



# The Rite Light

VALLEY OF ALBANY

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.



Vol. XVI

WINTER 1994

No. 2

## THE OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

OF THE

VALLEYS OF ALBANY & TROY  
WISH EVERYONE

A

**MOST JOYOUS & REWARDING  
HOLIDAY SEASON**

Merrill C Smith  
THRICE POTENT MASTER  
ALBANY

Edward J Lester  
SOVEREIGN PRINCE  
ALBANY

George E Thomas  
MOST WISE MASTER  
Albany

Russell J LaGrange Jr MSA  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF  
Albany

George J Deveneau  
TREASURER  
Albany

Ill..Richard G Barrell 33°  
SECRETARY  
Albany

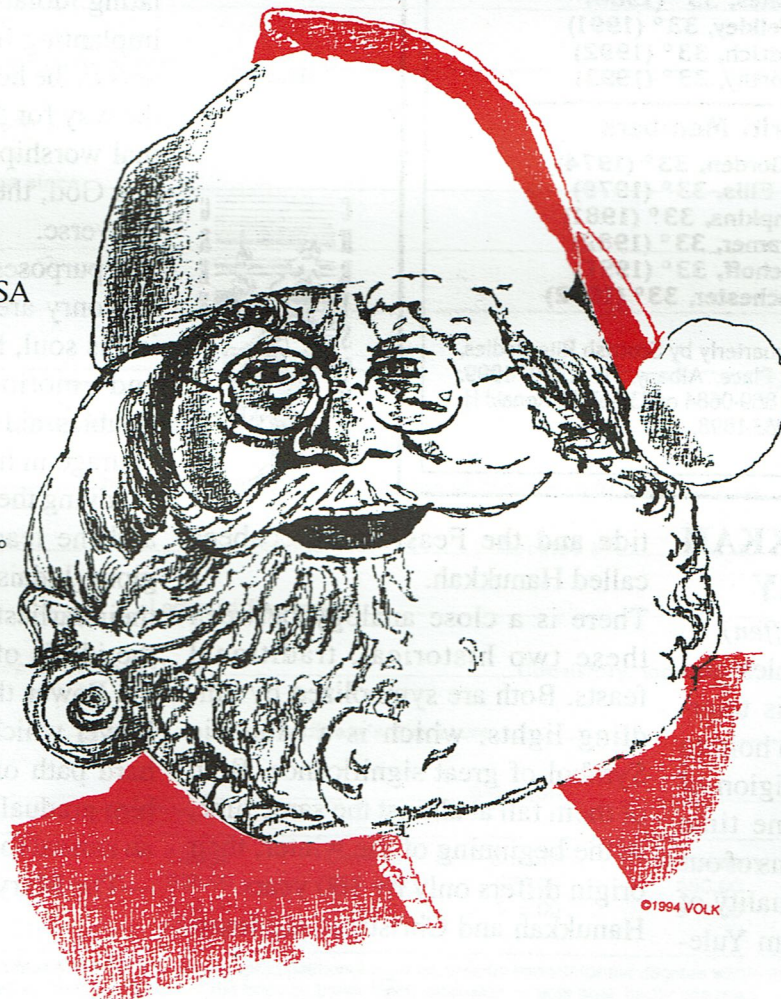
Byron D Moak  
THRICE POTENT MASTER  
TROY

Doug Hull  
SOVEREIGN PRINCE  
TROY

Bruce C Jerome  
MOST WISE MASTER  
Troy

Ill..William V Iacocca, 33°  
TREASURER  
Troy

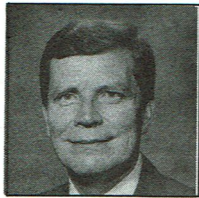
Joseph P Pozefsky  
SECRETARY  
Troy





## Allegiance

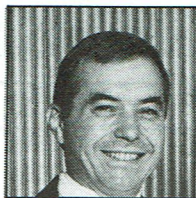
The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and whose Officers are:



III. Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
Sovereign Grand  
Commander



III. Bruce W. Widger, 33°  
Deputy for the  
State of New York



III. Richard H. Welkley, 33°  
Active for Area 4

III. Robert O. Ralston, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander

III. Francis G. Paul, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus

III. Alfred E. Rice, 33°  
Grand Lieutenant Commander

III. John W. McNaughton, 33°  
Grand Minister of State

III. Bruce W. Widger, 33°  
Deputy for the State of New York

### Active Members for New York

III. Harold F. Dates, 33° (1986)

III. Richard H. Welkley, 33° (1991)

III. Harold L. Aldrich, 33° (1992)

III. Dwight T. Worthy, 33° (1993)

### Active Emeriti Members

III. John H. Van Gorden, 33° (1974)

III. Raymond C. Ellis, 33° (1979)

III. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33° (1981)

III. Alfred M. Kramer, 33° (1982)

III. James F. Niehoff, 33° (1991)

III. Carlton A. Winchester, 33° (1992)

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Richard G. Barrell, 33° - Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970; Ronald H. Noll, 32° - Associate Editor, 783-1898.



of tolerance. How different they are, in their conception, and yet how near in analogy. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the altar in the Temple at Jerusalem by the victorious Maccabees after its pollution by the Syrians in 162 B.C. The altar fire was kindled anew and the lights of the sacred candlesticks were re-lit as the beginning of a celebration which lasted eight days.

