

**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan**

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HAPPY 2017!

Good grief! Another year has gone by. Not many people know we have a 2:00 pm New Year's Eve Party here at Masonic Pathways. That's because a lot of the residents can't stay awake till the ball drops in New York City!!! As usual we (those Todd's and their neighbors) will take over the 2nd floor living room and dining area to watch the TV entertainment until midnight!

Any resolutions out there? Mine are always the same but are hard to keep. I would like to have some more time to work on crafts and get better sleep at night. I just haven't learned to say that magic 2 letter word 'NO!' I guess it's just not in me to pry myself from someone in need.

With this job I keep learning new tricks on putting the Triple Tau together. Fixing pictures that need help so that they look better. Adding pages and tweaking it so there is something for everyone. What is worse I know these Brothers and all the meetings, helping them with computer glitches, what a blast we had during the years as they went up the line and the fun with their ladies while I was traveling and such. It nearly wiped me out to work on my Masonic Dad's: Harry Walbridge and Charles "Chuck" Updike's obituaries. It hit me so much and such a shock that they went so quickly from us. Then remembering about both of their ladies and families. Finally, I got it together and placed them both on page 6 of this January Triple Tau. Even this issue of the Triple Tau didn't want to put them where REC Don Galway, Grand Secretary had asked me where to put them. We will all miss these two Brothers. But remember that they are now out of pain, having a wonderful peaceful time and doing a whole lot of fun stuff they used to love to do.



Fraternally Yours,
Jane Todd, Editor of Triple Tau



Howard W. Duke
Grand High Priest

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"How swiftly the sands run". The end of another year is passed and the beginning of a new year has arrived. What does the New Year hold in store for us as Masons?

That will depend on us. The future of our fraternity rests in our hands. When good things happen, we like to take credit and shower ourselves with accolades and rightfully so. When negative things occur, we tend to shift the blame to some other source. We are unwilling to accept our short comings. It is our fault. We, each one of us, holds the future of our fraternity in our hands, whether it be good or bad. We, and only we, are the ones who are in control.

We can start this New Year by contacting those Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights who have not been attending our meetings and functions to re-join in the fellowship once again. If each one of us would get just one member back into the fold, think of what that would do for our Lodge, our Chapter, Council and Commandery. For those of you who are reading this and have not been active, don't wait for the phone to ring or for the knock on the door inviting you to return to the fellowship you once enjoyed. Take the initiative, what's stopping you. As I mentioned, the future of our fraternity is in our hands. It begins with you and me.

Let us together make 2017 better than 2016. We can do it with just a little effort. There is an old saying: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step". Are you ready? "Step off with your left foot".

Fraternally,

Howard W. Duke, Grand High Priest

Happy New Year everyone. Hope your Christmas holidays were enjoyed by all and filled with memories of family and friends.

Two thousand sixteen is ending with the loss of a very good friend, Harry Walbridge. Marge managed her loss with tremendous grace and a memorial service worthy of a good husband and a dedicated Mason that he was. He will be missed by all.

Our sympathies also go out not only to Marge but to the family of Charles Updike. These events in our lives are difficult enough but even more so during the holidays. Marge Walbridge has information to share with all of us as she ensured me she would continue her involvement with the Grand Royal Arch Ladies. I'm certain we can all learn from her vast wisdom and knowledge.

The Education Seminar is scheduled for January 21 and is to be held at Alma. Please try to attend since we have many things to discuss. Dress is to be warm, comfortable and casual. Either nice slacks, skirt or dress. Please, no jeans or sneakers.

There is also a new project I need to present and I am aware that Rebeca Roberts has some information to share as well. Please give some thought as to what you think would be a good job description for the current position you are in and the past ones you have been in. We will try and define acceptable duties for each of you. This will aid each of us and others as we continue forward and upward toward the goals we all seek.

Caro will be another topic of discussion and I would like to know what your thoughts are regarding food and dress.

