

The Rite News

The Magazine of the Valley of Pittsburgh

SPES MEA IN DEO EST

VOL. XXVI NO. 4



June 2017



Cover
story
page 14

In Memoriam

D. William Roberts, 33°

1931-2017



Valley of Pittsburgh

Teaching children with dyslexia

The men and organizations pictured to the right are those who have made a \$10,000 or more commitment to support the Valley of Pittsburgh Children's Dyslexia Center Endowment Fund.

As Freemasons, we have always been benevolent and charitable. For Scottish Rite Masons, our Charity is to teach children with dyslexia how to read. It is important in giving them social confidence.

The teaching method is the Orton-Gillingham program. It is a one tutor – one student ratio. This method is very expensive but extremely effective. It costs approximately \$5,000 a year for each child. Our goal is to raise \$2,500,000 to endow the Children's Dyslexia Center for the future.

To make it easier to make this commitment, you can spread out your \$10,000 donation over a ten year period. Call Bro. Ray Dietz, 33°, at 412-369-9500 for information. The future of our children is our most important mission. I encourage each of you to have your picture on this page and be a BUILDER of this Masonic benevolence.

Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°
Deputy for Pennsylvania



Demosthenes Agoris



Edward & Joan Aiello



Robert & Janice Amend



Emery & Carol Anden



David & Carol Bagley



Raymond & Lynn Dietz



Fred & Kathy Donatelli



Robert Eckbreth



James Ecker & Donna Murtha



James & Ellen Flanigan



Benjamin Henderson



Raymond & Dorothy James



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Roy & Sara Jane McCullough



John McCutcheon



Jay & Joanne McElravy



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Mail to: Builders Council, 3579 Masonic Way,
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700.

Builders Council

to read – one child at a time!



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Beatty



Jeff & Susan
Biddle



Mark & Patty
Bliler



George H. Cox



Rick & Renee
Cross



James & Eda
Dean



Mario & Linda
DeBlasio



Bill & Heather
Dickey



Howard & Sharon
Flynn



Donald & Debra
Green



Wally & Leah
Grossett



Erich & Raylene
Gumto



Harvey & Carol
Gumto



John & Ruth
Habel



Leland A. Hale, Jr.



Jeff & Lauren
Heiger



Paul & Jackie
Kauffman



David & Sandy
Kearns



David & Judy
Kielman



John Kovac



George & Judith
Lewis



William & Barbara
Magnotti, Jr.



Frank R. Mangery



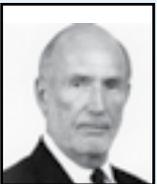
Jack Marsh



Glenn & Mary
Miller



Dr. Glenn & Roberta
Miller



Jack & Carol
Miller



Donald & Barbara
Murphy



John & Valerie
Nicklas



Raymond & Joy
Nicklas



Ronald & Karen
Plesh



D. William Roberts



William Shaw



William Slater, II



Samuel & Judy
Spanos



Thomas & Joan
Sturgeon



Kurt & Nancy
Tesche



Gregory Triko



George & Norma
Vance



S. Timothy Warco



Avalon
Lodge No. 657
F. & A.M.



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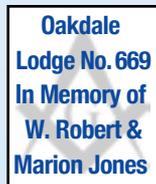
Homestead
Amity McCandles
Lodge No. 582
F. & A.M.



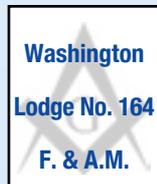
Infinity
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F. & A.M.



Lodge
No. 45
F. & A.M.



Oakdale
Lodge No. 669
In Memory of
W. Robert &
Marion Jones



Washington
Lodge No. 164
F. & A.M.



30th
Masonic
District

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – Bro. Winston Churchill



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No. 1
Knights
Templar



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Lodge No. 2
IOOF



You're Lodge, Club, or Name could be here!
Call 412-939-3579.

Fly the Flag of Freedom!

Flag Day, June 14



Independence Day, July 4

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One Day Masonic Journey back cover



THE RITE NEWS

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About This Issue

Illustrious Brother D. William Roberts, Editor, joined the Celestial Lodge just as pre-production of this issue had begun. We felt it important to continue his work, but also to set aside part of this issue of *The Rite News* to honor a man who was not only the long-time editor of the magazine, but had done so much in service to the Valley of Pittsburgh and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Bill was a presence in more things than can easily be numbered and his absence will be felt for a long time to come.



In Memoriam



*May it be his portion to hear from Him
 who sitteth as the Judge Supreme*

“Well Done, Good and Faithful Brother”

Since our last issue, the following brethren have been called home.

D. William Roberts, 33° James R. Ziglear, 33°

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| James M. Anchors | Donald A. Hamilton | Clarence T. Rishel |
| Jack R. Anderson | Robert A. Henderson | Lee D. Rouse |
| John H. Baade | Paul C. Herrmann | Andrew M. Russo |
| Earl H. Bair | Robert B. Howard | Clyde M. Shaw Jr. |
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| James L. Dines | Jesse C. McCullough | Thomas R. Umbach |
| Lee Doman | Jules C. Melograne | Kenneth L. Vaughn |
| Kenneth R. Elliott | George Michael | Lawrence A. Victoria |
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| William H. Friesell III | Raymond H. Patterson | Glenn R. Wilson |
| Ronald E. Glos | William N. Pigozzi MD | Maurice R. Wine |
| | Guy P. Redinger | |





MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

David W. Morgans, 33°



Did you ever get so excited about something that you could hardly control yourself?

This is the way it is for me as I look toward the future of the Valley of Pittsburgh. The reason for this optimism is that the officers who have been serving here for the last several years and the officers who will assume new positions in the Valley starting on August 1, 2017 have all demonstrated the ability to think outside of the box to conceive new ideas that will benefit our membership.

These officers' ability to appreciate where we have been as a Valley while at the same time having their feet firmly planted in the needs of today as they plan for the future make for an exciting outlook for our Valley. These officers will build on the good works done by former officers. They will bring new ideas to the table. And those ideas will be debated and discussed to make them even better ideas before they are implemented in the Valley. Each of those new ideas might also bring with them a new way of doing things which will all be designed to enhance the way each of our members will be able

to engage and interact with the Valley of Pittsburgh.

