



The Rite Light

VALLEY OF ALBANY



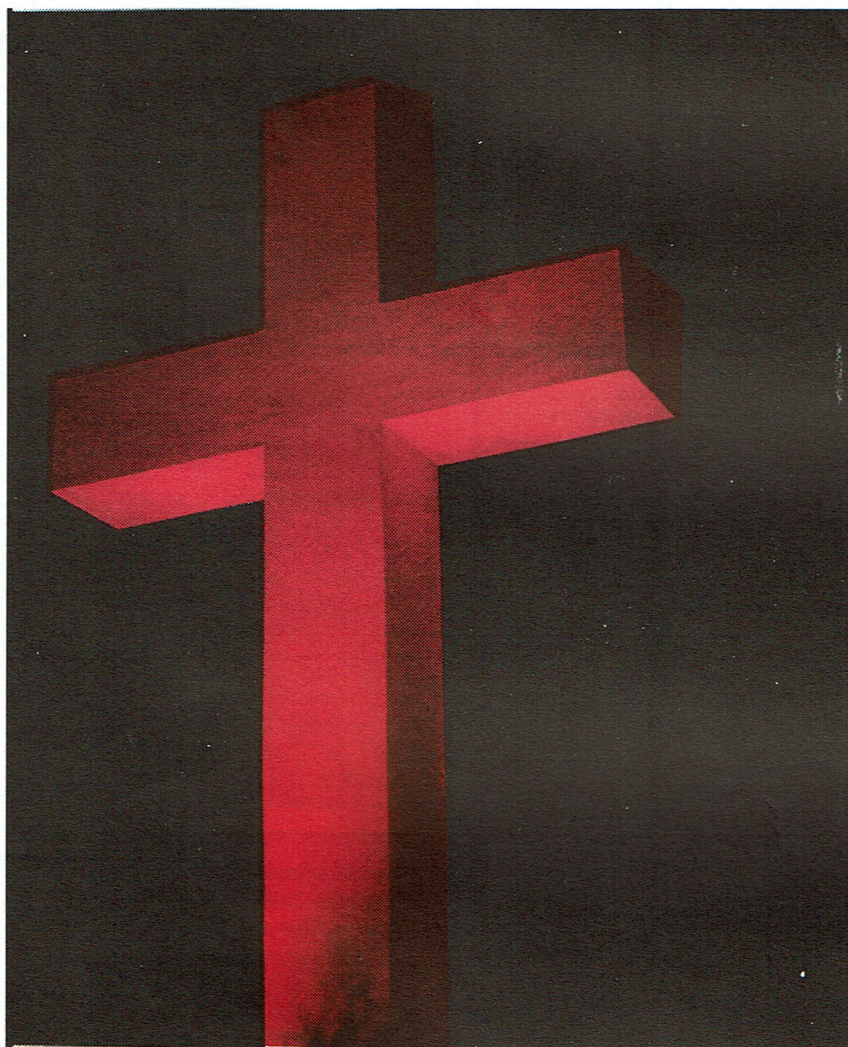
ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XIX

Spring 1998

No. 3

SOLEMN CEREMONY OF THE FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB



**Albany
Sovereign
&
Troy Delta**

**Chapters of
Rose Croix**

Palm Sunday

April 5, 1998

4 PM

Albany Masonic Temple

**Roast of Lamb Dinner to Follow
See Most Wise Master's message**

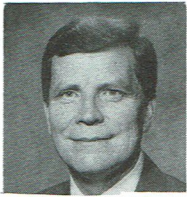
SPRING REUNION

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1998

CANDIDATES ARE EVERYWHERE - JUST ASK

Allegiance

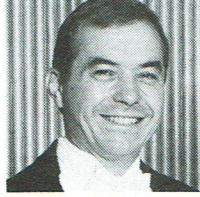
The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to thy Supreme Council, 33 °, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and whose Officers are:



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



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



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

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

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

Ill. Alfred E. Rice, 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. Douglas K. Wilson, Sr., 33° (1995)

Active Emeriti Members

Ill. Raymond C. Ellis, 33° (1979)

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, 438-7128 or 457-6166.