Christmas symbolizes human sympathy and kindness to all men. As the offspring of a Jewish parent religion, it set forth to combat heathenism and idolatry. According to the Christian concept, it constitutes a rededication to the service of humanity through its teachings of tolerance, love, forgiveness and unselfishness.

Hanukkah and Christmas revolutionized the world by gradually annihilating idolatry and heathenism, and implanting humanity and unselfishness in the hearts of men. They paved the way for the abandonment of animal worship and for the worship of one God, the Great Architect of the Universe.

The purposes of these two Feasts and Masonry are to give mankind unity in his soul, holiness in his thoughts and emotions, consolation in his troubles, aid in distress, and hope and courage in his journey through life.

Studying the history of Freemasonry and the teachings of the two religions, Judaism and Christianity, from their earliest beginning, we see that the ideals of all three derived from the Power that made man. It is that Power which has led him along the hard path of progress and elevated him gradually from the condition of an animal to that of responsible man.

—The Maryland Master Mason

## CHRISTMAS, HANUKKAH AND FREEMASONRY

(Excerpts from Rabbi H. Geffen)

One of the cardinal principles and teachings of Freemasonry is tolerance. Masonry teaches us to hold to our own religion, to the religion of our fathers, but at the same time honor the religious convictions of our fellow men. This sublime quality of tolerance we may learn from Yule-

tide and the Feast of Maccabees called Hanukkah.

There is a close analogy between these two historical, traditional feasts. Both are symbolized by kindling lights, which is a Masonic Symbol of great significance. Both of them fall at almost the same time, in the beginning of the winter; their origin differs only by 160 years.

Hanukkah and Christmas are feasts



# APRIL 22, 1995 REUNION

## Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite

NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION, U.S.A.  
VALLEY OF ALBANY, N.Y.

MASONIC TEMPLE, 67 CORNING PLACE, ALBANY, N.Y. 12207

### PETITION FOR DEGREES / AFFILIATION (Cross Out One)

To the Officers and Members of

INEFFABLE AND SUBLIME GRAND LODGE OF PERFECTION 14°  
GRAND COUNCIL PRINCES OF JERUSALEM 16°  
ALBANY SOVEREIGN CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX 18°  
ALBANY SOVEREIGN CONSISTORY S. P. R. S. 32°

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned hereof, respectfully show that I am desirous of being admitted as a member of your honorable body, and request that I may be received among you, and I will ever pray for the prosperity and glory of the Fraternity and the welfare of the Brethren.

In making this application, I promise on my word of honor that, should I be elected and become a member of your honorable body, I will bear true faith, allegiance and fealty to the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-third and last Degree, of the Ancient Body is now holden, and will support and abide by its Constitutions, Orders and Decrees; that I will hold allegiance and be loyal to the said Supreme Council as the Supreme Power of the said Rite within the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States; that I will hold as illegal and spurious every other Body of whatever degree claiming to be of the said Rite, that may be established within its Jurisdiction, that is not holden immediately or immediately under its authority and will hold communication whatever in Scottish Rite Freemasonry with any member of the same, nor allow him to visit any body of the said Rite and which I may be a member; and should I violate any part of this promise I consent to be expelled from Scottish Rite Freemasonry and to forfeit all my rights therein, and in any Body of the Rite, and be denounced to every body thereof in the world as a traitor and forsworn. "And may God aid me to keep and perform the same. Amen."

**Name in Full (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name (NO INITIALS)

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

**Place of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_  
Town State or County

**Residence** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street and Number City Zip Code

**Your Mailing Address (If different than Residence)** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Number City Zone No.

**Have resided in above place since** \_\_\_\_\_

**Have resided in New York State since** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Address (or Employer)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home) (Work)

**Were you ever a member of the Order of DeMolay?** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have** \_\_\_\_\_ **before petitioned for the degrees of the Rite; and was** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a member of** \_\_\_\_\_ **Lodge, No.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Located at** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a member of** \_\_\_\_\_ **Lodge of Perfection** \_\_\_\_\_ **Council, P. of J.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter of Rose Croix** \_\_\_\_\_ **Consistory; located at** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Candidate's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

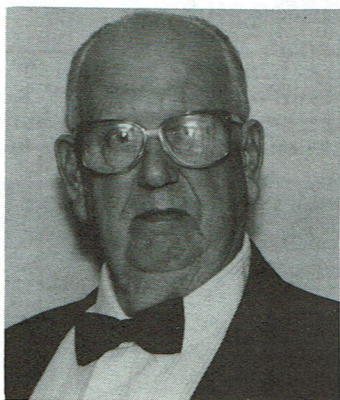
**Recommended By** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

	Lodge	Council	Chapter	Consistory	Total
* Initiation	\$35.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$135.00
Dues	\$ 9.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 27.00
Assessment	\$ 4.00				\$ 4.00

**NOTE: Rules and Regulations— Article 1. Section 20.** An accepted petitioner must be present himself for the degrees within one year of his election, or the election shall lapse, unless the time is extended by unanimous vote of the body by ballot. Each extension by vote shall be for one year.