Many people are reluctant to change, however, change is necessary. We change every year as current officers move up and new officers move in. Think of all the changes that have happened just in your lifetime in the way we communicate. Some of you can remember rotary phones and party lines. Others

All those changes have enhanced the richness and speed with which we communicate with each other. All those changes brought with them a learning curve to some degree. Some people fight change, others hold back to see how the change will work, and others embrace change immediately. The officers of the Valley understand the different ways that people look at change

It is a great time to be a Scottish Rite Mason and each of us should work diligently to use the lessons that we have learned in Masonry to build a better tomorrow.

remember when touchtone phones and answering machines were introduced. Others may remember when bag phones, pagers, flip phones, or smart phones were introduced. At one point in time we sent information through written correspondence in the mail. Then came fax machines, the internet, email, and social media. Photographs would take days to get developed, then came "instant" cameras from Polaroid and Kodak, and now we have digital photos that we can truly see and send instantly.

and they will work hard to make sure that, even as we move forward, no members of our Valley will get left behind.

Your officers need your support, encouragement, and feedback as they take us into the future. Please let us know what is on your mind and how the Valley of Pittsburgh can best serve our membership. It has been my honor to serve as Commander in Chief for this great Valley and I look forward to the bright future that lies before us.



From the Desk of the Secretary

by Donald M. Murphy, 33°

Believe it or not, the 2016-2017 Scottish Rite year is quickly coming to an end. This year has provided many noteworthy moments. We had a great reunion experience during the fall of 2016. All of our other activities have also gone very well. Attendance at our Stated Meetings has been great. The entertainment committee has done its usual job in providing first rate entertainment at our meetings for the enjoyment of the members and the ladies. If you have not been to a Stated meeting lately, June 1st would be a perfect opportunity. Where else can you get dinner and a great fellowship experience for \$10? All we ask is that you make dinner reservations if you plan to attend.

We are proud to announce that we were able to award 8 Abbott Scholarships this year along with 12 Valley of Pittsburgh Scholarships. If you are the parent of a college student or have a grandchild who will be a senior in the 2017 – 2018 school year or who is already in college, consider applying for a scholarship next year. Applications will be available on January 1, 2018.

We hope you have already purchased your Pirate tickets for the game on June 14th. Officially, we have a few tickets left. If you are interested, please call the Valley office.

Our second baseball outing for the summer will be at the Washington Wild Things in Washington, PA on July 14, 2017. Tickets are still available for that game but are going fast and we only have 125 to sell. Remember, we have a tailgate party before both games. Come out and enjoy the fun.



Our annual Golf Outing to benefit the Learning Center will take place on June 10, 2017 at Butler's Golf Course near Elizabeth, PA. This will be a great time. If you are a golfer, come out and have an enjoyable day. Better

yet, form a foursome and help to support our learning center. You do not need to be a member to participate. If you are not a golfer, we can also take lunch-only reservations. Remember this is a Saturday and we will have a shotgun start at 9:00 AM. All proceeds from the day will go to support our learning center.

**Once again,
thanks to all those
members whose lives
I have touched.
You will be missed.**

This is the last time I will be writing this column. I will be retiring from the position of Valley Secretary on July 31, 2017. The years I have spent in this position have been very enjoyable. There were many memorable moments. Beginning August 1st, III .°. David W. Morgans will be assuming the position as Secretary. I hope that you will give him the same cooperation that I have been afforded for the past several years. Once again, thanks to all those members whose lives I have touched. You will be missed.

Everyone is looking forward to a good summer. Why not join your Masonic Brethren and attend one or more of our activities? I hope to see you this summer.



Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix



By Robert B. Malwitz, 32°,
Most Wise Master

This will be my final article as Most Wise Master of Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix. As I look back over the past year, there are many things that I recognize as having been accomplished by the Valley. We had five great meetings with great meals and entertainment. We had several event-centered programs. We undertook a revamping of the membership program and redid the by-Laws. The Christmas parties were well attended, and The Story of the Crucifixion went extremely well. And I have to give a special shout out to Vito Urso who served as Chairman of the Trustees and did his usual outstanding work as the Hospitaler.

I could go on, but the point is your Valley and its officers and members are active and the Valley, while not the largest Valley in the Northern Jurisdiction, is very active.

As for the future. We have a fall class coming up and I am sure the membership program will continue to grow. We also have a new communications committee and they will be reaching out to all of us.

I have been privileged to serve as Most Wise Master, and I thank those who were part of my journey. Without each of you, the path along this journey would not have been nearly as enjoyable. I wish the best for the new officers as they begin this portion of their journey.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you.





Welcome

Seated L to R: New members, Richard Proud, Chris Cooper, and Chris Pignoli

Standing L to R: Robert B. Malwitz, 32°, Most Wise Master, William J. Wiker, 32°, Sovereign Prince, Donald M. Murphy, 33°, Secretary, Sam H. Jessee, 32°, Thrice Potent Master, David W. Morgans, 33°, Commander-in-Chief

Valley of Pittsburgh Welcomes New Members!

2017 Spring Class

Friday, April 21 – Saturday, April 22

Following the success of the 2016 One Day Masonic Journey, our Spring Class was small but mighty. We were pleased to welcome Brothers Proud, Cooper, and Pignoli to the Valley of Pittsburgh. They received a lot of personal attention and even had the privilege of joining the actors on stage for the portions of a few degrees!

Many of the new members from the One Day Class also joined us over the weekend to see their first live Degrees and get their passports stamped.

The next reunion will be held on November 17th and 18th of this year. Mark your calendars now, and check the website soon for a list of the Degrees that will be performed. ★

by the numbers

5,563

Total
Membership
Today*

*Valley of Pittsburgh membership as of May 31, 2017.

Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem



by William J. Wiker, 32nd,
Sovereign Prince



always were able to tell me how to do or not do everything. I also want to thank the other officers of the Prince of Jerusalem line, both current and past, for their advice, assistance, and enthusiasm in making this a great year. I have every confidence that the incoming line will be the best ever and that the trend towards excellence will continue into the foreseeable future. Guys, you are the best!

It has been an extremely interesting year, and just as I am getting used to the water, it's over. It was both fascinating and educational to learn over these past several years how the Valley operates and to witness the interaction between the different bodies and personalities to make it work. While there wasn't always concord, there was amity. I think everyone involved truly tried to keep the best interests of the Valley at the fore. I especially appreciated the advice, wisdom and cooperation of the leaders of the other lines this year: Sam Jessee, Bob Malwitz and Dave Morgans. And then there was the ever-present Don Murphy, our able Secretary, and his fine staff who

As I pass the baton on to Erastus Allen, my expectation is that he, and all the other incoming officers of all the lines will share the same enthusiasm and dedication that I have seen over the past several years. There are significant changes and challenges for both the Valley and Scottish Rite looming in the future but I am confident that if the best interests of the Scottish Rite, in general, and the Valley of Pittsburgh, in particular, are placed ahead of personal agendas, I believe we can advance toward the goals of the 32nd Degree. ★

Join Us!

