

# The Perfect Elu

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, S. J.

Valley of Cumberland Orient of Maryland



**Newsletter  
Volume 43  
Number 1**

**January 2024**

## DeMolay Growing and Participating in the Valley of Cumberland



Several members of the Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay (pictured here with Personal Representative Jamey Hill), including Maryland State Master Councilor Matthew McKay (top right) attended the Valley of Cumberland's Feast of Tishri in November. With the support of "Dad" Brett Bean and his team of dedicated senior advisors, the Cumberland Chapter has seen a resurgence of membership growth and activity during the past few years.

Membership in the Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay recently reached more than thirty young men aged 12 – 21 and several Squires have come on board as well.

The Chapter has become increasingly proficient at performing the DeMolay ritual and has even offered its support to other Chapters across the region. In addition, the Chapter hosts regular social events, offers tutoring and homework help, and volunteers to support nonprofit community organizations. Chapter members have become an important resource to the Valley of Cumberland by providing educational programs as well as helping with parking, food service, and setup and clean up for events at the Temple.

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Want to receive the Perfect Elu and other updates in your inbox?? Sign up at [www.cumberlandscottishrite.org](http://www.cumberlandscottishrite.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

@cumberlandscottishrite

@scottishriteofwashingtoncounty

@scottishritefreemasonry

## Passing of the Gavel

### Installation of Officers Set for Sunday, February 11th



Congratulations to the 2023 officers of the Valley of Cumberland Scottish Rite Bodies on a very successful year! Please join us in expressing our appreciation to outgoing body heads Venerable Master Mark E. Lathrop, 32°; Wise Master Robin L. Summerfield, 33°; Commander of Kadosh Jason S. Snyder, 32°; Master of Kadosh Michael L. Kamauff, 32° KCCH; and KSA Venerable Master Michael W. Kerns, 32° KCCH along with the elected and appointed officers of their respective bodies.

The past year saw a full return to events and activities following the pandemic and our officers did a fantastic job reengaging with our members, families, blue lodges, and donors as they planned and lead our Spring and Fall Reunions and Conferrals, the Ceremony of Lights, the Feast of Tishri, and other events for our members and guests. This team lead very successful philanthropic campaigns in support of RiteCare and several other charitable causes in our community during the past year, with the Cumberland Scottish Rite Foundation raising more than \$40,000 for RiteCare alone.

We hope you will plan to attend the Combined Installation of Officers for 2024 on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 2:00 pm to offer your support and encouragement to newly elected Venerable Master Michael W. Kerns, 32° KCCH; Wise Master Jason S. Snyder, 32°; Commander of Kadosh Christopher D. Ackerman, 32°; and Master of Kadosh Mark Lathrop, 32° (who will also serve as KSA Venerable Master). Reservation information is found on page 7 of this edition of *The Perfect Elu*.

# Valley of Cumberland Spring 2024 Calendar of Events

## JANUARY 2024

Monday, January 1	No Meeting – New Year's Day	
Monday, January 15	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Tuesday, January 16	Scottish Rite Buck-A-Cup Awards – Arby's	3:00 pm
Saturday, January 20	Frederick KSA Robert Burns Supper	5:00 pm
Monday, January 29	KSA/Robert Burns Rehearsal	6:30 pm

## FEBRUARY 2024

Friday, February 2	Setup – Robert Burns Supper	6:00 pm
Saturday, February 3	KSA Robert Burns Supper	5:00 pm
Monday, February 5	Degree Rehearsal 30 <sup>th</sup> Degree	6:30 pm
Monday, February 5	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection/SRF Directors	7:30 pm
Sunday, February 11	Installation of Officers for 2024	2:00 pm
Sunday, February 18	Degree Rehearsal 14/30/32 (with KSA)	1:00/2:00/3:00 pm
Monday, February 19	Degree Rehearsal 32 <sup>nd</sup> Degree (no KSA)	6:30 pm
Monday, February 19	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Council of Kadosh	7:30 pm

## MARCH 2024

Saturday, March 2	Grand Lodge Regional Meeting – Ali Ghan Shrine Club	8:30 am
Monday, March 4	Degree Rehearsal 30 <sup>th</sup> Degree	6:30 pm
Monday, March 4	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Sunday, March 10	Degree Rehearsal 14/30/32 (with KSA)	1:00/2:00/3:00 pm
Monday, March 18	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Consistory	7:30 pm
Friday, March 22	Setup for Conferral	10:00 am & 5:00 pm
Saturday, March 23	SR 183 <sup>rd</sup> Conferral & Reunion Lodge of Perfection Opens Confer 4, 14, 18, 30 & 32 Degrees	Registration 7:30 am 8:30 am

