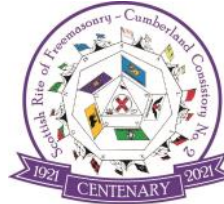


The Perfect Elu

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, S. J.

Valley of Cumberland Orient of Maryland



**Newsletter
Volume 42
Number 1**

Spring/Summer 2023

Burns Night Kicks Off Annual RiteCare Campaign



The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew's 17th Annual Robert Burns Night fundraiser kickstarted the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation's annual fundraising campaign on behalf of the area's four RiteCare clinics in 2023.

The sold out event featured a delicious Scottish meal prepared by Chef John McConnell of Mise en Place restaurant, toasts by the Knights and brethren, and a reading of Burns' poems by poet Gerry LaFemina. Brother Jesse Walker of the MacMillan United Pipe Band performed several special numbers in addition to the festive Piping in of the Haggis, which was prepared by Hon. Tommy Morris of the Frederick Knights of St. Andrew.

Ill. Marlin L. Mills, SGIG, joined the members of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew in presenting a check for \$14,000 to the Children's League to help provide free RiteCare services at four clinics in Cumberland, Oakland, Keyser, and Petersburg. SGIG Mills and MW Grand Master Frederick A. Spicer offered brief remarks acknowledging the success of RiteCare in the Western Maryland region and congratulating the Burns Night Committee on a successful event.

The Toast to the Immortal Memory was offered by Maryland State Senator Michael McKay, who is also a member of the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Cumberland. The program concluded with a stirring Farewell to the Brethren by Master of Ceremonies Hon. Sam Lane and a chorus of Auld Lang Syne led by Ill. Jerome Robinette, Assistant Personal Representative, followed by a performance of traditional Celtic music by Lehigh Valley trio Fig for a Kiss

In addition, the Valley's annual Buck-A-Cup fundraiser generated \$3,000 in donations from patrons collected by area coffee shops and restaurants. Still to come in the 2023 RiteCare Campaign is our annual A-Thing-A-Jig Variety Show on Friday, May 12, 2023 at Mezzos and the 2nd Annual Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Classic on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at the Oakland Country Club. More information about registration and tickets for all of our events is available online at www.cumberlandsctishrite.org or by contacting Secretary-Registrar Robin Summerfield at 301-729-2491.



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Want to receive the Perfect Elu and other updates in your inbox?? Sign up at www.cumberlandsctishrite.org

Cumberland Scottish Rite meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm. It's YOUR Scottish Rite and we would like to see you there and fellowship with YOUR Brothers, ...they would like to see you



**Keep up with the
Scottish Rite on
Facebook**

@cumberlandsctishrite

@scottishriteofwashingtoncounty

@scottishritefreemasonry

Valley of Cumberland Calendar of Events

APRIL 2023

Sun, April 16	Kirkin' of the Tartans @ Emmanuel Episcopal Church	10:00 am
Mon, April 17	Chapter of Rose Croix	7:30 pm
Sun, April 23	Ceremony of Lights & Spring Capping	4:00 pm

MAY 2023

Mon, May 1	Lodge of Perfection @ Oakland Lodge	7:30 pm
Sat, May 6	Western MD Masonic Ladies Night	5:00 pm
Fri, May 12	A-Thing-A-Ma-Jig Variety Show @ Mezzos	6:00 pm
Mon, May 15	Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm

JUNE 2023

Sat, Jun 3	Garrett County Celtic Festival	9:00 am
Mon, Jun 5	Masonic Strawberry Night	6:30 pm
Mon, Jun 19	Robert Burns Nights Committee	6:00 pm
Sun, Jun 25	St. John's Day Service @ Christ Lutheran	10:00 am

AUGUST 2023

Mon, Aug 7	Degree Rehearsal 30th Degree	6:30 pm
Sat, Aug 12 <i>DATE CHANGED</i>	Scottish Rite Family Corn Roast @ Summerfield Lane	12:00 pm
Mon, Aug 21	KSA Business Meeting & Rehearsal	7:30 pm

Western Maryland Masonic Ladies Night



Saturday, May 6, 2023

Cumberland Masonic Temple

5:00 pm Social Hour

6:00 pm Dinner & Music

Tickets \$50/person

Featuring A Menu by DeDi's Kitchen



Charcuterie Board
Tossed Salad
Chicken Chesapeake
Mashed Redskin Potatoes
California Blend Vegetables
Assorted Mini Pies

Tickets Available online at cumberlandscottishrite.org

Start Your Summer Off Right Join Us for Strawberry Night!