FELLOWSHIP


Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Last Saturday of the Month
(except December)

GPMC \$6⁰⁰ per person
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Buffet Features
Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon,
French Toast, Potatoes,
Toast, Milk, Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice

Served by
Ohio Valley Rainbow Girls

Hosted by:
The Valley of Pittsburgh

20th ANNUAL MEETING IN THE HILLS

in Conjunction with the Ohio-Pennsylvania Unity Night

Friday, June 16, 2017

Held Outdoors at Christner's Grove near Dawson, PA
Casual Dress - No Shorts, Blue Jeans or Collarless Shirts
All Master Masons Welcome

- A delicious 12 oz. New York strip steak dinner will be served at 6 p.m.
- Following dinner, a special meeting of King Solomon's Lodge No. 346, Connellsville, will be held at 7 p.m.
- Tickets are \$25 and may be ordered from Brother Alan R. Sandusky (contact info to the right) by June 9 so we may make the proper arrangements. Checks should be made payable to: CDS Building Corporation. Please send a self-addressed

stamped envelope with payment. Directions will be included with your return ticket order.

- Your Grand Lodge officers and members of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be in attendance.

Contact:
Alan R. Sandusky, P.M.
108 Broadford Road
Connellsville, PA 15425
724-557-1441
sandusky4@verizon.net





Authentic Caribbean Food and Open Bar

Margaritaville Date: June 23, 2017
Time: 6:30-11:00 p.m.
Cost: \$45 per person
Venue Syria Shrine
1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA

**Call 724-274-7000
For Tickets**



by Dr. Glenn Miller, II, 33°, *Chairman*
Valley of Pittsburgh Medical Committee

Shingles

*Shingles blisters on the
neck and shoulder.*



Shingles, also known as herpes zoster or just zoster, is a viral disease that is characterized by a painful red skin rash with blisters that usually appears as a single stripe of blisters on one side of the body, typically on the torso, neck, or face.

This single stripe of blisters usually follows the anatomic path of a dermatome, which is an area of the skin that is mainly supplied by a single spinal nerve. In fact, the word shingles is derived from the Latin word *cingulus*, a variant of the Latin word *cingulum* which means “girdle” consistent with the belt-like dermatomal rash. Herpes is derived from the Greek word *herpein* which means “to creep” in reference to the latent nature of this virus. Zoster also has a Greek origin and means “belt” or “girdle.”

Shingles is caused by reactivation of the varicella zoster virus in people who have previously had chickenpox. Once a person recovers from chickenpox, the varicella zoster virus remains dormant in the

dorsal root ganglia of the spinal cord or the trigeminal ganglion in the base of the skull. Everyone who has ever had chickenpox is at risk to develop shingles at some point later in life. Approximately 1 million people in the United States get shingles each year. Over the course of a lifetime, between one out of every five and one out of every three people previously infected with chickenpox will develop shingles. Shingles is not contagious in the sense that a person can not contract shingles from someone with an active case of shingles. However, people who have never had chickenpox or have not received the chickenpox vaccine, can develop chickenpox if they are exposed to the virus in the blisters of a person with an active case of shingles.

Risk factors for the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus and development of shingles include previous infection with chickenpox (especially before 18 months of age), advanced age, and compromised or suppressed immune system states. Although shingles can occur at any age, approximately half of the cases in the United States occur in people aged 50 years and older. This is at least partially because our immune system function decreases as we age. Compromised or suppressed immune system states include those people with cancer (especially leukemia and lymphoma), HIV/AIDS, previous bone

marrow or solid organ transplantation (heart, lung, kidney, and liver), significant psychological stress, currently receiving or recently completed radiation treatments, and those taking immunosuppressive medications including steroids, chemotherapy, and transplant immunosuppressive medications. However, the vast majority of people who develop shingles are relatively healthy and are not immunocompromised.

The earliest symptoms of shingles are nonspecific and include fever, malaise, and headache. These symptoms are usually followed by itching, tingling, pins and needles sensation, burning pain, constant aching, and/or a deep shooting/lightning bolt pain on one side of the body in a dermatomal distribution. Anywhere from 1-3 days up to 3 weeks later the characteristic rash with raised red bumps and blisters appears on the skin in the same distribution as the pain. These blisters become pus-filled and crust over/form scabs within 7-12 days of their appearance. The rash disappears and the scabs fall off over the next 2-3 weeks. In some people scarring and discolored skin remain. Additionally, as many as 15% of people can develop postherpetic neuralgia in which the localized pain remains after the rash resolves.

Shingles typically resolves within 3-6 weeks, with or without treatment.

However, complications can develop and are more likely to develop in people with compromised or suppressed immune systems. If postherpetic neuralgia develops, it often lasts several months, and can occasionally last for years. Bacterial superinfection of the skin lesions can occur and are usually caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* or group A beta hemolytic streptococcus. Limb paralysis can occur in roughly 5% of shingles cases (motor herpes zoster). About 10%-25% of shingles patients develop trigeminal nerve and eye involvement (herpes zoster ophthalmicus) which can lead to blindness unless treated early and aggressively. Ramsay Hunt syndrome is a variation of this infection that involves the facial nerves which results in facial paralysis and possible hearing loss. Pneumonia is an additional potential complication of shingles. In those with compromised/suppressed immune function, "disseminated shingles" may occur. This is defined as more than 20 skin lesions appearing outside either the primary dermatome distribution or the dermatomes located directly adjacent to the primary dermatome. In disseminated shingles, organs such as the liver, brain, or spinal cord can become inflamed causing hepatitis, or potentially life-threatening encephalitis and/or meningitis. Approximately 100 people die from shingles each year in the United States, almost all of whom are either elderly or have compromised/suppressed immune function.

There is no medical cure for shingles. The goals of treatment are to lessen the severity and duration of pain, reduce the incidence of potential complications, and to shorten the duration of the shingles episode. Analgesics such as acetaminophen, NSAIDs, and tricyclic antidepressants can be used to treat mild to moderate pain. More severe pain can be treated with prescription opioids, topical lidocaine, and nerve blocks. Capsaicin cream (Capzasin) can be

applied once the skin lesions have crusted over. Calamine lotion can be used to help reduce itching from the lesions. Antiviral medications (acyclovir, valacyclovir, and famciclovir) can be used to decrease the severity and duration of the skin rash and the pain. However, these antiviral medications must be started within 24-72 hours of the rash's appearance if they are to have any benefit. Antiviral medications, sometimes given intravenously in a hospital, can also be used to treat active cases of disseminated shingles. Postherpetic neuralgia can be treated with antiviral medications, opioid pain medications if over-the-counter analgesics are inadequate, anti-seizure medications (gabapentin, pregabalin), and the restless leg syndrome medication (gabapentin enacarbil) which is a derivative of gabapentin.