## APRIL 2024

Monday, April 1	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Chapter of Rose Croix	7:30 pm
Friday, April 5	A Thing A Ma Jig – Location TBD	6:00 pm
Sunday, April 14	Kirkin' of the Tartan – TBA	11:00 am
Monday, April 15	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Sunday, April 21	Ceremony of Lights & Spring Capping	2:00 pm
Monday, April 29	KSA Meeting – Initiation	7:30 pm

## MAY 2024

Monday, May 6	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Chapter of Rose Croix @ Oakland	7:30 pm
TBD	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Tournament	
Saturday, May 18	Grand Lodge of MD Semi-Annual Communication	All Day
Monday, May 20	Regular SR Stated Meeting: Lodge of Perfection	7:30 pm
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day	

## A Time to Pick up Our Tools and Do More

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



The season of Advent in December and January is when those of the Christian faith around the world await and celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Bible informs us that John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus but provides no details as to the specific date or time of the year either was born. Some have raised questions about the date because the Bible also tells of the shepherds being in the field at the time of Jesus' birth. It is believed that the church appointed the date of Christ's birth in part to replace a pagan celebration of the winter solstice known as Saturnalia that had been practiced by ancient Romans before the rise of Christianity in Europe and the Middle East.

Regardless of its origins, the Christmas season is a joyous time of year. The thought of exchanging gifts with family and friends as well as Christmas decorations for the entire community must be nearly everyone's favorite time of year. Special Thanks to Chris Robey, Jim and Molly Arnold, and Ellen Hill for decorating the Cumberland Masonic Temple in Christmas traditions from tree to poinsettias, nativity scene and little houses, and candles in the windows to keep a light on in honor of Him that would come.

The Knights of St. Andrew hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of St. Andrew with special prayers offered for our salvation and hope for our future. This year, Dwight Metcalf called for a chorus of "Bless Be the Tie that Binds" to be sung by twenty-three of the best friends and voices in Freemasonry accompanied by Rick Haines on the piano.

P.S. the meal was to die for. The conversation that evening leaned toward the many parties being hosted by Masonic organizations at the Temple to celebrate the joy of the season.

Brethren, I have been troubled to learn of a growing Anti-Masonic sentiment across the nation and, indeed, within our own community during the past year. While there have always been those who would raise questions about the purposes and intentions of our gentle craft, we must be concerned when those questions transform into conspiracy theories and begin to creep into the family, faith, and politics of our very members.

Across our nation, those with significant influence have been promoting negative images of the fraternity on the airwaves, internet, and in pulpits with disturbing consequences. The distinguished Masonic author Ill. Christopher Hodapp, 33° has noted a major uptick in offensive online anti-Masonic commentary in recent months as well as a steady increase in reports of attacks on Masonic halls throughout the world in 2023 in the form of anti-Masonic graffiti, break-ins, arson fires, and other forms of deliberate damage. In July 2023, a brother in Texas was shot and killed in his lodge's parking lot, allegedly by an anti-Mason named Julio Diaz, who actually shot a video of the murder as it happened and posted it to his social media page. Similarly, credible threats toward Maryland lodges have been made in the past year. Meanwhile, some brethren have felt compelled to leave the fraternity to avoid the scorn and ridicule of pastors, family, and friends. Still other lifelong brethren have been denied Masonic memorial services by family members based on misinformation in the media and the counsel of Anti-Masonic voices. This cuts deeply as we have several local members of the clergy in our craft, and I am perplexed to understand the grievances of their Anti-Masonic colleagues.

The Covid-19 pandemic certainly struck a blow to participation for many organizations – including houses of worship and Masonic lodges – and many of our brothers have been slow to return to their churches and lodges as restrictions were lifted. As annual membership notices are hitting mailboxes, I suspect that church pledge cards for the upcoming year are slowly trickling in at a similar rate as lodge dues and both are rightfully concerned about maintaining members and meeting annual budgets. Rather than competing for the active participation and critical financial support of our mutual members, it is my hope that our local congregations and lodges will work together to encourage them to return to actively supporting the important work of *both* houses of worship *and* Masonic lodges in our community.

In the spirit of Christmas, I am reminded of one of the most important ideas that our Grand Commander Jim Cole conveys, "Scottish Rite asks in general more of its members than Blue Masonry. The Scottish Rite asks for more understanding from its members, for more courage to take on the big jobs, and for more Kindness. Kindness to your neighbor, more importantly kindness to one another as there are many who seek preferment."

