

JUNE 2018

riteNOW

THE MAGAZINE OF THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH



LIGHT IN THE RITE

valleyofpittsburgh.org

In Memoriam

Since our last issue, the following members of the Valley of Pittsburgh have been called home:

Ill. °Eric Krauss Cohen, 33°

Albert M. Barnett	Clarence L. Miller
Wade Forrest Bender	George Milne
Carl F. Brass Jr.	Thomas J. Moore
George R. Coleman Jr.	Norman A. Navrotski
James W. Condrin	James L. Newell
John M. Daniels	William R. Nicholson
Norman J. Doyle	Kenneth A. Romandy
Walter Emil Dyck Jr.	Dean L. Rose
Clarence Frank	Donald R. Sauer
Walter C. Galbreath	Arthur R. Schultise
Richard L. Garboden	Kenneth W. Schwarzel
Sol N. Gross	Kenneth R. Scott
Ralf W. Heimbuecher	George R. Simmons
Albert W. Holtgraver	David F. Smallwood
George E. Hulse Sr., MSA	Edgar A. Soyke
Wendell M. Keck	Dale E. Sprowls
Robert H. Leuenberger	Robert M. Thompson
Richard E. Levy	Harry Igor Venmar
David V. Lewis	Bert N. Vujnovic
Robert A. Long	John M. White
William R. Lottes	John L. Wickstrom
Gerald Q. Maguire	William A. Wilson
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Vol. XXVII, No. 4
June 2018

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RiteNow magazine is the official publication of the Valley of Pittsburgh, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, District of Pennsylvania, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA. Opinions expressed are those of the individual author(s). Information is obtained from correspondence, press releases, Masonic publications and miscellaneous sources, which in many cases, cannot be verified. **RiteNow** magazine is published four times a year. © 2018, Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15237. Phone: 412-939-3579. Email: secretary@valley-ofpittsburgh.org

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on the cover

This issue's cover was inspired by Pink Floyd's iconic album, *The Dark Side of the Moon*.

Visible light is not composed of just one color. When it is refracted through the use of a prism, we can see that it holds within it all the colors of the rainbow. The same is true of Masonic Light. While it certainly has some universality, when "refracted" through the prism of each Mason's experiences, it can reveal a different side of its nature.

We hope you enjoy experiencing the full spectrum of Masonic Light within the pages of this edition of *RiteNow*.



The Deputy

A message from the Supreme Council Deputy for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

BRIGHT Lights in Our Rite

By Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

THE FOCUS OF THIS ISSUE IS “Light in the Rite.” That will mean something different to each contributor to this edition of *RiteNow* and also to each member who reads it.

I may be guilty of regularly making reference to the years in the past here in the Valley, so let me change it up by stating how I view the light in the Rite today.

The light of the Valley of Pittsburgh has shined BRIGHT during these recent years. This publication, all of the informative articles, the private thoughts of the Presiding Officers, and the modern feel make this publication BRIGHT.

The tremendous amount of work that has been put into modernizing a few of the degrees and then seeing the new degrees so well received makes the Valley shine BRIGHT.

The addition of the informal Saturday degrees which not only bring out more than 100 Brothers, but also help support the Fellowship breakfast is a BRIGHT light.

Ghost Light Productions requires an extraordinary amount of work and the final product is enjoyed by so many Masons and nonMasons alike. Ghost Light shines BRIGHT.

Short Stated Meetings with dinner for the members including the member’s significant other and combined with

entertainment is BRIGHT.

The Valley of Pittsburgh has at least ten times the number of members of the Sovereign Grand Commander’s Builders Council than any other Valley. All of this, in addition to the generosity of other member’s estates has made our Children’s Dyslexia Center one of the few fully-funded Centers. This is a BRIGHT LIGHT! Teaching children to read and write is even BRIGHTER.

It is clear
to see that
the Valley
of Pittsburgh
operates in
a spirit of
cooperation

It is clear to see that the Valley of Pittsburgh operates in a spirit of cooperation, with all officers having an equal voice in the decisions made. The Valley operates democratically and not

autocratically. This is a new concept which shines BRIGHT.

All of these thoughts come to my mind as I compare today with the years in the past. The Valley of Pittsburgh has a new way of doing things, and the new way makes our future light shine the BRIGHTEST!

For me to be a very small part of the Valley and to watch closely the manner in which the Valley operates, the many activities that they have, and especially the obvious enthusiasm of the officers, makes me proud to be a part of the Valley of Pittsburgh’s very BRIGHT light. □



Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

The Chief

A message from the Commander-in-Chief of Pennsylvania Consistory

CONSISTORY

Step Into the Light

By Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS, welcome to the Valley of Pittsburgh. To our more seasoned members, this is a reminder of all we have to offer.

We are thrilled you decided to continue your Masonic development with us. Our group offers something for everyone. From diverse entertainment, to children's events. From the Valley's Vintage and Classic Car Club to Hiram's Riders motorcyclists. From golf outings to 5k walks. There are a multitude of



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opportunities to grow in our theater group, including but not limited to stage crew, makeup, degree captain, wardrobe, set building, sound, writing and acting (both speaking and non-speaking parts). As you will see there is fun for the entire family, however our core mission is to help each other seek light.

Scattered throughout our Masonic ritual and history are references to men seeking light. In our DNA there is good and evil. Each of us battles our demons through the decisions we make every day. In many Masonic buildings exist a parquet floor of black and white tiles representing the good and evil in us. There are always more white tiles as we as Masons believe that in each of us there is more good than evil. In the 32nd Degree it is said that "the Light of Freemasonry should illumine the darkness of the world." Later in the degree, the tempters ply their trade to convince Constance to abandon his vigil. The scene is set in dreary darkness. When the battle is won, and the curtain opens, the set is bright and ornate. Many of us remember the classic angel vs. devil scene in the 1978 blockbuster movie *Animal House*. The angel wins the day in persuading Lawrence to do the right thing.

In the Holy Bible, "Light" is a symbol used in reference to seeking wisdom and God as found in the Book of Isaiah (60:1, 2).

Arise, shine, your light has dawned; the glory of Jehovah has risen upon

you! Although darkness covers the earth, and a thick mist the peoples, upon you Jehovah will shine; over you his glory shall be visible.

And again in verses 19, 20:
No longer shall the sun be your light by day, nor the brightness of the moon your illumination at night: Jehovah will be your everlasting light and your God your radiant glory. Your sun shall set no more, nor your moon wane: to you Jehovah shall be an endless light when your days of mourning are fulfilled.

My Brother, what we learn in the degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry is a continuation of your Masonic enlightenment. It is the value you receive as a member. When we meet

When we meet and interact, our like-minded traits are infectious.

and interact, our like-minded traits are infectious. Our best traits rub off on each other. Our fellowship together makes us all better men. That doesn't mean we can't have a great time doing so. The events and programs listed earlier ensure that there is enjoyment in growing together. If you have any questions or concerns or would like help with finding your niche in the Valley, you can email me personally at j1derling@comcast.net.

Remember, you are who you hang with. I am personally inviting you give Scottish Rite a try. Come and hang with us. It would be my honor to get to know you and "Seek the Light" together.

"Foot to Foot"



RiteHouse Evening with Scott, Rob and Greg of The Clarks

Friday, March 16, 2018

Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks played to a capacity crowd for the inaugural RiteHouse Evening. Three hundred attended this fantastic evening of food, drink, and acoustic entertainment. After the show, guests had an opportunity to meet the band, take selfies, and get autographs. Proceeds were donated to the Valley Hospitaler.

More RiteHouse Evenings are planned for the next Scottish Rite year, including an encore performance by Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks. Check the website and future issues of *RiteNow* for details.





News



The Potent

A message from the Thrice Potent Master of the Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Shine

By Shawn P. Lang, 32°

“...AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE light.” I hope the light on your journey in Freemasonry has been bright my Brethren, and as my year as Thrice Potent Master comes to an end, I see the future of the Valley of Pittsburgh shining brighter than ever.

From light, Brethren, comes reflection, so I would like to take a little bit of your time to do just that—reflect. Over the past several years as I have served the Valley in the Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, one thing I can most certainly say is that it has been enlightening. On occasion, I have seen way more than I truly wish I had, and on others, have seen things I pray I never forget. You see, that is the real beauty of being a member here. It is a collection of events and memories we share with each other all in the hope that we become better men, more accomplished Brothers, more enlightened Masons. Is there a better way to spend time away from the world than to be with those you can so fondly call Brothers?

One of the things that stands out as I look back is how men from all stations of life come together, stand by each other and lift each other up. This is a great example of the light we all seek. How great it is that when put to the task, we can rise up for the betterment of each other. To be a part of an organi-

zation that truly has my best interest at heart is both humbling and an honor.

The great news from all of this is that you don't have to be a line officer to experience the light in the Valley. Come out to the stated meetings and classes.

I hope
the light
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has been
bright

Partake in the never-ending events that the Valley has to offer: The RiteHouse Evening, the RiteLightning fellowship nights, the golf outing, the Christmas and Holiday parties, the Walk-A-Thon, just to name a few. Whatever you choose, the fact is simply, you have opportunities here that become the inspiration for generations to come.

Take pride in being a part of this Valley. You are vital to its success.

It has been my privilege to serve this year as Thrice Potent Master. I truly hope that this year has been enlightening. I am extremely excited for the direction I see us heading. I know that it is a lot of hard work, but as the fruits of our labor are realized, I believe the work will become easier with your help. Our Valley can only succeed if you are kind enough to share the light you carry inside you and continue to shine.

□



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A LIGHT BULB OVER OUR HEADS

By Rev. John H. Piper, 33°

WHEN A CARTOONIST WANTS TO express that his character is having an insight, an understanding, or a great idea, the artist draws a light bulb above the head of the person in the cartoon. In the real world in which we live, when metaphorically a light bulb lights up in our mind and we have a moment of insight, we call that moment an “epiphany.” At this time of the year when we have come out of a very long, dark winter, it is appropriate for us to reflect on the epiphanies we have experienced in life.

For me, one of those moments was in 1965 when, as a candidate for the First Degree, I first found myself in a Lodge Hall and soon went from darkness to light to begin my journey in Freemasonry—first in the York Rite and then later in the Scottish Rite—a journey that continues even to this day.

As the years have gone by, my life has been greatly enriched as I have seen degree after degree exemplified here in our Valley and elsewhere—each degree with its portrayal of a significant life truth. At the April meeting of our Valley, we had the honor of seeing David Eichelberger receive a citation from the Supreme Council for having witnessed all of our degrees up to the 32nd degree. His achievement should be an example to us all.

I am sure that each of us has had epiphanies—moments of truth—in lodge that have impacted us and others for good. As Freemasons we have, as we say, “the truth



Share the Light
of Freemasonry

that sets men free” and we do make “good men better,” but often we keep that truth to ourselves. This is not as it should be. We need to lead others to the light!

Centuries ago, the prophet Isaiah told the children of Israel that they were called to be “a light to the nations” (Is 49:6). At Christmas Eve candlelight services, I always tell my flock to take their light out into the darkness and “brighten the corner where you are!”

A number of years ago, Past Grand Master William Slater had as his theme, “Share the Light of Freemasonry.” I even had the official bumper sticker with that theme on my car until I totaled the car. I got another sticker, and it lasted until I totaled that car. (It is a wonder anyone ever rides with me!)

So as members of the Valley of Pittsburgh, I implore each of us to invite a fellow Mason who stopped his journey in Freemasonry at the 3rd degree to join us in the epiphanies and adventures that await them in the degrees of the Scottish Rite.

I hope a light bulb has lit up above your head or in your mind and you will act on the idea of inviting someone to share this further Masonic journey with you.

□



Brother David Eichelberger was presented with a certificate from the Supreme Council for having witnessed all 29 Degrees of the Northern Jurisdiction.

The Sovereign

A message from the Sovereign Prince of the Pennsylvania Council Princes of Jerusalem

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

Light Rekindled

By Erastus Z. Allen, 32°

LIGHT HAS METAPHORICALLY represented the means of understanding since ancient times. Before electricity, light at night was very scarce and was expensive to produce by candles and lamps. We should understand that while to have literal light was rare, it was also uncommon to understand something for oneself before the modern age, before The Enlightenment.

Freemasonry emerged during The Age of Enlightenment, a period of intellectual history during which the authority of churches and monarchies waned while independent thought lead to advances in science and democratic government. The Royal Society, founded in 1660, shared membership with some of the early leadership of Freemasonry. Their motto, 'Nullius in



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Verba' [Not only by words], signified a questioning and open scientific process where assumptions promulgated by those in power, like the idea that the sun circled the earth, could be examined critically without fear of reprisal.

Immanuel Kant, in his 1784 essay *What is Enlightenment?*, wrote: *"Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed immaturity. Immaturity is the inability to use one's understanding without guidance from another. This immaturity is self-imposed when its cause lies not in lack of understanding, but in lack of resolve and courage to use it without guidance from another. Sapere Aude! [dare to know] Have courage to use your own understanding!"*—that is the motto of enlightenment.

