



# Maryland Masonic Research Society

*Instituted January 20, 1979*

[www.md-mrs.com](http://www.md-mrs.com)

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## Regular Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 2020  
via Zoom, Time: 12:00 noon

**Topic:** "Daoism and Freemasonry"

This is an examination of Eastern Philosophies, most especially Daoism, and its parallels within the Craft.

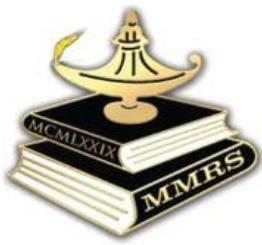
**Presenter:** Friend, Worshipful Jacob Bressman

Worshipful Brother Bressman is a Past Master of La France Lodge No. 93 and a member of several Lodges under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. He is currently the Chairman of his Grand Lodge's Hospitality Committee and serves on the Grand Lodge's Research Lodge Exploratory Committee and Education & Service Committee. In addition to his service within the Blue Lodge, Worshipful Brother Bressman is active in the York Rite, where he is the current High Priest, Deputy Master, and Commander of his respective Royal Arch Chapter, Cryptic Council, and Knight Templar Commandery. Worshipful Brother Bressman is a 32° KCCH in the Scottish Rite's Southern Jurisdiction and is a member of several invitational Masonic bodies. Jacob has been to China and the Far East where his study included Chinese philosophy and culture.

**Meeting Location:** Zoom Meeting Platform

Due to security measures to avoid potential hacking, we are asking all interested attendees to RSVP with our Treasurer, Sharonlee Vogel at [sharonleevogel@gmail.com](mailto:sharonleevogel@gmail.com)

Thank you!



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## President's Message

Dear Companions,

The COVID-19 virus will make it necessary that the October 10th meeting will be via Zoom. But then this has been a remarkably successful year.

Not only have the meetings had fascinating programs but the series of "unofficial" MMRS presentations have included the following Zoom talks: 1) Masonry goes Looney; (2) Paestum: A Greek City in Italy; (3) Kabbalah & Masonry; (4) Alchemical Influences: Psychological & Masonic. The last was delayed a week due to the thunderstorms which came through on September 3rd and knocked out the internet connection with your president. The attendance for the unofficial meetings has been hovering around 20 with a lot of positive feedback.

Scheduled unofficial program for October 3rd is a talk on the I-Ching. You might find it interesting some of the connections between it and the Kabbalah and of course Freemasonry. A week later MMRS will have its scheduled meeting. Jacob Bressman will be presenting "Daoism and Freemasonry." This is an examination of Eastern Philosophies, most especially Daoism, and its parallels within the Craft. Jacob is a good friend of your president. He is a member of the D.C. Scottish Rite and a past governor of two York Rite Colleges, one in Maryland and the other in Virginia and a member of Washington, D.C. College of the Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis where he has given outstanding programs. Jacob has been to China and the Far East where his studies included Chinese philosophy and culture.

A speaker has agreed to present a talk for our scheduled meeting in December. December will also be the annual election and installation of officers. Adam Goldman will be the Speaker; he is still trying to decide which of his talks he will be presenting. Adam is a well-known speaker, not only in the D.C. area but in England and elsewhere. The current Grand Master of D.C. turns to Adam to either provide other speakers or come up with programs when a lodge may need one. Whatever his topic it is sure to be interesting.

Fraternally,

*Walter Benesch*

Walter P. Benesch, 33°  
President, MMRS



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## Minutes of August 2, 2020

A meeting of the Maryland Masonic Research Society was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on ZOOM by President Walter Benesch.

The attendance totaled 21 Zoom Participants

A panel discussion explored, ***Freemasonry During a Pandemic and the use of VR Meetings***. The presentation began with a brief introduction of panelists: Charles Stuppard, Jason Richards and Samantha Finstad. A summary that explored attitudes and misconceptions of the use of video conferencing platforms. The open discussion focused on what is being done to maintain activity while actual in lodge meetings were canceled. Even though many lodges were silent, there have been both open and tiled Masonic meetings using video conferencing within the lodges, the DC Scottish Rite, and several of the other appendant bodies of Masonry. A lively yet informative discussion followed with Q&A. President Walter Benesch gave his appreciation to the Panelists and Special Guests.

Afterwards, President Walter Benesch adjourned the meeting at 4:45pm in peace and harmony.