JUNE 2020

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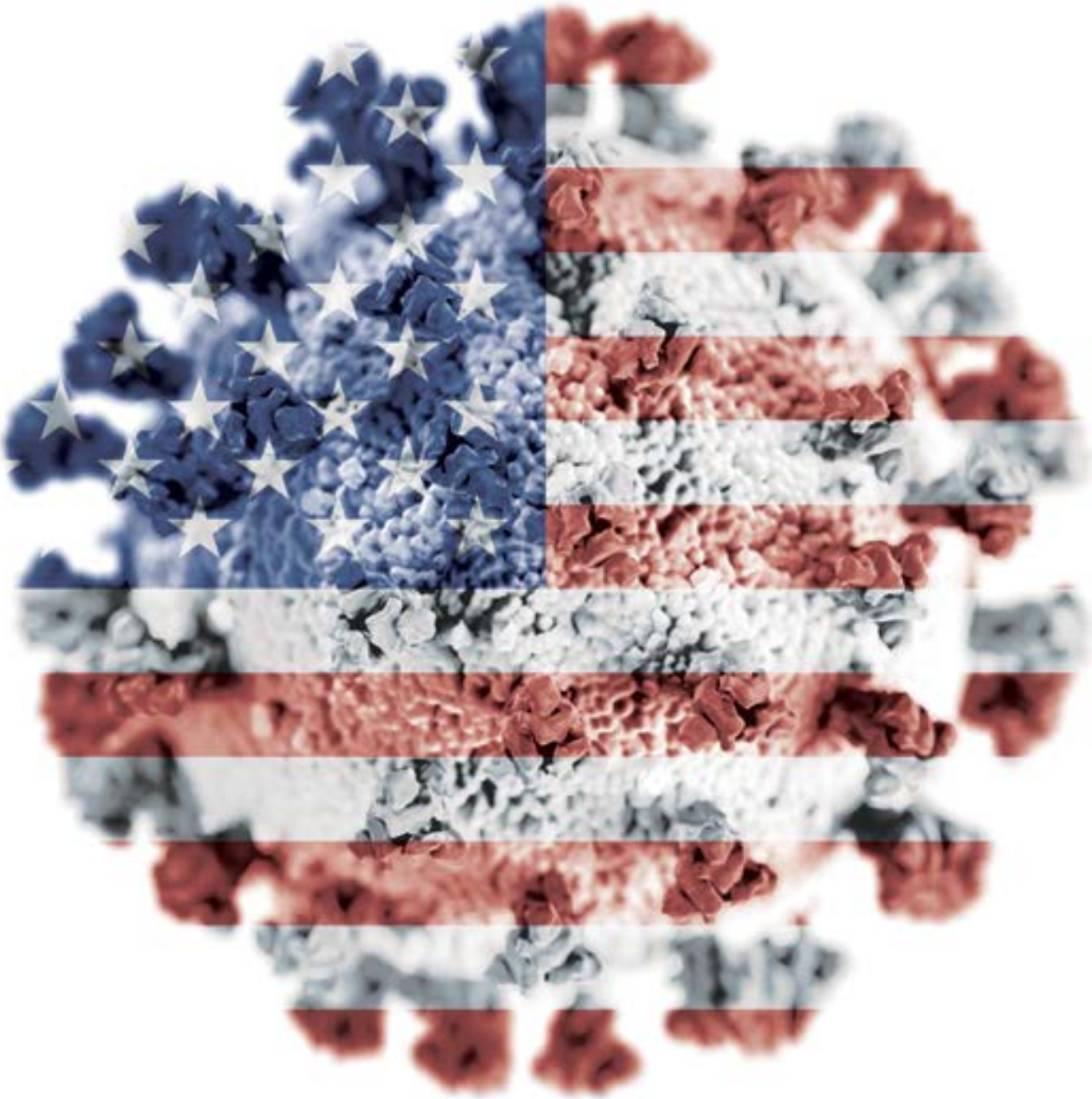
THE MAGAZINE OF THE **VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH**



LOVE OF COUNTRY IN A TIME OF CRISIS

valleyofpittsburgh.org

In Memoriam

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

Ill.˙.Harvey Erich Gumto, 33˚

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Richard Noel Albright
Clarence H. Anderson
James W. Ashton
Harry L. Bauer
Harold E. Bennett
Charles L. Besspiata
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David Owen Blue
Alvin M. Bodek
Dean H. Bork
Frank M. Brown
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David Cameron Campbell
Edmund O. Campbell
Richard Catone
Donald B. Christopher
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La Verne E. Cole
James W. Conway
William J. Craig
Robert M. Culp
Adolph M. Dahl Jr.
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Jerome Silbert Davis
Salvatore A. Diana
Joseph DiMeo
Donald William Dombrow
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C. R. Fairman
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Richard E. Gault
James W. Goldsboro
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Henry C. Herchenroether
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Donald M. Hyatt
John Earl Jackson
Milan J. Jugan
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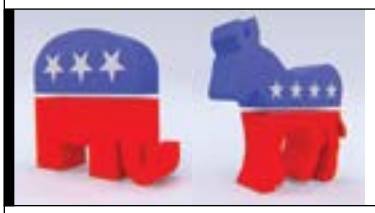

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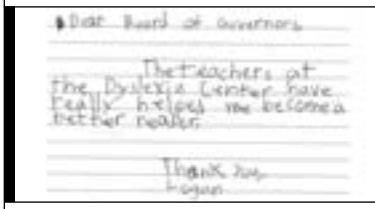

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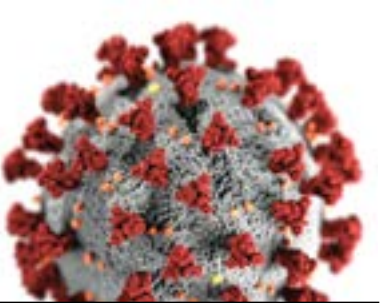
about the cover

Planned more than a year ago, the original theme of this issue was to be simply, *Love of Country*, a Scottish Rite core value.

As our lives have been turned upside-down and shaken like snow globes, Masons have come together to help loved ones, neighbors, and strangers alike cope with the unknown that this crisis has thrust upon us.

The Coronavirus pandemic has helped us to see that, in spite of her flaws, America is still a strong nation with an unconquerable spirit.



The Active

A message from the Supreme Council Active for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

Leading the Charge

By Paul J. Roup, 33°

Paul J. Roup, 33°
pjroup@srnmj.org

Since long before I was a member, the Valley of Pittsburgh has been blessed with dynamic, energetic, and visionary leaders. For decades, men have stepped up to advance the cause of the Scottish Rite. They have donned the mantle of leadership. They have worn the apron of service. They have generously opened their wallets to help us have the first endowed Children's Dyslexia Center in the state.

Is it any wonder, then, that our Valley is once again a leader in innovation? On May 16th, the Valley of Pittsburgh made Scottish Rite history by holding the first ever virtual reunion (see pp. 30-31) where we welcomed 30 new members to the Valley! This class was so successful that we were given permission to hold another on Saturday, August 29th.

While it was not the preferred or ideal way to bring new members to the Rite, the popularity of the event speaks to the hunger for Masonic light that many of our brothers had been feeling during the pandemic. The Zoom meeting which replaced our typical Afterglow was also a success and allowed our new members to meet some of the current members in an informal setting.

It is said that true leaders shine in times of crisis. That certainly has been the case as we have all tried to adapt to life in the time of quarantine. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our current leadership for having the vision to make this happen. Brothers Williamson, Boice, Polander, and Jones have set a high bar for those who follow after. I am certain that the year didn't go as they had envisioned, but they met the challenges before them and the Valley is the better for it.

> True leaders shine in times of crisis.

I look forward to Brothers Boyce, Douglas, Goldstein, and Moore continuing the tradition of vision, energy, focus, and decisiveness that has continually blessed the Valley of Pittsburgh. I have said before that there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we work together for the good of the Valley.

To those of you who are reading this and wondering if you should get involved as a leader in the Valley, I say yes! Join the long line of men who have chosen to sacrifice time, talent, and treasure to make Pittsburgh one of the most respected and emulated Valleys in the Rite. You'll be glad you did.

The Chief

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

CONSISTORY

Out of the Box

By Samuel C. Williamson, 33°

When I agreed to take the position of Commander in Chief last August, I never expected to preside over such a strange time. As of this writing, we have been unable to meet in person for almost two months. Challenging to be sure, but it has also provided the Valley with opportunities to reimagine how we do the things we have always taken for granted.

The American spirit is alive and well in the Valley of Pittsburgh. It is during times of crisis that Americans come together, and the Coronavirus pandemic is no exception. Your Valley officers have shown how love of country and love of Craft can make great things happen. Out of respect for the safety of our members, we have cancelled all in-person Masonic gatherings through the end of June. But that same respect for our members has pushed us to keep those same members close. With that in mind, we did a few out-of-the-box things this spring.

Samuel C. Williamson, 33°
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

First, the Valley of Pittsburgh will be the only Valley in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction to hold a virtual spring reunion. Rest assured, it is not our preferred method of bringing new members into the Scottish Rite. However, as a response to the lockdown, it is clearly the answer that some men have been seeking. We have been shut off and isolated from an institution and bonds that we all hold dear, and the opportunity to move forward in Freemasonry in an unconventional way has helped rekindle the Masonic spark for many. We have held off on the showing of the 32nd Degree until we are able to do it in person. Look for information on a special Degree day in the summer or fall. I welcome our new Scottish Rite brothers to the family and look forward to greeting you each in person when we can safely do so.

