

Personal Representative's Message

Ill. Edmund Cohen, 33° — Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Alexandria

Gratitude

At our March meeting the Chapter Rose Croix conducts the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. And in this issue of the Bulletin we list the names of those Brethren who have passed away during the last year. It is a time of sorrow as we mourn the loss of our Brethren as well as the loss of family, friends, and neighbors, and also think about the difficulties we have had to deal with as a result of the COVID pandemic.

It is natural in times such as these to be more heavily focused on our problems. This is not surprising because we need to pay attention to them, confront them, and try to resolve them. But at the same time, there is another lesson to be learned, and that is we need to spend at least as much time being grateful for what we have as we spend obsessing about what we lack.

There have been a number of books written about the psychological importance of gratitude and how it can increase our feeling of well-being. A key point in most of these books is that emotions affect us mentally and physically, and influence our ability to meet the challenges we face. Stress and negativity drag us down, optimism and positivity build us up.

Without minimizing the seriousness of the issues we face, most of us have much to be thankful for; and, if each day we would make a list of things we are thankful for, and perhaps just focus on one of them, we can generate an attitude shift that will increase both our happiness and resilience so that we can better face our problems.

In this regard, I am reminded of a poem by John O'Donohue which he titled: **For Courage.**

*When the light around you lessens
And your thoughts darken until
Your body feels fear turn
Cold as a stone inside,*

*When you find yourself bereft
Of any belief in yourself
And all you unknowingly
Leaned on has fallen,*

*When one voice commands
Your whole heart,
And it is raven dark,*

*Steady yourself and see
That it is your own thinking
That darkens your world.*

*Search and you will find
A diamond-thought of light,*

*Know that you are not alone,
And that this darkness has purpose;
Gradually it will school your eyes,
To find the one gift your life requires
Hidden within this night-corner.*

*Invoke the learning
Of every suffering
You have suffered.*

*Close your eyes.
Gather all the kindling
About your heart
To create one spark
That is all you need
To nourish the flame
That will cleanse the dark
Of its weight of festered fear.*

*A new confidence will come alive
To urge you towards higher ground
Where your imagination
will learn to engage difficulty
As its most rewarding threshold!*

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Personal Representative's Message

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Simply put, it is at the darkest of times that Masons draw upon the inner light, that spark of the Divine that we seek to nurture throughout our lives as we prepare ourselves for that Celestial Lodge where the Grand Artificer of the Universe resides.

And as the poet notes, "Know that you are not alone." Indeed, when we focus on gratitude we are forced to confront the fact that there are so many in far worse situations than we are. Drawing upon a lesson in the Eighth Degree, Intendent of the Building, we are told: "Compare not thy condition with the few above thee, but to secure thy content, look upon those thousands with whom though wouldst not, for any interest, change thy fortune and condition." Developing a feeling of gratitude for what we have enables us to feel better about ourselves, but also frees us to think about others. It is often said that our grief and pain is often reduced by doing good and helping others.

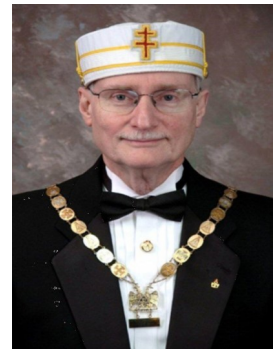
If, in spite of our troubles, we can maintain a positive attitude, we may be able to find the strength to give a compliment and give encouragement to someone. We will feel better and make someone else feel better as well. I heard a story about a man on his way home who saw a sticker on the wall of the train station that said "hi beautiful, life is great, isn't it!" And every time that person took the train, he'd see the sticker, smile at the compliment, and think of the great time he'd had with his friends. As a result, as he rode home, after a hard day at work, he would be prompted to think of the good things that happened to him that day, and be encouraged to pass on a compliment or a cheery thought to someone else. Rather than feeling sorry for himself, he would feel the personal satisfaction of helping someone else. This is a Masonic approach to life, and I would again cite a lesson from the Eighth Degree: "A Masonic Lodge should resemble a bee-hive, in which all the members work together with ardor for the common good. Masonry is not made for cold souls and narrow minds that do not comprehend its lofty mission and sublime apostolate." Working for the common good, of course, applies to our conduct and actions both within and without the Lodge.