\* At least \$50.00 must accompany petition.





## DELTA BODIES NEW RED HAT ELECT

D. SEYBOTH was born in ALBANY, N.Y. on April 16/1922. He is married to ROSE A. CASOREL; they have two sons & five grandchildren. He started his Masonic career on 11/18/1963 by being raised to the sublime degree of MASTER MASON in MT. ZION LODGE # 311 TROY, N.Y. & has been active ever since. He was Master of his lodge in 1961 + 1989, 1990 consecutively, for which he received a Grand Lodge certificate. In 1970 he received an Outstanding Service award, In 1986 he was named MASON of the YEAR.. He assists in all degree work, visits shutins & makes hospital visits. For the last ten years he represents MT. ZION at the TROY MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOC.an is second vice president & chairman of the budget committee. He is President of the TROY FELLOW CRAFT CLUB & has been for the last three years. He has served as Vice President RENS,SCHENECTADY MASTER & WARDENS ASSOCIATION. He is currently the CAMP TURK COMMITTEEMAN for the East side of our district & if that is not enough he holds a dual-mem-

bership in PHOENIX LODGE # 58 in LANSINGBURG, N.Y. He is also a member of the OLD 17th. In the private sector he works as a volunteer for the SAMARITAN HOSPITAL & has received many awards for his hundreds of hours of service. He has put in many hours for his church in caring for the walks in the winter time . He has made many trips to the SHRINE HOSPITALS in SPRINGFIELD & BOSTON, with patients. In 1993 his lodge presented him the DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD,he is PAST SOVEREIGN PRINCE in ASSR & is presently SENIOR WARDEN IN CHAPTER ROSE CROIX. In the ORIENTAL SHRINE, he is past Pres. of the SHRINE CLUB, and is now it's Secretary. He is Pres. of the ORENTAL SHRINE PATROL, & is business manager of the ORIEN-TAL NEWS.

WORSHIPFUL DON. hobbies are wood work, & gardening, he has donated many of his wood projects to the SHRINE & CHURCHS for their raffles. Bro. SEYBOTH spent-most of his years driving a truck ,32 years, for the GREAT A & P TEA CO. & 7 years. driving cross country for CHEMICAL LEHMAN TANK LINES, hauling chemicals . HE IS NOW HAPPILY RETIRED

"The girl who can't  
dance says the band  
can't play."

—Yiddish Proverb

# Deserts Without Guilt

## SUGAR COOKIES

3 tbsp softened margarine  
2/3 cup granulated sugar  
1 egg or egg-substitute  
equivalent  
2 tsp vanilla  
1 tbsp skim milk  
1-1/2 cups all purpose flour  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
Red/green sprinkles

Cream margarine and sugar together. Add egg milk and vanilla and stir well. Combine flour and baking soda in separate bowl and add to wet mixture. Stir well. Cover hands with flour and roll dough into small balls. Roll each ball in colored sugar and place on tray covered with non-stick cooking spray. Pat cookies gently. Bake 12-14 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

## Variation:

Freeze dough for 30 minutes. Coat hands and dough with flour, collect it into a ball and roll dough out to 1/4 inch thick. Cut cookies into holiday shapes. Bake as above. Yield: 25 cookies.

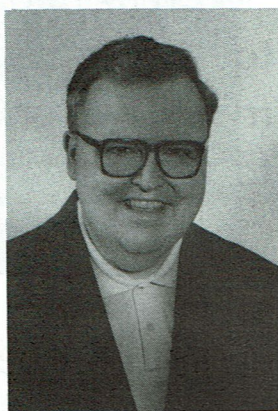
## GINGERBREAD

1 cup dark molasses  
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
1/2 cup vegetable oil (containing no more than 2 grams of saturated fatty acids per tablespoon)  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 tsp cloves  
1/2 tsp nutmeg  
1 tsp ground ginger  
1 cup boiling water  
2-1/2 cups all-purpose unsifted flour  
1 tsp baking soda  
2 tbsp hot water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly cover an 8-inch square baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Blend molasses, brown sugar, oil and spices in a large bowl. Stir in boiling water. Mix in flour and set aside. In a small bowl, dissolve baking soda in 2 tbsp hot water. Mix well and add to the batter. Pour into baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes. Slice into 12 portions. Serve warm.







