

**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons  
of Michigan**

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# Michigan Triple Tau

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**November 2017**

**Greetings Companions:**

Did everyone near I-127 get the 3 inches of rain as Alma, Michigan? We had enough leaks at the Masonic Pathways that they ran out of buckets! Those crazy sky lights did their usual leaks. For some reason the rain came so fast and furious our basement had inches of water. Our Environmental Service people were busy until the next morning. I hope we will get closer to winter weather.

My bow hunting buddies have done very well this year. The guys have shot 3 bucks. A sneaky 10 point who was last to be shot. The other 2 bucks were an 8 point and a 6 point. They are good eating too (Corn and Soy Fed)!

I had a few of you push my buttons because I had to bug you for your articles. Most of you are doing a great job. I enjoyed the historical piece that M.I.G.M. Gary Paquet put in this month. Last month I missed a word in R.E.C. Carl's article but I gave it a double look this month. W.B. Wayne Turton and I are watching you R.E.C. Carl.

I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! We will get a traditional turkey dinner here with some of our family and friends. They always can feed us and I just lost my 5 pounds! Everything is so good; it is hard to push away from the table.

Fraternally,  
Jane Todd, Editor of the Triple Tau

P.S.: Can you imagine taking all these Jobies to Disneyland??? The chaperones need a gold star too!





## **RICHARD HITCH** **Grand High Priest**

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Lady Connie



Greetings Companions:

The year continues to be busy. I have been fortunate to attend and represent the Grand Chapter at many events of the youth groups, the state events of the O.E.S., and a few of our out of state Sister Jurisdictions. I have also been working on correcting a few of the errors that have been found in our online Directory. Also, the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Foundation and I have agreed to donate \$2,000 each for disaster relief for Texas, Puerto Rico and Florida.

As there are many Schools of Instruction now being conducted or planned, why not share those dates with the rest of the state? As this is a new subject being addressed this year, I am sure others would possibly be interested in visiting you and seeing it firsthand.

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Traverse City Chapter #102 will be holding an all Capitular Degree day and an all Order Day. However, they need Companions or Chapters to commit to confer both the Most Excellent Master and Past Master Degrees. If you can and are willing to help, please contact Sir Knight Loren Winn, [grktmi@yahoo.com](mailto:grktmi@yahoo.com), as soon as you can.

If you know of an error in the online directory concerning your Chapter, for example, you have changed your meeting nights or times, the period your Chapter is dark, or the Officer's names and positions, please notify the Grand Secretary immediately. Also, if you know you have not yet submitted your required Annual Report for last year, submit it immediately, so that the information supplied to all is correct.

Please also feel free to reach out to me at any time with your ideas, complaints or suggestions; [richhitch62@gmail.com](mailto:richhitch62@gmail.com) or leave a message at 734-612-4809. We cannot correct issues that someone else knew about before. Only those that we know about now.

Happy Holidays and Humbly and Fraternally,

Rich Hitch,  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Michigan





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## Secretary's Scribbles

Well, we have managed to squander another month in what seems to record fashion, although it is more than likely just my perception. October is over, and November is on its way in. We had some good events this October, first was the Ohio grand session which is always a great time, if you are from Michigan the college rivalry is always alive and well and great fun. We have always been treated right when there and they always come and support us at our sessions. Next came the DeMolay state Master Counselor's reception which is always a good time along with good fun. Justin was a good sport and we wish him well in his year. The next weekend took us to Tecumseh for KYCH for the semiannual business meeting and luncheon. The next event for the month was the reception for the Grand York Rite leaders. Hosted by Danny Myers, who took the usual liberties with the guests of honor. We wish our leaders Rich Hitch, Gary Paquet, and Mike Whiting a good and productive year. I cannot report on the Education Seminar as it has not happened yet material for next month.

November will be upon by the time you receive this newsletter, and I hope the weather holds out. Every Michigander knows there are two major holidays in Michigan November 15<sup>th</sup> and Thanksgiving, three if you wish to count black Friday. November 15<sup>th</sup> opening day of Michigan's rifle deer season (for Adults) there is a youth season that is earlier. You don't have to be a hunter to know about the season, some schools in northern Michigan close for the day as most of the male and some of the female students become ill on that day and miss school. I have many friends that don't hunt anymore but would not miss the trip to camp if only to do the cooking, oh and playing cards and maybe taking of a little libation.

Thanksgiving, on the other hand, is a holiday that should be devoted to family and close friends. Good food is always a plus and no one would ever complain about anything grandmother ever made, but Aunt Gwyn's creamed asparagus casserole can sometimes be hit or miss. Then again, she is not as young as she used to be, nor are any of us. Having said that. I do wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the company you are with.