Monday, June 5, 2023
FREE for Masons, Family & Friends

**Ice Cream & Strawberry
Shortcake will be provided**

**Bring a Covered Dish
of Your Choice**

Masonic Ladies Night

Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm

Masonic Temple, Greene Street

Complete and return with payment to:
Cumberland Scottish Rite,
15 Greene Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
Tickets available online at cumberlandscottishrite.org

Name: _____

Lady's Name: _____

**Entrée Selection: Chicken Chesapeake
by DeDi's Kitchen**

Phone _____ # _____ Tickets @ \$50.00/person

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Reaping What We Sow: Our Hard Work is Paying Off

BY: ILL. JAMEY S. HILL, 33, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SGIG OF MARYLAND



I'd like to take a moment to report on the efforts we have undertaken to increase interest among Master Masons in joining the Scottish Rite in our Valley. In recent years, we have offered a variety of incentives aimed at attracting new members to the Rite, including reduced petition fees, discounted prices for Scottish Rite rings, free admission to Ladies Night, free registration for Scottish Rite Master Craftsman courses, complimentary Scottish Rite Polo Shirts and car emblems, and more. These incentives were all designed to help new members feel they were getting something in return for their petition fees. But they appeared to have had little impact on the number or quality of petitions we have received.

Meanwhile, a growing number of Scottish Rite members – sometimes nicknamed “the choir” – have been actively engaged with the Blue Lodges in our region, visiting lodges to observe degree work and truly getting to know the brethren laboring in the quarries of Freemasonry. Through these visits to lodges in Western Maryland and nearby parts of West Virginia and Pennsylvania we have become aware that there are some young men in our local Lodges who are eager to find further light and knowledge through the ritual and philosophy offered by the Scottish Rite.

Harry “Cork” Ringler and Marc Valentine, Past Masters of Meyersdale Lodge No. 554, were two Pennsylvania guys with whom we quickly connected. Our members now visit Meyersdale Lodge several times a year and we are always intrigued and delighted by how different their work is from ours while communicating the same lessons. While we all share in the challenge of attracting new members, younger men are, in fact, joining our Blue Lodges. Our neighbors are just as proud of their Masonry as we are in Maryland, taking the teachings to heart. Lodges that are doing well are welcoming the public into their buildings for talks and events. If your lodge is not looking for ways to be relevant in your own town you need only look at a Lodge that is doing well to understand how to move forward.

I want to give a shout out to Worshipful Master Jeff Leaf at Potomac Lodge. During his first year in the East, Jeff has created an educational program that attracts Masons from many local lodges to hear knowledgeable guests speak on compelling topics, such as James Stargell's presentation on Jack the Ripper, David Sandy's on Metallurgy and Masonry and Robin Summerfield's history of Freemasonry in Allegany County. With the support of Past Master John Dawson and some of the newest members of his lodge, Jeff has also lead efforts to renew the work of our local blue lodges in charitable endeavors such as the Battie Mixon Fishing Rodeo for children and the Children's Adaptive Sports League (CASL) for children with special needs that have garnered outstanding community support, and quite frankly promoted the value of Freemasonry to our local community in ways we haven't seen in a generation.

Another Worshipful Master who is making waves by mentoring new Master Masons to light and leadership is Ben Zamostny of Friendship Lodge No. 84 in Hagerstown. Ben consistently encourages new Masons to participate in the online Maryland Masonic Academy programs offered by the Grand Lodge of Maryland to expand their knowledge of Masonic philosophy and ritual.

Our Valley recently struck gold after a routine visit by several members of “the choir” to Davis Lodge No. 51 in Keyser, West Virginia to support a brother being raised to the degree of Master Mason. While enjoying the hospitality of our sister lodge – and offering no deliberate promotion of the Rite – we met a dozen brothers who shared their fond remembrances of visiting Queen City Lodge “back in the day”. Following this chance encounter, Greg Zirk, a member of the Valley of Cumberland's Spring Class of 1978 and a member of Moorefield Lodge No. 29, responded in a most positive fashion by first bringing a group of West Virginia Masons to visit East Gate Lodge No. 216 in Cumberland for degree work and later encouraging seven of the West Virginia brethren we had met, including his son Greg Zirk II of Moorefield Lodge and Nick Feaster of Petersburg Lodge No. 145, to petition our Valley and attend the Spring 2023 Scottish Rite class.

