



# The Rite Light



Valley of Albany

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

Vol. XXVIII

Spring, 2006

No.1

## Feast of the Paschal Lamb

Sunday, April 9, 2006

See details inside for time and reservations.



Spring Reunion - April 22, 2006



## NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and who officers are:

Ill.: Walter E. Webber, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander

Ill.: Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°  
Grand Lieutenant Commander

Ill.: Norman L. Christensen, 33°  
Grand Minister of State

Ill.: Harold L. Aldrich, 33°  
Deputy for New York State

### ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

Ill.: Gary A. Henningsen, 33°

Ill.: Frederick D. Greene, 33°

Ill.: David P. Spencer, 33°

Ill.: Peter J. Samiec, 33°

Ill.: Edward R. Trosin, 33°

### ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

Ill.: James F. Niehoff, 33°

Ill.: Carlton A. Winchester, 33°

Past Deputy for New York

Ill.: Bruce Widger, 33°

Past Deputy for New York

Ill.: Richard H. Welkley, 33°

### DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE VALLEY OF ALBANY

Gerry Irwin, 33° MSA

### VALLEY OF TROY

Michael G. Angiolillo, 32°

### Editor; "THE RITE LIGHT"

Michael G. Angiolillo

mangiolillo@yahoo.com

518-642-9707



### In Memory of Richard G. Barrell 1929 - 2005

Richard G. Barrell, 33° was visited by the Angel of Death on Saturday, December 10, 2005 at home, after a long illness. Richard was born on November 13, 1929. He served in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps and with the U.S. Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea. In 1992, after more than 23 years of service, he retired from the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles. He was an active communicant at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Colonie, NY.

Richard was raised as a Master Mason in Wadsworth Lodge No. 417, F&A.M. in 1955. He served as Master in 1971-72 and then as Secretary for 20 years. Richard was Chairman of the Board of Directors and later, Secretary of the Capital District Masonic Association.

He was an active member of the Valley of Albany, AASR, serving as Secretary until August 2003. He was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General and created a Honorary Member of the Supreme Council 33 Degree in 1986.

Richard joined Cyprus Shriners in 1977 and became active in its Capital District Clown Unit where he was known as "Pickles". He served as Potentate of Cyprus in 1993.

Richard was also a member of the American Legion, the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was a Past Patron of Ella Nicholson/Ft. Orange Chapter No. 429, Order of the Eastern Star and a Past President of the Albany Visually Impaired Lions Club.

Richard left behind his wife of 51 years, Barbara Ann McKay; sons Gary R. Barrell, , Kenneth D. Barrell, Andrew M. Barrell, and a daughter, Deborah A. VanDerVolgen. He also left behind many friends and acquaintances who now feel a void in their lives with his absence. He was a source of advice and counsel for many and took an active part in every organization in which he was a member.





### MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

I am writing this article in mid-February after a most unusual winter so far, with temperatures higher than normal and relatively little snow.

The Scottish Rite has had a busy fall and anticipates a busy spring.

The Fall Reunion was held on October 15th. We now do the Fourth Degree. We also, did the Fourth Degree along with the Sixth Degree at one of our evening meetings. We could have used more candidates at both events.

On Sunday afternoon, November 6th, a veterans program was hosted in Albany. A good number of people attended the program. (More in a separate article in this issue.)

On Saturday, November 26th, the Scottish Rite of the three Valleys (Troy, Albany and Schenectady) took a tour bus to the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts. The year 2005 was the thirtieth anniversary of the museum which was the idea of George Neuberry, Sovereign Grand Commander in the 1970's.

Since the opening of the museum in 1975, more than 2.5 million have visited the museum to learn more about the history of the United States and our Fraternity.

There have been over 270 exhibits since the opening day in 1975. The late area Congressman, Sam Stratton, spoke at it's tenth anniversary.

The museum has over 23,000 items in its permanent collection, of which 5,000 are from the Massachusetts Grand Lodge.

