



The Rite Light



Valley of Albany

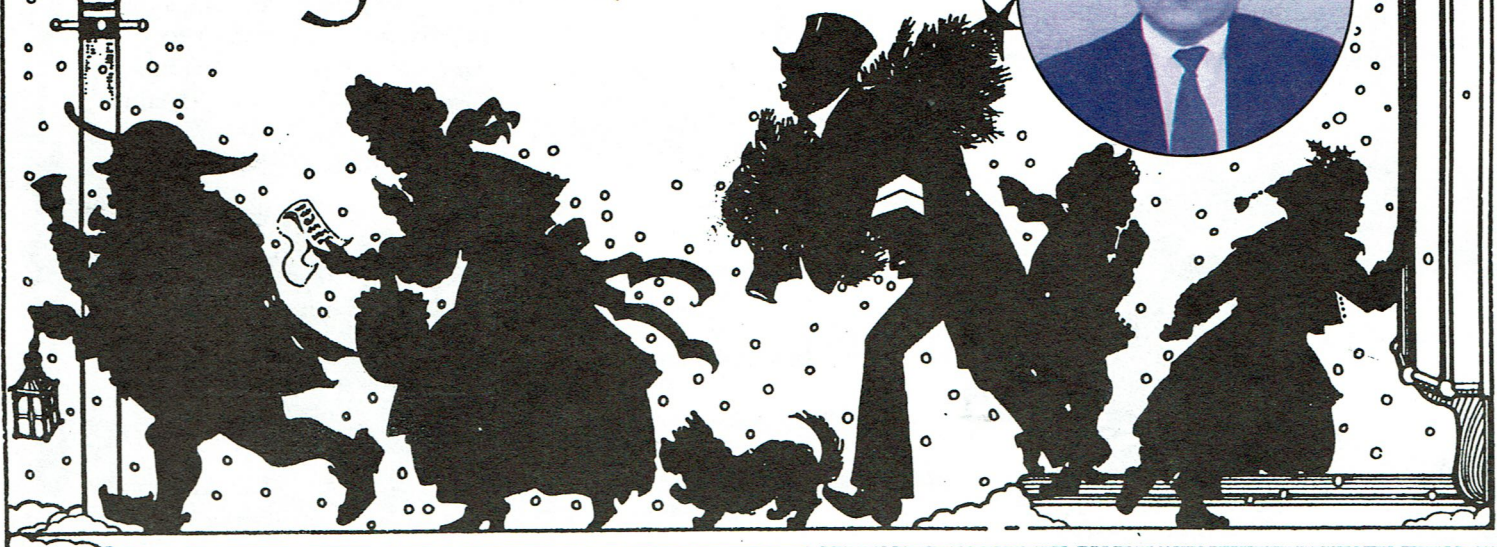
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, N.M.J., U.S.A.

Vol. XXII

Winter, 2001

No.2

HOME
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS
SHARE THE
WARMTH
of
CHRISTMAS
AND ITS SPECIAL
SPARKLE.



Allegiance

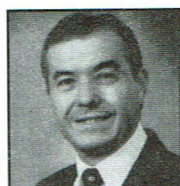
The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to thy Supreme Council, 33° Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and whose Officers are:



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 New York State

ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°
Ill. Gary A. Henningsen, 33°
Ill. Frederick D. Greene, 33°

ACTIVE EMERITI MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

Ill. John H. VanGorden, 33°
Ill. James F. Niehoff, 33°
Ill. Carlton A. Winchester, 33°
Past Deputy for New York
Ill. Bruce Widger, 33°
Past Deputy for New York

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Richard G. Barrell, 33°, Editor, 869-0684 or 434-8970;



Hanukkah:

Lights and Dedication



Hanukkah is a time of joyous celebration and rededication to the Jewish faith. Called the Feast of Lights, the Feast of the Maccabees, and the Feast of Dedication (and often spelled Chanukah), the

eight-day celebration marks an important victory in the struggle for religious freedom.

In 165 B.C., a band of Hebrew soldiers led by Judah the Maccabee, triumphed against the Syrians after a 28-year war of oppression and religious persecution. They recaptured Jerusalem and reconsecrated the Holy Temple. Hanukkah begins on the day the temple was rededicated. This year, the celebration begins December 4.

One of the oldest traditions associated with Hanukkah is the lighting of the menorah—a candelabra holding nine candles. According to legend, during the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem, only one bottle of oil—enough for a single night—was available to light the *Ner Tamid*, Eternal Light. By a miracle, the lamp burned for eight days. Today, a center candle, called the *shamash*, is used to light the other eight candles—one each night of the festival.

Because tradition mandates that work may not be done by the light of a menorah, it has become customary to play games, sing songs, and give gifts during Hanukkah. Many games are played using a *dreidel*, a four-sided top, that has each side marked with a Hebrew letter. Together, the letters are the initials of "*Nes gadol hayah sham*" or "A great miracle happened there."



We're Very Proud

We Have a 33rd and Two MSA's for 2002

William Minor Korn, 32nd MSA has been elected to receive the 33rd in Boston, Massachusetts, September 2, 2002.

Born in Albany NY, graduated with a BA Degree from Central College, Pella, Iowa; married to wife, Barbara; daughter, Sara and son Matthew; employed at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory as scientific computer programmer.

Past Master of Noah Lodge No 754, Altamont NY; current Secretary.

Active in Schenectady York Rite bodies and Cyprus Shriners where he is current Recorder.