Monroe Lodge and Samaria Lodge held their installation of officers. Both were special. Monroe had many people who turned out in support of their lodge. Food was good as usual and the fellowship was a joy. Samaria's installation was honored with the presence of Most Worshipful Grand Master, William R. Finkel and Right Worshipful Grand Steward, Leonard Davis, who installed the officers.

Respectfully,

Carole Duke, Grand First Lady



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Secretary's Scribbles

I am writing this article between Christmas and New Year's. By the time that it reach's your inbox or mail box whichever the case may be, I hope that everyone had a joyous and happy holiday season. The year 2016 was a good one for me, I finished my year as Grand High Priest and joined a very exclusive club, that of a Past Grand High Priest. I am proud to be a member of a group of men that are among the finest in the craft. They gave me good counsel throughout my year and I only hope I can return the favor. As Grand Secretary of this Grand Chapter I can only hope that I can serve as well as those who came before me. All in All, the first eleven months of 2016 were good for me. The last month, I am sorry to say, tragedy struck the happy band of past grands, on November 29th I received a call that no one wants to receive. One of our Past Grands had passed away. Harry A. Walbridge was one of my mentors as I traveled through the line and always counseled me with good counsel, sometimes solicited and oft times not, but always in a cheerful manor. I will miss him. Lady Sherry and my thoughts and Prayers go out to Lady Marge and family for their great loss. Less than two weeks later tragedy struck again. December 14th. I once again received a call informing me that our merry band had lost another member. Charles E. Updike had passed away. Chuck was another member of the group that was always ready with good counsel and a kind word. In January of 2016 I had the pleasure of presenting both Chuck and Wayne Turton with their sixty year pins in Royal Arch Masonry. Again, Lady Sherry and my thoughts and prayers go out to Lady Ruth and family for their loss. Fair Thee Well My Brothers, Fair Thee Well. *May the Blessings of Heaven Rest upon us and All Good Masons.*

The New Year will be starting out with some exciting things. January 20th Grand Chapter Educational Seminar will take place at the Doig Center, Alma Pathways. DeMolay Winterfest is the same weekend at the Holiday Inn Flint on Hill Road. February brings a Seven Degree day to be held at the Flint Masonic Temple on Saturday the 4th. The George Washington Dinner and Grand Chapter meeting will be on Saturday the 18th in Caro, Michigan. The 25th of February Jackson Chapter No. 3 will be hosting a seven-degree day at the Michigan Center Temple.

There are more degree days in the works now, but nothing has been firmed up as of this writing. Monitor the Grand Chapter web page for coming events as I put them up as they come in.

Here is wishing you and yours, a very happy and prosperous New Year!!!

Fraternally,

R.E.C. Donald L. Galway, PGHP
Grand Secretary



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The connection between the Symbolic Degrees of the Blue Lodge and the Capitular Degrees of a Royal Arch Chapter are significant and unfortunately often forgotten. The lessons and order of conferral are designed to create and define this connection.

The modern Masonic Degrees are the result of a well thought out system of education and a means of impressing upon those who receive them certain moral values which we regard as basic and essential in a perfect brotherhood and companionship.

The three Degrees of Symbolic Masonry, as you know, are; the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. Also, as you know, the four degrees of the Royal Arch are; the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Royal Arch.

In the first Degree, the Entered Apprentice degree, a Candidate is given a general picture of Freemasonry, its methods of teaching, its structure, and its symbolism. The second Degree, the Fellowcraft Degree, the Candidate is taught the necessity of Work through the dignity and value of Labor. The lessons further exemplify that not all wages earned are paid in the form of money, but that there are other remedies earned and compensations equally as important; education and study. This is amplified in the first Degree of the Capitular Degrees, the Mark Master Mason, which teaches dignity of labor, honest business dealings, claiming only that which is honestly due, and receiving nothing except that which is deserved. Its lessons focus on the rewards and tribulation of Honor, Justice and Truth. In the third Degree of Symbolic Masonry, the Master Mason, a Candidate is taught the doctrine of the mortality of the body and the immortality of the soul. A Master Mason is also taught to be industrious, honorable, upright, and just, so that when the span of life has run, each Brother may welcome Death as a kind messenger, that transforms this imperfect life to an all perfect, eternal life.

