

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan

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Michigan Grand Chapter Web Site
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OCTOBER
2015

Official Publication of the
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan



Beth and I have 4 cats “kids” that spend their time in the house. They are all “cats”, however, they look nothing alike, other than having 4 legs, a long body (covered with fur) and a tail.

One of the cats is almost all gray (a little white thrown in for good measure). One is a brownish gray. One is almost black with some brown and gold and her twin? sister is white with a mixture of gold and brown.

One purrs when she sits in Beth’s lap (won’t sit in mine). Another purrs when you speak to or about her. One purrs, once in awhile (but very lightly) while another when she purrs there is no doubt, another, I’m not sure that he has ever purred.

Two of them, the twins, know when they think is time for them to be fed in the morning. One comes by and nudges my hand to get me up. Another comes by and tries to take my covers off of me. If that does not work she lays on my chest. The other two will either sit on the night stand and stare at me or go our and patiently wait on me out in the hall. Notice I never mentioned them attempting to get Beth up.

The male cat usually stays off to the side when I feed them and lets the others set their priorities as to whether or not they are going to eat. One just sets there, however and looks at their food, he is more that happy to step in and eat it for them. What a gentleman, he is.

So you say. Who cares about his cats? That is besides Beth and me. I mention them because they remind me so much about Masonry and the Masonic Fraternity. Every Mason, every Lodge, Chapter, etc. throughout the world is different, however, no matter how large or small that difference is – they are all the same.

If you travel outside of our Jurisdiction and see the work being conferred, even if your Foreign Jurisdiction does not speak “English” so are still able to basically understand what they are doing.

The end result is the same. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and living on the 4 cardinal virtues of Temperance, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice.

My cats all have different personalities and manners of doing things, but they are still my “kids” Living together.

Freemasonry encourages the study of the classical liberal arts and sciences, which lead to a liberal and enlightened mind. That mind is free from all prejudices, national, cultural, ethnic racial and religious. We are taught that Masonry is universal, extending its benevolence throughout the entire terrestrial globe. By freeing our hearts and consciences from all prejudices we are taught that we will earn, not be given, wages of spiritual nourishment, refreshment, and joy. The Degree of Master Mason is called “sublime,” that is “elevated in thought,” “inspiring awe,” because it teaches us of our further duties to each other and, indeed, to all humankind. In that degree we undertake certain serious and solemn obligation to each other as brothers. The true, mature Mason, however, understands that they apply to all persons in every situation. We bind ourselves to each other only as a starting point, a point from which the real Mason travels onward.

The Master’s degree comes with a warning that is conveyed in the most dramatic fashion. We must guard against the worst ruffians of our natures and oppose them, even unto death.

The Master’s degree also informs us that the secret word of a Master Mason has been lost to us through unseemly desires and passions – the ruffians that confront us daily and to which we so often succumb. It is our duty to seek out that secret word. It is our individual duty to subdue our passions and control our desires so that we may hope to obtain and understand the true meaning of Freemasonry – within our hearts and soul.

The great teaching of the Third Degree is more important than any haled word or sign. It is the hardest one for most of us to grasp. But grasp it we must if we are ever to become true Master Masons.

In the end it is up to each of us to become a Master Mason in spirit as well as in body. Only then will one be worthy to receive the true secret word of a Master Mason, which will be conveyed to you in the degree of the Holy Royal Arch.



Donald L. Galway

Grand High Priest

LADY SHERRY

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"COMMUNICATION IS KEY"

Comments and Observations From The Grand East

This isn't the White House but it is a report on my first thirty days. To say the least, it was just a little more than I had expected. The change in the household has been a little traumatic to say the least. My wife who has a tendency to ignore phone calls from numbers she does not recognize, she has come to the vast realization we no longer have that luxury. The real truth is that the first thirty days have been enjoyable. I have traveled some with travel season just starting. I will be traveling to Kentucky for their grand session, having been to their session for the last eight years, I am looking forward to this trip. I have met many people there and made many friends. The fun part is I happen to be a dual member of a blue lodge in Kentucky. Salyersville Lodge No. 769, the lodge holds an outdoor degree the last full weekend in July, which is an experience you have to see, as words would not do justice to the event. Traveling to the event may be out of the question for you, they also come to Michigan in the fall each year, to do the degree in their sister lodge. The end of the month will put my lady and I in St. Ignace for the Royal and Select Masons of Michigan three-degree day, which I am looking forward too. The event is topped off at days end by the opening of Youper Council No. 125. This function is in a word fun, something that we can never get enough of.

