights, sound, property, ushers, greeters and the **Knights of Saint Andrew**. This is an elite group of men who serve as color guard, honor guard, escorts and are "out front" most of the time. The Scottish Rite is a family organization where everyone is welcome and several clubs available to all.

Every collateral body offers much for anyone who seeks "further light." All you need to do is get involved.

The "back bone" of our Fraternity has many limbs for your use. Make use of them, exercise them and the entire organization will become a stronger, healthier body. ♣



Keith Nusinov

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Fax: 443-402-2201
Todd.Pauliny@rbc.com

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Bonnie Blink

FOUR COMMON MYTHS DECODED

Bonnie Blink has been serving Maryland Masons and their families for over 77 years. As with all things Masonic, there exist many rumors and misconceptions. There have been many positive changes that have enhanced Maryland Masonic. Entrenched in tradition and history our community has grown to be more accessible and progressive, allowing members and their families an affordable and enjoyable lifestyle.

MYTH 1

Only a Maryland Mason and his spouse can go to Bonnie Blink.

The Maryland Masonic Homes was built specifically for Maryland Masons, however, the doors have opened wider in the past decade to also include other Masons from jurisdictions recognized by the Grand Lodge of Maryland and Order of Eastern Star and; Wives, widows, widowers, grandparents, parents, daughters, sons, step-daughters, step-sons, sisters, brothers, mothers in-law, fathers in-law, brothers in-law, sisters in-law, sons in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, half-sisters and half-brothers, remarried widows or widowers and their spouses.

MYTH 2

People only go to Bonnie Blink to die.

Maryland Masonic Homes prides itself on extraordinary care of those individuals who are sick and/or suffering, but there is so much more to it. Most members are aware of the sterling reputation that Bonnie Blink offers in terms of Health Care, but few are aware of the high quality of care and services available in our Assisted Living program. Retirement living allows those individuals to enjoy premier amenities in an independent apartment. Many social activities are included and residents' days are filled of fun, education, entertainment and interesting things to do. Our family atmosphere is comforting and residents enjoy spending time with their friends. Scheduled transportation is available to off-campus sites, stores, restaurants, and more!
The most common mistake that people typically make is waiting too long before making a move. Those who decided to become a resident before a major medical need, are the first to say that they came to Bonnie Blink to live and take advantage of all we have to offer.

MYTH 3

You have to turn over all of your assets to get in.

Many Maryland Masons remember Bonnie Blink as a "Life Care" community where all assets were turned over to the Homes at time of admission.

In exchange that resident was taken care of for the rest of his/her life. That program was discontinued in the late 1990's. Today, there are two methods of entrance: 1) As a private pay resident, or 2) Under our Financial Assistance Program. As a Private Pay resident you pay an Entrance Fee if you come into the Independent Apartments and a monthly fee. For Assisted Living and Health Care, there isn't an Entrance Fee, you only pay a monthly fee. The Financial Assistance Program is offered in Assisted Living and Health Care, not in the Independent Apartments. Once you have spent down your assets, your care is monetarily supplemented through the Endowment Fund.



The staff of Bonnie Blink will be coming to the Regional Meetings to provide additional information and answer specific questions that you may have. We hope to see you there!

MYTH 4

You have to be able to walk in to the Masonic Homes to be admitted.

This used to be a true statement but was discontinued in 1995. A full continuum of care exists at Bonnie Blink and is one of the most attractive components of our community. Regardless of the need, we can provide specific medical care and services in the Independent Apartments, Assisted Living and Health Care. You remain in your 'home' and are afforded the many opportunities and benefits of living at Bonnie Blink.

Now that you know the facts, come and see all of the wonderful benefits Bonnie Blink has to offer! Call **Stacey Sedesse** for a tour at (410) 527-1111 ext. 3268 today. ♣

Greetings from the Hill

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

By Paula O'Neil, Executive Director



Change is inevitable – it is all around us...seasonal changes, economic changes...a little of this...a little of that. As we move toward the close of another year, we reflect on the joys and sorrows of 2011. We look forward to 2012—full of opportunities and wonder at what changes will occur.

One thing is certain, **the strong tradition of Bonnie Blink will continue.** Oh yes, many changes have taken place over our 77 years – but the mission has not. Rich in history, the mission continues "to care for Masons and their families; to care for the sick and indigent."

We still do that today. Regardless of the level of care one enters into, the knowledge and assurance that you will be taken care of is satisfying and provides comfort. The high quality of care and services that were provided in 1934 remain today and are unmatched by any Con-

tinuing Care Retirement Community.

If you haven't visited Bonnie Blink in a while, stop in and see what has changed. Join your fellow Brothers when your Lodge sponsors a bingo or Chapel service; come visit Brothers and their families who are sponsored by your Lodge; or offer to give of your time and volunteer.

There are many opportunities at Maryland Masonic to donate. We are always in need of monetary donations for any number of items such as: clinical equipment, wheelchairs, furniture, supplies for medical equipment such as batteries for Hoyer lift, artwork, etc. Please contact Paula at 410-527-1111, extension 3240 for additional information. This is your Home – please continue to support the tradition. ♣

Selling Your Home in

TODAY'S MARKET

If you are like the many others who are looking to make a move but are nervous about selling your home, this seminar is for you. It is no surprise that the housing market today requires a little more than a "For Sale" sign. It takes some know-how and an aggressive strategy to sell a home for a price that fits everyone's expectations.

Bonnie Blink will be sponsoring an event this spring to shed some light on tactics that are proving successful with sellers and realtors alike. By attending this seminar we are hopeful that everyone will leave with confidence about making a move and selling their homes in this dynamic market. More details to follow in the next edition of the **Free State Free Mason**. In the meantime, we hope you have a safe and happy winter! ♣



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