



Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia  
AlexandriaScottishRite.org

# Scottish Rite Bulletin

March—April 2020



## *Personal Representative's Message*

Edmund Cohen, 33° — Personal Representative of the Deputy in Alexandria

### **A Masonic Way of Thinking**

Spoken words are like a bullet shot from a gun; once they are said you can never get them back. In our Lodges and Valleys, political and religious discussion are prohibited, basically to maintain harmony, peace and accord among the Brethren.

We read in the sixth degree that the duty of a Mason is to endeavor to make man think better of his neighbor; to quiet instead of aggravate difficulties; to bring together those who are separated or estranged; to keep friends from becoming foes; and to persuade foes to become friends.

All too often we live in an age of outrage where so many of us exist in a bubble surrounded by like-minded friends, watching only the TV stations and political commentators with whom we agree, and reading only the newspapers and magazines that align with our opinions. We don't listen to opposing views or seek to understand the other side. We don't discuss the issues, and to the extent that we do, it is not a conversation or a dialogue, it is an argument. We don't seek to learn, we seek to win.

One of the problems in our discourse is the lack of nuance. We paint with broad strokes and use a shorthand to describe events in a way that lacks context, and blurs what actually happened. We proceed to indignation based on half-truths and inaccurate recitations of what happened that have gained resonance for being widely broadcast and repeated on social media. As Winston Churchill once remarked "a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."

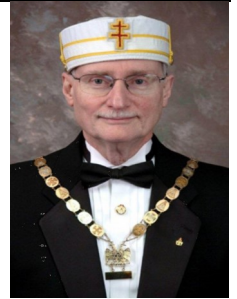
All of this has created a paradox – the level of our discourse has become more coarse and more rude and often just plain cruel; and, at the same time, we seem to be more fragile, more easily upset, and ready to take umbrage at the slightest criticism.

It is hard to bridge the gap and have a genuine discussion. Nevertheless, if our goal is to engage with those who hold different opinions, to encourage a more respectful hearing of our point of view, and to win the support of the uncommitted, we must work to repair the social fabric.

A useful first step is to set the example. We should be civil and lay out our case in an evenhanded and logical manner; a dignified and reasoned response will have significantly more influence.

Second, as is noted in several of our Scottish Rite degrees, we all are prone to error and mistake, and should not deny the sincerity of those who hold different opinions. Therefore, a dose of intellectual humility, a pinch of intellectual uncertainty, and a measure of intellectual curiosity would go a long way toward getting us back to an environment where we talk to each other not talk past each other.

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**Don't Miss**

**Scottish Rite Workshop—Richmond Valley**

**March 28, 2020, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

## *Personal Representative's Message*

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We should make a serious effort to understand where others are coming from. Their life experiences, which may be quite different from ours, color their thinking and inform their judgments. Understanding that context will allow us to converse not only more sympathetically, but also more successfully. In sum, a little empathy goes a long way.

What are the Masonic implications of all of this? We know that it is easy to sit back and ignore what is happening around us or be content to be spectators simply watching the great events of our time; but as Masons, and, indeed, as Scottish Rite Masons, we are called to do more. Rather than concede the field to those who would divide us, we need to stand up for our Masonic values which include a love of truth, a passion for justice, and generosity of spirit. We need to be seen by our neighbors and colleagues, and in the community, as a beacon of reason and civility in an environment where both seem to be in short supply.

But a respect for those with whom we disagree does not imply that anything goes. Every man has a right to his opinion, but there is no equivalence between arguing a point of view and putting forth false and defamatory statements about someone in order to damage their reputation. In the fifth degree we are taught that Masonry requires of us “honesty in contract, sincerity in affirming, simplicity in bargaining, and faithfulness in performing.” We are told: “lie not at all, neither in a little thing nor in a great, neither in substance nor in the circumstance, neither in the work nor deed.

Our charge is to insist on certain standards of conduct and behavior and to raise the level of discourse so that it is mature, evenhanded, and fair. Conduct that we would not tolerate in our homes or in our Lodges is broadcast every day on television and pervasive on social media. We need to champion a more responsible tone in our political debate and in our social interactions and stand up for the values that we as a people can be proud of. This should be easy for us, for these are the Masonic values we have been taught.

Respectfully,  
*Ed Cohen*

## **The Dead Sea Scrolls – A Link to Masonry?**

Dr. Michael Pobát, 32° PDDGM

A great number of books have been written about the secretive society known as Freemasonry. Some authors claim that modern Freemasonry is but “a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols,” for the practice of perfecting one’s character through self-realization and the quest for inner wisdom. Other researchers lay claims that the “secrets of the ancients” are contained within Freemasonry. Was Freemasonry simply a scholarly establishment, formed in response to the intellectual discoveries of the Enlightenment, or do its traditions constitute ancient secrets, passed down through various secretive organizations over multiple generations?

This research paper suggests that the roots of Freemasonry stem from ancient secretive orders, among them the Essenes, an ancient, conservative Jewish sect who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. Although the connections between the Essenes and Freemasons may not be blatantly obvious, this paper suggests that there is a link between these two brotherhoods as evidenced by examining the Jewish Sect and comparing its practices, symbols, and values to those of the Masons, and particularly the recent interpretations and translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The link between the Essenes, and Freemasonry may suggest they could be the forerunners of Masonry. You decide.



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## The Dead Sea Scrolls – A Link to Masonry?

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Little was known about the Essenes until the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the spring of 1947. Before this time, the most reliable information was contained in the writings of the classical authors Philo, Josephus, and Pliny, who lived during the time of the group's activity and provided the earliest records of the society.