Let me conclude with a story some of you may have heard about angels in Heaven. In one room there were a large number of angels, busy as can be. And in another room there were only a couple of angels who were not very busy at all. The busy angels were answering people's prayers for help, the other angels were there to respond to people who thanked God for their blessings, but they were not busy at all.

So, as I suggested at the beginning of this message, we need to spend at least as much time giving thanks for the blessings we enjoy as we do complaining about what we don't have. By replacing fear with faith, and putting our trust in God, we can push away many of our stresses, wake up every day fresh and strong, more capable of handling the issues and challenges that come our way!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ed Cohen



UPDATED INFORMATION

Virginia Scottish Rite Workshop

April 2, 2022

8:30 a.m.—12:00 noon

Acca Shrine Center

1712 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227

Plan to Attend

Contact Secretary

The Sacred Space of the Lodge Room

Richard E. Saunders, KCCH

We have a Holy House to build,
A Temple splendid and divine,
To be with glorious memories filled;
Of Right and Truth to be the Shrine;
How shall we build it, strong and fair
This Holy House of praise and prayer
Firm set and solid, grandly great?
How shall we all its rooms prepare
For use, for ornament, for State?

Our God hath given the wood and stone
And we must fashion them aright,
Like those who toiled on Lebanon,
Making the labor their delight;
This House, this place, this God's Home,
This Temple with a lofty dome,
Must be in all proportions fit
That heavenly messengers may come
To lodge with those who tenant it.

Build squarely upon the stately walls
The two symbolic columns raise,
And let the lofty courts and halls
With all their golden glories blaze
There, in the Kadosh Kadoshim,
Between the broad-winged cherubim,
Where the Shekinah once abode
The heart shall raise its daily hymns
Of gratitude and love to God.

Albert Pike, "The Mason's Holy House"

There are many sacred sites around the world. I could name the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Lourdes in France, Stonehenge, the Bighorn Medicine Wheel in Wyoming, and many, many more. But I would suggest that, to a Mason, the Lodge room should be considered a sacred place as well.

Before going any further, we need to clarify the difference between "Sacred" and "Holy." While there are similarities between the terms sacred and holy, which are sometimes used interchangeably, there are subtle differences. Holiness is generally the term used in relation to persons and relationships, as in religion. Whereas sacredness is used in relation to objects, places, or happenings. For the purpose of this article, I am referring to the latter in reference to the Lodge.

The word "Lodge" has two meanings to Masons. It is both a place where our meetings are held, and it is also the term for the Brethren. When I was initiated, passed, and raised, my Lodge met in a rented room in a recreation center. In fact, my Lodge was located in four different locations from 1981 to 2007 before we had our own home. Still, throughout that time we were a Lodge. And even though we met in church basements, rec centers, and a daycare center conference room, those places were just as sacred to us as our current Lodge home.

The Lodge is a sacred space set aside for us to meet, conduct ritual, and work together to make us better men. The authors of our Masonic ritual chose to hold Lodge meetings in a place symbolically representing the most sacred place of King Solomon's temple. This was not done by accident, or as a mere addition to a storyline or a narrative. A tiled Lodge is a sacred space and should be reverentially treated as such during every meeting and degree. This does not mean that we cannot have fun, but it is important to remember that time spent in Lodge is not supposed to be ordinary time. It is meant to be sacred time that is set apart from the profane and material world. Just as the men who enter the sacred space are not supposed to be ordinary men, rather, they are initiates who have been set apart from the profane.

Albert Mackey wrote "A Masonic Lodge is therefore to the instructed brethren a symbol of the world... and the world and the universe are made synonymous, when the lodge becomes, of course, a symbol of the universe. But in this case the definition of the symbol is extended, and to the ideas of length and breadth are added those of height and depth, and the lodge is said to assume the form of a double cube. The solid contents of the earth below and the expanse of the heavens above will then give the outlines of the cube, and the whole created universe will be included within the symbolic limits of a Freemason's lodge." (The Symbolism of Freemasonry, the Masonic History Company, Pages 104-105.)

One way in looking at the setting of space in the Lodge room is in viewing the circumambulation. This is done by the Junior Deacon while setting the boundaries of the Great Lights from the rest of the world. It is also done with a Brother escorting the candidate, creating a sacred space from the rest of the world for his initiation. This is related to the sacred circle and its ritual extension. One walks about what is set apart, circumscribed as charged or sacred. Circumambulation is a rite of both centering the meeting and creating a further bonding of those in the room.

