

The Rite Tight

VALLEY OF ALBANY

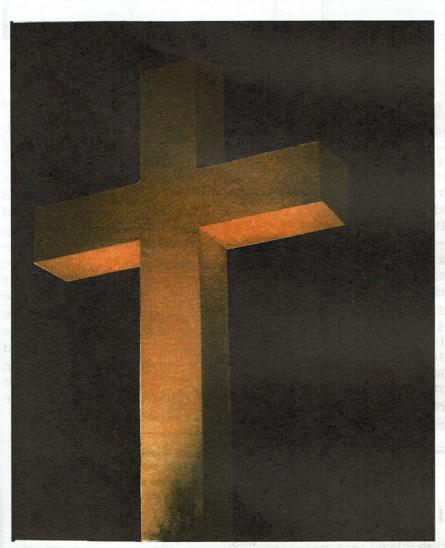
ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XVIII

Spring 1997

No. 3

SOLEMN CEREMONY OF THE FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB



Albany Sovereign & Troy Delta

Chapters of Rose Croix

Palm Sunday

March 23, 1997

4 PM

Troy Masonic Temple

SPRING REUNION
SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1997
CANDIDATES ARE EVERYWHERE - JUST ASK

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. Raiston, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander



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



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

Ill...Robert O. Ralston, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Ill...Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°
Grand Lieutenant Commander
Ill.. John W. McNaughton, 33°
Grand Minister of State
Ill... Bruce W. Widger, 33°
Deputy for the State of New York

Active Members for New York
Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33° (1991)
Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33° (1992)
Ill.: Dwight T. Worthy, 33° (1993)
Ill.: Douglas K. Wilson, Sr., 33° (1995)

Active Emeriti Members

Ill.: John H. Van Gorden, 33° (1974)

Ill.: Ralph M. Tompkins, 33° (1981)

Ill.: Alfred M. Kramer, 33° (1982)

Ill.: James F. Niehoff, 33° (1991)

Ill.: Carlton A. Winchester, 33° (1992)

The RITE LIGHT is published quarterly by Scottish Rite Bodies, Valley of Albany, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207-1999. Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970; Russell J. LaGrange, Jr., MSA, Assistant Editor, 434-7128 or 457-6166.

Ill.: Harold F. Dates, 33° (1995)

HAVE YOU

OBTAINED

A

NEW MEMBER?

Invite That Friend!

Beyond the third degree a path leads to a rendezvous where men of all walks of life converge in an atmosphere of peace and unity ... where men of varied tastes find inspiration, diversion refreshment ... and where one is enriched by colorful drama, pageantry, stirring music and pleasant associations. Where on travels, the bonds of friendship are deepened and the heart made happier and life more complete ... for the experiences found in Scottish Rite. The door one opens in the symbolic lodge leads on endlessly to vast new joys and satisfactions - indescribably expanding one's thirst for Masonry! Your friend is waiting for YOU to invite him to become a member of Scottish Rite -

WILL YOU ASK HIM?

Your Dues Work Even If You Don't

"Why should I remain a member of the Scottish Rite if I can't get to the meetings?" An active member in the Scottish Rite recently gave a good answer to that question, convincing the doubter that he should not demit. The answer went like this:

"Being a Mason is not just attending meetings, although you do get more out of the Craft if you do get together with your brethren. Being a Mason is living a good life based on masonic principles and living up to your vows. And when you pay your dues you are supporting a cause you believe in, helping to continue a fraternity of free men who believe in moral character, love for country and the practice of the tenets as we are taught in the Blue Lodge and in the Rite."