There is no 100% effective way to prevent a person from developing shingles other than the person never having been infected with the varicella zoster virus (chickenpox). However, there are currently two vaccines available that help to significantly reduce the incidence

of shingles. The first vaccine is the varicella zoster vaccine, or the chickenpox vaccine. This vaccine is about 70%-90% effective in preventing chickenpox in recipients. This vaccine is usually given to babies at age 12-18 months. It is thought that the conferred immunity may decline in 15-20 years so vaccine boosters for adults are being investigated which may further help to prevent shingles in the future. The second vaccine is the Zostavax, or the shingles vaccine, which is now recommended as a single dose for all healthy adults 60 years of age and older. The vaccine is recommended to prevent shingles but not to treat active shingles or post herpetic neuralgia. It is believed that a single dose of the vaccine provides protection from shingles for about 5 years – the Shingles Prevention Study demonstrated 69% protection in the first year but only 4% protection after 8 years. Two doses of the vaccine increased protection to about 90% at 3 ½ years. The vaccine also reduces the incidence of post herpetic neuralgia by about 66% in people who contracted shingles despite receiving the vaccine.



Shingles attacking the forehead and eye.





COME! CELEBRATE! ENJOY!

Syria Shrine & Scottish Rite

Western Pennsylvania

MASONIC FAMILY PICNIC



James L. Rohbeck, Sr.
Potentate

Friday, August 4, 2017

Jeffery M. Wonderling, 33rd
Commander-in-Chief

Kennywood

Come Early! 10:30 a.m.

Stay Late! 11:00 p.m.

- Bring Your Picnic Baskets
- Door Prizes
- Free Buttermilk / Chocolate Milk
- Senior & Youth Games
- Entertainment
- The Grand Parade
- Light Show



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Families,
Friends,
Make Plans
NOW!**

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SAVE OVER \$16 OFF REGULAR \$39.99 ADMISSION

Use the exclusive **Promo Code** below to purchase a Shrine/Scottish Rite Day Ticket to Kennywood for only \$24.00. Senior tickets only \$17.00.

Code: **SHRINE2017**

- Go to www.kennywood.com from June 1st - August 2nd.
- Enter the promo code in box at the top of the screen and click GO.
- Enter the number of tickets you wish to purchase at the discounted price and click ADD TO CART.
- Click either CONTINUE SHOPPING or SECURE CHECKOUT and finish the transaction with your credit card information.
- Print out your tickets and bring them with you to the park.

Come for the Food! Come for the Rides! Come for the Fun! Come for the Day!

How to order by Mail:

Enclose your check payable to **Syria Shrine** in the amount of \$ _____ for Kennywood tickets as indicated below: **Questions? 724-274-7000.**

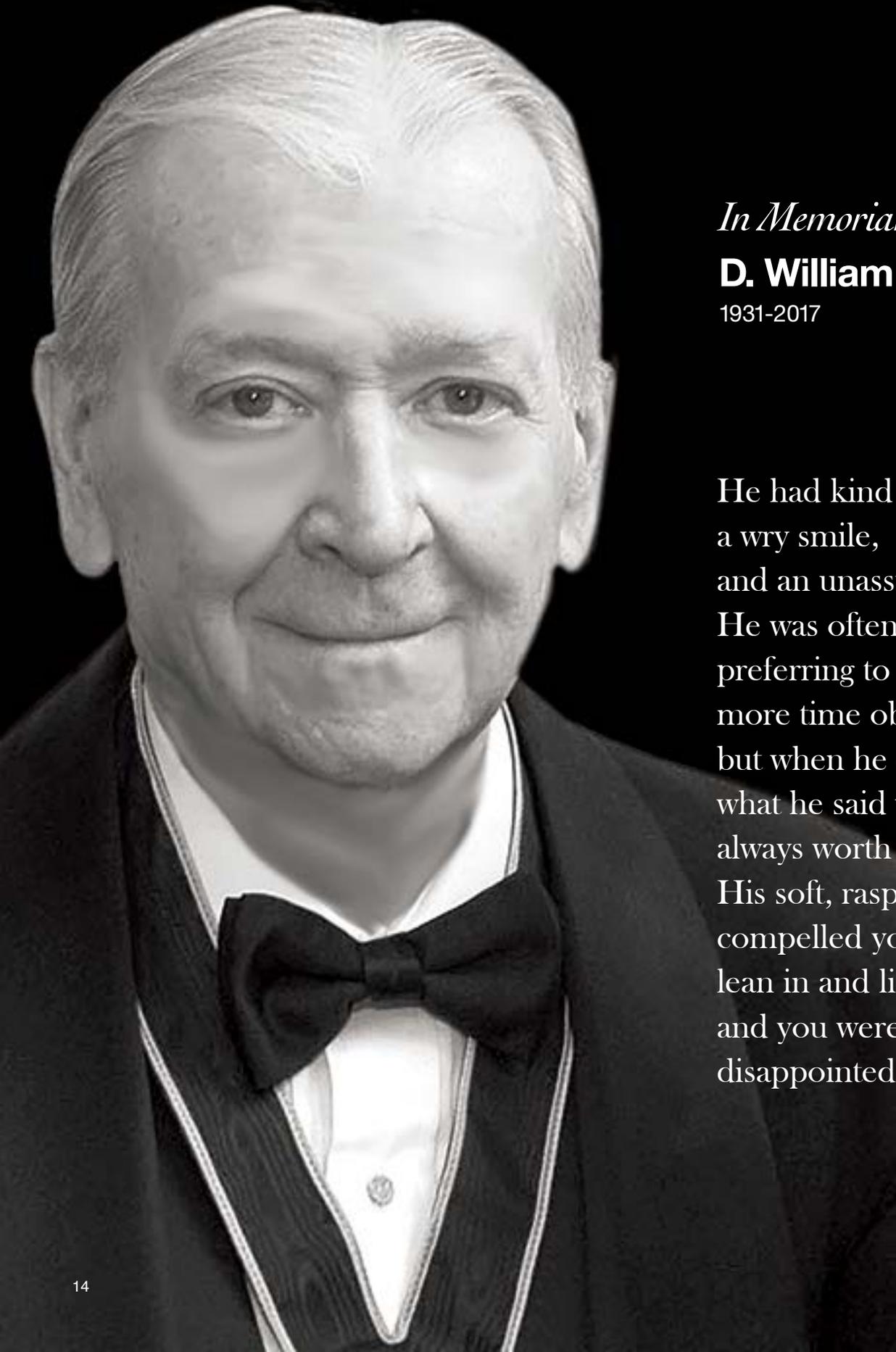
| | |
|---|------------|
| _____ Ride all Day, adult & child @ \$24.00 | = \$ _____ |
| _____ Senior Citizen, 55+ @ \$17.00 | = \$ _____ |

Seniors age 70+ can send in for a coupon and purchase their ticket at the park for \$10. After 5 p.m., coupon can be used by anyone aged 3 to 54 to enter the park for \$18.

