



# 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pa8thmasonic.com); Facebook: PA 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

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

September 2024

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

**Lower Bucks Masonic Hall (Newtown Lodge)**

Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

**Stated Monthly Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm**

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

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 5 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting-RWDGM/District Visitation**  
*Program: BookSmiles*
- 6 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting**  
*Program: History of Masonic Clothing/Family Night*
- 8 Sporting Clays Shoot-East Coplay, PA**
- 8 District Cigar-B-Que, Newtown, PA**
- 11 Hermann-Humboldt Stated Meeting**
- 11 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting-DDGM Visitation**  
*Program: Table Lodge in First Degree*
- 12 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting**  
*Program: A Modern Look at the Emerald Tablet of Hermes*
- 13 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting**  
*Program: Masonic Journey of Benjamin Franklin*
- 14 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting**  
*Program: Eleventh President of the U.S. & Freemasonry*
- 16 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 18 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg.-DDGM Visitation**  
*Program: First Responder Night/Past Master Night*

### UNITY DAY SCHEDULED

On January 25, 2024 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be hosting a Unity Day at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. The event will be from 7:00 pm-4:00 pm. Special degrees will be presented by New York (EA), New Jersey (FC), Delaware (MM) and Pennsylvania (EA/FC & Installation of Officers).

Additional participating Grand Lodges will be: Connecticut, and Puerto Rico Master Masons from all recognized Grand Lodges are welcome to attend. This is a unique opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our Brothers in other jurisdictions.

Tickets are \$75.00. Breakfast, Lunch and a commemorative gift are included. See details and QR code for tickets in *The Pennsylvania Freemason*. Summer 2024 edition.

### **BROTHER ROBERT D. BRINK, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER TO VISIT DISTRICT**

The District is honored to be hosting Brother Robert D. Brink, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, at the invitation of Pilgrim Lodge No.712. On Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm, Brother Brink is scheduled to attend the Stated Meeting of the Lodge which meets at the Bristol Masonic Temple, 219-221 Cedar Street, Bristol, PA 19007. This will be a District Visitation to the Lodge so all District Officers are expected to attend. Dinner will be held at 5:30 pm in the dining hall of the Lodge.

The programs for the evening will be BookSmiles, a non-profit organization that promotes literacy, especially for children and a presentation of The Empty Chair Ceremony. Please bring a book (for children or adults) to donate to BookSmiles.

RSVP for dinner is required - Contact Bro. Daniel A. O'Rourke, W.M., [omtlaurel@outlook.com](mailto:omtlaurel@outlook.com), or Bro. Frank Jones, P.M., Secretary, [fjr56@comcast.net](mailto:fjr56@comcast.net), if you plan on attending the dinner. Come out and meet the Deputy Grand Master and have a great night of Masonic Fellowship.

### **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GRAND MASTER'S GOLF OUTING**

Thank you to those who supported the Grand Master's Golf Outing to benefit his charity, the Masonic Blood + Organ Donor Program.

**Hole Sponsors:** Lodge No. 9; Newtown Lodge No. 427; 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District School of Instruction; 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District; Richard H. Bradbury, DDGM-8

**Tournament Sponsor:** Doylestown Lodge No. 245

### **SAVE THE DATES FOR EDUCATION**

The Academy of Masonic Knowledge Fall Symposium will take place on October 26, 2024 at 8:30 pm in Elizabethtown.

The PA Lodge of Research Stated Meeting being held at the Valley of Harrisburg on December 14, 2024, 10:00 am.

Details can be found in the latest edition of The PA Freemason or the PA Grand Lodge website-Masonic Education tab or <https://pamasoniacademy.org> and <https://palodgeofresearch.org> respectively.

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

September 20, 1870

Italian troops under the leadership of Bro. Giuseppe Garibaldi took control of the Papal States, leading to the unification of Italy. He is lauded as an Italian patriot and hero of the Risorgimento, the movement for the liberation and union of Italy. In 1833 he joined Mazzini's revolutionary society, "Young Italy," and, after early reverses, took up the struggle for Italian freedom in 1848, bringing it to completion in 1870 when Italian troops freed Rome from Papal control. He was initiated in Lodge L'Ami de la Avertu, at Montevideo, in 1844. At one time he was a member of the French Grand Orient and became Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Palermo, 33." Freemasons were at the forefront of political change throughout Europe. Bro. Garibaldi himself made an explicit link between the Craft and his political vision. "Whenever there is a human cause, we are certain to find Freemasonry, for it is the fundamental basis of all true liberal associations. Forever I will pride myself on my Masonic connection." Bro. Garibaldi's 1860 autobiography was edited by Alexander Dumas who subsequently was made a Mason at Naples in 1862. Bro. George Routledge, who published the English translation of Bro. Garibaldi's book, was also a member of the Craft.

