



# The Rite Light



VALLEY OF ALBANY

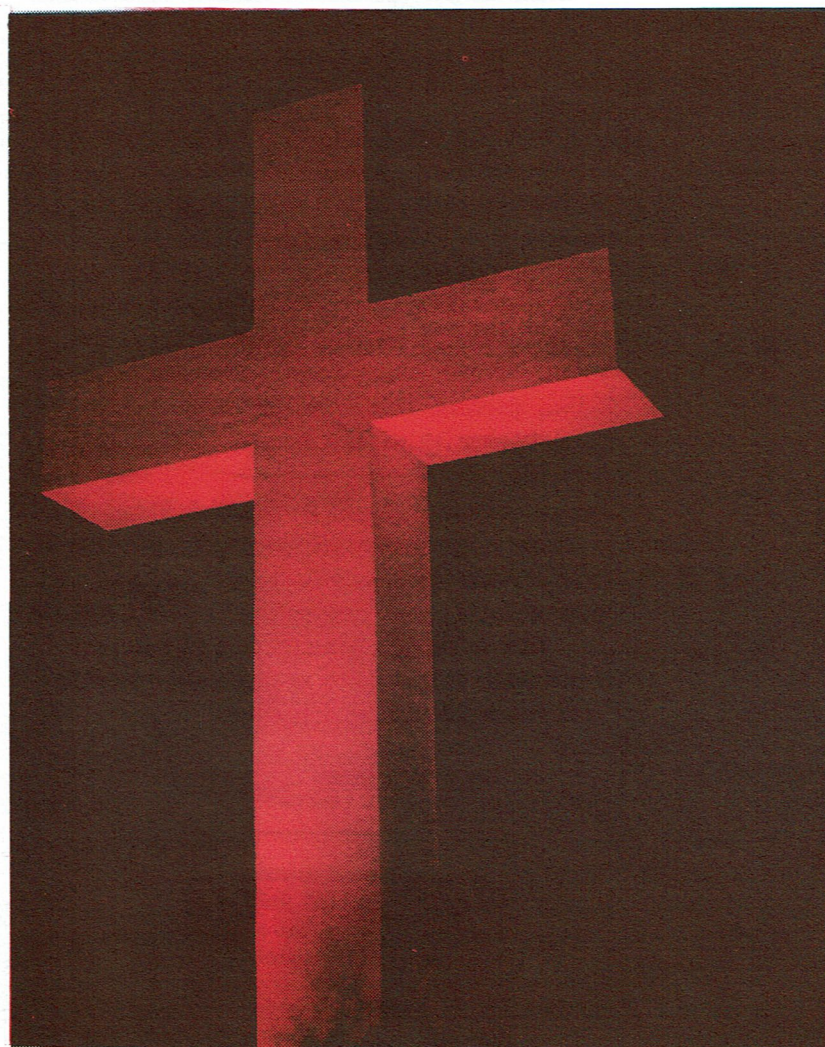
ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XXII

Spring Winter 2000

No. 1

## Solemn Ceremony of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb



Albany Sovereign

Chapter

of Rose Croix

Palm Sunday

April 16, 2000

4:30 PM

Albany Masonic Temple

Guest Speaker

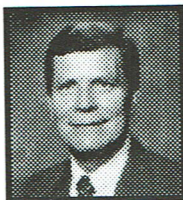
Ill.: & Rev. Richard C. Mills, 33°

**SPRING REUNION  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2000  
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 of 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. Harold L. Aldrich, 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. Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°

*Grand Lieutenant Commander*

Ill. Robert W. Clarke, 33°

*Grand Minister of State*

Ill. Harold L. Aldrich, 33°

*Deputy for the State of New York*

Ill. Bruce W. Widger, 33°

*Active Member and Past Deputy*

### Active Members for New York

Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33° (1991)

Ill. Douglas K. Wilson, 33° (1995)

Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, Sr., 33° (1998)

### Active Emeriti Members

Ill. John H. Van Gorden, 33° (1974)

Ill. Ralph M. Tompkins, 33° (1981)