In closing, when we lay down our working tools some of us will look forward to knowing that our brethren will conduct a Masonic memorial service to show sympathy to our loved ones and share our strong faith in the immortality of the soul. In the months and weeks to come, let us keep the folks in Ukraine and Israel in mind, as well as our nation's leaders, and may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord.

May this note find you in good health now and always and may you have a very Happy and Blessed New Year!

Sincerely,

Jamey S. Hill, Personal Representative



## Upcoming Installations

### Allegany and Garrett Counties

*Contact Lodge Secretaries for details and registration information*

**Hiram Lodge No. 103**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

**7:30 PM - Closed**

**East Gate Lodge No. 216**

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

**Dinner at 6:00 PM - Open**

**Queen City Lodge No. 131**

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

**7:30 PM - Open**

**Kemp Lodge No. 154**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**7:30 PM - Closed**

**Oakland Lodge No. 192**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

**Dinner at 6:00 PM - Open**

**George's Creek Valley Lodge No. 161**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**7:30 PM - Closed**

**Mountain Lodge No. 99**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**7:30 PM - Closed**

**Ali Ghan Shriners**

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

**Dinner at 6:00 PM - Open**

**Cumberland Chapter of DeMolay**

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**

**7:30 PM - Open**

**Potomac Lodge No. 100**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024**

**6:00 PM - Closed**

**Cumberland Scottish Rite**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

**2:00 PM - Open**



## Cumberland KSA Chapter adds members, hosts Festival of St. Andrew

The Cumberland Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew added five new members to its ranks during the Fall of 2023. The Knights of the Chapter are shown here following the October initiation of new members Ronald Martin-Minnich, Benjamin Grimm, and Christopher Ackerman. Pictured L to R: Gary Trail, Jamey Hill, James Summerfield, Martin-Minnich, Mark Weatherholt, Grimm, Dwight Metcalf, Venerable



Master Michael Kerns, Joseph Cushall, Ackerman, Michael Kamauff, Jerome Robinette, Mark Lathrop, Brett Bean, and Richard Haines.

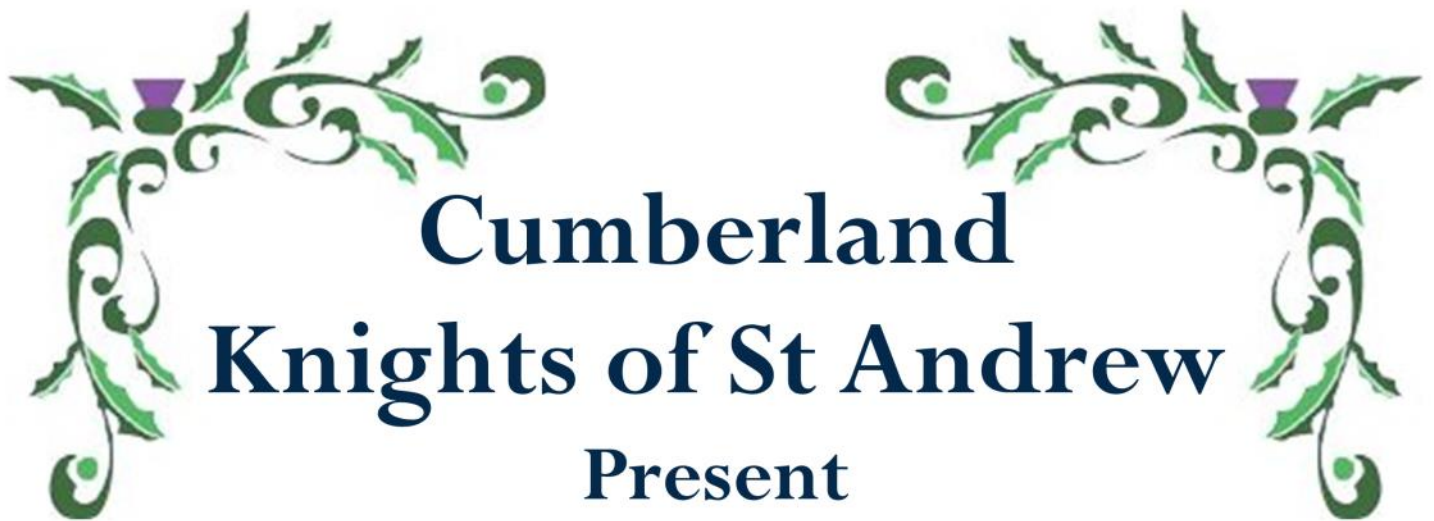
In November, the Chapter hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of St. Andrew for members and guests featuring a menu of wild game including venison, pheasant, goose, turkey, and

salmon all of which were provided and prepared by KSA members. The evening offered a wonderful opportunity to fellowship, to celebrate a successful year for the KSA, and to prepare for the work ahead in 2024.

