



FREE STATE Freemason

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



VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2017



FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES
AND ADVERTISEMENTS

The *Free State Freemason* is published bi-monthly from September through June (there is no issue in July or August). Deadlines for submissions are the 1st day of February, April, August, and October for publication in the following issue. These dates **ARE FIRM** and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

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

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*Five (5) issues



The Maryland Free State Freemason is published six 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

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

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

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Grand Master Kostas Vourvoulas and Lady Cheryl.



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.





GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

The 231st Semi-Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland was held on Saturday May 13th at the Grand Lodge of Maryland. At that meeting, the Craft was afforded a detailed overview of the state of the jurisdiction. In the following paragraphs, I will summarize some of the highlights.

As you are aware, the *Pillar of the Craft* section of the Maryland Masonic Academy was made available on February 24th. Since that time, many of our Brothers have completed that section of the academy, as well as their Arch presentation. Those who have also finished the Fellow and Master of the Craft portions of the academy are now eligible to be inducted into *King Solomon's Society*. As of this writing, there are approximately twenty five Brothers entitled to induction. Many more will be completing the Arch presentation in the near future.

GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
KING SOLOMON'S SOCIETY



A banquet will take place for the new members of *King Solomon's Society* on September 26th, 2017 in the Gothic Room of Freemasons Hall. Following the banquet, the inductees will be invited to a regular meeting of Maryland Masonic Lodge of Research No. 239 to be held next door in the Oriental Room where they will receive the Certificate and Medal making them

members of *King Solomon's Society*. This will be an exceptional evening.

Brother Tom Foster provided us with information regarding our most recent media campaign. During the weeks preceding the Super Bowl, the Grand Lodge received the most inquiries for membership since our media campaign began in 2011. With the new commercial being aired several times before the game and an extensive presence on Facebook, the Grand Lodge received over 800 inquiries in a one month period. These inquiries were passed on to the constituent Lodges for action. Unfortunately, only 200 petitions were received. All inquiries that were sent to the constituent lodges were vetted and these men were found not to have criminal records. A 25% success rate is not very good. I had hoped that it would have been closer to 50%. My Brothers, please; we must do a better job of turning inquiries into petitions. Membership growth is imperative. It will not only continue to make the fraternity stronger and a more relevant institution, but it will also help to keep the cost of membership down.

The Grand Treasurer, Brother Randy Watson, presented and explained the financial statement of the Grand Lodge for the fiscal year ending November 2016. This statement did not include any finances associated with Maryland Masonic Homes. This year end statement can be found in this publication. Please take a moment to review it. If you have any questions please call the Grand Lodge and someone will answer them for you.

The financial condition of Maryland Masonic Homes is improving. In 2015 the homes operated at a deficit of about \$8 million. The fiscal year ending 2017 showed a deficit of approximately \$4 million. There are two reasons for this turn around. The operation of the homes has been



streamlined. Costs have been reduced by consolidating purchasing into one department. Everything from office supplies to medical supplies are being procured at a reduced rate since this procedure has been implemented. This has resulted in a significant cost savings. A significant increase in rehab patients has also helped to reduce our deficit. In the first year of operation, the Homes averaged 9 rehab patients per day. We are now averaging 25 patients per day. Making ourselves known to the hospitals in the area and informing them of the excellent rehab facility at Maryland Masonic Homes is a major reason for the increase in census. Due to the efforts of the administration, Maryland Masonic Homes is not only able to accept Medicare, but they are now able to accept Blue Cross and Cigna insurance as payer sources. This has allowed the homes to accept more patients.

Maryland Masonic Homes has been certified as a Medicaid provider. Payments will now be received for many of the financial assistance residences. This will also give the Homes another revenue source which will result in a further reduction in the deficit at the Homes. Medicaid will not cause a change in the admission requirements for the Homes. They will remain the same.



Storm the Castle 5K walk/run took place on the grounds of the Grand Lodge on April 1st. Over 120 runners and walkers participated. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the event. There were exhibits by the Masonic Youth Groups. The Boumi Shrine Motor Corp as well as the Widows Sons Masonic Motor Cycle Club lined the

We must do a better job of turning inquiries into petitions. Membership growth is imperative. It will not only continue to make the fraternity stronger and a more relevant institution, but it will also help to keep the cost of membership down.

course. Proceeds benefitted **Truckin' for Troops**. Everyone enjoyed the morning on the hill and we hope to have an even bigger event next year.

On May 15th the annual celebration for Masonic as well as non-Masonic military veterans was held at Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital. Many of the residence of Charlotte Hall Veterans Hospital attended as well as members of our Masonic Family. The keynote speaker was the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the State of Maryland, George W. Owings III. The executive director of the hospital was presented with a check for \$6,000 for the Masonic Memory Care Unit. This was such an emotional experience for everyone in attendance. Our country owes every veteran a debt that will be never be able to be repaid.