Second, our Executive Committee unanimously voted to hold a July meeting, including the election and installation of officers, via Zoom. Again, it is not what how we would prefer to conduct our business, but those ready to assume new leadership roles deserve to have it happen in a timely fashion.

> There is nothing we cannot accomplish if we all work together in the best interests of the body we serve.

I am incredibly proud of the ingenuity, resilience, and creativity of this Valley's officers. They have seen challenges unlike any faced in recent memory. Not only have they risen to meet those challenges, but they have found new means of connecting, new methods of serving our members, and are reshaping the model for how Valley business is done.

I have been honored to once again preside as Commander in Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh, but it is time to hand over the reins to those who follow. I wish Brothers Boyce, Johnston, and Freeman the best as they move up within the Consistory line. We have very capable officers on all of our lines, and I encourage them to work together for the good of the Scottish Rite and the good of the Valley. There is nothing we cannot accomplish if we all work together in the best interests of the body we serve.

Thank you again for the high privilege you have given me. □

The Potent

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

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Love of Country and Craft

By Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom, and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth, universal brotherhood and good will, and a constant and earnest striving toward the principles and ideals on which this country was founded." Patriotism is an ideal that has always been one of the founding tenants of Freemasonry. Among the very first lessons a newly initiated Mason learns is loyalty to one's country. We believe that patriotism and love of country should be prevailing sentiments in the hearts of every Mason. The flag of our country is the Stars and Stripes, and it should always be shown proper respect on every occasion. The feeling of patriotism should not be one of boastful pride or a sense of superiority but rather a recognition of all that is good and honorable in one's own country.

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Some historians have theorized that the language of modern patriotism was initially built upon the foundation of the ancients. Modern philosophers and poets borrowed the ideas from Greek and Roman sources for both the religious and the political content of patriotism. These two cultures provided the roots for a political patriotism that conceives of loyalty to the *patria* as loyalty to a political conception of the republic. *Patria* and *patrius* are associated with the love of law and common liberty, the search for the common good, and the duty to behave justly toward one's country. Those same philosophers and historians discovered early on that there existed certain principles in the human mind that motivated people into action. And out of all these principles, the one they found most important was the love of country. Love of country is not only universal, but it is also an indestructible feeling. It is a shared pride that brings people together, promotes compassion, shows kindness to your friend and neighbor, and helps us endure challenges that face the entire nation.

It is a shared pride that brings people together, promotes compassion, shows kindness to your friend and neighbor, and helps us endure challenges that face the entire nation.

If you've attended at least one Masonic meeting in your life, you know how Freemasons feel about their love of country. The opening of every meeting includes the Pledge of Allegiance and sometimes the singing of our National Anthem, but I think it goes far deeper than that. The degrees of the Scottish Rite inculcate patriotism, love of our nation's flag, respect for law and order, and an undying loyalty to constitutional government. In the *Master Ad Vitam* degree, we learn about the core values of devotion to country and integrity. The common teachings in the degrees of *Knight of Valor, Master of Achievement,* and *Friend and Brother Eternal,* focus on devotion to country and service. There is even an underlying theme of devotion to country and service in the 32nd degree, *Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret.* So throughout your journey in the Scottish Rite, the recurring themes of patriotism and love of country will continue to reinforce your personal patriotic beliefs as a participating member of the fraternity.

Obviously, love for one's country is very important within the Masonic community, but if you think about it, many of the virtues and lessons taught within Masonic organizations (like the Scottish Rite) can be seen as fundamental teachings in patriotism. It is worth mentioning again that the United States is one of the few countries where several Freemasons played key roles in helping to shape and create the framework of this great nation. However, love of country is not exclusive to only the United States. Patriotism is considered one of the core values in all Masonic groups throughout the world. □

The Sovereign

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

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

A Chance to Shine

By Robert M. Polander, 32°

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What an interesting year this has turned out to be. The Coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives and our daily routines for now, and probably, forever. Shaking hands, hugging, and general physical contact may be a thing of the past. One has to wonder how this will affect our Masonic work.

There is a lot to think about. Hopefully, we can also embrace this as an exciting time with positive changes. One thing that may be here to stay is the use of virtual/teleconference meetings. These will help to save money and time as well as make it possible for members who have difficulty traveling to participate in meetings and other Masonic events.

> This pandemic has given Masons a chance to shine doing what they do best.

The Grand Master has postponed all in-person Masonic meetings until July 1, 2020. In response, on May 16th the Valley held a virtual Spring Class. It was the first in the history of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. On the same day, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania also held its Annual Conclave virtually. The times are definitely changing.

It is fitting that the theme of this issue is patriotism. This pandemic has given Masons a chance to shine doing what they do best. Many local lodges donated food to the hospital workers. The Syria Shriners donated pizzas to the fire department, police department, the emergency services, and the courthouse workers as a way of thanking them for what they do both locally and for humanity in general. Masons on their own are going out and taking food and supplies to the elderly, disabled, veterans, and others who are unable to get out. A time like this shows what Americans are all about. This is a time we will all remember. Things will return to normal, but for now, stay home and stay safe.

I also want to update you on the Valley of Pittsburgh's primary charity, the Children's Dyslexia Center. We are continuing to teach the children online via Zoom teleconferencing. Our goal has always been to teach as many children as we can. Online learning may help us reach more students efficiently. As time goes on, we will evaluate the effectiveness of this method to see if it should become a permanent option.

I had promised to give you a "report card" on the Pittsburgh Dyslexia Learning Center including parent, teacher, and student evaluations, but the pandemic made that impossible. I will be sure to give you that in a separate article once life has returned to normal.

The Wise

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

ROSE CROIX

Waving the Flag

By Matthew A. Boice, 32°

On the 14th of June 1775, the banner of the United States of America was born. One hundred eighty-six years later, on June 14, 1961, I was born. When I was a wee lad, my father would say to me, "Look! Everyone is putting up the flag for your birthday." Of course, it was Flag Day. Having been born on the anniversary of our country's flag, it's no wonder that I revel in flags and pageantry. I remember watching the flagman at Lernerville Speedway and wanting to wave those flags. I actually replicated all of the flags used in auto racing and used them while my friends were racing their go-carts in the woods at my parent's property.

Matthew A. Boice, 32°
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The Stars and Stripes, the Star-Spangled Banner, the flag of our country, what does it stand for? Every Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day, I decorate my yard with 50 flags in honor of those who have served, in honor of the birth of our banner, and in honor of the independence of these United States. As a self-proclaimed flag-waver, for what do I wave? Politically, we certainly don't seem to be "united." We seem to be more concerned about winning and losing than of right and wrong. The flag, I believe, represents the spirit upon which this country was founded, freedom and doing what is right, and, if I may use the reference, doing it *RiteNow.*

> This flag of our country has flown over great challenges and adversity.

As I sit here composing this article, we are all going through this Coronavirus crisis. All of my Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, and Shrine events have just been cancelled. My church is going to be moving to live stream services. My former very busy life has come to a screeching halt. I started working myself into a panic attack. (I had never experienced this prior in my life.) I was just with my 80-year-old mother and my younger daughter who is pregnant. Oh my, what if I have the virus? Oh my, I hugged one of my former softball players at her dad's funeral. I could start to feel my blood pressure rise; then my face felt warm. Oh no! I have a fever. Ahhhhhhh. Alright, back to reality. I'm fine and have faced my fears.

Then, I thought about the flag. This flag of our country has flown over great challenges and adversity. When tragedy has struck, the flag has rallied the citizens of this country regardless of their political party, race, gender, or sexual preference. As citizens and as Brothers of the Craft, we stand together to fight for each other, to support each other, to comfort each other, and to sustain each other—in all conditions of life.

Today I was talking with a few of my lodge brothers about our current situation. No meetings to attend. No brothers to visit with. Then it struck me: that's why we're here. After talking with our Lodge Secretary, we devised a plan to call all of our members and check up on them, especially the older guys. We could run errands for them so they didn't have to mix with the public, or we could just talk to them. We might be going through adversity, but when

Freemasons go hand in hand with unanimity, success generally crowns our effort.

There are many references to doing what is right for our fellow man in the ritual of our Scottish Rite degrees. In the 17th degree, *Knight of the East and West,* we learn that man will fail in all efforts based on power, greed, and envy, and that we must seek divine guidance to avoid repeating the errors of the past. In the 18th degree, *Knight of the Rose Croix of Heredom,* we discover Faith, Hope, and Charity on our journey to learn of both the new law of love, which comes from a Kingdom that lives in the hearts of men and of a great sacrifice made so that men could be free. The 32nd degree celebrates the triumph of individual integrity and our obligation to serve humanity, when Constans gives up his life to serve his fellow man.[1]

However, the most poignant illustration of service to man is depicted in the 23rd Degree, *Knight of Valor.* This degree introduces four World War II Army Chaplains—a priest, a rabbi, and two protestant ministers—who relinquished their life jackets to soldiers after their Army troopship was torpedoed. They went down with the ship, arms linked, praying for the safety of the other men.

I learned a greater insight into this degree from a story shared by Brother James R. Flanigan, 33°, Past Most Wise Master. Jim tells of meeting Dr. Daniel A. Poling, father of Clark Poling, who was one of the chaplains.