Past Thrice Potent Master; Director of 10th and 32nd, Chairman of Thespian Reinforcement Committee.

Communicant of Heldeberg Reformed Church, Guilderland Center NY.

Gerald Frederick Irwin, 32nd to receive Meritorious Service Award at next year's Council of Deliberation in Utica NY.

Born in Albany NY; educated in local area schools; married to wife, Patricia; daughter, Kelly; employed at General Electric Company, Schenectady NY.

Past Master of Social Friendship Lodge No 741, New Baltimore NY, Onesquethau Lodge No 1096, Delmar NY and Berne Lodge No 684, Berne NY.

Active in Albany York Rite bodies and Cyprus Shriners.

Past Most Wise Master, Albany Rose Croix and present 1st Lt Commander, Albany Consistory.

Communicant of St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Church, Berne NY.

William Adolph Jerwann, 32nd (Valley of Troy) was also selected to receive the Meritorious Service Award in Utica NY, 2002.

Born in Saugerties NY; graduated from University of New York at Albany with a BS degree; married to wife, Lois; retired Industrial Arts teacher and Adult Education Director, North Colonie Central School.

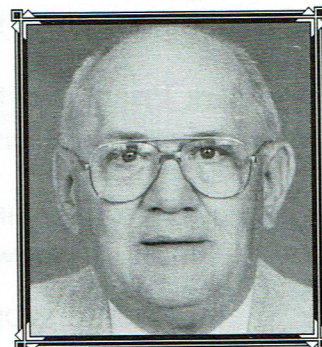
Past Master On-Da-Wa Lodge No 820, Mechanicville NY.

Active in Order of Eastern Star; Past Patron and Past District Grand Lecturer, Saratoga District, OES, and Oriental Shriners.

Past Thrice Potent Master, Past Sovereign Prince, and Trustee, Troy Delta Bodies.

Communicant of Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, Clifton Park NY.

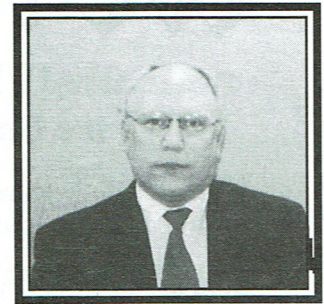
The Rite Light congratulates these three Scottish Rites and looks forward to them being honored at a testimonial dinner on Friday evening, November 8, 2002.



The Thrice Potent Master's Message.....

Respectable Brethren:

As Autumn arrives, so does our Lodge work. By now we are in full swing with busy schedules. However, I ask that you do not overlook Thursday evenings at Scottish Rite.



Kurt W. Mason, 32°

Our first Stated Communication for the new year was held October 11, 2001 and was well received by all. Following a brief business meeting, we had the pleasure of seeing an exemplification of the Twelfth Degree, Grand Master Architect, which teaches us that as Masons we learn to use the tools and instruments of our trade and skill, and to contemplate the many aspects of life and deal with them as a child of God, steadily advancing to those heights of experience which we call perfection.

November 8th saw Dr Ward Stone, New York State pathologist, give an interesting and informative message about the West Nile virus, PCB's, dredging the Hudson River, animal and bird diseases, and the effect of poisonous pesticides on our environment.

Dr Stone is a very knowledgeable and interesting person, whose expertise as a pathologist is exceeded only by his broad sense of humor.

Journey with us as we travel back in the past and relive the every day life of a Union soldier caught up in the onslaught of one of America's darkest hours - the Civil War. Brother Joseph Stracuzzi, 32° and Past Master of Noah Lodge No 754, Altamont, will be our guest speaker on February 28, 2002.

Mark Prian, Trust Representative from Trustco Bank, will join us on April 11th. He will have a presentation on Trust Services and protecting your assets for the future.

We will recap our yearlong activities at our May 23, 2002 meeting, which should be helpful to our new line of officers for next year.

Remember to support all related bodies of the Scottish Rite.

Fraternally,

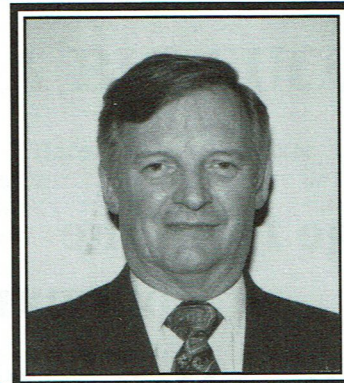
Kurt W Mason, 32°
Thrice Potent Master
Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection



A Word from the Sovereign Prince

Greetings Valorous Princes:

At our September Assembly we performed the 5th Degree, Perfect Master, which taught us that impure thoughts and selfish, unworthy, ambitions are corrupting and destructive, and that a man who forgets his duty to family, country, and God will be morally and spiritually destroyed.



William J. Okesson, 32° MSA

This past year I have participated in the 5th, 8th, and 10th degrees. They have all given me a fuller picture of Masonry and Scottish Rite.

Our Fall Reunion was not well attended. Please make it a point to be at our Spring Reunion, April 20, 2002, and lend support to our hard working, dedicated cast members. It certainly would be a boost to their morale if they could perform before a full house.

The mission of the 32nd degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children is to provide quality, state of the art, remedial education to children diagnosed as having dyslexia. This service is provided free of charge.

The dictionary defines dyslexia as an impairment of the ability to read, often as the result of genetic defect or brain injury.