We may be tempted to think the struggle for Light, or Enlightenment, may be over. The war against superstition and authoritarian rule has been won. However, I believe on closer examination we would conclude that the battle lines have simply moved, and that perhaps a great many people do not realize there is another challenge we must rise to.

We live now in a time where knowledge seems plentiful. Public education, a project in which Freemasonry played an important role, has done much to spread knowledge more evenly among the population. The content of college courses and almost any type of information is readily available online. Yet, our appetites for information are passive. We are much more content to watch TV than to make a diligent search, let alone

to cover any territory to a large extent. A new velvet hoodwink is gradually placed over our eyes.

The information available passively has been warped. Reality seems to shift under our feet according to our favored social media circles or news channels. A surprising number of people believe again that the earth is flat. Our vision is blurred by tribalism and we feel more distant from the facts of a matter perhaps than ever before.

We may be tempted to think the struggle for Light, or Enlightenment, may be over.

We would be forgiven for seeking some form of escape. I find myself dreaming of going full-on Thoreau with a cabin in the woods, but the words of Marcus Aurelius halt my cowardly flight. He wrote almost two thousand years ago that this type of escape is "altogether a mark of the most common sort of men, for it is in thy power whenever thou shalt choose to retire into thyself." Got it. We need more quiet contemplation. I think I knew that.

As a Rite, we purport to "have the truth that makes men free." A renewed responsibility therefore rests on our shoulders: to again question our assumptions and sharpen our discernment. In this present condition, what do we desire most? □

TheWise

A message from the Most Wise Master of the Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix

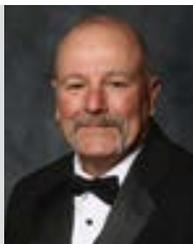
ROSE CROIX

Masonry, Muzzleloaders, and Mentoring

By James C. Mayes, 32°

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE WONDERING what these three things have in common. Hopefully by the end of this article it'll all make a little sense.

It all started a couple of years ago. A good friend (and brother) and I were having a conversation—you know the



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normal stuff some guys talk about—hunting and guns. Soon, the topic of muzzleloaders came up.

I knew he had built some muzzleloaders but was surprised when he suggested that I should build my own to hunt with. Well, I am a little mechanically inclined and I have cut a piece of wood or two before, so I thought, *How hard could it be to build a muzzleloader?*

So we went out and purchased the “lock, stock and barrel” to get started on this project. Being the good friend he was, he offered me his knowledge, guidance, and assistance. I figured with his help I'd have this gun done in no time. We would usually spend a Sunday here and there in his basement working on it.

Oh, those days also involved some great conversations about Freemasonry as well as a tasty dinner prepared by his wife. But the process was taking way longer than I expected! With every part and piece and cut, shape and placement, he would explain to me not only how to do it but why it was done that way. He even made me do it “old-school” using almost exclusively hand tools. It turned out well though because I ended up learning a whole lot about muzzleloaders and the men who built them.

So now you may ask, *how does this have anything to do with masonry and mentoring?* Well, having mentored a

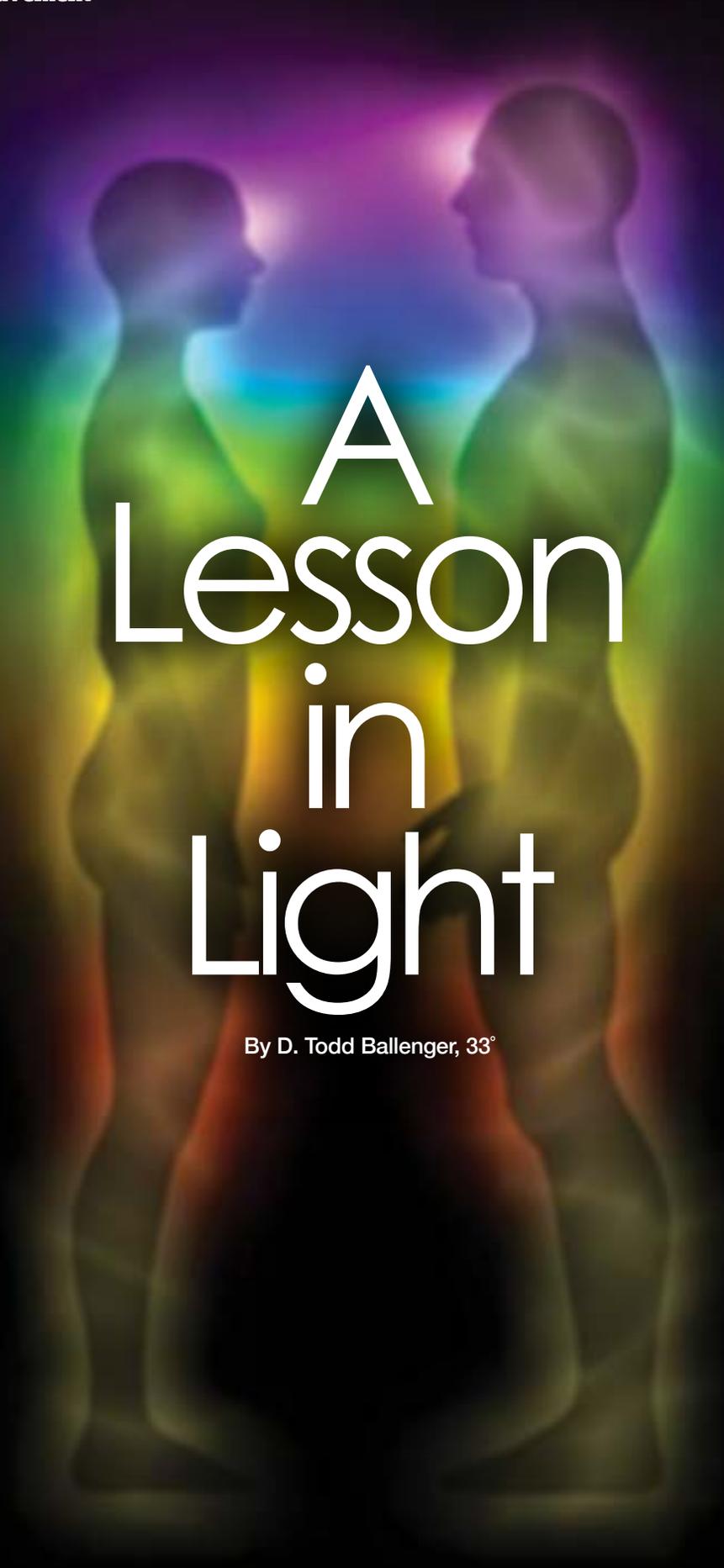
Brother or two in my home Lodge, I began thinking how the two were similar. It would be a shame if a man joined Lodge, went through his degrees, and simply just became a Mason without a friend, a brother, and a mentor to give him instruction; to show him the tools of the craft and their meaning; to learn some of the history of Freemasonry and the men who were involved with it; and most of all, to teach him what it means to be a Mason.

I am a very fortunate man to have been blessed with so many great mentors since joining Freemasonry and have tried my hardest to pass that knowledge on to the brothers that I've mentored in my home Lodge. I didn't want their experience to be a hurried-up process just to “get the gun together,” or just to “become a Mason.”

Having said all that, I only ask this of each of you: When you bring a man into Lodge or sign a petition for an appendant body, take a little time. Show him some light so he doesn't miss out on what Freemasonry has to offer him or what he may be able to offer Freemasonry.

Be a friend, a brother and a mentor! Trust me, they will forever appreciate it. Oh, and about that muzzleloader? Nope, it still isn't finished, but the knowledge and time spent with my brother and friend will forever be appreciated! Yep, I'm still being mentored!

I figured with his help I'd have this gun done in no time.



A Lesson in Light

By D. Todd Ballenger, 33°



D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

“Look carefully around you and recognize the luminosity of souls. Sit beside those who draw you to that.” —Rumi

Without a doubt, this is one of my all-time favorite quotes from the Sufi poet, Rumi. It reminds me to look for the light in others and to make sure that my own light is visible as well. Now of course I'm speaking (okay, writing) figuratively about our—mine and your—inner light, or spirit. It's easy to see, as so often is the case, the deeper meanings of Freemasonry as they appear in nature. This is certainly true with Rumi's luminosity as a reference to light.

First, we must realize that there are different kinds of light. We have incandescent light, fluorescent light, firelight. Some types we can make instantly with the flip of a switch or the push of a button. We take it for granted because we can create it at will. Other forms, like firelight, require a bit more effort and at times can even be dangerous if not handled properly. But our most precious form of light comes from a natural light, the sun. We have no control over it, but our very existence depends on it. It is the most important source of light we know, and yet its benefits take the longest time to manifest as it travels more than 93 million miles to reach us.

Masonically, when we speak of “light,” we are referring to knowledge, wisdom, or some form of insight or manifestation of truth. Some knowledge is readily accessible and easy to obtain. Some is slightly more difficult to acquire but has greater usefulness. Often though, the most important types are very difficult to come by, require time and patience to find and understand, and may even be vanishing commodities. Let's start our search by asking a question: What is it you most desire?

We are all familiar with incandescent light. This is the light found in common light bulbs used in most of our homes. Incandescent light bulbs produce light by passing an electrical current through a tungsten wire filament. The filament, being

very thin, offers good resistance to the passing current and turns the electrical energy into heat. As the filament heats up, it begins to glow and—aha!—emit light. What you may not know is that ninety percent of the energy produced by incandescent lighting is heat, while only ten percent of the energy is actually light. Is this the sort of light you're seeking in Freemasonry? It's simple, inexpensive, and readily available. It may even burn brightly in you—for a while. But is the incandescent bulb - the ten percent light produced by your efforts—what you were looking for when you joined? Perhaps not; however, it is precisely what you're going to get when you expend a minimal amount of energy in your search for personal knowledge. If you only make the effort to gain the most meager sample of the wisdom the Fraternity has to offer, how long do you think it will be before your light grows dim?

Masonically, when we speak of “light,” we are referring to knowledge, wisdom, or some form of insight or manifestation of truth.

Fluorescent lights are altogether different from their incandescent brothers. They consist of phosphorus-coated glass tubes containing an ionized gas, such as mercury vapor. An electric current passing through the bulb energizes the mercury vapor, which sends out ultraviolet energy. The phosphor coating absorbs this energy and begins to glow and emit light. The interesting part is that fluorescent bulbs last ten to twenty times longer than incandescents, use only one-quarter to one-third of the energy, and give off fifteen percent more light on average. Do you recognize someone with this kind of knowledge? In my mind, this is the member who has made a greater investment in his study of the Craft, and then suddenly stopped. This is the Brother who knows all the right words, but falls short of understanding their meaning. His knowledge is limited, though he may neither know nor accept that fact. Knowledge without wisdom can be counterproductive, much as the stark white light of the fluorescent bulb can be harsh and uninviting.

Now consider this: incandescent and fluorescent lights are synthetic, that is to say, man-made. Both are manufactured

Upon the Checkered Pavement

artificially. Each type of light has its uses and its limitations. Similarly, knowledge sought after and learned for the least of motives is likely to last only a short period of time or be altogether misunderstood. Light emanating from natural sources tends to be much more brilliant and useful.

Fire, for example, has a myriad of uses including, of course, being a source of light. The light from a fire can be used to fill a room, illuminate a pathway, or signal for help. It can also be used as a source of heat, a means of cooking, and as a method

The ultimate example of organic light is the sun. Created by the Great Architect Himself, it burns brightest in the Heavens and not only provides all humanity with light and warmth, but is necessary for the growth of most living things on earth. It should come as no surprise, then, that the Blazing Star is a traditional Masonic “symbol of light; of Divine direction in the journey through life; and symbolizes a true Freemason who, by perfecting himself in the way of truth (knowledge), becomes like a blazing star.” (John T. Matthews, PM, MasterMason.info, 1999).



of purification. The flame can be naturally occurring—the result of a lightning strike—for instance. It also can be created by friction, say, rubbing sticks together or by the forceful contact of flint on steel. The point here is that fire is an organic source of light. This type of knowledge is very valuable when identified. The Brother who has this light rarely needs encouragement. His light simply continues to burn as long as there is wisdom and learning available to feed the flame. He must be careful, though, not to allow others to smother him with doubts and negativity.

The truth is that in our travels, each one of us has been one or more of these types of light. Where you are in your journey and how bright or pure your light shines is entirely up to you. Some are content with a spark and a candle. Others are destined to burn brightly for ages to come. The secret is to care for the light that is in you. Feed it; nurture it so that it remains lit and enables you to continue along your own path toward enlightenment and luminosity.

□

The Office

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

What Your Dues Do

By David W. Morgans, 33°



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DO YOU KNOW THAT DUES ARE due? That's right Brethren, it's that magical time of the year when you get to respond to the dues notices that will be heading your way during the latter part of June. Paying dues is a necessary component to remaining a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the great Valley of Pittsburgh but your \$90.00 annual dues also mean much more.