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The Sacred Space of the Lodge Room

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Even the chaplain's prayer is a part of this. Instead of an invocation, the prayer is a request to ask the GAOTU to be with the Brethren for a specific purpose during Lodge, separating the Lodge from the rest of the world as we request divine assistance at the beginning of our communication.

Within our sacred space, using our rituals and practices, we bring men from darkness to light. We make strangers into Brothers. Masters are able to improve their craft. We become more than a social club. The Lodge becomes a sacred endeavor that is truly transformational on the individual and collective level. The purpose of the Lodge must be centered around manifesting and transmitting the sacred light from the GAOTU into the sacred space of the Lodge, where it can be experienced by the Brethren. This experience was essential to illuminating the pathway of our forefathers, and with proper stewardship and intention it will continue to illuminate the pathway of current and future craftsmen.

Fraternally,
Rick Saunders

Special Thanks to WOR Jason Marshall PM, of Lodge of Veritas No. 556, and Guthrie Valley Scottish Rite in Oklahoma for granting permission to use material he provided in Living Stones Magazine (May 2015), as part of this article.

Wise Master's Message

Jason M. Himsey, KCCH, Wise Master, Alexandria Chapter Rose Croix

Please accept my humble thanks for your trust and confidence in me to serve as Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix. I realize the line is progressive, but each of you has a say regarding leadership in our bodies. I will endeavor to serve you and the Valley to my utmost.

I struggled with identifying a topic worthy of your consideration. Then, as I was contemplating the purpose of the article and what the body of the Rose Croix is commissioned to do, it hit me. The charge at my installation as Wise Master was to "Teach the Knights to learn something more than the mere formulas and phrases of the Degree, persuade them to read the history and study the philosophy of Masonry; induce them to seek to learn the meanings of the symbols; show them how, among the mass of Masonic writings, to separate the diamonds from the sands, and endeavor to improve them by your conduct and conversation." That is a tall order, but one that I feel is both important and necessary.

In the spirit of education, my year will be focused on "Inner Reflection, Seek out Your Truth." I believe the 31st Degree, of which I was a member, has many meanings and lessons for us. Particularly, is it enough for us as men and Masons to do the "right thing?" In the 31st Degree there are potentially controversial and complex issues concerning "eternal judgment." As you recall, the ancient Egyptian gods consider the judgment of the soul of Cheri. Do you remember some of the themes or topics in the degree?

- How should a man be judged for deeds committed in the flesh?
- Should judgment be absolute using a consistent standard?
- Is human imperfection a reasonable standard for judgment?
- Should judgment consider our motives in addition to actions?
- Does a "wrong action" done for the "right reason" mitigate an otherwise damning judgment?

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We must consider our human nature. Specifically, in general, we demand that we judge the actions of our fellow man. We must, therefore, realize that judgment is a painful emotional and intellectual evolution. Each day presents a myriad of opportunities to make certain judgments as to the motives, sincerity, and intentions of men. The question remains, how do we do this?

On one hand, we do not have the innate ability to TRULY know what motivates our Brothers to do the things they do; there are so many internal and external factors that contribute to each and every decision made and action executed. In other words, it is simply impossible to understand another's motives with any degree of certainty. However, one of Masonry's fundamental tenets is that "It is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that Masonry regards!" On the other hand, we are taught that internal motivations for actions should be important to us as Craftsmen.

All human actions have motives. There is no virtuous act, such as charity, which may not be performed for malicious reasons, such as personal gain or control. Equally, a malicious act such as theft may be rooted in virtuous purposes such as feeding one's family.

Who is concerned with the motive for a virtuous or malicious action? Have you been wronged by another? I am certain the answer will be a resounding yes. If so, is it important to you to understand why the person acted the way they did? I know I am very concerned. Why? I consider such elements when charting how I navigate the aftermath. Conversely, if you were helped or received a benefit from other's actions, are you concerned with their reason for helping you?

Who is concerned with motive in general? Moral philosophy as well as most systems of religious faith tender an answer. For example, Christianity teaches, "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth; that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee" (Matthew 6:3-4, RV1895). Here we see that the Father will reward you for what is done in secret. I interpret the thing that is done is one's motive. So, if you have a pure, selfless motive in your actions, the matter is blessed.