The Essenes were inhabitants of Qumran, who wrote or preserved these documents in the Dead Sea Caverns. They existed from the 3rd century BC to 70 AD. Some researchers indicate that Saint John the Baptist may have been a member of the Sect, and even Jesus has been mentioned as a possible member. The name Essene (in Hebrew) means pious. The Essenes were ascetic, practicing frequent fasts and daily ritual baths. There were very few if any women. They worked from sunrise to sunset. Their meals were a very important communal gathering with prayers before each meal. They thought only positive thoughts, teaching that by thinking positive thoughts and working continuously, the evil spirits could not enter their bodies. They studied the holy writings assiduously and they conducted themselves democratically.

So why is this important to Masonry? Focusing on the Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls is important because the Era in which the Essenes lived is a critical time in Masonic history. This is the period where the clash between the Roman Empire and Jerusalem started and the abolishment of idol worship and the development of the Judeo-Christian Era began.

The first manuscripts were accidentally discovered in 1947 by a shepherd boy in a cave at Qumran on the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea. He was tending to his goats when one walked into a cave. The young boy, hoping to scare out the goat, threw a rock in the cave and heard something break. It ended up being a clay pot filled with ancient manuscripts.



The Dead Sea Scrolls were written on parchment (animal skins) with a few being written on copper. In all, scholars have identified the remains of about 930 separate scrolls. The Essenes probably anticipated the Roman-Jerusalem war and hid their precious scrolls to keep them from being destroyed. They probably planned to come back for them after the war, but unfortunately, they were annihilated during the war in about 70 AD. The enemies of the Qumran community were called the "Sons of Darkness" and the Essenes called themselves the "Sons of Light," "the poor," and members of "the Way." They thought of themselves as "the holy ones," who lived in "the house of holiness," because "the Holy Spirit" dwelt with them.

The Isaiah Scroll, found relatively intact, is 1000 years older than any previously known copy of Isaiah. In fact, the scrolls are the oldest group of Old Testament manuscripts ever found. The scrolls contain previously unknown stories about biblical figures such as Enoch, Abraham, and Noah.

It is now important to examine some of the rules of the Dead Sea community and decide whether they bear some resemblance to Masonic traditions. When a person decided to join the community, he had to undertake to respect God and men, practice virtue and avoid evil. This is similar to that passage in the opening ritual of the Lodge in the First Degree of the Northern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite. When the question is asked, for what purpose are we assembled, and the answer is "to raise temples to Virtue and dig dungeons to vice." The statement of belief in a Supreme Being is also a required part of the initiation ceremony. The community examined the candidate's background, his character, and his fulfillment of religious precepts. Each person was then inscribed in a particular rank, coming under the authority of a superior. The candidate had to love the sons of the light. Masons are also known as "Children of the Light." The sun and its light play a prominent role in Masonic rituals.

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## The Dead Sea Scrolls – A Link to Masonry?

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When the candidate was initiated in the community, the priests pronounced a blessing. The members of the community were divided in to three classes: the Priests, Levites, and the People. This brings to mind the division between Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons. Members of the community took meals together and held debates. In the presence of the priests, all took seats according to their respective ranks, and spoke in the same order. They also taught the principles of morality, tolerance, and human solidarity. These are the mainstays of Masonic teachings.

Pliny's placement of the Essenes corresponds with the site of Qumran, therefore many scholars believe that the Sect occupied the local dwellings, as there are no other traces of an ancient settlement in that area. The scrolls represent a vast library of over three hundred separate works, but many of these works are torn and fragmented. Mentioned in the scrolls is a firm belief in predestination and an eternal soul, which are collectively compatible with the classical descriptions of Essene theology. The laws laid out in the scrolls also match the rules of the Sect, thus, there exists a hypothesis that the Sect, housed in Qumran, authored and copied these documents.

Similarities between the Essenic and Masonic brotherhoods are especially evident in the procedures of initiation. Both groups use a three-stage induction process. In the first stage of becoming an Essene, the candidate lives by the rules of the organization but is not yet considered a member, as is shown by his exclusion during communal meals. He casts his possessions into the brotherhood's common treasury, and this action represents the novice's willingness to give up his material accessories in his quest for truth. This same principle is emphasized in the first stage of Masonic initiation which involves the purification and subdual, and the killing out of desire for all material attractions and indifference to the allurements of the outer world.

This first stage also features the introduction of the candidate to his new garment: the white apron. For the Essene, this article represents purity. The apron holds the same meaning in Freemasonry: "it expresses man as he subsists in perfection and in the Divine idea," and is associated with the innocence of a newborn child. Perhaps it is more than just an intriguing correlation that the Essenes and Masons, centuries apart, chose the same piece of clothing as a gift in the first stage of initiation to represent purity.

In the second stage of initiation, both Essenic and Masonic candidates are brought closer into the community but are given limited privileges. The Essene entrant partakes in the customary purification rituals but has yet to dine with his brethren, and the Mason is shown the stances and passwords of this phase yet is not allowed into all Lodge meetings. Self-discipline is also characteristic of this period. The Essene is being evaluated by the elders of his community regarding his progress in self-control, while, throughout this stage, the Mason is taught to discipline the mind until it becomes pure and strong enough to respond to a supernatural order of life and wisdom. Again, Freemasonry mirrors Essenic practice.