Children develop a low self esteem, which is one of the biggest problems of dyslexia. Failing at tasks or reading, writing, spelling and sometimes mathematics, often cause this negative attitude.

I hope that sometime in the future we will have one of these learning centers in the Capital area.

If you're afraid to fail, you'll never succeed. If you're afraid of extending your ability, you'll never reach new horizons.

Remember, nobody is perfect, and we fail at times. The trick is to look at failure for what it really is - experience.

Hope to meet you at our next Assembly on February 14, 2002, when we will hear from John Anson of the NYS Museum, when he will talk to us about flintlocks

Happy Holidays to all.

Fraternally,

William F Okesson Jr, 32 MSA
Sovereign Prince
Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem



Holiday Greetings



Message from the Commander-In-Chief

"Can Ritual Matters Be Fun, Too?"

Sublime Princes:

For many years we have lived in an atmosphere of materialism and visceral pleasures. We seem more concerned with filling our stomachs rather than our minds. In such an environment, our lodges have turned to social fraternalism, to the near exclusion of any interest in our history or ritual. Esoteric matters seem to always take last place interest-wise.

Can venerable, concordant Rites like the York and Scottish traditions survive in such a climate?

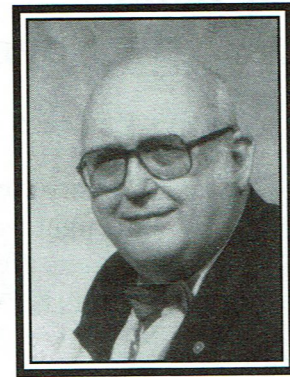
My Brothers, I not only believe they can, but that they should and must do so. Esoteric matters can be fun, too.

Please attend the scheduled communications of all four Scottish Rite bodies, where you will have an opportunity to witness exemplifications of several degrees, seldom, if ever, performed at reunions, as well as critiquing the history and reasons for the existence of these degrees.

If you just bend a bit and join us, you'll find our esoteric functions are just as much fun as the social gatherings. See you soon!

Fraternally,

Alexander R Grone, 32 MSA
Commander-In-Chief
Albany Sovereign Consistory



Alexander R. Grone, 32° MSA



Do a Mason a favor,



*give him a
Scottish Rite petition*

OCTOBER 20TH REUNION A BIG SUCCESS:

To all who participated in any way at our October 20th Reunion — (degree Directors — degree casts — stage crew — dinning room/kitchen — sideliners — and especially the candidates) — I express to each of you my thanks for your help in making our Reunion a great success.

Alan C. Lewis, Director of the Work

Following are listed the cast members for the several degrees exemplified at our Reunion — please say thanks when you see them, or give them a call to express your appreciation.

4th Degree — Russell J. LaGrange, Jr Director

King Solomon Raymond H. Gaul
Adoniram Russell J. LaGrange, Jr
Abda Bruce S. Pavloff
Zabud Morgan R. Searles
Zadok Alan C. Lewis
Ahishar Paul G. Heintz
Zerbal Ben F. Froggett
Prologue Alan C. Lewis
Guard 1 Bruce E. Zeh
Guard 2 William F. Okesson, Jr
Guard 3 William F. Tschunhi

14th Degree — Russell J. LaGrange, Jr Director

Thrice Potent Master William M. Korn
Deputy Master Russell J. LaGrange, Jr
Senior Warden Bruce S. Pavloff
Junior Warden William F. Tschumi
Orator Michael D. Deny
Master of Ceremonies Robert S. Walenta
Hospitaler Paul G. Heintz
Captain of the Guard Alan C. Lewis
Prologist Kurt W. Mason
Moses Richard G. Barrell
Inquirer Gerald F. Irwin
The Voice Ben F. Froggett
Music Mark H. Baum back

16th Degree — Byron D. Moak — Director

Joshua Byron D. Moak
Zerrubbabel William F Tschumi
Mordecai Kurt W. Mason
Seriah William F Okesson, Jr
Darius Byron D. Moak
Grand Master of Entrance Russell J. LaGrange, Jr
Artaban William M. Korn
Araspes Alexander R. Grone
Bartacus Rev. Richard H. Welkley

18th Degree — Alan C. Lewis — Director

Most Wise Master Alan C. Lewis
Senior Warden Byron D. Moak
Junior Warden William Tschumi
Orator Ben F. Froggett
Master of Ceremonies Gerald F Irwin
Capt of the Guard Robert Morey
Off-Stage Voice Raymond H. Gaul
Story of the Cross Ben F. Froggett
Prologue Alan C. Lewis

24th Degree — Ronald H. Noll - Director

Worshipful Master Alexander R. Grone
Senior Warden Robert A. Freeman
Junior Warden Michael D. Derry
Senior Deacon Bruce S. Pavloff
Junior Deacon Ben F. Froggett
Secretary Fred C. Fredrickson
Treasurer Morgan R. Searles
Member Kurt W. Mason
Member Robert S. Walenta
Member Anthony Maggio
Member Russell J. LaGrange, Jr
Member Benjamin T. Garry
Chief Spotted Eagle Ronald H. Noll
Brave Red Eagle Richard G. Barrell
Brave Flying Cloud Robert H. Murphy
Brave Running Stream Raymond H. Gaul
Brave Light Foot Arthur R. Ware
Young White Man William F. Okesson, Jr
Drummer Harold J. Clark