Ultimately, motive matters to the Supreme Architect – why I act as I do. And, because it matters to Him, it should matter and be of the utmost importance and concern to me. Accordingly, I consider my own motive in any personal decision to act. I, and I alone, am responsible for my actions and nexus leading to my actions. My behavior is my concern. Yes, I am concerned with the motives of others, but it does not consume me. Furthermore, the eternal consequences of my actions are of the utmost importance to me, therefore, I must rightly divide my motives.

Returning to the lessons of the 31st Degree, the soul of Cheris is judged worthy of eternal life. However, Cheris is only deemed worthy when the gods allow for human frailty and, thereby, agree to consider motives rather than just outcomes – "the internal and not the "external." I have arrived at the conclusion that the solution to the motive question is not in "how" to judge motives, or "why," or even what action to take as a result. Perhaps, instead, the essential thing is to realize "for whom" the effort to judge is important. So, I leave you to consider, is not the right thing, performed with the wrong motive, in essence, the wrong thing? Judgment is a tricky thing! Given our minds are so finite, maybe we should just leave spiritual judgment to the Great Architect of the Universe. And maybe, we should rest in the assurance that judgment on this Plane should be easy if we meet on the Level, act by the Plumb, and part on the Square!

In closing, thank you for joining me this year on our adventures in Masonry, and in the Scottish Rite in particular. I remain your servant.

Fraternally,
Jason M. Himsey, KCCH

Wise Master's Biography

Brother Jason Michael Bro. Jason was born in Providence, Rhode Island, but his family moved to Murphy, North Carolina when he was 16. Bro. Jason live in Fredericksburg, Virginia with his beautiful wife, Vanessa, his daughter, Alyssa, and his son, Austin. Alyssa is engaged to be married and is in her Senior year of Nursing at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She hopes to be a nurse in Northern Virginia following graduation.



Bro. Jason was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 2008 at Elmer Timberman Lodge No. 54 in Annandale, Virginia where he later served as the Worshipful Master from 2019 to 2021. He is now the Secretary of the Lodge. Bro. Himsey is also active in Masonry at the Grand Lodge of Virginia level – serving as a member of the Committees on Masonic Relief and Membership. He is also a member of the Grand Lodge Host Committee for the 2023 Conference of Grand Masters.

Bro. Jason became a Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Alexandria in the Spring of 2013. On October 10, 2014, Bro. Jason was knighted in the inaugural class of the Alexandria Valley Knights of Saint Andrews, holding various positions, and served as the Chief of the Clan in 2018/2019. He currently serves as the Clan's Scribe. He entered the line of the Chapter of Rose Croix in 2015. In 2019, Bro. Jason received the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. He is also very involved in the Valley serving on the Philanthropy Committee, Valley Trustee, Supervisor of Project Booth operations, serves as the Degree Master for the 15th degree, and has participated as a cast member in several degrees.

In 2013, Bro. Jason was exalted as a Royal Arch Mason at Annandale Royal Arch Chapter No. 77 in Annandale, VA, where he currently serves as its High Priest. In 2014, Bro. Jason became a Knight Templar at Arlington Commandery No. 29, Arlington, VA. He is also a Life Member of Old Dominion Chapter No. 364 of National Sojourners, Fairfax, VA; Prophet and Membership Representative for Masonic District 1A for Abaca Grotto, Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, Fredericksburg, VA; knighted as a Knight of the Rosy Cross in the Royal Order of Heirdom of Killwing and the Rosy Cross (aka Royal Order of Scotland); and, is a member of the Washington and Lee, York Rite College No. 93, Manassas, VA.

Bro. Himsey is a retired U.S. Coast Guard surface warfare, law enforcement, and intelligence officer with over 21 years of commissioned and non-commissioned military service. During his five years at sea, LT Bro. Himsey led the charge towards the interdiction of over 7,000 kilograms of cocaine, 2,000+ illegal migrants, and 8.5 million dollars in United States currency - the largest such currency seizure in Coast Guard history at the time. He also navigated 150,000+ nautical miles, coordinated 12 offshore Search and Rescue cases, and led over 200 at-sea boarding.