The third phase represents self-sacrifice and the elimination of the selfishness within the initiate so that complete regeneration can take place. In Freemasonry, this theme is exemplified by the Hiram legend, which is acted out by the initiate. This represents the dying away and total obliteration of the personal ego, the sense of 'myself' as something separate from other selves and having special rights of its own. While no ritual is mentioned in the Dead Sea Scrolls about the Essene community which correlates with the drama of this death, the Essene candidate will "take rigorous oaths" that parallel this same symbolism.

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## The Dead Sea Scrolls – A Link to Masonry?

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Included among the Essene oaths are promises to wrong no one, either by his own decision or by order, ... that [the candidate] will never use his power arrogantly or outshine his [companions] ... that he will keep his hands ... and his soul pure of unholy gain. Such oaths reflect a restraint of personal desires and the subjugation of bodily urges to advance one's self above others. Upon completing the three phases of initiation, which represent the death of material desire, the discipline of the mind, and the death of the ego, both the Essene and the Mason are welcomed as full members of their societies.

Another similarity between the Essenes and the Freemasons pertains to the oaths of secrecy that the initiates are required to take upon entry to their societies. The Essene must promise not to disclose anything about [the Sect] to others, even if he be tortured to death. Likewise, the Mason is instructed to do the same unless it be to a genuine and legitimate Brother. If the member is found to have dishonored this vow, he faces severe consequences. An Essene caught in such a serious offense is expelled and unable to partake of the food of others, but he feeds himself on wild herbs and his body wastes away from hunger until he dies. Upon entering the society, the Mason also takes on his obligations with similar seriousness and solemnly swearing to observe the oath of secrecy. Thus, secrecy is emphasized as of highest importance and disclosure of confidential information is a severe disgrace.

In addition to the direct parallels evident in the initiation processes, the similarity between the doctrines of both societies can also be viewed in the light of another religious institution: Christianity. The resemblance between the Christian and Essene theologies has led some scholars to the conclusion that both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ were Essenes. Jesus did not appear in public until his thirtieth year, and it is likely that before this period He lived with the Essenes in customary seclusion, being trained according to their doctrine.

The theory that the Jewish Essenes were the institutional forefathers of Freemasonry is based on the similarity of the practices, symbols, and doctrines of both brotherhoods. Through the process of initiation, both the Essenic and Masonic candidates experience the death of material desire, the discipline of the mind, and the death of the selfish nature, so that regeneration and spiritual and moral improvement may occur. The apron, which represents purity, is used as a symbol in both brotherhoods. Through Christianity, the value of the virtue of charity, both towards fellow members as well as towards those in need, was passed down from Essene theology to Masonic creed.

So, is there more to learn from the Dead Sea Scrolls to further solidify the link between the Essenes and Freemasonry and what is the latest status on further deciphering the scrolls ... or is this story over?

In 1991, the Israeli Antiquities Authority established a temperature-controlled laboratory for the storage and preservation of the scrolls. The actions and preservation methods of Rockefeller Museum staff were concentrated on the removal of tape, oils, metals, salt, and other contaminants. The fragments and scrolls are now preserved using acid-free cardboard and stored in museum boxes in the climate-controlled storage.

A previously unreadable fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls was photographed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at NASA in early 1992 using digital infrared technology. The fragment, translated into English, reads "he wrote the words of Noah."

Beginning in 1993, NASA used digital infrared imaging technology to produce photographs of Dead Sea Scrolls fragments. In partnership with the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center and West Semitic Research, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory successfully worked to expand on the use of infrared photography previously used to evaluate ancient manuscripts by expanding the range of spectra at which images are photographed. NASA used this multi-spectral imaging technique, adapted from its remote sensing and planetary probes to reveal previously illegible text on fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

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## The Dead Sea Scrolls – A Link to Masonry?

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On 19 October 2010, it was announced that Israeli Antiquities Authority would scan the documents using multi-spectral imaging technology developed by NASA to produce high-resolution images of the texts, and then, through a partnership with Google, make them available online free of charge, on a searchable database and complemented by translation and other scholarly tools. With photos taken at 1,200 megapixels, the results are digital images that can be used to distinguish details that are invisible to the naked eye. The digital photography project was estimated in 2011 to cost approximately 3.5 million U.S. dollars. This project was completed in 2016.

On display today in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the scrolls have kindled popular enthusiasm as well as serious scholarly interest over the past half century as they reveal exciting history from the Second Temple period (520 B.C.E.-70 C.E.) – you may recall the First Temple Period refers to King Solomon's Temple.

Today, sophisticated software programs along with continued advances in technology provide additional information that may be of significance to mankind and help Masons understand our deepest roots. The Essenes may have been the small glow of light that has been glowing in our fraternity for more than 2000 years. I believe that the scrolls tell us that we are still on course.

Fiat Lux.

Fraternally,  
Michael Pobat

### *Wise Master's Message*

Thomas E. Goolsby, KCCH, Wise Master, Alexandria Chapter Rose Croix

Every year the Chapter of Rose Croix honors the memory of those in our Fraternity who have laid down their working tools and joined our Brethren in the Celestial Lodge above. We are reminded that although the bonds we form with our Brethren will last forever, our days with them in this earthly abode are numbered.

It is said that Scottish Rite is the college of Freemasonry, and I would agree that the Rite provides a real opportunity to delve into Masonic history, philosophy, and morality. But don't forget that Scottish Rite is so much more, and by participating in our events you will truly discover the wealth of experiences that are available to a Scottish Rite Brother.

The Chapter of Rose Croix will present a Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal at our March meeting to honor our Brethren who have passed. I hope you will be there to share in that experience.