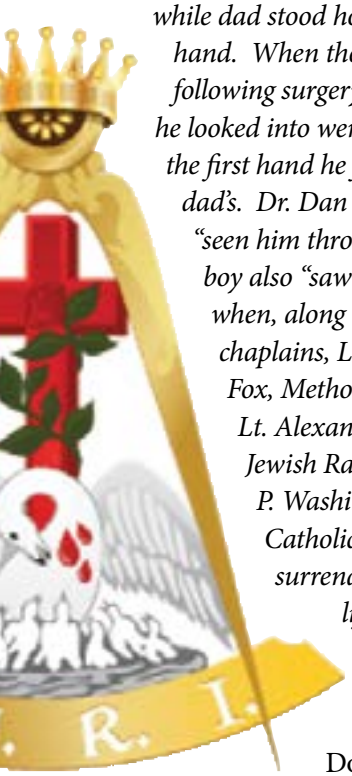
I was impressed by the Past President of the World Christian

Author's Note: If you would like to listen to a recording of this arrangement, go to the link below, which is a recording of the 2012 Iowa All-State Band and Chorus under the baton of Dr. Jerry Blackstone of the University of Michigan. The quoted narration will start after the fanfare and end just before the chorus enters.
https://youtu.be/p7-XQeG6BGQ

Endeavor Society, Dr. Daniel A. Poling. I met "Dr. Dan" twice in the late 1950s when I attended national meetings of the World Christian Endeavor Society, the youth organization in my church. He stressed being alert to opportunities to serve the Lord, and to "see things through." He told the story of his son, Clark, being afraid of having his tonsils removed. "Don't worry, Clark," he told the lad, "God will see you through."

"I know God will be there, but I can't see Him, and I can't feel Him. Will you see me through?" Dr. Poling assured his son that he would indeed "see him through."

So it was that father and son entered the operating room, where Clark Poling had his tonsils removed, while dad stood holding his hand. When the boy awakened following surgery, the first eyes he looked into were his father's; the first hand he felt was his dad's. Dr. Dan had indeed "seen him through." That boy also "saw it through" when, along with three other chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic priest; surrendered their life jackets to frightened sailors when the Dorchester *was torpedoed by a German submarine in World War II.*



"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13 KJV)

To me, the flag, patriotism, and love of country all stand for doing what is right in service to others. I am reminded of the US Navy Band's recording of Carmen Dragon's arrangement of *America the Beautiful.* The following sentiment was one of the lines in the narration that was added for a bicentennial celebration in 1976, which was to represent the flag speaking of its experiences.

"May I possess always the integrity, the courage, and the strength to keep myself prepared to perform my entrusted mission."

I was born on 14 June 1775.

The bloodiness of the world has run through my veins.

I remember Nathan Hale and Paul Revere.

I was at Lexington and the shot heard round the world was the

first of many I have fired.

I was with Washington at Valley Forge and in victory at Yorktown.

I remember the Battle of New Orleans, Gettysburg,

San Juan Hill, the Argon Forest, the Beaches of Normandy,

the Hills of Korea, and the Jungles of Vietnam.

I have produced some of the great leaders this country has known:

Washington, Jackson, Grant, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, MacArthur.

When freedom called, I answered and stayed until it was over,

"Over there."

I left my heroic dead in Flanders Field, on Omaha Beach, on the bloody hills of Korea, and the steaming jungles of Vietnam.

I was conceived to fight for freedom and God willing I'll spend the rest of my days fighting to preserve the freedom my country cherishes so much.

May I possess always the integrity, the courage, and the strength to keep myself prepared to perform my entrusted mission.

And today I stand ready to defend and preserve our independence

with that same devotion I displayed through my first 200 years.

God Bless America[2]

This is why I wave the flag. □

[1] *The Masonic Pageant, the Scottish Rite Degrees of the Supreme Council, NMJ,* by Frank Conway, PhD., 33°

[2] The United States Navy Band

The Word

Obeservations from Reverend David A. Eichelberger, 32°

GROWING UP WITH PATRIOTISM

Patriotism is one of those concepts that seems rather self-explanatory but is expressed in a different way by each person. I am the son of a World War II Army veteran, the grandson of a World War I Marine veteran, and the great-great-grandson of a Civil War Grand Army of the Republic veteran. There are even whispers in the family that we are descendants of a Revolutionary War veteran. I have learned from all of them a certain way of expressing patriotism.

At our home, we observed all the civic holidays. Memorial and Veterans' Days included attending or participating in parades that paid tribute to the fallen and our veterans. Every Memorial Day, we were sure to look for poppies to wear in tribute to those who fell on Flanders field. One of my father's happiest days was when he could raise a flagpole in the front yard and fly the flag of our country every day. A very proud day for me was when I could ride along as he was feted as one of Mercer County's oldest living veterans at the parade in Mercer several years ago.

We also learned that patriotism meant more than flying the flag and watching parades. It meant being of service to our community. My father placed new flags on hundreds of veterans' graves every year that he was able. It also included helping neighbors if you could lend a hand. It especially demanded that a patriot vote in every election whether it was for local, statewide or national office. Since I have been able to vote, I have only missed two elections. For many years, I served as an election judge and helped to coordinate CROP walks to feed the hungry in the towns where I lived and in countries overseas.

We, as Freemasons, are reminded at every meeting that patriotism is a core tenet of the craft. By pledging our allegiance to the flag of our country, we reaffirm our commitment to the ideals that are the foundation of our nation. Despite our individual preferences for party or candidate, we support the concept of one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. In our lodges and our communities, we do our best to see that our nation fully lives into those high ideals. Sometimes we fall short, but we keep striving to improve our nation.

We also learned that patriotism meant more than flying the flag and watching parades.

In these trying times for our world and nation during the Covid-19 crisis, we may be called upon to live into our patriotism in extra special manners. Some of our brother Scottish Rite Masons who are doctors, nurses, medical staff, EMTs, police, or firemen are putting their lives on the line by answering the call to duty to care for those afflicted. Others are being patriotic by helping those who have lost employment during the shutdown—staffing food banks or providing meals to those in need. Still more are volunteering to give blood so that that life-giving substance is available when needed. I hope we are also reaching out to our brethren to see if they need any help with getting groceries or medical supplies.

How are you displaying your patriotism in these trying times? Although our Lodges are closed for in-person meetings, we are now dispersed into the world where we can each make a difference. I pray that the G.A.O.T.U. will bless us and preserve us in these months of peril and bring us through to the day when we can gather together once more with our brethren.

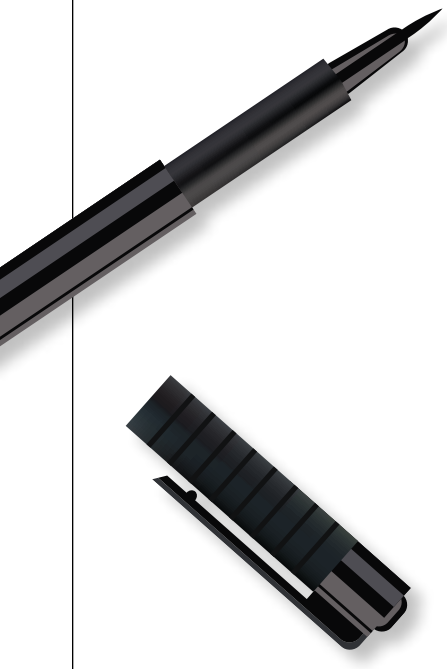
The Office

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

The New Normal

By David W. Morgans, 33°



David W. Morgans, 33°
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the very fabric of the world. Each of the members of the Valley of Pittsburgh had to face those challenges in unique ways and will continue to navigate the new normal that the world will reveal. I hope that you have all successfully met those initial challenges and that the future brings you peace, health, and prosperity. The impacts of this pandemic have caused major changes to the way our fraternity operates.

The most notable impact was the social distancing and shelter at home mandates issued by the government which caused Grand Lodges to suspend all meetings, small and large, until July 1, 2020 at the earliest. Being peaceable and dutiful citizens, Scottish Rite Masons are doing their parts to live in harmony with the restrictions placed upon us for the good of the society in which we live, but it has not been easy.

As we all know, one of the great benefits of being part of a fraternity is to meet face to face with our brothers, shake hands, engage in conversation, share in one another's lives, practice and learn Masonic values, and part on the square to look forward to a future time together with our Brethren. It would seem that a major part of our existence has been amputated. And yet, in many ways, our fraternity will become stronger and more connected.

> Whether we like it or not, the world has changed, and we must change with it.

There are countless stories of Masons who have reached out to other Masons in non-traditional ways. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction offered ways to view our pre-recorded degrees through their Member Center on Thursday nights. Masons have had fellowship through virtual gatherings and discussion groups via the many different platforms popular in these times of social distancing. The Valley Hospitalers still worked through this time with phone calls, emails, and cards to our distressed Brethren. And the Valley of Pittsburgh reached way outside the box to be the only Valley to offer a virtual Spring Class to bring in new members.