| 1997 | |
|--------------|--|
| Jan 09 | LODGE |
| Feb 06 | Executive Board - 7 PM |
| Feb 06 | COUNCIL |
| Mar 06 | CHAPTER |
| Mar 23 | CHAPTER - FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB |
| Apr 03 | Executive Board - 7 PM |
| Apr 10 | CONSISTORY |
| Apr 17 | JOINT MEETING - Ballot on Candidates |
| Apr 19 | SPRING REUNION - 6º/Troy; 14º/Alb; 16º/Troy; 18º/Alb |
| | 24º/Alb & Troy; 32º/Alb & Troy |
| May 01 | Annual Election of Officers |
| May 10 | Public Installation |
| Jun 05 | Executive Board - 7 PM |
| July 10 - 13 | Council of Deliberation - Holiday Inn, Rochester NY |
| | |

SPEAKERS NEEDED

Do you have an interesting topic that you have earned the right to speak on?

We are looking for Brothers willing to be speakers, when needed, at our various Scottish Rite meetings.

Every meeting should have an interesting program or speaker, if we are going to ask Brothers to attend. In order to facilitate this idea for program chairmen, we are forming a SPEAKERS BUREAU containing a list of Brothers with interesting subjects they can speak on, unusual hobbies, vocations, experiences, etc. Program Chairmen, when stuck for a n agendum, will then be able to call upon these Brothers for assistance.

If you have a topic or topics for a program, please join our Speakers Bureau and call either Howard Lasker (459-3345) or Richard Barrell (869-0684), giving your name, telephone number, and the topics you can speak on. Your help is needed if we are to have more interesting and better attended meetings.

White House Easter Egg Roll

he annual White House Easter Egg Roll takes place March 31, 1997 on the South Lawn, a tradition that began during the presidency of James Madison (1809-1817) at the suggestion of his wife Dolley.

Originally, the Easter Egg Roll was held on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Congressmen grew so tired of slipping and sliding on the remains of hard boiled eggs that they eventually denied the use of the land. Lucy Hayes, wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes, opened the South lawn to children in 1878.

The Easter Egg Roll has been held there each year since, except during the two World Wars, during which time it took place at other sites in the nation's capital. It is free and open to children between three and six accompanied by adults. In addition to the egg roll and hunt, entertainment centers around different themes. Children with special needs are invited before the lawn is opened to the public.



commemorates Queen Esther's intervention to save the Jews of ancient Persia in the sixth century B.C.

Purim

Haman, advisor to King Ahasuarus, plotted to hang the Jews, but Esther learned of his scheme and informed her husband, who hung the conspirator and his sons on the very gallows they had built.

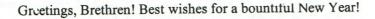
The day is celebrated with feasts, gifts and the reading of the Book of Esther, during which the names of the various characters may be met with boos or cheers. Poppy seed filled pastry triangles, called Hamantaschen (which represent Haman's ears) are traditionally eaten on the holiday.

It is better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.

The White House

- Andre Gide

THE TPM SPEAKS





I'll try to keep this short and to the point, and ask that you call myself or our Secretary, Dick Barrell, with any questions, suggestions or comments.

Now, there are three topics I would like to bring to your attention in this article: Membership, Raising Funds for the Valley's contribution to the Dyslexic Education Program, and our April trip to Lexington. This should take care of Fellowship, Benevolence and Recreation.

As with all Bodies of Freemasonry, our membership is in need of reinforcement. In 1996 the Valley of Albany was one of the very few Valleys having a net gain, but that gain was only 7. The Scottish Rite Bodies are well worth the attention of anyone wanting to be more involved in Freemasonry. Membership brings with it more fellowship, an opportunity to learn more about Freemasonry, and the benefits brought about by being part of an organization that has several truly worthwhile community programs. If you are active, ask a Blue Lodge Brother with a few years experience if he'd be interested in joining. If you are a member and haven't been active, take a few minutes to jot us a note describing what you would like to see done to rejeuvenate the Valley and your interest.

The Scottish Rite has embarked on a new mission... to provide educational programs for dyslexic children throughout the Country. This is an ambitious program requiring a lot of seed money. It is for the good of our children and the future of our society. If you or someone you know can contribute to this very worthwhile cause, please let us know. Every dollar counts, whether it be one or more. Your contributions will be put to good use... and they're tax deductible!