The first Saturday in June was an absolutely perfect day at the Grand Lodge. That was the day of the **2017 Family Day Picnic**. The Supreme Architect blessed us with beautiful weather. The entire Masonic Family was represented. Children, grandchildren, friends and family took part in a day of fun and fellowship. Residence of the Homes also took part in the festivities. There were over 400 people in attendance and everyone enjoyed the afternoon. If you were not able to attend I hope that you will make plans to be here next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden Elect Brother Drew M. Taylor and the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden Elect Brother Miguel P. Banagan and all the newly elected members of the various boards on your election.

Remember brethren, our organization has something for every member of your family. Please take advantage of it.

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe bless you and our entire Masonic Family as we spread the Light of Freemasonry throughout our great nation.

Kostas Vourvoulas
Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masonsin Maryland

MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

by Richard Philip Naegele, RW Deputy Grand Master



“To attain and sustain positive growth in membership in the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland in engaged family oriented Lodges actively teaching the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.”

This was adopted at the Semi-Annual Communication as the mission statement for the Grand Lodge. Along with the vision, values and goals outlined in last month's article will be the focus for the Grand Lodge for the next several years. You have seen the overview for the five areas of focus and now it is time to look more in-depth at the plan.

Membership is the number one focus and guides all of the other areas. Currently we have been utilizing our resources through a Facebook campaign. Local Lodges are supplying photos and information for events to be sent to targeted areas. Photos should be of Lodge activities in the community. A few test markets have been selected and others are always welcome. The best part of this public awareness campaign is there is no cost to the Lodges and very minimal to the Grand Lodge.

Other ways to get the word out about Freemasonry are being looked into. Possibilities include place mats in diners, billboards, radio spots, and TV ads. Your ideas are always welcome and should be sent to me at rwldgm@glmd.org.

Along with recruitment of new members is the retention and activeness of current brothers. Our mentoring program should be given serious consideration by every Lodge. While it may not work for you as designed elements are useful in creating what works for your Lodge and its members. Brotherhood nights, Festive Boards/Table Lodges, and other such events bring together the craft to experience the true meaning of masonry. At the Grand Lodge we try to assist by having several annual events such as Family Day Picnic and Harvest Home Day.

We have also developed the Maryland Masonic Academy as a way to help those desiring further enlightenment through an educational process. The current program can be accessed by all Master Masons at



glmd.org once they have completed their proficiencies.

We are currently developing an award that every novice brother will be able to earn. It is designed to encourage participation by new members by taking part in what the Lodge and Masonry has to offer. This along with other incentives will hopefully encourage participation and promote retention in the future.

To assist with retention we need to know what the brothers want from their Lodge. By interviewing them annually you can better judge the direction your Lodge needs to take. Each Lodge is different and will find various paths to follow to be successful. To make it happen the effort is up to you.



If membership is our number one focus, ritual must be its equal. To make Masons requires consistent, well presented degree work to entice the brothers to return to learn more. This is paramount for retention of new brothers. The officers and members presenting the work must do so in an exemplary manner. They must be dedicated to trying their best and making the pledge of time. From the Worshipful Master to the Junior Steward, perfection should be the goal. Whether in delivering a lecture, to squaring corner when walking or even standing properly during the degree the commitment must be there. When the energy is put forth by the officers it will be returned by the membership by their participation.

Another area of ritual concerns the catechism. A Lodge is responsible to see that every brother returns a suitable proficiency determined by ballot for each of the three degrees. This is accomplished by dedicated instructors who also educate new Masons in the various ways of the fraternity. Lodges need a minimum

of two instructors per class of candidates. They also need to be flexible with instructional times. Finding what works best is not always easy. You may consider having classes an hour or two prior to meetings and invite the new members to stay and participate when possible.

Checking the paraphernalia and other equipment should be on-going. Making sure uniforms and other items are in ample supply and good repair. When you put together a first class operation you will reap the rewards.

These are just the first parts of our strategic plan. Many more components exist which include finances, charity, and Lodges. These will be looked at in the Fall issue of the Free State Freemason.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Richard Naegele, RWDGM

GRAND LODGE 3-YEAR FINANCIAL COMPARISON

By Randall Watson, Grand Treasurer

The following spreadsheet contains a summary of the information that we presented at the Regional Meetings this year which was updated for the May 2017 Semi-Annual Grand Communication with the final audited numbers for the 2016 year end. It presents the income and expenses for 2014, 2015 and 2016; and the average for the three years. The income includes the annual assessment of \$18 per Master Mason. The Net Ordinary Income (Loss) is about halfway down the chart, and shows an average annual loss before investment income of \$(799,553.80). After the income from our investments, the net loss averages \$(408,638.90) per year. This loss is funded by drawing down from the principal of our investments; which you can only do until they run out. The bottom box shows the principal balance of our investments at the end of each year; even after the net increase in the value of the underlying investments, we have had to draw and reduce our investment balance from just over \$16M in 2014 to under \$14.5M for 2016.