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### NATIONAL ANTHEM – 210 YEARS OLD – CHANGING OUR 'FLAG' TO THE 'SYMBOL OF LIBERTY'

This month marks the 210th anniversary of the writing of the words of the Star Spangled Banner. It was penned as a poem by Francis Scott Key on September 13, 1814, as he watched the British bombard Fort McHenry at Baltimore. It was later put to music, but did not officially become the U.S. National Anthem for 117 years, until March 3, 1931, when Congress passed a resolution.

However, the creation of this tribute to the American Flag significantly changed the way citizens viewed the nation's flag.

According to USA Today (July 2, 2014), "Before the night of September 13, 1814, the flag was mostly thought of as a utilitarian marker, raised at military installations and used to identify government buildings. But after the successful battle of Fort McHenry and the words written by Key, the American flag, "became the symbol of liberty and perseverance, the life of the nation," according to Jeffrey Brodie, deputy director of the Smithsonian Institution's Lemelson Center, quoted in the USA Today article.

The words of the song, at a perilous moment in U.S. history, "helped stir Americans' imagination about their future," the newspaper said.

Brodie, the project manager and one of the curators for the Smithsonian's Star Spangled Banner preservation project, said that "Key's poem and the song that emerged were the first important works to infuse the flag with qualities of resilience and liberty," USA Today wrote.

*Emessay Notes*, September 2014, The Masonic Service Association of North America

## DID YOU KNOW?

### The Longest Serving Grand Master in History

There have been only ten Grand Masters of the United Grand Lodge of England since the unification in 1813; of these, five were members of the Royal family. The current Grand Master Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, was elected and installed in 1967 and has served the longest, 57 years. His father, Prince George, Duke of Kent, had served as Grand Master from 1939 until he was killed in a military air crash in 1942. He was the fourth son of King George V. Prince Edward will turn 89 in October.

Prince George's great uncle, and uncle of King George V, was Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, who served as Grand Master from 1901 until his death in 1939. Prince Arthur had previously been the longest serving Grand Master.

Prince Arthur's brother, King Edward VII, son of Queen Victoria, had served as Grand Master from 1874 to 1901 but was obligated to resign upon his ascension to the throne.

The first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England was Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, son of King George III. He had previously served as the Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) while his brother, Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent and Strathearn and father of Queen Victoria, was the Grand Master of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England.

*Emessay Notes*, August, 2019, The Masonic Service Association of North America

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### GLOSSARY: MASONIC SKERRIT



In the English ritual, one of the working-tools of a Master Mason is an instrument usually made of wood, shaped like a letter T, and acts on a center pin, from which a line is drawn, chalked and struck, to mark out the ground for the intended edifice. In a speculative sense, it points out that straight and undeviating line of conduct laid down in the sacred volume.

It is related, symbolically, to the 24-inch gauge and the plumb rule, but has a specific connotation to the Third Degree. The main subject of the Third Degree is one's mortality and immortality. The skirret represents the foundation of the way of life we are to follow as laid down to us by our Creator—keeping it on the straight and narrow, so to speak, using our Masonic principles.

We should allow the skirret, therefore, to remind us to start building our character on a proper foundation—namely, the many virtues of behaviour found in the Masonic ceremonies, and in the Holy Word of the Almighty. And we should allow this tool to remind us why we should do so—the end of our life shall end some day, and we should prepare now for what comes next.

The Phoenixmasonry Masonic Museum and Library website and  
*A Dictionary of Freemasonry*, Robert Macoy

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### OTHERS OR SELF

The Mason who is not willing to forego his own pleasure to add to those of his brethren, is either too dull to learn its teachings or too selfish to put them into practice. (Wor. E.A. McHan-GA), *Tied to Masonic Apron Strings*, Stewart M.L. Pollard