ATTEND YOUR



BLUE LODGE



Our Source

For New Members



MEMBERSHIP

IS THE JOB OF EVERY

MEMBER



FAMILY LIFE

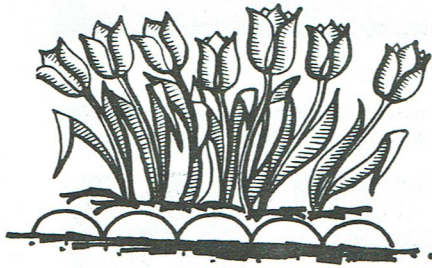
PUT YOUR

HEART INTO IT.

1998 Scottish Rite Masonic Family Life Program

There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it.

— George Bernard Shaw



Spring 1998

ALAN C. LEWIS
 41 Hawthorne Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
 518-439-3931



Greetings from the Most Wise Master

Perfect Knights:

The January 22nd Chapter Conclave went well with 15 in attendance for the dinner and 13 for our Conclave. During our Conclave we reviewed the "new version" of the 17th Degree. My thanks to all who were in attendance and especially to my wife Shirley who prepared the chicken & biscuit dinner which we all enjoyed.

Our *next scheduled Conclave* is for *March 19th* when we will have a *rehearsal* for the *Feast of the Paschal Lamb*. A *spaghetti dinner* will be served at *7:00 pm* at a *cost* of only *\$5.00* -- come on out and enjoy the dinner, and stay for the Conclave if you can. *Ladies are invited* to the dinner and we will show a tape for the ladies (while we are meeting) entitled "Oberammergau in Spring - Summer - Autumn - Winter with Passion Play Report".

We will *celebrate* the *Feast of the Paschal Lamb* on *Sunday, April 5th*. The ceremony will be held at 4:00 pm followed by a Lamb dinner at a cost of \$8.00 per person. This will be a joint affair with the Delta Bodies of Troy and will be held in the Albany Masonic Temple. Our guest speaker will be Rev & Brother Walter A Collins.

*Dinner reservations for the March 19th Conclave as well as
 for the Feast of the Paschal Lamb should be made with me
 by Monday, March 30th at 518-439-3931*

It would be most helpful if you would send me your check(s) in advance.

Checks should be payable to Alan C. Lewis

and sent to me at 41 Hawthorne Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054

Remember our Reunion will be held on Saturday, April 18th -- so get your petitions in to our secretary. We will complete this Scottish Rite year with the Annual Meeting & Election of Officers on May 7th and Installation of the 1998-99 Officers will take place on May 9th.

I hope to greet you at one or more of the above listed events.

The wish to pray
 is a prayer in
 itself.

— Georges Bernanos

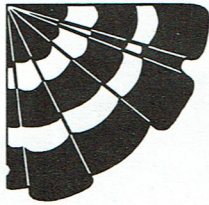
Alan C. Lewis,
 Most Wise Master



Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

PLEDGE

by Robert W. Pierce, Thrice Potent Master, Van Rensselaer Lodge of Perfection, Scottish Rite Bodies, Chicago, Illinois. As originally published in the Scottish Rite News, Valley of Chicago.



Would you believe that the author of The Pledge we give to our flag was unknown until 1939? That year the U. S. Flag Association announced that Reverend Francis J. Bellamy had penned the simple, one sentence pledge which did not even name a country or include God in 1892. On Flag Day, 1923, the words "the United States", and one year thereafter, "of America", were inserted. "Under God" was added in 1954.

It began with James B. Upham, part owner in a company publishing a juvenile magazine, who wanted the American flag flying from the top of every schoolhouse at the anticipated 400th anniversary celebration of Columbus' discovery. President Harrison declared the first national Columbus Day and told Bellamy, a staff member with the publishing company, to write the Proclamation of observance for the holiday. Bellamy then created a discourse, "The Meaning of Four Centuries," which naturally touched on patriotism.

