

# Third Masonic District

Third Masonic District Website



## Houdini, Halloween, and Freemasonry

*By Brother William L. Britton*



Legendary Hungarian-born American escape artist, illusionist, and stunt performer Harry Houdini died Halloween afternoon in 1926 at 1:26 p.m. in Room 401 at Detroit's Grace Hospital, aged 52. Houdini's death was the result of peritonitis, secondary to a ruptured appendix caused by being repeatedly struck in the abdomen. At the time of his death, he was planning an endurance stunt that required him to survive being entombed in a coffin. Naming the stunt "Buried Alive" he had hoped to create excitement and make it more appealing to the crowds. Ironically it would be the same coffin that Houdini's body would be transported in back to New York City for burial.

Harry Houdini promised in the event of his death to return on its anniversary. Harry had told his wife Bess that if it were possible to communicate from the great beyond, he would send a message to her. For a full ten years after Houdini's death, Bess was committed to make contact and conducted a séance on October 31. Attending each year were Houdini's personal friends as well as top named magicians.

During Bess's last attempt at the Knickerbocker hotel in Los Angeles a heavy thunderstorm occurred. It seemed to be an omen to all the attendees Harry was about to unlock the handcuffs which remained forever fastened, and he would make contact. Alas this was not to happen, and Houdini failed to make contact. Bess herself stopped participating in the séances after 1937, however members of the magic fraternity have kept the tradition to this day. Each Halloween, there are numerous Houdini séances held in various locations around the world.

How does Freemasonry play into this? According to Denslow's 10,000 Famous Freemasons Brother Harry Houdini was a member of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City. He received his degrees on July 17, 31, and Aug. 21, 1923, becoming a life member on Oct. 30, 1923. He was also a member Mecca 255 Jean Antoine Houdon Shrine Temple, N.Y.C.

## Event Announcements

October 25  
District School of Instruction  
Master Mason Degree  
George Washington Lodge No. 143

November 22  
District School of Instruction  
Election/Installation of Officers  
Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302

December 20  
District School of Instruction  
Fellowcraft Mason Degree  
Big Spring Lodge No. 361



THE COLOSISTS UNDER LIBERTY TREE

*Pennsylvania Freemason*



**From the Desk of Brother Jeffrey R. Miller**  
**District Deputy Grand Master, Third Masonic District**



Brother Jeffrey R. Miller  
District Deputy Grand Master

Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

October is here and Freemasonry is well in the Third Masonic District. All the Lodges in the District are having their stated meetings and other activities. We as Brothers should be attending these activities. Fellowship with your brothers is fundamental for Freemasonry. The District Low Vale is history, but the fellowship kindled over dinner and the conversation around the fire afterward will be remembered well into the future. Freemasonry is so interesting that during the conferral of the degree a whitetail deer made a visit to the lodge room in the corn. Read your Lodge notices, they have all the information you need to know so you can plan your monthly Lodge attendance. The District Directory contains information for the meetings at the other Lodges within the District. In it you will find a list of the programs being presented each month. The district traveling gavel now resides in Orrstown Lodge No. 262. All Worshipful Masters should assemble a traveling party and go get the gavel!!!

The School of Instruction is the fourth Monday of each month. There are no limitations on the attendance size. I ask that all Master Masons, not just the officers in the district be in attendance each month. The information presented is essential for your journey in Freemasonry. You will learn details that you may not know even if you are 25-year member. Come out to the next School of Instruction!

Your Lodge needs your attendance at all of activities held. You bring a unique perspective, as do all the brethren in attendance. Be a part of the discussions in Lodge. If you have an idea, be sure to discuss it with your Worshipful Master. Take an active role in Lodge. There are many other things to be done besides being an officer. Volunteer to take a part in a degree. Each degree has several non-verbal parts. We all need to be the best Mason that we can be. I hope to see you on the Masonic trail soon.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!  
Jeffrey R. Miller DDGM03



## From the Desk of Brother Kenneth W. Womack, PM Principal, Third Masonic District School of Instruction



Brother Kenneth W. Womack  
Principal District 3 SOI

Brethren all,

At our SOI on October 25th, Brother Paul Sutcliffe, the Regional Instructor for Region Two, will be with us at the meeting. The work for the evening will be the Master Mason Degree conferred by George Washington Lodge No. 143. We hope to see you there while Lodge No. 143 shows the regional instructor how well we do it in District 3.

In November, as is customary, the work will be the election and installation of officers, done by Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302. I will be contacting incoming WMs shortly to ask whether they intend to do open or closed installations, and we will make sure we cover the information you need for the ritual you plan to use.