Name _____ Ph _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**PLEASE
Enclose A
Self Addressed
Stamped
Envelope**

Mail To: Syria Shrine, 1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA 15024



In Memoriam

D. William Roberts, 33^o

1931-2017

He had kind eyes,
a wry smile,
and an unassuming nature.
He was often quiet—
preferring to spend
more time observing—
but when he did speak,
what he said was
always worth hearing.
His soft, raspy tenor voice
compelled you to
lean in and listen,
and you were seldom
disappointed.

See special tribute event details on page 24.

Bill's was the epitome of a life well-spent. He was born and raised in Washington, Pennsylvania and was a 1949 graduate of Trinity High School. He attended Duquesne University, and took graduate courses at Purdue. During his career, he served as the Marketing Director of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Public Relations Manager for the Pittsburgh Symphony, and in Government Relations for Gulf Oil. He also played a large part in making the Pittsburgh Regatta thrive, worked on the renovations of the Byham Theater, and was a licensed riverboat captain. In 1976, he coordinated a floating tour of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony in which he piloted the barge (complete with a sound stage) from Pittsburgh to Missouri, stopping at several cities for concerts.

Masonically, he belonged to too many bodies to mention. Some highlights of his Masonic career include serving as District Deputy Grand Master of the 47th Masonic District (1999-2005), an eight-year member of the Masonic Homes Committee, Past Thrice Potent Master of the Gourgas Lodge of Perfection (1993), Treasurer of the Valley of Pittsburgh, AASR (1994-2015), and being Coroneted a 33rd Degree Mason (1999). As late as 1993, he was co-editor of *The Rite News* (he likely started earlier, but they didn't list the names

prior to 1993), and he served as its editor from 1996 until his death in April.

Bill was a founding member of Hiram's Riders of the Valley of Pittsburgh for which he spent countless hours selling raffle tickets, raising money, and coordinating events all to benefit the Children's Dyslexia Center. He designed, decorated, and drove the Grand Master's float at parades all over the state of Pennsylvania. Additionally, he was also a founding board member of Ghost Light Productions, helping the new theater company get its start in the Valley. In short, Bill led a life of service.

He never asked for accolades or sang his own praises, preferring to work quietly behind the scenes. He eschewed most compliments, dismissing them with something like, "Well, someone needed to do it," or, "I'm just one part of a big committee." In fact, Bill would have been mortified to see his face on the cover of the magazine.

Bill did so much for the community, the Valley, Freemasonry in general, and his Brethren. His death will leave a void in many places for a long time to come. It is up to us to fill his very big shoes the best we can and emulate the life of a Mason's Mason. The world was better for him having been a part of it.

F A R E W E L L , M Y B R O T H E R .



by P.J. Roup, 33°

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

**Change does not change tradition.
It strengthens it.
Change is a challenge and an opportunity,
not a threat.**

—Prince Philip of England

There is a story about an experiment with monkeys which goes as follows: Start with five monkeys in a cage and hang a banana above a ladder in the center. When a monkey starts toward the banana, a burst of cold water hits the cage and drenches all the monkeys. The pattern continues for a week. Eventually, the monkeys learn that they should stay away from the ladder— associating any attempt at the ladder with the unpleasantness of a cold drenching.

Now, replace one of the monkeys with a new one. Of course, it will see the banana and start up the ladder. The other four monkeys - knowing what comes next and not wanting to be soaked – will beat him up and try to stop him. Wait a week and replace a second monkey, same result. As this continues, even the monkeys who never experienced the soaking will protect the ladder. They have no idea why they are beating up the newest monkey - they just join in. Now, continue to swap out old monkeys with new ones until you have five monkeys that have never actually been sprayed with water, but avoid the ladder at all costs. Why?

Well, that’s the way we’ve always done it!

If your takeaway from that story is that I think the Masons are a bunch of monkeys, you have missed the point. The story about change and the lessons that can be learned from not assuming that what has always been done is the only or the best way. Einstein said the definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Yet often that is precisely what we do. We have the same dinners, or the same events or the same programs during the same months even though we might see a pushback from the membership manifested in dwindling attendance or lack of volunteer support. As times change, there are things we, too, must change if we are to continue to be vital. We must find a way to offer something to men that they do not get elsewhere.

We can start by being creative. “What? Creativity in Freemasonry? Why, that’s unheard of!” I am not saying that we innovate in the ritual or make the meetings and reunions light and frivolous. On the contrary, I am a

firm believer that what goes on during our ceremonies and degrees should be reverent, enlightening, solemn, and most importantly, it should be Masonic. The ritual and the timelessness of Masonic teachings is what drew many of us here to begin with.

The challenge before our new officers is to plan a variety of events that speak to the numerous interests of the members of the Valley. They have responded with theater productions, beer tastings, degree breakfasts, car cruises, and more. The challenge to you as a member is to come out and support those events. The website, magazine, and meeting notice all have calendars with details of upcoming events. I ask you to look ahead and plan to attend as many as you can. Support your Valley officers and have a great afternoon or evening as well. They'll keep working hard, but you need to thank them with your presence and support.

The dictionary defines change as "to make or become different." Why are we as Masons change-averse? Maybe the problem is in calling it change. Maybe we should label it as improvement, progress or enhancement.

Have you heard the riddle, "How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?" The normal answer is: Twenty-one, one to change it, ten to tell him they've always used a different ladder to change burned out bulbs and 10 who grumble and swear it was just fine, if not better, burned out.

How do we make the answer to that: Twenty-one. One who notices it is out and 20 who rush—hand in hand with unanimity—to replace it?

First, we need to learn why people resist change and what can be done to help them. There are numerous

types who resist change, but the four most prevalent are those who fear failure, those who fear the unknown, those who fear loss of control and lastly, the closed-minded. Do you notice something? The descriptions of the first three types begin with the word fear.

The first type, those who fear failure need to be reminded in the words of Charles Swindoll that "[g]reat accomplishments are often attempted but only occasionally reached. Those who reach them are usually those who missed many times before. Failures are only temporary tests to prepare us for permanent triumphs."

Einstein said
the definition
of insanity is
continuing to do
the same thing
over and over
and expecting a
different result.

The second type is those who fear the unknown. They are easily brought on board with logical and rational explanations of the new plan and why it may be better than the old. For example, a simple chart showing that expenses exceed income would be enough to convince them that dues need to be increased.

We can accommodate the third type, those who worry about loss of control in another way. If you replace an unsuccessful event with a new one, naturally the chair of the former will feel a little jealousy or resentment. Inviting him to be a part of the new committee would generally solve that problem.