Because Upham and others were dissatisfied with the commonly used variations and practices of saluting the flag, discussions prompted Bellamy to decide to do something about it. After much labor he eventually formulated the words which have since become synonymous with loyalty and devotion to one's country.

Have you ever noticed how complicated problems and ideas are easily eliminated with very simple solutions? Virtually overnight—due to the time period which carried so much excitement and enthusiasm—a man of destiny walked into what almost became total obscurity—that is until 1939.

Reverend Bellamy's religious faith is unknown to me, but he was a member of Little Falls Lodge, Little Falls, NY and in 1955 the Order of the Eastern Star installed a memorial tablet at his home in Oriskany, NY Brother Upham was a member of Converse Lodge, Maiden, Mass.

Some time ago another Mason, Richard Bernard Skelton, a member of Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, Indiana, explained how one of his teachers taught the Pledge. You may not recognize the Richard Bernard part of his name because he was always referred to as "Red", and recently passed away after a renowned career as one of the best loved comedians and clowns of all time.

"I...me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge...dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance...my love, and my devotion.

To the Flag...our standard, old glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

Of the United...that means that we have all come together.

States...individual communities that have united into 48 (50) great states. Forty-eight (50) individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

Of America.

And to the Republic...a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern, and government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands,

One nation...meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible...incapable of being divided.

With liberty...which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.

And justice...The principal or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all...which means it's as much your country as it is mine.



Red was the 29th recipient of the Scottish Rite's Northern Jurisdiction Gourgass Medal in 1995. This award, created in 1938, is the highest honor which can be conferred by the Supreme Council and is not given on an annual basis. On receiving the award Red proudly told why he became a Mason. In his youth he met a man who "was kind and considerate" to him. He and inquired of the man as to the lapel pin which he was wearing. From that chance meeting the legendary comic decided he was going to be a mason.

Anyone who ever saw his act knew that Red Skelton was a Mason. They knew it because he never hid the fact; he lived by Masonic principals, he acted like a Mason, and above all he used words, phrases, and thoughts becoming that of a

Mason.

As Masons we openly admit our belief and faith in one true and living "I am that I am", the creator of man. We also Pledge Allegiance to the country of our choice and, in the United States, note with pride the role that Freemasonry played in its creation. With the passing of Brother Skelton I am reminded of something the members of a lodge in Germany often say: "every Mason...is a living Masonic memorial to his work. His high ideals and Masonic education will never be allowed to pass away".

In the 14th Degree we are instructed to "Live worthily, the high profession you have made that the world may be better and happier." Brothers Bellamy and Upham may not be well known like Brother Skelton, but wouldn't you agree that all three contributed a great deal to our everyday lives, and that the world is much better and happier for their having passed this way?



THE SOLEMN CEREMONY OF THE FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB

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

All should know and understand that The Feast of the Paschal Lamb, as celebrated in Scottish Rite, is neither the Feast of the Passover nor the institutions of the Sacrament 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 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 throughout 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 families 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.

A TRIBUTE TO COURAGE

from The Chapel of Four Chaplains Newsletter, Fall 1996

In the cold, gray dawn of February 3rd, back in nineteen forty-three,
The US Troop Transport, Dorchester pushed her way through the icy sea.
And suddenly out of the chilling still came a thunderous, deafening roar...
A torpedo had smashed the Dorchester's flank & her crew didn't sleep anymore.
They milled in confusion upon the decks, and panic in every soul...
And fear gripped strong in the hearts of men as the Dorchester started to roll.
But amid the confusion and terror, four men stood out from the rest;
Four US Army Chaplains remained calm and self-possessed.
The four were of different religious faiths; Protestant, Catholic, a Jew...
But each of the four, regardless of faith, knew what he had to do.
And when the supply of life jackets ran out, there were four young G.I.'s who had none.
And they stood there, helpless and frightened, wondering what now could be done.
Quickly, the Chaplains stripped off their own, and forced them upon each young lad...