October first Grand Chapter of Michigan will have its office in Alma, Michigan. We will be moving the office in the first, and be up and running by close of business that day. I for one have always felt that we (Grand Chapter) should be as close to Grand Lodge as we can get. Our membership has to come from the blue lodge membership. We had the opportunity the first week after my installation to meet with Cindy Bosley CEO of Pathways and her staff, to discuss the possibility of a move. We looked at what was being made available to us, worked out the logistics, and made the decision on the move. Our office will be right next to the Grand Lodge offices, which will make communication with Grand Lodge much easier for us.

Grand Lodge has implemented a "Mentoring Program" which the Grand Chapter officers have indorsed. We believe that not only will we be serving our Blue lodge in mentoring a new member, we could benefit from the mentoring by the possibility of the new member, after a time they may wish to join a chapter by virtue of having gain light from a chapter member. Our only request would be that, we do not broach the subject of joining a chapter for at least a year after the member was raised. Let him with your help learn and enjoy what the lodge has to offer before you try and bring more light into his world. The first step in his masonic world starts in the lodge and sets the tone for the rest of his masonic life, it will go a long way to make it the best experience he could have. He will never forget the experience, nor will he ever forget you for bringing it to him.

In Service to the Craft



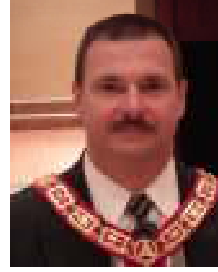
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King's Korner



RICHARD HITCH

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Scribe's Scratches

Companions

The Grand York Rite Sessions are over and a new Capitular year has begun. If you were not able to attend this years Sessions, you missed a good time and a great event. I urge those of you who did not attend this years Grand Sessions to consider the event for next year. This is an opportunity to meet new Companions and Sir Knights, and some you may not have seen for a while from Michigan as well as other states. Our Grand York Rite Sessions Committee works very hard each year to ensure you and your lady will have a memorable experience.

Chapter attendance: How many Companions, on average, attend your Stated Convocations each month? Do all of your officers attend? Is it a struggle to have a quorum present? If the last two questions draw a negative response, then it's time for your Chapter to seriously address these problems. Solving these problems are sometimes not easy, but here are a couple of suggestions. Calling or visiting those Companions who do not attend and encourage them to support their Chapter by attending. Advertise and have a pot-luck prior to your convocation and invite the ladies. There are several Chapters who have pot-lucks with their ladies and experience great success in doing so. It's easy and the ladies enjoy it because it's less work and they have the opportunity to socialize with the other ladies. Plus it will encourage others to attend. These are just a couple of examples to help boost your Chapter attendance. Of course Grand Chapter is always available to help when the need arises.

This year I have been assigned the Chapters in the UP and I look forward to visiting each one renewing old acquaintances, and making many new friends. Hopefully, I will be able to visit a couple of the Chapters before the snow flies.

Wishing you and your Chapter all the very best, I remain Fraternally,
Howard W. Duke

THE FUTURE OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

Have you looked around your Chapter recently? Have you noticed the attendance is a bit smaller or unchanged? How long has it been this way, do you even remember?

This is a very common occurrence around the state. So, how can we change this? One way would be to look at our retention methods. As masonry across the state is seeing a slight increase in our Symbolic Lodges and an even slighter increase in the Royal Arch through the Commandery, we seem to have trouble gaining or retaining our new members. To change this we need to give our new members and our past members a reason to be there. If our program has not changed in many years, and we are still practicing the way we have always done, we might want to think about changing those practices. With today's technology it is easier and cheaper to communicate with the members, letting them know what and when something is occurring. Another thing we could do is to simply ask our new members what they expect, and what can we do to make things better.