32nd Degree — William M. Korn — Director

Commander-in-Chief Alexander R. Grone
1st Lt. Commander Gerald F. Irwin
2nd Lt. Commander Douglas C. Hays
Orator Malcolm L. Ogden
Hospitaler Michael D. Deny
Chancellor Byron D. Moak
Master of Ceremonies Fred C. Fredrickson
Engineer & Seneschal Ronald H. Noll
Standard Bearer Raymond H. Gaul
Standard Bearer Bruce E. Zeh
Captain of the Guard Howard J. Lasker
Worshipful Master Alan C. Lewis
Thrice Potent Master Kurt W. Masomi
Sovereign Prince William F. Okesson, Jr
Most Wise Master Robert E. Murphy
Constans William M. Korn
Bishop Russell J. LaGrange, Jr
Prince Commander Benjamin T. Garry
Herald Bruce E. Zeh
Knight Lodge of Perfection Robert S. Walenta
Knight Prince of Jerusalem Alan C. Lewis
Knight of Rose Croix Richard G. Barrell
Knight Kadosh Geoffrey C. RogersFlorio
Michael D. DenyUrban Rev. Richard H. Welkley
Rufus Gerald F. Irwin
Ignatius Carlton Covell
Priest Raymond H. Gaul
Priest George E. Thomas
Soldier Kurt W. Mason
Soldier William F. Okesson, Jr
Soldier Byron D. Moak
Crucifer Gordon L. Kirkland
Trumpeter George B. Hunt
Acolytes Mark H. Baumback



Declaration of Principles

This Supreme Council reaffirms its unswerving loyalty to the fundamental purpose of Freemasonry, which purpose from time immemorial has been to improve and strengthen the character of the individual man, and through the individual, the character of the community, **reinforcing those spiritual and moral values which give the community its strength and stability.**

This Supreme Council believes that this purpose is to be attained by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect, and opinion may unite.

Believing that good and true men can be trusted to act well and wisely, this Supreme Council considers it the duty of the fraternity to impress upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, to enlighten them as to those things which make for human welfare, and to inspire them with that feeling of charity, or well-wishing, toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

To that end Freemasonry requires of its members a belief in God and encourages faith in God's divine purposes and worship of God in conformity with the dictates of individual conscience. It stands for truth and justice, liberty and enlightenment, fraternity and philanthropy.

This Supreme Council expects of its members strict obedience to the laws of the land, and respect for their country's flag.

Such principles unite men and encourage the pursuit by them individually and collectively of worthy endeavors and the attainment of the purposes inherent in them. In that unity human character achieves its highest unfolding and provides man's best hope for peace on earth and good will among men.

To the furtherance of these principles, all our ritual is directed and all our efforts are aimed. To their furtherance each Master Mason has pledged himself, and at the portal of the Scottish Rite has renewed that pledge.

This Supreme Council discountenances and rejects any attempt by any international groups or confederations of Scottish Rite Supreme Councils to legislate for individual Supreme Councils.

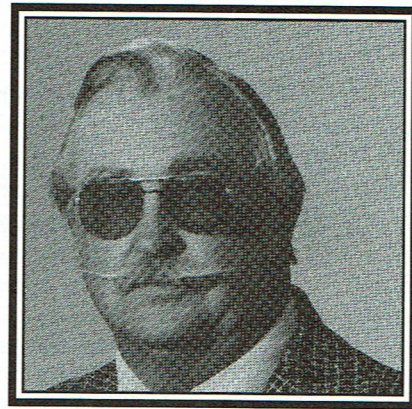
Recognizing that principles unite men, that programs sometimes divide them, and that the preservation of unity of purpose and devotion to principle is essential to Freemasonry, the Supreme Council affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion within tyled doors of creeds, politics, or other topics apt to excite personal animosities.

This Supreme Council further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but exceedingly dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness and welfare for Masonic Bodies in their official capacity to take formal action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any particular legislative project or proposal, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of governmental officials, whether executive, legislative, or judicial, or to influence them, whether or not members of the fraternity, in the performance of their official duties.

Some Thoughts from The Most Wise Master

Perfect Knights:

I neglected to thank you for your confidence in electing me to the position of Most Wise Master of the Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix, in my article written in the last issue of the Rite Light. I wish to do so now. Thank you.



Robert E Murphy, 32° MSA

As previously stated, my biggest concern today is increasing membership and attendance in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Each presiding officer is approaching this in his own way, but all are addressing the same problem.

As we continue our Scottish Rite year, we must strive to fill our ranks, better attendance of affairs in these places and getting new members. We must then get the new members actively involved in our meetings and degrees at our Scottish Rite reunions, thereby increasing our strength and continue to grow. If we do not grow we will stagnate and fall by the wayside as other valleys have done recently.

We must also support our Blue Lodges for they are the basis of our fraternity and the source of new members. The "Brother Bring a Brother" program will help us grow and prosper. A mentoring plan is being implemented as a bridge between Blue Lodge and Scottish Rite.

