

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF DARLINGTON, MARYLAND

STEPHENSON LODGE

No. 135

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER FOR 144 YEARS



VOLUME 145 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2013



Stephenson Lodge's **Valentine Dinner**, Feb 16th
Make your reservations now!

Congratulation to our new 2013 Officers

Congratulations go out to our newly elected, appointed and installed officers of Stephenson Lodge for 2013. On January 2nd a majority of the officers were installed into their new positions. Due to the flu epidemic, not all of our officers were installed in January, but will be this month. Our Worshipful Master, Bill Bridges has returned for another term and the two Wardens have moved up as Past Master Carl Lee takes a rest from being Senior Warden and in the line.

The newly installed officers are looking forward to working for the Lodge and making it a great place. And this year we have some new faces, Mark Alexander is Senior Steward, and Mickey Hoffman is Chaplain.

Pictured above, from left to right, Thomas A. Boyle, PM, Treasurer; Mark Alexander, Senior Steward; Richard E. Dolly, Jr. Junior Warden; William A. Bridges, Sr., Worshipful Master; Keith J. Thompson, PM, Senior Deacon; J. Courtney Hart, Senior Warden; Andrew N. Kucharek, Junior Deacon; Jerry R. Arnold, PM, Secretary; Duane A. Duncan, PM Marshal; Richard Hoffman, Chaplain. Not pictured are Frank Fowler, HPM as Tyler, Vernon K. Stearn, PM as Musician, and Bill Bridges, Jr. as Junior Steward.

INSIDE: Current Events for Stephenson Lodge. The New Susquehanna Valley. Phoenix Royal Arch. & more



STEPHENSON LODGE

Line Officers for 2013

Worshipful Master	William A. Bridges, Sr.
Senior Warden	J. Courtney Hart
Junior Warden	Richard E. Dolly, Jr.
Secretary	Jerry R. Arnold, PM
Treasurer	Thomas J. Boyle, PM
Senior Deacon	Keith Thompson, Sr., PM
Junior Deacon	Andrew Kucharek
Senior Steward	Mark Alexander
Junior Steward	William Bridges, Jr.
Tyler	Frank W. Fowler, HPM
Chaplain	Mickey Hoffman
Musician	Vernon K. Stearn, PM
Marshal	Duane A. Duncan, PM
Ritualist	Duane A. Duncan, PM
Grand Inspector	Kevin Emery PM, GI

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

William A. Bridges, Sr.
3637 Anderson Lane
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
410-935-3278

SECRETARY

Jerry R. Arnold, PM
3110 Tucker Road
Street, MD 21154
443-528-7895



Know a Good Secret?

Of course you do, you're a Mason and we have secrets. Check out the story **SECRECY AND TRUST** at the back of this trestleboard. This article is from the *Short Talk Bulletin* which is provided to us by the Masonic Service Association of North America. To subscribe to The Short Talk Bulletin for \$8.00 annually, contact them at msana@ix.netcom.com or 301-588-4010. Visit their website at www.msana.com.

A MESSAGE FROM

Our Deputy Grand Lecturer

We had a nice attendance at County School in January. I was pleased to have 27 plus brothers present.

Sorry I left early. I was having some discomfort from a procedure I had Friday. Much thanks to Gus for backing me up after I left. I am better and look forward to attending the rest of the Installations in the county.

County school will be on February 9th from 8AM to 10AM at Mt. Ararat Lodge #44 in Bel Air. Officers are requested to attend. All Master Masons are welcome. Please spread the word. I look forward to another nice attendance.

Sincerely and Fraternally, Bill Richard, DGL

A MESSAGE FROM

Our Worshipful Master

Brethren one and all,

A new year is upon us all and the officers of your lodge have promised to perform their respective duties to the best of their ability. The installation ceremony this January was again a truly amazing evening spent with our Brothers. From start to finish the warmth of our hearts was shared with each other and was the most cherished part for me.

In commemoration of President's Day this month, I put forth the words expressed by President John F. Kennedy:

"A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on."

The traditions of Masonry grounded in the ideas of Truth, Relief and Brotherly Love live on at Stephenson Lodge. Those revered ideas will again be the focus of our year.

Close the door to the past, open the door to the future, take a deep breath, take a step forward and start a new chapter. Brethren, let's all, each and every one of us, take that step together.

Fraternally Yours,
Sincerely, William A. Bridges, Sr.,
Worshipful Master, 2013



You should have your 2013 card by now. Those behind with only 2012 cards need to submit their dues as soon as possible..

THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP

You should have your **2012 Dues Card**

Stephenson Lodges Annual Dues	\$48.⁰⁰
Affiliated Member Annual Dues	\$25.⁵⁰
Petition	\$205.⁰⁰



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

February Masonic Birthdays

- Emory D. Rasnake Feb 20, 1957..... 56 yrs.
- Robert Farrington..... Feb 6, 1974..... 39 yrs.
- Thomas J. Boyle, PM Feb 18, 1981..... 32 yrs.
- David H. Scarborough..... Feb 17, 1988..... 25 yrs.
- James B. Lunney Feb 20, 1991..... 22 yrs.
- Duane A. Duncan, PM Feb 7, 2001..... 12 yrs.
- James K. Johnson..... Feb 18, 2004..... 9 yrs.

2013 Appointed Committees

DARLINGTON APPLE FESTIVAL

Keith Thompson, Sr., PM; Rick Dolly, Mark Alexander

BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION

Duane Duncan, PM; Dean Alban, PM; Jim Chason

ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT

Duane Duncan, PM; Dean Alban, PM

MASONIC CHARITIES

Duane Duncan, PM; Steve Fayer

MILITARY LIAISON

Dave Krause, PM; Jim Gamble

INSTRUCTION & CATECHISM

Duane Duncan, PM; J. Courtney Hart, Rick Dolly

SICK & WELFARE

Dave Krause, PM; Kermit Olinger, HPM; Mickey Hoffman

STEPHENSON LODGE IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ITS
VALENTINE DINNER

Enjoy a **full course Italian dinner** of salad, lasagna and spaghetti, bread and dessert at Stephenson Lodge. All for a donation of \$10⁰⁰. Where else can you and your valentine get a complete dinner for only \$20⁰⁰?

Saturday February 16th at 5:30pm
Contact the W.M. at 410-935-3278
to make reservations by
February 10th

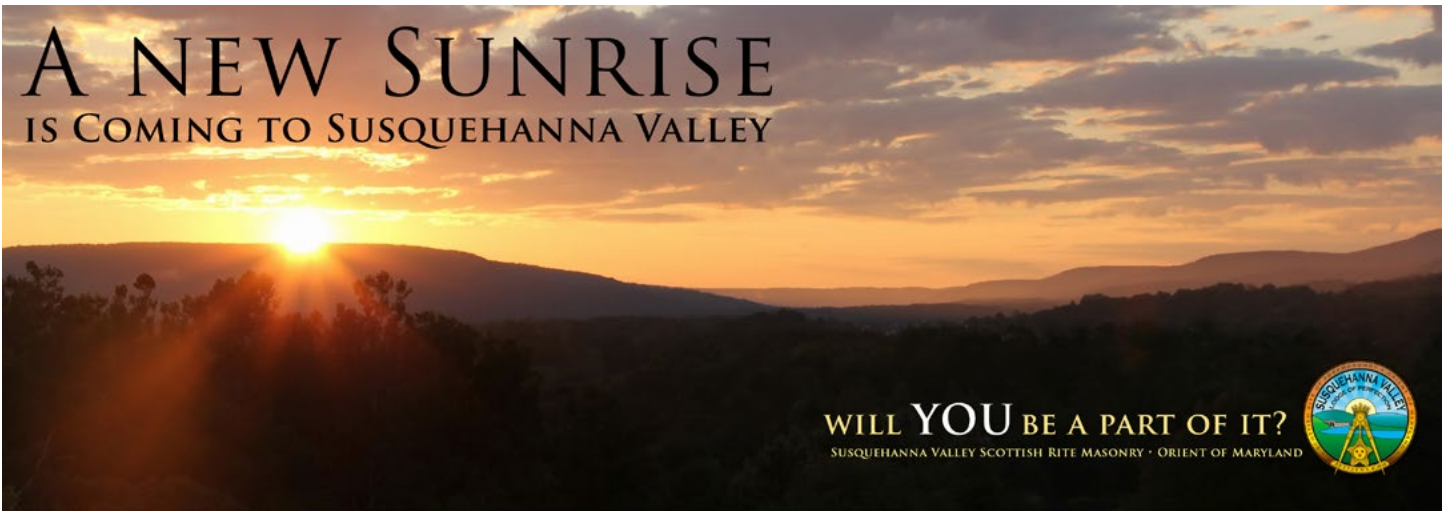


Seating is limited




**PHOENIX
ROYAL ARCH
CHAPTER NO. 7**

**ABERDEEN LODGE
REGULAR CONVOCATION**
Wednesday, February 27th, 7:30 pm.
Mark Master Degree – Henry C. McDonald
Past Master Degree – Michael G. Faby
Refreshments – Art Gordon



**A NEW SUNRISE
IS COMING TO SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY**

WILL YOU BE A PART OF IT?
SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY - ORIENT OF MARYLAND



The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Maryland is forming a new Valley in Harford and Cecil counties. As a new valley hasn't been initiated in Maryland this century, this is an exciting endeavor to say the least. The new Valley will be comprised of a Lodge of Perfection and grow the Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh and Consistory as we are able and our membership grows. This new organization will be called the Susquehanna Valley, Chesapeake Lodge of Perfection, in the Orient of Maryland.

