



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Lodge No. 9, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Houseman Lodge No. 211, Doylestown Lodge No. 245,
W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410, Newtown Lodge No. 427, Pilgrim Lodge No. 712

Website: www.pa8thmasonic.com; Facebook: PA 8th Masonic District

Richard H. Bradbury, Sr. – District Deputy Grand Master

March 2024

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Lower Bucks Masonic Hall

Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

Stated Monthly Meeting - 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm

Extra Meeting – If Needed, called with due and timely notice.
(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
Program: DeMolay Degree
- 2 **Officer and Mentor Training Seminar, Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, PA**
- 7 **Pilgrim Lodge Stated Mtg.-District Visitation**
Program: A Revolutionary Fraternity
- 8 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Freemasonry and the Underground Railroad
- 13 **Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Mtg-DDGM Visitation**
- 13 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: DeMolay Presentation
- 14 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Senior Warden Night/Matron Mother & PA Rainbow Girls
- 16 **Academy of Masonic Knowledge Elizabethtown**
- 18 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 20 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg.
Program: Examination of a Visitor
- 23 **Officer and Mentor Training Seminar, Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill, PA**
- 23 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: DeMolay or Lodge Founding

SEE THE DISTRICT WITH A PASSPORT TO FELLOWSHIP

Time is running out if you still have an outstanding Passport to complete. I know many Brothers had started visiting and only need a couple more visitations to be eligible for the Traveling Pin. There is still time since the deadline for the older Passports is now extended to April 15th at the School of Instruction.

With this new year it is a great time to start your District journey if you haven't already. Pick up your Passport from the School of Instruction or at any of the District Deputy Grand Master's Visitations.

2024 TOUR OF HONOR FOR VETERANS

Bucks County Tour of Honor has announced that WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans who served between December 7, 1941 and February 28, 1991 are eligible to be part of the Tour of Honor on April 15, 2024. This is a bus trip to the military memorials in Washington DC and a celebration and dinner upon return. There is no cost to the veteran.

Register for a Veteran Application and information by calling 215-962-8071 or email buckscountytourof_honor@gmail.com

ARE YOU AVAILABLE DURING THE DAY?

Are you retired, work shift work or have a flexible schedule and have a willingness to pay tribute to your Brother Masons? You may want to consider being a part of the 8th Masonic District Masonic Funeral Team.

Recently there seems to be an increase of viewings and/or funerals for our departed Brothers occurring during the week and primarily in the morning hours. Unfortunately with many Brothers working during those times this results in low participation at the funeral and in some cases the Lodge finding it difficult to get the minimum of four Brothers together to act as Officers, much less any for the sidelines.

Therefore, we are exploring the feasibility of having a pool of Brothers available to assist in the Masonic Funeral Service during the daytime hours, sometimes on short notice. This pool will assist Lodges with filling the required Officer positions and show support on the sidelines. This WILL NOT replace a Lodge's responsibility to have Brothers qualified to present the service or relinquish Lodge members' obligation to attend when they are available or during the evening hours and weekends. Rather, this is to augment the Lodge's resources.

If you often have time during the day please consider being part of this important initiative. To gauge interest, please email DDGM Rich Bradbury at DDGM08@pagrandlodge.org if you are willing when you are able. A list will be compiled and I will keep those volunteers updated if/when/how the team will function. Thank you for your help. This is one of the few times the profane get to see what we do...let's provide an excellent service and image as we pay our respects to our departed.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 6, 1775

In 1775 a man named Prince Hall and 14 other men of color were initiated into Freemasonry. This work was conducted by Sergeant John Batt of the Irish Militia Lodge No 441, attached to the 38th Foot of the British army. When the 38th Foot left Boston in the colony of Massachusetts three weeks later, Batt gave them a "Permet" which allowed them "to walk on St. John's Day" and "to bury their dead in manner and form." African Lodge No. 1 was born on July 3, 1775. In 1847 the African (or national) Grand Lodge became Prince Hall Grand Lodge honoring the first Master of African Lodge. Since then many Prince Hall Masons have honored Prince Hall as well as "Blue" Lodge Masonry and continue to do so as more and more Grand Lodge Jurisdictions world-wide grant them recognition. The United Grand Lodge of England took a giant and historic step forward on December 14, 1994 when it resolved that "the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts should now be accepted as regular and recognized." The first Grand Lodge to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge within their jurisdiction was the Grand Lodge of CT. Since that time 31 other Grand Lodges in the USA have accorded various types of recognition to the local Prince Hall Grand Lodges, the latest being Virginia.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Texas Freemason published by the Grand Lodge of Texas, in our opinion is one of the finest Masonic publications. In the July 1967 issue under a heading, "A Member's Speak Special", we found this poignant letter.