Paying dues gives you the opportunity to support the ongoing work of the Valley which includes, but is not limited to, providing excellent Stated meetings for not only our members but also their ladies and, at times, families; holding fantastic Classes and Reunions; having great social events for all; disseminating notices of upcoming events; the *RiteNow* magazine; providing college scholarships; and so much more.

Paying your dues gives you a chance to update your membership information so we can communicate with you quickly and easily. If you have had any changes to your address, phone number(s), or email, please let us know when you send in your dues. Also, if you haven't already let our office know about any military service you may have, please feel free to write on the back of the dues notice the branch of service, years served, and your honorable discharge date.

Returning the dues card or calling

the office also provides the families of those who have lost a loved one who belonged to our Valley an opportunity to let us know of his passing so that we may update our records and to either stop or continue to send out our newsletters and magazines to the surviving spouse depending on her preference. We will also be able to include our Brother's name at our next stated meeting as well

as in our next *RiteNow* magazine so that we may honor his memory and inform the membership of his passing.

If you are having financial struggles, then your dues notice brings you the opportunity of experiencing what Brotherly love and affection can do. Please let the office know if you need a little help with your dues this year because our Hospitalers can help. It costs you less stress and the Valley less money if you let us know you need help prior to us sending out a

second and maybe even a third dues notice.

And lastly, returning your dues notice allows you to contribute to the outstanding work that our Children's Dyslexia Center does in helping children overcome the challenges of dyslexia. Please be as generous as possible by making a donation when you return your dues.

As always, if there is anything that Darlene, Bob or I can do for you at the office, please let us know. □

Paying dues gives you the opportunity to support the ongoing work of the Valley

Grief and Grieving

By Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°

BEFORE I GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THIS TOPIC, I feel compelled to preface it with a few statements. I am, by no means, an expert on the subject. I am not even sure that I am the best person in the Valley of Pittsburgh to write this article. My educational exposure in psychiatry/psychology consisted of a single four to six-week rotation as a medical student in the late 1980s, nothing since. I never really considered this topic to be one that I would choose to explore. Ironically, the person who I would have turned to for guidance (or to write this column as he did for me with the suicide article in last summer's issue), is the person whose death has prompted me to undertake this task, our dear Illustrious Brother Eric K. Cohen who was a trained psychologist. So, I hope that this article will help some of you, as well as myself, understand some of the feelings that we have been grappling with since we lost Eric on March 4th. Eric, I know that music was a significant part of your life, so I want you to know that, as Bernie wrote and Reggie sang, "I thank the Lord there's people out there like you," and I will always think of you as "a star in the face of the sky."

Stedman's Medical Dictionary defines grief as "deep mental anguish, as that arising from bereavement." Practically speaking, grief is a natural multifaceted response to loss in general, and the loss of someone or something through death in particular. Grief is typically thought of as the emotional response to a loss. However, it often involves other aspects of a person's existence including physical and psychological health, behavioral and cognitive function, spiritual health and outlook, as well as social and cultural expectations.

The loss of a loved one is unquestionably one of life's most stressful events and has the potential to cause an emotional crisis. Emotions that people can experience include an initial stage of numbness followed by any (or all) of the following: denial, disbelief, shock, anger, confusion, yearning, sadness, despair, and guilt. These feelings are normal and are to be expected after the loss of a loved one. Mourning and grieving are the processes by which we come to accept this loss in our lives. Mourning may include social, cultural, and religious traditions with family and friends such as visitation in a funeral home, burial services in a church/synagogue followed by a shorter service at the grave site, a post burial

meal for the attendees, and various "periods of mourning" in Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, and Eastern Orthodox religions. Mourning and grieving are very personal for each of us and may last for months or even years.

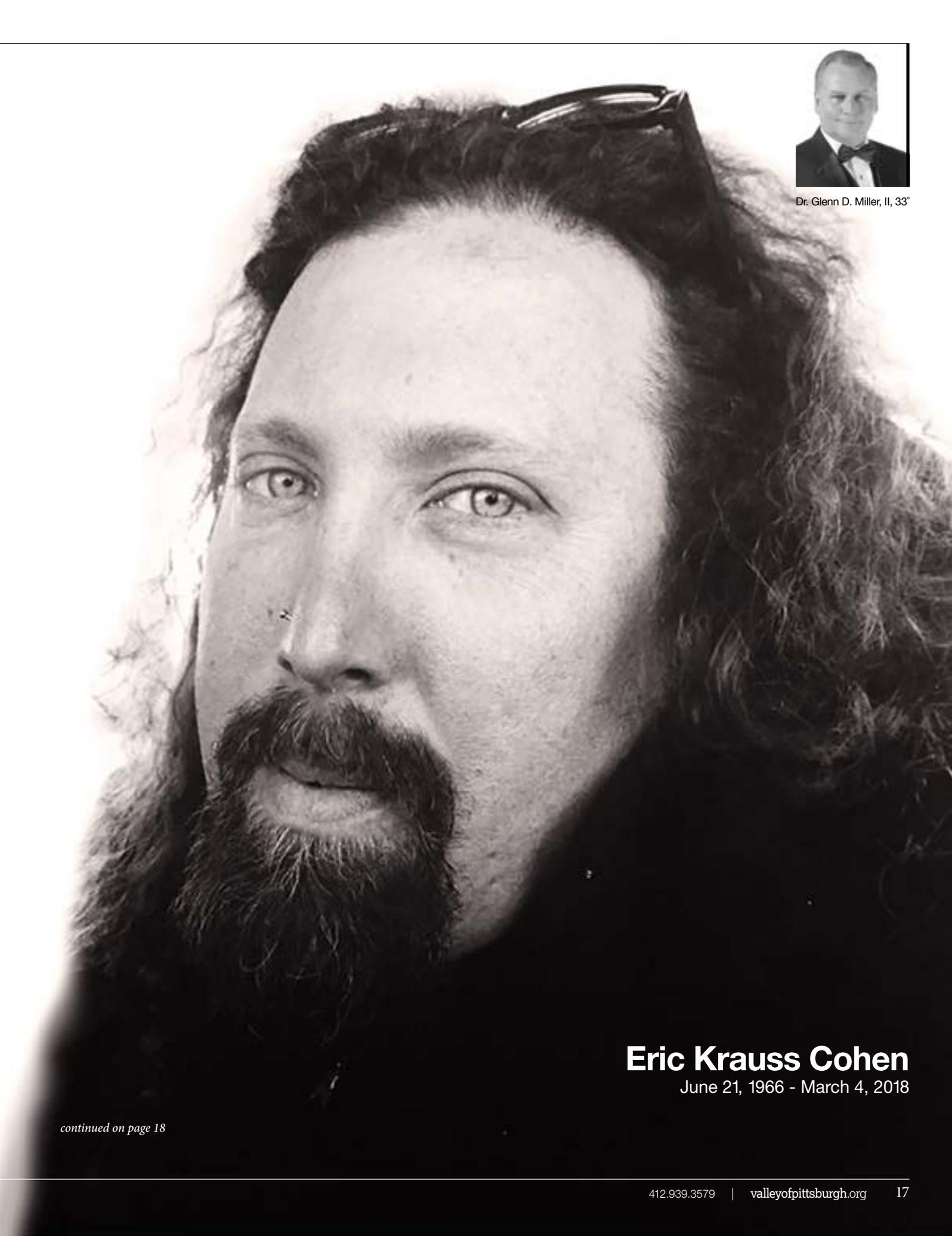
Mourning and grieving are the processes by which we come to accept this loss in our lives.

Grief and grieving can affect people emotionally, physically, and psychologically. Anxiety attacks, anger, chronic fatigue, and an obsession with the deceased are all common emotional reactions to the death of a loved one. Psychologically, clinical depression and suicidal thoughts can occur in up to 10-15% of people. People suffering from depression prior to the death event are at the greatest risk for this potential complication. Physically, acute grief has been associated with increased visits to physicians with complaints of abdominal pain, breathing difficulty, loss of appetite, intestinal upset, lack of energy, increased tobacco usage, and sleep disturbances. Grief and grieving can also weaken the body's immune system resulting in the exacerbation of existing illnesses and conditions, as well as the development of new conditions. In fact, recent studies utilizing Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) have revealed that grief can cause stress to a person's body by increasing the blood flow to the parts of the brain that stimulate the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines (proteins) throughout the body.

As previously stated, mourning and grieving are very personal and are influenced by the circumstances of a death as well as our relationship to the deceased. A child's death is probably the most traumatic event any parent could experience. There is an overwhelming sense of injustice concerning lost potential, unfulfilled dreams, and senseless suffering. Parents may feel responsible for the child's death and that they have lost a part of their own identity. Parents are not supposed to bury their children. A spouse's death is probably the second most traumatic event a person could experience.



Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33

A large, high-contrast black and white portrait of a man with long, wavy hair and a full beard. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The lighting is dramatic, with one side of his face in shadow.

Eric Krauss Cohen

June 21, 1966 - March 4, 2018

continued on page 18

Grief *continued*

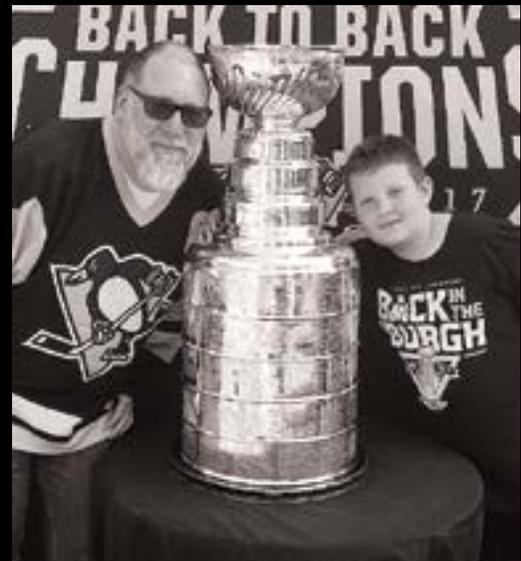
In addition to the severe emotional stress, major social adjustments may be necessitated such as having to return to work depending upon the financial situation, adjusting to single life, and possibly learning to be a single parent. The elderly are often more drastically affected by the death of a spouse because they have lost a lifetime of shared memories. Deaths due to suicide can also be extremely traumatic with survivors developing severe anger, guilt, shame, and a sense of responsibility for the death.

Successfully coping with the death of a loved one is essential for a person's mental health. Suggested coping mechanisms include seeking out friends and relatives to share your feelings with to help you work through the grieving process; postponing major changes in your life (moving, remarrying, changes in employment, having a child); taking good care of your own health; avoiding dependence on alcohol or addictive medications to cope with the grief; accepting that "life is for the living" and that the deceased would want you to enjoy the rest of your life; and to seek professional help with a psychologist or psychiatrist if your grief is overwhelming. Support groups can provide a valuable service for some people who are having difficulties with overwhelming grief.

You also have to understand that it may take months, or even years, for your life to return to some semblance of normalcy.

I hope that this brief synopsis will help us to understand some of the feelings that we have, symptoms that we are experiencing, and coping mechanisms that we need to employ when we suffer the loss of a loved one. If Brother Eric had written on this subject, I am sure that he would have gone into detail and waxed poetically and philosophically on Berger's five types of grievers, Bonanno's four trajectories of grief, and the Kubler-Ross five stages of grief theories. I did not address these theories because I do not have the training or inclination in such matters. My education in electrical engineering and medicine was much more analytical with an emphasis on the identification of a problem, analysis of data, and the formation of a solution or treatment. Information on these theories is readily available on the internet and in the library for those so inclined. I believe that the important thing to know is that the death of a loved one "hurts" and that the "hurt" will eventually lessen, but never go away, with time. For me, and many of our Brothers, "I think it's gonna be a long, long time" before the hurt of Eric's death gets better.

□



UniontownUpdate

A message from the Thrice Potent Master of the Valley of Uniontown

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

The Importance of Light

By J. Blair McGill, 32°

“IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light.’ And there was light.”

Those well-known words are the opening passage of the Holy Bible. Its place in the Scriptures should give us some idea as to the importance of light. Aside from His initial Creation, God’s first act was to bring forth light. Whether we choose to view the Holy Writings literally or figuratively, none can deny the importance of light. It is that essential.

Very few of us have ever really experienced the absolute absence of light, that is, total darkness. Having worked in the coal industry for forty-three years, I can attest to the fact that I have. Brethren, it is not a comfortable sensation. Even the slightest amount of light is welcomed. In a coal mine, we carry our light with us in the form of an electric cap lamp. Although extremely reliable, they do at times fail. I once spent the better part of an idle Sunday shift alone, illuminated by only the two-inch flame of my safety lamp after my cap lamp went out. Even that slight amount of light allowed me to function.