Hopefully everything will go smoothly and quickly, and we are planning an open Installation of Officers at our first scheduled meeting, which will be February 21st. The new LoP will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Mt Ararat Lodge in Bel Air, MD beginning at 7:00pm. If you would like to help us make history, please contact Kevin Emery at tigeremery@yahoo.com or 410-937-0628.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2013

- Stephenson Lodge Events
- County Lodges Events
- Grand Lodges Events
- Susquehanna Valley Lodge of Perfection (Mt. Ararat Lodge)
- Phoenix Royal Arch (Aberdeen Lodge)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Regional Meetings 8:00 AM Grand Lodge
3	4 Aberdeen Lodge No. 187 (starts at 7:30PM) Aberdeen, MD	5 Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44 (starts at 7:00PM) Bel Air, MD	6 Stephenson Lodge No. 135 (starts at 7:30PM) Darlington, MD	7	8	9 School of Instruction Mt. Ararat Lodge 8:00 AM Bel Air, MD
10	11	12 Susquehanna Lodge No. 130 (starts at 7:30PM) Have de Grace, MD	13	14 Esdraelon Lodge No. 176 (starts at 7:30PM) Cardiff, MD	15	16 Stephenson Lodge Valentine Dinner (starts at 5:30PM) Darlington, MD
17	18 Aberdeen Lodge No. 187 (starts at 7:30PM) Aberdeen, MD	19 Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44 (starts at 7:00) Bel Air, MD	20 Stephenson Lodge No. 135 (starts at 7:30PM) Darlington, MD	21 Susquehanna Valley Lodge of Perfection Open Installation Bel Air, MD	22	23
24	25	26 Susquehanna Lodge No. 130 (starts at 7:30PM) Havre de Grace, MD	27 Phoenix Royal Arch Chapter 7 (starts at 7:30PM) Aberdeen, MD	28 Esdraelon Lodge No. 176 (starts at 7:30PM) Cardiff, MD	1	2

HARFORD COUNTY MASONIC LODGES ADDRESSES & MEETING NIGHTS



Mt. Ararat no.44
136 East Gordon St.
Bel Air, MD 21014
1st & 3rd Tuesday

Pete Hicks, II, WM
James W. Davidson, Sec



Susquehanna no.130
215 North Washington St.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
2nd & 4th Tuesday

Mark Fayer, WM
John Ford, Sec



Esdraelon no.176
304 Main St.
Cardiff, MD 21024
2nd & 4th Thursday

Josh Mattlin, WM
G. Wilson Tharpe, Sec



Aberdeen no.187
20 North Howard St.
Aberdeen, MD 21001
1st & 3rd Monday

Dustin C. Casteel, WM
Ralph L. Perry, Sec

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STEPHENSON LODGE

February Communications

FIRST COMMUNICATION

FEBRUARY 6TH (WEDNESDAY)

Short Business Meeting

SECOND COMMUNICATION

FEBRUARY 20TH (WEDNESDAY)

Short Business Meeting

Short meeting of Holding Company prior to Communication

SECRECY AND TRUST

By David Williamson

Right Worshipful Brother Williamson is Grand Chaplain Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of New York, having served as Grand Chaplain there from 1992 to 1998. He is currently a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and serves as pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Hermitage, PA. He also was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut for four years, during which time he wrote "The Grand Chaplain's Pulpit" for the Connecticut Freemason. As Grand Chaplain Emeritus, he continues to write "The Grand Chaplain's Corner" for New York's Empire State Mason. This article was taken from his column in the Fall, 2011 issue.

I've been thinking about secrets lately.

On the one hand, as part of our initiation, we all obligated ourselves to never reveal Masonry's secrets. In fact, until 2004, the first of the Scottish Rite's degrees (the 4th Degree) was the "Secret Master" (and it retains that name and theme in the Southern Jurisdiction). We post a Tiler outside the doors of our meetings to ensure that our deliberations and degree work remain confidential.

But Masons aren't the only ones who have secrets. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (aka HIPAA) made it very difficult for family, friends, and even clergymen to learn about when and why you're in the hospital or receiving medical care.