Ill. James F. Niehoff, 33° (1991)

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

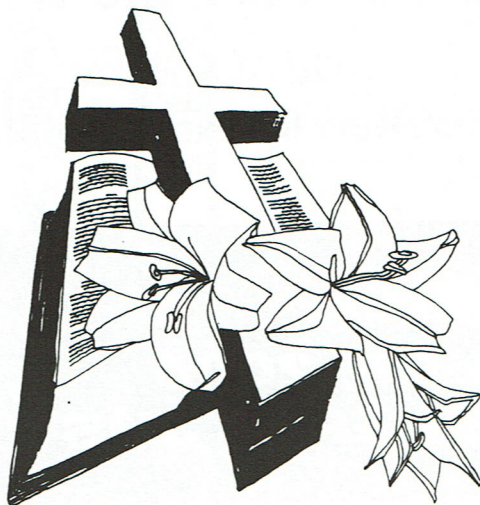
Ill. Harold F. Dates, 33° (1995)

### Deputy's Representative

Ill. Alan C. Lewis, 33°

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Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970; Russell J. LaGrange, Jr., MSA, Assistant Editor 438-7128 or 457-6166.



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 and 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?







### The Easter Story

Easter is the most important day of the Christian year. It celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus. On Easter morning, according to the Gospel of St. Luke, Mary Magdalen and some companions visited the cave where He had been buried. To their astonishment, they found the tomb empty. An angel appeared and told them that Jesus had risen.

In the following days, Jesus appeared several times to His disciples, who began to understand that His miraculous victory over death offered the promise of rebirth for everyone who believed in Him.

In the 8th century the Venerable Bede suggested that the word "Easter" may have come from Eostre, the Angle-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. Her symbol was a hare, which may explain the custom of the Easter rabbit.

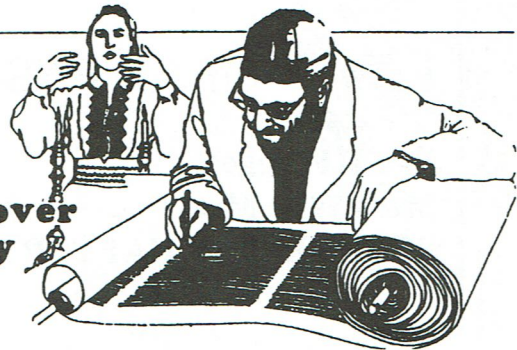
Easter eggs are thought to have originated because eggs were a symbol of rebirth. The tradition of coloring them probably began with medieval travelers to Egypt and Persia where people colored eggs for their spring festivals.

The National Live Stock and Meat Board says having ham for Easter may have started up near the Baltic Sea. Before winter set in, meat was buried in the sandy shore. The cold ground and sea salt preserved the meat, which was later dug up to celebrate the coming of Spring.

**The Feast of the Paschal Lamb** is neither the Feast of the Passover nor the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, although it commemorates both holy events.

The Jewish Feast of the Passover commemorates the escape of the Hebrews from Egypt. For observance of this Feast, Jesus gathered his disciples on the night in which he was betrayed. In their midst 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 to their eternal reward during the preceding year. We urge you to join us in this service. **The meeting will be open.**

### The Passover Story



Passover, which occurs on April 4th this year, is the beginning of an eight-day Jewish celebration. It marks the delivery of the Jews from Egyptian enslavement over 3,000 years ago.

God spoke to the shepherd Moses, his voice coming from a burning bush, telling him to lead the Jews out of Egypt. But Pharaoh wanted them to continue building pyramids. He wouldn't let them go in spite of God's plagues upon the Egyptians.

Finally, Moses told Pharaoh that a tenth and last plague would kill all the Egyptians' Firstborn sons. As a signal to the Angel of Death, the Jews sacrificed a lamb and sprinkled its blood on their doorposts. The Angel "passed over" their homes.

After this plague, the Egyptians said the Jews could leave. In great haste to prepare, the Jews made bread without leavening so they would not have to wait for bread to rise.