### FROM THE THRICE POTENT MASTER

Joy to the world! Peace on earth for everyone as we find ourselves immersed in the spirit of the Holiday Season Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and a New Year. Reflect on the true meaning of these festive occasions and put into deeds every day those lessons learned in our Scottish Rite Degrees. On that note, please make a concerted effort to join with your brothers in contributing to the Supreme Council Blue Envelope Appeal. Your gift is appreciated at Supreme Council because it helps foster patriotism through the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Massachusetts. It also helps fight the ravages of mental illness through the Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Research Program. It is used to aid deserving students from Scottish Rite families and Masonic your organizations with their education through Scottish Rite Scholarships. A fourth charity has been added the establishment of Children's Learning Centers to help

children overcome such disabilities as dyslexia and dysgraphia - impairment of the ability to read and write. Our next Stated Communication will be on Thursday, January 12, 1995. The guest speaker for the evening will be Susan Nealon from Niagara Mohawk. We look forward to seeing you there.

Merrill C Smith  
Thrice Potent Master



## Marking Ethnic Traditions

**M**any Americans continue the customs of their ethnic heritage during the holiday season, both as a way to honor their culture and to remember their past.

*Swedish Americans* celebrate *St. Lucia's Day* on Dec. 13. Families choose a "Lucy" bride, and on the festive day the honored girl dresses in white and wears a candle wreath on her head as she serves special "Lucy" buns and coffee to the household.

St. Lucia's Day dates back to the Viking era when the day before the longest night of the year became a holiday to welcome the return of more daylight. How this translated to honoring a Catholic saint in Sweden — a largely non-Catholic country — is a mystery, but most Swedes and Swedish-Americans celebrate the day of the Queen of Light. The day has since come to represent the end of the harvest and the preparation of midwinter and Christmas festivities.

Many *Danish-American* families gather together for the holiday dinner on Christmas Eve. After dinner everyone holds hands around the Christmas tree and sings. Afterwards gifts are distributed. Danish-American children still set out rice pudding for the "elves" in the attic and treats for the animals on Christmas Eve.

On Dec. 16, *Mexican-American* families begin the nine-day celebration of *Posadas*, during which processions of

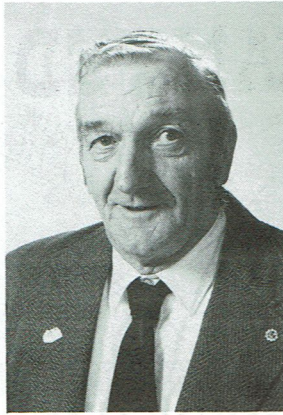
"pilgrims" knock at doors asking for shelter (posada). The custom reenacts the search by Mary and Joseph for refuge in Bethlehem. The "pilgrims" are invited into homes and after being blindfolded, follow the custom of trying to break the "piñata" — a decorated earthenware utensil filled with gifts and goodies. Once the piñata has been broken and the gifts distributed, the procession continues to other homes.

In some *English-American* homes, *Boxing Day*, Dec. 26, is the traditional day for families to give gifts to those who serve them.

*Italian-American* families usually fast on Christmas Eve, and at the end of the day the family holds a ceremony around the *Presepio* — a miniature scene of Bethlehem with tiny figures of the Holy Family, shepherds and wise men. After the mother of the family places the figure of the *Bambino* in the manger, Christmas gifts are exchanged.







## A WORD FROM THE SOVEREIGN PRINCE

Well, everyone that came to our meeting on October 6th certainly walked away with a full stomach after feasting on a delicious chicken dinner prepared by Bess Bogden. Now, if you're eager for another dinner treat, make sure you get in your reservation

to me - Ed Lester, 156 Cemetery Rd. Germantown NY 12526 - and enjoy a great venison dinner on Thursday, February 2, 1995. This plus entertainment after, will be for a very modest price, to be announced later. Of course, if you are fortunate to shoot down a buck and can spare a portion of the deer, please call me at 518-537-6328 and let me or my wife know.

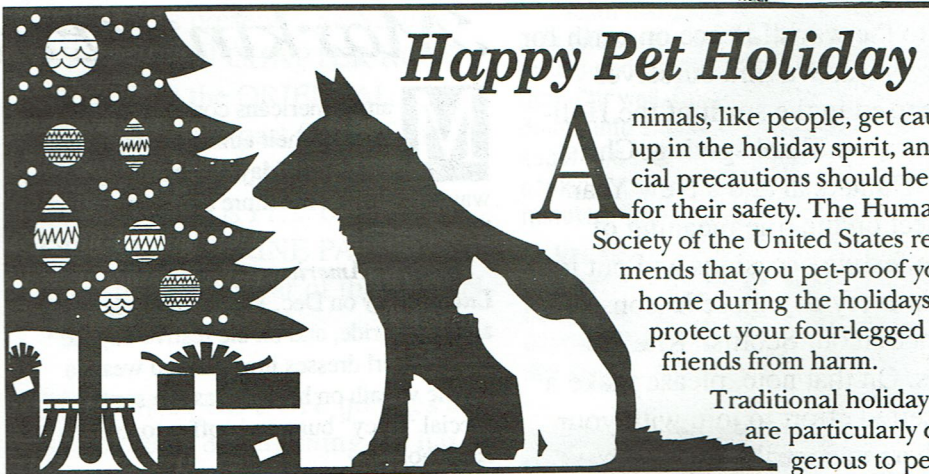
It appears that every time we read a Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite or Shrine bulletin, the subject of membership always shows up. Let me tell you brothers these are not idle statements - our membership is declining. Deaths and Demits can not be helped. But Retentions and particularly new members can. Our task of getting new members in Blue Lodges is much easier than some of our neighboring jurisdictions. We can ask someone who you believe will make

