



Michigan Triple Tau *Official Publication of the* *Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons* **DECEMBER 2024**

Dear Companions and Everyone:

It is officially Christmas time here at Masonic Pathways. The day after Thanksgiving we start to see all the trees and tinsel everywhere. Every time the big doors off the reception area are opening or closing the glitter floats off the big trees onto the floor and on you. I think it is a general rule that you will be wearing glitter on your face for at least 3 days.

Many Chapters go dark for January and February. Other Chapters have the Summer months off. You need 10 regular meetings per year per your Chapter's by-laws. If you can help a Companion or a Brother and attend a Chapter or a Blue Lodge and help them with the work.

We have 2 flyers with this issue and our regular line officers have written articles too. It is hard for me to not go wild with the artwork. There are so many beautiful decorations and cute animals. I did get the Covid-19 virus 2 weeks ago and they tell me it takes a few weeks to get your strength back. Any one person that knows me, knows I am not that patient. Please stay well and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fraternally,
Jane Todd, Editor of the Triple Tau



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MEC Thomas Black

Grand High Priest

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Greetings Companions:

As I write this, I am attending the Virginia Grand York Rite Session in Williamsburg, Virginia. The month of November was filled with Michigan travel also. I attended Livingston #30, Oakland #5, Grand Ledge #85, Grand Rapids #7, Lafayette #4. If there is anyone who wants to see a PERFECT opening and closing, please attend Oakland Chapter #5. There has been a TON of work done on this Chapter over the last year and it shows!! Every single Companion knew their work from memory, and every single chair was filled from the HP to the Sentinel and a few more on the sidelines. Not all Chapters are a beacon like Oakland. Livingston #30 is struggling a LOT, so my good friend Right Excellent Dave Patterson will be there for the next few months to help. If there are any Companions who would like to attend Livingston Chapter #30 and help them also, they meet on the first Monday of the month. Lafayette Chapter #4 is also in dire need of some help, they meet on the 3rd Monday of the Month; however, they are dark in December, January, & February

November also lightened my load of Masonic Obligations, as a new Excellent Chief was installed in my stead for Tully Cross Knight Masons; and a new secretary was elected in my stead for Lisbon-Crescent #229 F&AM. I am, however, still going in as Governor of my College in May! November also was the month of the DeMolay Legion of Honor Investiture. Eight new Legionnaires were invested in the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Just as Right Excellent Dave Patterson is helping Livingston Chapter #30, if there are any other Chapters that need a helping hand or some guidance, please reach out to any Grand Officer and we are more than able to help you with anything. Next month I look forward to attending Durand #139, Hooker #138, Cadillac #103, Grand Rapids #7 as well as attending the Texas Grand York Rite Session in Waco, Texas. Until I see you again, keep seeking further light in Masonry.

Fraternally,
Tom Black, MEGHP





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Greetings Companions,

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. December is a month for Blue Lodge installations and getting together with others in our various organizations for, parties and more. Currently, I do not know of anything going on that requires Grand Chapter participation or travel. The next busy month have is in February with an All-Degree day and the George Washington celebration that takes place in Port Huron. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe through the holidays.

Fraternally,
Dave Montgomery GK



Greetings Companions,

How time flies by seems like I just got done writing an article and it's time to start all over again. Here in northern Michigan the weather is starting to change rapidly. The leaves on our trees have all but fallen and we are now starting to receive snow flurries and some dusting of snow.

We as grand officers and DDI 's are trying to complete our schools of instruction and Chapter visitation as quickly as possible. When old man winter settles in and we are all confined at home this is our opportunity to spend some time to open our ritual books and learn our lessons that we were elected to perform. The Grand Chapter Secretary has sent out the Master's Pins to all the Chapter Secretaries for a presentation. When your Chapter presents them be sure to record them in our appendix system.

Also, Chapter Secretaries, it is vital that your Chapter keeps up to date in the system. The time has come to consider Companions for the MSA and Bronze Awards remember May 1st is the deadline. You can be nominated from the floor; the forms can be downloaded off the Grand Chapter website. Please fill them out and mail them to me or the Grand Chapter Secretary as soon as possible. In closing remember the less fortunate this holiday season look out for your friends, neighbors and family I hope everyone had a nice thanksgiving and I wish everyone a blessed Christmas.

Fraternally,
Harold Staley, Grand Scribe.



R. E. C. DONALD L. GALWAY, P.G.H.P.

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SCRIBBLES OF THE SECRETARY

Twenty-four days till Christmas (assuming you receive this of the first), I know that you all have all your shopping done (I can also sell you a bridge if we believe the first line). We are ramping up for the holidays and just to make life easier, we get to go through the installation season for the Blue Lodges. I know it is the last month of the year, but do we have to try and go through everything in one month.

We should try and enjoy our family this time of the year. I can remember as a kid this time between Thanksgiving and Christmas my friends and I would try and anticipate just what would be left under the tree. Our wishes were not even close to what the youth of today wished for. Life was much simpler for us and our parents then, black and white tv's, 45's, 78's and 33's vinyl records. I am happy I had a chance to live in them days because life was much simpler for most people that grew up in the age and if you still have friends from those days, you will always have something to talk about.

December and January are very busy months with Lodge installations, inspections and holiday celebrations, we have little or no time for degrees to take place. We do have the ability to recruit candidates, at this time, in a very subtle way. Many of our Master Masons have little or no idea of Royal Arch Masons. We as Royal Arch Masons have been doing this for so long, we think everyone knows what we are all about, they don't! This is one of the reasons that York Rite Masons in Michigan only has 10 to 12 percent of the total membership of Masons in Michigan.