We also are looking forward to our Spring Reunion on Saturday, April 25, and May 2, which is an opportunity to replace those who have worked so hard for the Rite but have now gone to their eternal reward. I hope to see all of you at this event. Even if you do not have a part or cannot make it for the entire two days, I urge you to stop by for a morning and the lunch, or the lunch and the afternoon on one of two days. Your presence will encourage our new candidates, and you will be able to spend time with Brethren you may not have seen recently. And I am sure you will enjoy seeing some of the degrees.

This year will be my year to be all in for the Chapter of Rose Croix. For the last few years I have been Degree Master of the 18th Degree, Knight of Rose Croix. As Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, I will be hosting the Reunion lunch on May 2.

Brethren, every year our Valley strives to be the best and this year is no exception. Find an event you like and come out to be with some old friends, have fun, bring back old memories, and create new ones.

## Biography of the Wise Master

Thomas E. Goolsby, KCCH

Brother Goolsby is native of Virginia, born in Alexandria Hospital in October 1961. He spent his youth on a farm learning important things like skipping rocks but also that he had to finish his chores before starting on his daily adventures.

By the time he started school, his family had moved to Centreville, where he attended Centreville Elementary. He went on to Robinson High School where he met his wife, Janet Bruce, who was a Jobie. They have been married for 33 years and have two children, Thomas C. Goolsby, who is living in Austin, TX, and Trisha Goolsby, who resides in San Diego, CA.



Brother Goolsby had many different summer jobs to include well drillers assistant, electrician assistant, and barn builder's assistant. His father and brother were auto enthusiasts and had racing cars. Considering this great fun he became a mechanic. He quickly became a master mechanic and then a supervisor, and for the last 23 years has run a local fabricating and mechanical shop.

Brother Goolsby joined his mother Lodge, Haymarket 313 in 2011, and became a member of Acacia 16 in 2012. He served as Worshipful Master of Haymarket 313 in 2017. In 2013, he joined the Alexandria Scottish Rite, and he is the Degree Master for the 18th Degree. Brother Tim was honored with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour in 2017.

## REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL

In Memory of those who passed.

William	Bruce	Bates	11/30/2018	Homer	Albert	Montgomery	9/23/2014
Robert	Davis	Caldwell	12/12/2019	Joe	Brantley	Owens	10/13/2019
Albert	Roy	Conlon	9/16/2019	Paul	Gene	Prater	7/19/2019
George	Conrad	Dyson	10/26/2019	Carroll	Eugene	Ridgeway	12/9/2017
Freeman	Edward	Earley	12/1/2019	Charles	Randal	Seaford	7/8/2019
Lauris	Martin	Eek, III	10/25/2019	Kenneth	Overbey	Shelton	4/15/2019
Clyde	Cecil	Ferguson	9/16/2019	LeRoy	Ellsworth	Simpson	4/1/2019
George	Herbert	Garber	2/13/2019	Charles	Bernard	Snyder, Jr.	10/31/2018
Albert		Gastoukian	11/2/2019	Kenneth	McGlothlen	Soter	6/16/2019
Guy	Bradley	Glean	2/14/2019	Hubert	Franklin	Sprouse	3/25/2019
Willard	Earl	Griffing	8/25/2019	Donald	Nelson	Stratton	3/9/2017
Roger	Lee	Hilleary	10/19/2019	James	Willie	Walker	8/7/2018
Lennart	Gustaf	Holmberg	8/30/2019	William	Wayno	Walton	8/13/2017
Johnmurray	Francis	Hopkinson, Jr.	12/12/2015	Donald	Edward	Waugh	2/24/2019
John	Douglas	Jenkins, 33°	2/6/2019	Alvin	Edwin	Wyman	8/30/2019
John	Franklin	Mc Coy	7/16/2019				



## **28 March Scottish Rite Workshop in Richmond**

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

Dear Brethren,

The 2020 Scottish Rite Conference Spring Workshop presented by the Lynchburg Valley Scottish Rite, will be hosted at the Richmond Valley Scottish Rite Temple, 4204 Hermitage Road, Richmond, VA, on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Brother William (Bill) A. Robertson, Jr., KCCH, of the Lynchburg Valley is the President of the Scottish Rite Conference Workshop and Conference for 2020.

Coffee and donuts will be available starting at 8:30 am, with the Workshop starting at 9:30 a.m. The Valley Vice Presidents will introduce their respective Valley leadership. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Douglas Vernon Jones, 33<sup>o</sup>, will give us a message and our Deputy in Virginia Most Worshipful Alan W. Adkins, 33<sup>o</sup>, Grand Cross, will give us an update regarding the Orient of Virginia. In addition, there will be a program presented by a guest speaker from another Orient.

The Workshop will end around noon, followed immediately by a luncheon prepared by the Richmond Valley.

Please come out and support our esteemed Venerable Master and Most Excellent Donald L. McAndrews, 32<sup>o</sup>, KCCH, and again see if we have the largest Valley attendance.

The Alexandria Valley recommended attire is a navy-blue blazer, gray slacks, blue 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](mailto:secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org) or call (703) 998-9044 with your plan to attend this event. This will allow us to provide our Richmond Brethren the information to have the appropriate amount of food for breakfast and lunch.

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 brotherly love.