As part of our Leadership Training for Lodge officers and future Worshipful Masters, we have been emphasizing that the Lodges should look closely at their financial situation, and if the current income is less than their typical yearly expenses, they should evaluate how long they can exist – and if the picture isn't acceptable, they should begin taking steps to ensure that the Lodge can continue to exist. We, at Grand Lodge, have heeded our own advice; and as you can see, the situation isn't sustainable.

Efforts are being made to control and reduce expenses, but that won't be enough to stem the tide. We fortunately have our investments to fall back upon; but if we didn't have our investment principal to draw from, we would have had to come up with the operating funds from the membership.

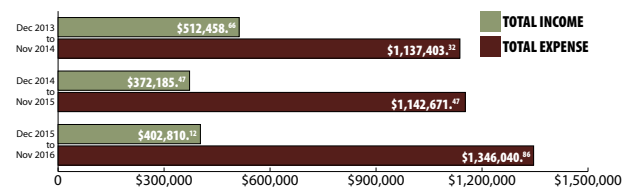
As of May 1, 2016 Maryland had 13,643 Master Masons. If the average operating loss of \$(408,638.90) was allocated, it would come to an additional assessment of \$29.95 per member. To break even based on this 3-year average, we would need to increase the annual assessment from \$18.00 to \$47.95 per member.

In addition to controlling expenses, efforts are being made to address the shortfall in other ways. If the number of members is increased, the contribution per member can be reduced. Lodges should use appropriate mea-

asures to do what they can to increase their membership. We can't control the passing of our membership to their Celestial Reward, but we should do all in our power to reduce suspensions for nonpayment of dues (NPD). The Strategic Plan approved at the Semi-Annual has a targeted reduction in NPDs of 10% for each Lodge.

The Grand Lodge books include the income and expenses to operate two of the buildings on the hill at Bonnie Blink: the Grand Lodge Building (302 International Circle) and Freemason Hall (304 International Circle). To keep from muddying the focus on the actual financial situation of the operating the fraternity of the Grand Lodge, I have moved the information for the operation of these two buildings to the bottom half of the chart – the data is presented so the complete numbers will still tie back to the audited financial statements, but the loss for operation of the buildings is not included in the figures being presented for the cost of operating the fraternity. Ways of increasing rental revenue for the buildings are being addressed. Likewise, there are a few non-recurring items that appear in one or two of the three years presented, but that won't continue in the future (such as hosting the Conference of Grand Masters in 2014); so their information has been moved out of the calculation of the 3-year average figures for the fraternity operations. The net impact of these non-recurring items is included simply so the chart will tie back to the financial statements.

This financial analysis is only for the Grand Lodge operation. The Maryland Masonic Homes (MMH), Masonic Charities of Maryland, and the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Library & Museum are separate entities and each has its own set of financial records. The MMH is undergoing its own initiatives for controlling costs and enhancing revenues.



The information that we presented at the Regional Meetings this year which was updated for the May 2017 Semi-Annual Grand Communication with the final audited numbers for the 2016 year end. This chart presents the income and expenses for 2014, 2015 and 2016, as shown in the following spreadsheet.

GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF MD 3-YEAR FINANCIAL COMPARISON FOR 5/13/2017 SEMI-ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION

Balances From Audited Financial Statements
MASTER MASONS AS OF MAY 1, 2017: 13,643