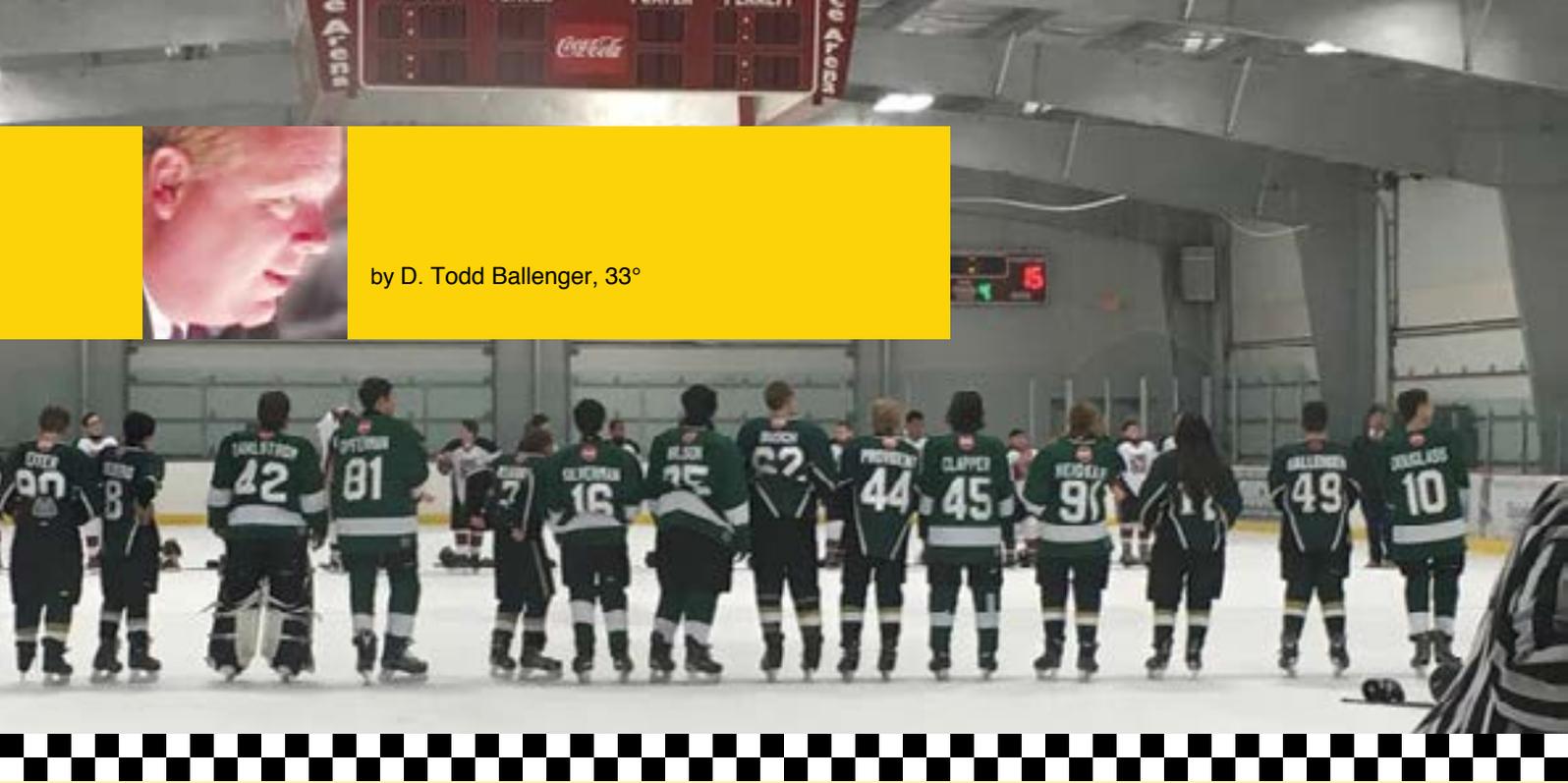
The last one – closed mindedness, can be the most difficult. There is a story that Charles H. Duell, the Commissioner of Patents in 1899, wrote a letter to President and Brother McKinley urging him to close the Patent Office because "everything that could be invented already has been invented." The story is quite likely apocryphal, but it is illustrative of an important point. Mankind has an almost infinite ability to imagine, and trying to limit that is as great an injustice as can be committed. Think about it. There was a time that it was said that man could not fly, and then man could not break the sound barrier, or get into space or to the moon. Maybe someone today is tempted to say it about travelling to Mars, but perhaps the lesson has been learned. The only thing you can do with the closed-minded is to succeed in spite of them. If you fail and hear an "I told you so," remind them of the words of our dear Brother Theodore Roosevelt:

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

So, once we know how to deal with the objections, our path is clear to move ahead, to change/improve/augment/supplement/enhance our old programs and ideas while still staying true to our time-honored tenets and teachings.

Either we can shriek and beat our chests as the new monkeys walk toward the ladder, or we can move forward united as a band of Brothers whose vision and single-mindedness of purpose will assure our success in all that we do. The latter sounds so much more appealing. ★





by D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

The SHAHA Panthers on the ice.

The Player Manifesto

PART II

Okay, boys, that was a good shift, but we've still got a lot of game left to play—so catch your breath and I'll get everyone who's new to the game up to speed.

Teams are largely made up of players and coaches. Each needs to be able to work with the other if everyone is going to win. Masonic groups are essentially the same with members who make up the Lodge and those who function as leaders. Over my time as a youth hockey coach, I've been the willing beneficiary of some very valuable training in both individual and team concepts. At one point, I found myself in a rink reading a poster displayed on a wall. I later discovered that this was a promotional tool distributed by USA Hockey known as The Player Manifesto. It encapsulates a number of concepts behind having a contributing mental attitude as a player on a team. I say "contributing" because in my mind, only attitudes that have a positive

impact on the team are going to contribute to its overall success. In Part I of what I have refused to call, Things I've Learned by Staring at the Wall in a Freezing Cold Ice Rink Before the Sun Comes Up on the Weekend, I discussed the importance of team contributions from individual players, specifically, going beyond your own limits in order to make yourself more valuable, remembering that failure does not equal defeat, and the concept of effort over outcome, which can often add to the team's overall performance. In this, Part Deux of my shared thoughts on The Player Manifesto, I would like to shed light on two additional elements of player contributions that can lead to the success of the team.