Fraternally,

Allen D. Beckner, KCCH

## **The January 2020 Alexandria Scottish Rite Awards Dinner & Installation**

On January 10, 2020 we had our annual awards dinner where we recognized the heads of the four Alexandria Bodies: Scott C. Springer, KCCH, Venerable Master of the Alexandria Lodge of Perfection; Michael T. Huff, KCCH, Wise Master of the Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix; Gerald D. Van Antwerp 32<sup>o</sup>, Commander of the Alexandria Council of Kadosh; and John T. G. Aakesson, KCCH, Master of Kadosh of the Alexandria Consistory; and also Jason M. Himsey, KCCH, 2018-2019 Chief of the Alexandria Knights of St. Andrew. Each of these officers performed in exemplary fashion and we are grateful for their leadership.

### **The 2019 Certificates of Merit for long-term service to the Valley went to:**

**III Loyd E. Davis, 33<sup>o</sup>**, for his leadership as Chairman of the Education Committee over the past several years and his continuing efforts in support of our Outstanding Teacher Award program, one of the highlights of our annual calendar.

**III. Paul R. Evancoe, 33<sup>o</sup>**, for his support of Valley membership to include making Freedom Lodge an important part of our Alexandria Scottish Rite Family. *(Continued on Page 9.)*



## The January 2020 Alexandria Scottish Rite Awards Dinner & Installation

*(Continued from Page 8.)*

**Thomas G. Little, KCCH**, for his extraordinary service and dedication to the Rite over many years to include serving as organist at our Reunions. He has donated his time and talent even when dealing with physical challenges that would have kept most of us at home.

**III. Norman A. Mayo, 33°**, for his many years serving in the important and sensitive position as the Valley Almoner.

**Timmy E. Shrum, KCCH**, for his outstanding efforts in running our Friends and Family Charity Dinner which has raised ever increasing amounts of money in support of our philanthropic efforts, and for accepting enlarged service as Chair of our Philanthropic Committee.

### **The Certificate of Appreciation for notable work in 2019 went to:**

**John T.G. Aakerson, KCCH**, for his unflagging support to the Secretary and his invaluable assistance on a variety of building repair projects.

**III. James C. Anagnos, 33°**, for his continued support to the Friends and Family Charity Dinner to include his generous financial support, drafting articles to publicize the dinner, and preparing the packets that are provided to our guests at the dinner.

**John B. Baber, Sr.**, for providing superb legal counsel to the Valley on a pro-bono basis, especially with regard to the many issues we faced during our building renovation project.

**James D. Baker, KCCH**, for his continued support to the Friends and Family Charity Dinner where he has spearheaded the administrative portion of the dinner, working on the reservations, tracking payments, including handling the table placement and seating.

**Jerome “Jerry” Begley, 32°**, for his support to the Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club where he serves as treasurer, collecting monies for meals, coordinating the headcount with the Secretary and filling in as Secretary when needed. Brother Jerry also collects the donations to the Walter Downs “Hat Fund” account for benevolences locally and the annual \$1,000 gift to the JMU Autism Clinic.

**Rick A. Cady, 32°**, for his support of the Reunion stage crew and especially for documenting the stage set up which ensures the accuracy of the scene changes and reduces the time necessary to prepare for the degrees.

**John T. Gilstrap, 32°**, for his work on our Friends and Family Charity Dinner, particularly for formulating communication themes, soliciting sponsorships, donating numerous books which he authored and signed for auction, as well as redirecting the proceeds from coins he sells for our RiteCare charity.

**Jason M. Himsey, KCCH**, for his work on our Friends and Family Charity Dinner where he played a key role in managing the automated auction tool and helping with the payment process after the auction.

**Charles R. McIlwee, 32°**, and his wife **Donna J. McIlwee** for their support to the Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club. Brother McIlwee has been serving as Secretary and keeping the Club informed about all of the Masonic events in the Shenandoah Valley. He and his wife are diligent in reaching out with calls and cards to Brethren who are ill or having other issues.

**Douglas B. McQueen, 32°**, for his support of the Reunion stage crew and especially his great work in the lighting booth, creating the special effects that enhance each degree presentation.

**III. James S. Newcomer, Jr., 33°**, Degree Master, and the cast of the 30th Degree received the Certificate of Appreciation for a second time for outstanding work on this Degree.

## The January 2020 Alexandria Scottish Rite Awards Dinner & Installation

*(Continued from Page 8.)*

**Scott C. Springer, KCCH**, for his work on our Blue Lodge program, which included assembling the cast, leading the practices, and giving stage instructions to ensure a very successful event that brought great credit to the Valley. He is also recognized for his support of our Friends and Family Charity dinner and particularly his work on the auction program.

**Frank V. Sturgeon, 32°**, for his expert guidance and support to our building renovation project.

**Michael D. Taldo, KCCH**, for his leadership of our Master Craftsman study groups as well as his continued support of our Friends and Family Charity dinner, taking charge of the Scotch Tasting event and raising money for the event.

**Brian M. Walaszczyk, 32°**, for his contributions to the Scottish Rite Bulletin. On his own initiative he produced two excellent articles which appeared in the Bulletin this year.

**The 2019 Alexandria Valley Community Service Award** and a generous donation went to the:

**Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** for providing low-income individuals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington, and southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves. LCAC connects people with other programs in the area that can provide assistance and have a positive impact on a family's long-term health and wellbeing.