Brethren, the Officers of the Scottish Rite have tried sales gimmicks and discounts of all sorts to enhance membership, but it turns out nothing works as well as a personal visit to a neighboring Lodge. Therefore, when a Brother asks you to go to another Lodge, please visit. You won't be sorry. Make sure you tell the visitors to visit your Lodge, explain what will be required for them to gain admittance and make them feel welcome. Venerable Master Lathrop has been especially willing to create collaborative events with other bodies and to visit local – and not so local – blue lodge and Scottish Rite Club activities in Frederick and Hagerstown. He is currently working hard to make the Western Maryland Masonic Ladies Night scheduled for May 6, 2023 at the Cumberland Masonic Temple a success.

In addition to engaging with the lodges in our region, the Cumberland Scottish Rite has also been laser-focused on improving the quality of our degree work. I'm happy to report that the emphasis on the work is reaping great benefits. Under the leadership of David Gornall, the Stage Crew is doing better than ever with less help than ever. The addition of Matt McKenzie and Jamie Summerfield to the stage crew has made a big difference. Our new Director of Works Mark Lathrop and his Assistant Mike Kerns are doing a great job organizing the props and supporting the cast and crew. This Spring, Venerable Master Lathrop convened a dress rehearsal the week before conferral with the full support of cast members and our new Wardrobe manager Rick Haines, and I must say the Reunion and Conferral was a tremendous success. Cast members are making great progress memorizing their parts and the floor work has become very consistent and impressive. Seven years after the 32nd degree team first confronted the loss of several retiring cast members it appears to me that the cast and the crew of all five obligatory degrees are experiencing renewed energy and consistency among the cast members, which we sorely needed and heartily appreciate.

I offer my congratulations to the Cast and Crew of the Cumberland Scottish Rite 2023 Spring Conferral, to all of the leaders who are successfully managing our local Blue Lodges, and to our brethren who remain committed to working together to promote the success of Freemasonry across our region and state.

Salvae Frater,
Ill Jamey S. Hill, 33°, Personal Representative

2023 Valley Leadership Officers of the Cumberland Coordinate Bodies Installed in January



Cumberland Lodge of Perfection

The Venerable Master and Officers of the Cumberland Lodge of Perfection coordinate with the officers of the Chapter of Rose Croix, the Council of Kadosh, and the Consistory in conducting the regular stated communications and business of the Valley of Cumberland.

Pictured at Left L to R: Senior Warden Michael W. Kerns, 32°, Orator Richard E. Haines, 32°, Venerable Master Mark E. Lathrop, 32°, and Master of Ceremonies Dwight C. Metcalf, 32°. Not pictured: Junior Warden Hon. James B. Summerfield, 32° KCCH.

Cumberland Chapter of Rose Croix

The Wise Master and Officers of the Cumberland Chapter of Rose Croix conduct business in the 15th through 18th Degrees and present the annual Ceremony of Lights. Photo not available. 2023 Officers are Wise Master Ill. Robin L. Summerfield, 33°, Senior Warden Marc T. Valentine, 32°, Junior Warden Hon. Samuel J. Lane, 32°, KCCH, and Orator Hon. Brent A. Lewis, 32°, KCCH

Cumberland Council of Kadosh

The Commander of Kadosh and Officers of the Cumberland Council of Kadosh conduct business in the 19th through 30th Degrees and present the annual Feast of Tishri.

Pictured at Right L to R: 1st Lieutenant Jason S. Snyder, 32°, Orator David Tibbetts, 32°, Commander Jason S. Snyder, 32°, Chancellor Christopher C. Lawson, 32°, and 2nd Lieutenant Randolph C. Bennett, 32°.



Cumberland Consistory

The Master of Kadosh and Officers of the Cumberland Consistory conduct business in the 30th through 32nd Degrees and present the bi-annual Conferral and Reunion.