Be In Control

“You control your attitude, hustle, preparation, focus, self-talk, communication & conditioning.”—The game on the ice moves very quickly. It’s full of beauty, grace, and skill. But even though the more skilled players can appear to predict certain actions, the play largely unfolds organically. Players make decisions in the moment and are accountable for the outcome, good or bad. The idea of practicing is about eliminating as many of the unpredictable elements as possible. So, for a player to make a maximum contribution to the team, he needs to be prepared. However, this includes much more than memorizing plays and positions. It also means being responsible for his physical preparation, his level of concentration, and his attitude. A lapse in any one of these factors can cost the team. It’s the same in the Lodge. You can memorize the

words and be familiar with the mechanics, but are you comfortable enough in your preparation to handle the unexpected? Is your focus strong enough to incorporate a change within your existing system or can you successfully improvise a solution on the fly? Having the right mental attitude at all times can not only make you a positive contributor by improving your own game, but it is often influential to others in the room. The extra effort will pay off both in and around you.

Earning Your A to be C

“You’ll be a better player if you coach.”—Though there are distinctive differences between players and coaches, even players have their own leaders on the ice. These are the teachers and mentors within their own peer group. In hockey, a team usually selects two players to wear the “A” and one to wear the “C”.



Ian Ballenger takes aim.

Players wearing the “A” are alternate captains (not “assistants”), and one typically represents the offensive corps and the other the defensemen. The player wearing the “C” is the team captain and is often not so much chosen as he is “revealed.” It’s a job that seems to select the man. See what I did there? You can be valuable to your team or your Lodge even if your name isn’t at the top of the officer list. If you come to the team with focus, preparation, and a good attitude, then you are poised to lead, regardless of your title. Anyone can be a mentor, and by sharing your knowledge and positive thoughts with others, you are preparing your team for success. Leadership can take many forms and doesn’t always show up at the top position. Some leaders are good on the ice, others in the locker room. And some end up becoming better coaches than players—but that’s another manifesto for another time. ★

BE BOLD WITH YOUR DREAMS.
 NURTURE THE DREAMS THAT INSPIRE YOU TO GO BEYOND YOUR LIMITS.
 EFFORT OVER OUTCOME. RELENTLESS PURSUIT.
 SPEAK ONLY IN THE POSITIVE. WIN THE PUCK. TRAIN IN REALITY. CREATE A CULTURE OF PLAY.
BE A PLAYER.
 DO OR DO NOT, THERE IS NO TRY. THE GAME TEACHES THE GAME.
CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS THE HARDER I WORK, THE LUCKIER I GET. **STUFF HAPPENS.**
 AFRAID TO LOSE OR FIGHT TO WIN? DARE TO BE CREATIVE.
ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING. PASSION.
 YOU MAY FAIL, BUT YOU ARE NEVER A FAILURE.
 YOU CONTROL YOUR ATTITUDE, HUSTLE, PREPARATION, FOCUS, SELF-TALK, COMMUNICATION & CONDITIONING.
IMPROVE. COOPERATION = COOPERATION & COMPETITION.
 YOU’LL BE A BETTER PLAYER IF YOU COACH. IT’S NOT HOW BIG YOU ARE, WHEN YOU ARE ON THE ICE, IT’S HOW GOOD YOU CAN BE.
BE ON THE ICE.

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D. Todd Ballenger, 33⁺, is a Past Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection and an Assistant Coach for the South Hills Amateur Hockey Association (SHAHA) Panthers. His glacial speed is still vexing to opponents and his facial expressions are the result of too many years wearing only a half-shield. You can read more from Bro. Ballenger at his blog, The Luminosity of Souls (luminosityofsouls.blogspot.com).

Valley Scholarship Awards and Honors Night Recipients



Standing (L to R): Brooke Thomas and Erin Polnar. Seated (L to R): Sarah Nelson, Alexandra Dimoff, Angelina Buechler, and Kathleen Bayer
Not pictured: Carol Nelson and Sharon Nelson.



(L to R): Recipient for Pennsylvania Consistory, Peter A. Leary, 32°, MSA, and David W. Morgans, 33°, Commander-In-Chief.



(L to R): Robert B. Malwitz, 32°, Most Wise Master, and John M. Breitigan, 32°, recipient for Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix.

On May 25th, the Valley of Pittsburgh held its annual Celebration of Education Dinner. Eight Abbot Scholarships and twelve Valley of Pittsburgh Scholarships were

awarded to eligible applicants. Prior to the awarding of the scholarships, four members of our Valley were honored as Exemplary Masonic Family Men.

Criteria and applications for next year's scholarships will be available on the Valley website beginning on January 1st.



Standing (L to R): Jayme Winter, Sydney Swogger, Domenic Pascucci, Tyler Carpenetti, Samantha McKown, and Hannah Morrow. Seated (L to R): Kaylee Antill, Sunna Kureishy, Moriah McGuier, Megan Handy, and Katie Handy. Not pictured: Brandon Buck.



(L to R): William J. Wiker, 32°, Sovereign Prince, and Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°, recipient for Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem.



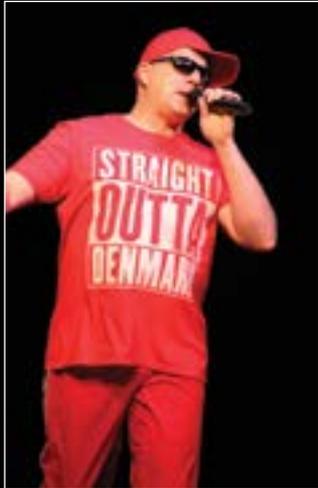
(L to R): Sam H. Jesse, 32°, Thrice Potent Master, and Branden T. Plesh, 32°, recipient for Gourgas Lodge of Perfection.

It's A Wrap

On May 19th and 20th, Ghost Light Productions brought Bruce Kane's witty comedy, *The Case of the Prince Formerly Known as Hamlet: A Justin Thyme Mystery* to the Valley Stage. If you missed it, you can catch Ghost

Light's next production on September 7, 8, and 9. September 7th will be a special preview show following the Stated Meeting of the Valley. Check the website for details, or follow Ghost Light Productions on Facebook to get

up to the minute information on auditions, shows, and other upcoming special events.





"It ended like most of my cases... with everybody dead."

THE CASE OF THE PRINCE FORMERLY KNOWN AS HAMLET
A JUSTIN THYME MYSTERY
BY BRUCE KANE

MAY 19 & 20 7:30 PM
GREATER PITTSBURGH MASONIC CENTER | 3579 MASONIC WAY | PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

For tickets, contact the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh at **412-939-3579** or visit **eventbrite.com**

\$12 Regular Ticket
\$8 Earlybird Ticket*
*Available until 10:00 AM April 15

GH:ST





It's A Baseball Night at the Ball Yard!

Pirates vs Cubs

The annual Valley of Pittsburgh Baseball outing at PNC Park.

Friday, June 16, 2017

\$55.00 includes

- ★ Box Seat for the game.
- ★ Tailgate party begins at 5:30 p.m. at PNC Park parking lot.