Bro. Jason currently serves as a Senior Contract Program Manager for Federated IT, Inc. Bro. Himsey earned his Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Intelligence Studies at American Military University in 2006. He is an alumnus of the Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, where he was awarded the CMSgt Paul Lankford Commandant's Award for outstanding leadership, the first Coast Guardsman to receive this award.

2 April—Scottish Rite Workshop in Richmond

Allen D. Beckner, KCCH, Vice President of the Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia

I want to invite you to attend the 2022 Scottish Rite Conference Spring Workshop presented by the Norfolk Valley Scottish Rite. This is the first live Workshop Event since the Spring of 2019. The event will be held at the **ACCA Shrine Center, 1712 Bellevue Ave., Richmond, VA 23227**. The date of the event is Saturday, April 2, 2022. Coffee and donuts will be served starting at 8:30 am, with the Workshop beginning at 9:30 a.m., and it will conclude at noon, followed by a delicious lunch served by the Richmond Valley.

Illustrious J. Leon Stocks, 33° of the Valley of Norfolk is the President of the Scottish Rite Conference Workshop and Conference for 2022. Additional information as well as updates on the Workshop events can be found at <https://www.vascottishrite.org/va-workshop>.

The tentative agenda for the Workshop will include Valley Vice Presidents introducing their respective Valley leadership. A brief message from the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Virginia is expected, as well as a few words from our own SGIG of Virginia, Illustrious Alan W. Adkins, 33°, Grand Cross.

Please come out and support our Venerable Master Frank Anthony, KCCH, as we again show what a powerhouse the Alexandria Valley is to the Scottish Rite of Virginia. The Alexandria Valley recommended attire is a navy blue blazer, gray slacks, blue button-down shirt and our Alexandria Valley tie. No caps are required for this event.

The Workshop is a no cost event that will offer you great information and genuine Virginia hospitality. Please contact the Valley Secretary at secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org or call 703-998-9044 with your plan to attend this event. Our Richmond Brethren need our anticipated numbers to prepare breakfast and lunch for all attendees.

It's always more fun to travel together and get to know your Brothers. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for sharing food, fellowship and relevant information.

Fraternally,
Allen D. Beckner, KCCH

REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL In Memory of those who passed.

Richard Bender	Abell	11/21/2020	Walter Goodwin	Johnson	12/20/2020
Rodney Frederick	Ayers	9/25/2021	Martin Collins	Juul	1/23/2021
Robert Hill	Bates, Jr.	10/28/2020	Henry Bradley	Kilgour, Jr.	4/17/2021
Stewart Woodduff	Bentley, Sr.	4/11/2021	Michael Howard	Komack	8/28/2020
Lawrence Decatur	Brent, Jr	4/21/2021	John Arthur	Light, KCCH	4/15/2021
James Edward	Coffey	12/6/2020	Willie Mitchell	Martinell	1/1/2019
Robert Duane	Copeland	7/19/2014	Leo Joseph	McGough	4/17/2018
Charles Daniel	Curtis, Sr	3/6/2021	Douglas Boyd	McQueen	3/19/2021
Antonio Damiani		1/14/2021	Clarence Isaac	Meiggs, KCCH	9/18/2018
Darryl Hugh	Evans, KCCH	1/26/2021	Vernon Ralph	Mullins	2/23/2021
Julian Wilson	Everly, Sr	1/12/2021	Kenneth Bernard	Munsey	6/19/2021
James Wison	Gladden IV	12/24/2020	Alex Young	Mutch	3/17/2021
Arthur Landon	Gore	5/14/2021	Robert Hurbert	Parke	8/10/2021
Edward Earl	Groff	4/7/2020	Robert Edwin	Perry	2/20/2021
James Walter	Gums	12/11/2021	Robert Edwin	Schindler	2/23/2021
John Archie	Harden	8/19/2021	Robert Keith	Smith	3/30/2021
Walter Olden	Harrison	4/6/2021	Willis Paul "Buddy"	Snoots	4/2/2021
Jonathan Harshman	Holland	8/6/2021	Clark Nelson	Sprouse	2/6/2021
William Bruce	Holt	6/3/2021	George Robert	Strawn	2/25/2021
Charles Wilborn	James	2/12/2021	Joseph Franklin	Wilkins	9/28/2018
Harold James	Jennings, Jr., 33°	12/18/201			

The January 2022 Alexandria Scottish Rite Awards Dinner

We had a terrific roast beef dinner and great desserts at the January Awards dinner. After presenting our awards to those individuals listed in our January - February Bulletin, we called upon Richard Tirocke to receive the Valley's 2021 Community Service Award Certificate and a check for \$1,500 on behalf of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSA) Hospital Visitation Program.