This was an opportunity for the Valley to respond to the current conditions to offer a way for other Masons to become Scottish Rite Masons and enjoy what the Scottish Rite has to offer. This virtual Class offered a sense of normalcy to an

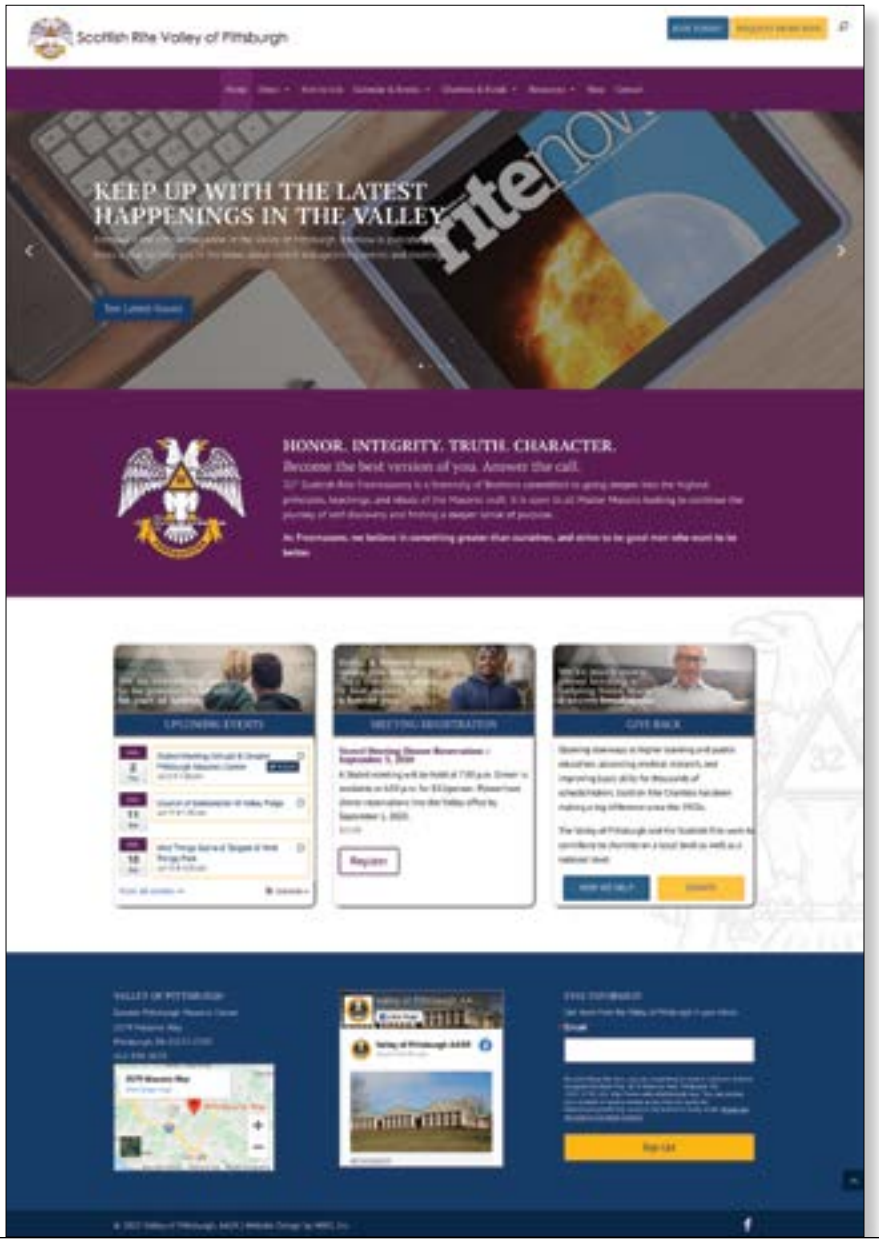
New Valley of Pittsburgh website launches!

abnormal way of living. It offered connectedness and fraternal growth in a time of disconnectedness and stagnation. In short, it offered hope in a time that many have struggled with despair and hopelessness.

This pandemic has amplified the need for better communication. In the rapidly changing world around us, electronic communication is the best way for the Valley to quickly reach its members. Emails are a great way to reduce the time delay and costs associated with traditional mail. If you have an email address but are not receiving emails from the Valley of Pittsburgh, please consider sharing your email address with the Valley office.

The Valley has also just had its website redesigned to make it more convenient for our members to stay abreast of Valley activities and connect with Scottish Rite Masonry. Please visit http://www.valleyofpittsburgh.org/ to see our new website. You will notice that you are now able to register and pay for Valley events online. We don't know exactly when we will get back to scheduling future events with complete confidence—that will depend on what regulations will be imposed or when they will be lifted. The most accurate way for our members to know our most up-to-date schedule will be to check out the website and to pay attention to Valley emails.

Society may change. It may put restrictions on our fraternity, but the Fraternity and its members will always prevail, and Scottish Rite Masonry will thrive in whatever the "new normal" world presents to us. Whether we like it or not, the world has changed, and we must change with it. My Brothers, since its inception, Freemasonry has been a positive influence in and on the world. No pandemic or disaster will ever change that fact. Let us move forward together as Brothers to show a chaotic world that Scottish Rite Masonry will always adapt to offer good men a place, even if it may only be a virtual place, to have good fellowship, to learn and grow, and to become better men and Masons.



Salute to Veterans

A message for Military Veterans of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

The Greatest Generation

By Robert B. Ruff, 33°

Patriotism, like Masonry, means something slightly different to each of us. To some, it could be flying the flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, or singing God Bless America. To others, it means parades, cookouts, or an extra day off work.

It can also mean service to God, others, and especially country. Most veterans know this. It is part of our DNA. During this pandemic, Americans have shown patriotism by how they have helped loved ones and others—whether it was as simple as wearing a facemask, staying quarantined, and practicing social distancing, or as selfless as running errands for others that are at high risk. We are ALL Americans and patriots—loving the country and countrymen in time of crisis.

> We are ALL Americans and patriots.

We have just celebrated the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. As the years have passed, the importance of this holiday has started to get lost. Those who have lived through it must be sure to pass its significance on to the younger folks. In honor of VE Day, I want to focus on three people from the Greatest Generation. Two have passed and one remains with us.

I started volunteering at the VA in 2009 and quickly found out that the Masons play a tremendous part in serving our veterans. I was also fortunate enough to learn some great life lessons as well as hear some fantastic stories.

Our first hero is William Vaupel, MSA. Bill was in charge of the Masons that volunteered at the VA. His duties included training, recruitment, encouragement, and telling a lot of great tales. My favorite story was about when he and all his Northside buddies signed up together and shipped over to Europe. Bill ended up separated from his childhood friends—they were on the front, and he was fixing airplanes all over Europe. It just so happened that Bill had a pass that would get him almost anywhere to fix planes. One day he decided that he wanted to find his buddies and fight Germans rather than work on the planes. Why should they have that chance when he was stuck fixing planes behind all the action? Well, Bill decided to go looking for them while being AWOL with his nifty little pass that let him go anywhere. I cannot remember if he found them, but I do recall that he evaded a court-martial by having the guts

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?

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

Robert B. Ruff, 33°
Rruff2u@gmail.com | 412-621-0872

We are eternally grateful for your sacrifices and love of country.

to tell his superior officer that all he wanted was to help his childhood buddies kill Germans and win this war!

Our second hero is Roy Boyce, 32°. Roy was an engineer by trade but taught glider pilots stateside. He had some really great sayings and witty little tunes that had to do with the war. Unfortunately I never got to record any of them because that just wasn't Roy's style. Known as "The Cookie Man," Roy loved to bake and was such a kind and gentle person. He lived to be 93.

Before he died, he and I (along with hero number 3, Louie Azzolini 32°) volunteered together in Hero's Hall every Friday for almost five years. Louie was a medic and told great stories. Like the others, he was a kind and wonderful person. He would talk of the shell-shocked guys hiding under beds and desks with fear and not knowing how to help them other than getting down there with them to try and calm them down the best he could so they wouldn't feel alone.

This generation is truly the GREATEST. They are people of morals and conviction, doing the right thing, showing us all the correct and honest way to live. Most of all, they are shining examples of patriotism worthy of emulation.

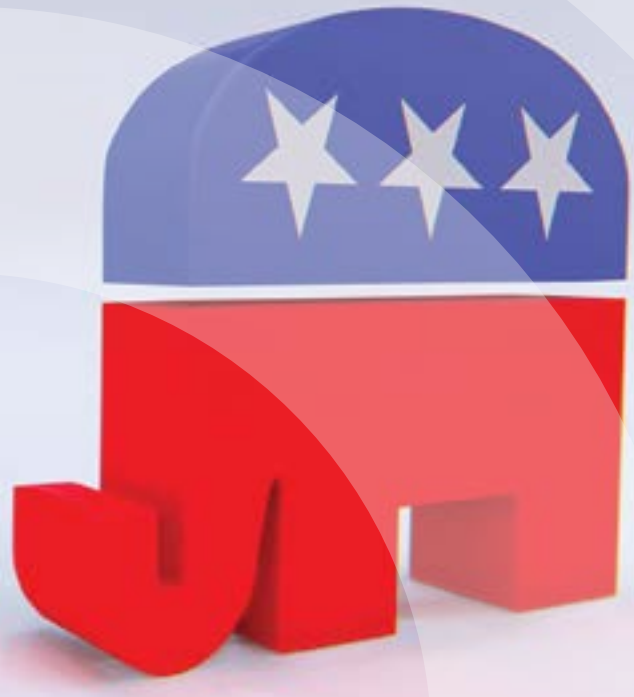
Thank you to Lou and and his beautiful wife, Maxine! Hope to see you around the Valley soon.

Thanks also to Bill and Roy. We will all be together again "over there" someday.

To ALL our World War II veterans. We are eternally grateful for your sacrifices and love of country. We remember you this VE Day and always.

Spes Mea in Deo Est. □

The Elephant (and Donkey) in the Room



Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

Knowing that the theme of this issue was the Masonic value of patriotism and love of country, the temptation I faced to write a puff piece was strong.

Nothing could be simpler than to espouse the things about our country that I do love, have our brethren read it, nodding sagely, agreeing that "good is good," and then try to scurry as quickly as possible to the next thing.
But as much as I cringed at the prospect, I felt that as adults we ought to acknowledge the fractious political climate in our country and attempt to address it as civilized gentlemen, as brothers.

