

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan

P. O. Box 483
Hale Michigan 49739-0483
989 728.5384

elcemccray@yahoo.com

Paul Howell, Editor
608 W. Pantera Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85210-8321
520 233.1540
ghpmi97@gmail.com

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Michigan Grand Chapter Web Site
www.grandchaptermi.org

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of Michigan*



Submitted by:

[Jerry C Townsend](mailto:Jerry.C.Townsend)

Royal Arch Masons a little History Lesson...

In the original Hebrew the Ark of the Covenant has three different main names:

1: "Aron Ha-Brit" {ארון הברית}— literally means 'the Ark of the Covenant.' This is the most popular Hebrew name for the Ark and can be found in the Hebrew Bible mainly in the Book of Deuteronomy and the Book of Joshua.

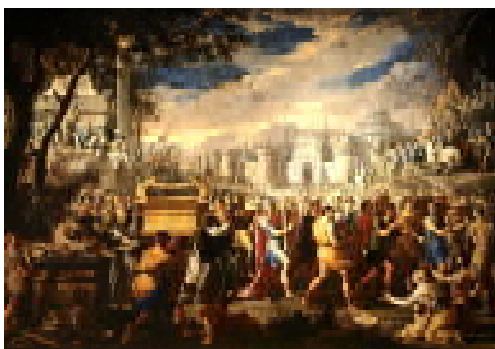
"And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people." (Joshua 3:6)

2: "Aron Ha-Edut" {ארון העדות}— literally means 'the Ark of the Testimony' and can be found in the Book of Exodus in general and in our weekly Torah portion in particular.

"There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony..." (Exodus 25:22)

3: "Aron Ha-Elohim" {ארון האלוהים}— literally means 'the Ark of God' and can be found in the Book of Samuel (1 and 2) and in the Book of Chronicles (1 and 2).

"And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim." (2 Samuel 6:2)



Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37 Royal Arch Masons



invites all to a
Reception
and
Dinner
honoring



Excellent Companion DANIEL L. TRUMBULL

Grand Chapter Region III
Meritorious Service Award Recipient

Sunday, April 24th, 2016
Reception: 2:00 pm
Dinner: 3:00 pm

Samaria Masonic Temple
1660 Samaria Rd.
Samaria, MI 48177-0002

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Reservations required in advance --
with payment!

Not later than April 18th!!!!

Make Checks payable to:
Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37

Mail to:

Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37
P.O. Box 2
Samaria, MI 48177-0002



Donald L. Galway

Grand High Priest

LADY SHERRY

22365 N. Latson Howell 48845
517.618.7390 dgalway12000@yahoo.com

"COMMUNICATION IS KEY"

Comments and Observations From The Grand East

Well I have done it again, I have made it through another month. This was a good month for Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. The 5th of March Schoolcraft Lodge hosted a Seven-degree Day. We now have 27 new Royal Arch Masons in Michigan. I welcome them into our fold and encourage them to take part in their home chapters. The day was a pleasure and went very smoothly, with the work being performed very well, and I congratulate all that took a part. I would also like to thank Vicki Warner and her staff for a fine job done with the lunch.

The East-Central Regional Conference was held the next weekend, March 11-13, in Bay City, Michigan. The conference was very well attended, with representatives from almost all of the regional members. The General Grand Bodies were well represented with Jim Hodge the General Grand King and Steve Tiner the General Grand Scribe in attendance. The Speakers were PMW Bro. Robert Conley from Michigan, who presented his Six Step Program on mentoring of new candidates, and newly made masons. Marcus A. Trelaine PGHP from the District of Columbia presented a program on budgeting, which was also very informative.

MIGM Edward James along with the officers and members of Michigan Grand Council, and the General Grand Council member states, also held their East-Central Conference in conjunction with Royal Arch. GGPCW Sid LeLuan III made the trip from Tucson, AZ to be at our conference, and make a presentation. I did not get to see the presentation, but from what I heard, it was very good.

Larry Inscho, PGHP, DGGHP really out did himself with the program that he put together for the weekend. The convention staff of Larry and Brian Himes insured that the conference went off without a hitch. Well Done Companions. Well Done.