a good Mason and Scottish Rite Mason to join. Just look around - family members, neighborhood, doctors, lawyers, mailmen, and folks in your church or synogogue. They're all prospects. All YOU have to do is ASK them. I'm proud of this wonderful fraternity as YOU should be. And I don't hesitate to let it be known to my friends, relatives and people I'm in contact with. Try harder brothers. Get at least one petition in 1995 and do your part in making Albany Scottish Rite grow. Have a great Holiday Season and the best of 1995.

Edward J Lester  
Sovereign Prince

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."

—Margaret Thatcher



## Happy Pet Holiday

Animals, like people, get caught up in the holiday spirit, and special precautions should be taken for their safety. The Humane Society of the United States recommends that you pet-proof your home during the holidays to protect your four-legged friends from harm.

Traditional holiday plants are particularly dangerous to pets.

Poinsettia leaves and holly berries are poisonous to animals and should be moved out of a pet's reach. Hang such plants from the ceiling, if necessary, and try not to place them on windowsills. Cats love to perch near a window to watch the outside, and the plant could tumble as the animal jumps up.

Bowls of sweet-smelling potpourri are another peril for animals. Some of the ingredients in the mixtures are dangerous if ingested by a curious animal.

Keep all shiny objects — tinsel, bows, colored strings and foils — away from your pet. If you use tinsel on your tree, avoid putting it on the lower branches. The long strands can harm an animal's insides if swallowed.

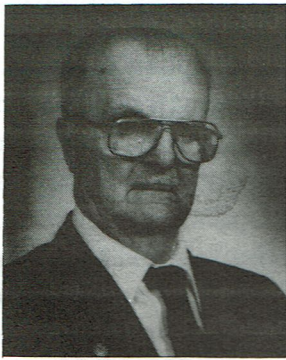
Never leave small toys, decorations or breakables where an animal can get at them. Pets, no matter what age, are curious and they're attracted to these lures. Chewing on their painted surfaces and ingesting tiny pieces can result in serious medical trouble for Snoopy or Fluffy.

The electric cords surrounding the Christmas tree should be hidden from view, if possible, so a pet can't chew on them. If that can't be done, keep the cords neat and together to avoid entangling the pets.

Christmas candy is strictly for human consumption and should not be fed to pets. It can make animals very sick. And chocolate, in particular, whether in candy or cookies, is toxic to an animal.

Keep lighted candles out of the reach of pets. They could suffer serious burns if their fur gets too close to the flame.





## MOST WISE MASTER'S WANDERINGS

Mathematics was not my best subject in school and I still have trouble trying to figure out how to get 40 members out of our membership of 1900 to attend meetings. Just think, 40 or 50 out of 1900 is just three plus per cent of our membership. When I say 40 members I'm talking about the members who are the officers of the Scottish Rite Bodies. It is a sad condition and it should not be. You, as officers, want the glory of being head of a unit - then work for it. We have dropped meetings. We have combined affairs. We have tried to formulate programs to meet the modern trend of living, and it seems that the more we try, the worse it gets. What is the answer?

I've heard a lot of talk - get new members; talk about Masonry; have more public affairs; build up the DeMolay. Yes, I hear them all, and who should be doing that? YOU - you are the one who is going to keep Masonry alive. You are the one to get the new candidates. You are the one who is to attend meetings and fill the Lodge room, to help the presiding officer when he has a program. No Master or presiding officer wants to have a speaker or some sort of entertainment with a handful of members

on the side lines, and no presiding officer has the nerve to invite a speaker knowing that there will only be a handful to appreciate a guest speaker.

So, if you want to be able to carry a card around, you will have to do a little more work, or there won't be any lodge or body to furnish you with a card. It is as simple as that.

Now, on March the second, 1995, I have given my permission to the Commander-In-Chief of the Albany Consistory, to have the Ninth Degree exemplified by Sigma Consistory which had to be cancelled in December because of the unexpected death of one of the principal characters.

This should be a must for all officers.