Thus giving away, to someone else, the sole hope to survive that they had.
And none of the four stopped to pause and ask are you Protestant, Catholic or Jew...
They'd committed themselves to serve God and man, and did what they had to do.
And among the six-hundred soldiers and sailors who died on that day long ago,
Were our four young Chaplains, at peace with their God, in a watery grave below.
And today we honor those four brave men who gave their lives for a brother...
And no greater love hath any man than to lay down his life for another.
And one can't help but wonder, do courage and guts lie innate in the hearts of us all?
Or was it their faith, and their closeness to God that made them fearlessly answer the call.
Perhaps we too, could face our Lord without fear at the last Amen,
Were we to commit ourselves wholly to God and do more for our fellowmen.
May the Dorchester incident ever serve as a symbol that time can't deface...
Of Americans serving a single God, regardless of creed or race.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains Newsletter is available by sending a request to receive it to: The Chapel of Four Chaplains; PO Box 1943; Valley Forge, PA 19482-1943. The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national, nonprofit organization, founded in 1947, which recognizes and encourages cooperation and selfless service among all people. The Chapel memorializes the courageous act of four Army Chaplains who gave their lifejackets to others when the troopship DORCHESTER was torpedoed on February 3, 1943, and honors the 672 men who perished.

From the Thrice Potent Master

Greetings Respectable Brethren:

This is for all the Brothers who have not attended our meetings this year - "You don't know what you've missed!"



This year, each meeting has contained an interesting program, beginning with our first meeting in September when we all participated in the reading of the Thirteenth Degree (Master of the Ninth Arch). Most of us had never seen this degree. We therefore found it very interesting and exciting and enjoyable.

Our second meeting in November was strictly a fun night and equally enjoyable. The program consisted of a Masonic "Jeopardy" type quiz show. All who were in attendance were divided into two teams that competed against each other. There were no losers. Everybody won and all received several prizes.

For our third meeting (January), we were all entertained by Brother Ben Froggett, who presented a very interesting talk, bringing us up to date on the progress of the Shrine Hospitals programs. As much as we thought we knew, we learned that much more.

The March 5th meeting was "Bring a Non-Scottish Rite Masonic Brother" to the meeting. A very interesting program was prepared. We hope our guests were convinced enough to join us in Scottish Rite. As you know, getting new members is vital to our Fraternity.

To make our evenings complete, following each meeting we retire to the pool room to partake of delicious refreshments that have ranged from pizza to pie to kosher hot dogs. Here, we have the camaraderie we all expect from our fraternity. So, if you haven't been attending our meetings, give it a try. "You'll like it".

A right is not what someone gives you; it's what no one can take from you.

— Ramsey Clark

(see TPM page 8)

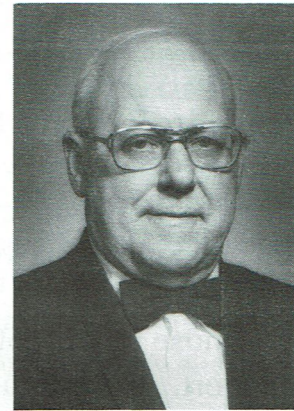
To be great is to be misunderstood.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Sovereign Prince Speaks

Valient Princes: Greetings.

It is distressing to see the decline in moral principles that seem to be "anything goes" because current thinking believes that since "everyone else is doing it", it must be right. What an erroneous way of thinking this is. Our Masonic Fraternity, thank God, teaches otherwise.



The two Historical Degrees conferred in a Council of Princes of Jerusalem cover the period from BC538 to BC516. They deal with persons and events connected with the end of the Babylonian captivity of Israel, the return of some of the captives of Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the Temple.

In the Fifteenth Degree (Knight of the East or Sword) Zerubbabel, a Jewish captive, wins the favor of King Cyrus, and the release of the Jews from bondage. Years later, in the Sixteenth Degree (Prince of Jerusalem), Zerubbabel returns to Babylon to plead with King Darius for military protection against the enemies of Israel, and for more generous assistance in the rebuilding of the Temple. His skill in debate and his courage and integrity inspired Darius to grant his petition.