Saturday, March 26th places us in Belding for the 3-4-1 Reception being held to honor EC Bruce Hayden, 2014 General Grand Chapter Bronze Award Recipient, EC John Cromarlie 2014 Grand Chapter Region II MSA Recipient and IC John Fossler 2014 Grand Council Recorder of the Year. We can then round out the month by observing Easter in the tradition that you and your families do each year. Remember it is not about the Easter Bunny but about the resurrection of our Savior. Your grandchildren may have a much different point of view, depending upon their age, but that is what youth is all about. They should have no worries.

April will start, with at this time the first weekend off for me. The second weekend will put Lady Sherry and I in Indiana for their Grand Session. MEC Marty Evens, GHP and I have known each other for some time, and I am looking forward to his session.

April 24th will put me at Mt. Vernon Chapter for the reception of Danial Trumbull the Region III MSA Recipient. The days in-between will be filled with the duties of the office.

We are now officially enjoying spring, sitting here looking at one of Michigan's beautiful sunny days, from the warmth of my dining room table, it gives me hope for a warm and sunny summer to come.



HOWARD DUKE

R.E. GRAND KING

734.847.7032

howardduke929@gmail.com

King's Korner

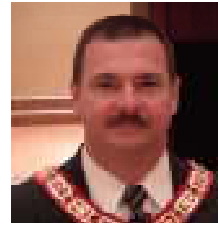
We all know how important community involvement is to our Lodges and to Masonry, or at least we should know. The communities where our Lodges are located is where we acquire our new members. The more community activities we are involved in, the more people we meet and the more they come to recognize us. This in turn promotes interest in who we are and what we are all about. Remember, Masonry is not a secret!

Three years ago my Lodge contacted our School Superintendent with the idea of conducting the Child Identification, or "CHIPS" Program, at the local high school where a business trade fair was to be held. This event is a two-day annual event and very family oriented, drawing several hundred people. The School Superintendent was very receptive to the program and provided us with an entire classroom including sufficient tables and chairs. Our very first Child ID event was an overwhelming success. We did this again last year with similar success. This year the Superintendent's Office contacted us to conduct the program again. We were also contacted by the Lions Club who wanted to partner with us with their "Vision and Hearing Screening Program." We were delighted to do so. This was our best year yet, with 154 children placed into the program. The Lions Club did very well also.

Near the end of this year's event we were approached by the School Superintendent who cordially invited us back next year. We were thrilled. Now they have come to us.

At all of these events we have various hand-outs about the fraternity and have had several inquiries as well. If people don't know who we are we can't expect them to knock on our door.

This is just one of many ways to get your Lodge involved in and around your community. It doesn't take much effort and without effort nothing successful can be achieved, but with a little effort the rewards can be great. Isn't your Lodge worth the effort? It should be.



RICHARD HITCH

R. E. GRAND SCRIBE

517 S Sybald St., Westland MI, 48186

734 612.4809 richhitch62@gmail.com

Scribe's Scratches

Recently I returned from this year's East Central Conference held in Bay City. For those who were unable to attend, let me tell you that you need to make every attempt to make next years, because it was, as it always is, a blast. It is a great opportunity to meet new out of state Masons from the surrounding areas. It is also a great chance to renew friendships from our sister jurisdictions. This year we were able to enjoy the company of Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, members of the General Grand Chapter as well as our own, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard D. Wisley. In addition to the great company, we had a short seminar on the "Six Steps to Initiation" given by MWB Robert Conley.

This month I would like to also talk about a few *housekeeping* issues with all the Brothers and Companions around the state.

As most Chapters have or will be electing and installing their new Officers, I congratulate you. This is a special event and should be treated as such. Use this opportunity to show the Chapters, Lodges and Community around you, how special Masonry is. This is also a great way to reach out and show your existence and perhaps obtain new or absent members. Also, do not forget the other special events your Chapter may have, for example your Lodge or Chapter Anniversary, an awards night for 25 year or more service of Brothers or Companions, Past High Priest dinners, Heritage Awards, and MSA awards. Your local groups were once special or you would not have joined, now we need to make them special again.