Another way that we may be able to increase the numbers in our Chapters is to be strong supporters in our Symbolic Lodges. Remember, our membership comes from the Symbolic Lodges, not the street. Royal Arch Masons are not just ordinary Masons. Royal Arch Masons are exceptional Masons because they have invested additional time and money in search of more Light. Having found more Light, more Truth, and the Master's Word, they have a profound duty to the Craft. With the additional insight and knowledge of Masonic ideals and aims, Royal Arch Masons have the greatest responsibility and deepest obligation to see that Masonry is a vital and everlasting force for good in the community and in the nation.

This means that Royal Arch Masons should be wholehearted and enthusiastic supporters of the Symbolic Lodges in all their endeavors. Royal Arch Masons, and particularly Chapter Officers, should be in regular attendance at their Symbolic Lodges. They should be present on Degree nights, offering their help in any way needed. They should be active on Lodge committees, helping to make Lodge programs successful. They also should assist in the coaching and mentoring of candidates as well as aiding the Master in all his endeavors. It also would not hurt if more people saw a bunch of Red Coats on their sidelines. If we invest in the growth of the Symbolic Lodges, it is an investment in the Royal Arch, and likewise for the Councils, and Commanderies.

A source that can also help build the numbers in our Lodges and Chapters, and is often over looked is our Youth Groups. Our Masonic Youth Groups have for over 75 years been a vehicle for membership within Masonry. The teachings they receive as Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls and DeMolays, are based upon valuable moral lessons which are absent from so many of the youth today. If we do not continue to support them, and they fail, we can only blame ourselves for the continued moral decline in this country.

Continued page 4, column 2



Louis C. McCray, PGHP

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Secretary's Scribbles

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Greetings Companions, we have a wonderful opportunity for Royal Arch Masons and the entire York Rite to gain some excellent publicity this month. The Grand Master, MWB Richard Wisley, is requiring all lodges in Michigan hold an open house this month on either Oct. 18 or 24, and with the lodge's permission, representatives from both the York and Scottish Rites can participate. The open house will be open to the general public to let them see some of our beautiful buildings and learn more about what Masonry is and isn't as well as what we do and don't do.

Wouldn't it be great if your chapter could have a couple of companions present to explain what it means to work in the quarries, to be able to create a mark to identify your work, to participate in the rebuilding of the temple, and to learn the long lost Master's Word?

Another chance for some favorable publicity is coming up in a few months, with the season for the installation of lodge officers. For many years chapters have been distributing Master's Pins to the newly installed Worshipful masters in nearby lodges. Pins for your chapter were inside the packet that was given to your representative at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter in August. If your chapter has not received the pins, contact me ASAP so we can be sure that you have them before your area lodges start their installations. Chapter High Priests and Secretaries, please try to be sure the pins are presented to the new Masters either at their installation or some other official lodge function as close to the installation as possible.

We are working on the new directories and hope to have them out in an electronic version soon. In the meantime, this for you Secretaries again, if you have to cancel a stated convocation because of an emergency, weather related, fire, flood, famine, plague, etc., please call your Grand Chapter Officer, DDI, and Grand High Priest and let them know. One or more of them may be planning to visit your chapter for that meeting and it might save them a trip or allow them to go somewhere else if they have adequate notice. If you don't know who

they are, call me and I can advise you or even try to contact them myself.

Enjoy the Autumn while you can, I have just returned from the Grand Commandery's Annual Bark River Tour and even though it was a pretty pleasant week-end overall, the leaves have started to change and I have felt the cold breath of the Northwind on the back of my neck. November 15th and the annual slaughter of the tall rats is only weeks away and so is the possibility of the first snowfall of the season.

Fraternally,

Lou McCray, PGHP

Grand Secretary

Hitch - *Continued Page 3, Col. 2*

As we support and mentor these young people, they will feel the necessity to continue their lessons, moral ideas, and good character building either by joining a local Lodge, or perhaps they will date or marry a good man who would and could use a bit of guidance.

Remember, the rise or fall of any organization is directly related to the time and energy the members expend on its behalf.

I guess what I am trying to say is; if we do not look to our future and support the organizations that we draw our membership, we are doomed to relive our past and decrease in numbers.