Many of you who are interested in history will already know two things about party politics in America. First, most of the founding fathers warned against it. James Madison wrote in the federalist papers that one of the goals of a "well-constructed union" ought to be "its tendency to break and control the violence of faction." Alexander Hamilton once referred to political parties as "the most fatal disease" of a government by the people. The second thing is that Americans began engaging in party politics anyway and very early. The Democratic Party's basic roots began in 1791, and their chief opposition, the Whigs, coalesced in opposition to President (and Brother) Andrew Jackson in 1834. They were later to spin off into the Republican Party in 1854. Incidentally, in this period from the 1790s to the 1810s, newspapers were very explicit tools of the parties. If you think today's political coverage is vicious, you really ought to try reading the old stuff sometime.

All this is why, if you'll forgive me skipping around in time, George Washington famously warned in his farewell speech in 1796 of the deleterious effects of parties on our democracy: "The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it."

Entangled with our perception of our contemporary Democratic and Republican parties is our understanding of what it means to be liberal or conservative.

> **I can find something to admire in both of these stances.**

One definition of "liberal" *might* include the stance that the government's role is to serve and protect the public and that, in doing so, it needs to pay particular attention to segments of the population that are most disadvantaged and vulnerable. Another definition is that to preserve liberty and equality for those who are powerless or at-risk, the government must put safety nets in place for them, possibly to the extent of redistribution of wealth.

One definition of "conservative" *might* be the stance expressed in the maxim, "That government is best which governs least." (This is best remembered as a quote in *Thoreau's Civil Disobedience* where he was

actually referencing the motto of *The United States Magazine and Democratic Review.*) This is to say, if I am going to consent to be governed, please govern me as efficiently as possible by being frugal and efficient with the tax money you extract from me and interfere with my freedoms as little as possible.

I can say without irony or pandering that I can find something to admire in both of these stances. Please re-read both passages carefully and with an open mind. Can you not say the same?

It's worth including in this discussion that America has had, and still has, "third parties" aside from the Democrats and Republicans. A quick trip to Wikipedia seeking "political parties in the United States" can introduce you to the Constitution Party, the Green Party, and the Libertarian Party, but this is just confining it to the larger and more broadly-recognized ones. If you continue down the rabbit hole to the "list of political parties in the United States," you'll find a total of 40 or so. Some are strictly regional. Others are a bit one-note, seeming to have only one "plank" in their platform. However, a conclusion we can easily draw is that there are ideologies further left and further right than those espoused by our mainstream political parties.

And it's also okay to bring into this discussion the perennial debate between "voting your conscience" and "doing the math." If you've ever been disillusioned with the plans and actions of both major parties and contemplated aloud supporting one of these other alternatives, you will almost inevitably encounter friends who want to warn you that voting your conscience accomplishes nothing. It only erodes the pursuit of the needed majority by one of the mainstream candidates. I must confess, in our current system, I know that desire looks pretty Quixotic.

Where do we go from here? If we look to our Scottish Rite teaching, there is indeed some guidance. As usual, I will do my best to allude to it here without capturing anything inappropriate in print. In fact, you will find nothing more revealing in what I write than appears at our Scottish Rite NMJ website. In the 20th Degree, set during the Revolutionary War, Masons agree upon a judgment regarding right and wrong. Even with an active and serious issue dividing them at the time, they can come to this accord. Also, in the 26th Degree, set during the Civil War, Masons are willing to offer comfort and succor to each other despite their divisions.

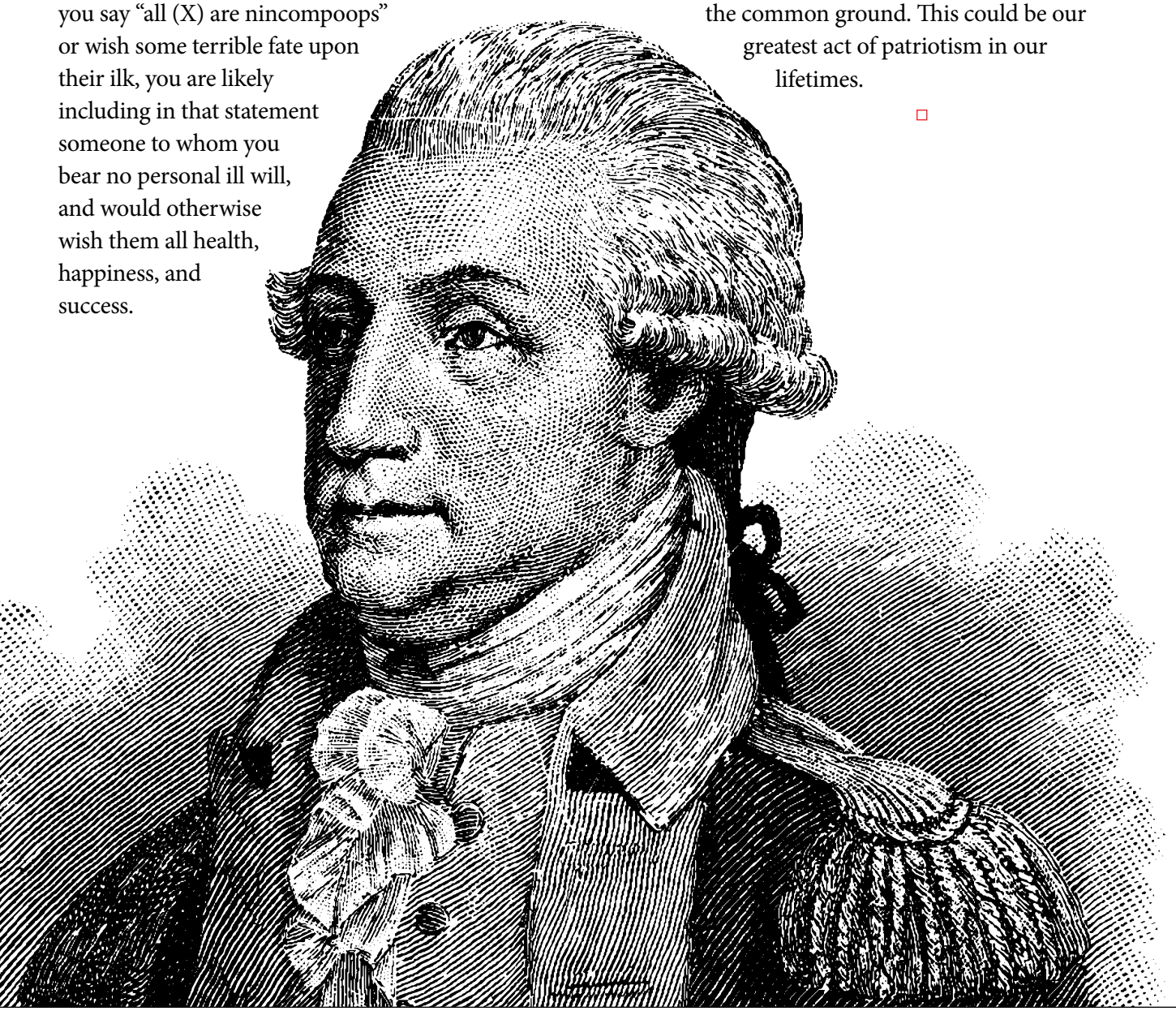
It's time we turn a serious and critical eye on our own public conduct.

If the audience will forgive my possible bias, I would like to add this (which I would deem a very important example) to those two more obvious examples. In the 16th Degree, we witness a debate in the court of King Darius. Three participants propose arguments which – you will only learn with further study—benefit them because of their relationships to the king. Only one man makes his argument based on what is right and true, rather than because of a connection to power and influence or how it will benefit him. I'll acknowledge that this lesson can be the trickiest to apply because in our zeal, we often believe that we are possessed of the only objective truth. We must proceed with caution.

With this said, I think it's time we turn a serious and critical eye on our own public conduct. And yes, I know none of us has been in public much as a result of the virus-related lockdown. But I'm referring to our conduct on the internet—that Agora which never closes, a venue where we

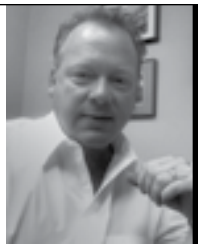
were sharing our thoughts and opinions before this quarantine, have done even more so during, and will no doubt continue after. I can scarcely believe this needs to be repeated, but how we conduct ourselves in public is a demonstration to non-members and could be their only window into what Freemasonry is about. Ad hominem attacks, name-calling, and broad-sweeping generalizations about the supporters of one party or another should be rigorously avoided. It's immature and suggests there is nothing lofty about our association. Remember, every time you say "all (X) are nincompoops" or wish some terrible fate upon their ilk, you are likely including in that statement someone to whom you bear no personal ill will, and would otherwise wish them all health, happiness, and success.

Is it possible that we can all agree that internal forces are contributing to the erosion of our democracy? Maybe you consider the great evil is campaign finance or the infusion of "dark money" into American politics; maybe you think the most significant issue is the monolithic nature of the mainstream parties; maybe you think it's the replacement of debate over candidates' qualifications with identity politics and pandering. But we as Masons ought to step up, acknowledge these divisions, and be the vanguard of seeking the common ground. This could be our greatest act of patriotism in our lifetimes.