At our initiation we are brought from darkness to True Masonic Light. The symbolism of Light is of such importance that, as in the Bible, it comes at the beginning of our Masonic journey. On a regular basis we are told that knowledge is attained by degrees and cannot everywhere be found. We are charged with seeking wisdom, and we are admonished that the passage is difficult. The lessons we learn as we progress through the Blue Lodge degrees are many. The teachings of the obligations, the tokens, the working tools, the symbols, and the charges may seem elementary at first glance, but they are not. They all have their true Masonic significance. Thorough understanding of the teachings of Freemasonry is not at all elementary. Our pursuit of wisdom is not concluded when we become Master Masons, nor when we become Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. It is a never-ending, lifelong journey.

The Lesson in the Fourteenth Degree begins in darkness. As the Scripture readings proceed, the stage progressively becomes brighter. At the Lesson’s end, full illumination is achieved. The metaphor teaches us that as we seek Perfection our path is illuminated dimly

at first, but that the light becomes ever brighter as our knowledge and understanding of the Craft increases.

None of us will ever truly achieve Perfection. The work of a Freemason is to constantly strive to reach that unattainable goal. As we are imperfect

beings, we will encounter many obstacles along the way, but illuminated by our Masonic knowledge, we can overcome them. As we are reminded regularly, the passage is difficult, but the farther we trace it, the easier it will become.

Remember always, Brethren, our Masonic journey is a marathon, not a sprint. □

None
of us will
ever truly
achieve
Perfection.



A Light to Guide You Home

By PJ Roup, 33°



James Arthur Lovell Jr.

ON a cold November night off the coast of Japan, Jim Lovell was feeling hopeless. The Lieutenant Junior Grade and naval aviator had done a few night landings on an aircraft carrier, but always in more ideal conditions. On this particular night, storms rolled in not long after his F2H Banshee was launched from the deck of the USS Shangri-La, forcing them to abort the mission. He and his patrol were directed to circle the carrier group to burn off some fuel before attempting to land on the deck.

Because they were off the coast of a still-occupied Japan, the carrier deck would not be illuminated, but the planes were equipped with Automatic Direction Finders (ADFs) that could follow a radio signal and bring them safely back to the ship. What Lovell didn't realize was that a tracking station on the Japanese coast was also broadcasting a homing signal on the same frequency, and consequently, leading him away from his carrier.



PJ Roup, 33°

There was no moon; cloud cover obscured the stars, and Lovell was having difficulty even discerning the horizon, much less finding a blacked-out carrier in a dark sea. He was worried. He checked his instruments again and again hoping to regain his bearings. Desperate to find his location, he followed his instincts, turning away from the homing signal on his ADF.

He flipped on a light inside the cockpit so that he could consult his charts and flight plans and the situation got a whole lot worse. The light he had designed to help him read the small print of the charts overloaded the circuit, plunging the entire cockpit into complete darkness. Nothing.



US Navy F2H Banshee preparing for a carrier landing

Lovell knew it was bad—real bad. He used a penlight to illumine the instruments one at a time while he assessed his options. First, he could radio in a distress call and have the carrier light up its deck, a virtual admission of his poor piloting skills which would surely cause him a lifetime of embarrassment among his fellow pilots. Next, he could ditch his plane and parachute into the cold water, hoping that he would be found. Neither of those seemed particularly attractive. He turned off the penlight and scanned the night, praying that another answer would appear, when off the right side of his aircraft he noticed a faint green swath undulating in the water. Lovell realized instantly that he was looking at the road home. He recognized that the path he was seeing was the glow of the phosphorescent algae being churned up by the massive propellers of the USS Shangri-La!

Lovell was able to follow the glow and eventually bring his craft safely home, but the irony was never lost

on him. Had he not suffered the cockpit blackout, his eyes never would have acclimated enough to the darkness to have seen the road home.

Today, where all the world's accumulated knowledge can be instantly accessed by a computer the size of a bathroom tile that you carry around in your pocket, we are hesitant to admit that we don't know something.

If knowledge is power,
we think, then lack of
knowledge must
make us powerless.

We clamor to know everything, and to know it now. All the ritual, all the symbolism, the titles, the jewels, the secrets. It is certainly human nature to be impatient, and our Fraternity, while not intentionally, feeds that. We dangle thirty-two degrees out there—each with symbols, signs, and words—things to master. *If you liked that, you'll really like this*, she seems to say.

It is easy to forget that it is okay to be an apprentice. The quest for light—deep, soul-changing self-knowledge—is a personal one, and rushing the process doesn't get us the same result as measured, slow steps. There are no short cuts to be taken. Just as a mass-produced suit sold at a discount chain will simply never measure up to a tailor-made bespoke suit, simply seeing the degrees doesn't compare with study, participation, and even meditation on the lessons.

It is interesting to note that each of these small steps prepares us for the next. Jim Lovell surely used the lessons he learned that dark November night to later bring his crew safely home in his most famous mission, as Commander of the ill-fated Apollo 13.

Remember, Modern Vitruvians, that our quest for light need not begin with a blazing star. Go into the darkness, shut out the noise, and look for that faint light, that shimmer, that will guide you home. □

Spring 2018 Class

IN APRIL, THE VALLEY WELCOMED 76 new members as part of its Spring Class honoring Ill.' David A. Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander.

Those in attendance witnessed the 5th Degree—*Perfect Master*, 8th Degree—*Solomon Ascending* (see page 43 for more), 16th Degree—*Prince of Jerusalem*, 17th Degree—*Knight of the East and West*, and 32nd Degree—

Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, performed live as well as DVDs of the 4th, 12th, 23rd, and 31st Degrees.

For the first time in recent memory, all members of the class were dubbed Sublime Princes. Ill.' Jeffrey M. Wonderling, Commander-in-Chief invited Commander Glattly, Deputy Sturgeon, Ill.' Samuel C. Williamson, RWPGM, William G. Johnston, 1st

Lieutenant Commander, Ill.' Rodney E. Boyce, 2nd Lieutenant Commander, and Jeff Bickel, Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Cincinnati to assist him in conferring this honor upon the class.

At the completion of the Degrees, Commander Glattly was received with customary honors.

Many thanks to Commander Glattly for being our Class Honoree. □



Spring Membership Incentive has been extended for the Steel City Invitational!

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the Spring Membership Incentive will be extended to include the Steel City Invitational (Fall Reunion) on Saturday, November 17, 2018. See details on pages 24 and 27.

We Welcome Our Newest Members!

Paul Gerald Abel
 Craig Lawrence Anlauf
 Jerome F. Bartley
 Ronald Merle Beamer
 Thomas Alfred Beardshall
 Dennis W. Bernabo
 Louis Ernest Boettner
 Frank DeWayne Bolind
 Timothy A. Brown
 Richard Lee Bruce
 Alan R. Caplan

Stephen D. Flinn
 Jon Roger Frantish
 Cole Joseph Frederick
 James A Frey
 Andrew John Gales
 Patrick Garvey
 Kenneth Michael George
 David Paul Glenn
 John Miles Gornall
 Robert W. Hecker
 Patrick Allen Heide

Steven Ray Lane
 James Lauder Langenhahn
 Tyler R. Lash
 William Irwin Latta
 John P. Lawrence
 Daniel W. Lewis
 Steven L. Lipp
 Herbert Nelson Lucas III
 Aaron Alexander Luzier
 John A. MacPhail
 Christopher Jay Marks

Brian Jonathan Pritz
 Brian D. Richards
 Duane Dale Richardson Jr
 Robert Raymond Rodriguez
 Nicholas Anthony Santillo Jr.
 Donald Scott Schubert
 Mark Allen Sheats
 C. Emerson Small
 Stephan Davis Small
 Michael Scott Snider
 Robert Curtis Sohn



Joseph Christopher Conklin
 Robert S. Crall II
 Ron D. Davis
 David J. DelSordo
 Geoffrey Robert Donnelly
 Benjamin J. Douglas
 Jacob A. Douglas
 Jason D. Flaherty

David L. Henry
 Anthony Joseph Impavido
 Dennis Eugene Jones Sr.
 Dennis E. Jones Jr.
 Charles F. Kalb
 Richard Kamenos
 Justin David Killian
 Brian R. Kloock

Louis John Martin Sr.
 Kevin John McElligott
 Alan Case McVicker
 Patrick Allan Mixter
 Elliott Robert Morse
 John T. Mruk Jr.
 David E. Owen
 Justin Matthew Prete

Jeremy David Springer
 Charles Bruce Sullivan
 Michael Brian Taylor
 David Ernest Thumm Sr.
 Steven Francis Tomalewski
 Nolan J. Westerlund
 Ean Donald Wise
 Thomas R. Wise

Membership

A message from the Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

Success?

By Rodney E. Boyce, 33°

If you have ideas for, or wish to join our committee, please speak with any of the members listed below or email the chairman at: rboyce@valleyofpittsburgh.org

Rodney E. Boyce, *Chairman*
Erastus Z. Allen
Aaron J. Antimary
Anthony J. (Tony) Corcoran
Kristin M. (Kris) Douglas
Joshua S. (Josh) Freeman
Jordan L. Frei
William G. (Will) Johnston
David W. Morgans
Shawn P. Lang
Peter A. (Pete) Leary
Paul J. (PJ) Roup
Joseph G. (Cab) Whitaker



Rodney E. Boyce, 33°
rboyce@valleyofpittsburgh.org

“SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT. IT IS hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”—*Pele*

Over the past year, we have tried many new events, activities, and programs to help promote membership in our Valley. Some have been very successful, some fairly successful, and still others are showing promise.

At our most recent **Spring Class**, we saw the results of the hard work and efforts of our members to attract non-Scottish Rite Masons to join our ranks. On a very special weekend to honor our new Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. David A. Glattly, 33°, our Valley welcomed 76 new Scottish Rite Masons! It appears that the *Spring Membership Incentive* conceived by the Executive Committee is returning dividends.

On Friday, March 16, we hosted our very first **RiteHouse Evening** featuring the acoustic trio of *Scott, Rob and Greg of The Clarks*. A near-capacity crowd of 300 Scottish Rite Masons and their guests attended. More than 30 officers and their families volunteered to act as hosts and ambassadors of the Valley. *This was one of the most enjoyable events I have ever attended!* My hat goes off, and a BIG thank you to everyone who volunteered. The band also had a great time and has committed to an encore event next spring. Stay tuned for details and get your tickets early!

On Friday, March 23, the inaugural **CigaRite** was held in Washington. Twelve members and guests attended, including one member whose visit was his first back to the Valley since joining. The next CigaRite will be held on Friday, July 20 on the patio at the GPMC (see details on page 27). On Saturday, May 5th, the inaugural **Kentucky Derby Party** was held (see details on page 42). And by the time this magazine reaches you, a second **RiteLightning** will have been hosted.

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

—Colin Powell

Because of the great success of the Spring Class, the Executive Committee has extended the Membership Incentive to the Fall Reunion. A petition is included on the next page. Brethren we need your help to continue to build our membership.

In addition, several new events are on the horizon. Look for details soon on these future events, which include: a **Weekend Float Trip on the Yough**, a **Winery Afternoon**, a smaller, more intimate acoustic **RiteHouse Evening on the Patio**, and a **Frank Lloyd Wright Experience**.

Winston Churchill once said, “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” Brethren, we must continue to be prudent and build on the successes we have had recently.

Membership is key.

Share the light of the Rite. □

Petition for Membership - Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction - United States of America



Petitioners are reminded that if a Scottish Rite Valley exists in their county of residence, they must petition that Valley or obtain a waiver of jurisdiction. All questions must be answered in full!

To the Officers and Members of:

**Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, 14°
Pennsylvania Council of Princes of Jerusalem, 16°
Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°
Pennsylvania Consistory, S. P. R. S., 32°**

SITTING IN THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Date _____

3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700 • 412-939-3579 • www.valleyofpittsburgh.org

I, the undersigned hereof, respectfully show that I am desirous of being admitted as a member of your honorable Bodies and request that I may be received among you, and that I will ever pray for the prosperity and glory of the Fraternity and the welfare of the Brethren. In making this application I promise on my word of honor that should I become a member of your honorable Bodies, I subscribe to the following Oath of Fealty:

I, the undersigned, do hereby promise on my word of honor, and swear true faith, allegiance, and fealty to the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-third and Last Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, sitting at its Grand East in the City of Lexington, Massachusetts, and will support and abide by its Constitutions, Orders and Decrees. That I will hold allegiance to the said Supreme Council and be loyal thereto, as the supreme authority of the Rite; will hold illegal and spurious every other Body that may be established within its jurisdiction, claiming to be a Supreme Council; and every other Body of said Rite within the same Jurisdiction that does not hold its powers from said Supreme Council and will hold no communication whatever in Scottish Rite Masonry with any member of the same nor allow him to visit any Body of the Rite of which I may be a member; and I will dispense justice to my brethren according to the laws of equity and honor.