Lodge installation season is coming, and I hope that all the chapters have their Master's Pins and are ready to present them. This is the one chance you get to show off in front of the Blue Lodge, so I hope you take advantage of the occasion. Your chapter should have the master's pins if you don't have them contact as soon as possible and I will send them to you. You may miss the opportunity to present them at installation, but make every effort to present them.

Fraternally,

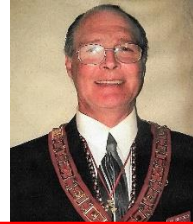
M.E.C. Donald Galway, Grand Secretary, M.E.G.H.P., K.Y.G.C.H., and O.P.C.



### R.E.C. Mike Roberts

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### R.E.C. Carl Peterson

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## Meritorious Service Awards & Bronze Medal Award

### Grand Chapter Meritorious Award (Silver Medal):

There is one Grand Chapter Meritorious Service Award for each of the 3 regions in the state. The nominations are made by the Subordinate Chapters from their constituent members. The write up is done by the Grand Council of the Chapter, or their designated committee appointed for this express purpose. The nominee should not know that he is being recommended by his Chapter for this Award. It could be demoralizing if he is not selected from all the applicants for this year. The forms will be mailed to your Chapter Secretary and are also available online at [www.grandchaptermi.org](http://www.grandchaptermi.org). Please make sure the forms are turned in before the cutoff date indicated in the letter mailed to your Chapter.

### Chapter Responsibility:

- Select one deserving nomination.
- Fill out the Application.
- Make a special note to document their contributions to the Royal Arch Craft, their God, and Community leaving nothing out.

### General Grand Chapter Meritorious Service Award (Bronze Medal):

The requirements and procedures for the General Grand Chapter Bronze Medal Award are the same as for the Grand Chapter Meritorious Medal Award.

Every Chapter has at least one companion who deserves this honor. Please take the time and fill out the paperwork. If you have any questions, please contact Grand Chapter.

Fraternally,  
R.E.C. Mike Roberts, Grand King

Companions all:

Here we are and another month of travels have gone by. Great trip to the Grand Session of Ohio and meeting with new friends across the state lines. Myself, I'm looking forward to the same trip next year along with other Grand Officers. You may want to plan now for a great weekend there.

Those Chapters I could visit so far seem to be well into getting ready for the winter to come, and as a reminder, though we may be into one body of Masonry a little more than some of the others we must remember our Lodges and the work this time of year that needs to be done on the facility's both indoor and out.

The Lodges provide the roof over many of our heads throughout the State. So, let's take time to pull your Chapters together. Assist in any work or repairs to be done for we know where our cornerstone is laid.

Here are a couple of pictures from the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Lodge in Lewiston Michigan, on a roof repair mission last week. The brothers along with family members found some great fellowship in that after the work they enjoyed a BBQ for all.

Soon the snowbirds will be gone south and help will be thin.

I'm looking forward to a couple trips further north to assist in the tucking in of the Chapters for the winter as some of the Chapters will go dark.

To all, be safe in what you do and hope to visit soon!!

Fraternally,  
R.E.C. Carl J. Peterson, Grand Scribe, K.Y.C.H.





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## **THE TROWEL – A LOST SYMBOL?**

**Written by W. B. Steve Lourey**

The trowel is a beautiful Masonic symbol which seems to be somewhat lost in English Freemasonry. We read in the Book of Amos, “Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, a plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any-more.”

That wall would have been cemented to make it complete and that would have been applied by a trowel. The Vulgate Latin version renders it, "a plasterer's" or "mason's trowel"; with which they lay their plaster and mortar on in building.

According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, its symbolism is that of spreading the cement which binds the brethren together, thus the Lodge is strongly cemented with love and friendship, and every brother is duly taught secrecy and prudence, morality and good fellowship.

In North American jurisdictions the proper place assigned to the working tool of the trowel is the Master Mason's Degree, as in operative masonry, while the Entered Apprentice prepares the materials, and the Fellow-Craft places them in their proper situation, the Master Mason spreads the cement with a trowel, which binds them together.

According to Mackey the work of unskilled apprentices and craftsmen was not completed until the stones adjusted have been accurately examined by the master workman, and permanently secured in their places by cement. This is accomplished by the trowel, and hence this implement is entrusted to the Master Mason. Thus, the tools attached to each degree admonish the Mason, as an Apprentice, to prepare his mind for the reception of the great truths which are hereafter to be unfolded to him; as a Fellow Craft, to mark their importance and adapt them to their proper uses; and as a Master, to adorn their beauty by the practice of brotherly love and kindness, the cement that binds all Masons in one common fraternity.