And Skies Are Everywhere as Blue As Mine

by D. Todd Ballenger, 33°



D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

This is my song,
O God of all the nations
A song of peace,
for lands afar and mine

"I wish there may not be reason for regretting the choice. All I can promise is only that which can be accomplished by an honest zeal." These were the words of George Washington after being informed that he had been elected the first President of the United States of America. His reluctance to accept the position is well-documented, but as we Masons know (as did Washington, I am sure), quite often it is the office that seeks the man. To say that Washington was a man of character would be an understatement. After serving as commander of the Continental Army, he resigned his commission to return to his home in Virginia. However, when asked to preside over the Constitutional Convention in 1787, he traveled to Philadelphia to do what he saw as his duty to his country. Later, in 1789, George Washington would again leave home to serve the people of the United States—only this time as their President.

There is no doubt that George Washington was a great patriot and leader who sought not personal gain in his popularity but to unite a nation and protect the ideals and principles on which it was founded. Patriotism, however, isn't the same today as what we romanticize our mid-eighteenth-century founding fathers portraying.

This is my home,
the country where my heart is
Here are my hopes,
my dreams, my holy shrine

The dictionary definition of *patriotism* is "the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to a homeland and alliance with other citizens who share the same sentiment." A difficulty with this definition, however, is that it very closely resembles the idea and definition of *nationalism,* which is "a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations." Confusion tends to set in when individuals who oppose certain policies of the government mistake actions of violence and disobedience with patriotism. Conversely, those defending the status quo at all costs have the tendency to develop staunch feelings of nationalism from what they see as an attack on their own ideals. Unfortunately for all of us, politics is the most common driving force behind such ideological clashes.

But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

Given these issues, it is interesting to note how we as Freemasons are taught to act. Remember, ours is not a Fraternity confined, or even based on North American ideals. "In the State, a Freemason is to

behave as a dutiful citizen, conforming cheerfully to the government under which he lives." Now, I do not know many people who are particularly cheerful about anything that is related to the government; the point is that we each have the right to have and express that opinion and work to affect changes within the lawful procedures established for us all. Understanding and abiding by the rules, even if we are trying to change them, is part of being a dutiful citizen.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean
And sunlight beams on clover, leaf, and pine

From these duties, we can see the growth of a certain devotion to country, itself a core value of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. As devoted American citizens, we are privileged with certain rights, and—believe it or not - responsibilities. That's right. John F. Kennedy wasn't kidding when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Even the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services recognizes that while citizens have the right to express themselves, to vote, and to a fair trial by jury, we as Americans also have responsibilities. These responsibilities include staying informed of community issues, participating in the democratic process, and "respecting federal, state, and local laws, as well as the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others." In the words of President Barack Obama: "We, the People, recognize that we have responsibilities as well as rights; that our destinies are bound together; that a freedom which only asks what's in it for me, a freedom without commitment to others, a freedom without love or charity or duty or patriotism, is unworthy of our founding fathers, and those who died in their defense."

Our great country is made up of a variety of peoples, much the same as our beloved Masonic fraternity. President Ronald Reagan once said, "If we love our country, we should also love our countrymen." Not surprisingly, this statement echoes the thoughts of George Washington himself: "Citizens, by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any other appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes."

But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine

Understanding these ideas is important in remembering that patriotism—true patriotism—is not solely defined by the defiance of a perceived injustice or by wearing a particular uniform for a specified period of time. Real devotion to country may include those things, but also requires a commitment of responsibility to others—to "observe good faith and justice toward all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all." The ideals of Washington's farewell speech are still evident because today, we are a global community. Our words and actions help stir emotion and support for those in need all over the world. But inherent in that ability is a responsibility to share the best parts of ourselves, as men, as Americans, and as Scottish Rite Masons.

O hear my song, thou God of all the nations
A song of peace for their land and for mine

—"Finlandia" Lyrics by Lloyd Stone, Music by Jean Sibelius

The Center

A message from the Director of the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

A New Way of Teaching

By Patricia Broskey

For more information:
412-931-3181
Patricia Broskey, *Director*
pittsburgh@cdcinc.org

So much has changed since the temporary Covid-related closing of the Children's Dyslexia Center on March 12, 2020. What we initially thought would be a two-week shutdown for our Center has morphed into online tutoring.

The efforts of our Headquarters and staff have been extraordinary. In short order, we pitched in to assemble information and resources, held multiple online "meetings" with Center directors and headquarters, contacted tutors and families for permission for direct contact, and set up accounts and new emails. We've all slowly wrapped our arms around this unknown entity and have shaped it into a workable solution.

Online Orton-Gillingham tutoring began with a few of our tutors and students the week of April 6. Headquarters purchased a secure Zoom account for our Center to use. The tutors sifted through piles of resources and websites. They stacked soup cans and attached phones (see picture) so that the students could see the cards. They reconstructed all the components of our highly structured lesson plans. The tutors and students learned how to use a Zoom account. All of this was done without access to the resources usually available to them in the Center.

Tutors and parents rearranged their schedules so that everyone could have access to the Zoom account. As of April 7, there have been well over 100 online tutoring sessions. What an amazing feat! I am ***so proud*** of our tutors for all their efforts and marvelous achievements! The parents are so grateful. The students are (mostly) overjoyed to see their tutors and to experience the success of OG tutoring.

There have been challenges. There are connection problems through the accounts; local areas of the internet periodically go down; multiple people in the house slow the connection; distractions (including loving pets) abound. The good news is we have triumphed over the challenges! We have wrangled this wild, unpredictable time and have tamed it to be used to our advantage of moving forward with tutoring our students.

> The good news is we have triumphed over the challenges!

We have received official notice that the Centers will remain closed through July. This means we will not be able to have face-to-face tutoring for our summer session. We will continue to tutor as many students as possible through the online Zoom account.

Regrettably, we had to cancel/delay our Picnic/Graduation just as so many graduations and other events have had to be canceled. We are still unsure when we will be able to have this official ceremony. Even without the pomp and circumstance, every one of our students has the achievement of improving their reading skills. We will continue to focus on this impactful life-changing accomplishment!

Thank you, Masons, for your financial support to enable lives to have a new positive trajectory of success! □

A tutor finds a creative use for soup cans to hold her phone over the flash cards during an online teaching session.

PITTSBURGH Children's Dyslexia Center

In Their Own Words

In the coming issues, we will share some of the notes that we have received from the students at the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh. There is no better way to to see the good that our Center does than through the words of the very children we have helped.

Dear Mason,

I would like to thank you for providing and supporting the tutoring classes. I thank you for this because the tutoring classes because the classes are helping me become a better reader. They are also helping me become a better student at school, and at the tutoring classes.

From
Ellie

Dear Board of Governors,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a brand new start in my education. I am thankful for the Dyslexia Center and my tutor(Mrs. Brian) for always encouraging me to learn and to work hard. By coming to the Dyslexia center, she has made a big difference in my life over years.

Trent H.

Thank you so much for helping me. Back to read I used to feel like I was all on my own until I started coming here I realized that alot of other people had the same thing then I feel like I was not on my own I feel like I could read and that I could do it and push myself to try and work harder than ever. Thank you so much.

Ava

Thank you so much

Dear Board of Governors,

Thank you for supporting and funding the Children's Dyslexia Center of Pittsburgh.

I started going to the Center in September of 2019. The Center helps me a lot with my reading and writing.

I really like my tutor Ms. Lezlee. She's just so nice. Thanks to her help I am getting better at reading and writing.

Thank you,
Andrew M.

P.S. I don't know what I would do without the Center!

Thank you for the tutoring lessons. They really help with Me and my family really appreciates it.

From Chase

To: Board of Governors

Thank you for making the dyslexia center possible. If you either make this center then I wouldn't be where I am right now. You're feeling happiness. Help give me the confidence to become successful reader! Thanks again for all you do!

Love,
Emma

Dear Board of Governors

The teachers at the Dyslexia Center have really helped me become a better reader.

Thank you,
Logan

Thank you so much for helping me this year I really learned alot. I am reading and spelling better. Ms. Helen is cool.

Your friend,
Nathan

Dear Mason
Thank you for the Dyslexia Center. Board of you I
[illegible]

Love,

Emma

Dear Mr Rhoads

I am having a hard time putting my words into words. I hope you know how much I appreciate all your help. You have given the gift of encouragement, self confidence and in difficult times. I could not read or write like every other kid. I know am special and so grateful for your support.

I would like to thank the masons dyslexia center for tutoring me with my reading. I can read so much better now. I actually like Reading now, and reading in class. I also volunteered twice to read during church at School. All the tutors are helpful and nice. I am happy I am able to go here and get help.

Thank You!
A.E.F

Hi, thank you so much I am learning to spell and read and rite better. My Dad and pap and unkel and frend and Kusen are all masens I hope to one day be one too. My kusen nate went near too, he just joyned the Mareans. so wunts a gane thank you. you are good people! thank you sereely Bracon

Thank you so so much I have learned alot from that center. They make it fun learning here. Thank for me It isn't there alot of Fun.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for All the help that you guys gave me now I can Read alot. and I know more and understand more stuff than before. Guy and what not.

Dear Board of Governors,
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the center. I feel that my reading and writing are improving. I really enjoy working with my tutor. She is nice and patient. This program helps me understand the rules of reading and writing. I am very lucky to go to the center. Thank you again for all you do.

Noah

THANK YOU!!!

To The Board of Governors:

I would like to thank you for all of the support that you give to the Dyslexia Center.

This tutoring has helped me so much with my reading abilities. I feel like I have improved my reading skills and gained so much confidence. The staff has provided such a positive atmosphere and your support behind the scenes is what makes everything come together.