Dear TTF:

In 1929 and '30, I was a patient in William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso. I belonged to an Illinois Lodge, but I had not paid my dues for some time. While in the hospital, I received a letter from the lodge. It said the lodge was building a new building; dues were doubled I would be dropped from the rolls if I did not pay my dues.

A Masonic Brother, Ben Harrison of Athens Teas lay in the bed next to mine. I read him the letter and commented, "I'm not going to pay those dues. Masonry hasn't done me any good and I don't have the money."

Ben replied, "Oh, I'd pay them if I were you." Then he told me a story.

Ben had been wounded in France and described what happened when he awoke in a hospital. "A doctor was bending over me," Ben related, "and I heard him say, 'He can't stand it now, but if he is still alive in the morning, we'll amputate the leg.' Well, the next morning I was alive and awake. When the doctor came, I took a chance and identified myself as a Mason. I pleaded with him to save my leg. 'Brother,' he said, 'I will do everything in my power to save it, and if it is ever cut off, someone else will do it.'"

Ben then turned back the sheet and raised his scarred leg. "I still have my leg, thanks to Masonry! It's not as good as it used to be, but it's better than a wooden one!"

I paid my dues.

Edwin S. Burtis, Fraternity Lodge 111, El Paso

Tied to Masonic Apron Strings, Steward M.L. Pollard

DISCOVER WOMEN'S FREEMASONRY

Women Freemasons have been meeting across England for more than 100 years. There are two female-only Grand Lodges: The Order of Women Freemasons and HFAF Freemasonry for Women. They both follow exactly the same ceremonies and wear the same regalia as male Freemasons, and they often work closely with community and charity projects.

The Order of Women Freemasons is the oldest and largest Masonic organization for women in the world. It was constituted as the Grand Lodge of the Honourable Order of Ancient Masonry in 1908 and adopted the title "The Order of Women Freemasons" in 1958. The Order originally included men and women, but in the early 1920s a decision was made to restrict admission to women only, and by 1935 it was an exclusively female organization.

Freemasonry for Women founded in 1913 as The Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons, is a Masonic fraternity for women. It has lodges in the UK and overseas, and about 800 members. HFAF is a small but vibrant community of individuals, with members of all ages, backgrounds and religious beliefs.

The first Women's Regular Masonic Lodge in the United States, was consecrated in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 25, 2019, by the Honorable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF) of the United Kingdom. It is known as HFAF-American Lodge.

United Grand Lodge of England webpage

GLOSSARY: MASON'S WIFE AND DAUGHTER

"A Degree frequently conferred in the United States on the wives, daughters, sisters and mothers of Freemasons, to secure to them, by investing them with a peculiar mode of recognition, the aid and assistance of the Fraternity. It may be conferred by any Master Mason, and the requirement is that the recipient shall be the wife, unmarried daughter, unmarried sister, or widowed mother of a Master Mason. It is sometimes called the Holy Virgin, and has been by some deemed of so much importance that a Manual of it, with the title of The Ladies' Masonry, or Hieroglyphic Monitor, was published at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1851, by Past Grand Master William Leigh, of Alabama."

Encyclopedia of Freemasonry And Its Kindred Sciences,
Albert G. Mackey

The purpose? To seemingly give a way to be recognized among those of the fraternity. Not much information exists on this "Holy Virgin" degree that was so popular in 1851 that the ritual was even printed, and that Mackey states it was "...A degree frequently conferred...". Some fairly basic searches for this book, brings you a library search where the subtext of the title is revealed, and what a surprise it offers! The subtext reads, "Hieroglyphic monitor : containing all the emblems explained in the degrees of the Holy Virgin and Heroine of Jericho, duly arranged, to which are added illustrations, addresses, & c" I wonder what happened to this degree or degrees, was it absorbed into one of the other appendant bodies open to women like the Daughters of the Nile, the modern version of the Heroines of Jericho or The OES? Without the printed original ritual, we may never know.

by Midnight Freemason Contributor, WB. Robert H. Johnson