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**LOCAL BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INTERPRETER AND MASON TO MARK THE
300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRANKLIN'S ARRIVAL IN PHILADELPHIA AT THE MASONIC
TEMPLE**

"The Noblest Question in the world is, 'What good may I do in it?'" – Benjamin Franklin

(PHILADELPHIA, PA) -- The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia will host a special event on Friday, Oct. 13, to mark the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's arrival in Philadelphia in 1723.

Franklin, a Mason, made many contributions to the fraternity, the City of Brotherly Love and the nation, including civic improvements, scientific research, diplomacy and creative inventions. He's most known for being one of the original authors of the Declaration of Independence.

How did one man accomplish all of this? Learn the back story from "Mr. Franklin" himself, William (Bill) Ochester. Ochester, also a Mason, has been a Franklin portrayer in Philadelphia since 2004, when he was an employee of the National Constitution Center. Having studied "the old Gentleman" extensively, one of Ochester's greatest pleasures is creating interest in this important citizen and helping modern society understand and appreciate Franklin's contributions to our world.

In a presentation, titled "The Noblest Question," Ochester will speak about Franklin's life and accomplishments in first person, followed by a question-and-answer period, on Friday, Oct. 13, from 7 – 8:30 p.m., at the Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia. This event is "donate-what-you-wish," but reservations are required, and space is limited. Please RSVP [HERE](#) by Oct. 12.

The Benjamin Franklin presentation coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Masonic Temple, which houses the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. The Temple has several Franklin artifacts in its collection, including letters and his Masonic sash, worn in 1782. A 17-foot sculpture of Franklin, built by artist Jim West, is prominent in the Grand Ballroom of the Temple.

The Masonic Temple opened to the public in 1873 and contains artwork, frescos, stained glass, murals and sculptures which connect Freemasons and non-Freemasons to an inspirational world of art, architecture and history. This National Historic Landmark building is a treasure that has been hidden in plain sight, despite its prominent location next to City Hall. The building is open for guided tours every Tuesday through Saturday. Purchase tickets and learn more online at [PaMasonicTemple.org](https://pamasonictemple.org).

The Masonic Temple will offer free tours to the public on Oct. 8 and Dec. 3 as part of its anniversary celebration. Tours will be held every 20 minutes, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. There will be no tours after 3:20 p.m.

To view a media kit, including a list of prominent Freemasons in history and from Pennsylvania, visit <https://pamasonictemple.org/media/>.

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A National Historic Landmark in the heart of Philadelphia, the Masonic Temple was constructed in 1873. It is the headquarters for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania (Masonic fraternity) and the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. Special events are hosted within the building through the branded events department known as ONE North Broad.