Finally, for fun and recreation, we told you in the Fall that we would organize a trip to Lexington in the Spring. Well, the trip has been organized for the weekend of April 5th. We will leave Albany early Saturday morning, go to Lexington, check in at the Holiday Inn (\$65 + Tx), have lunch at the Scottish Rite Headquarters, tour the Scottish Rite world class museum and grounds, and have a guided tour of the Lexington area. That evening we will have an enjoyable meal and good fellowship. After a night of good rest we will depart for a few hours of shopping and site seeing in downtown Boston; heading home later in the afternoon. You who went with us back in the '80's know what a good time this is. Those who go this time will surely have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend. Just complete the following form and get it back to us by March 05, 1997 so we can fine time the details. Thank you all, and God Bless.

Peter WJ Pafunda, Thrice Potent Master Lodge of Perfection

| NAME(s) of Attende | ee(s): |
|--------------------|--|
| MAIL ADDRESS: _ | |
| PHONE: | ; Interested in Getting Group Bus? Yes No Maybe |
| | 65 per room, including tax. Deposit Check Payable to "Valley of Albany" must be attached to this return form to guarantee room reservation. 03/05/97 DEADLINE. |
| ROOM(s): | □ Smoking □ NonSmoking □ Ground Floor All Rooms are Doubles |
| COMMENTS: | |

FOUR CHAPLAINS AWARD NOMINEE

Bro Howard J Lasker, 32° and Deputy Master, Lodge of Perfection, will be the recipient of the annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award, sponsored by Albany Post #105, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, at ceremonies in the Chapel of the Samuel Stratton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Albany NY on Sunday, February 23, 1997 at 2:30 PM.

This will be the 32nd presentation of this award in memory of the four Army Chaplains who sacrificed their lives by giving their life jackets to four enlisted men when their troopship, the

"Dorchester", was torpedoed and sunk on February 3, 1943 in the North Atlantic during World War II. It is presented to an individual for outstanding participation and service in activities which tend to exemplify the principles of brotherhood.

Bro Lasker is a Past Master of Washington Lodge No 85, a Past Grand Steward, and is currently Deputy Master of the Ineffable and Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection, Valley of Albany. He is also a member of Cyprus Temple Shrine and is the Masonic Service Association representative at the V.A. Hospital, and is Area 7 Leadership Service Chairman.

Bro Lasker has been active in the Boy Scouts of America for over 65 years. An Eagle Scout himself, he served 20 years as Scoutmaster and 30 years on the Boy Scout Council Executive Board. He is a member of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.

He has been a dedicated volunteer at the Veterans Administration Medical Center for over 14 years, having accumulated over 4,000 volunteer hours at the hospital.

Bro Lasker is a Past Commander of Albany Post #105 of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, having joined after service from 1941 to 1945. He was the Commanding Officer of a "Flying Tigers" Fighter Control Squadron based in Sian, China, responsible for the defense of North China. For outstanding performance of duty, Bro Lasker was personally decorated by Bro & Gen Claire Lee Chennault, and by the Nationalist Chinese Government.

Everyone is invited to attend this program on February 23. Howard commands the respect and support from all of us. Congratulations, Howard J Lasker, 32°.

GREETINGS FROM THE MOST WISE MASTER

Hello once again from the Most Wise Master.

I hope everyone had a very nice Holiday Seaseon and a Happy New Year! The time has truly been flying by for me.

It is already February of 1997 and the first event of the year will soon be upon us towards the end of March.

In keeping with a tradition that started two years ago, the Valleys of Albany and Troy will join together in observance of (continued next page)



Attend LODGE, COUNCIL, CHAPTER, CONSISTORY It's The "RITE" Thing To Do!