I will revisit this part of the article later, as we do have the ability to provide more education for ourselves and Lodge members, but only if we do it correctly.

Sherry and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and Happy New Year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone next.

Donald





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Greetings Companions, all.

I hope this news article finds you and family well. October (Halloween) has passed by now. Thanksgiving 2024 is nearing a memory of life with family and friends. And Christmas which is just around the corner, reminds us of our Christian values. Please be kind to all and especially those less fortunate.

As you read this article I will reiterate about my visits to various Chapters. It becomes evident that some of our Chapters struggle to gather the numbers necessary to hold a legal stated convocation let alone opening and closing. For those with six or more companions present, awesome. For those with lesser numbers, I am encouraged that at least an effort is being put forth in ritual work. I have been seeing Companions making effort to open and close Chapters without the ritual book in hand and only referencing the ritual book on occasion.

There is still work to be done but, "Doing Our Job Together", which is a quote from MEGHP Thomas Black, seems to be working. If there is anything that you need, let the Grand Officers know.

Also, a reminder of the George Washington Birthday Celebration on February 15, 2025, (Saturday) at the Port Huron Masonic Temple.

Event Flyer and registration attached. (I Hope!).

Hope to see you all soon.

David A Patterson, REGPS

Greetings Companions,

As we work through the events of November and enter December, the holidays are always on my mind. Time with family and friends, creating memories and celebrating in the bounty provided by God. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and turn our attention to Christmas, I encourage you all to reflect on the things in life you are thankful for.

I am most thankful to my family. My wife Dawn is most certainly my better half who keeps me grounded while offering encouragement and support to chase my interests. She has given me much more than I can state here.

Fraternally,

Scott A. Blanchard, Grand Royal Arch Captain



Royal Arch Education – St. John the Evangelist

By Comp. Kevin Brown, PHP of Oakland Chapter No. 5

During December, while most of us will be focused on the Holidays and supporting our Brothers during their Blue Lodge Installations, lets not forget to honor one of our patron saints of Masonry – St. John the Evangelist.

We don't know the exact time period when Freemasonry adopted our patron saints but we begin to find references to them in the mid 1700s. Today, when we open an EA lodge we are reminded that we all come "From a Lodge of the Saints John of Jerusalem." We are told in the lecture that a certain point within a circle is embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelists, who were perfect parallels in Christianity as well as Masonry."

The importance and influence of St. John the Evangelist is too exhaustive to document here but let us note some of key points. St. John was the youngest disciple, brother of James, and typically depicted without a beard, leaning on Jesus during the last supper "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples whom Jesus loved." (John 13:23). He became the "beloved disciple" and the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. St. John authored five books in the KJV bible including Revelation, three epistles (1, 2, and 3 John) as well as the Gospel of John. His Gospel covered a different time span than the others and focused primarily on theological matters. He states that "these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30). He lived to an extreme old age, surviving all his fellow apostles, and died of natural causes in Ephesus about the year 100.



Plautilla Nelli, *The Last Supper*, c. 1568, oil on canvas, 200 x 700 cm (Santa Maria Novella Museum, Florence)

In the early days of Masonry in Europe, the 27th of December was celebrated within all branches of our fraternity as a great Masonic Festival Day. Unfortunately, over the years, the practice of celebrating our Patron Saints has lost favor within our organization – perhaps our Companions can take this message back to their home Lodges in hopes of restoring a once great celebration.

Fraternally,
Kevin Brown, PHP, Oakland Chapter No. 5





**St. Clair Chapter No. 12, Royal Arch Masons
Invites you to the 105th Annual
George Washington Birthday Celebration**

The 105th Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner will be held on
Saturday, February 15, 2025
At the Port Huron Masonic Temple
927 6th St., Port Huron, Michigan
6:00 p.m.

All Brothers, Companions, Sir Knights, and Ladies are invited to attend.
\$25.00 per person

**DINNER IS BY PREPAID RESERVATION ONLY
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR**

No reservations accepted after Monday, February 10, 2025

Clip Here

Name: (Please print) _____

Number attending @ \$25 each: _____ Total _____

Make checks payable to St. Clair Chapter No. 12, R.A.M.

Send prepaid reservations to:

William Herlihy

874 Crystal Ln.

Marysville, MI 48040-1598

Dinner is Saturday, February 15, 2025

Reservation deadline is Monday, February 10, 2025

NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR





Grand Commandery Knights Templar Of Michigan



Greetings Companions,

Our annual visit to Pathway's, Masonic Home in Alma will take place on December 8, 2024, we will be celebrating Christmas with our brother's, and Sisters who reside there. We will start the day with a worship service starting at 10am, after the service we will be handing out sugar free cookies, and Christmas cards to the residents by visiting their rooms and sharing in some Christmas cheer.

I am personally inviting each Sir Knight, whether you are a Grand Officer, or Past Grand Officer, to join with our current Grand Commandry officers at this wonderful event, it is our obligation to care for our widows and orphans, and this event is just one way that we can honor those men and women who call Pathway's their home.

The activities will start with **Fall-in @ 9:00am at the Doig Chapel.**

I look forward to seeing you at Pathway's for this wonderful event, where we will hear a message of good news, with Jesus Christ as the center of this message, our world would be a different place to live in if Jesus hadn't come to save this world, and we would not have salvation without his birth.

Mark your calendars for this date and come share Christmas with those who need our support and love.

In Christ,
James E. Deguise Rutherford, KCT
Grand Generalissimo
Grand Commandry, Knights Templar of Michigan