Meritorious Service Award:

Time is running out as the April 30th deadline approaches. Nominate a deserving Companion for the Grand Chapter Meritorious Service Award. There are three awarded each year, one for each region. There is also one General grand Chapter Bronze Medal which our Jurisdiction is allowed to present. Each Chapter has several Companions, who go that extra effort in their Lodge, Chapter and in their Community. Do not forget about the ones who may not hold an office but are always ready and willing to fill in wherever they are needed as well as do whatever needs to be done without any hesitation. This is your Chapter's opportunity to recognize one of your Worthy Companions. Fill the form out completely. All parts of a Companion's life are considered in the selection process. The more information you can give about your selection, the more information we have to consider. The Committee can only evaluate the information you provide. Assume that the Committee does not know the Companion. A Companion who has been submitted previously but was not selected may be resubmitted. Make sure you the new form provided on the Grand Chapter Website. The Form should be mailed by April 1st, 2016 to Rich Hitch, 517 S Sybald St., *Continued Page 4, Col 2*

**Kindness is the language
which the deaf can hear
and the blind can see.**

~Mark Twain~



Louis C. McCray, PGHP

Grand Secretary

P.O. Box 483

Hale, MI. 48739-0483

989.728.5384

elcemccray@yahoo.com

Secretary's Scribbles

Grand Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.grandchaptermi.org>

As April begins, I have a few things to go over for the Chapter Secretaries concerning the end of our Capitular Year on April 30th.

Dues cards are being processed as I write this and if you don't have them already, they are on the way. Election Reports should be submitted within a few days of your Chapter's Annual Convocation in April. When I receive your Election Report, I will send the Annual Return to the Secretary of record on the report. We are also updating the Annual Returns for 2016 and they will be available soon. I know there are still a few Secretaries out there who are not computer functional and will need a printed copy, if you are one of the few, send me a note or give me call and I will mail a report to you. Just a reminder for some of you early birds who seem to be in a rush to get your returns in early, again the Capitular Year doesn't end until April 30. I won't refuse to accept them early but they can't be processed until May 1st, so I would appreciate not receiving them before that date. Finally, one more reminder, Grand Chapter and General Grand Chapter per-capita each go up by \$1.00 this year, for a total increase of \$2.00 in the amount you collect for next year's return.

Upcoming events for April include nearby Grand Convocations of the Grand Chapter of Indiana in Columbus on April 9, The Grand Chapter of Canada in Ontario in St. Catharines on April 14-16, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec in Montreal also on April 15- 16, then in the first week of May, the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin at Wisconsin Dells on May 6-7. Contact me for more information on visiting any of these Grand Convocations.

On April 24th there will be a reception honoring Region 3 MSA winner EC Daniel Trumbull of Mt. Vernon Chapter # 37 at the Samaria Masonic Lodge beginning at 2:00 PM.

Also coming up later this month, April 20th is the deadline for submitting legislation for consideration at the Grand Convocation, so if you have a proposal, please write it up in proper form and send it in as soon as possible.

Are you considering running for Grand Honors this year? If you would like to serve as a Grand Chapter Officer, please contact one of the members of the Protocol Committee, MEC Michael Whiting PGHP, MEC George Lyons PGHP, or REC Mike Roberts GCotH for information on expectations, procedures, etc. Contact information for each is in the directory found on the website, grandchaptermi.org.

Hitch Continued Page 3, Col 2

Westland, MI 48186-3868 or emailed to richhitch62@gmail.com.

Grand York Rite Session

It is not too early to start planning for this year's York Rite Session in Bay City. The session will begin with Grand Chapter on Wednesday the 17th of August, followed by the Grand Council on Thursday the 18th, and Grand Commandery on Friday the 19th. This year the Headquarters Hotel will be the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Bay City – Riverfront; One Wenonah Park Place, Bay City, MI 48708, 1-989-891-6000. Make your reservations now so you won't miss any of the fun.

Deer Hunting

A builder, pastor and professional golfer went deer hunting together. They were all novices, but wanted to try it.

They had been out all day and towards dusk they all spotted a 5 point buck at the same time. They each took aim and 3 shots were fired at the moving target. The buck went down, so they rushed over to make sure it was dead. It was, so they started to discuss who had actually hit it. As they were discussing it, a game warden happened along and asked what the problem was. They told him, and he said for them to stand back and he would try to figure it out based on the bullet hole and the rifles that were being used.

After only a couple minutes, he came to them and said that the pastor was the one who hit the deer. The three wondered how he could figure it out so fast. The warden said the bullet went in one ear and came out the other.

Have YOU begun writing your Committee Reports for the Grand York Rite Sessions?

Did YOU get your nominations in for the various Awards that can be given out? YOUR Nominee can not be considered if you do not Submit!!!

