

Maryland Masonic Research Society

Instituted January 20, 1979

www.md-mrs.com

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Regular Meeting

Saturday, May 2, 2020
via Zoom, Time: 11:00 a.m.

Topic: Warner Brothers Studio: "Masonry Goes Looney"

In the current environment of the pandemic, it is felt lighter programs would benefit our members. This presentation focuses on the Masons who were active in the Warner Brothers Studio from its founding through the development of the Looney Toon cartoons. Remember the vocalization of the cartoons for years was done by a great Mason, Mel Blanc, 33°, of whom the MMRS President had the great pleasure of meeting personally, while doing graduate work at Boston University. This lecture will amaze you of how many active Freemasons were associated with Warner Brothers Studio.

Presenter: Companion Walter Benesch, 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°, KCCH & Dean of History. He is the 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 Trustee Chairman of Columbia RAC #1 in DC. He is an officer in the Washington, D.C. College of Masonic Societas Rosicrusiana in Civitatibus Foederatis (SRICF). Brother Benesch currently is the Master of the Rose Croix Chapter in the DC Scottish Rite. He is also the 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.

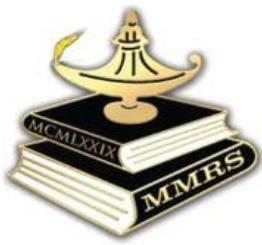
Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting Platform

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83501781021?pwd=ejI4c1BoWCszaWkodFZ3L2dNNTR6dz09>

Meeting ID: 835 0178 1021

Password: 799336

"Masonic Enlightenment Through Research"



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President's Message

Dear Companions,

Owing to the COVID-19 virus the in-person meeting which was to be held in Naval Lodge in D.C. must be cancelled. However, our meeting scheduled for May 2, 2020 will be held via Zoom application's meeting capabilities. Our Past President and current Treasurer, Sharonlee Vogel will be allowing MMRS to use her account for the upcoming meeting. Our Secretary, Cleola, will facilitate in a slightly modified format to exclude the ritualistic opening.

As the decision was made at short notice to host this meeting on an alternative platform, scouting for outside speakers would have been practically impossible to find.

Additionally, as the COVID-19 Lockdown continues, we are exploring the possibility of myself hosting a "*Monthly Academic Lectures*" outside of our regularly scheduled MMRS meeting dates with Guest Speakers. It was proposed by some of the officers since there's a growing trend of online lecture series within in the Masonic community. These monthly programs would be held on the first Saturday of each month for all members who are interested. MMRS will see how the first Zoom meeting goes as a result. In the meantime, since your President has so many possible presentations, the exact titles are to be determined but some will deal with a more esoteric side of Masonry.

Possible presentation titles are as follows:

- "Masonry's Hidden Secret: School for Meditation & Spiritual Advancement"
- "John Sibelius Mason" with a follow on for an subsequent presentation "Sibelius' Masonic Opus"
- "The Kabbalah & the Blue Lodge"
- "The *I-Ching*"
- "Dark Matter & the Unseen Worlds" (which may be a repeat of a prior presentation but worth seeing again.
- Or on the lighter side: "The Masonic Cowboys of the Silver Screen"
- "Let's Play Snakes & Ladders: symbolism beyond a child's game"
- "The Lesser Lights"
- "The Bath Masonic Museum and Lodge"
- "Edvard Benes: Scholar, Political Leader, Mason"
- "Payment of Wages a look at Masonic coins"

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All have been presented at one time or another and have been well received. Your input/desire will help determine what presentations will be shown on Saturdays beginning in June.

It is sincerely hoped you are all staying socially isolated and are physically and mentally well. We do not know how long this pandemic will last, but the Masonic education as presented by the MMRS **will not be stopped!**

We would like to give special thanks and appreciation to Mount Hermon Lodge No. 179 A. F. & A. M. for allowing MMRS to host its last meeting in the midst of its well preserved and picturesque lodge. Its well worth the visit if you've not had the chance.

Fraternally,

Walter Benesch

Walter P. Benesch, 33°
President, MMRS

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Minutes of March 7, 2020

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 Mount Hermon Lodge No. 179 A. F. & A. M. by President Walter Benesch.

The attendance totaled 16 with 14 Companions and two (2) guests. Please refer to the Attendance Book for more detail.

The Invocation was given by Companion Bernhard Zinkgraf. The Minutes of our December 7, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed. The Secretary reported notices from the Masonic Service Association of North America were received, and there were two petitions to be voted on and approved for Aisha Lewis and Jean-Pierre Libert. Payment of the bills was recommended, seconded, and approved. New additions to the Constitution/By-Laws will be tabled for review and discussion until the next in-person meeting. The Treasurer's report was second and approved.

Companion Cleola Bostic, Secretary presented on "*Hannah Mather Crocker: Pioneer of American Women's Freemasonry & The First Women's Lodge.*" The presentation began with a brief summary that explored attitudes and misconceptions of women participating in Freemasonry; as well as, their existence as Stonemasons. The remainder illustrated the life of Hannah Mather Crocker, the women of St. Ann's Lodge, Hannah's connections with Malecraft Lodges across the U.S., influential figures, and Women's Rights activism. Companion Ann-Marie Moody, Past President, presentation covered *Annie Besant and Freemasonry*. The lecture explored how her influence shaped Freemasonry, passion for women's rights and equality and social reform. A lively yet educational discussion followed with Q&A. The Secretary requested the presentations so they could be added to the Member Section of the MMRS website. A substitute Past President medal was presented to Phyllis Lingenfelter, until the actual medal is located and shipped to her home address. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to both Guest Speakers.

After Companion Bernhard Zinkgraf led us in our devotions, President Walter Benesch adjourned the meeting at 3pm in peace and harmony.