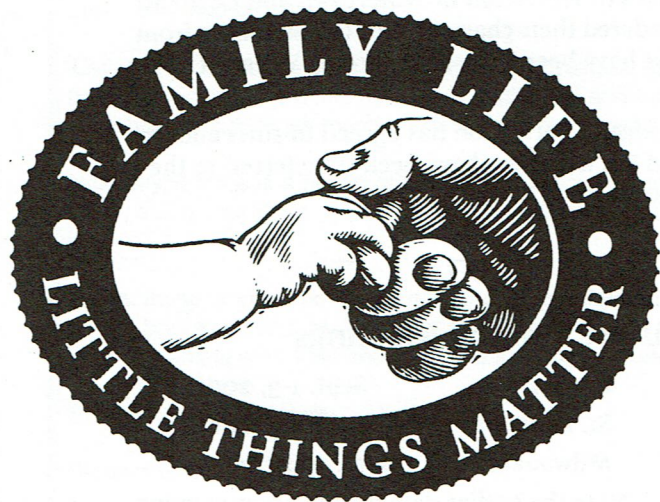
My Brothers, we must all pull together to keep our valley from becoming a victim of attrition.

Many hands make light work.

Happy Holidays.

Fraternally,

Robert E Murphy, 32° MSA
Most Wise Master
Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix



2001 Scottish Rite Masonic
Family Life Program



Supreme Council

New Officers

Several changes were made in the official tableau. Ill. Jim S. Deyo, 33°, succeeds retiring Active Member LaSurs as Grand Marshal General. Ill. Richard V. Travis, 33°, succeeds Ill. Donald D. Miller, 33°, as Grand Captain General. Ill. Richard H. Welkley, 33°, replaces retiring Active Member Maier as Grand Almoner.



Museum Name Change

A new logo for the Museum of Our National Heritage was unveiled. Framed at the top and bottom with the distinctive square and compasses, along with the positive and reverse letterform of "N" and "H," the elements combine to create an energetic image that supports the goals and objectives of the museum.

It was also noted that the Museum of Our National Heritage will hereafter be known as the National Heritage Museum.



Valley Changes

Four New York Valleys have surrendered their charter. The charter for the Valley of Niagara Falls has been transferred to the Valley of Lockport and renamed the Niagara Lodge of Perfection, and the Lockport charter of John Hodge Lodge of Perfection will be returned to the Supreme Council. The members in Niagara Falls will be transferred to the Valley of Lockport.

The Lodges of Perfection in Watertown and Cortland have surrendered their charters, and the members from both Valleys have been transferred to the Valley of Syracuse.

Olean Lodge of Perfection has agreed to surrender its charter, and the members have been transferred to the Valley of Jamestown.



Future Annual Meetings

Boston*	Sept. 1-3, 2002
St. Louis	Sept. 21-23, 2003
Milwaukee	Sept. 19-21, 2004

* Note the earlier date for the 2002 meeting.



Membership



As a follow up to the Five-year Membership Action Plan, a new Action Plan 2001 was adopted. Each elected and appointed Valley officer will be asked to establish his own personal new-member goal. The plan requires each Deputy to assign an Active Member, Active Emeritus Member or Deputy's Representative to meet one-on-one with each officer personally to discuss membership. At that time the officer will be asked to set his own personal goal. All elected officers are to be interviewed by Dec. 31, 2001, and all appointed officers by June 30, 2002.



Family Life

The 2002 planning guide for the Scottish Rite Masonic Family Life program will be distributed to Valley Secretaries in December. Even though Valleys will be winding up their 2001 programs during the next few months, it is not too early to select a committee to develop a program for 2002.

Supplies for the current year can still be ordered through the Supreme Council headquarters while supplies last.

Local Valley chairmen for the 2001 program are reminded that a report of the Valley's programs for the year is due at the Supreme Council headquarters in January. The reports should contain detailed information about each activity to provide sufficient material for judging.



Who promised fair?



Who promised fair? Life is not fair.
You get out of it what you put into it.

It is up to you. There are so many opportunities.
So many highs and lows.

You always get another shot. You win the race.
You lose your job. Then what?

Then this! This gives me a chance to make a difference.
There is always an opportunity to do something.

Be grateful and thankful for the day you have
And what you can do to make a difference.



Author Unknown

Scottish Rite Masonic Charities

Q. What is the Blue Envelope Appeal?

A. Once a year a Blue Envelope mailing is sent to each Scottish Rite Mason in the 15-state Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, asking for donations to our Scottish Rite Masonic Charities.

Q. Where will my dollars go?

A. Funds contributed to this year's Blue Envelope Appeal will be distributed to these three important efforts: the Schizophrenia Fellowship Program, which supports the search for a cure of this wide spread and serious mental illness; the Abbott Scholarships, which aid students from Scottish Rite families and Masonic youth groups; and the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, which preserves and interprets the history of our country and our fraternity.

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

A. Every gift, whether large or small, contributes to the success of the Appeal. The Sovereign Grand Commander has said, "In the Scottish Rite, we are doers. We act on our commitments. The Blue Envelope Appeal is a perfect example of this. By making a gift - whatever its size - you contribute to three important activities and maintain our tradition of compassion and generosity in a meaningful way." Besides our Annual Appeal, please also keep our Scottish Rite Masonic Charities in mind year-round as an appropriate and worthy destination for gifts in honor or in memory of the special people in your life.

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 contribution and your personalized reply form in the return envelope provided. You can send a check or use your credit card to make your contribution.



Scottish Rite
MASONIC CHARITIES

2001 Blue Envelope Appeal



OUR GREATEST NEED

The greatest need in this troubled world of today can be summed up in just one word-LOVE. When there is the right kind of love in the family, there is no question about authority. Children refrain from doing certain things, not because of any fear of punishment, but because of their love for their parents.