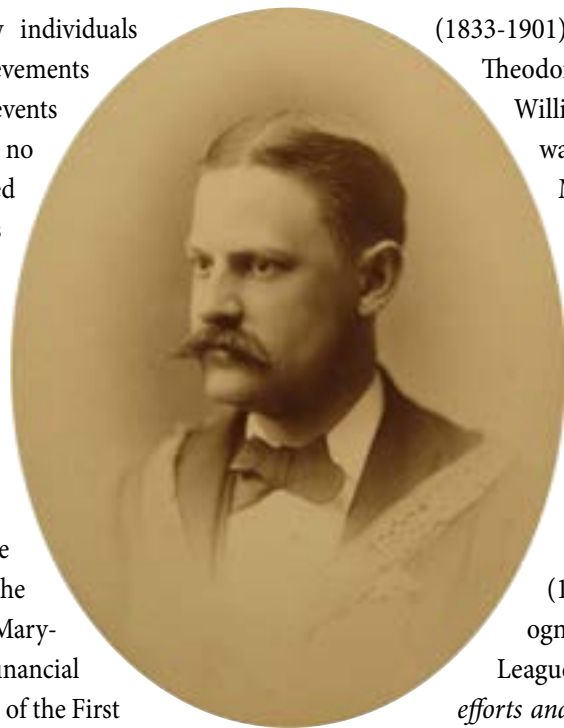
	Dec 2013 to Nov 2014	Dec 2014 to Nov 2015	Dec 2015 to Nov 2016	3-Yr Average
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Total 4001 - Grand Lodge Dues (\$18 year)	\$270,837.50	\$234,074.17	\$244,326.00	\$249,745.89
Total 4300 - Sales	\$24,544.12	\$33,223.02	\$43,904.68	\$33,890.61
Total 4400 - Program Revenues	\$84,423.20	\$78,423.03	\$79,956.31	\$80,934.18
Total 4500 - Coats Fundraising Program Inc.	\$18,726.00	\$17,267.00	\$2,245.77	\$12,746.26
Total 4800 - Miscellaneous Income	\$77,417.92	\$8,777.25	\$15,521.41	\$33,905.53
Total 4900 - Contributions Received	\$34,925.07	\$421.00	\$16,855.95	\$17,400.67
49900 - Uncategorized Income	\$1,584.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$528.28
TOTAL INCOME	\$512,458.66	\$372,185.47	\$402,810.12	\$429,151.42
Expense				
Total 5200 - Meetings/Conferences/Convention	\$164,692.76	\$141,683.13	\$132,225.69	\$146,200.53
Total 5300 - Masonic Materials-Cost of Sales	\$39,691.03	\$18,005.35	\$31,057.46	\$29,584.61
Total 5400 - Program Expenses	\$294,058.55	\$263,082.51	\$383,013.71	\$313,384.92
5552 - Tree of Life Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39.75	\$13.25
Total 5600 - Travel Expenses	\$15,094.71	\$13,958.40	\$13,793.29	\$14,282.13
Total 5650 - Supplies/Reimbursements	\$24,531.48	\$10,414.68	\$28,014.10	\$20,986.75
Total 5700 - Publications	\$25,086.89	\$31,314.20	\$42,609.44	\$33,003.51
Total 5800 - Service Emblems & Jewels	\$16,689.35	\$8,155.44	\$27,291.33	\$17,378.71
Total 5900 - Contributions Paid	\$2,710.00	\$17,185.00	\$6,550.00	\$8,815.00
Total 6000 - Salaries & Wages	\$245,031.42	\$281,842.51	\$395,897.56	\$307,590.50
Total 6050 - Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$147,192.78	\$104,489.63	\$61,746.40	\$104,476.27
Total 6200 - Office Expenses	\$79,837.22	\$111,674.75	\$110,652.54	\$100,721.50
Total 6300 - Miscellaneous Expenses	\$23,189.57	\$24,468.33	\$6,406.85	\$18,021.58
Total 6400 - Professional Fees	\$11,657.60	\$49,665.20	\$58,432.66	\$39,918.49
Total 6500 - Insurance Expense	\$47,939.95	\$66,732.34	\$48,310.08	\$54,327.46
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,137,403.32	\$1,142,671.47	\$1,346,040.86	\$1,208,705.22
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	\$(624,944.66)	\$(770,486.00)	\$(943,230.74)	\$(779,553.80)
Total 7100 - Investment Income	\$312,574.36	\$271,072.84	\$529,097.49	\$370,914.90
Net Income (Loss) After Investment Income	\$(312,370.30)	\$(499,413.16)	\$(414,133.25)	\$(408,638.90)
			Current Assessment:	\$29.95
			Assessment Needed for Breakeven:	\$47.95
Rental Income & Expenses for Operation of Grand Lodge Buildings (302 & 304)				
Total 4200 - Rental Income	\$318,798.00	\$356,648.00	\$276,998.00	\$317,481.33
Total 6100 - Banquet Expense	\$115,780.75	\$138,656.97	\$102,775.69	\$119,071.14
Total 6600 - GL Buildings Expense (302&304)	\$392,898.25	\$382,510.14	\$439,777.95	\$405,062.11
Net Cash for Operation of Grand Lodge Buildings (302 & 304)	\$(189,881.00)	\$(164,519.11)	\$(265,555.64)	\$(206,651.92)
Total 6900 - Depreciation Expense	\$541,461.66	\$709,990.31	\$499,895.72	\$583,782.56
Net Income for Operation of Grand Lodge Buildings (302 & 304)	\$(731,342.66)	\$(874,509.42)	\$(765,451.36)	\$(790,434.48)
Net Income (Loss) for Grand Lodge Operations	\$(1,043,712.96)	\$(1,373,922.58)	\$(1,179,584.61)	\$(1,199,073.38)
Net Non-recurring items	\$(1,833.75)	\$(8,117.44)	\$0.00	
Investment Balance	\$16,175,644.86	\$15,024,676.44	14,453,475.64	
Change From Previous Year:		\$(1,150,968.42)	\$(571,200.80)	



THOMAS J. SHRYOCK (1851-1918)

By: Edward Heimiller Curator (MDMasonicMuseum.org)

Every generation has a few individuals whose personalities or achievements embody the spirit and mark the events of an era. In Maryland Masonry no individual is more intertwined in Freemasonry or its activities at the turn of the 20th century than Thomas Jacob Shryock (1851-1918). From 1885 until his death in 1918, he served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland. Under his stewardship Maryland Masons celebrated the centennial of the founding of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland and overcame obstacles of financial hardship, fire, and the turbulence of the First World War.