New members of Congress and state legislatures and town councils learn quickly that bills are really passed in "executive sessions" and cloakroom gatherings where compromises are reached, underlying agendas are addressed, and deals are made. Juries deliberate in secret. More and more churches have boards of elders (often hand-picked by the senior pastor) instead of congregational meetings.

On the other hand, it seems like our society values secrecy less and less.

I recently considered creating a Facebook page, and was horrified to discover how much personal information people routinely post on the internet for the whole world to see. Wikileaks has published government secrets with impunity. Jurors routinely give interviews to the press after a case is decided. Hackers steal tons of credit card and other personal data on a regular basis. "Sexting"—sending naked photos of oneself via e-mail or text message—isn't limited to naive teenagers.

Aging KISS guitarist Gene Simmons and his longtime girlfriend Shannon Tweed's rela-



tionship counseling sessions with a therapist are on TV, or you can watch shows like "Billy the Exterminator" and see who has cockroaches in their homes. And our beloved Masonic rituals have been videotaped, passed around on the internet, and even broadcast on cable television.

What do we do about all this? Historians tell us that in the early years of Freemasonry, someone published an expose which included the passwords of the First and Second Degrees (this was before there was a Third Degree), and the brethren reacted by switching the two passwords.

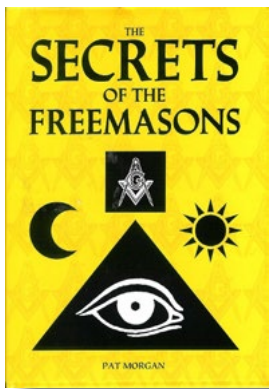
Later, some of our brethren allegedly took the life of an alleged cowan named William Morgan for publishing the secrets of Masonry, particularly those of the York Rite. Many Grand Lodges at one time forbade the printing of our ritual, but commercial printers stepped in and met the "demand" of the brothers—I own several of these 19th and early 20th century cipher rituals. Shades of Orwell's 1984 are popping up everywhere as more and more people suggest that privacy is rapidly becoming an old-fashioned notion.

There are up sides to this trend, to be sure.

I prefer to have fewer back-room deals and more transparency in how governments, corporations, charities, lodges, and grand lodges are run. A lack of secrecy exposes the real values of our elected and appointed leaders—which are often very noble, but more complicated than what they can usually fit on a campaign bumper sticker.

Closely tied to that idea is the notion that a lack of secrecy promotes participation—just think of how many of us ask questions of our doctors and participate in making our own healthcare decisions since *Reader's Digest* and the internet made medical information so easy to find and understand.

And a lack of secrecy promotes excellence. How many Worshipful Masters would list “business” as the agenda for the next lodge meeting if they knew that prospective petitioners would learn that’s all the lodge really did?



Consider how much more you’d probably give to the Masonic Brotherhood Fund or put in the church offering plate if you knew that everyone else would soon learn how much you give!

But if anything, the Masonic lessons

of secrecy are more important than they were in years gone by.

I’m not talking about passwords and grips and signs. They, like the Tiler on guard at the outer door, are symbols.

They remind us that every man needs trusted brothers in whom he can confide his doubts, his struggles, and his challenges.

Every one of us needs someone who can “*whisper good counsel*” in our ear. Life is more complicated than it’s ever been, and to cope with the confusion (intellectual, physical, moral and spiritual), we don’t need gossips; we

need true friends. As the world becomes more and more disconnected, we need each other.

The Bible understands this situation. In the book of Deuteronomy, the author says, “*The secret things belong to the LORD our God.*” And in Psalm 51, the writer says, “*Teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*” What are they talking about?

Jesus gives us a good clue in his Sermon on the Mount: “*Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you*” (Matthew 6:5-6 NRSV).

We’re becoming a more transparent society every day, thanks to forums like C-Span, Facebook, the blogosphere, and the TSA. Like the early days of the telephone and e-mail, this transparency is providing new opportunities and new relationships and new challenges for all of us.

But you and I aren’t perfect, and this new transparency tends to magnify our shortcomings.

So we need to draw near to God, to our families, and to our friends, and know that we have someone we can trust with our lives, our reputations, our struggles, and our dreams. Masonry calls us, now more than ever, to be that trusted brother to our fellow Masons, to our wives, to our children, and to our parents.

Putting our trust in God, we can be assured that our faith is well-founded.



Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. What do you see as the true “*secrets*” of Freemasonry?
2. What special secrets of Freemasonry are discussed during your Lodge meetings?
3. What is the value and importance of having and keeping Masonic secrets?