When love gets into the school the spirit of communism and other isms will disappear, and students and teachers will work together in perfect harmony for the common good.

When the spirit of love is predominate in the hearts of the people, the religion of the one true God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea

This spirit will give to the American people the real spirit of democracy, and man will learn to trust his fellowman. We will refrain from doing this or that because we love to be law abiding, and not fear we will be punished by the law, should we commit any violations.

There are many attributes which go to make up the character of an individual or nations. But one is found in the words of the apostle Paul, uttered many centuries ago; The greatest of these is love. Those word are as true today as they were at that time. Our greatest need today is LOVE.

2001 - 2002 DUES ARE DUE, NOW!

The life blood of any organization is dependant upon the prompt payment of yearly dues from its members.

To the majority of YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN YOUR DUES -Thank You! It is because of you that the Valley of Albany is able to meet its financial obligations - rent, postage, telephone, maintenance, salaries, assessments, office supplies, equipment, etc.

When we joined Scottish Rite, we assumed a major responsibility - to pay our dues in a timely manner. Unfortunately, there are too many members (over 400) who have failed to meet this commitment. Some of you are in arrears two and three years. Brethren - this is just not fair. Not to your Valley. Not to your Brothers who are carrying the brunt of the load. I'm sure you are aware that when you do not pay your dues - the Valley still must pay Council of Deliberation and Supreme Council assessments, which are based upon total membership.

Those of you who are behind two or more years face the penalty of being suspended from this honorable institution, and forfeiture of all its rights and privileges therein. I dare say - A shameful option.

Naturally, if there is a health or financial problem preventing you from paying your dues, please let me know. We may be able to help.

Again, those of you who have paid - thank you. If you are not clear on the books at this time, then it behooves you to give this matter your immediate attention. Your cooperation is appreciated.

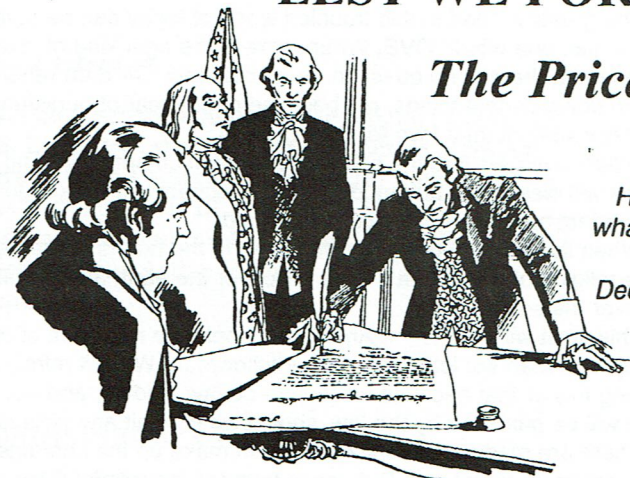
Sincerely and Fraternally,

Richard G Barrell



LEST WE FORGET . . .

The Price They Paid



*Have you ever wondered
what happened to those men
who signed the
Declaration of Independence?*

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers or both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis, had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire, which was done. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and

properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his grist mill were laid waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead, his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. These were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: *"For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."* ♦

THEY GAVE US AN INDEPENDENT AMERICA

Masons who signed the Declaration of Independence were:

William Ellery
Benjamin Franklin
John Hancock
Joseph Hewes
William Hooper
Robert Treat Paine
Richard Stockton
George Walton
William Whipple



FIRST! A MASTER MASON

I like the going back to my lodge. I have found it refreshing and good to step aside out of the path of my busy life and sit again with Masons who have carried on in my absences. To this experience I came gladly and joyfully as a boy returns again to his old home which he left to seek his fortune. Still some of the old brothers await to welcome me. Grown a little older I find them, but still strong and eager for the duties of a Mason! With them I can be what I long so often to be—just one of the Craft. Their aprons and mine are made of the same cloth; their dreams and mine are similar; their pulses beat to the same inspiration and we are all at peace.

Rich and poor; high and low make no difference there. The pomp of life is thrown aside. Only that which is important counts.

Masonry has taught me the follies of petty distinction and the shams of pride and place.

—Edgar A. Guest

**Keep Petitions Handy.
Carry One With You
At All Times . . .
Extra Supply Can Be
Obtained From . . .
Scottish Rite Office.**



I think we skipped one too many meetings.
How About a goal of: not one empty seat at
Meetings and Reunions?

A Reunion of the 32° Scottish Rite Bodies is far more than just a time for conferring degrees upon a class of worthy Master Masons.

It is what the name implies - a reunion. It is a reunion of friends who see each other all too seldom; a reunion of classmates of other years. It is an opportunity for members of the class to become acquainted, to be linked in a bond which endures.

More than that, it is the time when we, who have been members for a short or a long time, witness the degrees again - to be inspired by a better understanding of the mysteries by reason of repetition of presentation. The Scottish Rite degrees never grow stale, nor do they bore the sincere Freemason.

Beyond all this stands the candidate, who is seeing for the first time the drama, the dignity, the beauty, and the power of these lessons. It is a thrill never to be forgotten, to sit at the feet of earnest, sincere Scottish Rite Freemasons as the lessons unfold. The candidate will be uplifted by one degree, literally transfixed by the power of another; his blood will course faster as costumed characters bring into being the ancient truths, serving to explain the epoch-making events of our own country's history.