THE SOLEMN CEREMONY OF THE FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB

Perfect Knights: You are hereby summoned to attend to the duties of the annual observation of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb, which will be held on Palm Sunday, March 23, 1997, at the Troy Masonic Temple, 9 Brunswick Road (Route 2, East of Route 66), commencing at four o'clock in the afternoon.

We have a very special speaker for this occasion - a man who truly becomes inspired on Sundays - the Rev. Frank J. Guinta, Most Wise Master, Troy Delta Chapter of Rose Croix. The soloist will be Robert F. Parslow, 32°, MSA & Commander-In-Chief, Albany Sovereign Consistory. Accompaning him will be Charles J. Semowich, 32°, Past Most Wise Master, Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix.

Following the 4 PM service, a ham dinner will be available for a cost of only \$8.50 per person. Reservations may be made by telephoning either Richard G Barrell (434-8970) or Joseph P Pozefsky (266-9652).

Traditionally, this day of celebration was held on Maundy Thursday. In recent years, however, it has been held on Palm Sunday, in deverence to its commemoration in many churches and religious instritutions.

All should know and understand that The Feast of the Paschal Lamb, as celebrate in Scottish Rite, is neither the Feast of the Passover nor the institutions of the Sacrement of Holy Communion, although it celebrates both holy days. The Jewish Feast of the Passover commemorates the escape of the Hebrews from Egypt, when God, smiting the first born of the first born of the Egyptians, "passed over" the houses of the Israelites, sparing their first born. Thus, the blood of the sacrificial or paschal lamb, which was used to mark the houses of the Israelites and thus spare them this affliction, which has come to symbolize redemption. It was for the observance of this feast that Jesus gathered his disciples on the night on which he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot. He was in their midst when he instituted the sacrament which Christians revere as The Last Supper.

Chapters of Rose Croix observe this beautiful and symbolic celebration of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb as a memorial service, honoring our Brethren who have passed on to their Eternal reward during the preceding year. In spirit, we seem to sense their presence at The Mystic Banquet as we seek to build our hearts in holy remembrance.

The establishment of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb dates back to the Old Testament narrative which reads: "And this day shall be unto you a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord thoughout your generations, ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

We celebrate the bread and the wine in the spirit of fellowship, usurping none of the church's authority in the traditional sense, but rather reflecting upon the significance of the rite as true speculative Masons. It is a moving experience, done with dignity and emotion.

On this very auspicious occasion all are welcome - Perfect Knights, Master Masons, non-Masons, friends and familie alike. Resolve to bring a non-Masonic family with you and explain to them the importance of our Masonic labors. Let all come and see how the lights of Brotherly Love and Charity burn within the Masonic family.

Please make your dinner reservations with Dick Barrell (434-8970) or Joe Pozefsky (266-9652).

James M. Fuller, 32°
Most Wise Master
Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix

Give all to love; Obey thy heart.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

FROM THE SOVEREIGN PRINCE

Valient Princes: Greetings from the Sovereign Prince

As we have now crossed the threshold from 1996 to 1997 I wish all my Scottish Rite Masonic Brethren a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

The Council of Princes of Jerusalem presents two degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; the Fifteenth Degree (Knight of the East or Sword) and the Sixteenth Degree (Prince of Jerusalem).



These degrees are closely related in their historical sequence, and in the lessons which they teach. They are called "historical" because they deal with events connected with the closing period of the Babylonian captivity of Israel, the return of some of the exiles to Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the Temple. While the exile actually ended within less than 50 years, the total period is traditionally reckoned as "ten weeks of years" - the 70 years between the fall of Jerusalism and the dedication of the second Temple in B.C. 516.

In the year B.C. 586, by order of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, approximately 50,000 Jews, including men, women, and children, were deported from Palestine. These were the more prominent citizens. The poorer people and the peasantry were not disturbed. Although they were captives, these Jews lived in their own colonies in various parts of Babylonia and enjoyed a large measure of civil and religious freedom. They were permitted to build their own homes and to engage in business. Many of them rose to positions of eminence and responsibility.