On Monday, December 20th, we will not do the Fellow Craft degree as scheduled but will instead conduct a session on the Business of the Lodge. The work will be done by incoming officers for 2022 (the principals will designate the specific officers). The intent of this session is to review BOL in detail and to make sure incoming officers get a good refresher on BOL and have a chance to ask questions and get clarifications on things they might have forgotten since certification. I would ask that all incoming WMs, SWs and JW's plan to attend and that other incoming officers also try to make it. We want you to get off on the right foot for that first meeting of the year.

Brethren, I look forward to seeing you on Monday, October 25th.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Brother Kenneth W. Womack  
Principal District 3 SOI



## Academy of Masonic Knowledge

<https://pamasonicacademy.org/>

The Pennsylvania Academy of Masonic Knowledge strives to create an environment that encourages Masons to seek a greater understanding of the nature and purposes of Freemasonry in all its many aspects – past, present, and future – and to share that understanding with others.

To this end, the Academy offers learning opportunities in which Masons may participate in dialogues with similarly inclined brethren, witness prominent Masonic scholars discussing various aspects of Freemasonry, and pursue home study at their own pace and in their own areas of interest, through publications on Masonic subjects recommended by the Academy.

In addition to providing a learning experience for Freemasons, the Academy is a vehicle affording recognition to Masons who share their knowledge of Freemasonry with fellow Masons or the public by the written or spoken word. All Pennsylvania Masons are eligible to participate in the Academy's Certification Process, culminating with the designation as a Master Masonic Scholar. External studies programs are currently the fastest growing of all educational methods and the most diverse. The Committee of the Academy of Masonic Knowledge will attempt to provide to you the basic tools and principles for your study. How well you use these tools in your pursuit of Masonic knowledge will be analyzed and determined through your Evaluation Reports. It is important to your success that you not only know the subject, but that you demonstrate an ability to identify and apply the Masonic principles you have learned. The best ideas are those that work, and the best scholars are leaders who set the pace for putting their thoughts and knowledge into action.

[Masonic Scholar Program Enrollment](#)

## The Masonic Nugget



Baron Johann de Kalb (1721-1780) Major General in Continental Army. Born June 29, 1721, at Hattendorf, Germany, he served in the French army from 1743-64 and was sent on a confidential mission to America in 1768. In 1777 he was commissioned major general in the American army and served with valor in the cause of the colonies. He was mortally wounded in action near Camden, S.C. on Aug. 16, 1780, and was buried there on Aug. 19 with the British General, Lord Cornwallis q.v. giving the grand honors of Masonry. It is not known where he held his Masonic membership although it may have been in Army Lodge No. 29, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in the Maryland Line (which DeKalb commanded). His biographer, Frederick Kapp, stated him to be a Freemason. The lodge at Camden erected a monument over his grave in 1825 with Masonic emblems. Lafayette laid the cornerstone of the monument and deposited within it a Masonic apron and the constitution of the lodge at Camden. The grand lodge remitted the dues of this lodge in 1824 to help them pay for the monument. The De Kalb statue at Annapolis, Md. was unveiled by the Grand Lodge of Maryland.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Denlslow, William R., 10,000 famous Freemasons, Vol. 1 A-D, Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co. Inc, 1957

## Around the District

### COVID 19 Restrictions and Guidelines

As a reminder whenever attending a Masonic meeting or function relaxed COVID 19 restrictions are still in place The Right Worshipful Grand Master has lifted the requirement for the COVID waiver to be signed. He has also removed the mask mandate for any member that has received his vaccination. He asks that anyone not vaccinated or doesn't feel comfortable being around other people to continue to wear a mask.

**Be an active member!**



### 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction

The 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction is scheduled to be held on the fourth Monday of each month (with exception to June and July) at 7:30 p.m. at Big Spring Lodge located at 131 Centerville Rd, Newville, PA, 17241.

The next meeting of the 3rd Masonic District School of Instruction will be on October 25, 2021. The work of the evening will be the Entered Master Mason Degree. The work will be exemplified by George Washington Lodge No. 143.

Please contact your Worshipful Master or a Lodge Officer prior to attending. All Master Masons are welcome to attend.



**George Washington Lodge No. 143**  
74 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201  
Second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Brother Michael S. Essis  
Worshipful Master  
Website: <http://gw143.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/georgewashingtonlodge143>

From the desk of the Secretary,

Our Stated Meeting will be on Friday, October 8, 2021. The program for the evening will be Past Masters Recognition Night. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Per the Worshipful Master, a meal will be served prior to the Stated Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Cost of the meal is by donation.