* * * * *

M.E.C. Paul C. Johnston PGHP was to have his defibulator replaced on September 28. This is listed as an outpatient procedure, but it is serious work. Thought you and would want to know. Keep both he and Mary in your prayers. thanx Dave Dossette

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Credentials Committee, since 2001, lost a very dear friend and working partner EC Shirley Curtis of Port Huron Chapter #7. Excellent Companion Shirley was a good friend to the Grand Chapter and to the many Chapters and Companions in the Port Huron Area. Shirley and Lady Ella were regulars at the Annual Picnic for several years. We're going to miss your warm smile and gracious personality. Stay safe in his hands and continue to give him excellent guidance

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Donald L. Galway

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Grand Council R&M



Albert F. Johnson

Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery KT

Sunday, October 11, 2015
Social 3:30 PM Dinner 4:00PM

to be held at the: **Crowne Plaza Hotel**

925 Creyts Road, Lansing, Michigan

Social Hour starting at 3:00PM with cash bar

Dinner at 4:00PM

Cost \$45.00 per person

Dress: *Grand Officers Tuxedo w/jewel*

Men: *Jacket and Tie*

Ladies: *Sunday best*

Name _____ Title _____

*Request Reservations for _____ persons @ \$45.00 Per Person
Reservations with remittance no later than October 7th 2015*

Please make checks payable to : Livingston Chapter #30

R.S.V.P. and REMITTANCE, A MUST, TO :

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WHITMORE LAKE, MI. 48189

Choice of Entrée:

Roast Pork Loin _____ Broiled Whitefish _____

Vegetarian Plate: Stuffed Portobello Mushroom _____

Amount Remitted: _____

Check # _____

of
Raffle & Oktoberfest Banquet



Olive Branch Lodge #542
1170 Mason Street
Dearborn, MI 48124

October 23rd 6 – 8 P

Tickets: \$50 each

Grand Prize: \$2,500

Second Prize: \$500

Your ticket serves as admission to the banquet.

You do not need to be present to win.

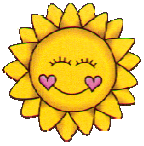
**To purchase tickets, contact Paul Johnson (313) 278-7761
or the Olive Branch Lodge Office (313) 565-2538**

R30330

Michigan License

**If 200 tickets are not sold, the raffle will revert to a 50/50
drawing, with a minimum \$250 grand prize.**

Proceeds to benefit Olive Branch Lodge #542. Not deductible as a charitable donation.



RECIPE FOR A HAPPY CLUB



- 1 Cup of reliable (supporting and attending meeting)
- 2 Cups of trust (keeping your word and obligations)
- 1 pint of respect (always showing respect for all)
- 1 quart of guarantee (that GOD loves and protects us)
- 1 sigh of relief (that we are doing all we can for GOD and country)

We mix it all together and make dozens & dozens of happy Americans.