Pictured at Left L to R: Prior Mark E. Lathrop, 32°, Minister of State Richard E. Haines, 32°, Master of Kadosh Hon. Michael L. Kamauff, 32°, KCCH, and Preceptor Michael W. Kerns, 32°. Not pictured: Chancellor Hon. James B. Summerfield, 32°, KCCH.



Dwight Metcalf Recognized as 2022 Freemason of the Year



Bro. Dwight C. Metcalf, 32° is presented the 2022 Cumberland Scottish Rite Freemason of the Year Award by Venerable Master Hon. Michael L. Kamauff, 32° KCCH (at left) and Personal Representative Ill. Jamey S. Hill, 33° (at right).

Dwight Metcalf has been recognized as 2022 Freemason of the Year by the Valley of Cumberland. Bro. Metcalf served two consecutive years as Venerable Master of the Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew throughout the challenging days of the pandemic. He successfully led efforts to keep members engaged during the pandemic and to return the Chapter to productive in-person activity. During Venerable Master Metcalf's term of office, the Knights of St. Andrew participated in several parades and other public events, including attending divine services on St. John's Days and for local Kirkin' of the Tartan services. The Chapter gained several new members as a result of his outreach to both longtime and newly initiated brethren of the Rite. In 2022, Venerable Master Metcalf's vision to establish an annual event for the Chapter to celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew with a wild game dinner provided and prepared by members ignited new energy into the Chapter and, most notably, his efforts to raise sponsorship funds for the annual Burns Night Fundraiser resulted in the development of a number of new supporters throughout the local area. Bro. Metcalf continues to serve the Valley as Master of Ceremonies of the Lodge of Perfection and as a member of the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation Board of Directors.

Spring Capping and Ceremony of Lights

BY: ILL. ROBIN L. SUMMERFIELD, 33°, WISE MASTER OF THE CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX



The Combined Spring Capping and Ceremony of Lights for the Cumberland Scottish Rite will be held on **Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm** at the Masonic Temple, Greene Street, Cumberland.

Chapters of Rose Croix traditionally observe the Ceremony of Lights as a memorial service honoring the Knights of their Chapter who have passed on during the preceding year. This observance strengthens the ties of brotherly love, past and present. We meet together to break the bread of fraternity, to reconcile ourselves with those we may have offended, and to drink the wine of refreshment and renewal. Thus, we celebrate the lives of our departed Brethren and promise to abide by the New Law, the Law of Love, with our present Brethren and all mankind.

I hope all my brethren will try to attend these combined ceremonies to honor our departed brethren, honor the service of our longtime members, and extend a hand of friendship to our newest members.

4:00 pm – Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal

4:30 pm – Spring Capping and Ring Ceremony

5:00 pm – Dinner



Congratulations to the newest members of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Cumberland who received the 4th, 14th, 18th, 30th, and 32nd Degrees during our 181st Reunion and Conferral on April 2, 2023.

Members of the Class pictured at left with the 4° Cast Front Row: *Gary A. Shriver, *Roger P. Douglas, *W. Paul Gilbert, *Edward L. Kave, Jr., Christopher D. Ackerman, Gregory M. Zirk II, Larry L. Layton, Cody A.

Bramsen, Nicholas S. Feaster, Douglas A. Rumer, William P. Price, Steven R. Shubert. Back Row: Anthony J. Glass (Valley of Baltimore), Benjamin W.B. Grimm, Hayden B. Shircliffe, Christopher N. Rorbaugh, *Benjamin Zamostny, Niles R. Coppe-Ridgeway, *Stephen K. Gaudette, Jesse L. Stawderman. *4th Degree Cast Members

Spring Capping and Ceremony of Lights Dinner Reservation

Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm - Masonic Temple, Greene Street

Complete and return the form below with payment to:
Cumberland Scottish Rite, 15 Greene Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
Tickets available online at cumberlandsctishrite.org

Name / Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ # Tickets @ \$15.00/person _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash \$ _____

_____ I plan to attend but WILL NOT be staying for dinner.

Cumberland Scottish Rite Bodies
15 Greene Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cumberland, MD
Permit #932

A-Thing-A-Ma-Jig

Variety Show

Presented by the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation



Featuring:
Loretta Hummel
KerrKuhn
Joe Kennedy



Friday, May 12, 2023
from 6-9pm
Mezzos - Cumberland



Proceeds Support RiteCare at the Children's League
Tickets and Info at cumberlandsctishrite.org