We will be having an Extra Meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021, when an Entered Apprentice Mason Degree will be conferred on William Farley Sellers. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

As we are beginning to return to “more normal conditions”, it is good to see improvements in attendance at Stated Meetings. I would ask that, if you are able, attend our Extra Meetings to support our new candidates during their journey to the “Sublime Degree of a Master Mason”. They are the future for our respective Lodges and should be supported and encouraged for future involvement.

Take care, be safe in your travels, and hope to see you soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Dennis R. McClanahan, PM.  
Lodge Secretary

***The genius of Freemasonry is not our Masonic buildings and temples or the trappings of our organizations. It is not our great charities or community activities. It is not our beautiful rituals or their teachings! It is the 'practice of Freemasonry' by the Freemasons. Yet we cannot practice that which we do not know or understand. Thus, Masonic education is the foundation for our Fraternity.***

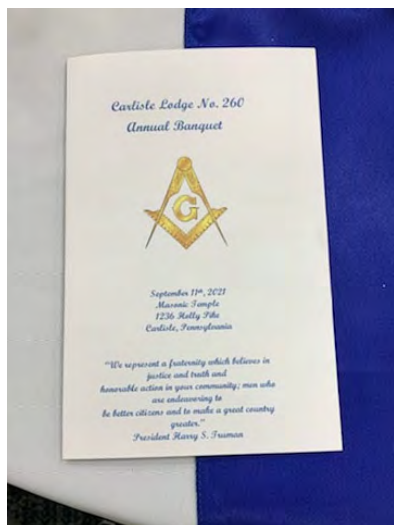
***- Carl H. Claudy***



**Carlisle Lodge 260**  
1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA, 17013  
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Brother Donald C. Palesky  
Worshipful Master  
Website: <http://carlisle260.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.Johns.260>

Greetings from the East,

### Carlisle Lodge's Annual Banquet



On September 11th, Carlisle Lodge held its annual Lodge Banquet. The brothers and their families enjoyed a wonderful night of food, music, and fellowship. Thank you to all those who came out. A special thank you goes out to Amanda Thorne, Brother Marc R. Thorne, JW's wife for the decorations and setup. They were lovely.

### Torch Award-Mason of the Year



At its annual banquet, Carlisle Lodge was able to recognize Brother William (Bill) R. Bunt, PM, as its Mason of the Year or Torch Award recipient. Brother Bill services as an inspiration to all the brothers in the Lodge. Brother Bill leads the lodge's community efforts, serves on numerous committees, assist the Temple Association when needed, and serves a mentor to many of the brothers in the lodge. Mostly importantly Brother Bill is there for his brothers and their families. He is always as a smile, a friendly handshake and is quick with joke. He makes everyone who he encounters feel welcomed and special. Congratulations to Brother Bill on this well-deserved award!



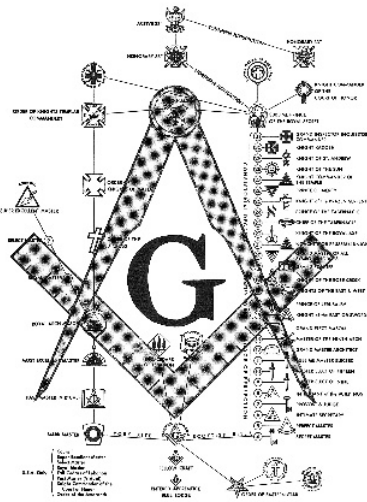
## Welcome Brother

On September 22nd, Carlisle Lodge welcomed its newest brother, Brother Charles D. Leeds. Brother J. David McKibben, PM conferred an excellent Enter Apprentice Mason's degree. Brother Charles's father, who has been Mason for 59 years, was in attendance. It was an incredibly special night for Carlisle Lodge and our fraternity. Congratulations and welcome to the craft Brother Charles.



## Upcoming Activities

On Friday, October 22nd, 2021, starting at 6:30pm, Carlisle Lodge will be having an extra meeting. Brother Marc R. Thorne will be conferring the Fellowcraft Mason's degree. I would encourage all brothers to get involved and come out and show their support.



Sincerely and fraternally,

Donald C. Palesky  
Worshipful Master

### **Orrstown Lodge No. 262**

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257

Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Matthew R. Hoch

Worshipful Master

Website: <https://orrstown262.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrrstownLodgeNo262>

Greetings from the East,

The Third Masonic District Low Vale was held at Maple Lane Farms Newville PA., the home of Brother Jeffrey R. Miller DDGM, on September 29, 2021, at 0700. The event was jointly hosted by Orrstown Lodge No. 262 and Carlisle Lodge No. 260. Following a prime rib dinner, a lodge of Master Masons was opened and Brother Jan W. Bigler, Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315, was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The event was well attended by members of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, members of the Third Masonic District, and traveling brethren from other jurisdictions. Having the highest number of members in attendance, Orrstown Lodge No. 262 was awarded the District Traveling Gavel by Brother Jeffrey R. Miller, DDGM. It was a great night of Freemasonry enjoyed by all!