Thank you again for assisting in the program and providing so that I can get tutoring.

Thanks so much,
[illegible]

Dear Scottish Rite Masons,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity for the tutoring classes. I am better at reading. It's easier to read because of tutoring. I love to read now. I love doing reading logs because I get Bucks and Magic gift cards! It's so much fun. My tutor is kind, loving and caring. I feel that I learned a lot this year! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kelly

P.S. My favorite book was The Witches by Roald Dahl.

THANK YOU!

Dear Board

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this tutoring program.

Even though I have only been in the program for seven months, I feel it is already helping.

If it wasn't for this program and your help, I would not be receiving the help I need.

Thank you very much! ♡

RH

To all the gentlemen who make the Dyslexia Center possible:

April 28, 2019

I'm a seventh grade student who has had trouble with spelling and reading all through lower school and now in Middle School. I've felt stupid and haven't been able to keep up in school and other grade levels have been mean and excluded me.

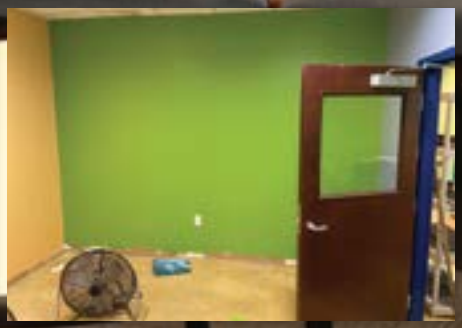
When my mom found out about the Dyslexia Center and put my name on the waiting list, it seemed like the time would never come for me to begin!

But now I have been in the program during the whole school year. I have fun working with Mrs. Diane and she says I've learned quickly. I can't tell how much my spelling has improved and that reading comes easier for me now.

Thank you for making all of this possible. I think you've changed my whole future for the better! I hope and pray that you are rewarded many times over for caring about kids like me and giving us a chance to learn and succeed.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Mary Therese



CHARITY

Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh Gets a Fresh New Look

The proceeds from recent RiteHouse Acoustic Evenings has enabled the Valley of Pittsburgh to renovate the Children's Dyslexia Center.

During the recent quarantine, the Center has been closed. Members of the Valley and employees of the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center worked tirelessly for several weeks to paint, carpet, and refresh the lobby, nine classrooms, and several offices.

The refresh is highlighted by a new and modern welcome sign in the lobby area. Additional improvements are forthcoming as funding becomes available.

Please consider attending the upcoming RiteHouse Acoustic Evening with Rob, Scott, and Greg of The Clarks on Friday, November 6, 2020, in support of the ongoing refresh.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to this team effort!

PITTSBURGH Children's Dyslexia Center

BuildersCouncil

Benefactors of the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh

A Firm Foundation

The ability to read is the foundation of each child's future. It provides the base upon which all learning depends. Membership in the Builders Council means that you have made a commitment to assure that our Children's Dyslexia Center will be able to help children with dyslexia today and for years to come.

Joining the Builders Council is achieved through a commitment of $10,000 by one of the following methods:

- **Pledging monthly/annual gifts for a period lasting no longer than 10 years**
- **Naming the Children's Dyslexia Center in your will**
- **Making a bequest to the Children's Dyslexia Center**
- **Establishing an annuity or trust**

BUILDERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

30th Masonic District F.&A.M.
Demo Agoris
Edward & Joan Aiello
Robert and Janice Amend
Emery & Carol Anden
Avalon Lodge No. 657 F.&A.M.
David & Carol Bagaley
Robert & Jacqueline Beatty
Dr. Jeff A. Biddle
Mark & Patty Bliler
Chartiers Lodge No. 297 F.&A.M.
George H. Cox
Rick & Renee Cross
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Mario & Linda Deblasio
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Raymond T. Dietz
Fred & Kathy Donatelli
Robert L. Eckbreth
James Ecker
James R. Flanigan
Howard and Sharon Flynn
Franklin / St. John's / Trinity Lodge No. 221
Gourgas Lodge Of Perfection
Donald & Debra Green
Wally and Leah Grossett
Erich & Raylene Gumto
Harvey & Carol Gumto
John A. Habel
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Jacque Hauser
Jeff & Lauren Heiger
Helen Ruth Henderson
Raymond Frank Hess
Hiram's Riders of Valley of Pittsburgh
Gene Hlavac
Homestead Amity McCandless Lodge No. 582
Infinity Lodge No. 546
Raymond R. & Dorothy K. James
Jim & Lisa Jenkins
Robert B. Jones
Paul Kappel
Paul and Jackie Kauffman
David & Sandy Kearns
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John G. Kovac
George & Judith Lewis
Lodge 45, Pittsburgh, PA
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Jack W. & Edna Marsh
John McCain
John F. McCombs
Roy A. & Sara Jane McCullough
Julia and Calvin McCutcheon
Joann McElravy
Jay E. McElravy
Craig & Amy McVicker
Mike Melde
Jack & Carol Miller
Glenn D. & Mary B. Miller
Dr. Glenn & Roberta Miller
Donald M. Murphy
John & Valerie Nicklas
Jack & Joy Nicklas
Oakdale Lodge No. 669
Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar
Ronald and Karen Plesh
D William Roberts
Bruce A. Robinson
Richard & Bette Rodibaugh
Don & Ginny Sauer
Joseph A. Schrock Jr.
James W. Seel
William P. Shaw
William Slater
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The Supreme Council Group Valley of Pittsburgh
Gregory Triko
Unified Lodge #2, I.O.O.F.
Valley of Pittsburgh Legion of Honor
Valley of Uniontown
George T. Vance
Vintage-Classic Car Club
S. Timothy Warco
Washington Lodge No. 164
Bob & Charlene Wells
Chester Arthur West Jr.
Louri Ann West
John & Jerry Williams
Jeffrey & Sharon Wonderling

Every member of the Children's Dyslexia Center Builders Council receives a commemorative green tie and scarf. Wearing them serves as a reminder that there are children needlessly suffering because of dyslexia and that the Scottish Rite is here to help. When you complete your $10,000 gift to the Children's Dyslexia Centers, you receive a gold tie and scarf, signifying you have fulfilled your commitment. Wear your gold with pride, knowing you have changed someone's life.

Our Youth

News and information about the Masonic Youth in our Valley

Pennsylvania DeMolay Adapts to Quarantine

Since March, there has been a lot of uncertainty in the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we live life on a daily basis. Businesses are forced to close, making them wonder whether they will make it through the tragedy. Families are wondering when their next meal will come since their earners are currently out of work. While there are many initiatives in place to make sure that these challenges are addressed, social distancing has taken a toll on everyone. How are the members of DeMolay handling the quarantine situation?

Although the quarantine has made many events and meetings difficult, it has not made them impossible. While members can not physically get together for meetings and social gatherings, they have made the best effort to use other means of communication. Many chapters throughout Pennsylvania are using Zoom. Gaming servers such as Discord and Minecraft have become popular ways for the members to stay connected with each other while enjoying a video game at the same time. The pandemic has forced DeMolay members and Advisors to "think outside the box" in order to make sure that DeMolay survives the troubled times.

Statewide functions that normally would take place in person have been moved to online platforms. PA DeMolay Convention will still take place, but it will happen over multiple Zoom conference calls rather than at a nice hotel. DeMolay KeyMan will still take place, but the format will be very different as we adapt to virtual reality. This may be a challenge, but DeMolay has done what they can to accept the challenge, stay positive, and thrive.

pademolay.org

The Soul of Our Assembly

During Initiation into the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls there are seven lessons: Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service presented and symbolized by the colors of the Rainbow. The colors are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Indigo, deep and strong, is the color of Patriotism. It is the darkest color for it represents a blend of the red of Love, the orange of Religion, the yellow of Nature, the green of Immortality and the blue of Fidelity. This combination is needed in our lives to be truly patriotic. Patriotism, whether practiced during our meetings by saluting the Flag or on the battlefield in time of war, is that glow in our hearts that binds us together as a light for each other.

Our American Flag is displayed at every meeting, proudly stationed at the left of the indigo-colored chair of Patriotism. As stated in one of our ceremonies, "Our Flag is the great symbol of our civilization…[L]et us make it, and the lessons of Patriotism founded upon the beautiful lessons of religion, the very soul of our Assembly."

When the Lodge buildings are again open to meetings, you are welcome to witness the lessons of Rainbow. In the Greater Pittsburgh area, we have Rainbow Assemblies in the following communities: ***Beaver Falls, Butler, Coraopolis, Irwin, New Castle, Pitcairn, Pleasant Hills, Washington,*** and ***Wexford.***

parainbowgirls.org

Pittsburgh Hosts Virtual Class

The Valley Pittsburgh made Masonic history by inducting 30 new members in the first ever virtual Scottish Rite reunion. The event, held on Saturday, May 16, was also viewed by more than 100 current Scottish Rite members from as far north as British Columbia and as far south as Florida.

Ill. Samuel C. Williamson, Commander in Chief, said that the idea came together rather quickly. "A few of our officers had some casual conversations about how to keep our current candidates in the loop after we cancelled the normal Spring Reunion," he said, "and the question was asked, 'Why not a virtual class?'"

After receiving permission from the Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. David A. Glattly, they jumped right into planning it. "My only direction was that they not do the 32nd Degree. That should be saved for a time when we can all meet again in person," Commander Glattly said.

Because of the social distancing measures that were in place, the format of the reunion had to be adapted. The entire event was prerecorded and then broadcast on a secure link which was provided only to the candidates and members who requested access.