Also, on April 9, 1995, we of the Chapter of Rose Croix will join with the Delta Chapter of Rose Croix, Troy, for the Solemn Ceremony of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb, on Palm Sunday, Dinner, at a cost of \$8.50 per person, will be available at 6:30 PM, prior to the ceremony. As usual, this service is open to the public. I expect all of my officers will fill their respective stations and places this evening. We have agreed to have Troy open the ceremony, and Albany will close. Officers, please contact me for your part as soon as possible.

To you and all of your families - Happy Holidays and may the year 1995 bring you continued good health and happiness.

George "Ernie" Thomas  
Most Wise Master



## Stocking Stuffers

*The practice of hanging Christmas stockings on a mantle is believed to have originated from the benevolence of St. Nicholas, the ancestor of Santa Claus.*

*Legend has it that the kindly saint dropped three bags of money down a chimney to an impoverished nobleman, who lacked dowries, for marrying off his daughters. One of the bags of money dropped into a stocking hung to dry by the fire, suggesting that a stocking so hung might attract gifts on the holiday.*

*Young children continue to hang stockings on Christmas Eve in hopes of collecting little gifts.*

## Origin Of Holiday Greeting Cards

*The custom of exchanging holiday cards was begun in 1843 by Englishman Henry Cole, who commissioned an artist to draw a festive scene to decorate printed greetings. One thousand cards were printed, and these first greetings, which sold for a shilling each, featured a family seated at a Christmas dinner. The inscription was the now familiar "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."*

*The custom of sending holiday greetings in America was introduced later in Boston by lithographer Louis Prang. His sentimental cards featured flowers and Christmas decorations. Prang dominated the American holiday-greeting market until the 1890s, when cheaper cards imported from Germany became the fashion.*





## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

First of all, I want to apologize to those Brethren that showed up for our December first meeting and found out that the degree exemplification by the Sigma Bodies of Schenectady did not take place. This, unfortunately, was due to the sudden death of one of their principle players. This event will take place at the Chapter of Rose Croix meeting on March 2, 1995. Please make every effort to be there. Those of you who attended our Fall Reunion were perhaps a tad unhappy and disappointed. There are several reasons why. To say the least, we have done much better. One way to do this, is to have more understudies and more walk-ons. My brothers, our Scottish Rite Degrees are beautiful and each leaves us with a message - loud and clear - of the inspiring lessons that we should practice in our daily lives as Scottish Rite Masonry. While it is true that many of our candidates join the Rite so that they can become Shriners, they have paid a good fee to see and hear our rituals. Our degrees should be conferred as professionally as possible, and no less! We've got to stop falling into the habit of last minute substitutions who out of necessity must read their part. Brethren, we need you to take a part at our reunions. We

need people who will volunteer for major speaking parts and small speaking parts. We also need walk-ons - people to dress in costume and carry a sword or spear or just walk on the stage or set. I don't believe its asking too much for those who can spare one or two days at either of our reunions. Please give this top priority in 1995, and help the degree directors fulfill their required tasks. Our next rendezvous will be on April 6, 1995 when we will have a music appreciation night. Ladies and guests are invited. Hope to see more of you then.

It is hoped that you will remember our Blue Envelope fund during this period, when we profess that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

If you were unable to be present at either Ill.: Al Lewis or M.S.A. Bill Tschumi's testimonials, please be advised that both were enjoyable, entertaining, wells attended events. Good food! Good company! Good Times!

Our Area IV meeting at Troy proved to be very educational; enlightening, especially with respect to Rite Degree work (content and presentation). Considerable time and effort have been expended in order to make our current degrees more up-to-date, meaningful and relevant.

Some of the present Consistory Degrees have been moved/shifted to the Lodge of Perfection. The Rose Croix is implementing a new 18th Degree which merges and modifies both the "old" 17th and 18th Degrees.

The Consistory has a "new" Abraham Lincoln Degree which we, in the Valley of Albany, were among the first to present. Schenectady's Sigma bodies were in the vanguard in the presentation of the relatively

new Four Chaplain's Degree.

New books will soon be available to Degree Directors to enable them to start working on selecting and developing casts, planning and scheduling rehearsals and reviewing content. There is so much that can be done with our Degrees. We just need to get things off the ground.

While still on the topic of Degree work, I would like to personally thank all of you who took part at our Fall Reunion and helped to make it a very successful event. Although the number of new members wasn't large, the Degree work they witnessed was impressive and that was entirely due to your efforts.

On March 2, 1995, through the cooperation and assistance of our most wise Master, Ernie Thomas, the Degree will be presented at their scheduled communication. A good turnout would be appreciated.

During December we had the opportunity to provide information on Masonry in general and Scottish Rite Masonry in particular to the general public. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 14-16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the South Concourse of the Empire State Plaza there was a Christmas Craft Fair (Community Organization Holiday Sale). Booths from numerous organizations, including the Masons/Eastern Star set up.