As they left, Pharaoh changed his mind and sent soldiers to stop them, but the Red Sea parted, allowing them to cross. It closed again so the Egyptians could not follow.

Today, Jewish families celebrate with prayer, songs and blessings, and with a ceremonial seder meal that includes unleavened bread.

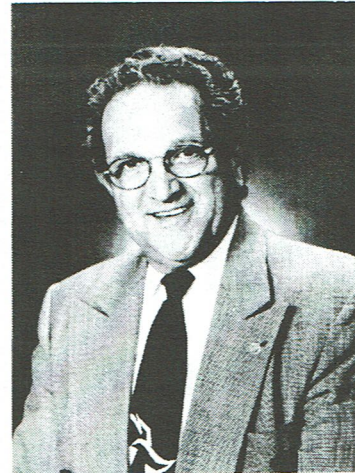


## FEAST OF THE PASCHAL LAMB

**Ben F. Froggett**

**Most Wise Master**

**SOVEREIGN CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX**



It is hard to believe that winter is nearly gone and spring is "just around the corner." But, it is true in just a few weeks we will be sitting in the lodge room starting the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. This year will be very different from the last several. The service will be without one of the best ritualist in all of Masonry, Warren D. Moessner MSA. He has gone to do ritual in the great lodge in the heavens.

All of us who work in masonry will miss Warren sitting quietly on the sidelines. When he wasn't taking part in degree work, he would give the next word to those of us who did not know the work as well as we should have.

Warren was always there to help fill a chair when we tried to open with only a few men in the temple on a given night.

Each year for the last several years, Warren has taken a very important part in the Feast of the Pascal Lamb. If you had never heard him do "**THE STORY OF THE CROSS**" you were among the few. He did it with great reverence and skill. We will all miss that gentle voice showing us the way.

During the FOPL this year, we will pay special tribute to Warren D. Moessner MSA. If he touched your life in the past you surely will want to be present as we pay tribute to our brother who has gone to his eternal reward. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Richard Mills, 33°. Lets make a point to welcome Richard with a good turnout as he returns to Albany Valley.

Make your plans now for Palm Sunday, April 16, 2000. The service will start at 4:30pm with dinner to follow on the lower level. We will have a roast beef dinner with the trimmings prepared by Tom Snow. We will also have a chicken dish for those of you who do not enjoy beef. The cost is \$8.00 per person, and we ask that you to call in your reservation not later then April 10. The Valley of Albany office number is 434-8970 or you may call my home at 459-8690 and leave your request.



# In Memoriam

"The clock of life is wound but once    To say just when the hands will stop—    Now is the only time we have,    Place no faith in tomorrow for  
And no man has the power    At late or early hour.    Live, love, work and with a will    The clock may then be still."

Vernon Sylvester Alden	02/01/00
George Edward Anderson	10/01/98
Henry John Balfoort	07/23/99
Alton David Bartholomew	02/27/99
Paul James Beattie	08/01/99
Henry Douglas Bellows	08/01/99
Henry Baker Chase	04/01/93
John Carrollton Chew	12/01/99
William Croll	12/01/99
Philip James Frederick	05/05/99
Raymond Charles Friedman	10/16/98
Donald McAllister Gillespie	10/03/99
Graham Stuart Gillmore	02/27/99
Martin Mayer Goldman	05/01/99
Ralph Charles Gregory	09/16/99
Earl Daniel Hanchett	02/14/99
Merritt Smith Hanmer	08/09/99
Percy Clair Kingston	04/01/99
Russell Jay LaGrange Sr	08/29/99
Howard Victor Greene	10/04/99
Eugene Glusker	06/18/99
A Lyle Johnson	07/13/99
Edward Alfred Leach	07/07/99
Ralph MacKenzie Mattocks	01/05/00
Thomas Arthur Meyers	10/04/99
Warren David Moessner, 32° MSA	01/13/00
Harold George Morrow	12/08/99
William Henry Mulford	07/25/99
Charles Reed Northrup	10/03/98
George Ress	09/30/99
Garry William Reynolds	08/04/99
Harry Balderston Rezzemini	08/14/99
James Joseph Scholz	12/19/98
George Daniel Shoemaker Jr	12/01/99
Kenneth Charles Siegel	04/01/99
Clifton George Sousie	07/27/98
Louis Stromer	12/01/95
Leland Shear Tompkins	01/11/00
William Hugh Tougher	01/16/99
Charles Frederick Wesman	01/03/00
Ben Winter	11/24/98