Low Vale Degree Team w/ Brother Jan W. Bigler



Orrstown Lodge No. 262 receives the District Traveling Gavel

A Stated Meeting of Orrstown Lodge No. 262 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA., on Thursday October 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. The program for the evening will be presented by Pennsylvania Order of the Eastern Star presented by 342 Martha Custis Chapter.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Matthew R. Hoch  
Worshipful Master

## **Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302**

910 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Kenneth B. Robinson

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://eureka302.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EurekaWestShoreLodge302>

Greetings from the East,

Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302 kicked off the fall season by holding it's regularly stated meeting on Tuesday September 7th due to the Labor Day Holiday. The evenings program consisted of a Kilt Night with a Table Lodge accompanied by a stag dinner. The Table Lodge was presented with courses of Italian wedding soup, salad and Swedish meatballs served between the toasts. The meal was prepared by a combination of the Worshipful Master's Lady, Brenda, and our Stewards, and served by our Stewards and several of our brethren. The Brethren had dispensation to attend the meeting in dress kilts as well as partake of the beverage of their choice, provided they brought their own and a commemorative firing glass was provided to each of the attendees. The Table Lodge was followed by a regular business meeting. Several of the brethren offered a toast or response to a regular toast. It was a very enjoyable and unforgettable evening! Every lodge should participate in such an event.



Brethren at the Table Lodge Ceremony



Participants in the Table Lodge Ceremony





Lodge Officers for the Evening Business Meeting

The lodge continues to host to our unofficial ZOOM toast meetings once a month, but they have been shifted to the third Wednesday at 9PM. In September, we were lucky enough to have Brother Jeffrey R. Miller, DDGM join us from the Worshipful Master's mancave. The zoom meeting is purely social and a great time for Brethren to enjoy fraternal time. We invite all brethren to join us. Below is the link to the Zoom, feel free to join us on October 20th.

[ZOOM MEETING LINK](#)

Our next stated meeting will be October 4th with a presentation by Brother Timothy R. Settlemeyer, PM, on *Grotto, and obscure Masonic organizations*. Additionally, we will celebrate the commitment by our members celebrating 25 years in the fraternity. We look forward to seeing all who can join us for this and future meetings.

Sincerely & fraternally,

Kenneth B. Robinson  
Worshipful Master

### **Cumberland Valley No. 315**

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257

First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Jason E. White

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://lodge315.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cumberland-Valley-Masonic-Lodge-No-315-1386129258366656>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1486480571653567>

Greetings from the East,

September 2, 2021, marked our return to labor, and by all accounts it was a fantastic night to be in lodge! As with tradition, a fellowship meal of peaches and ice cream was served in the Alexander Stewart Social Hall. A time of fellowship and good will around a bowl of nature's goodness. After our refreshment the meeting started promptly at 7:30p.m. Business was conducted, after which an interesting program "Veterans & Service Animals" was presented by Bro. Thomas P. Kennedy, PM. Attending our meeting were three very special guests from Illinois. Brother Steven N. Goff, PM was accompanied to the meeting by Bothers Richard E. Goff, R.W., DDGM District E-005, Christopher B. Goff, WM, DeWitt Lodge No. 84, and Johnathan Goff, PM, DeWitt Lodge No. 84 making the evening an especially memorable night for everyone.



On September 16, 2021, we held an extra meeting to confer the Master Mason degree upon Brother Donald O'Brien Brown raising him to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. What a special night! Not only was Brother Brown deeply impressed with the degree conferral and raising by Brother Bryan L. Ruth, PM, it was made even more enjoyable by our visiting brethren, Brothers Robert Gadsden, WM, and Tommy Long, PM, both members Chosen Friends Lodge No. 43 MWPHGL of PA. Many thanks to all the lodge officers, Past Masters, and brethren who came out in support, and stood in where needed.



A Stated Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA., on Thursday October 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The Program for the evening will be *Past Masters Recognition Night*. Prior to our stated meeting a fellowship meal will be served consisting of Honey Glazed Ham, Longrain Wild Rice, seasoned Carrots, and Apple Pie.