The second Degree of Capitular Masonry is the Past Master. To better prepare a man who has not yet served as a Master or a Past Master, the Past Master→

(Continued from left-hand column!)

Degree of Capitular Masonry confers the title of a virtual Past Master, and imparts experience, the necessity for tolerance and the preservation of Honor, Dignity and Respect for the Rights of others. This Degree became necessary because the privilege of receiving the Royal Arch Mason Degree was originally only conferred on Actual Masters and Past Masters of a Symbolic Lodge. The third Degree in Capitular Masonry is the Most Excellent Master Degree. A Most Excellent Master is urged to assist in spreading Masonic Light and Knowledge to those less informed through the practice of Helpfulness. This Degree also teaches how to receive a Master's Wages, the meaning of the Allegorical Temple, and the Foreign Country to which all Master Masons should expect and are taught to travel. The Most Excellent Master Degree is rich in pageantry and religious significance celebrating the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The final Degree of Capitular Masonry is the Royal Arch Mason. This is the climax of Masonic teaching and completes the symbolism of the Master Mason degree, where only the substitute word has been communicated. He is also taught about the rebuilding of the temple and the discovery of the True Masonic Word. The things which may have seemed unexplained or veiled in the allegory of the Master Mason Degree, are now brought to light. Prior, the teachings of Freemasonry had to do with the Physical or Material World, but as a Royal Arch Mason, important discussion now belong to understanding and connecting with the Spiritual World. The Companion now understands he had not received all the necessary instruction qualifying him as a True Son of Light.

Fraternally,
REC Rich Hitch, Grand King

**[Good thing REC Mike Roberts missed the deadline.
We would have to run another whole column for him!]**



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**GREETINGS FROM THE GRAND MASTER
 OF THE SECOND VEIL**

The holiday season has just end, hope all of you enjoyed this festive time of year with family, friends, and renewed acquaintances. The most important celebration was the birth of our Lord and Savior at this very memorable time of year.

This past year we have talked about York Rite Unity in bringing the ritual from a read only This past year we have talked about York Rite Unity, in bringing the ritual from a read only to a memorized work, when opening our Chapters and Degree work. We should look at ways to increase our membership. Also, to bring back companions we haven't seen in a while (the Three Times Three Program) which was started by PGHP Louis McCray. This is just to mention a few items in the up-coming year we should work on to make our Chapters great again.

In the coming year let's show our pride in becoming a York Rite Mason and pass this on to new potential members and our current membership.

Looking forward we have All -Degree days, educational seminars, Chapter Inspections, Grand Conclave, Tri State, and the Tri Annual. Please try to attend and participate in as many as you can. With your participation, you'll receive a much better understanding of being a York Rite Mason.

In Brotherly Love and Friendship

Don Mayville, PHP
 Grand Master of the 2nd Veil



THE BEST GIFTS THIS SEASON:

- To a Friend - Loyalty
- To an Enemy - Forgiveness
- To your Boss - Service
- To your Child - A good example
- To your Father - Honor
- To your Mother - Gratitude and Devotion
- To your Spouse - Love and Faithfulness
- To Yourself - Respect
- To All Men - Charity
- To God - Your Life!!
- Author Unknown

Midge and I are very thankful for our friends and family. We couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments and thoughtfulness. We wish each and every one a great holiday season and a Happy New Year!!!!

Fraternally,
 R.E.C. Carl J. Peterson
 Grand Captain Of the Host

Did everyone get their Christmas tree put away yet?



www.dumpaday.com

OBITUARIES



Harry A. Walbridge

February 2, 1926 – November 29, 2016

Harry was born in Wyandotte, Michigan on February 2, 1926 to Ida May Walbridge and Durwood Walbridge. Harry was married to Marjorie Tait on May 7, 1977 in Rose City, Michigan.