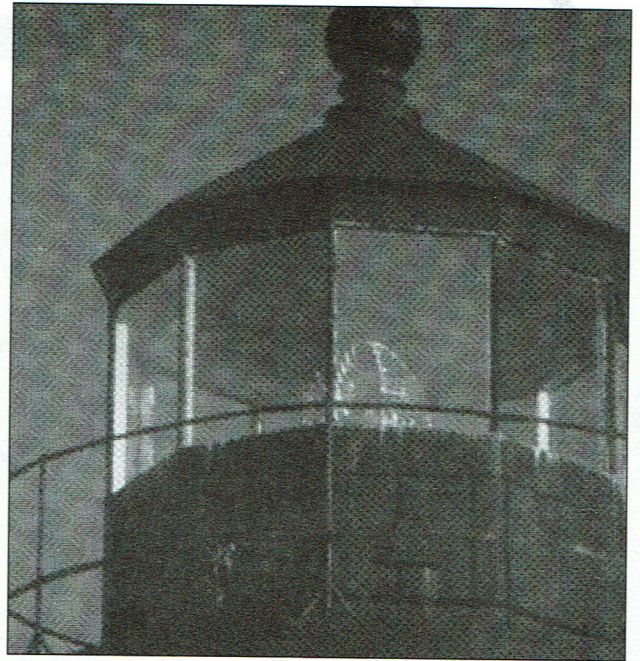
From the 4°, wherein the candidate learns that duty is always with us, to the 32°, by which he is created a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, the preceptory's familiar surroundings are transformed from one scene to another by the use of paraphernalia, costumes, symbols, stage sets and lighting.

He learns that "Virtus jus, mors non separabit" - virtue joins, death cannot separate - and that "Spes mea in Deo est" - my hope is in God. He finds the struggle between good and evil continues; that he is to bear the Great Light of Truth into the World; that the hand of God is upon all for good that seek Him. And that he is the dominant figure when enjoined - "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another."

All this and more, he learns. His eye is pleased by what it sees; his ears by what they hear; his heart by the knowledge that "all men be brethren."

To carry a spear, stand silently, or speak at length as one of the chief characters of a degree, a man will leave his home, his machine, his office, that the story may be told and the picture presented. Long hours of private study and rehearsals under the watchful eye of a competent director prepare him for the fleeting moment of the degree. Is it any wonder that the oldest member and the youngest candidate alike sit spellbound? Anything less than perfection is not the goal of the literally hundreds of men who make up the casts of the various degrees. They work without pay, except that which comes from doing a workman-like job. The sacrifice of time - and even money, sometimes - is not counted as a loss but as a gain, in the promulgation of some of the most beautiful ritual ever written.

Yes, this is a reunion. ♦



Further light

Light. The light of the sun drives away the night. The light of truth and knowledge drives away ignorance, prejudice, tyranny, and hate. Truly, this is the light of hope for the human race.

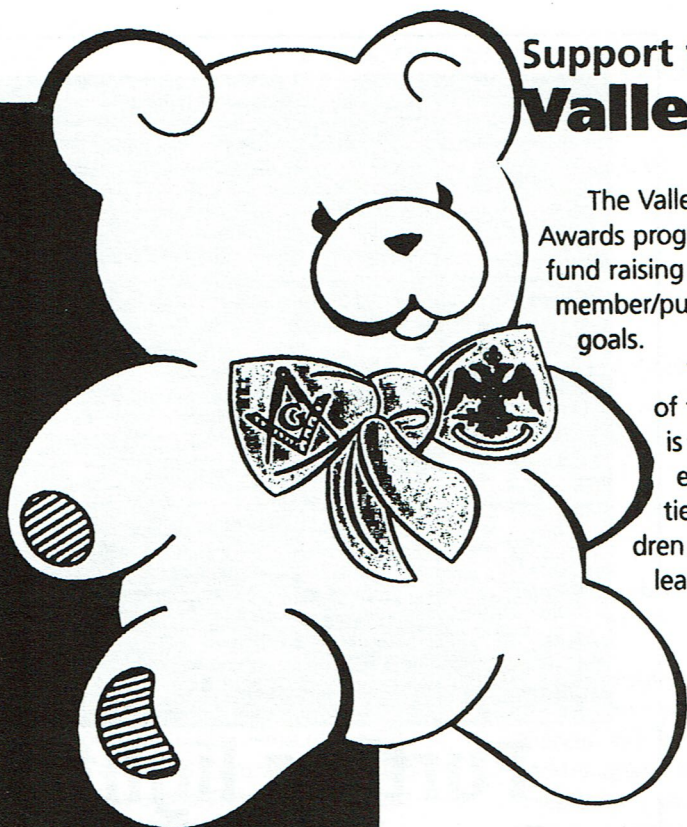
There are men of all races and walks of life who have joined together in the search for further light. There are men who are dedicated to spreading the light of knowledge, tolerance, liberty and brotherly love.

Who are these men? They are 32° Scottish Rite Masons.



**32° Scottish Rite Freemasonry -
Making a Real Difference!**





Support for our learning centers **Valley Teddy Bear Awards**

The Valley Teddy Bear Awards program includes fund raising and member/public awareness goals.

The membership of the Scottish Rite is discovering the exciting possibilities of helping children with dyslexia learn to read.

How your Valley qualifies for a Teddy Bear Award

Every Valley is eligible for a Teddy Bear Award. There are four levels of recognition:

Platinum Teddy Bear Award

Presented to those Valleys raising more than 100% of the goal established by the Supreme Council (based on membership), and meeting two member/public awareness goals.