Cyrus the Great, who conquered Babylonia in B.C. 538 and founded the Persian Empire, issued a decree permitting the captive peoples to return to their homeland, and to rebuild their shrines. Darius I, who reigned from B.C. 521 to 485, continued this generous policy, and gave substantial aid from the royal treasury to the returning exiles. Both of these kings were disciples of Zoroaster. They believed that God is one, that He is holy, and that He demands righteosness in His worshipers. These religious convictions, similar in so many respects to the faith of the Jewish people, inspired their considerate attitude toward the captives.

There was no mass migration. Many of the Jewish captives, born in Babylonia, were content to remain. Others, whose patriotic emotions had been stirred by two great Hebrew prophets of the Exile, Ezekiel and an unknown prophet whose writings are recorded in chapters 40-66 of the Book of Isaiah, were animated by a desire to return to Jerusalem, restore the Jewish State, and rebuild the Temple. Their brethren, who remained in Babylonia, made frequent and generous contributions to this cause.

Inspired by such devoted leaders as Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, small groups of Jews endured the hardships of the long journey, and joined with their loyal brethren in Jerusalem to rebuild the Holy City and Temple of their God.

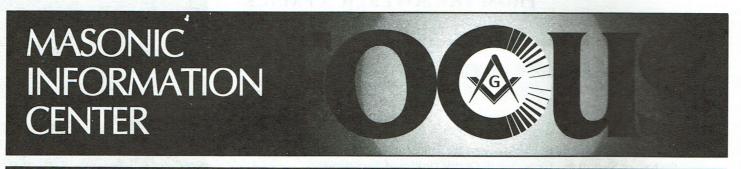
In the dramas portrayed in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Degrees, we are taught, by the example of Zerubbabel, the important lessons of loyalty to conviction, fidelity to duty, and devotion to Truth.

Spring Spring

Warren D. Moessner, 32°, MSA Sovereign Prince Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem

Spring makes everything young again, save man.

—Jean Paul Richter



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FREEMASONRY IN THE NEWS

New York Times

On December 14, 1996, the New York Times ran on article headlined "A Proud Day for Men In Aprons." The story gave a brief history of Freemasonry but mostly concentrated on the rededication of Masonic Hall in New York City. The Grand Lodge of New York held several special events on that day, culminating in the rededication of the Masonic Hall which was originally dedicated in 1909.

Civilization

This is the magazine of the Library of Congress. The August/September 1996 issue contained a story by Richard Brookhiser titled *Ancient, Earnest, Secret and Fraternal*. Mr. Brookhiser wrote a book about George Washington and became interested in Freemasons while researching the role of Masonry in Washington's life. Mr. Brookhiser said one of his most asked questions on radio call-in shows is "Was he [Washington] a Mason?"

Both of these articles portrayed Freemasonry fairly and accurately. It is good to know that positive coverage of the Fraternity is beginning to happen.

COMPTON'S INTERACTIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA CD

Several readers have brought to our attention some misleading and inaccurate statements about Freemasonry made in the section titled "Secret Orders" on Compton's CD ROM disk. A letter has been sent to Compton' News Media, Inc., who put out the disk, providing them with factual information about Freemasonry and requesting that the current disk be corrected.

MASONIC TELEVISION FORUM

Program #3 of the MASONIC TELEVISION FORUM is being shipped the first week of January 1997. It features Robert Burns in its Masonic Profile. In this program, producer and narrator Jackson Polk reports on his visits to two Masonic education conferences. There is also a special feature called Masonic Philanthropies which in program #3 describes charitable activities of the Scottish Rite. For more information on this quarterly 30-minute cable TV and Lodge video series, contact Jackson Polk at Capstone Production, Box 4575, Gaithersburg, MD 20885, or at 301-948-1468.