Mr. Tirocke, the MSA Hospital Visitation Coordinator, thanked the Valley for its recognition and support of the Hospital Visitation Program which provides personal service and companionship to Masonic and non-Masonic veterans in the various VA hospitals around the country, including the three in Virginia in Richmond, Hampton, and Salem.

He noted many veterans in these facilities are without family or friends and have no one to visit them. To address this problem Masonic volunteers have donated over 750,000 hours to bring comfort to, and raise the morale of, our wounded veterans. These volunteers spend time with these veterans, listening to their stories and concerns, and even holding hands with dying veterans so they are not alone.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic MSA volunteers have not been allowed to visit with the veterans, but they still have been able to provide toiletries such as combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste, chap sticks, nail clippers, and eyeglass cloths. They also have provided comfort items such as pens, notepads, playing cards, puzzle books, stress balls, magnifiers, socks, underwear, and even phone cards so the veterans can stay in touch with friends and loved ones. To fund these efforts volunteers have sought the support of Grand Lodges and appendant bodies, so he was very appreciative of the help that the Alexandria Valley was providing.

Mr. Tirocke also noted that MSA volunteers have helped veterans in other ways as well. They have helped them fill out claim forms, get medical appointments, and drive them to their doctors' offices.

He concluded by saying that there are currently about 175 volunteers in the program covering 172 VA facilities and there is a need for more volunteers. This was even more urgent because many of the volunteers are in their 70s and 80s and will need to be replaced. He urged us to consider becoming a volunteer and suggested we visit MSANA.com for more information.

April 23 and 30 Spring Reunion

Ill. Jim Loudermilk, 33°, Director of Work, and
Michael Bible, KCCH, Chair of Membership Committee

Alexandria Valley is looking forward to yet another Reunion this coming April. There may still be a few adjustments, but right now we are preparing to dramatically confer 17 degrees and communicate the remaining 12. A lot of effort goes into a Reunion from the casts, the various support departments, and our General Secretary and Assistant Secretary, all of whom do yeoman work behind the scenes. A great way to get involved in the Valley is during the Reunions when we always could use more hands to help. We need more in the audience too.

The Reunion is about more than just degree work. Renewal of fraternal ties, breaking bread together, and gaining a deeper understanding of the Scottish Rite are all there to be had. Come for a part of a day, a full day, or the entire two-day event. Freemasonry is not a "one and done" activity, where you experience a few degrees, add that piece of the Masonic puzzle to your kit, and move on to the next experience with new perspectives. Our craft reveals itself in layers, over time, and only to those who invest time and thought to understanding not just the surface, but the deeper truths.

The Scottish Rite is often called the University of Freemasonry, and for good reasons. The ritual is extensive, with rich symbology, and layer upon layer of meaning.

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April 23 and 30 Spring Reunion

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During the Director of Works Reunion introduction, the class is advised that the teachings of the Scottish Rite are a course of instruction in comparative religion, philosophy, ethics, morality, history, and mythology, all taught through the medium of allegory and symbols. The degrees you are exposed to during a Reunion cover more than 3,000 years of human experience. Even so, there is much more light available: three correspondence courses, a Research Society, dozens of books, monthly magazines, and bimonthly Valley bulletins.

Not every Brother has a deep interest in Masonic philosophy and history. Fortunately, there is much more to the Rite. This includes fellowship, philanthropy, support of our youth, and the opportunity to develop leadership and communications skills. It also allows us to be among good men who are each striving to become better in all aspects of our Rite. Our members can, and should, regularly return and drink deeply of what we offer. And they should share it with worthy friends.

When we become a Scottish Rite Mason, we take obligations to serve our Brethren, our community and humanity. These commitments and the Brethren that fulfill them are what makes the Scottish Rite so unique and special. Our Spring Reunion, scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, and Saturday, April 30th, is fast approaching and now is the time to share your experiences as a Scottish Rite Mason with those Blue Lodge Brethren who are not members of the Rite and encourage them to be a part of our Spring Reunion. We have made it easy! Hand them one of our new membership brochures. Most of the questions they will have are addressed in the brochure. Talk with them about the opportunities we provide in becoming a 32nd Degree Mason, to include fellowship/friendship, education, family involvement, service to our community, and an opportunity to be a leader.