Ill. Edmund Cohen, 33°, Personal Representative

2019 Heads of Bodies



Friends and Family Action Team



James D. Baker, KCCH



Lorton Community Action Center

## ***Our Evolving Reunion***

III. Jim Loudermilk, 33°, Director of Work

At one level much has changed since my appointment as Director of Work seven years ago. I'll get to that shortly. At the most important level, nothing has changed. The Reunion remains a time for our far-flung members to come together for fellowship and to re-engage with the richness of our ritual. And it is the time we add new members. At the end of the Reunion we have a new class of Masters of the Royal Secret, ready to fully engage in the various activities of our Valley. There are eight Valleys in the Orient of Virginia. Some, like Alexandria, hold two Reunions each year; others just one. All confer the five mandatory degrees (4th, 14th, 18th, 30th, and 32nd) respectively, the first of our distinctive Scottish Rite degrees and the senior degree of each of the four bodies (Lodge of Perfection, Chapter Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and Consistory). Except for Alexandria, the Valleys confer another degree or two and communicate the balance of the 29 degrees which all new members receive.

For the past 109 years, the Alexandria Valley, in each Reunion, has refreshed for our members and begun for the new class, the teachings of our Rite; which continue to be: "a course of instruction in comparative religion, philosophy, ethics, morality, history and mythology, all taught through the medium of allegory and symbols." Rare indeed is the Mason who can assimilate the full measure of the 29 degrees in a single Reunion.

When I began service as Director of Work during the 2013 Spring Reunion, we had for many years conferred 16 degrees, communicated 13 more, and served 44 Lodges across nine Masonic Districts. The Districts have been slightly reorganized into eight. Due to some consolidations, we now serve 42 Lodges. For many decades Alexandria held two Reunions each year, on nominally the 3rd and 4th Saturdays in April and October. On rare occasions the Sovereign Grand Inspector General would be pleased to direct a one-day conferral. We chose to alter that format for Alexandria Valley in 2017. Now, the Spring Reunion of odd numbered years is a one-day class wherein only the mandatory degrees are conferred. The fall Reunion of odd number years and both Reunions in even numbered years follows the two successive Saturday formats.

We have added several informative and educational segments. Our Personal Representative, Illustrious and Most Worshipful Brother Ed Cohen, 33°, provides an introduction into the scope of programs and activities of our Valley as well as a few things we want every brother to know, but for many years we let those who became active gradually learn through osmosis. Our Valley added a clan of Knights of St. Andrew, and we want all the new members, and current ones too, to know about it. We not only have a Scottish Rite Master Craftsman program, but also an Alexandria Valley Study group, which meets in person and electronically to best serve our widely spread membership. We cover these topics and a few more during the Reunion.

Today we are able to confer 21 degrees. There has been no groundswell of enthusiasm to add days, or partial days, to the Reunion or to materially extend the duration of the two days. This means we cannot confer all 21 degrees in a single Reunion. We must do the five mandatories, and the remaining 16 vary from Reunion to Reunion. And it remains our ambition to become able to confer the remaining eight degrees. It appears we will be able to add the 25th Degree to our repertoire sometime this fall.

For the upcoming Reunion, we will confer the five mandatory degrees and the 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 28th and 29th for 16 conferred and 13 communicated. Same number as in 2013, but not quite the same degrees. We also plan to add a ring ceremony to our Reunions beginning this spring. Immediately following the 14th degree, the new members will receive their rings. Quite a few other Valleys in the Southern Jurisdiction have this ceremony, and it has been very well received. Few of you have ever seen this ceremony. Please join us for our first one.

*(Continued on Page 12.)*

## Our Evolving Reunion

(Continued from Page 11.)

As we continue to grow towards the conferral of all 29 degrees, we will add occasional exemplifications during stated or other meetings, and rotation of the remaining non-mandatories, so that we will eventually confer all degrees over a two-year span.

So, as I began, much has changed, but nothing fundamental. The essence of the Reunion has not changed over the Alexandria Valley's 109 years. I hope the added content increases your appreciation of our Rite's rich philosophy and brings you pleasure.

Fraternally,  
Jim Loudermilk

## Friends and Family Event - May 16

Tim Shrum, KCCH, Chairman, Alexandria Scottish Rite Philanthropy Committee

### 2020 Friends and Family Charity Dinner and Auction

Hello Brethren:

Thanks for the honor to serve as the Chair of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Friends and Family Gala on Saturday May 16, 2020, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We care more about your presence than your dress, but black tie is recommended for men, and cocktail dresses for ladies. Here are some of the high-level details of the event:

It will be held at the Waterford Fair Oaks, located at 12025 Lee Highway, Fairfax Virginia. You can register for the Gala by copying the hyperlink below into your browser <https://www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?vhost=vself&aalias=2020gala> or you can type [www.asrfe.org](http://www.asrfe.org) which will take you to there and provide instructions on how to register.

I would encourage you to register as soon as possible as we have approximately 20 tables committed and are limited to 40 tables. In addition, the Gala team will be onsite at the 13 March 2020 Valley meeting to help folks register should you need help, and please bring your credit card.

This year promises to be an exciting year to include the following types of items for the silent and live auction: watercolor art paintings, modern art, very attractive jewelry, vacation packages, and themed baskets.

You will have an opportunity to participate in a scotch tasting, and we will have speakers informing us of the great things we are accomplishing as a result of this Gala.

On March 21, 2020, we will also have another event that supplements the Gala. This is a Bourbon and Cigar night and you can register by going to <https://www.biddingforgood.com/vself/2020tasting>. The registration is limited to 40 people and is filling up fast.

I am truly excited as we always set our sights high to achieve great things to help children with language disorders through our Rite Care Program. The last several years we have exceeded our goal for the Gala. Please note that children on the autism spectrum attend the Language Disorder Clinics.