Harry was a correspondent for General Motors, a teacher and counselor at Riverview Schools, Director of Financial Aid at Delta College and finally a counselor at Gerrish-Higgins Schools from 1973 to 1987. He was also a driver's training instructor in Roscommon for many years.

Harry was a member of the Roscommon Rotary. He had been Worshipful Master of Roscommon Masonic Lodge # 364 F & AM, life member of Houghton Lake/Roscommon Masonic Lodge # 579 F & AM.

Harry's York Rite career began in Gaylord Chapter No. 119 receiving the Mark Master degree July 31st 1986, the next two degrees were on August 7, 1986 and finally the Royal Arch degree on September 15th 1986. Gaylord Chapter No. 119 merged with Mackinac Chapter # 134 Royal Arch Masons of Michigan April 19th 2009. Harry also served as Secretary of Iosco Chapter # 83 Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. Harry served the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan and was Grand High Priest in 2006. Harry continued to serve the Grand Chapter, serving on many committees until the time of his passing. Harry was a member of Sunrise Council Royal and Select Masons serving as recorder for Sunrise Council # 93 R & SM and, recorder for Cheboygan Commandery # 50 Knights Templar of Gaylord. He was also a member of Supreme Council Order of the Amaranth, Inc. and Madison Court # 11 of West Branch, along with being a charter member and past King Lion of the Roscommon/Higgins Lake Lions.

Harry will be missed in the community and the fraternity.



Charles E. Updike

June 26, 1930 – December 14, 2016

Charles E. Updike, 86, of Oscoda, MI, formerly of all over the world, passed away suddenly in Alpena Hospital on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. "Chuck" was born into a very loving family on a farm in Marshall, Missouri, to Jennie Mae Piper Updike and Richard Hudnel Updike, the 6th of 7 children.

The farm was lost in the Great Depression and the family ended up in Redlands, California. On his 17th birthday he enlisted in the Navy, following in the footsteps of two older brothers. One brother had died in a POW camp following the Bataan Death March. He spent 10 years in the Navy and 10 years in the Air Force, during which time he married Ruth Ives in 1954.

Chuck and Ruth were blessed with four Children and moved the family to Oscoda, having spent 4 years stationed at nearby Wurtsmith Air Force Base. Their children are Norma Jean Updike MacDougall of Fort Worth, TX, Charles E. Updike Jr. of Midland, MI, Hoyt D. Updike of Oscoda, and Janmarie Updike Gregorich (Gary) of Millersville MD, 3 grandchildren, and 4 Great grandchildren. He worked for Sawyer Canoe Co. in Oscoda for many years.

Masonry was always a major part of his life, as he became a Master Mason at 21 years of age. On many occasions his Masonic ties allowed him to find friendship in other parts of the world with people who otherwise would have been complete strangers. Chuck was an active York Rite Mason in all phases, he reached state level in Royal Arch Masons. Charles was the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in 1993. He was also a member of Saginaw Council No. 20 along with Sunrise Council No. 93. To round out his York Rite service he was also a charter member of Sunrise Commandery No. 34. He and Ruth were also active in Order of the Eastern Stars, Amaranth, and White Shrine.

Chuck had a long and distinguished career in masonry having been a Master Mason for sixty-five plus years and a Royal Arch Mason for sixty-three plus years. His candor, wit and good council will be missed.



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What a blessing Freemasonry is to those who meet without talk of politics or religion inside their secured meetings! No doubt, we can all be thankful to spend time where things that tend to divide us are eschewed and those that bring us together are held in highest esteem. Our Craft has lasted through many times of tumult and upheaval without dissolution and it will, no doubt, do the same in times ahead if we remain steadfast.