These degrees, dramatically portrayed, teach loyalty to convictions in the face of temptation, fidelity to duty in spite of hardships, and a devotion to truth, which is mighty above all things, and which ultimately must prevail in the councils of mankind. The Sixteenth Degree is one of six degrees which will be personified at our Scottish Rite Spring Reunion, Saturday, April 18, 1998, beginning at 8:45 AM. If your cabletow permits, try to attend, and, better yet, get a new candidate or two to enjoy it with you.

Let us be in the vanguard promoting these concepts. The world knows Masonry only through the lives of individual Masons. Let us live, act, and speak in such a way that all may know the high ideals for which we stand.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine

A fool must now and then be
right, by chance.

— William Cowper



(see SP page 8)

(TPM continued from page 6)

Seriously, we have been trying to make our meetings as interesting as possible, followed by delicious refreshments, and the socializing we all enjoy. Come and you will find the meetings well worth your time. Put the meeting dates on your calendar and plan to attend. We'll be looking forward to seeing you at future meetings.

For those loyal brothers that have attended our meetings, thank you for your support. I am certain that you have enjoyed the brotherhood that we have experienced.

*Few great men could
pass Personnel.*

— Paul Goodman

Howard J Lasker, 32
Thrice Potent Master

Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection

*Everything is funny as long as it is
happening to somebody else.*

— Will Rogers

(SP continued from page 7)

upon you, and be gracious unto you; May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you, and give you peace, now and forevermore.

*Work keeps at bay three
great evils: boredom, vice
and need.*

— Voltaire

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

Respectable men and women content with good and easy living are missing some of the most important things in life. Unless you give yourself to some great cause you haven't even begun to live.

— William P. Merrill

Forget-Me-Not

It is a very pretty little blue flower with five petals. It is a Forget-Me-Not, somewhat similar to the common violet. In the floral world, the Forget-Me-Not is widely treated as significant of friendship and fidelity. The story of how this simple little flower made its way into Freemasonry as an emblem is a most dramatic one.

Adolf Hitler, one of the greatest ruffians of world history, ascended to power in Germany early in 1933. Soon afterwards, he issued two decrees on the same day. All local control over schools, colleges, and universities was at an end. All the educational processes in Germany would henceforth be controlled by the Nazi Party and centralized in Berlin. Then other decree was to prohibit Freemasonry and make membership and/or activity in Freemasonry a crime. Thus members of the Fraternity were to be regarded in the same category as common criminals or traitors. Hitler had long viewed Freemasonry as a part of the Jewish conspiracy and he lost little time in trying to eradicate Freemasonry.

German Masonic lodges went dark. The organized craft was broken. The Working Tools were either seized by storm troopers or secreted before their arrival. The Great Lights were extinguished. Freemasonry, as an organization, was no more in Germany.

With the discontinuance of the wearing of the Square & Compasses in Germany, the little blue Forget-Me-Not began to appear on lapels and elsewhere on clothing.

On the streets in the concentration camps, the gas chambers, the slave labor camps, and little flower denoted a Freemason. At no time did the Nazis ever detect this or learn of its having a special significance. And so Freemasonry survived this great holocaust, the evil Hitler years.

After World War II, Freemasonry in Germany began its long and arduous task of rebuilding from the ruins left by Hitler. Today the United Grand Lodges of Germany, the Brotherhood of German Freemasons, boast 416 lodges and 21,000 members. The craft is in sound condition and is steadily progressing. The Forget-Me-Not was made into a regular metal lapel emblem and is worn with pride by many German Craftsmen today.

Hitler was unable to invade the Temple that is in man, and which is invulnerable, except to God. Hitler, an atheist, would never have understood this.

Arthur O. McMillan, 32°, T.P.M.
Valley of Altoona

Snow Thrower Safety Alert

Each year more than a thousand people lose body parts to snow throwers, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which offers the following safety tip for using the machines:

- ◆ Stop the engine and use a long stick to unclog wet snow and debris.
- ◆ Always keep hands and feet away from moving parts.
- ◆ Never leave the machine unattended with the engine operating.
- ◆ Never leave the machine running in an enclosed area.
- ◆ Add fuel to the tank outdoors before starting the machine.
- ◆ If using an electric snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times.