Finally, I would encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to the Gala. In addition, it would be a good way to introduce your Lodge Brethren to the Scottish Rite, so remember to invite them.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Brother Tim Shrum

Smoke and Sip supporting the  
Scottish Rite Friends and  
Family Fundraiser.  
The finest Bourbon  
and Cigars are  
limited to the  
first 40 donors!

**BOURBON  
& CIGAR  
NIGHT**  
MARCH 21, 7:00 PM.

**TOBACCOLOGY**  
CLUB • 1875 • ALEXANDRIA

Open to all  
brothers and friends.  
\$40 Donation Requested.  
TOBACCOLOGY  
6710 Madison Street  
Haymarket, Virginia

Questions to Mike Taldo  
taldomike@gmail.com  
RSVP and pay via:  
<https://www.biddingforgood.com/vself/2020tasting>



## ***Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club***

Allen Beckner, KCCH, President, Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club

Dear Brethren:

It is my great privilege to introduce you to the 2nd Army of the Shenandoah. That is, I am writing to tell you about the outstanding Brethren and Ladies of the Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club which was chartered on May 22, 1979.

After 40 years of brotherly fellowship and faithful support to the great Valley of Alexandria, the Shenandoah Valley SR Club is strong and growing in wisdom and numbers. We added four new members to the Alexandria Scottish Rite (ASR) during the Spring Reunion and these four Brothers joined the Shenandoah Valley SR Club the following month. Our new Brothers are Michael H. Ashley, 32<sup>o</sup>; Michael A. Huff, 32<sup>o</sup>; James J. Richel, 32<sup>o</sup> and George Rupert Ravens, 32<sup>o</sup>.

At the Club's meeting in October 2019, we had three new Brothers and their Ladies visit us as guests. We had a total of 24 Brethren and Ladies at that meeting and dinner. Speaking of dinner, we have our own personal chef, Ms. Brenda Mayes, who prepares a home-cooked meal and serves us buffet style each month. It is delicious and even I get full!

The Shenandoah Valley SR Club meets ten months a year, from January through October, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We alternate venues between the Spurmont Lodge in Strasburg, VA, and the Cassia Lodge in Woodstock, VA. We gather at 6 p.m. and have a time of fellowship from 6 to 6:30 p.m., followed by our welcome, pledge of allegiance, and grace before dinner. We usually introduce ourselves and then it is ladies first to the fabulous feast.

During dinner the "Walter Downs Hat Fund" hat is passed around and donations are collected and accounted for by our Treasurer, Jerry Begley, 32<sup>o</sup>. These funds are deposited into a special account for the Club's charitable giving.

After dinner our Program Director, Wayne Price, 32<sup>o</sup>, introduces our guest speaker or even goes solo to deliver his own informative program. Following a brief benediction, we adjourn the Club meetings promptly at 8 p.m., or in cases of inclement weather, even a little sooner.

The Shenandoah Valley SR Club has Brethren from the Valley of Alexandria, the Valley of Norfolk, the Valley of Martinsburg, the Orient of New York and the Orient of Massachusetts. These gentlemen represent many Masonic bodies to include the four Blue Lodges of the Shenandoah Valley, two Royal Arch Chapters, two Commanderies, DeMolay and the Eastern Star.

The Club's current officers are as follows:

Secretary - Charles R. McIlwee, 32<sup>o</sup>

Treasurer - Jerry Begley, 32<sup>o</sup>

Program Director - Wayne Price, 32<sup>o</sup>, PPDGM

Chaplain Emeritus – Howard Page, 32<sup>o</sup>

2nd Vice President – Dennis Parmerter, 32<sup>o</sup>

1st Vice President – Zandy DePriest, 32<sup>o</sup>

President – Allen D. Beckner, KCCH, PVM

The Club has a special secret weapon named Mrs. Donna McIlwee. She is the Secretary's right hand and is extraordinary in her organization and communication skills in preparation for each of our Club's meetings.

*(Continued on Page 14.)*

# Shenandoah Valley Scottish Rite Club

(Continued from Page 13.)

III. Brother Ray Steele, 33° (who is currently Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia), has been instrumental in enlightening both the Club and the ASR to an important effort that was not as well-known as the David Kruger Scottish Rite Speech-Language camp provided by the James Madison University (JMU) in Harrisonburg, VA. Brother Ray told us about the autism camp his little granddaughter had attended. The autism camp, led by JMU Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists, serves a maximum of 13 children per year, depending upon the financial assistance provided.

A few years ago, Ms. Linda Freeman and Ms. Marsha Longerbeam of JMU provided a special program to the Shenandoah Valley SR Club regarding the financial needs for the autism camp. The Club has made contributions to the autism camp in the amount of \$1,000 or more for each of the last four years. Donations come from the Club's "Walter Downs Hat Fund" contributions as well as from special donations made by individual Club members. Brother Ray personally delivers the Club's donation for the autism camp.

Lady Linda and I hope you have the opportunity to visit the 2nd Army of the Shenandoah and meet these wonderful folks!

Fraternally,  
Allen



Michael Ashley, Jr., Allen Beckner, President, George Ravens  
Michael A. Huff, James Richel, Jerry Begley, Treasurer

The Rite Care® Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program supports 181 clinics nationally, providing children with diagnostic evaluation and treatment for speech and language disorders and learning disabilities. The Alexandria Valley fund clinics at Radford, Old Dominion, and James Madison Universities and the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center in Richmond, Virginia.

A portion of funds raised will benefit ongoing preservation and modernization efforts at the House of the Temple.