And should I violate this, my solemn vow and pledge, I consent to be expelled from Scottish Rite Masonry, and all rights therein and in any Body of the Rite, and be denounced to every Body of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the world as a traitor and forsworn. And may God aid me to keep and perform the same. Amen.

When born _____ Place of birth _____ Residing at _____
(Month, Day, Year) (City or Town, State or County) (Current Address)

County _____ Since _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____
(Year)

Immediately previous to above address, I resided at _____
(City, or Town, State, Zip Code)

Occupation _____ Employer _____
(Give Title or Name of position or state nature of duties) (If retired give former employer's name)

Business Address _____ Business Telephone () _____
(Area Code, Number)

I have _____ before petitioned for the degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and been rejected therein. I received the Degree of Master

Mason in _____ Lodge, No. _____, F. & A.M., located at _____ on _____

I am now a member of _____ Lodge No. _____, F. & A.M., located at _____

APPLICANT'S NAME IN FULL - NO INITIALS - NO ABBREVIATIONS (If you have no middle name, enter, NMN)

(Print) _____
First Name Middle Name or Names Last Name

Mailing Address _____
Zip Code

(Sign) _____ (Date) _____

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT WE HAVE EXAMINED THE CURRENT SYMBOLIC LODGE DUES CARD OF THE ABOVE PETITIONER

Recommender Please Sign Name in Full Please print your name Supreme Council No. Lodge No. Phone No. (area code)

Recommender Please Sign Name in Full Please print your name Supreme Council No. Lodge No. Phone No. (area code)



MILITARY SERVICE (for Certificate Program)

Branch: _____ Discharge Type: _____

Start Date: _____ Discharge Date: _____



INITIATION, FEES, DUES

TOTAL.....\$125

**Make check payable to the order of:
GOURGAS LODGE OF PERFECTION
ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED IN FULL**

Wear It with Pride



White (A)



True Royal (B)



Charcoal (C)



Dark Navy (D)

Harriton M345 Advantage IL Snap Placket Performance Polo

- 6.64 oz., 100% polyester Snag Protection Plus jersey with moisture-wicking and antimicrobial performance
- matching flat-knit collar
- center front snap placket closure
- side slits
- no pocket styling for safety and food handling services
- embroidered on left breast with full-color Valley of Pittsburgh logo

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL

Colors: White (A), Charcoal (C), Dark Navy (D)

Cost: \$33 / each for all sizes



True Royal (E)



Charcoal (F)

Harriton M315 Polytech Polo

- 4 oz., 100% polyester jersey with antimicrobial, anti-static, deodorize and UV protection performance
- proven to absorb, wick and evaporate more moisture than cotton
- double-needle topstitch on bottom hem and side vents
- colormatched, three-button closure
- embroidered on left breast with full-color Valley of Pittsburgh logo

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL

Colors: True Royal (B)

Cost: \$33 / each for all sizes

Harriton M990 Full-Zip Fleece

- 8 oz., 100% spun soft polyester fleece with non-pill finish on surface
- midweight fleece—highly breathable
- dye-to-match zippers and zipper pull
- bottom hem with drawcord and toggles
- non-roll elastic cuffs
- front zip pockets
- embroidered on left breast with full-color Valley of Pittsburgh logo

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL

Colors: True Royal (E), Charcoal (F), Navy (G)

Cost: \$38 / each for all sizes



Navy (G)



Place your order today by calling the Valley office at 412-939-3579.

INAUGURAL
EVENT



Steel City Invitational

**Saturday,
November 17, 2018**

On November 17th, the Valley of Pittsburgh will host the Steel City Invitational.

Last November, Pittsburgh was invited to take its version of the 19th Degree on the road to the Valley of Cincinnati for their event, the Queen City Invitational. After hearing of the overwhelming success of the event in our sister city, the Executive Committee decided to return the hospitality by holding a similar event here.

This one-day Reunion will feature degrees performed by the Valley of Uniontown, the Valley of Cincinnati, an exemplification of a Southern Jurisdiction Degree, and more.

The Degrees will conclude with a performance of *WWCD: The Modern 32nd* by the Valley of Pittsburgh. If you saw the original in 2015, you won't want to miss this updated version featuring new tempters, modern dialogue, and the full glory of the Valley's new lighting system.

If you have been thinking of asking someone to join the Valley of Pittsburgh, this is the time. Bring a candidate or two, and don't forget to come out yourself. You'll get to see some excellent work, and fellowship with Scottish Rite Masons you might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet.

Be sure to check the September issue of *RiteNow* for the full details of this very special event, including participating Valleys and our Class Honoree.



CigaRite

An evening of Fellowship and Cigars

When:

Friday, July 20, 2018

7-10PM

Where:

GPMC PATIO

3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
412.939.3579

Details:

B.Y.O.B.

BRING YOUR FAVORITE CIGARS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

NO RSVP NECESSARY

OPEN TO ALL

FREE!

For more information:

Dave Moore | 724.986.0798



The Camp

By Austin R. Shifrin, 32°

If one is interested in symbolism in the Scottish Rite, there are many prospective sources from which to draw the light of inspiration. One might even argue there are too many. No matter how long one has to see all the degree work performed, or learn the various words, signs, regalia, and batteries, we might reasonably observe that the Rite is truly abundant in its signs and symbols. It is perhaps as a result of this that one of its richest symbols, the camp, is sometimes overlooked.

I don't mean to imply that it is entirely overlooked: There was a lovely article on aprons in the May 2015 issue of *The Northern Light*,¹ in which there is some discussion of the camp as it appears embroidered on a Scottish Rite apron, with an interesting sidebar regarding an unusual typo (if the term may be extended to embroidery). Similarly, a discussion of the same symbol embroidered on a Scottish Rite collar in MacNulty's, *Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance*.² Given that the author lived for some time in London, it is unsurprising to discover that the collar resides in the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London. We likewise find discussion of the embroidered apron in *A Sublime Brotherhood*, published by our own Supreme Council for the NMJ.³ Given the common source between this and *The Northern Light*, then, it is also unsurprising to discover that these are both discussing the same apron in the collection of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington MA. What may interest some, is that on closer inspection (of shadows, and the arrangement of apron strings), it appears the two publications may have used the identical photograph—albeit the accompanying text in *A Sublime Brotherhood* makes no mention of the curious typo. Only in *The Northern Light* article is reference made to “the tents and flags representing the divisions of the [symbolic] Masonic army.”



Scottish Rite Apron

Mackey's encyclopedia elaborates only slightly on the subject: “A portion of the paraphernalia decorated with tents, flags, and pennons of a Consistory of Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, or thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. It constitutes the tracing board, and is worn on the apron of the degree. It is highly symbolic, and represents an imaginary Masonic camp. Its symbolism is altogether esoteric.”⁴

At first read I found this terse and unsatisfactory, but upon further review I appreciated the economy of language and what was implied between the lines: It is highly symbolic, because it is a composite symbol intended to synthesize the lessons of all the degrees of the Rite; its symbolism is quite esoteric, because one could not expect to cultivate an appreciation for this symbol without study and reflection on the preceding degrees.

I found a nice explication of the components of the camp in *The Book of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, where it is more explicitly expressed that the tents at the various sides and angles of the geometric figures that compose



Austin R. Shifrin, 32°

I hope it will lead you also to thoughts of harmony and unity, as we labor together for a higher cause.

the camp represent the commanders—the spirits, if you will—of the various degrees, assembled in an orderly military fashion to advance the principles of Freemasonry.⁵ The image resonates really nicely for me when I consider it in the context of the motto, not of our 32nd, but the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite: *ORDO AB CHAO*—Order from Chaos.



Detail of the Camp

The tents make me think of the 12 tribes which originated with the 12 sons of Jacob (also known as Israel); I think tents and tribes are not a far-fetched association. I often contemplate both how similar and how different lifestyles and interpersonal dynamics may be, between that bygone era and now. I know that in ancient, nomadic, herding societies, trust and honor were easiest to extend to immediate family. Even aside from the most famous story of discord among those brothers, I begin to wonder whether, as they grew their own families and were responsible for more parties in their own formidable households, that could have weakened their feeling of allegiance to the other tribes, at least in terms of wanting to prioritize their own. It would have taken a strong father, a strong nation, to make the center hold—to maintain order.

My mind next makes the associative leap from *ORDO AB CHAO*, a Masonic motto, to our American motto, *E PLURIBUS UNUM*—Out of many, one. We know this is in reference to the uniting of disparate colonies, or states, under a new federal body. Much as in the case of Jacob's sons, we know the states had sometimes divergent interests. It is only through the willingness to subordinate those interests to some greater good, some higher cause, that we have been able to maintain our republic these many years. We have succeeded in doing so through some very divisive times in our history. I hope and pray that we can continue to do so today.

Finally, and most relevant to this issue's theme of "Light in the Rite," this sequence of thoughts brought me to one of my favorite pieces of language in Blue Lodge—when we make reference to persons being "refractory." Of course, we are using it in the sense of its dictionary definition as "stubborn and unmanageable." However, I think a valuable metaphor to deploy here is to think of the prism and what it does to light when it **refracts**: It takes white light, and breaks it down into its component parts. When we act disparately, separately, we are representative of discord; we are behaving in a **refractory** manner. When we act together, as one united Masonic army—"out of many, one"—we are representative of order and harmony.

So, if you enjoy looking at our Masonic camp as I do—as something like a mandala, inspiring this kind of chain of associations—I hope it will lead you also to thoughts of harmony and unity, as we labor together for a higher cause. □

1) Newell, Aimee, PhD. "The Badge of a Freemason: Scottish Rite Aprons at the Museum." *The Northern Light*. May 2015: 4-8.

2) W. KirkMacNulty. *Freemasonry: symbols, secrets, significance* - Thames and Hudson, 2006.

3) Richard B. Burgess, Jeffrey Croteau, Alan E. Foulds, Aimee E. Newell, Jerry A. Roach, Jr., Catherine C. Swanson, *A Sublime Brotherhood: Two Hundred Years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction*. Supreme Council 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, 2013.

4) Albert G. Mackey. *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*. Robert Ingham Clegg - Masonic History Company, 1946.

5) Charles T. MacClenachan. *The Book of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry: Containing Instructions in All the Degrees, Etc.* 1868.

Enchanted Evening

You Are the Sunshine of My Life

By Tracy H. Miller, 32°

On Wednesday, February 28, the Wm. Slater, II Master Mason's Club sponsored the 11th Annual Enchanted Evening for 129 ladies residing in the Star Points Personal Care and the Sturgeon Health Care Center communities.

Ladies from both areas received a beautiful invitation for the special night out. One week before the event, the ladies were given the opportunity to shop for their formal evening wear from four portable clothing racks of evening gowns, party dresses, and pants suits. After a visit to the beauty shop, they were assisted with makeup and jewelry by Retirement Living "Primpers."

After receiving their beautiful corsage and having their photo taken, they were escorted to dinner by DeMolay and Rainbow Youth Group members, Master Mason Club members, and members of the Widow's Sons Brothers of the Trowel Chapter.

Donna and Mark Groom provided music while the ladies enjoyed an elegant meal of lobster tail and filet mignon prepared by our own Masonic Villages Food Service staff. Corsages and floral decorations were provided By Taunia.

Right Worshipful Grand Master S. Eugene Herritt, accompanied by his lady, Sally, was the featured speaker. Other special guests were PDDGM Kim W. Jeffreys, and his lady, Krista; Allan P. Duncan, DDGM and his lady, Debbie Evans-Duncan; Robert W. Lovic, DDGM and his lady, Pamela Taylor; and Robert W. Amend, DDGM and his lady, Janice.

While the ladies dined on surf and turf, men from the Personal Care and Health Care Communities enjoyed beer and pizza, black jack, poker, and a dog racing game on the big screen in the Personal Care dining area.

This wonderful evening for all our residents would not have been possible without the generous financial support from Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, Valley of Pittsburgh and Valley of New Castle Scottish Rite, Syria Shrine, William Slater Master Mason's Club, MVS Retirement Residents, Staff, Relatives and Friends of the Masonic Village.

A special recognition goes out to the dedicated staff members and volunteers who contributed their untiring effort in making the 11th Annual Enchanted Evening a huge success for our special residents.

□





News



Salute to Veterans

A message for Military Veterans of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

The Lights of Freedom

By Robert B. Ruff, 32°

This column is intended to be about YOU and your service. Your responses will shape the future content of Salute to Veterans.

Is there a topic you would like to hear about or have addressed in future articles? Are you proud of your service experiences, Lodge visits or do you have pictures you want to share with others?



Robert B. Ruff, 32°

Rruff2u@gmail.com | 412-621-0872

LIGHT IN THE RITE. *HOW WILL I ever tie this theme into Salute to Veterans*, I thought. Could I use Frances Scott Key as he sat in a naval brigade—writing the Star-Spangled Banner not knowing what fate would hold for him? Maybe Revolutionary War General Henry Knox would be able to provide some Masonic light.