You should have been compiling information for your Annual Return. Get it together so that you can mail it on or before the 15th of May. Do not use your Financial Institution as a reason for delay --- Go on line and get and up-to-date Financial Report

EVERLASTING IMPRESSIONS
We make your moments last a lifetime!
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Companions we are just a little over ½ way through the year before the Grand Session and most Chapters are on top of the elections and instalment of new officers, thus spring is just around the corner.

At least I was believing so with the warmth and the snow dissipating, until last night when Gaylord kindly received an inch of the white stuff. At any rate I'll keep my hopes up.

Those whom had the chance to make the "All Degree Day" in Schoolcraft this last month and didn't take advantage of it missed out on some great work and fellowship in both the Royal Arch and the Council. Also having the chance to be in attendance for the East Central Conference at the Double Tree in Bay City would have made your day.

To tell the truth, I'm worried about and for the Chapters here in Michigan. As I've been traveling it seems the numbers of Companions have been dropping almost in an erratically form. Some of the Grand Officers don't find this out until they make their visitations and by then most of their year of travels in that area are over and assistance can only be communicated.... It needs someone doing.

To the New High Priest and Secretary's, make your D.D. I's and Grand Officer aware of the problems of attendance as soon as possible. Give them some time to work with you as far as programs and dinners or degree work to wake up the few that may be just waiting for something to happen at Chapter to get them involved again. The same old business meetings don't seem to turn them on anymore is what I've heard so many times. Appoint a committee and push them along to get something going and as our Most Excellent Grand High Priest has said, "try to get the families of the members involved". Make it a night out for all.

Sure we realize that we have the snow birds, but expecting them absent every year should have been enough to add some activity's or work out joint meetings for regulars and specials.

All in all, I believe we need to get into our Lodges and look for new prospects. Not the newly made M.M. but the Brothers that have spent some time in lodge and show an interest in learning more about Masonry. There is plenty of material on line and at the main offices in Alma that can be acquired for presentations or to hand to a worthy Brother!!!

Hope the Easter Bunny treated all of you right and that you had a safe and enjoyable holiday in all that you did!!!
REC, Carl J Peterson, GPS

Leadership Skills Developed

Real men are leaders and Masons are always leaders. In the Royal Arch a man learns leadership skills through the teachings of the various degrees. The **Past Master Degree** is especially moving in these lessons.

The **Most Excellent Master Degree** sees the Temple completed and the glory of God's acceptance of the work. Here, transition skills are learned as one advances in service to God and one another. These lessons are lessons for life.

CERTIFICATE OF PROXY IN GRAND CHAPTER
To the Grand Chapter of Michigan:

This is to certify that:

Companion _____

has been selected to hold the proxy to represent Companion _____ of _____

Chapter No. _____ in the Convocation of the Grand Chapter, to be holden at _____, on the _____ day of the month of _____ 20____.

Witness my hand and seal at _____ this day of _____ 20____.

The Proxy of the Chapter is to be issued to a Companion who is attending the Grand Convocation when one of the Dias Officers is not going to be in attendance. It is best to issue this to a Companion who is not a Past High Priest, thereby affording your Chapter an additional vote. Use your Proxies, don't lose your votes!!!

Michigan Grand York Rite Sessions -
Aug. 16th - 20th, 2016

Grand Chapter, Wed., Aug. 17; Grand Council, Thur.,
Aug. 18; Grand Commandery, Fri & Sat., Aug 19 & 20

2016 GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS COMMITTEE

Brian K. Himes, Chairman

Brent A. Helm, Larry A. Inscho & Harry A. Walbridge

Hotel Reservations:

Doubletree Hotel Bay City Riverfront

Attn: Reservations Department

One Wenonah Park

Bay City, MI 48708

Phone: 989 891-6000 Fax: 989 891-9680

Group Room Rate: \$106.00 plus: 11% tax per room, per night

Cut Off Date: July 26, 2016

Check-In Time: 3:00 PM Check-Out Time: Noon

Please Note: Reservations request must be received in their office by midnight on the above cut off date to guarantee the group rate. Requests received after the above date will be subject to availability and the group rate is not guaranteed. **All reservation requests must be accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed by a major credit card.