**Well Done, Good and Faithful Brother**





Catskill, NY

► **Catskill, NY.** Stanley O'Dell, an investigator with the New York State Police Department, was celebrated as officer of the year at a recent Law and Order Night hosted by Catskill Lodge. During the gala dinner Lodge members, colleagues, and county legislators applauded O'Dell for his longtime service, and he was also presented with several plaques. Pictured at the event are (from left) Green County legislator Karen Deys, O'Dell, ER Ray Sawyer, and Green County legislator Charlie Martinez.



Stanley R. O'Dell Jr. 32°  
is a member of the  
Valley of Albany

**Supreme Council Charities are exempt under  
Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service  
and all contributions are tax deductible.**

### ■ 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children

Dyslexia is a common learning disability that affects nearly 15 percent of all school children -- more than 2 million young people in the United States alone.

Most of these children have average to above-average intelligence but their dyslexia makes reading, writing and other academics very difficult.

With proper tutoring and instruction, these children can learn -- and can enjoy learning.

The 32° Masonic Learning Centers for Children were established to provide children with this specialized tutoring - **free of charge.**

No fees are ever collected for these services.

Since 1994, the Scottish Rite has been opening centers and helping hundreds of children achieve their true potential.

Your donation will make it possible for us to work with even more children in need. For additional information on locations and services please call 1-800-647-3394.

**The goal is to have 55 centers operating with at least one in each of the 15 states of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.**

## Supreme Council Charities

### ■ Museum of Our National Heritage

The Museum of Our National Heritage and Library preserves and presents the history of our country through lively and educational displays and exhibits.

Since its opening in 1979, more than 1.5 million people have visited the Museum and Library. In 1997 alone, there were 77,843 visitors. The facilities now include the James Francis Farr Conference Center, and newly expanded exhibit space. A Masonic and American history library, and the newly renovated Stanley F. Maxwell auditorium conveniently located within the structure.

Traveling exhibits also extend the museum's outreach and scope.

Your donation will help us support the operation of this repository of our American Heritage located in historical Lexington, Massachusetts.

***We carry out the important work of acquiring, conserving and displaying precious pieces of our history.***

### ■ Schizophrenia Fellowships

Schizophrenia is a devastating form of mental illness. Since 1935, the Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Research Program has pioneered efforts to shed some light on this puzzling disease... and to search for a solution.

Over the years, research has explored genetic aspects of the disease and has brought renewed hope for definitive answers.

In the course of their schizophrenia work, researchers have also gained valuable understanding of Alzheimer's disease, drug addiction and other neuropsychological conditions.

Your donation will provide fellowships for bright young graduate students interested in advancing their knowledge, thereby helping

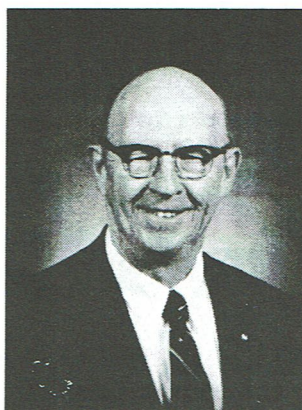
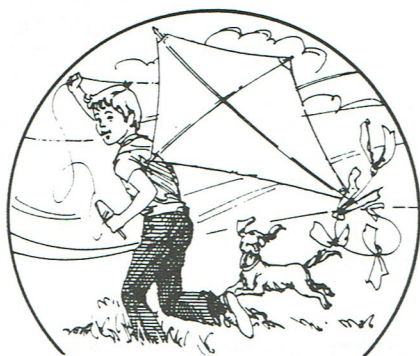
**... ALBANY, N.Y.**



Shown here are Rusty LaGrange Deputy Rep and Howard J. Lasker, MSA Rep at the VAMC Albany, NY. This picture was taken at the time of the 4th of July Carnival and Rusty and Howard had just finished presenting a canteen book to every patient in the hospital on behalf of the MSA. A couple of hard working guys.

