



Maryland Masonic Research Society

Instituted January 20, 1979

www.md-mrs.com

Saturday, May 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

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Topic: "Is Harry Potter a Freemason?"

In the books from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (British title) to "Deathly Hallows", a careful reader can find multiple Masonic symbols. The first book alone traces Harry's journey as an E.A. How? Come and listen to the talk. For those who are unfamiliar with the books, there will be a slide show presentation to acquaint those present with the charters and Masonic symbols used in the books. By reviewing how Masonic symbolism can be found in the Harry Potter books where you least expect, it may be found elsewhere. After the presentation, you may want to take another look at other pieces of literature, movies, and plays in new light, looking for the hidden and sometimes not so hidden Masonic symbols.

Presenter: Companion Walter Benesch, Second Vice President

Brother Benesch's extensive Masonic career goes back more than 50 years to his initiation at Marie Deraismes Lodge #352 in New York City in 1967. Later, he signed a renunciation joining Boston University Lodge while a graduate student. He is a Past Master of Lafayette-Dupont #19 in D.C. and Archer Bailey Gay Lodge #275 in VA. In the Valley of Washington Scottish Rite, he is a 32^o, KCCH & Dean of History. He is the immediate past Illustrious Master Adoniram (Zabud Council No. 2., D.C.), Royal Arch Captain and Lecturer at Mt. Vernon RAC #14, VA, and Past High Priest and current Treasurer of Columbia RAC #1 in DC. He is an officer in the Washington, D.C. College of Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Federatis. He is President and long-time supporter of the George Washington Masonic Stamp Club. He has published numerous Masonic and other articles and is regularly talks on a large variety of subjects.

Meeting Location: Odd Fellows Temple

6 Ingleside Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228

Enter on side door on Orban Ave. Directions available at [link](#).

Lunch at 12 noon: \$20 payable at the door

Meeting and Presentation at 1 pm

RSVP: Please contact the Secretary at mmrs1979@gmail.com or 240-398-9546 to confirm your attendance Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

"Masonic Enlightenment Through Research"



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President's Message

Dear Companions,

Our first meeting in March was excellent. Our Past President Ed Johnson did a well-researched and entertaining presentation. Our next one, "Is Harry Potter a Freemason?" being presented by one of our officers, 2nd Vice President, Walter Benesch, sounds like it should be quite interesting whether you've read the Harry Potter books or not. I truly hope you can join us in Catonsville, MD, just outside Baltimore on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at noon for lunch and 1 pm for our meeting and this presentation.

Which brings us to an interesting dilemma. We spoke about increasing attendance at our meetings as our first goal and are finding that there are inevitable conflicts on the 1st Saturday of the month so we're looking harder at the various Masonic calendars to see if we can reduce these. Because of this, we're moving our meeting on October 6, 2018, the day of the Grand Lodge of Maryland's Harvest Home Day Festival to October 13, 2018. We're also considering moving the meeting and presentation to the morning. On Saturday, December 1, 2018, the Grand Lodge only has availability for our meeting in the morning, so we'd like to consider coffee and Danish (plus fruit and other items) at 10 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. We'd be very interested in your feedback as to this idea and any others that can increase attendance.

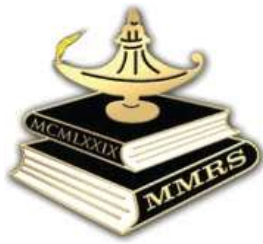
Our second goal is to encourage members to engage in research by fostering discussions regarding possible topics. We're going to begin this at our next meeting and look forward to hearing your questions and ideas.

Thirdly, we continue to encourage you, our members, to present here and we are beginning to provide some speakers to Maryland Lodges. Our first will be a presentation at Thomas J. Shryock Lodge #223 on May 14, 2018 on "Masonic Working Tools". We thank our 2nd V.P., Walter Benesch, for doing this on the behalf of MMRS. If your Lodge would be interested in a presentation about MMRS or a research paper, we'll be happy to consider it.

As I stated before, if you want to post a research paper to the society's website, give a presentation, or have any suggestions on how we can improve the Maryland Masonic Research Society, please e-mail me at lgtwashington2007@gmail.com or call me at [\(301\) 292-6607](tel:3012926607).

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Anne-Marie Moody



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2018 Planned Meetings

These are the dates planned for the rest of 2018:

Monday, August 6, 2018 - Festive Board in Columbia, MD

Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018 (moved from October 6, 2018, the date of the Grand Lodge of MD Harvest Home Day Festival)

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018

Minutes of March 3, 2018

Following the luncheon, a meeting of the Maryland Masonic Research Society was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Temple of the Silver Spring Lodge No. 215 by President Anne-Marie Moody.

The attendance totaled 14 with 12 Companions and two (2) guests. Please refer to the Attendance Book for more detail.

The Invocation was given by our Chaplain and P.P., John Maclay. The Minutes of our December 2, 2017, were approved as distributed. The Secretary reported we received notices from the Masonic Service Association of North America and a Trestleboard from a Maryland Lodge and these will be made available in Member Resources. There was one (1) petition to be voted on, Johnny Law, that was recommended and approved. Payment of the bills was recommended, seconded, and approved.

Past President Ed Johnson presented on "Muses Threnodie: Poetic License or Historical Insight?" This was an exploration on what was meant in terms of the relationship of the Rosicrucians and Freemasons given the wording, "For we are the Brethren of the Rosie Cross, we have the Mason's Word..." in this Scottish poem from 1638. The relationships of the author, his family, and other figures were explored as well as the theory of J.G. Buhle and response of A.E. White. There were lively questions and a warm round of appreciation for the presentation. We requested the presentation be sent to the Secretary to add to the Member Section of the MMRS website.

After our Chaplain led us in our devotions, President Anne-Marie Moody adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm in peace and harmony.