***Rooms will not be reserved unless secured by above methods.

GUESTROOM PREFERENCE (Subject to Availability)

- If more than one room is requested, enclose a list of names and addresses, indicating which guests share rooms.
- If you would like a confirmation sent to you via email, please provide you email address below.

of Rooms

Standard Room - 2 Beds # Standard Room - *King Bed
(*Limited number of King Bedded Rooms in the Hotel)

Number of People in Your Guestroom

Special Requests (Please Check)

Handicap Accessible Hearing Impaired

GUEST INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

*** E-Mail: _____

Arrival Day/Date : _____

Departure Day/Date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Type of Card : _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____

or Check or Money Order (Enclosed) in the Amount of: _____

Signature: _____

G.Y.R. MEAL RESERVATION FORM 2016

Name _____ Lady _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Organization _____

Title _____

Special Dietary requests _____

*** Make your reservations from the following selections:

GRAND CHAPTER RAM - WED., AUG. 17, 2016

7 AM Chap. Memb. Breakfast No. _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

12 Noon Ladies Luncheon No. _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

12 Noon Companions Luncheon No. _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

7 PM "Mexican Madness" Banquet No. _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

GRAND COUNCIL R&SM - THUR., AUG. 18, 2016

7 AM Comp./Ladies Breakfast No. _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

12 Noon Ladies Luncheon No. _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

12 Noon Companions Luncheon No. _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

GRAND YORK RITE GRAND BANQUET - Thur. Aug 19, 2016

7 pm # Sirloin Steak # Grilled Portabella-Vegetable Stack

Seared Salmon Total # @ #38.00 = \$ _____

Recommended Dress: Grand Officers - Tus/White Dinner Jacket w/ Collars.

Ladies: Evening Attire. General Membership - Business Suit. Ladies - Sunday Best.

GRAND COMMANDERY KT - Fri. Aug. 20, 2016

7 AM KT Gen Memb Breakfast No. _____ @ \$15.00 = \$ _____

12 Noon River Cruise Luncheon No. _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____

12 Noon KT Luncheon No. _____ @ \$18.00 = \$ _____

7:30 pm GRAND COMMANDERY ROUND TABLE

Roasted Pork Loin # Grilled Chicken Breast

Grilled Vegetables Total # @ #38.00 = \$ _____

Recommended Dress: Gr. Commandery Officer & Sir Knights - Full Dress. No Sword or Chapeau. Grand Officers - Tus/White Dinner Jacket w/ Collars.

Grand Officers. Ladies - Evening Attire Sir Knights Ladies - Sunday Best.

GRAND COMMANDERY KT - Fri. Aug. 21, 2016

8 AM KT Gen Memb Breakfast No. _____ @ \$16.00 = \$ _____

Sub Total \$ _____

Registration Fee: \$ 10.00

Make Checks Payable to: TOTAL \$ _____

"Michigan Grand York Rite Committee"

Notice: Meal reservations must be postmarked by Aug. 6, 2016. All Meal reservations postmarked after Aug. 6, 2016, are subject to a Late Fee of \$25.00.

Meal reservation cancellations will be honored prior to August 13, 2016.

REMITTANCE MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS!

Mail all reservations with remittance To:

MICHIGAN GRAND YORK RITE COMMITTEE

c/o Brent A. Helm, KYCH

198 Saratoga Trail, Lapeer, MI 48446

Dear Brother:

I congratulate you upon being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Masonry, as you know, is so full of teachings and symbolism, it is impossible to receive and understand it all. Most of it is not found in the catechism which you have learned. I urge you to attend Lodge and witness every degree as often as you can. Each time you will pick up something “new”, something which has a new meaning or symbolism which has not been noticed by you before. Teachings and knowledge is light. A wise man will always have a quest for light as you did when you were an Entered Apprentice, then more light as a Fellow Craft, then further light still as a Master Mason. But, is this all the light you can receive?

In your third degree, one says, “Behold, the Temple is not yet completed” and later one says “the Masters’ Word is Lost”. This was to inform you that there must be further light. And it is my duty to inform you, there must be further light! And it is my duty to inform you, there is!

Over two centuries ago, most of our Brethren were known as “Ancient York Masons”. When the two Grand Lodges of England united in 1813, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the Articles of Union to guide all Masons throughout the world, forever on the matter: “Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, is., that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.”