Depiction of George Washington at Valley Forge

No, better yet Brother George Washington at Valley Forge, a low point for America in the war for freedom. Surely, I could find something relating to light in that dark time.

Maybe my friend Bob, one of the heroes that survived Chosen Lake in Korea could help. No, his smile and gratitude toward life will not be included except in my mind. I thought of the stories by Brother William Voupel, MSA, and his time in Europe during World War II. Bill always had a story but how could I use his knowledge to let the Light shine?

I know, a story from the Civil War—thousands of men perished for what

they believed in—the “Right Light” that each of them was fighting for. Brother against Brother, fathers against sons. Perhaps the writings of Brother Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain; or even the Illustrious Albert Pike’s *Morals and Dogmas* would shed some light on my quest.

No, these would not be the inspiration

I was seeking. Maybe my great-grandfather’s stories from my childhood about the Mexican-American War and what he did as a 14-year-old boy that wanted to serve for the greater good—starting as a water-boy for the horses and promoted to bugler

along the way. No. my memory is not that good anymore. How about World War I and General John Pershing or Henry “Hap” Arnold. Hap had experi-



Marines at the Chosen Reservoir in present-day North Korea

enced two World Wars. All that knowledge and experience—could he help me use a trench story to shed some light?

Maybe something more recent—The Bay of Pigs, Vietnam. How about



Soldiers during the Civil War



Afghanistan conflict

Brother Greg Daley and something from the dark jungles of Vietnam? No, not quite what I needed.

Brothers Vito Urso, David Dopp, Robert Binnie can any of you help me with light and my plight for a veterans' story?

I have it! Something really recent. Brother Christian Shields. Yes, a story from the Middle East—Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom or the Afghanistan conflict. He has visited lodges worldwide. Surely there is my story, fresh and up to date.

Not to be.

Try as I may, try as I might, I could not think of a story of light - let alone a story of Light in the Rite. Maybe a good

night's sleep and the light of a new day would help my plight with the explanation of light.

Dawn was upon me but the bright sunrise from the east held no help for my story woes. Then I thought Father Soto, the military Chaplin from the VA, who I hoped would be able to point me in the right direction. Alas, he only said to pray about it and that God would provide.

It came to me suddenly. It had been in front of me all the time, but I didn't realize it: The simple story of the candle of light and the wicker basket.

In the scriptures, God tells us to go forth and share the light, not to hide it from others. From the Revolutionary War to the present, millions of brave men and women have raised their right hand and sworn to protect and defend our great country. They are all embodiments of the light, whether members of The Rite or not—the light of doing some-

thing for the greater good of all and for our country. From Brother Washington and the others, to those that follow us in the future, they were sources of light.

To honor them, be the good person that we all strive to be. Help to make a good man better in Freemasonry by sharing the light of the Rite, the light of Freemasonry, and the light of God everywhere you go. Shine brightly, Brethren! And remember "Knowledge, once gained, casts a light beyond its own immediate boundaries" John Tyndall, English physicist and member BAAS. (To read more about Tyndall consult the abstract: *Protestants, Catholics and Masonic Conspiracies*—The British Assoc. in Montreal, 1884.)

Please remember all those who have sacrificed to maintain our freedom. Also, as you encounter veterans, remember to thank them; after all, they fought and served for the privileges we all enjoy as Americans. And finally visit a cemetery, memorial or at least say a prayer for those who gave all. They, as well as you, are part of the Light in the Rite—doing something for the greater good.

Spes Mea in Deo Est.

□



Operation Iraqi freedom

Principles of a Good Grip

By Eric S. Teasdale, 32°

▶ THE WAY YOU HOLD THE GOLF club, your grip, is vitally important in golf because it directly influences both the clubface position at impact, and how much speed you can produce in your swing. Golf legend Ben Hogan once said about the grip, “A player with a bad grip doesn’t want a good swing.” A solid,

functional grip helps determine the shape of your golf swing, and where the clubface will be pointing at impact—the moment of truth in all golf shots. Therefore, building a good grip is essential to solid, repeatable contact and a consistent shot shape. Please refer to the illustrations on how to build a solid grip.

Types of Grips There are three generally accepted methods of gripping a golf club. They include



The Ten-Finger Grip

This “baseball style” grip is ideal for juniors or adults whose hands are not as strong. This grip enables all ten fingers to stay on the golf club and support the golf shaft throughout the swing.



The Interlocking Grip

This grip is ideal for players with smaller hands and allows the hands to work together throughout the swing, without one hand dominating the other. The photo shows how the trail hand pinky finger is *interlocking* with the lead hand index finger for a right-handed golfer.



The Overlapping Grip

First popularized by golf icon Harry Vardon, this grip is ideal for players with bigger, stronger hands and is the most popular worldwide. The photo shows how the trail hand pinky finger is *overlapping* the lead hand index finger for a right-handed golfer. This grip allows the hands to work as one cohesive unit.

“Golf is a game that’s played on a five-inch course—the distance between your ears.” —Bobby Jones



Eric S. Teasdale, 32°

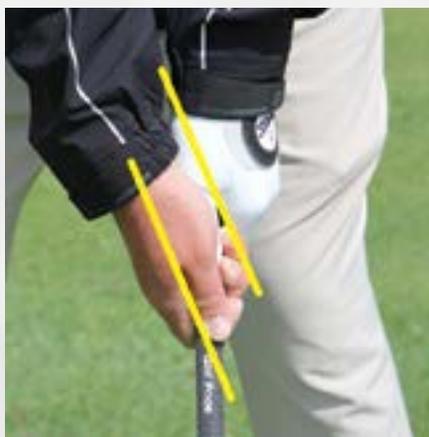
“I never played a round when I didn’t learn something new about the game.” —Ben Hogan

Once you have found the basic grip that works best for you, you need to keep these fundamentals in mind:



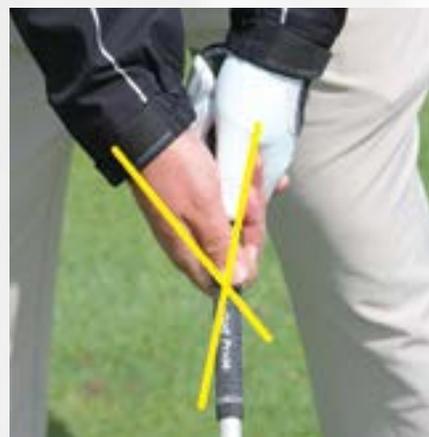
Neutral Lead Hand

The thumb of the lead hand is directly on top of the shaft and the “V” formed by the thumb and index finger is parallel with the shaft. This position allows the hands to “square” the clubface at impact. A neutral lead hand is the cornerstone of a solid grip, since it helps both hands to oppose one another (i.e. - palms facing each other) and assures that the thumbs of both hands will be pointing straight down at impact, thus squaring the clubface.



Perfectly Balanced

A perfectly balanced grip allows both hands to work as one unit throughout the swing. To achieve a balanced grip, the “V’s” of both hands must be pointing in the same direction. In this illustration, they are pointing toward the trail ear of the right-handed player. This hand position produces a slightly “strong” grip, which would typically close the clubface at impact and produce a small right to left shot shape for a right-handed player.



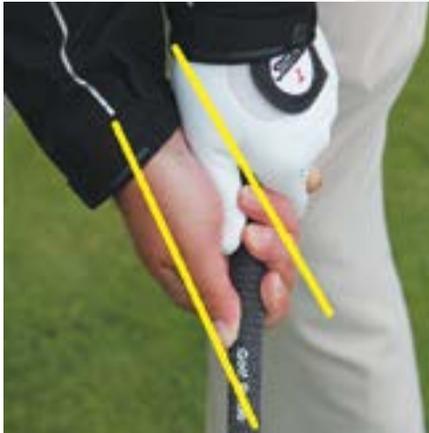
Beware the Unbalanced Grip

This type of grip is often seen in amateur golfers. The “V’s” of the lead hand point toward the lead shoulder and the “V’s” of the trail hand point toward the trail shoulder. When the “V’s” (yellow lines) do not match, the grip becomes unbalanced, and this leads to inconsistency in where the clubface points at impact. In this illustration, if the lead hand is dominant during the swing, the clubface will be “open” at impact, which causes the golf ball to go to the right. Occasionally, the trail hand will be more dominant, which will “close” the clubface at impact, causing the golf ball to go left. This unbalanced grip leads to inconsistency in ball flight, which makes predicting where your ball will go very hard.

continued on the next page

“What other people may find in poetry,
I find in the flight of a good drive.” —Arnold Palmer

How the Grip relates to Face Angle at Impact



Strong Grip

A “strong” grip is when both of the “V’s” are pointed towards the trail shoulder at address. While this grip is balanced, you can see how “closed” the face will be once your thumbs are pointing straight down at impact as shown in the photos above. This often results in a “pull hook” that flies way left of the target, or a topped shot that doesn’t get airborne and rolls on the ground.



Weak Grip

A “weak” grip is when both of the “V’s” point toward the lead shoulder at address. Again, this grip is balanced, but once your thumbs point straight down at impact as shown in the photos above you can see how open the face will be at impact. This can result in a “push slice,” which is a shot that strikes the ball with glancing blow that produces very little ball speed and flies way right of the target.

Clubface Angle at Impact

The orientation of the clubface angle at impact is vitally important because for each degree that the clubface is open or closed at impact, the golf ball can finish as much as 15 yards off target. To hit straighter shots, my recommendation for all golfers is as follows:

1. Balanced Grip

Adjust your hands so that both “V’s” point to the same spot, which this promotes the hands working together as a cohesive unit.

2. Neutral Grip

Adjust your hands to a neutral position, neither too strong or too weak when holding the club, so that the clubface will be square at impact, not too closed or too open when you strike the ball. A square clubface produces less side spin on the golf ball, which will help you will hit it farther, straighter and more on target.

Eric Teasdale is the resident PGA Professional at Shannopin Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Charity Golf Outing

Benefiting the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh

When:

Saturday, June 16, 2018

9:00am Shotgun Start

Where:

Butler's Golf Course

Elizabeth, PA

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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. David A. Glatty, 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 Nakonetchny, 33°, Ill. Robert J. Bateman, 33°, Ill. Keith E. Parkinson, 33°.

The Light of Truth

By David W. Morgans, 33°

Light is an interesting thing, especially as it pertains to Masonry. All Masons have many things in common but perhaps the greatest thing we share is light. All of us came from the darkness of the world into the light that Masonry is founded upon. The first Great Light of Masonry that we all saw upon taking our obligation in the First Degree was God's Light of Truth as found in the volume of the Sacred Law that supported the other two great lights, the square and compasses.

The square and compasses, along with all the other working tools in Freemasonry, get their purpose and are made useful in our lives only when used in the Light of God's Truth. In the physical world, working tools can be used in darkness. In fact, there are artisans, craftsmen and people in all sorts of occupations in the world who do not have the gift of sight that create, build and produce a multitude of things that are just as beautiful, useful and practical as those with sight. However, for those who can see, light is an essential component to use the tools that we have placed in our hands to work in this world. There would be very few who would argue that it is better to swing a hammer or use a saw with eyes closed versus eyes open.

Physical light has several qualities that help us in life; it illuminates, it warms, it energizes the world around us. We can manipulate physical light, we can turn it off in certain instances, we can shield ourselves from its warmth, and we can block its energizing rays. We can also harness light and use it to do amazing things. God has given us this physical light as another resource to be used as we humans deem fit.

God has also given us another Light that is not subject to our will and it is at the center of our Craft. He has given us the Light of Truth as revealed in His holy Word. This Light of Truth is also there to illuminate, to warm, and to energize but it is not subject to the manipulation of man. Men may try to alter God's Truth but none will succeed because God's Truth is written in His Omnipotent and Omniscient hand which no one is able to erase, edit or append. God's Truth is accessible to all regardless of physical limitations or giftedness.

It is in the Light of God's Truth that we all wake and sleep, work and play, live and die. His Light shines day and night but just like with physical light, mankind can turn a blind eye to this Light. They can try to shield themselves from its warming

rays. They can even refuse to energize themselves with the fantastic truths that God will reveal for them as they pick up and use the working tools of Freemasonry to shape themselves into better men. All the tools in Masonry are meant to better each man who has the honor to call himself a Mason. And, as a byproduct of becoming better men, each Mason can better the world around him.

When you think about light and the way it shines on different surfaces you can picture the difference between a rough stone, whether it be marble or granite or diamond, and that of its shaped and polished counterpart. While all are made of the same material, each form is viewed differently by the world. Those in unpolished form are unremarkable for the most part. Their beauty and worth are easily overlooked. They appear dull and they are a conglomeration of inconsistencies with highs and lows, light and darkness. Even their shadows are free-formed and hazy.