The Master Mason is given the trowel because it is symbolic of his function in the great work of Temple building; when that tool has done its work there is nothing more to do, because the structure stands complete, a united mass, incapable of falling apart; the stones which were many have now, because of the binding power of the cement, become as one. If the stone represents an individual man, and if the Temple represents the Fraternity it is evident that the trowel is the symbol of that which has power to bind men together. Burrage states that the equilateral triangle was originally the trowel. It represented the greatest and most abstruse mysteries, signifying equally the Deity, creation and fire.

**(Continued the next page)**

The trowel teaches that nothing can be united without proper cement, and that the perfection of the building must depend on the suitable disposition of the cement. So Charity, the bond of perfection and social union, must link separate minds and separate interests; that, like the radii of a circle, which extend from the Centre to every part of the circumference, the principle of universal benevolence may be diffused to every member of the community.

From some versions of the old catechism we learn that the junior Entered Apprentice was armed with a “sharp instrument” which was a pointed trowel. In exchanging the scepter for the trowel, it was the role of Junior Entered Apprentice being armed with the trowel as the means of keeping out all Cowan’s and intruders. So, the earlier use of the trowel may have been transferred to the sword.

The trowel was the emblem of circumspection and was called the “Jewel of the E.A.” In an early ritual, the E.A.F. was extolled to “Emblematically...stop up all interstices in the Lodge so that not a sound shall escape from within nor an eye pry from without, whereby our secrets and mysteries may become known to the popular world.

In 1 Peter 2:5, the author describes us as living stones, built upon a spiritual house. The cement of those living stones is charity and concord. The Christian writer Chrysostom writes: From solidity follows compactness, for you will then produce solidity, when having brought many things together, you shall cement them compactedly and inseparably; thus, a solidity is produced, as in the case of a wall. But this is the peculiar work of love; for those who were by themselves, when it has closely cemented and knit them together, it renders solid. And faith, again, does the same thing; when it allows not reasoning to intrude themselves. For as reasoning divide, and shake loose, so faith causes solidity and compactness. Interstice comes from the late Middle English from the Latin to ‘stand between’ and architecturally is an intervening space, especially a very small one, as in a, gap, opening, hole, cranny, crevice, chink, crack, or breach. For our ancient Brethren, cementing interstices was vital in preserving cisterns. Cisterns are subterranean reservoirs, sometimes covering as much as 4000 square meters of land, in which the rainwater is gathered during the spring or to preserve underground streams. Their extreme necessity is attested by the countless old unused cisterns with which the Middle East is honeycombed. Cisterns were hewed into the rock and then lined with impervious masonry and cement. If the cement of the cistern gave way, the reservoir became useless and was abandoned.

So too with Masonry; If we do not take care to spread the cement of brotherly love, relief and truth, there is a risk that we, like the ancient cisterns, may become abandoned and useless.

Until our paths cross again, safe travels to wherever this journey takes you.....

Gary L. Paquet, MIGM



## GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Dear Sir Knights and Ladies:

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Although we give thanks on that day for the many blessings and bounties our Lord has provided each of us, this is something that should be done every day.

With all the discord in our Country, the natural disasters that seem to come one after another, the unrest and wars waged around the world, it is easy to forget all the good we see in our daily lives.

As we give thanks each day, may we pray for peace in the World and the end of the terrorism, hurricanes, earthquakes, wild fires and volcanoes that seem to keep coming and cause so much misery to so many people around this World.

One of our missions as Knights Templar is to support the Holy Land Pilgrimage. This year we will be sending three ministers on this pilgrimage. Lansing Commandery #25 is sponsoring Pastor Hillary Thurston-Cox, Ann Arbor Commandery #13 is sending Pastor Mark Hovermale and Romeo Commandery #6 is sponsoring Pastor Margie R. Crawford. We look forward to hearing from each of them on their return. From past experiences, I am sure they will come back with a stronger faith and be an inspiration to their congregations.

Since the Inspection season started we have welcomed 16 new Knights into our Order. S.K. Steve Charles from Cheboygan Commandery #50. S.K. Lance Malberg, S.K. Bryan Nancarrow and S.K. William Robson from Lake Superior Commandery #30. S.K. Kyle M. Hard from Ypsilanti Commandery #54. S.K. Shawn Rogers, S.K. Charles Snyder, S.K. Mark Stoinski and S.K. Kevin Friddle from Sunrise Commandery #34, S.K. David Ray Smith from Romeo Commandery #6. S.K. Jason Dils, S.K. A.J. Pierce, S.K. Richard Hawaii and S.K. Leroy Hernandex from Caledonia Commandery #60. S.K. Daniel Monroe and S.K. John Robert Carnago from Peninsular Commandery #8.