WWW.ASFRE.ORG

## Make a Difference

**TABLES & TICKETS**  
Table of eight (8) \$720  
Individual ticket \$100

All tables and tickets are tax deductible. Reservations should be made by May 10, 2020.

DONATE AN AUCTION ITEM!  
SEE WEBSITE.

Social Hour  
Scotch Tasting  
Entertainment & Dinner  
Silent Auction  
Live Auction  
Inspirational Program

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

- Gold Level \$5000**  
Gold page in Event Journal, prominent banner placement, prominent website listing, one table (8 seats)
- Silver Level \$2500**  
Silver page in Event Journal, prominent banner placement, prominent website listing, one table (8 seats)
- Bronze Level \$1000**  
Full page in Event Journal, prominent banner placement, website listing, two (2) seats
- Friends of the Dinner \$500**  
Half page in Event Journal, website listing
- Patrons of the Dinner \$250**  
Quarter page in Journal, website listing

2020 SCOTTISH RITE  
FRIENDS & FAMILY CHARITY EVENT  
MAY 16, 2020 6:30 P.M.

THE WATERFORD AT FAIROAKS  
12025 LEE JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, FAIRFAX, VA.

for more information, visit our website  
WWW.ASFRE.ORG

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

**PURCHASE A TABLE**

**GO TO**

**WWW.ASFRE.ORG**

See Article on Page 12.

## Secretary's Corner

Ill. David C. Morris, 33°, Secretary

### REUNION ITEMS

Caps, rings, patents and cap boxes for the previous Reunion Class are available to be picked up on meeting nights. If you prefer to pick them up at another time, please call the office at 703.998.9044 or 703.283.0031.

### 2020 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

You should have received your Dues Notice for 2020. Your card is ready to be mailed to you as soon as you send in your payment or go on online and pay. Dues payment link:

<https://scottishrite.org/login/?redirect=https://scottishrite.org/members/profile#mydues>



### NEW FROM OUR 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.

### MEAL PLAN

The cost for the "Meal Plan" for 2020 is still \$55.00.

### SPRING REUNION APRIL 25th & MAY 2nd

The Spring Reunion is fast approaching, and we hope all of our members are thinking about your Brothers and giving them petitions, so they can benefit from the Scottish Rite Experience.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### MARCH 2020

Mar. 13 – 6:30 p.m.

**Remembrance and Renewal**

*Pre-Meeting Dinner*

(Reservations by Mar. 10)

Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

(Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)

Mar. 18 – 7:00 p.m.

**Loudoun SR Club**

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

(Reservations by Mar. 13)

Mar. 21 – 7:30 a.m.

**Division Leadership Conference**

**Grand Lodge of VA**

Alexandria Valley

Mar. 25 - 6:30 p.m.

**Shenandoah Club Meeting**

Spurmont Lodge—Strasburg

(Reservations by Mar. 20)

Mar. 28 – 8:30 a.m.

**Scottish Rite Spring Workshop**

Coffee & Donuts – 8:30 a.m.

Workshop – 9:30 a.m.

Valley of Richmond

### APRIL 2020

April 10 – 6:00 p.m.

**Executive Council Meeting**

**Valley Meeting - 7:30p.m.**

(Consistory, Council of Kadosh,  
& Lodge of Perfection)

April 15 – 7:00 p.m.

**Loudoun SR Club**

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

(Reservations by Apr. 10)

April 22 - 6:30 p.m.

**Shenandoah Club Meeting**

Cassia Lodge—Woodstock

(Reservations by Apr. 17)

April 25 – 8:00 a.m.

**SPRING REUNION - 1<sup>st</sup> Day**

### MAY 2020

May 2 – 8:00 a.m.

**SPRING REUNION — 2<sup>nd</sup> Day**

May 2 – 6:00 p.m. — Masonic Home Gala

To Honor - Ill. & MW James D. Cole

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Black Tie - \$200.00

(Reservations required)

May 8 – 6:30 p.m.

**LADIES NIGHT**

*Pre-Meeting Dinner*

(Reservations by May 5)

(Lodge of Perfection)

May 16 – 6:00 p.m.

**FRIENDS & FAMILY GALA**

The Waterford – Fairfax, VA

May 20 – 7:00 p.m.

**Loudoun SR Club**

Ashburn-Sterling Lodge

(Reservations by May 8)

May 27 - 6:30 p.m.

**Shenandoah Club Meeting**

Spurmont Lodge—Strasburg

(Reservations by May 22)

**SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN**  
Valley of Alexandria, Orient of Virginia

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

\_\_\_\_\_, 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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Illustrious David C. Morris, 33°

Assistant Secretary:  
Illustrious David H. Smith Sr., 33°

Treasurer:  
Illustrious Oral (Neil) McNeil Marple, 33°

Thomas G. Little, KCCH  
Almoner

Illustrious Norman A. Mayo, 33°  
Almoner Emeritus

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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 correspond-  
ence 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. L. C. C.  
Deputy of the Supreme Council in  
the Orient of Virginia

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

**STATED MEETINGS**

Alexandria Lodge of Perfection

Second Friday of each month  
DONALD L. MCANDREWS, KCCH  
Venerable Master

Alexandria Chapter of Rose Croix

Second Friday  
February, March, July, November  
THOMAS E. GOOLSBY, KCCH  
Wise Master

Alexandria Council of Kadosh

Second Friday  
February, April, July, November  
RICK A. CADY  
Commander

Alexandria Consistory

Second Friday  
April, August, October, December  
RONALD J. LEIBFREID  
Master of Kadosh