As the New Year rapidly approaches, I ask that you check your schedule of events and set aside and reserve January 12th, February 2nd, March 2nd and April 6th, which are the meeting nights of the four bodies in the Valley of Albany. We should support each of our bodies by attending scheduled meetings as often as we are able.

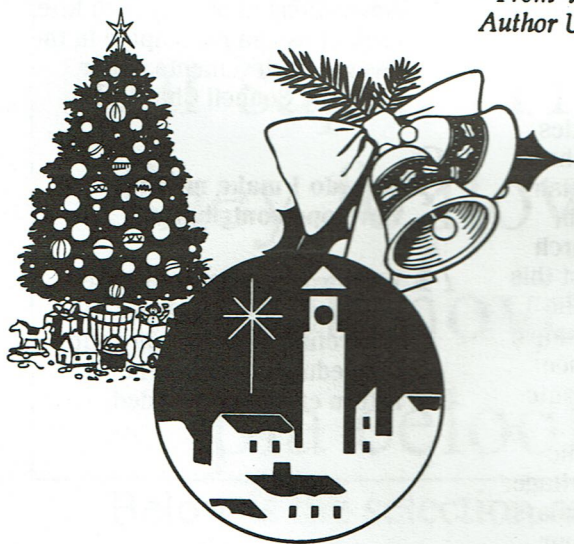


It is not too early to mark down April 22, 1995, which is the revised date of our Spring Reunion. Your attendance and participation will be sincerely appreciated.

I look forward to continuing working with you in 1995 in maintaining the positive energy which exists in the Valley of Albany. See you in January!

My very best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and good health and prosperity in the New Year.

Russell J. LaGrange, Jr., MSA  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



## Holiday Traditions: Old and New

In the United States the Christmas-New Year holidays are celebrated in a variety of ways, including the use of customs and costumes evoking the atmosphere of bygone eras. Many communities have established their own traditions, often featuring bazaars, crafts for sale, food festivals and music. A sampling:

In *Lafayette, La.*, there will be a Cajun Festival through most of December. Cajun and Creole customs, food and music will be offered as a prelude to the holidays.

*Tempe, Ariz.*, has scheduled a Festival of the Arts begin-

## DRINK! STEAL! SWEAR! AND LIE!

From childhood we have been told to do this, or that, if we want to be a success in life. Too many people measure success by material things...cars, houses, money, and status symbols of life that may be hard to obtain in today's world. Do you want them? Then you must drink, steal, swear and lie. Since these are strange words for success, please read on.

**DRINK** from the fountain of friendship and happiness. Dwell on the positive things. Ninety percent of our worries never happen anyway. Smile and offer the hand of friendship. You can make more friends in two months by listening than you can in two years of extolling your own virtues.

**STEAL** some time from your day to do something for someone else, with no thought of receiving anything in return. Say those words of appreciation or sympathy and perform some acts of kindness for someone less fortunate than yourself.

**SWEAR** to find a way to do your job better. whether it is your vocation, part time, or volunteer work, do it to the best of your ability. Not even God would ask for more.

**LIE** down at night and thank God for all the gifts of life he has bestowed on you. Thank Him that you live in a free country where you worship God as you please...without fear of a knock on the door from the soldiers of the state. Do these things and you will enjoy a success in life never thought possible... and you will exemplify the principles of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

-From the *El Paso Scottish Rite Bulletin, Orient of Texas, Author Unknown.*

ning Dec. 2. Five-hundred artists and craftpeople will exhibit their creations, and 225,000 onlookers are expected to attend.

The Saunders County Museum, *Wahoo, Neb.*, will present Christmas on the Prairies Dec. 2-4, showing how the holiday was marked in the nineteenth century. Period costumes, local music groups performing, special postal cancellations and children's activities related to the 1800s will be part of the celebration.

*Alexandria, Va.*, will hold its traditional Scottish Walk on Dec. 3. The day begins with the sound of bagpipes playing in a parade, followed by tours of decorated homes, displays of Scottish food and drink and the sale of heather sprays by strolling vendors.

*Klamath Falls, Oreg.*, will begin its holiday observance on Dec. 3 with a Snowflake Festival featuring a pet show, an Army Band concert and handbell ringing.

*Wetumpka, Ala.*, will decorate boats with strings of holiday lights for its "Christmas on the Coosa River" celebration Dec. 10. Hundreds of lamps will be reflected on the water and a boat parade will be followed by a fireworks display.

In *Old Saybrook, Conn.*, residents and visitors will watch the Torchlight Muster parade on Dec. 10. The event is a reenactment of a Colonial tradition of having the village militia, accompanied by a fife and drum corps, carry lanterns and torches to the village green to "muster" for announcements.

*St. Francis, Wisc.*, will sponsor a Polish-American Christmas Festival on Dec. 11 and 12. Featured will be Polish-American Christmas carols narrated in English, folk songs and dances. Participants will wear colorful ethnic costumes.