During our visit, Walter E. Webber, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, spoke to us about the museum. John Ott, Executive Director since 1999 and

Mark A. Tabbert, 32°, who is the author of a new book: *American Freemasons-Three Centuries of Building Communities*, were gracious hosts to us. Those who bought the book at the museum gift store, could have the book autographed.

One of the exhibits that had a most profound effect on many was about that tragic and unbelievable day-September 11, 2001. Included in this exhibit was part of one of the two airplanes that struck the World Trade Center Towers. A part of a fire engine door crushed when the Towers fell, was also part of this exhibit. Visitors could write their feelings about the exhibit or about that infamous day and deposit their thoughts in a box near the exhibit.

Coming home we had some door prizes and a delicious meal at Ivanhoes Restaurant in West Springfield.

Many thanks to Ill. Peter J. Samiec, 33° Active and Roger Pelham, 32°, MSA for the great success of this trip to Lexington.

On Friday evening, December 9th, the Scottish Rite of the Capital District had a Christmas Party at the Woodlyn Club in Glenville. The event was well attended. Along with Scottish Rite masons were their spouses and guests. Music of the season and dancing were provided.

On January 20th, many Scottish Rite Masons celebrated at the Century House as Ill. William Fink, Jr., District Deputy for the Rensselaer-Schenectady District received his white hat as a 33° Honorary.

On February 4th, the members of the Valley of Albany went to the Veterans Hospital to help the veterans celebrate Super Bowl Weekend. (More in a separate article in this issue.)

Although the Scottish Rite has had

an active fall and early winter, many events are planned for the late winter and spring.

On February 28th, the Albany Consistory held a degree night that displayed the Fourth and Eighteenth Degrees.

On March 30th, the Albany and Schenectady Valleys displayed the Fourth and Ninth Degrees. *was*

The Feast of the Paschal Lamb will be conducted in the Valleys on Palm Sunday, April 9th. (Look for further information in this issue of the Rite Light.) *26th*

The Spring Reunion in Albany will be held on Saturday, April 22nd. The degrees that will be performed will be the 14th, 16th, 18th, 31st, and 32nd degree. Lunch will be served. We need candidates.

On the evening of April 22nd, the three Valleys of Albany, Schenectady and Troy will be hosting a "Ladies Night" at the Phelans Banquet House on Route 9 in Clifton Park. (See reservations page elsewhere in this issue or the Rite Light.)

A new program honoring volunteer firemen and EMT's will be held on April 29th at the Beukendaal Temple in Schenectady. The program will begin at 1:00 P.M.

We will have had a busy year (2005-2006). If you haven't attended these events, we will have missed you. Come and participate and propose some new candidates.

Cordially and Fraternally,  
Byron D. Moak, 32° Degree, MSA



## Messages from the Presiding Officers



### Chapter of Rose Croix

Welcome to 2006

I hope that the holiday season was joyful, it seemed to go too fast. Another plus is that the winter has been mild.

~~The new year of 2006 will start with the Fourth Degree which will be conducted on Tuesday, February 28th and again on Thursday, March 30th.~~

*(Editors Note: Sorry for the delay on getting this information out to the membership that these two dates have gone by.)*

The Feast of the Paschal Lamb ~~will be~~ held on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2006. The ceremony ~~will start at~~ 3:30 P.M. and dinner ~~will follow~~ the ceremony. ~~The dinner will be TURKEY at \$5.00 per person.~~

\*\*\* For Reservations \*\*\*

Call: **WILLIAM OKESSON, JR.**  
at (518) 482-6972

or  
**MICHAEL DERRY**  
at (518) 868-4040

The Chapter of Rose Croix have 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.

As we move through 2006, we need more support from our brethren. I know it is an old story, but we really need your help.

Fraternally,  
**William F. Okesson, Jr.**  
Most Wise Master  
Albany Sovereign Chapter  
of Rose Croix



### Council, Princes of Jerusalem

My Brothers,

Much has taken place since October. We have taken new members at our Fall Reunion, this is a positive sign that Masonic Organizations can grow, but we need to do more. The Valley of Albany is taking steps to get things done.