Sublime Princes:

This portion of the Rite Light is for my comments. It is not my intention to admonish one any of you who read this-but to gain your support by attending some of our meetings.

Here it is March already. Our little friend in Punxsutawney or such other name in Pennsylvania has indicated a prediction for six more weeks of Winter. However, we have not had a severe winter so far and these first weeks of its prediction have been moderately mild. What I am actually saying is that the weather should not have been an excuse for you to miss any of our meetings. You have all received a sched-

ule for the year from September 1997 to July 1998 so that you would be informed of what would take place in our Valley.

Each presiding Officer has made arrangements for an interesting program. These are not exclusively for the officers alone-but-for you and all members of our Consistory.

Listed below are a few of the meetings remaining:

March 19th - Chapter- Rehearsal for The Feast of The Pascal Lamb preceeded by a Spaghetti dinner at 6:00 P.M.-If attending call your reservation in to Most Wise Master Alan C. Lewis at 439-3931.

April 5th - Feast of the Pascal Lamb in Albany-presented by the cast of both Albany and Troy Rose Croix Valleys-open to the Public.

April 9th-Council-fellowship and Games.

April 18th - Spring Re-Union. Degrees to be presented: 4th & 16th Albany; 14th & 18th -Troy, 26th & 32nd by both Valleys.

The other events you could refer to your schedule. Will you kindly make an earnest effort to support these activities and join in the fellowship after the meeting while we all enjoy refreshments provided.

Lastly-don't forget our Blue -Envelope Appeal -to support our Scottish Rite Charities.

Drink to Good Health

One alcoholic drink per day during middle age can significantly reduce the risk of death.

This according to a recent study by the American Cancer Society, which offered further evidence that modest drinking can be healthful. The ACS research indicated that alcohol's ill effects are greatly offset by benefits to the heart.

Men and women who took part in the study and drank an average of one drink a day had a 21 percent lower risk of death than did teetotalers. In addition, the drinkers reduced their risk of dying of cardiovascular disease by 30 to 40 percent. It is believed that alcohol protects the heart by raising levels of HDL, the good cholesterol, and may also have a positive impact on the circulatory system.

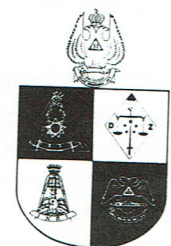
The study's author noted that moderation is key and stressed that the benefits decreased as people drank more.



April Showers

Sincerely;

Richard F. Cesare
Commander-in Chief

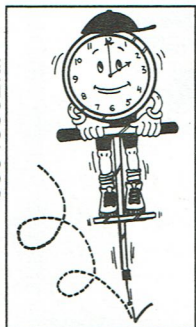


National Humor Month. April 1998 marks the 23rd anniversary of this observance, which focuses on the therapeutic value of laughter in reducing stress, improving job performance and generally enriching the quality of life.

April Fools' Day, April 1, 1998. This unofficial holiday dates back hundreds of years. Then as now, April First was a day of trickery and good-natured fooling of the naive or unsuspecting.

International Children's Book Day, April 2, 1998. This day is sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People to celebrate the international aspects of children's literature. The observance also coincides with the birthdate of Hans Christian Andersen, author of *The Emperor's New Suit*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling* and many other fairy tales, who was born in 1805.

First run of the Pony Express, April 3, 1860. Launched as a private enterprise to improve on the U.S. Postal Service, the Pony Express consisted of 500 horses and 190 relay stations set up along the route from St. Joseph, Mo. to Sacramento, Calif. The service was in place for less than two years, when it was rendered obsolete by completion of the first transcontinental telegraph in 1861.



Daylight Savings Time, April 5, 1998. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on April 5. According to the Uniform Time Act of 1966, Standard Time in each time zone in the U.S. is to be

advanced one hour at this time and remain in effect until the last Sunday in October.