Russell J. LaGrange Jr. 32° MSA  
and Howard J. Lasker, 32°  
are both members of the  
Valley of Albany





FROM THE CIC

YOUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF HOPES EVERYONE IS HALE AND HEARTY AS WELL AS HEALTHY . HOW ABOUT THIS GREAT NORTHEAST WEATHER, ALL I CAN SAY IS "KEEP YOUR SNOW SHOVELS OILED UP".

AGAIN, TO REPEAT, DO NOT FORGET THE APRIL 29, 2000 REUNION. THIS WILL BE A SPECIAL DAY WITH A VIDEO FROM SUPREME HEADQUARTERS FOLLOWING THE DEGREES. BRETHREN FROM THE VALLEY OF TROY (AS USUAL) AND THE VALLEY OF SCHENECTADY WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE PORTRAYAL OF THIS DAYS EVENTS.

AS USUAL WE NEED NEW MEMBERS AND IN REGARDS TO THIS NEED WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THREE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, IN ADDITION TO ROBERT ALCRON, MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND ALAN LEWIS 33 MEMBERSHIP RETENTION WE HAVE WALTER CUNIFF, JR. FROM ORIENTAL TEMPLE AND LOUIS SILVA P.P. FROM CYPRUS TEMPLE BOTH MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN OF THEIR RESPECTED TEMPLES. THEY ARE ALL WORKING HARD FOR NEW PEOPLE, PLEASE HELP THEM.

OUR CHILDRENS LEARNING CENTER IS PROGRESSING WELL WITH CONTINUING PLANS FOR IT TO BE LOCATED AT THE DELMAR MASONIC TEMPLE, MORE ON THIS LATER AS EVENTS UNFOLD.

IN CLOSING WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ARE SPRING REUNION.

SINCERELY,

LEWIS SLOCUM  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



*Our hope is in God!*



## Sprig of Acacia

The Sprig of Acacia is one of the most interesting and important of all the symbols of Freemasonry, yet there are many who do not have a clear idea of what it is, whence it comes, and how it happened to hold such an important place in the Masonic ritual and tradition.

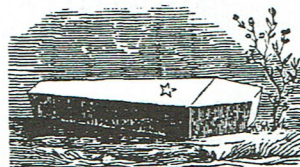
Botanically, the Acacia is the Mimosa Nolitica, and is called the Babul tree in India. It grew abundantly in the vicinity of Jerusalem in ancient times, where it can be found. Today, we know it as the tree from which gum arabic is obtained. In ancient times, the wood of the Acacia tree was considered sacred by the Hebrews. It was of this wood that Moses was ordered to build the Holy Place of the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the tables for the Shewbread and the sacred furniture. By the Jew, therefore, it is only natural that the tree from whose wood the sanctuary of the Tabernacle and the Holy Ark of the Covenant had been constructed, would ever be viewed as more sacred than other trees. The early

Freemason, with all these things in mind, likewise, very naturally appropriated this sacred plant to the equally sacred purpose of a symbol which was intended to convey and teach an important truth in the ages that were to come.

The Sprig of Acacia, to the Freemason, is symbolic of immortality, which is one of the most important doctrines that it is the purpose of Freemasonry to teach. In our funeral service, it is referred to as "the emblem of our

belief in the immortality of the soul." In our ritual of the Third Degree, it is referred to as having been used to mark a spot at which the ancient craftsman found *that something* for which he had long sought and where he received the reward for which he had labored long and diligently. One of the basic tenets upon which Freemasonry is founded is an unfeigned belief in the one living and true God, and of the immortality of the soul, emblemized this green sprig "which bloomed at the head of the grave."

From Lehigh Consistory News



Art from North Carolina Mason  
Ric Carter, Editor