SORROW SORROW

ILL.RAYMOND CLARK ELLIS, 330

Active Emritus Member of this Supreme Council and former Deputy for the State of New York, died after a short illness on Saturday, November 9, 1996, at Setauket, New York, just three months before reaching his one hundreth birthday.

ILL.FRANCIS GEORGE PAUL, 330

Active Member and Past Sovereign Grand Commander of this Supreme Council, died on Wednesday, December 4, 1996, at the James G Johnston Nursing Home in Johnson City, New York, following a long period of declining health. His passing is a great loss to all Freemasonry, his family, and the general community.

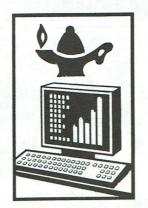
ILL.EDWARD WILLIAM PALM, 33⁰

Secretary of the New York State Council of Deliberation, and the Valley of Jamestown, New York, died suddenly as a result of injuries received from an automobile accident, Saturday, January 25, 1997, in Jamestown, New York.

May our Heavenly Father have them in His Holy Keeping.



Scottish Rite Scholarships



For Eligible College and University Students

The Scottish Rite Commitment to Education

One of Freemasonry's fundamental principles is a belief in the importance of the educated mind. Freedom, understanding, and brotherhood are dependent upon our ability to reason effectively. That is why the Masonic fraternity, and the Scottish Rite in particular, have long been committed to fostering the value of education.

At a time when the cost of higher education is increasing, the Scottish Rite wants to assist qualified and deserving students in attaining their educational and career goals through its scholar-ship program.

As part of Supreme Council Charities, the Education and Charity Fund Scholarship Program has now been expanded. It is anticipated that nearly 400 scholarships will be awarded each year to eligible and deserving students attending accredited colleges, universities, and specialty schools of their choice and studying the subjects they wish. It is anticipated that students will be full time.

The Abbott Scottish Rite Scholarship Program is supported by gifts from members and friends of Scottish Rite Masons to the annual Blue Envelope Appeal.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for a scholarship must be children or grandchildren of Scottish Rite Masons. Or, they may be members of youth organizations sponsored by the Masonic fraternity. Such Valleys and youth groups must be located in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

An applicant must be a graduate of a public or private secondary/preparatory school.

Application forms are available through the Office of the Secretary of a local Scottish Rite Valley. Completed applications must be returned to the Valley Secretary in duplicate. The deadline for filing an application for the Supreme Council is April 1, and an earlier date may be requested for the filing of such application with the local Valley Office.

The Amount of Scholarship Aid

Both the number of scholarships granted each year and the actual amount of individual scholarships are dependent upon funds available. It is hoped, however, that individual grants will range from \$500 to \$1,000 or more. The number in any state will be modest inasmuch as 15 states and 109 Valleys are participating.

The size of the grants will be determined in each state as will eligibility for more than one year of aid and also postgraduate university studies. Also to be determined locally are such policies as the eligibility of adopted children and whether the offspring of Scottish Rite members residing out-of-state or in distant areas from the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction can be considered as eligible for scholarship assistance. The same applies to older offspring who are returning to schools due to career changes. It is not intended that Scottish Rite members and their spouses will be eligible. At the option of the State Deputy, Abbott grants will be paid directly to the approved student with the amount divided into halves for use in the first semester and then in the second semester. Otherwise, Abbott grants will be paid directly to the educational institution at which the recipient has been accepted and designated for the account of the student.

LESSONS OF FAMILY LIFE

"Look what I made for you, Daddy."



 \mathbf{P}^{ride} and competence. Excitement and achievement. Children share a part of themselves when they make a special gift.

Take time to enjoy the tender moments of your family life. These moments lay the foundation of your family's future.



This message is brought to you by the Scottish Rite Masons in your community.

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Richard G. Barrell, Secretary 67 Corning Place Albany, New York 12207-1999 Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Latham, N.Y. Permit No. 22