For New Year's Eve, *Albuquerque, N.M.*, will sponsor a party at noon for those who can't stay awake until midnight. And of course, New York City will repeat its televised Times Square midnight countdown to usher in the new year.





SUPREME COUNCIL INTRODUCES A 4th CHARITY.....SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTERS. AS CAN READILY BE SEEN ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE, THIS IS BUT ONE OF THE DISABILITIES THAT CAN PLAGUE A CHILD - DYSLEXIA (THE INABILITY TO READ) THIS PROJECT IS JUST GETTING OFF THE GROUND. BUT, YOU WILL BE HEARING MORE ABOUT IT. WHEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE BLUE ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN, GIVE GENEROUSLY AS MUCH AS YOU ARE ABLE.



## *Drinking and Driving*

**B**efore you decide at a party to take that last "one for the road," make sure you have made arrangements to get home safely.

Appoint a designated non-alcohol-drinking driver, call a cab, call a friend or stay in a hotel if you feel, or if someone tells you that you're in no condition to drive. Protect yourself, your loved ones and someone else's loved ones.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, last year there were 1,746 alcohol-related deaths from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day in the U.S.



# Together we can make a difference

**Q** What is the Blue Envelope Appeal?

**A** Every fall each Scottish Rite Mason in the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction receives a Blue Envelope mailing which asks for donations to our Supreme Council Charities.

**Q** Where will my dollars go?

**A** Our Supreme Council Charities distribute our donations to three deserving causes: the Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Research Program, which funds research dedicated to the fight against this devastating mental illness; the Abbott Scottish Rite Scholarships, which give financial assistance to young students from Masonic families and youth groups; and the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum of Our National Heritage, where changing exhibits, displays, and special events interpret our nation's traditions in educational and entertaining ways.

**Q** How much should I give to the Blue Envelope Appeal?

**A** Every gift, whatever its size, is important to the success of the Appeal. As the Sovereign Grand Commander has written, "It's true that the power of one man alone is limited. But as one of many brothers, through many generations of our Scottish Rite, each of us can participate in the diverse achievements of our Supreme Council Charities."

**Q** How do I make my Blue Envelope contribution?

**A** When you receive your Blue Envelope mailing, please read it carefully and send in your tax-deductible gift in the return envelope provided.



***Supreme Council Charities' Blue Envelope Appeal:  
Building for the future today.***



# Can You Read This?

The following selection is from a second-grade textbook, written as someone with dyslexia, a type of learning disability, might "see" it.

**Lan bof the Re inbeer.**

Th eqeo ple of Lagla nbare  
cal leb lagqs.

The yca met ot his col bland  
oft he no rth thous andso fy  
ear sapo. The ylivebint ents.  
They fo llow ebth erein beer  
whichmove bfro mqla ceto  
pla celook inpfo rfoob.

Below is the selection as most people are able to read it.

**Land of the Reindeer.** The people of Lapland are called Lapps. They came to this cold land of the north thousands of years ago. They live in tents. They followed the reindeer, which move from place to place looking for food.



Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., U.S.A.

**VALLEY OF ALBANY**

Richard G. Barrell, Secretary

67 Corning Place

Albany, New York 12207-1999

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## *Kissing Under The Mistletoe*

Several accounts exist to explain the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe in the holiday season. One explanation is that hanging mistletoe is an ancient marriage and fertility rite. Another story is that hanging a sprig of the plant was an early Scandinavian truce custom, which barred people from fighting when they met in forests near mistletoe.

Further legend has it that hanging mistletoe in bygone times signaled feelings of peace and friendship, which were then sealed with a kiss.

## *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer*

The story of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer was written in 1939 by Robert May, a Montgomery Ward adman, when he was asked to write a story to be distributed to small children by in-store Santa Clauses.

May and his four-year-old daughter came up with the story of the shiny-nosed reindeer, who lights Santa's way. Denver Gillen, May's friend, illustrated the text.

More than two million copies of the story were distributed in the department store, but the give-aways were halted during World War II. In 1946 the store resumed the practice, and a year later the story was put into book form.

In 1949 Western movie star Gene Autry recorded a musical version of the song, and it went immediately to the top of the Hit Parade. Sociologists say the legend of Rudolph is the only original addition to Santa Claus folklore in the 20th century.

## *Why The Yule Log?*

The Yule log originally had a practical purpose—a large log was burned simply to keep the great halls of chilly English houses warm in the holiday season.

In pagan England, a log was burned as part of the mid-winter Yule festival. Eventually the lighting of a Yule log from the unburned remnant of the previous year's log became a tradition of the Christmas holiday.

## *Ribbons and Bows*

The practice of gift wrapping is a fairly recent phenomenon in American life. It started at the turn of the

century, when people stopped giving hand-made gifts and instead began exchanging factory-made items.

To some, these new gifts seemed cold and less intimate, and



so, to restore some kind of personal touch, retailers encouraged their customers to wrap their presents.