~~1/~~ We held a program at the Albany Temple to say thank you to our Veterans. This was successful. Assemblyman Roy McDonald gave a nice speech, but he was also very impressed in our lodge building and the Lincoln Degree we put on for our guests. We also had "**Military Moms in Action**" there. They too were impressed and pleased to receive some donations to assist our servicemen now serving our country. This program received some television coverage on Channel 10 (WTEN).

~~2/~~ We have been active working with the Valley of Schenectady participating in a Walk-A-Thon for Dyslexia and having a joint Christmas Party. The Party was fantastic, plenty of good food and seeing many great brothers and their ladies. The music was festive and the evening a good opportunity to mix and mingle. Our Commander in Chief has a good voice to sing Christmas songs.

~~3/~~ On February 4th, 2006 we held a pre-super bowl party at the VA Hospital. We had Byron Moak, Dan Kelly, Will Bauman attend. Together with the VA staff we had snacks, gifts and fun. The Valley sponsored this event together with items given by Masonic Service Committee. All veterans received a nice gift, socks, hats, gloves and good food. Pizza, soda and lemon aide were provided. Again Channel 10 showed this event and we had a chance to give thanks to our veterans.

4. On April 29th, 2006 starting at 1:00 p.m., we will have a program to say thank you to our volunteer firemen and EMS personnel. We are in the pre stages of sending out invitations as I write this. I hope to have many there.

It is programs like these that will make others aware of the Masonic Order and maybe we can attract new members. Get the public to know we care.

It has been an honor for me to work with so many talented brothers that have gone above and beyond to help me with these programs. Thank you!

Thank you for allowing me to serve,  
**Roland C. Abare**  
Sovereign Prince



*Pictured left to right: Bud Abare, Will Bauman, Dan Kelly and Byron Moak*

On February 4th, the Valley of Albany sponsored and hosted a pre-super bowl party at the Stratton VA Hospital in Albany. The Valley presented gifts, hats, socks and gloves on behalf of the Masonic Service Committee. Refreshments were also served. A good time was had by all.



# Messages from the Presiding Officers



## Lodge of Perfection

In my last message, I tried to remind all of you how important it is to always be mindful of the virtues of Scottish Rite Masonry. More light in Masonry is not an entitlement to a Master Mason that comes without effort. It is an honor that is achieved only through reading, study and fellowship with good men who share similar beliefs and character. It is my fervent belief that we become better men and Masons only by participating in meetings, degrees and reunions with other brothers who we can learn from and teach. In my last message, I tried to encourage more members to come to meetings and reunions. I would now like to encourage all of us to remember why we became 32 degree Masons.

Our Sovereign Grand Commander, Walter E. Webber, reminded us in the current issue of "The Northern Light" that, "we have a great story to tell, we are relevant to today's society, and our lessons are as needed today as they were the day they were created." I think that this is a beautiful statement. However, I believe that our lessons are needed more now than ever. In today's society when individual achievements and personal accumulations are more valued and encouraged than our Masonic corporate philanthropies, I think our lessons that teach love, integrity, fidelity, loyalty, caring, duty, citizenship, confidentiality and honor are more relevant than ever. We all need these lessons to continually remind us to stand in the Northeast corner of our own lodges as upright men and Masons.

Please review the schedule that was contained in the last issue of "The Rite Light" and pick out a meeting to attend. You will notice that several of the meetings have degree presentations where you can re-familiarize yourselves with our story without the

need to invest an entire Saturday. Also, there are joint events with the Schenectady Valley, such as the Spring Ladies Night on April 22, 2006, that will allow us to join together in a social setting with our wives or significant others. Finally, there are special programs, such as the Volunteer Firemen's Day, that will be held later in the season. This event will be a great opportunity for us to promote all of the Masonic bodies to the community at large. Join us in some or all of these events and help make the Valley of Albany as vibrant as it can be.