We are preparing for a great Spring Reunion and you can do your part by using the membership brochures, which should be located in a prominent location in your Lodge. It includes a QR code on the back page which will allow potential members to retrieve the Alexandria Valley Membership Petition. With your help this can be the best Reunion in our memory.

Fraternally,
Jim Loudermilk and Mike Bible

2022 Friends and Family Event – Saturday May 21

Tim Shrum, KCCH, Jason Himsey, KCCH, and Mike Taldo, KCCH,
Alexandria Scottish Rite Philanthropy Committee

Your presence is requested at the Alexandria Scottish Rite Charity Gala 2022, on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the beautiful Alexandria Hilton, 1767 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Our 2019 event was tremendous. We raised \$64,000 to help children with language disorders and had a great time doing it. We will be keeping the events from the last Gala while offering high-quality action items to include art, jewelry and a timeshare opportunity in Manhattan near Central Park donated by Illustrious Ed and Gwen Cohen.

Registration is open now! The link to register for the dinner and auction, become a sponsor, and view and bid on auction items may be found on the Valley charity webpage: <https://www.alexandriascottishrite.org/charity>. We will continue to use "Bidding for Good" as it gives our auction items an exposure to a much larger audience, and also offers simpler management overall. We promise to work on expediting the checkout process. If you have registered for the event in the past, you should have access to the Bidding for Good site. Please contact Brothers Jason Himsey, KCCH, (Jason.himsey@icloud.com) or Mike Taldo, KCCH, (taldomike@gmail.com) if you need assistance or have questions about registration.

If you are not able to register electronically, several members of the committee can register for you, and you will still have the option to register to bid the night of the Gala.

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2022 Friends and Family Event – Saturday May 21

(Continued from Page 9.)

We also have a room lock at the hotel with a discounted rate of \$149.00 available until May 7, 2022 for those who do not want to drive home after the event. Rooms will be at the hotel's regular rate after that. The URL for online reservations is - <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhocr=DCAOTHF&groupCode=RITE&arrivaldate=2022-05-21&departuredate=2022-05-22&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT> Alternately, you may contact the hotel directly to make reservations at 703-837-0440. Mention the Gala for the discounted rate.

We encourage you to become a sponsor:

Platinum Level Sponsor: (\$5,000.00) includes a full-page in the event program, prominent banner placement, prominent website listing, and one tables (8 seats).

Diamond Level Sponsor: (\$2,500.00) includes a three-quarter-page in the event program, prominent banner placement, prominent website listing and, one table (8 seats).

Gold Level Sponsor: (\$1,000.00) includes a half-page in the event program, banner placement, website listing and one table (8 seats).

Silver Level Sponsor: (\$500.00) includes a quarter-page in the event program, banner placement, website listing, and two seats.

Individual Ticket: A single seat is \$125.00.

This will be a fun evening while raising funds to support the children who need our help. Please get your reservation in as soon as possible, and share this news with your family and friends. We would love to have more non-Masons, than Masons!

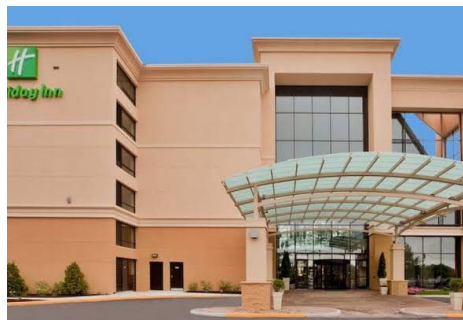
As always thank you for past support and get excited and ready for this year.

Planning Ahead

Please add the following events to your calendar. The **Scottish Rite Conference of Virginia** will be held on **October 7 - 8, 2022**, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Virginia Beach.

More details will be forthcoming concerning this meetings. Preliminary information is available on the Orient website at:

<https://www.vascottishrite.org/va-conference>



The Conference will be held at the
Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center
5655 Greenwich Road
Virginia Beach, Va 23462

Secretary's Corner

Ill. David C. Morris, 33° General Secretary

ALEXANDRIA VALLEY OFFICE

Our regular hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Please Call 703-998-9044 first.