At that time, only Past Masters of Blue “Symbolic” Lodges were qualified to receive the Royal Arch degree. It was then deemed that this degree was so important that Master Masons who having received the Mark Master Degree, were able to become (Virtual or Honorary) Past Master, thus making them eligible to witness the completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple, and the Royal Arch Degree, where they were permitted to find and receive the ‘Long Lost Masters’ Word’! These degrees were taken from the Blue Lodges, and set up under a separate body known as Chapters. Royal Arch Chapters confer the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees.

Symbolic Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, together with Council of Royal and Select Masons and Commanderies of Knights Templar, compose the York Rite.

The Royal Mater and Select Master Degrees in the Council are two of the most beautiful degrees in Masonry and show why the “WORD” and why, where and how it was preserved for discovery.

The Knights Templar is sometimes referred to as the ‘Christian Body of Masonry’, however members of all Religions can and are Knighted within the Commandery. The three Order of Templary are the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple. These Degrees, Orders as they are called, are beautiful and most impressive and use the ‘New Testament’ for the Christian inclusion into Freemasonry. “Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar”.

The most beautiful, impressive, educational and enlightening degrees in Masonry are found in the York Rite. All Master Masons should consider expanding their knowledge and understanding and therefore joining their local York Rite organization. You only need to fill out a petition, submit it and then you will begin your continued journey, one which you will never regret undertaking.

After you feel comfortable within the Lodge we hope that we will be hearing from you, in the very near future, and begin your journey to hailing you not only as Friend and Brother but also as Companion and Sir Knight.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

<i>(Signature)</i>	<i>This contact information should always be included.</i> 
Typed Name	
Phone #	
E-mail address	



Michigan Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons

www.grandchaptmri.org

Heritage Award

Send completed application to:

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

1200 Wright Ave, Alma, MI 48801

By assignment of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, with the gracious permission of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan, the Grand Chapter has launched a program called "The Masonic Heritage Medal". This award is known as the Lewis award in other jurisdictions. The Son will receive a medal and the father a pin to wear on their jacket.

Ancient lodges perpetuated the symbolism of "Lewis" by recognizing the significance of a Mason's son following the Masonic Direction of his father, thus becoming a "Lewis" Mason.

We have replaced that designation with our own recognition which we have chosen to call the Masonic Heritage Medal, assigning the same prestigious symbolism to our recipients as sons of Masons in early times.

This award is free of charge and will be presented by a current or Past Grand Officer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan.

Recipients must meet the following outlines:

Both fathers and sons must be masons in good standing

Step fathers and step sons must both be masons

Grandfathers and Grandsons must both be masons

Both Fathers and sons must be present at the time of presentation

Must have an application filled out and turned in to the Grand Chapter

Heritage Award Application

Lodge Name: _____ No.: _____

Secretary's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

Recipients Name: _____

Lodge: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ ID #: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

Fathers Name: _____

Lodge: _____ Jurisdiction: _____ ID #: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail: _____

Please send to:

Grand Chapter R.A.M. Secretary

1200 Wright Ave., Alma, MI 48801

or via E-mail: dgalway12000@yahoo.com



EDWARD P. JAMES
LADY VERA
 M. J. Grand Master
edward_james32@yahoo.com



www.rsm-mi.org

ANTHONY M. CHAMBERLIN
 P.M.C.M.
 Grand Recorder
 1-810-329-0810
migr2009@sbcglobal.net

Membership recruitment and retention....the double “R”.... it seems to be primary on most of our minds and the mantra of the day, and understandably so. But so too is the issue of how we use (or abuse) our ritual. Our ritual is not meant to be read only, but to become in a very real sense an integral part of our minds and hearts. Thus, it permeates and becomes part of our entire being. Hence, the real reason for memorization; for it to be always present and with us throughout our daily challenges and to be able to recall in an instant that valuable lesson in that one piece of ritual which helps us sustain at any given moment or impending challenge in life where our treasured Masonic values come into play.