Once again, please remember what motivated you to become a member of Scottish Rite Masonry. Also, remember our motto: **"Whom Virtue Units, Death Can Not Separate."**

I look forward to seeing you all soon and, as always, it will be my pleasure to greet you at the various functions that are planned for the remainder of our Scottish Rite season.

Most Fraternally,  
**John W. Scott,**  
 Thrice Potent Master

## A Message from the Secretary

Brothers,

In case you haven't noticed, there has been a lot of activity taking place within the Valley of Albany. We have shared in raising funds for establishment of a new Learning Center for Dyslexic Children working with the Valleys of Schenectady and Troy. We have traveled to the National Heritage Museum in Lexington with them and shared in a Ladies' Night with the Valley of Schenectady. In order to reduce the number of meeting nights that conflict with other meeting nights, all four Coordinate bodies now meet at one time. In addition to holding interesting programs at these meetings, we are performing degrees to permit new members to enter our Rite prior to a Reunion. It helps us all to maintain

our ritual proficiency by doing the work more frequently.

Some of you may not know that in April 2005, we acquired 324 new members in our Chapter and Consistory from the Valley of Westchester when it surrendered its Charter for those two bodies. We welcome these new Brothers to our Valley and hope they will attend and participate in some of our degree work.

We grieve the loss of our departed Brother, the Illustrious Richard G. Barrell. I had known Richard for over thirty years and know that he was responsible for getting me into this position, and suspect that he had something to do with my being asked to be the District Deputy of the Albany District back in 1982. I always welcomed his advice and counsel and I trusted his judgment on Masonic affairs. We also knew each other from our work at the DMV, where Richard brought to the workplace integrity and honesty. Be sure to read the reflection on his life and Masonic career elsewhere in this newsletter.

While the Valley is sustaining itself, it would help greatly to have the support of those who have served over the past decade or so. There are many who have served in leadership positions who are still able-bodied and active in other fraternal activities, but inactive in the Valley. We welcome them to come out of "retirement" and take an active part again. We can use new cast members in degree work and we certainly welcome them to attend our meetings and show support for the current lines of officers. All meeting dates appear on the schedule that was printed and inserted in the Fall issue of the Rite Light. If there is any doubt about meeting dates, check our website: <http://valleyofalbania.aasmasonry.us>. You will also find much information related to Freemasonry on that site developed by Past Thrice Potent Master and Past Sovereign Prince Robert Fickies.

Supreme Council will be printing a new



version of Passports. Members may continue to use the current Passports but should contain only degrees witnessed since 2000. When completed, they may be submitted to Supreme Council and the member will receive a certificate, a wallet sized card, and a new Passport.

*Dee* Rituals are no longer printed in books, but are now produced only on CD. The following Degrees have been modified and will be distributed in the near future: 7th and 15th, minor changes to the 30th, title changes to 12th and 15th and new prologue to the 15th and 16th. There will be a ceremony for presentation of the Meritorious Service Award.

*B* US Bank continues to process applications for new VISA cards. Members who use the cards are aiding Scottish Rite Charities. The Charities program no longer receives any benefit from the former cards issued by MBNA. To obtain a new card, call US Bank at 1-800-853-5576, ext. 8449 or log on to [www.supremecouncil.org/visa](http://www.supremecouncil.org/visa).

*A* If you have an e-mail address, please contact our Secretary at [mdderry@yahoo.com](mailto:mdderry@yahoo.com). He is building a Scottish Rite contact list so that members can be reminded of meetings and special events.

Thanks,  
Michael D. Derry  
Secretary,  
Valley of Albany

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

\* open and closed

~~April 9, 2006~~ \*\*\* ~~Feast of the Pascal Lamb~~ \*\*\* 3:30 p.m.