Born on February 27, 1851, in Baltimore City, Thomas J. Shryock was the son of Henry S. Shryock (ca. 1808-1881) a Baltimore cabinetmaker and his wife Ann Ophelia Shields (1814-1882). His great-grandfather Henry Shryock (ca. 1730-1814) served as a lieutenant colonel in a Maryland regiment during the American Revolution. In 1788 while serving as a member of the Maryland Assembly from Washington County, Henry Shryock voted to ratify the United States Constitution.

From the age of sixteen Thomas J. Shryock was a partner with his brother, William H. Shryock (1835-1902), in the lumber business of W.H. Shryock & Co. at Union Dock and Eastern Avenue in Baltimore. In 1880 he founded Thomas J. Shryock & Co. and remained the firm's president until his death. He oversaw the company's acquisition and construction of Shryock wharf in Baltimore and establishment of a branch in Washington. He also served as president of the St. Lawrence Broom and Manufacturing Co. of Ronceverte, West Virginia. He was also a director of the Consolidated Gas and Electric Co. and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. as well as of several banks and financial institutions in Maryland.

Politically, he was a Republican and was personal friends with United States Presidents Benjamin Harrison

(1833-1901), William McKinley (1843-1901), Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), and William Howard Taft (1857-1930). He was elected Treasurer of the State of Maryland on November 26, 1896 and served in this position until 1900. As Treasurer he also served as the vice president of the State Insane Asylum and vice president of the Maryland House of Corrections. He was chief of staff with the rank of Brigadier General under Maryland Governor Lloyd Lowndes (1845-1905). In 1900 he was recognized by 'The Colored Citizens League of Maryland' for "his charitable efforts and kindnesses on behalf of a people struggling" while active in President McKinley's

administration (Shryock was appointed by President McKinley as the "Marshal of Division with the rank of Brigadier General" for his Inauguration in 1897). He was appointed Police Commissioner of Baltimore City, serving from 1904 to 1908. He also served as a member of the Sewerage Commission that established the foundation of the public water system and treatment plants serving Baltimore City and Baltimore County. In 1915 he assisted Baltimore City Mayor James H. Preston (1860-1938) with the Star Spangled Banner Centennial Celebrations held in Baltimore, September 6-13, 1914.

A dedicated and active Mason, Thomas J. Shryock is credited with putting the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland on a more secure financial basis overseeing efforts to pay off the mortgage on the Charles Street Masonic Temple in Baltimore, organizing and standardizing training of Lodge officers, and infusing new life into Maryland Masonry. He was initiated in Waverly Lodge, No. 152 and served as Master of the Lodge in 1876. He began his Masonic career in the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland serving as Junior Grand Warden in 1879. The following year he served as Senior Grand Warden. In 1884 he served as Deputy Grand Master and in 1885 installed Grand Master at the age of thirty-four.

As the longest serving Grand Master in the history of

the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland he obtained a unique position during his lifetime as the highest ranked Mason in the United States. Under his stewardship the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland participated in numerous cornerstone and dedication ceremonies including the Baron DeKalb Memorial in Annapolis (1886), Baltimore City College (1895), the Baltimore City Court House (1896), the United States Custom House in Baltimore (1903), The Maryland Chamber of Commerce in Baltimore (1904), and the Maryland Institute (1905) as well as the rededication of the Washington Monument in Baltimore (1915). He also oversaw the reconstruction of the Masonic Temple in Baltimore on Charles Street from 1891 to 1893 after an electrical fire razed the building and later in 1908-1910 after another fire severely damaged the York Rite rooms on the top floor of the building. In both instances he dedicated substantial personal funds to the projects to help ease the burden on the fraternity. On numerous occasions he declined appeals to have a Lodge named after him arguing that posterity would judge who is worthy of this honor. Upon the formation of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association in 1910 he was elected their founding President.

His residence in Baltimore located at 1401 Madison Avenue included a room dedicated to his collection of Masonic relics and memorabilia. Included in this collection was a marble plaque depicting his friend Albert Pike (1809-1891), author of 'Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry,' by Baltimore based sculptor Herman Henning (1841-1893) that he later presented to the museum in 1914. A passionate Knight Templar (he received his Past Grand Commandery jewel in 1898), he named his country retreat located in Mount Washington near Pimlico Race Course "Beauséant" after his home commandery, Beauséant Commandery, No. 8. Four of his five daughters would be married at this property.

He married twice. He married his first wife, Maria Eliza Heckman Mann (1850-1886), in 1869 and had five children: Daise Elizabeth (1871-1929), Amelia Heiskell (1874-1953), Maria Elizabeth Hickman (1877-?), Thomas Jacob, Jr. (1879-1880), Annie Shryock Bullock (1880-1973). A year after the death of his first wife he married his second wife Cassie Belle Miller (1865-1916) in 1887 and had three children: Catherine Marguerite (1889-?), Thomas Jacob, Jr. (1894-1953), and Orpha Bella (1898-?).