One thing I have been disappointed in this year is the lack of Grand Commanders Service Awards. Every Commandery should be submitting a Sir Knight for this award annually. It is usually given out at each Commandery Inspection, but I have not seen any given at the Inspections I have attended. It is not too late to submit a deserving Sir Knight for this award. If your Inspection has already past, I will decide to see it presented. Just submit a name and why he is deserving of this award to P.G.C. Cortland Rule. We will see that it gets awarded, even if I must deliver it to your Commandery myself.

Finally, I am looking for Sir Knights who are interested in taking the Emerging Leadership Program put on by the Grand Encampment at the East Central Conference this March. If you are interested in taking this course, please contact me with your name and a way to contact you. It is a worthwhile program for anyone who wants to become a better leader in Masonry.

Lady Jeanne and I wish for you a wonderful, Blessed Thanksgiving Day, with all your family and friends.

In Unity,

S.K. Michael Whiting,  
 Right Eminent Grand Commander of Michigan



### DeMolay

Fall is here and Michigan DeMolay is in full swing with the Chapter Membership drives. The first one will be on October 28, 2017, when Clifford C. Reeves Chapter from Lincoln Park will host a day at the corn maze in Bellville. This event is \$11.00 for members and free to prospects. Supposedly this corn maze is one of the biggest in Michigan and looks to be a lot of fun. Roseville Chapter is scheduled for November and that date has not been determined but in December Port Huron Chapter will host a night at the movies, with the new Star Wars movie being the main attraction. The State Master Councilor's reception was held on October 7, 2017, in Wayne and was very well attended. Michigan DeMolay conducted both degrees and initiated 5 new members. The total of new members since Conclave in August is now at 10, with much more to come in the upcoming months. Michigan DeMolay is on the move and growing. The leadership team went to Grand Chapter for Eastern Star and were present for the installation of a new corps of officers. We will be heading to the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron's reception in Bay City in early November and Michigan State Chapter will hold its annual Legion of Honor Degree and welcome 8 new members to the Legion of Honor. Membership is starting to grow in Michigan DeMolay as there are plans for more degrees in Bellaire, Michigan, Livingston County and possibly Port Huron. Remember if you have a son, nephew, grandson or know of a young man between the ages of 12-21 ask any of the State Officers or any Advisor for a petition. We will get in contact with the young man and his family as soon as possible to answer their questions about DeMolay. Please try to attend any of the upcoming events and show these remarkable young men that the Masonic Family is willing to support them. If there is anything that Michigan DeMolay can do to help support any of the works of the Companions, please let a State Officer know or contact the Executive Officer.

Fraternally,  
Vince D'Aguanno, Exec. Officer of MI DeMolay



### INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF RAINBOW FOR GIRLS





### MICHIGAN JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL

We held a Promotional Workshop in Walled Lake where we learned how to build our membership and retain the members that we gain.

Some of us attended the State Master Councilor's Reception (Congratulations Justin!!!), while the rest of us traveled to Anaheim, California for a Supreme Leadership training, which included a team-building session at Disneyland. We had a great opportunity to make new friends from around the country, share a lot of great ideas, gain some insight into the future, and even managed to squeeze in some fun!

Immediately upon our return, we headed to Battle Creek for the OES Grand Chapter (Congratulations Mom Fowler and Dad Huis!!!).

From there, we went into a long string of Official Visits to Bethels around the State, including a promotional "Harvest Party" at St Johns Lodge!

We also traveled to the home Bethel of our Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Miss Liliy, in Menominee, for a Grand Bethel Exemplification. After the meeting, we all participated in a fundraising "Walk" for our official philanthropic project, the HIKE Foundation. We walked all the way from the Masonic Lodge in Menominee, Michigan to the Masonic Lodge in Marinette, Wisconsin, and back...making a five-mile loop across two bridges. We were able to take a little break at the Marinette Lodge, where the members of Masonic Lodge No. 182 met us with snacks and beverages.

Miss Liliy also had the Honor of attending the York Rite Reception in Lansing the next day, where she rocked her remarks! We love you Liliy!!!

Next up we will be having a Grand Bethel Exemplification in Grand Rapids on November 18, where we will kick off the day with an amazing opportunity to represent the Masonic family, in the Santa Parade downtown! Anyone who wishes to participate can meet at the Grand Rapids Masonic Temple at 7:00 a.m. Enthusiasm and costumes are strongly encouraged!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Brower  
Vice Grand Guardian  
Michigan Job's Daughters



Picture with Mickey!!!  
Picture at Grand Chapter O.E.S.!



Picture at this year's HIKE walk 2017.