The shaped and polished versions are valuable and sought-after commodities. Their surfaces reflect light in dazzling ways, attracting the eye of all who look in their direction. When light shines on them we see flawless surfaces with no shadowy areas to hide even one speck of their nature. Even the shadows they project have geometric form and beauty. However, they did not become that way by accident. They were shaped, chiseled, and cut. It was not done in the dark. Each surface was exposed to intense light to illuminate any dents, occlusions, or ridges that would detract from the pursuit of a perfectly shaped stone. There are pieces of their rough surfaces left all over the workspaces of the craftsmen who turned them from rough, unattractive stones into gleaming, polished works of art.

God's unchanging and ever-present Light of Truth is what shines on all Freemasons as they use the tools of Masonry to shape themselves into polished stones for use in God's temple.



David W. Morgans, 33^o

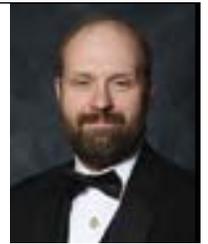
Each of us is different. Each of us came into Masonry in some raw form. Each of us has value whether evident to the world or not. Each of us needs shaping, smoothing and polishing no matter how long we have been Masons. Each of us should be under construction at all times as we continually knock off those rough corners in our character.

Each of us should be under construction at all times as we continually knock off those rough corners in our character.

That means that we should be constantly working in the Light of God's Truth so that we can see all those dents, occlusions, and ridges in our characters that detract from the beauty that lies beneath. As Masonic craftsmen, we are charged to work on our characters as we shape, chisel, and cut all those rough spots that we may become better men. This is hard work and sometimes we need the eyes of a brother to twist and turn us so that the True Light may reveal those areas that still need work. The work spaces of our lives should be covered with shards of our former character that do not fit in with the way a Mason should think, speak, and act.

Physical light is here and now. God's Light of Truth is past, present and future. As we live and breathe in His Light, we should each take time to reflect on our lives. As we look back, each one of us should see an illuminated pathway strewn with chunks of the faults and failures of our former selves that we have knocked off as we have shaped ourselves into Masons. As we live today, we should each examine our own character under the warmth and intensity of God's Light of Truth to see what work He has given us in the hopes of making us better men. As we look to the future, we should be energized to keep to our task of knocking off the corners of the rough stones of our natures knowing that God's Truth is unchanging. All the work done in His Light on our own characters will produce gleaming, polished works of art that will add beauty and value to this world for all to see.

May you each joyously labor on your living stone in the illuminating, warm, and energizing rays of God's Light of Truth.



Joseph G. Whitaker, 32^o

I stand back in the corner...

I stand back in the corner and just look. I see tears! Some of joy and others of sorrow. The great love we have for our fellow man expressed so unintentional; so far from thought.

I had the great pleasure of sitting next to Brother Eric Cohen when he got the call about his nomination for the 33rd Degree. He was overcome with joy. The tears flowed. He was honored, proud, and completely surprised. At that moment, all I could do was shake his hand, congratulate him, and tell him how much he deserved it.

A few months later, I was fortunate to be in the building when he was coroneted with the 33rd Degree. He again was humbled and honored to be there. Tears again flowing down his face. Pure joy!

Again, a few months later, the tears have changed. Now the tears belong to us. We gather in a small room to celebrate the life of a unique, sometimes eccentric Mason—a brother who left us too early but filled our lives with joy and happiness. Each of us has his own special memories of how his life was touched by Eric. He meant so much to everyone he encountered. Eric truly traveled!

If you ever need to explain the true light of Freemasonry, remember the life of Ill. Brother Eric Cohen. From my corner, I can see no better example of how to live in the light!

Let us take notice and spread the light!

-CAB

Builders Council

Benefactors of the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh

Spotlight

Jacque Hauser



JACQUE HAUSER hasn't been a Mason for very long by most standards, but he has a heart for service. The 54 year-old Hauser joined Ligonier Lodge in 2009 but waited until 2013 to join Scottish Rite—a decision he was glad he made. "It opened up a whole new world to me, and I enjoy it very much," he says.

"When it was brought to my attention that the classes had waiting lists, I knew I had to do something," he says. "Dyslexia is nothing to mess around with." In his research, he learned that people like Steven Spielberg, Magic Johnson, Ann Bancroft, and Nolan Ryan all suffered from dyslexia

as children. He had also heard stories from his daughter, an occupational therapy doctoral student, about the struggles of children with dyslexia. He very much wants to help local children realize their full potential.

"We can all accomplish so much if we work together," he says. Donations to the Builders Council will help train and add more teachers, buy supplies, and eventually bring more children into the system when space allows. "It's good to be a part of that," he added proudly

His advice to others who are on the fence about joining the Builders Council? "Do it. ASAP!"

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Glenn D. & Mary B. Miller*
Dr. Glenn & Roberta Miller
Jack & Carol Miller
Donald M. Murphy
Raymond & Joy Nicklas*
John & Valerie Nicklas
Oakdale Lodge No. 669
Pittsburgh Commandery
No. 1 Knights Templar
Ronald and Karen Plesh
Hiram's Riders of
Valley of Pittsburgh
D. William Roberts*
Bruce A. Robinson
Richard & Bette Rodibaugh
Don & Ginny Sauer
Joseph A. Schrock Jr.
James W. Seel*
William P. Shaw
William Slater
Samuel & Judith Spanos

Thomas Sturgeon
The Supreme Council Group
Valley of Pittsburgh
Kurt R. Tesche
Gregory Triko*
Unified Lodge #2 I.O.O.F.
Valley of Uniontown
Valley of Pittsburgh
Legion of Honor
George T. Vance*
Vintage-Classical Car Club
S. Timothy Warco
Washington Lodge No. 164
Bob & Charlene Wells
James & Louri Ann West*
James & Chester Arthur West, Jr.
John & Jerry Williams
Jeffrey & Sharon Wonderling

*Deceased

To become a member of the Builders Council, an individual, family, or group must pledge a minimum of \$10,000. That sum can be paid out over a period of up to ten years. For more information, please contact the Children's Dyslexia Center at 412-931-3181.

Children's Dyslexia Center **UPDATE** By Barb Murphy

How is a child placed on the Center's wait list?

THIS QUESTION IS OFTEN ASKED OF the staff at the Center and members of the Center's Board of Governors. In fact, since the Valley of Pittsburgh generously sponsors the Center, it is likely that Scottish Rite members may also be asked this question.

The process begins with a request for an application packet. That request can be in the form of an email (pghdyslexiacenter@comcast.net) or a telephone call (412-931-3181). The application packet will either be emailed or sent through the regular mail. Those requesting applications can expect an emailed response within three business days and a mailed response within a week. If the application fails to arrive in that time, please contact the Center.

The application packet consists of a letter from the Center Director outlining the application process, an explanation of the criteria for admission to the program from Headquarters in Lexington, and the application itself. Once the information is received, any questions can be directed to the Center. Please note that general questions will be answered for anyone; however, the Center will only answer questions about a specific child with that child's parent or guardian.

The Center will notify the parent/guardian when the paperwork has been received. Every application is reviewed before approval for admission. The determination is based on criteria set forth by Headquarters ensuring

that our program is an appropriate fit for the child's needs. Be assured that each application will be carefully reviewed before a final decision is made. This process does take time, but this careful and thorough review is in the best interest of everyone.

A A B B C C
D D E E F F
G G H H I I
J J K K L L
M M N N O O
P P Q Q R R
S S T T U U
V V W W X X
Y Y Z Z

How text might appear to someone with Dyslexia.

Once the final determination is made, the parent/guardian will be notified. If there is a fit, the child will be placed on the wait list. Then as an opening occurs, the parent/guardian will be contacted, and these slots will be filled according to the date the child was placed on the wait list. The length of time before tutoring begins will depend on the number of openings and the availability of tutoring time that align with the student's schedule.

For more information:
412-931-3181
dyslexiacenter.fundraising@valleyofpittsburgh.org

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Giant Eagle Apple for the Students program

You can help the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh. Just register your **Giant Eagle Advantage Card** for the **Apples for the Students** program.

You can register your card by calling **800-553-2324** or register online at gianteagle.com/afts.

The number for the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh is **5801**. □

Registering for this program does not affect any other program or discount offered by Giant Eagle (i.e. Fuelperks).

37 students enrolled this year



ValleyNews

A collection of recent happenings in the Valley of Pittsburgh



Partygoers prepare to watch the 144th Run for the Roses

Kentucky Derby Party

On May 5th, the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center became “Perryville Downs.” Brethren and their guests donned their finest summer clothes and picked out their fanciest hats to join in the excitement of the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby. Attendees enjoyed appetizers, beverages and a picnic-style meal while they waited to watch the most exciting two minutes in sports on the big screen. As a special treat, Brother Josh Freeman prepared a batch of mint juleps.



Lauren Mizgalski won the prize for Best Headwear, while Dave Moore and Lauren Antimary took home the awards for Best Dressed. Winners each received a \$50 gift card.

Realizing a Dream

Brother Mike Marcus has had one of his short stories selected for publication in the upcoming anthology, *Second Round: A Return to the Ur-Bar*, published by Zombies Need Brains, LLC. Marcus, a Public Affairs and Veteran Experience Specialist for the VA in Pittsburgh, has written short stories for years. He has shared them with friends and family, but never submitted any for publication. With the encouragement of his loved ones, his sci-fi/fantasy story “Ale for Humanity” which was

written to tie in with the theme of *Second Round*, was selected one of only fourteen short stories for the anthology.

“This was actually the first piece I’ve submitted professionally. It’s a moon shot,” Marcus says. “It’s been a great confidence builder in terms of getting other pieces written and submitted.”

Second Round: A Return to Ur-Bar is scheduled for release in August. Look for more details in the next issue of *Rite Now*.

RiteHouse Evening Presents Check

Ill. Rodney E. Boyce, 33°, 2nd Lieutenant Commander, presents a check in the amount of \$1,336.16 to Ill. Vito A. Urso, 33°, Hospitaler, to benefit the Valley Hospitaler’s Fund. The money was raised from the very successful RiteHouse Evening event featuring Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks.



Cruising for a Cause

Brother David E. Kearns presents a check to Brother James C. Mayes, Most Wise Master, for the Children’s Dyslexia Center. The funds were raised as a result of the Valley’s 2018 cruise. For details on the next Valley vacation, see the back cover.





The Board members gather

Solomon Ascending

Usually known as *Intendant of the Building*, the 8th Degree received a modern makeover and premiered on the Valley stage as *Solomon Ascending*.

The new Degree, written by Brothers Todd Ballenger, Rodney Boyce, Bob Dunkle, Dave Morgans, and PJ Roup, changed the setting from the court of David, the king, to the boardroom of David, the CEO. It featured modern dress, multimedia integration, a guru, Instagram photos, and an exquisitely detailed hardwood set on loan from CCAC South Campus.

With this production, we also hold the honor of being the first Valley to ever simulcast a Degree live to another Valley for their reunion. Our brothers in the Valley of Williamsport watched a three-camera live feed of the Degree as part of their reunion as well.



Dave Morgans as David, CEO



The CEO meets with Hiram, King of Tyre (Jeff Wonderling)



Biblical David (Rodney Boyce) explains the Boardroom



Adonijah (Branden Plesh) protests the wishes of the CEO



Solomon (Eric Johnston) receives advice from Nathan (Bill Holman) and Zadaok (Will Johnston)

Breakfast Degrees

On February 24th, the Valley of Pittsburgh held a special exemplification of Degrees in conjunction with their monthly Youth Breakfast. All members of the Valley were invited to attend this special event and have their passports stamped.

Following the all-you-can-eat breakfast, a Special Meeting of Poor Richard's Lodge was opened and attendees got to sit in Lodge with Brother Benjamin Franklin and other honored guests as the 25th Degree, *Master of Achievement*, was exemplified.

Following that Degree, the 18th Degree was also exemplified by the Rose Croix line.

Nearly 150 people came out that morning to support this special event. The next one is planned for June 30th.



The large crowd enjoys breakfast fellowship



Breakfast youth group volunteers



Brother Richard Kucera prepares for the 25th Degree



Brother Eric Teasdale in full head gear

TheLatest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

JUN

7

Reservations are required for Dinner only!

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Stated Meeting

The June Stated Meeting will be our annual Installation of Officers. We will also recognize the outgoing presiding officers with the presentation of Past Officer Jewels. A comedy show by Mike Wysocki with opener Derrick Knopsnyder will be provided as entertainment for you and your lady.

TIME: 6:00PM/Dinner, 7:00PM/Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$10/Dinner

RSVP: **June 5**

JUN

10

For more information,
please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

6th Annual Summer Car Cruise

Bring the family to see the Ross Township Police SWAT truck, Berkeley Hills Fire Dept. Ladder Truck, Junior Dragster Driver Jaden Mayes, Hot Rods, Muscle Cars, Antiques and Corvettes! DJ Clint Stokes, Door Prizes, Dash Plaques, and Goodie Bags for first 100 participants. Food & Refreshments are available.

TIME: 11:00AM-3:00PM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: FREE!