CAPS, RINGS, Patents and Cap Boxes for all Reunions thru FALL of 2021

All items are in and ready to be picked up. Please call the office at 703-998-9044.

ALL CLASSES – We have your Rings and Patents, and your Caps, but still have **NOT** received your Cap Boxes for the Fall 2021 class.

AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FROM THE SUPREME COUNCIL

An optional "Automatic Membership Renewal Program" for paying Dues through the Scottish Rite Portal will be offered when paying online. You will get an email reminder a few days before a payment is processed and you can opt out at any time.

HELP THE VALLEY SAVE ENERGY

This COLD winter has caused us to renew our efforts to conserve energy. Please turn off the lights when you leave an area or room. When reserving space for an event give us all the information you can on the beginning and ending times so we will have the heat on for your event.

COVID 19 TESTING SITE

The Valley is now home for a COVID-19 Testing Site. This site has a drive-thru and you stay in your vehicle. At the present time they are testing by Appointment Only; however, this may change. To make an appointment you can go on-line: <https://personichealthcare.com/home/> or call 888-349-6980.

DON'T FORGET YOU NEED YOUR 2022 DUES CARD FOR STATED MEETINGS

We are required to check your card.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

MARCH 2022



Fri. March 11 – 6:30 p.m.
Annual Observance of Remembrance & Renewal Pre-Meeting Dinner
(Reservations by COB Mar 8)
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)

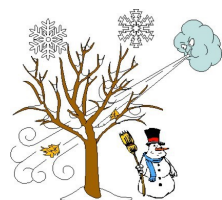


Wed. March 16 – 7:30 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

Wed. March 23 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg



Fri./Sat. March 25 - 26
Scottish Rite Leadership Workshop
Charlotte, N.C.



APRIL 2022

Sat. April 2 - 8:30 a.m. - Noon
VA Scottish Rite Workshop
Acca Shine Center, Richmond

Fri. April 8 – 6:00 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting Valley
Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Consistory, Council of Kadosh, & Lodge of Perfection)

Fri. April 15 – PASSOVER - Begins

April 17 – EASTER SUNDAY

Wed. April 20 – 7:30 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

Sat. April 23 – 7:15 a.m.
2022 SPRING REUNION
First Day of Reunion

Wed. April 27 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Spurmont Lodge, Strasburg

Sat. April 30 – 7:15 a.m.
2022 SPRING REUNION
Second Day of Reunion

MAY 2022

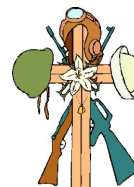
Fri. May 13 – 6:00 p.m.
LADIES NIGHT
Pre-Meeting Dinner
(Reservations by COB May 10)
(Lodge of Perfection)

Wed. May 18 – 7:30 p.m.
Loudoun SR Club
Social Hour starts at 6:30 p.m.
Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

Sat. May 21 – GALA
2022 Friends & Family Gala
Hilton Hotel, Alexandria, VA

Wed. May 25 – 6:30 p.m.
Shenandoah SR Club
Cassia Lodge – Woodstock

Mon. May 30 – HOLIDAY
Memorial Day



SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°, Editor
Editor@AlexandriaScottishRite.org

TBD, Content Coordinator

All Scottish Rite Members whose names appear in this Bulletin are of the Thirty-second Degree, unless otherwise indicated.

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Almoner

Illustrious Norman A. Mayo, 33°
Almoner Emeritus

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Office Phone: (703) 998-9044
Fax Number: (703) 778-2804

The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple is located at 1430 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Secretary immediately of any change of address, phone number, or email address. This is very important so that you may receive The Scottish Rite Journal and other publications and correspondence without delay.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CREED

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES DEAN COLE, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

ILLUSTRIOUS ALAN WAYNE ADKINS, 33°, G.M.C.
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Virginia

ILLUSTRIOUS EDMUND COHEN, 33°
Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria

ILLUSTRIOUS NORMAN L. HOFF, JR., 33°
Assistant Personal Representative of the SGIG in Alexandria

STATED MEETINGS

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month
FRANK T. ANTHONY, KCCH
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday
February, March, July, November
JASON M. HIMSEY, KCCH
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday
February, April, July, November
JOHN M. SUIT, KCCH
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday
April, August, October, December
EDWARD E. C. WILKINSON, JR.
Master of Kadosh