Questions? - 412-939-3579

Baseball Ticket Order

Enclosed is my check payable to **Gourgas Lodge of Perfection** for \$_____ for _____ tickets to the baseball game at PNC Park on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 7:05 p.m.

Name _____

Phone () _____

Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh. PA 15237
Please include a *stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope* for return of game tickets and directions to the tail gate party.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!
Don't be disappointed, order early!

D. William Roberts, 33° TRIBUTE DINNER

*to benefit
The Masonic Children's Home at Sewickely*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017, 7 P.M.
GREATER PITTSBURGH MASONIC CENTER

\$100/per person

Cocktail Hour - Sit Down Dinner - Dessert

Reservations Required (with payment) by completing coupon.

D. WILLIAM ROBERTS TRIBUTE DINNER
to benefit The Masonic Children's Home at Sewickely

Enclosed is my check made payable to Gourgas Lodge of Perfection for \$_____ for _____ tickets to the **D. William Roberts Tribute Dinner** at the GPMC on Saturday, August 5, 2017 at 7 P.M.

Name _____

Phone () _____

Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

*For any questions or further details,
please call the Valley office at 412-939-3579*

HIRAMP'S HIDEAWAY SUMMER STAG PARTY!

AT THE WONDERLING RESIDENCE

FRI. AUG. 11, 5:30PM

\$10 PER PERSON **ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!**

Enclosed is my check made payable to Gourgas Lodge of Perfection for \$_____ for _____ tickets to the **Hiram's Hideaway Summer Stag Party** on Friday, August 11, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

Name _____ Ph _____

Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

*For any questions or further details,
please call the Valley office at 412-939-3579*

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection



by Sam H. Jesse, 32°,
Thrice Potent Master



new members why they should join. You must also become more active in our Valley—ask questions, come to something other than the Stated Meeting, and participate in an event, degree, or committee.

Don't forget our Closing Charge —
"In the world, men know 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."

It has been an honor and privilege to be the Thrice Potent Master of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, to serve with the honorable men on this line, and to work with the officers of Chapter, Council, and Consistory. ★

Before I sat down to write this, my last message as Thrice Potent Master of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, I paused and thought about the last seven years and the many rewarding experiences I was privileged to have and the brothers that I have had the chance to meet, work with, and, unfortunately, said goodbye to.

We have all heard "you get out of it what you put into it" in our Lodges and other Masonic groups we happen to belong to. Well, my message is slightly different —You get into it what you take out of it. Our Valley's membership is greatly skewed toward the older end of the scale – this means we are going to have a sharp decrease in membership over the next 4 to 7 years. If we do not recognize this now and begin to take active measures to lessen the effects, our Valley will diminish not only in numbers but in what we can offer our members.

To attract new members, you must "take out of it" the very best qualities, attitudes, and behaviors of a Scottish Rite Mason. You must show potential

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Featuring a surprise gourmet menu prepared by Pete Contouris of the Masonic Villages at Sewickley

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BEVERAGES
ENTERTAINMENT
FIRE PIT
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\$10

Reservations

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Make Plans NOW!

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Fraternal Night Out

Lernerville Speedway

- ★ \$14 Admission
- ★ Reserved Seating
- ★ \$1 Dog Night
- ★ Pit Tour Included
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- ★ Fab4 Race Night
- ★ Bring Friends/Family

Please use this portion of the form to make your reservations and include a self-addressed stamped envelope so we can send you your tickets in advance. Checks should be made payable to Allegheny Valley Coliseum #19. Make your reservations no later than July 1st, 2017. Reservations MUST be mailed to John J. Colaninno, Secretary, 610 Whispering Pines Drive, Silexonia, PA 15144-4734. Any questions, please contact John Colaninno at #12-215-3347.

Name: _____ Last: _____

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Please make _____ Reservations for the Lernerville Speedway Night at \$14.00 per person for a total of \$_____

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 Zack S. Morgans, 32° Junior Warden
 Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° Orator
 David L. Moore, 32° Master of Ceremonies
 Eric S. Teasdale, 32° Guard

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 Erastus Z. Allen, 32° High Priest
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Elwood R. Schultise, 33°

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D. William Roberts, 33°

ALLEGIANCE

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 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 whose Officers are: Ill. John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, *Sovereign Grand Commander*, Ill. Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, *Deputy for Pennsylvania*. Other Active members for Pennsylvania are: Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°, Ill. George Nakonetschny, 33°, Ill. Robert J. Bateman, 33°.



CALENDAR
 Valley of Pittsburgh Events
 2017



GPMC - Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

June

16 - Pirates Game
 24 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

July

08 - Council of Deliberations - Valley Forge
 14 - Wild Things Game
 29 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

August

04 - Kennywood Day
 05 - Bill Roberts Memorial Dinner
 26 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
 26 - Blood Drive - GPMC

August (continued)

26-30 - Supreme Council - Rochester, NY

September

07 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC
 10 - Car Cruise - GPMC
 30 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
 30 - Oktoberfest - GPMC

October

07 - Walk-A-Thon - GPMC
 07 - Beer Tasting - GPMC
 28 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC



Evening of Baseball Fun
 Friday, July 14th at 7:05 p.m.
 Consol Energy Park, Washington, PA

Windy City Thunderbolts vs. The Wild Things
 Your \$10 ticket will include a tailgate party including hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and beverages in the pavilion at the far end of the parking lot from 5:30 – 7 p.m. also, reserved seating and post-game fireworks!
 Send check payable to: Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

Mail to: A.A.S.R. Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center,
 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed Long Envelope
 WILDTHINGS – Friday, July 14th

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ tickets @ \$10 each

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address: _____

Valley of Pittsburgh

GOURGAS LODGE OF PERFECTION

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA
Instituted 20 January 1852

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 412-939-3579 **Fax:** 412-939-0560

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Veterans are Invited to Join the PA Masons



Veterans Incentive Program www.pamasons.org/incentives

Freemasons recognize that our freedom isn't free. Every male Veteran, including those servicemen who are in Active Duty, Reserves and/or Honorably Discharged, will have his initiation fees reduced by \$50 from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Lodge he chooses to join, for a total savings of \$100.



New Member Incentive Program www.pamasons.org/incentives

If you have identified worthy men whom you know would be excellent Masons, wait no longer to invite them to be part of our great fraternity! Not only will you offer him the gift of membership, but you will be rewarded for your efforts, as well! With the new membership incentive program, after a candidate receives his First Degree, the first line signer will be credited with 60 points. He can either accumulate his points, or he can immediately receive merchandise displayed on the Pennsylvania Masons' Incentive Program website.

Join us for a One Day Masonic Journey
Saturday, September 23, 2017 www.bapamason.com