AUG

3

Reservations are required!

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Masonic Family Day at Kennywood Park

Join us for this annual celebration for the entire Western Pennsylvania Masonic Family. Come early, ride all-day with special pricing of \$16 off normal admission, and stay late! Celebrate Freemasonry and join with Syria Shrine and the Valley of Pittsburgh for a parade through the park.

TIME: 10:30AM-11:00PM

LOCATION: Kennywood pPark

RSVP: **Deadline to purchase tickets is August 2**

COST: \$24/person Ride-All-Day, \$17/Senior Citizen

AUG

5

Reservations are required!

Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

River City Rascals vs. Washington Wild Things

Join us for this annual outing to the ballpark featuring postgame fireworks. Watch the game and enjoy a pregame picnic tailgate party featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and soft drinks!

TIME: 3:00PM/Tailgate Picnic, 5:30PM/Game

LOCATION: Consol Energy Park

RSVP: **Deadline to purchase tickets is July 23**

COST: \$10/person

Fellowship Breakfast

You can't find a better breakfast with better company that supports a better cause. The breakfast is cooked and served by our local DeMolay and Rainbow and the proceeds benefit those organizations.

TIME: 9AM to 10:30AM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$6/person (all you can eat)

RSVP: None required

JUN

30

To have an event listed in future issues, please contact the Valley Office at 412-939-3579, or by email at secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

JUN
22

Reservations are required!
Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Arizona Diamondbacks vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

Join us for this annual outing to the ballpark. Watch the game and view the spectacular Zambelli Fireworks after the game from Section 105. Tailgate Party and more!

TIME: 5:30PM/Tailgate Party, 7:05PM/Game

LOCATION: PNC Park

RSVP: **Deadline to purchase tickets is June 1**

COST: \$55/person

SEP
6

Reservations are required for Dinner only!
Please contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Stated Meeting

The September Stated Meeting will feature entertainment by Ghost Light. Dinner will be available and entertainment will be provided for you and your lady. 50 and 50+ year members will be recognized. Casual Dress! *Look for complete details in the upcoming meeting notice, arriving in your mailbox in August.*

TIME: 6:00PM/Dinner, 7:00PM/Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$10/Dinner

RSVP: **September 4**

JUL
28

AUG
25

SEP
22

Looking Ahead

JUN
16

Valley of Pittsburgh Golf Outing

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

JUL
14

Council of Deliberation

Valley Forge Pennsylvania

SATURDAY, JULY 14

JUL
20

CigaRite

GPMC Patio, 7PM, Free

FRIDAY, JULY 20

SEP
9

Fall Car Cruise

GPMC, 11AM-3PM, Free

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

SEP
22

Degree Exemplifications

23rd and 26th Degrees, GPMC, Free

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

OCT
6

Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh Walkathon

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

NOV
17

Steel City Invitational

Valley of Pittsburgh Fall Reunion

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Fraternal Classified Services Directory

These listed businesses subscribe to providing high quality customer service, delivered with a sense of warmth, friendliness, individual

ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

Richard A. Reynolds, CPA 412-795-4194
www.RichReynoldsCPA.com

ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES

Grimes Advertising 412-921-1325
Eddie Grimes

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ross & Ross, Ltd. 804-516-4602
Allen W. Ross www.rnr2insure.us

ATTORNEYS

Henry Miller, III, Esq. 412-566-2565
Wills, Estates, Real Estate millerhiii@aol.com

Quinn Logue LLC/Trial Lawyers 412-765-3800
Attorney Matt Logue info@quinnlogue.com

West & Associates, P.C. 412-486-2800
C. Arthur West III www.west-legal.com

AUCTION SERVICES

Johnson Auction Service 724-457-1100
Mark K. Giles 147 Flaugherty Run Rd.

AUTOMOTIVE

American Classics/Street Rods 814-268-1234
Dennis A. Liegey, 1026 3rd Ave., Brockway, PA

Flynn's Tire & Auto Service 724-346-3701
18 Locations www.FlynnsTire.com

W. L. Davison Forensic Services
Since 1986 412-551-1491

BAKERY / ESPRESSO BAR

Patti's Pasticceria 412-896-6246
Patti Macey PattisPasticceria@gmail.com

BEARINGS & POWER TRANSMISSION

Gipson Bearing & Supply Co. 412-462-7960
Craig Gipson www.gipsonbearing.com

CATERING

Hudson's Catering 724-4438-2025
Richard Hudson www.UniontownCatering.com

Party Line Catering 412-882-7110
Brian Meador

CHIMNEY REPOINTING & REBUILDING

Coffey Contracting Co. Inc. 412-341-1127
Tom Coffey thomas.coffey3@verizon.net

DISC JOCKEY

DJ Nick Barcio 814-860-1258
www.DJBarcio.com

ENVIRONMENTAL, GEOTECHNICAL, AND ENGINEERING CONSULTING

J. Scott Bush Company, P.C. 724-246-8879
Scott Bush President/CEO 724-984-1881

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Allegheny Investors Ltd 412-831-3159
Donald E. Sauer, CFP

Daley & Associates 724-926-8588
John T. Daley www.daleyplanning.net

FUNERAL SERVICES

Jefferson Memorial Cemetery & Funeral Home
Pleasant Hills 412-655-4500

George Irvin Green Funeral Home
Munhall Donald Green 412-461-6394

Readshaw Funeral Home 412-882-3850
Pittsburgh - Kevin R. Dieterle

Slater Funeral Homes 412-563-2800
Mt. Washington, Scott Twp., Bethel Park

Warco-Falvo Funeral Home 724-225-1500
Tim Warco, Washington, PA

Young Funeral Home Ltd 724-283-3333
William F. Young, Jr., Butler, PA

GRAPHIC DESIGN / CREATIVE SERVICES

Square Peg Design 724-925-0224
Rodney E. Boyce www.squarepegdesign.com

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Bergfelt Heating, Cooling & Remodeling
Bro. Eric Bergfelt, Sr. 412-761-5774

Ralph Dankmyer, Inc. 412-431-5326
Installation & Service 412-600-7070

HOME REMODELERS

Unglo Construction LLC 412-977-8924
Building, Renovation & Remodeling PA069933

INSURANCE

Colonial-Fleming Insurance, Inc.
Michael Misour 724-274-6333

Doege Insurance Agency, Inc.
Buzz Doege 412-351-8820

Rodgers Insurance Group
James M. Wehur 412-922-1651

State Farm Insurance
Brian Winfield 724-864-9000

JEWELER

Werner Jewelers Since 1969 412-367-2336
Pines Plaza Shopping Center

LANDSCAPING

Alex Landscaping 724-327-2539
Alex Walters alexlandscaping@comcast.net

MACHINE SHOP

Johnston Machine Works, Inc.
Bob Johnston 724-695-7730

MERCHANT CREDIT / DEBIT CARD SERVICE

Nationwide Payments Joe Podolinski
jpodolinski@getnationwide.com 724-366-4900

MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION

Budget Charters 724-246-1982
Gary F. Shimshock

MORTGAGES

Paul E. Klaus, President/CEO 412-559-4030
Wholesale Rates Paul@PAEquity.com

PLUMBING

McCarrison Plumbing Co. 412-795-2529
Ronald L. McCarrison

John R. Meyers Plumbing, Inc. 412-787-2370
Since 1972, John R. Meyers

PRINTING

Unity Printing 724-537-5800
Lisa Frederick www.unityprinting.com

REALTOR

Harry Anderson - Northwood 412-487-3200
HAnderson@Northwood.com

ROOFING

Coffey Contracting Co. Inc. 412-341-1127
Tom Coffey thomas.coffey3@verizon.net

SHOE REPAIRS

Mazza Shoe Repairing 412-341-7493
Vincent M. Mazza 618 Brookline Blvd.

STEEL BUILDINGS

Bennett Buildings Inc. 1-888-827-8335
Bob Bennett bennettbuildings@aol.com

pride, respect, honesty, and the fraternal spirit.

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Gregg Wilson 724-438-7658

TRAVEL

Worldview Travel 412-344-4845
H. Carl Brandtonies carlb@worldview-travel.com

TREE & STUMP SERVICE

R & R Tree & Stump Service 724-455-7378
Brian Ritenour 724-640-2011

TRUCKING / TARPULIN SYSTEMS

Bee Mac Trucking 1-800-282-8781
Rick Macklin

Dragonfly Industries 412-614-0953
Heavy Highway Construction, Joseph A. Schrock
josephs@dragonflyindustriesllc.com

Kirk Trucking Service Inc. 724-468-8100
Donald L. Cox don@kirktrucking.com

Merlot Vango 1-800-443-8277
Automatic Tarps for Dump Trucks & Flatbeds
Truck Tarpaulin Systems, Digital Vinyl Sign
Printing, all sizes, Flatbeds: 8' to 24' Aluminum
Vince Merlot 50 year member
10 Plum St., Verona, PA 15147

VIDEO SECURITY

Enterprise Video Systems 724-940-2333
Tim Heeter www.evideosystems.com

VIDEOGRAPHY SERVICE

Dreamscape Productions 412-965-1860
P.J. Roup pjroup@gmail.com

The Perfect Image 1-866-438-5146
Gregory S. Wilson PerfectImageDVD.com

For advertising rates and information, please contact the Valley Office at 412-939-3579, or by email at secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

An impromptu fellowship event coming soon.

Rite Lightning



We invite all members and friends of the Valley of Pittsburgh to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. We will gather from 7-9pm at a location to be announced via email and demonstrate to the public what Scottish Rite Freemasonry is all about. Dress is casual and comfortable.

Be sure to submit your email address to the Valley Office at secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org to receive your invitation to all future events!

CENTRAL BLOOD BANK
A BLOOD SYSTEMS BLOOD CENTER

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center Summer Blood Drive

Saturday, August 25, 2018
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center - Ballroom
3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

To schedule an appointment:

Please visit centralbloodbank.org and search for group code C2210052 or contact Bill Bittinger at (412) 480-5948 or billbittinger@verizon.net or Cab Whitaker at (412) 605-4485

Summer is one of the most critical times of the year for blood donations; please help our hospital patients!

Appointments recommended. Walk-ins welcome.

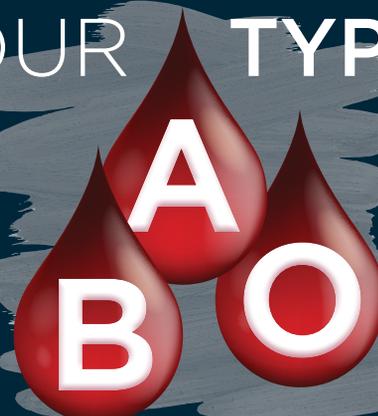
PREPARE FOR YOUR DONATION • EAT WELL • STAY HYDRATED • BRING ID

Promotion runs the date of the individual drive as listed above. When offered, all giveaways, prizes and tickets are non-transferable, non-refundable, not redeemable for cash and while supplies last. Must be at least 18 years of age (16 - 17 years of age with signed parental consent) for actual donation, and due to gaming laws, must be at least 18 years of age to be entered into a random drawing. TSM and Central Blood Bank employees and their immediate families are not eligible to participate. Void where prohibited by law. Please bring ID with you on the day of donation. Proper ID is required to donate blood. A Central Blood Bank or military ID, driver's license, passport, or employee or student ID with picture and full name are all approved forms of ID. Birth certificate along with a picture ID that includes the donor's full name will also be accepted.

KNOW YOUR TYPE

Each time you donate blood, you'll learn your blood pressure, cholesterol and iron level.

You'll also receive a personalized donor card in the mail with your blood type!



Valley of Pittsburgh
Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

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



VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH
Breathless Riviera Cancun Resort and Spa
Riviera Maya, Mexico

January 19-26, 2019

Includes: Round trip non-stop charter air flights from Pittsburgh, round trip non-stop transfers between the airport and resort, all-inclusive features (unlimited gourmet meals, snacks, and premium alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages at the resort), all taxes including U.S. and Mexican departure taxes. All rates per person and based on double occupancy. Adults Only. Must be 18.

For more details or to make reservations, call All Season Travel at 800-435-1077 or 724-483-7989, and ask for *Valley of Pittsburgh Group*.

All rooms are 1 King bed or 2 Double beds, full bathrooms with two rain shower heads and double sinks, private furnished balcony or terrace, stunning ocean views and 538 square feet. Xhale Club rooms are as above plus Xhale Club section, higher level of luxury, private pool area, exclusive restaurant and more.

Allure Junior Suite Ocean View

\$2,192.72 / per person, double occupancy

Xcelerate Junior Suite Ocean View

\$2,322.74 / per person, double occupancy

Xhale Club Junior Suite Ocean View

\$2,452.74 / per person, double occupancy

Space is limited. \$100 deposit/per person and cancellation insurance of \$139.99/per person is due at booking.

To view the resort, visit www.breathlessresorts.com/en_us/resorts/mexico/riviera-cancun