Keeping this thought in mind, I offer as our educational submission for this month the following article entitled “The 3 Reasons for Memorizing our Ritual”, written and authored by WM Flynn Francisco of Lodge #771, somewhere in Mumbai, the capital city of the Indian State of Maharashtra. Pay particular attention to reason #3... *“Memorizing ritual is one of the most talked about topics in Masonry today, besides de-recognition and homosexuality, which is still an issue that dates back to the beginning of the Masonic Fraternity. It is a constant struggle between senior brethren and newer members, and a point of soreness should a brother be promoted lacking it. It is also quite possibly one of the simplest expectations of a Mason. I’m of course talking about **knowing your ritual**. Ritual is an inherent and integral part of Masonry, and although it can be daunting, it is necessary to truly move forward on your Masonic journey. There are of course many reasons why brethren do not do it, i.e. they do not have time, they do not have the mental capacity, they are simply not interested, etc. But learning your ritual is the crux of your entire masonic journey, from understanding Masonry’s symbolism to forming your own moral code. Here are 3 reasons you need to memorize your ritual.*

1. IT HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED...

Your ritual forms the basic explanation of what it means to be a Mason, and how to become a better person. One of the most widely known taglines for masonry is that we “Make good men better,” and it is not for naught. The ritual contains symbols and metaphors for becoming a better person and living life on the square. It sets a standard of measure for you to continually challenge yourself. It explains why we are a fraternity and why that benefits us. The ritual is your one source of answers for being the best Mason you can be, and being the best person you can be. All you need to do is to read it.

2. IT GIVES YOU DISCIPLINE AND INTELLIGENCE...

The process of memorizing the ritual is in itself is a lesson in discipline and by going through your ritual daily, you are also stimulating your mind, improving both your cognition and memory. The benefits of memorization are well recorded and a quick google search will let you know exactly how beneficial it is for your brain.

3. IT’S NOT FOR YOU...

At the end of the day though, you are not memorizing the ritual for yourself. You are memorizing it so that you may pass on that knowledge to the next generation of Masons. Masonry is as much about the future as it is about the past, and memorizing your ritual is a key step in passing on the light. Whether you are in the master’s chair carrying out the third degree, or being called upon for help by a fellow brother, the ritual is a guide for you to live your life and a guide to impart advice and instruction to those that follow in your footsteps.”

Flynn Francisco, W.M. Lodge 771 I.C., Mumbai

As you can see, WB Flynn takes ritual another step further in that it is not just something we want to do well in the Lodge Room, but more importantly, something that we want to do well in our everyday life in our homes and in all our business dealings; with people we meet on the street and especially among the Brethren. It’s really not a once or twice a night a week, thing, but a 24/7 spirituality thing.

So, if you’ll excuse me now Companions, I have some ritual I need to go and work on.....I hope you will too!



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Albert F. Johnson

R. E. Grand Commander

8787 Crawford Rd. 3501
Columbus, MI. 48063
(586) 727- 3501

ajohnson48063@yahoo.com



Grand Recorder

Loren A. Winn, PGC

P.O. Box 822, Pinckney, MI 48169-0822

734) 878-1714

tkmaster4@netscape.net

GRAND COMMANDERS CORNER --- April Message

The single reason to become a Freemason: Desire for personal improvement

There is only one valid reason to want to be admitted a Freemason: the desire to improve yourself personally, ethically, and spiritually. He who, being a faithful man, defending freedom and morality, has this design and is willing to use the masonic method in search of the transcendent, he is welcome! He can be certain that nothing will be taught to him, but he can learn everything. He can trust that nothing is imposed to him, but he will willingly accept the conduct and rules he will find. He can and should be prepared for a long, difficult and laborious journey, but he will never be alone, he will always be accompanied by his brothers. He will find that his works begin when he gets his first degree and will be finished only with his passage into the Lodge Above. He, if he works consistently and well, will become better, will act better in all aspects of his life and it will be by virtue of his improvement that he will be respected and can aspire to influence the others, perhaps in politics, perhaps in business, certainly in social relations, especially in the hearts of those who know him. He will be supportive and merciful, because that is the condition of a freemason, a fair and full and interested man, with the naturalness of breathing and the discretion of sleep. He, if he has done consistently well in his work, can aspire to Know, to Know what nobody can pass him, to Know what only he can sense, the meaning of life, creation, and a glimpse of Divinity. And, if he is successful, he will understand that words can not convey this knowledge to anyone else, he can just help his brothers to make their journeys in order to aspire to sense, to perceive, to look. And then to realize that this is the famous masonic secret! He, if he has done consistently well his work, even if he never will be anything more than a simple sidliner in a simple Lodge, he will be a true Grand Master, of himself, his consciousness, his initiatory journey. He will not have the honor to be admitted freemason; freemasons will be honored that he has agreed to join them.

Best Templar Wishes
Al Johnson