Apr. 22, 2006 Spring Reunion - 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degrees

Apr. 22, 2006 - Evening 3 Valley Ladies Night at  
Phalens Banquet House in Clifton Park

April 29, 2006 ~~Honoring our Volunteer Firemen and EMS  
Personnel at the Albany Masonic Temple~~

May 11, 2006 \*\*\* Annual Election and Installation of Officers \*\*\*

July 21-23, 2006 New York State Council of Deliberation,  
Syracuse, NY

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

~~April 6, 2006~~

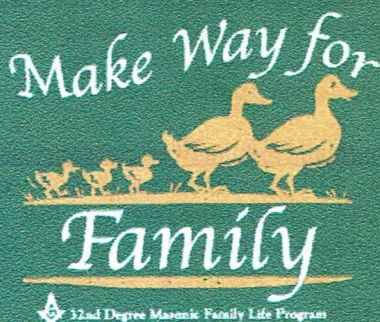
June 1, 2006

## NEWS ABOUT THE CAPITAL DISTRICT SCOTTISH RITE LEARNING CENTER.....

The Capital District Learning Center Committee visited the Learning Center in Oriskany at the Eastern Star Home last month. We were very impressed with the center, their operations and facility.

We are moving forward with our plans to open a Capital District Scottish Rite Learning center to be located on Broadway in Schenectady. A facility has been located. The property will be donated by a member of Sigma Bodies. We are very fortunate for this donation. The property will work very well for our purposes. Engineer studies are under way.

If you would like to donate to assist with this most important project for Capital District Scottish Rite Masons, please make your tax deductible contributions to **32<sup>nd</sup> Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc.** and send to Michael Derry, Valley Secretary. He will see that your contributions reach the committee.



The 32nd degree Family Life Program is a year-long celebration of Scottish Rite Masons and their families, with events activities, and programs held throughout the year. As varied as the many Valleys themselves are, the Family Life program differs between locations.

A long-time tradition of 32nd degree Masons, the program celebrates family life and reinforces individual commitment to families, and strengthens our communities, state, and nation. Family forms the foundation of life.

This year's theme is "Make Way for Family".



# SPRING LADIES NIGHT

Valley of Albany, Sigma Bodies, Valley of Schenectady  
and Delta Bodies, Valley of Troy



Will host a  
"Spring Ladies Night"

Saturday, April 22, 2006

at

Phelans Banquet House

1589 Route 9, Clifton Park

One Mile South of the intersection of 146



6:00pm *Cocktails*  
*Cash Bar*  
*Hors d'oeuvres*

Music by the "Belairs"

Cost \$25.00 per Person

Payment and Reservations by April 15, 2006  
to:

Art Van Vranken

22 Zani Lane

Ballston Lake, NY 12019

384-1912

Masons on Line

or

ARCRANE@nycap.rr.com

7:00pm *Dinner -*  
*Choice of Entrée*  
*Stuffed Chicken Breast*  
*Roasted Prime Rib*  
*Baked Stuffed Sole*

.....  
Please Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners for the Spring Ladies Night to be held at  
Phelans Banquet House  
Saturday, April 22, 2006

Please state number and choice of dinner.

Choice of entrees: \_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken  
\_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Prime Rib  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bakes Stuffed Sole

Please Print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print your guest's name \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Payment and Form by April 15th to:

Mr. Art Van Vranken

22 Zani Lane

Ballston Lake, NY 12019

Or Call 384-1912



Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., U.S.A.  
VALLEY OF ALBANY  
Michael D. Derry, Secretary  
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Central Bridge, NY 12035-0263  
Tel. Home: 518 868-4040  
AASR Office: 518 434-89

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Albany, N.Y.  
Permit No. 730



# 10th Annual Civil War Weekend

June 24 & 25, 2006

Congress Street/ Route 2  
Prospect Park, Troy, N.Y.

Saturday 9a.m. to 5p.m.

Sunday 9a.m. to 2 p.m.



**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**



Daily activities include skirmishes, visits to the camps, sutlers selling period goods, and period music.  
See folks in period dress and talk with "Johnny Reb" and "Billy Yank!"

**Revisit history - see it brought to life.**