The year of his second marriage was an auspicious year marked by him hosting the centennial celebrations of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland (1787-1887) followed by him accepting an invitation from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, later King Edward VII (1841-1910), to attend the golden jubilee celebrations of his mother, Queen Victoria (1819-1901). The excursion to England served as the honeymoon for the newlyweds.

While in England he was received at the United Grand Lodge of England where he exchanged gifts with their Grand Master—his presentation being a large gold cross covered in rich scarlet enamel. In return he received an intricately chased and enameled silver jewel specially designed for the occasion featuring the coat-of-arms of the United Grand Lodge of England surmounted by the emblem of the Prince of Wales



(three ostrich feathers emerging from a coronet with a banderole bearing the motto "Ich dien"(German for "I serve")) and on the back a personalized engraved inscription (this is currently the only known example of any Masonic jewel presented by the future King Edward VII to any individual intended as a personal gift). While in England he also commissioned the current Grand Lodge Sword, a replica of Queen Victoria's Coronation Sword, from George Kenning & Son (1860-1954). This sword took five years to complete and was delivered in 1892 and presented by Thomas J. Shryock in 1893 as his gift to the fraternity.

After being widowed for the second time, Grand Master Shryock died on February 3, 1918, of pneumonia at his home on Madison Avenue in Baltimore City. He lay in state in the Baltimore Masonic Temple. A funeral with full Masonic ceremonies was held on February 6th. He was buried at Lorraine Cemetery. Recognizing his achievements and significance to Maryland Masonry on May 17, 1948 a Charter was indorsed by Grand Master Harry O. Schroeder (1885-1973) establishing Thomas J. Shryock Lodge, No. 223 in Hollywood, Maryland. Almost a century after his death he is still revered as one of the greatest personalities associated with Maryland Masonry.



2017 MCM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Masonic Charities of Maryland Annual Scholarship Reception and Awards Ceremony took place on Sunday, May 21, 2017 in the Grand Lodge Ballroom. Over one hundred public high school seniors from across Maryland were on hand along with their parents as guests.

In all, seventy-eight of our Maryland lodges took part in the scholarship program this year. Students represented

every county in the state as well as Baltimore City. MCM awarded a total of \$60,000 in scholarships including awards of \$500 to each of the finalists. Many Maryland lodges also supplemented the MCM scholarships with additional funds for the students they selected for the honor.

The afternoon culminated with the presentation of the \$2,500 Vernon Mules Scholarship and the \$5,000 C. David Haacke Scholarship. The Mules Scholarship winner was Ms. Mackenzie Wenczkowski, (top left) a student at South Carroll High School in Carroll County. She will attend Mercer University in the fall. The Haacke Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Ryan Weimer, (top right) a student at

Northern Garrett High School in Garrett County. He will attend Potomac State College in the fall.

Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners and sincere thanks to all the lodges who participated in this outstanding program.

We need YOUR SUPPORT!



**Lodge Membership
Membership: \$200**

The basic Lodge membership entitles the lodge to receive our electronic newsletter for a year (sent to the lodge secretary). The museum's newsletter may be forwarded to the lodge members or shared at meetings and is a great way for your lodge to try and engage their membership through learning more about Masonic heritage. A lodge membership also entitles members of the lodge and their widows to obtain an individual/family membership as a 'Friends of the Museum' at a reduced rate of \$30 instead of \$50. The individual/family membership has different benefits, such as discounts to museum events as well as discounts on special museum gift incentives. Lodge membership also enables the lodge to access exclusive gift incentives only available to lodges with a museum membership.

Exclusive Higher Gift Incentives for Lodge Memberships:



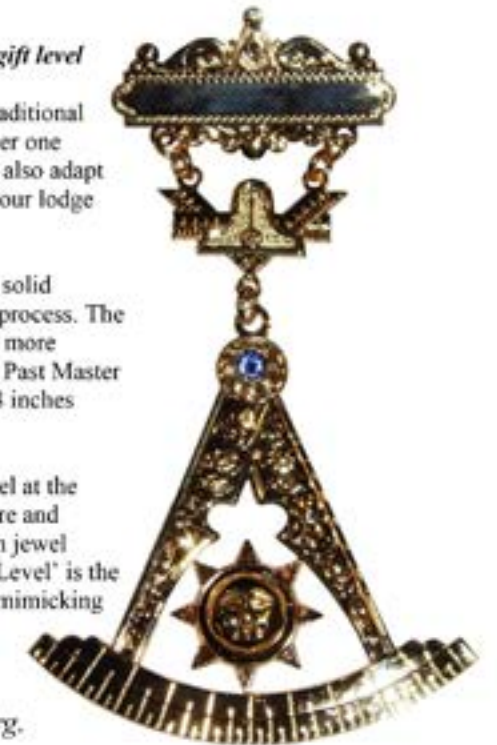
PAST MASTER JEWEL, starting at the addition \$200 gift level

The Past Master jewels offered by the museum are based on traditional Past Master jewels held in the museum's collection that are over one hundred years old. We have designed the jewels so lodges can also adapt the jewels to their needs. The Past Master jewel is our gift to your lodge for your support of helping preserving our Masonic heritage.