Bro. Jay Cochrane of East Gate Lodge No. 216 performed a call to refreshment on bagpipes as well as renditions of "God Bless America" and "Amazing Grace" during the program, which also included readings of the Star Spangle Banner by Hon. Mark Weatherholt, 32° KCCH and the Prayer of St. Andrew the Apostle by Hon. James Summerfield, 32° KCCH. In addition, Ill. Samuel Lane 33° offered a toast to the Republic, Ill. Jerome Robinette offered a toast to departed brethren, Past Venerable Master Hon. Dwight Metcalf, 32° KCCH shared remarks on the purpose of the Knights



of St. Andrew, Venerable Master Hon. Michael Kerns, 32° KCCH made a few special presentations, and Personal Representative Ill. Jamey Hill. 33° expressed appreciation to the KSA for their efforts on behalf of the Valley and its philanthropic efforts during the year. The evening concluded with a chorus of "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" by attendees accompanied by Bro. Richard Haines, 32° on piano.



**Cumberland  
Knights of St Andrew  
Present**

*The 18th Annual  
Robert Burns Supper*

February 3, 2024

Masonic Temple

Greene Street, Cumberland

Featuring

Traditional Scottish Fare by MISE EN PLACE

Musical Performances by Shanty Irish & Pipe Major Andrew  
Donlon of MacMillan United Pipe Bands

Tickets available at

[Cumberlandscottishrite.org](http://Cumberlandscottishrite.org) or 301-729-2491

**Benefits RiteCare Childhood Speech and Language Clinics**



## Spring 2024 Conferral & Reunion Scheduled for March 23rd



Five brethren received the mandatory degrees of the Scottish Rite during the Fall 2023 Degree Conferral in the Valley of Cumberland, pictured here with the cast of the 30<sup>th</sup> Degree. Front Row L to R: Stanley Blaylock, Scott Walker, John Apple III, Ryan Derby, Griffin Thurfield (aspirant). Cast members standing L to R: Mark Weatherholt, Kenneth Shook, Dwight Metcalf, Sam Lane, James Kalbflesh, Larry Hartz, Mark Lathrop, and Ed Kave.

Cumberland's 183<sup>rd</sup> Spring 2024 Conferral & Reunion will be held at the Cumberland Masonic Temple on

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning with light refreshments at 7:30 am. We look forward to welcoming a new class of members to the Valley. Petitions are available at [cumberlandsctishrite.org](http://cumberlandsctishrite.org), in the Temple lobby, or by contacting the Valley Secretary Robin Summerfield at [info@cumberlandsctishrite.org](mailto:info@cumberlandsctishrite.org) or 301-729-2491.

### Combined Installation of Officers Dinner Reservation Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 2:00 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](http://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.

### Spring Capping and Ceremony of Lights Dinner Reservation Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 2:00 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](http://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**

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## **Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Tournament**

### **2nd Annual Event Nets \$22,000 for RiteCare**



**K**udos to Jason Finch, Brent Lewis, and Tammy Lewis on a successful Second Annual Debbie Friend Memorial Golf Tournament in Oakland in Fall 2023. The event honors former RiteCare Speech Therapist Debbie Friend by raising funds to support RiteCare Speech and Language evaluation and services at Oakland RiteCare Clinic operated by the Children's League. The Children's League is currently serving approximately 30 clients at the Oakland Clinic and more than 160 across the four clinics in Cumberland and Oakland

in Maryland and Keyser and Petersburg in West Virginia.

This year's event saw an increase in participants with nearly 100 golfers taking to the links on a beautiful and crisp October Saturday. Even better, the event surpassed its fundraising goal by 50% to raise \$22,000 for RiteCare. Plans are already underway to make this event even bigger in 2024.

*Pictured L to R above: Major Event Sponsor James Bailey, 32°; Tammy Lewis; Brent Lewis, 32° KCCH; Cathy Growden of the Children's League; Jason Finch, 32°; and Personal Representative Jamey Hill, 33°.*