Passover, April 11-18, 1998. Passover commemorates the delivery of the Jews from slavery in Egypt and marks one of the most important religious holidays in Judaism.

What's so special about ...

April?

98040301.tif



White House Easter Egg Roll, April 13, 1998. The idea for this annual event was conceived by Dolly Madison during her husband's term as president. Originally held on the grounds of the

U.S. Capitol, the Egg Roll was moved to the South Lawn of the White House in the 1870s. The Easter Egg Roll is free and open to children aged three to six.

National Library Week, April 19-25, 1998. This nationwide observance celebrates libraries and librarians, as well as the recreational and educational values of reading.

National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, 1998. This week honors individuals who take the time to help others through community service and heightens public awareness of the need for more such volunteers to help communities combat a myriad of social challenges.

Boston Marathon, April 20, 1998. This year marks the 102nd anniversary of this race, which takes place in and around Boston, Mass. Fifteen thousand runners are expected to participate in 1998, with another two million spectators in attendance.

Birthday Hall of Famer: Billie Holiday, April 7, 1915. Born in Baltimore, Md., to parents Clarence Holiday and Sadie Fagan, this famous jazz singer changed her name from Eleanora Fagan to Billie Holiday to demonstrate her admiration for film star Billie Dove. She was associated with such musical talents as Count Basie and Benny Goodman during her 26-year career. Her best known songs include "God Bless the Child," "Carelessly" and "Lover Man." While considered one of the best jazz singers ever recorded, Holiday's private life was tainted by abusive relationships and drug abuse. She died at the age of 44 on July 17, 1959, in New York City.

Birthday Sampler:

Actress Debbie Reynolds, El Paso, Tex., April 1, 1932.
Comedian Dana Carvey, Missoula, Mont., April 2, 1955.
Actor Marlon Brando, Omaha, Neb., April 3, 1924.
Author Maya Angelou, St. Louis, Mo., April 4, 1928.
Physicist Walter Massey, Hattiesburg, Miss., April 5, 1938.
Former Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, Harlem, N.Y., April 5, 1937.
Journalist Hodding Carter III, New Orleans, La., April 7, 1935.
Sportscaster John Madden, Austin, Minn., April 10, 1936.
Comedian David Letterman, Indianapolis, Ind., April 12, 1947.
Writer Scott Turow, Chicago, Ill., April 12, 1949.
Actress Emma Thompson, London, England, April 14, 1959.
Queen Elizabeth II, London, England, April 21, 1926.
Actor Jack Nicholson, Neptune, N.J., April 22, 1936.
Singer Barbra Streisand, New York, N.Y., April 24, 1942.
Comedian Jerry Seinfeld, Brooklyn, N.Y., April 29, 1954.



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 mediately 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.



First Day of Spring

The vernal equinox takes place in the northern hemisphere on March 20 at 2:55 p.m., EST, marking the first day of spring.



On this day the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on earth (except near the poles). Daylight length is virtually the same across the world, lasting 12 hours and eight minutes.

Only 92 days until summer!

Saint Patrick's Day

March 17 commemorates Bishop Patrick (A.D. 389-461), the patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick introduced Christianity to the country around 432, after leaving his home in Severn Valley, England.

His day is a national holiday in Ireland and is observed by those of Irish descent around the world. In New York City, a parade has been held in Saint Patrick's honor each year since 1762.

I can usually judge a fellow
by what he laughs at.

— Wilson Mizner



St. Patrick's Day 1998

People talk peace. But men give their life's work to war. It won't stop 'til there is as much brains and scientific study put to aid peace as there is to promote war.

— Will Rogers

Purim

Purim, a holiday celebrating Queen Esther's intervention to save the Jews of ancient Persia in the sixth century B.C., is observed on March 12, 1998, Adar 14, 5758.

Haman, advisor to King Ahasuarus, plotted to exterminate the Jews, but Esther learned of the scheme. She informed her husband, who hung the conspirator and his sons on the same gallows they had built to carry out their murderous plan.

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



April Fools

Let us be thankful for fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.

— Mark Twain