Reminder: Don't forget it is time to pay dues. They must be received by December 31, 2021 for your membership to remain in good standing. Please see the lodge notice for the correct dues amount or contact the lodge secretary. Members are encouraged to pay online at <https://portal.pamasons.org>. To pay online you will need to REGISTER using your member number. Anyone having difficulty paying online should contact the Secretary Directly at 717-816-1633

### **Consider the Lodge Masonic Challenge Coin Fundraiser**

Front — Square & Compass with quote “A Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God”

Back — Square & Compass surrounded by the Seven Liberal Arts

See the Worshipful Master or any Lodge Officer for Details. Coins are \$10 each

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jason E. White  
Worshipful Master



**Big Spring Lodge No. 361**

131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA 17241  
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Brother Todd L. Johnson, PM

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://bigspringlodgeno361.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bigspring361>

Ladies Night Banquet October 9, 2021

Greetings from the East,

A Stated Meeting of Big Spring Lodge No. 361 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA., on Thursday October 14, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Todd L. Johnson, PM  
Worshipful Master

**Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443**

Third Floor, BB&T Bank, Greencastle, PA 17225  
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Toby A. Stoner

Worshipful Master

Website: <https://mtpisgah443.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Pisgah-Lodge-No-443-668433266645074>

Greetings from the East,

A Stated Meeting of Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, Third Floor, BB&T Bank, Greencastle, PA., on Thursday October 19, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. The Program for the evening will be *Our Masonic Path* presented by Brother William L. Britton, PM, Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Toby A. Stoner  
Worshipful Master

**Acacia Lodge No. 586**

33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA 17268

Third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Henry A. Martin

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://acacia586.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2580660782177324>

Ladies Night Banquet October 2, 2021

From the desk of the Secretary,

At our September Stated Meeting on September 17, 2021, we celebrated 100 years meeting at 33 West Main Street, Waynesboro. Brother Right Worshipful Past Grand Master S. Eugene Herritt was in attendance and helped us celebrate. We also presented a 25-year service award to Brian A. Wynkoop.



A Stated Meeting of Acacia Lodge No. 586 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, Third Floor, 33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA., on Thursday October 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. The Program for the evening will be *The H. L. Hunley* presented by Brother Barry Farner. George Washington Lodge #143.

An Extra Meeting of Acacia Lodge No. 586 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, Third Floor, 33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA., on Tuesday October 19, 2021. Please come out and show your support as Brother Stacey R. Kimble is passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft Mason.

The Acacia Lodge #586 Ladies Night Banquet will be held on October 2, 2021, at the Second Street Event Center, 42 W. 2nd St, Waynesboro, PA 17268. Social time will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be Buffet Style. The menu will include a Top Round Carving Station, Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Baked Mac and Cheese, Country Green Beans, Roasted Vegetables, Garden Salad w Choice of Dressing, Rolls & Butter, Assorted Pies and Cakes and a Beverage Station with Tea, Lemonade and Coffee. The cost is \$25.00 per person, payable that night. Please RSVP the Lodge Secretary by email [robertnelson68@comcast.net](mailto:robertnelson68@comcast.net) or by phone (717) 762-6621.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert W. Nelson, Jr., PM.  
Lodge Secretary



***It is not what a man gets, but what a man is, that he should think of. He should think first of his character, and then of his condition: for if he have the former, he need have no fears about the latter. Character will draw condition after it. Circumstances obey principles.***

***- H.W. Beecher***



**Pennsylvania Lodge of Research**  
Semi-Annual Meetings at Various Locations  
Brother Yasser Al-Khatib  
Worshipful Master

<https://palodgeofresearch.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92580616988>

Dear Brethren,

I hope you are having a good summer and that you are staying safe as we hear of this rise in COVID cases again. The PA Lodge of Research will meet for its second and final meeting of the year on December 11, 2021 at 10 am. We would love to be able to come and meet in district 3 in a lodge that has plenty of parking and is willing to host us. If interested in hosting us this year please send me an email at [yasser.alkhatib@gmail.com](mailto:yasser.alkhatib@gmail.com) with your lodge name, number and address.

Who said there are no women in Freemasonry? See the PALoR medallion:



The medallion of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research depicts a classical female allegorical figure holding a manuscript in one hand and a square and compasses in the other. The sunburst represents Enlightenment. Its symbolism is obvious in depicting the purposes of the Lodge of Research as sharing Masonic Light with others who are following a planned approach to personal character-building and self-improvement, and to encourage an organized process of formal education of the Craft at large.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Yasser Al-Khatib, WM

***“What nobler thing can be accomplished than the illumination of ignorance.”***

***- Brother Manley P. Hall***