For Cryptic Masons, the responsibility to preserve our Craft and ensure its survival to future generations is the *very* principle upon which Cryptic Masonry is based. While several burials are referenced in various rituals, the real focus of the Cryptic Rite is “*Living the Secret*”, which is the theme this year. Our Rite, focuses on Friendship and Fidelity, both are essential to life and ongoing life. Our Rite seems to be telling us to cultivate true and sincere friendship amongst ourselves, and to be honorable and upright in our actions. If that breaks down, our secrets will be lost to the ages.

Looking forward to the upcoming year, indulge in entertaining some of the legends that surround the Cryptic Rite. Too often, Masonic writers in the twentieth century disparaged any allusion to antiquity in Masonic writing because there was *no proof*. We do not have documents in many cases of antiquity, but we can deduce much, from cultural patterns over time. Masonic claims of antiquity are relegated to the realm of myth for the most part, but unfortunately, myth is too often used to disparage a particular view of the past, when myth’s *purpose* is largely about encouraging us toward the *future*. Many of us can remember the story of George Washington cutting down the cherry tree, and it wasn’t about teaching us about history, it was admonishment to tell the truth in the *future*. Our myths draw us toward the future, they are not a glimpse into the past.

When we look at the subjects, times, and settings of the rituals of the Royal and Select Masons, they are all oriented on an expansion and deepening of the knowledge conveyed in the Master Mason degree. But there are many elements in our degrees that speak to some ancient history or knowledge, which today are like the straw airplanes the natives built on some South Pacific Isles where we had air bases in World War II, as idols and offerings to the ‘sky gods’ so they would return. Quaint, but still, even the straw airplanes, point to something that actually happened. While there is no doubt that our degrees are not actual transcripts of particular conversations, there are profound historical events that are alluded to in our degrees.

The Cryptic Degrees themselves are clouded in mystery. No one knows where and when they originated, they come to light as side-degrees belonging to or in the custody of the Scottish Rite that migrated to being side degrees of the Royal Arch, and finally, to the Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters. The cloud that surrounds the origin of the Cryptic Rite and whether there is any historic evidence of what is revealed in the degrees, is part of the draw I have always had toward the Cryptic Rite. How did the secrets held by the Super Excellent Masters survive the downfall of Jerusalem? We know what our ritual says, so what does history say? We know what our ritual says about the Ark of the Covenant, but is there any historical parallel? If you haven’t yet read *The Sign and the Seal* by Graham Hancock since you joined the Council, there is another half of that book that is not written by him, but filled in by intriguing bits and pieces of our ritual. Enjoy!

Fraternally,

David Seyferth, M. I. Grand Master



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Happy New Year Sir Knights and Ladies!

The holiday season is over; the Christmas tree is down and the ornaments put away for another year. Now it is on to the upcoming events for 2017. We have one scheduled Inspection in January, Lexington Commandery #27 will hold their annual Inspection on Saturday January 14th with the Chamber at 2:30 pm and Opening and Order of the Temple to follow.

We are working with Bay City Commandery #26 to hold their Inspection either in January or in February. The East Central Department Conference will be held this year in Lexington Kentucky on March 11th, 2017 more information to follow. Again, this year we will place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery and participate in the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington National Ma-sonic Memorial. Lady Merry Jo and I wish for you a joyful and prosperous new year. Attend your Commandery conclave and make plans to visit the Commanderies in your area to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Fraternally,

Donald L. Trumbull,

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Michigan

GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL'S WORKSHOP!!

The upcoming Grand Captain General's School is on Saturday, April 1st, 2017 at 9:00 am sharp! It will be held at the Lansing Masonic Center, 1125, Weber Drive, Lansing, Michigan. Remember we will be presenting the GCG Attendance Shield to the Commandery with the most regular member participation. Sir Knights with dual or plural memberships can claim just one Commandery they are in attendance for: This means one to which Commandery they wish to count per each year. Please contact Sir Knight Darrel Winslow, GCG if you have any questions about the workshop. Phone – (503) 559-8496 or e-mail: gspwatcher@yahoo.com.

This information from the Michigan Supplement.