Oct. 31, 2015 is Halloween lets all have a safe and sane time. Watch out and help protect the children that are out trick or treating.

~~~~~  
**Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so ...**  
**Love the people who treat you right.**

**Pray for the ones who don't. Life is ten percent what you *make it* and ninety percent how you *take it!***

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Always continue the climb. It is possible for you to do whatever you choose, if you first get to know who you are and are willing to work with a power that is greater than ourselves to do it. ~ Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Learn from the past, set vivid, detailed goals for the future, and live in the only moment of time over which you have any control: now. ~Denis Waitley



## The Knots Prayer

Dear God:  
Please untie the knots  
that are in my mind,  
my heart and my life.  
Remove the have nots,  
the can nots and the do nots  
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,  
may nots,  
might nots that may find  
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,  
would nots and  
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all,  
Dear God,  
I ask that you remove from my mind,  
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'  
that I have allowed to hold me back,  
especially the thought  
that I am not good enough.  
Amen

Author Known To God

The first step in the acquisition of wisdom is silence, the second listening, the third memory, the fourth practice and the fifth teaching others.

**Solomon Ibn Gabriol**

Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds. Orison Swett Marden

## TOMORROW'S LEADERS

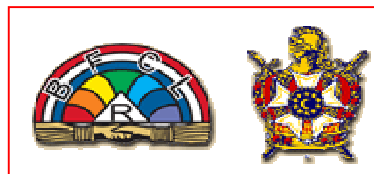
Need you today

DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls instill leadership skills and confidence in their young members. They also represent the future of this Masonic family.

But to survive and succeed, they need **YOU**

## GET INVOLVED

Become an adult leader; simply reach out to a near by youth order and offer your support.







**EDWARD P. JAMES**  
**LADY VERA**  
 M. J. Grand Master  
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**ANTHONY M. CHAMBERLIN**  
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***ENJOY THE RIDE***

Well, I hope everyone had a great summer; swimming at the beach, picnics under a shady tree, amusement park rides, family reunions and the like. Now the feel of autumn is in the air; cooler temperatures, frost on the pumpkin, colorful falling leaves, hayrides, apple cider with donuts, happy children going trick-or-treating and fall festivals being held in many communities as well as some councils who were on summer hiatus returning to their work.

It is a time when our constituent councils need to start planning their new slate of officers for the coming year. This is where I'd like to spend a little time with you today. There was a time in the past when we would have had more than one member vying for the same office, already having studied and knowing the job and ritual that went along with it. Elections were lively and stimulating. We now, however, operate in a much different paradigm today. The number of Companions attending their Regular Assemblies is much lower in some councils than ever before. More than just occasionally these days, we've fallen into the bad habit of just "throwing" any companion into a chair, just to fill it. Companions, I can't begin to tell you what a dis-service this can be to your council, even more so to that particular companion. As my predecessor was so fond of saying, we need to put "the right people in the right seats on the right bus!" We need to make sure that our companions are motivated and enthusiastic; by putting a companion in a chair that they're not ready for yet, could have disastrous effects. In the long run, it can be morale crusher for all who are involved.

In days gone by, when our council membership roles were plentiful with many active Cryptic Masons who knew their Royal, Select and Super Excellent Master Degree work well, it was easy to fall into the mindset trap of thinking "Why do I need to teach the younger and less experienced members coming up behind me my job?...that's my job...I've had it forever!" I have to admit, to a time, when I might have felt the same way. But I believe over the years, the proof has been in the pudding. Companions age, sometimes become infirmed and eventually drop the working tools of life. Then where are we? Not only do we mourn the loss of a life-long friend and Companion, but we have no one ready to step into his shoes and carry on the good work. We seem to have lost sight of that fact, and the effects have proven devastating to our degree work. I call upon the Dias Officers as leaders of their councils to ensure the perpetuity of the work....make sure that everyone has an under-study for the degree work; work with them and mentor them well. The right companions in the right seats on the right bus....I ask that everyone think very carefully about their slates of officers this year. It can make all the difference between an enthusiastic, energetic Council and one that's simply struggling and going through the motions.

Please think about it, my Companions.

Have fun this month, and as always, enjoy the ride!

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit the Grand Council Web Site. It should be updated soon.



## GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

**Albert F. Johnson**

**R. E. Grand Commander**

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### OCTOBER MESSAGE

In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. October is nature's funeral month. Nature glories in death more than in life. The month of departure is more beautiful than the month of coming - October than May. Every green thing loves to die in bright colors. As harvest services are not part of the traditional church year they may take place any time in the autumn. Harvest Festivals seem to be a natural follow-on to the end of the main growing season and the conclusion of another harvest. The time is a natural opportunity for celebration after the completion of much hard work.

Perhaps the most famous icon of the holiday is the jack-o-lantern. Various authorities attribute it to either Scottish or Irish origin. However, it seems clear that it was used as a lantern by people who traveled the road this night, the scary face to frighten away spirits or faeries who might otherwise lead one astray. Set on porches and in windows, they cast the same spell of protection over the household. (The American pumpkin seems to have forever superseded the European gourd as the jack-o-lantern of choice.) Bobbing for apples may well represent the remnants of a Pagan 'baptism' rite called a 'seining', according to some writers. The water-filled tub is a latter-day Cauldron of Regeneration, into which the novice's head is immersed. The fact that the participant in this folk game was usually blindfolded with hands tied behind the back also puts one in mind of a traditional Craft initiation ceremony.

Best Templar Wishes,

SK Albert F. Johnson