Made locally in Baltimore to our specifications, the jewels are solid copper with a heavy Hamilton finish, a nickel and gold plated process. The nickel plating makes the gold plated finish harder wearing and more durable. In keeping with historic examples in the museum, the Past Master jewels measures approximately 4 7/8 inches high/tall and 2 7/8 inches wide and weigh over 6 grams.

There are two version of the jewel available. The standard jewel at the 'Gold Level' consists of a bar pin with the 'G' within the square and compass, pedant in the form of the working tools, and the main jewel featuring the Past Master emblem. The jewel at the 'Sapphire Level' is the same, but with the compass mounted with Swarovski crystals mimicking a sapphire surrounded by diamonds.

To obtain a Lodge membership or our gift of a Past Master Jewel, please contact: museum@glmd.org.



As a registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible charity, independent of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland, the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum (Maryland Masonic Museum) relies on your support. All proceeds go strictly to supporting the Library & Museum collections.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

MUSEUM@GLMD.ORG



**Charity Fundraiser
Supporting the
Maryland DeMolay Foundation**

Scottish Rite of Maryland

3800 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Doors Open at 3:30 PM

Dinner & Drinks Provided by Hunt Valley Caterers

Cost: \$50 per person

\$30.00 of ticket price is tax deductible

For tickets contact

Brett Bean: Bean.Brett@gmail.com

Or Carl Michel: cmichel@glmd.org

Make checks payable: Maryland DeMolay

Menu:

Beef Vegetable soup, Fresh Crisp Garden Salad, Chicken Marsala OR Baked Honey Chicken OR Barbeque Chicken, Penne Pasta served with roasted tomato, Vidalia onion, rosemary sauce topped with fresh mozzarella, Fresh Baked Cookies and Brownies, Iced Tea, Lemonade, and coffee

HIRAM'S WORKERS AND IKEA®

By Bro. David R. Sandy, RWPJGW



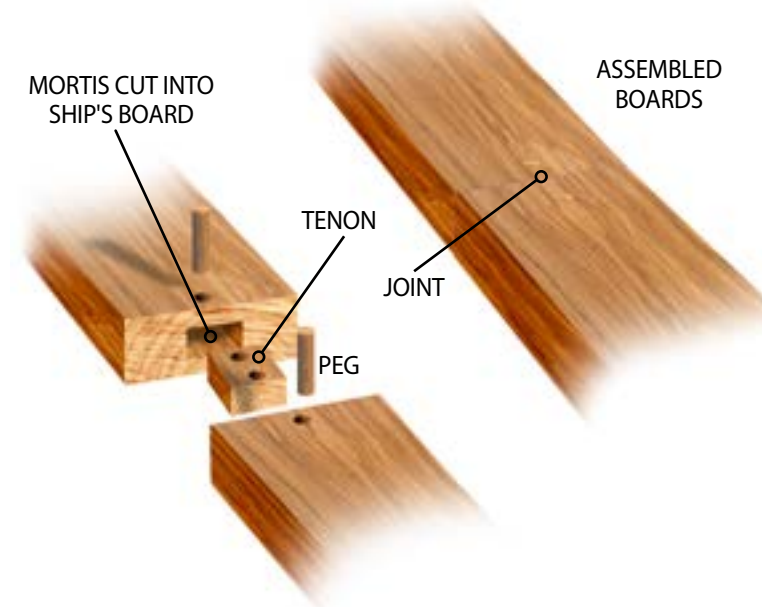
So there are three groups of workers Israelites, the men that Hiram brought with him, and stonemasons. Who are the stonemasons and why would they be needed? I believe that the stonemasons are the key to the fabrication and assembly of the Temple.

These were Gublites, or inhabitants of Gebal which was also known as Byblos and they would be needed as the Israelites had little experience in monumental building and the Phoenician people had a unique methodology in construction. Turning again to the Bible we read: And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. I Kings 6:7. This infers that the stonemasons had specialized knowledge.

This is something that we may remember from our Degrees. There are prohibitions on iron tools in the Bible, but I propose that there is a much more practical solution as to why the workmen only needed setting mauls to construct the Temple.



Consider that **Hiram Abiff**, the men of Tyre, and the Gublites were all men of Phoenician descent. These people were the master seafarers. The Phoenicians built their ships with an advanced mortar and tenon system. Consider the last time you put together a piece of Ikea® furniture where everything was labeled with letters and snapped together. The Phoenicians ship building style consisted of all of the boards being pre-cut and labeled as to which piece fit where. Two boards would be joined by a third piece, a tenon, which would be fixed in place with wood pegs. This building style made Phoenician ships modular, unbelievably strong, and once the method was known easily fabricated in mass.