Gold Teddy Bear Award

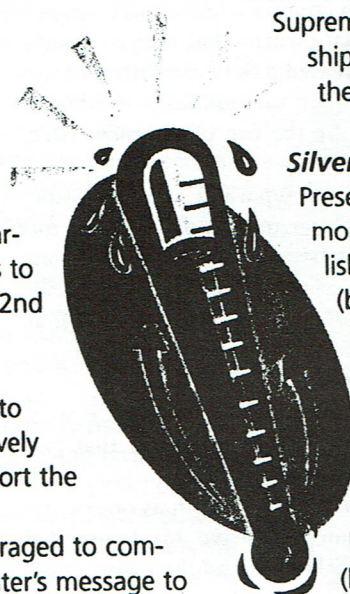
Presented to those Valleys raising more than 67% of the goal established by the Supreme Council (based on membership), and meeting at least one of the member/public awareness goals.

Silver Teddy Bear Award

Presented to those Valleys raising more than 33% of the goal established by the Supreme Council (based on membership), and meeting at least one of the member/public awareness goals.

Bronze Teddy Bear Award

Presented to those Valleys raising up to 33% of the goal established by the Supreme Council (based on membership.)



The enthusiastic responses from the young people and the grateful appreciation of parents are motivating Valleys to support the work of our 32nd Degree Masonic Learning Centers for Children.

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The Valleys are asked to take the leadership in actively raising funds to help support the learning centers.

Valleys are also encouraged to communicate the learning center's message to their members and the community.

The annual Valley Teddy Bear Awards recognize the Valleys' response to the challenge.



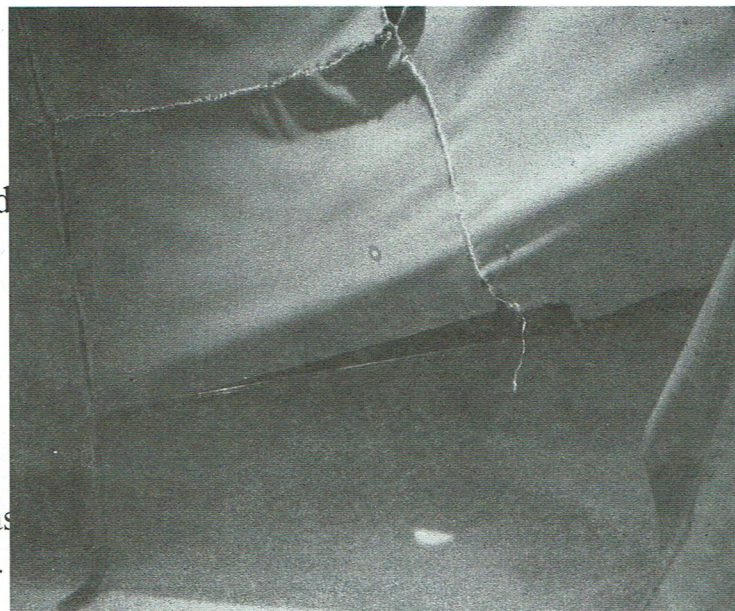
The Valley Teddy Bear awards will be announced each year at the Supreme Council Annual Meeting in September for the preceding fiscal period ending June 30.

Seeing Is Believing!

What you see here is a portion of our stage curtain, which, after 65 years, has deteriorated and fallen apart at the seams.

An attempt to repair it and stitch it together was to no avail, as it continues to worsen.

Brethren, we need your help, so that we can purchase a new curtain, needed to effectively exemplify our beautiful degrees at reunions, as well as repair several chairs that have broken.



Won't you help? Any amount, payable to AASR, will be greatly appreciated, and will assist us in obtaining an unbudgetted amount of \$3500 to repair and replace these items.

Thank you so much for your generous consideration.

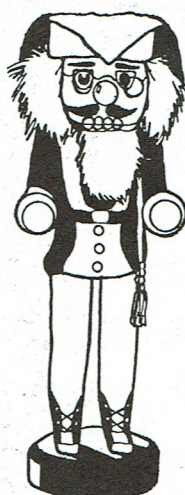
Sincerely and Fraternally,

Richard G Barrell
Secretary



*Season's Greetings and
a Healthy, Happy and
Prosperous New Year!*

Happy Chanuka!



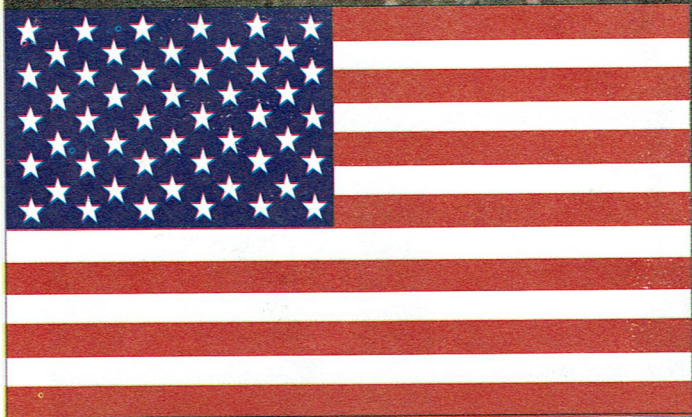
*Love—
May it touch
your holidays
May it live
in your heart.*

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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Let freedom ring!