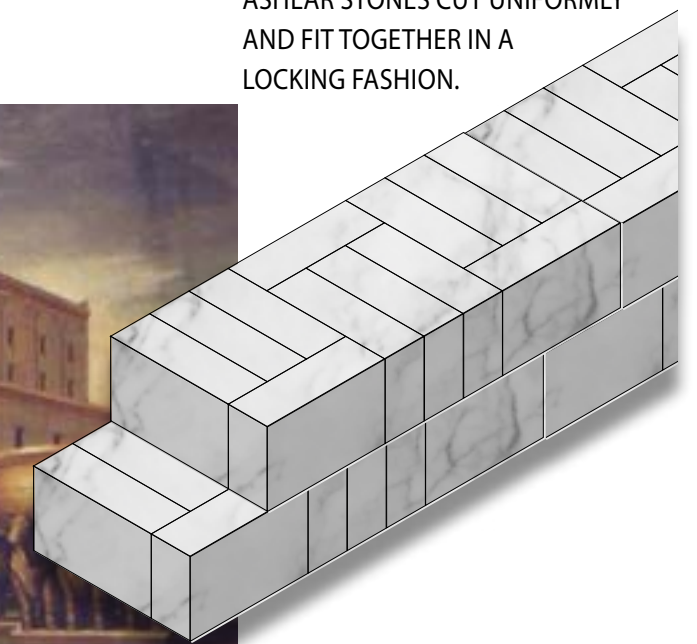
The Phoenicians had a similar construction methodology when it came to their architecture. The parts were modular, consisting of ashlar stones cut uniformly and fit together in a locking fashion. The Gublites were masters of cutting stone for architectural use by applying the lessons of shipbuilding to stone. Solomon's Temple, with enough bearer of burden, would have been able to be assembled on site without the need for iron tools. The pieces pre-cut would be able to slip together, fixed in place by gravity and weight, and then bonded with mortar. Hiram Abiff working from the designs of his trestleboard would be able to direct assembly of components designed, like that Ikea® shelf, to be modularly assembled with minimal tools from standardized parts.

King Hiram donated more than just the tall cedars of Lebanon, he shared the secrets of a monumental architecture method that aided the building of that most Holy of Temples. Turning to our First Grand Master Hiram selected a man who bridged two cultures to apply Phoenician building methods with a sensitivity to Jewish traditions to this most sacred of projects. Brethren, there is so much history and philosophy embedded in our degrees... visit your Blue Lodge and consider its mysteries.

Should you be interested in researching and discussing similar topics consider visiting one of Maryland's Research Lodges: Esoteric in Western Maryland or MMLR in Towson.



ASHLAR STONES CUT UNIFORMLY AND FIT TOGETHER IN A LOCKING FASHION.



In our ritual we discuss the origins of Grand Master being from Tyre, but if read further into construction of the Temple we learn that workers came with him. Why would this be?

King Hiram of Tyre made a wise choice by sending the widows son to Solomon, his Father was a Phoenician from the city of Tyre, skilled in brass work while his mother was of the tribe of Naphtali. Having a Phoenician Father and Jewish mother would for all intents and purposes would give him dual-citizenship making him a wise choice, not only for his skill, but also for his cultural fit for the role.

The Bible describes the construction of the Solomon's Temple in exact detail. There is an interesting passage: And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonemasons: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house. I Kings 5:18



JOB'S DAUGHTERS

Job's Daughters is a Masonic youth organization for girls between the ages of 10 and 20. Membership can be through masonic heritage or sponsorship. Younger girls between the ages of 7 and 9 are welcome to join the Jobie-to-Bee program. In this organization, members gain valuable leadership experience, serve as part of a team and learn democratic principles as they run their own meetings using parliamentary procedure, decide on activities and plan service and fund raising events. There are also fun activities for them to participate in such as dances, picnics, miniature golf, slumber parties, and marching in parades. There are opportunities to travel around our state and country to visit other members which often results in friendships that last a lifetime. Members of Job's Daughters actively support the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment (HIKE) which purchases hearing assistive devices for hearing impaired children.

During the beginning of June, the Bethels around the state were installing the Daughters into their new offices. Each term is 6 months in length. There are plenty of fun activities that were scheduled even though the Bethels are dark during the months of July and August including laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, going to Hershey Park, water tubing, marching in 4th of July parades and a Jobie Low Vale, just to list a few.

If you know of a young lady who could benefit from this organization and is looking for a group that offers fun, friendship, helping others and a chance to learn organizational and leadership skills, please contact the Grand Guardian Council of Maryland, Job's Daughters International at 301-856-3022 or visit our website at www.mdjobsdaughters.org.



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- Have you received a letter from your hospital, including St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson, or from your orthopedic surgeon about this Class I Zimmer Biomet recall?

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