The morning began with a welcome from Ill. PJ Roup, Active for Pennsylvania, who obligated the class. Each of the four presiding officers spoke about some facet of the Scottish Rite experience and introduced the degree which followed his talk. The class also heard from Kiley Sexton, TPM, Uniontown Lodge of Perfection, as well as Ill. William D. Johnston and Ill. William G. Johnston from the Director's Staff.

The degrees conferred included the 4th Degree, *Builder;* Pittsburgh's own modern 8th Degree, *Solomon Ascending;* the 17th Degree, *Knight of the East and West;* and the 31st Degree, *My Brother's Keeper.* The reunion closed at 11:15 a.m. when the brethren in attendance were invited to an informal Zoom "Afterglow" where they could greet each other and talk about what they had just experienced.

"We saw that in spite of, and maybe even because of, the quarantine, men wanted to continue their Masonic journeys," Roup said. "This was far from the typical Scottish Rite class, but we are living in times where everything is far from typical, so we had to adapt. I couldn't be more pleased with the results."

Because of the success of the virtual class, another is planned for August 29, 2020.
See page 39 for details.

Josh Freeman
Scott Haacker
charles beam

The Sequence of the Golf Swing—Backswing

By Eric S. Teasdale, 33˚

THIS BEGINS A SERIES of articles on the sequence of the complete golf swing from set-up to finish. In the coming issues, I will illustrate and demonstrate the thirteen fluid positions of the golf swing. Since the golf swing is dynamic, there are no fixed positions, and that is why I refer to them as fluid. The thirteen positions are grouped into the backswing, forward swing, impact, and post-impact/finish portions of the swing. Today, we will focus on components of the backswing.

My belief in proper sequencing from a solid set-up position is simple, because it is like the construction of a house, or a temple. If you skip a step or take a shortcut on the first floor, the remainder of the building will be unstable. If you implement proper fundamentals as building blocks of the golf swing, your golf swing will then be fundamentally sound, helping to produce solid consistent contact, which will then improve your direction, distance control and as a bonus, an increase in power.

Please refer to the illustrations on my preferences on how to properly swing the golf club though the fluid positions.

The Backswing Positions—#1 thru #5

Position 1 Face On:

Here you will see a firm lead side with your trail shoulder lower than the lead shoulder which is the most efficient way to set up. This will create a "reverse K" position for a right-handed player, which ensures that your head is behind the ball at address. This will make it more likely for your head to be behind the ball at impact or "the moment of truth." Also, set-up with your feet shoulder width apart to help achieve a firm base—a building block.

Position 1 Down the Line:

Ideally, I would like to see the shaft of the club at a 90 degree angle to your spine with not much curvature of the spine. Get the feeling that your arms are hanging naturally to achieve a neutral arm hang (arms hanging straight down), weight on the balls of your feet, and the knees slightly flexed. These fundamentals are the building blocks of a sound, fundamental golf swing.

"I think the golf swing is all about rotation, all about trying to keep the club on plane." **—Tiger Woods**

Eric S. Teasdale, 33°

Position 2
Face On:

I am an advocate of a one-piece takeaway as shown in the picture on the left. As the backswing starts from the set-up position, you should take the club back low to the ground while maintaining the triangle position of the arms and shoulders. This is essential as they work as one unit and ensures that the club path will stay on plane and naturally arc around the body.

Position 2
Down the Line:

This photo illustrates the two most important fundamentals relating to solid contact and power of the backswing. To help create the power source for your swing, you must focus on maintaining your spine angle throughout the backswing and maintaining the flex in the right knee. The club also must be under the perpendicular plane line in this position.

Position 3
Face On:

At this position of the backswing, I like to see the club parallel to the ground with the toe of the club in a "toe up" position. Here, the club is square to the plane line and the fundamental of coiling has begun. More power can be generated by getting your hands farther away from your thigh at this position. This helps to increase arc width which increases power.

The Backswing Positions— #1 thru #5

Position 3
Down the Line:
As with Position 2 Down the Line, you must maintain your spine angle and the flex in your right knee. I also like to see the club parallel to the alignment of your feet. Here you can see the "toe-up" position of the club face. The main power source of the swing, or coiling, has begun. The principle of coiling is the restriction of the hip turn in relation to the increase in shoulder turn. Notice how there is no gap between the knees. This is where most amateurs will start to break down.

Position 4
Face On:
This picture illustrates the key to consistency and source of power: 1. Arc width, or how far the hands are away from the trail ear, is achieved by keeping the left arm straight; 2. The trail knee has remained flexed and coiling continues—the hips are restricted against the shoulders turning; and 3. based on the fundamentals achieved in the set-up, the head position is still behind the ball. For a majority of average golfers, their right knee will start to straighten and their head position will be in front of the golf ball at this position.

Position 4
Down the Line:
Notice that in this picture, the club is still on plane—the butt end of the grip is still pointing at the ball, the face is still square to the target line, and the plane line is perpendicular to the spine angle line. This shot will be going straight down the fairway. At this point, the shoulders are starting to turn more than the hips—coiling has begun. Further, the right knee has remained flexed (no gap between the knees), and the spine angle has remained the same as at address.

Summary

Remember, the backswing is the series of motions which must happen in a proper sequence to achieve perfect positioning which will result in solid, consistent contact and more power.

Keep the focus narrow and simplified such as:

- ✔ Start with a fundamentally correct set-up position.
- ✔ Initiate the backswing with the arms and shoulders working together as one unit to keep the clubhead low during the initial backswing. This one-piece

Position 5
Face On:
Position 5 is at the top of the backswing. At this part of the backswing, I like to see the student's back to the target (which indicates a full shoulder turn), the left arm straight, the right knee flexed, and a full weight transfer (or pivot) to the trail side as you can see by the center of my chest being over my right heel. You will notice that the club is not parallel to the ground like most teachers would like to see at this position. I am okay with this as long as the shoulder turn has been completed.

Position 5
Down the Line:
From this angle, you can see what proper coiling looks like. A fully completed shoulder turn of approximately 90° (shoulder underneath the chin), a hip turn of approximately 45° (achieved by the right knee remaining flexed) and the spine angle remaining constant. Lastly, the club face is approaching a "toe-down" position which is the opposite of position 3 and means the club face is square to the target line. All good, solid fundamentals.

takeaway will help to ensure that the clubface will remain square to the swing plane and help to achieve width. This is essential to hitting solid, longer, and straighter golf shots.

- ✔ Maintain spine angle and keep the right knee flexed throughout the entire backswing. These are the two important fundamentals to achieve the principle of coiling. If you learn to utilize coiling properly, you will increase power and the golf ball will go farther.
- ✔ At the top of the backswing, remember that you must complete the shoulder turn—or have your back to the intended target. I prefer, at a minimum, a 2:1 ratio of shoulder turn to the amount of hip turn. Also, the weight transfer, or backswing pivot, must be completed with the majority of the weight now on the trail foot at the top of the backswing. This will assure that your head is behind the golf ball. You are now ready to initiate the forward swing orthe uncoiling of the body to impact.

Again, this article is the first in a three-part series of the proper sequence of the golf. The best pure ball strikers in the game-from Ben Hogan to Lee Trevino to Tiger Woods-all share these basic fundamentals and sequencing. The key to getting better ball striking results is to eliminate the unnecessary moving parts and pass through these vital positions. Remember, golf is not a hard game, but to get better, proper practice and technique are required.

If you have any further questions regarding the sequence of the backswing, please do not hesitate to contact your local PGA Professional. Happy golfing! □

Eric Teasdale is the resident P.G.A. Professional at Shannopin Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"I sought for the **greatness** and **genius** of **America** in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the **greatness** and **genius** of **America** in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for the **greatness** and **genius** of **America** in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the **greatness** and **genius** of **America** in her public school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the **greatness** and **genius** of **America** in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of **America** and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her **genius** and power. **America** is **great** because she is good, and if **America** ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be **great.**"

—~~Alexis de Toqueville~~ Author Unknown

PJ Roup, 33°

Because She Is Good

By PJ Roup, 33°

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know. We're not supposed to discuss religion or politics. Yet the epigraph, misattributed to de Toqueville, clearly touches on both. I've always been somewhat of a loophole seeker and I'm getting to that point where I'm too old to change, so we're going to discuss a little religion and politics.

Feel free to thumb past if you're getting uncomfortable. You really should keep reading, though.

You're still here? Good.

I will tell you that I do not plan to discuss Religion, but religion. The distinction being that I have no concern with how your spirituality is practiced. I am only of the opinion that you should practice it in whatever way speaks to your soul to the end that, through its practice, you become a better person.

The same holds true for the ensuing discussion of politics. I do not plan to opine on the veracity or validity of any party, platform, politician, prerogative, or anything else that begins with the letter *p*. I will focus instead on how we have become so sharply divided, and what we as Masons can do to change it.

As I write this, we have all been sequestered in our homes for nearly three months. We have been unable to greet each other as Masons, enjoy meals out with friends, or even hug our grandchildren. We have been bombarded with facts, figures, and opinions from doctors, politicians, and self-certified epidemiologists on social media. Everyone is frustrated, and rightly so. This is not normal. Far from it.

Yet this frustration at our common, yet invisible, enemy has done anything but unite us as a people—quite the opposite. There are two distinct and warring camps on every single aspect of this issue. There is the quarantine-at-all-cost group and the freedom-at-all-cost group. Then, we have the always-maskers and the never-maskers. God help the free-thinking soul who wades unsuspectingly into a Facebook argument to suggest that perhaps there is some middle ground to be found. He quickly finds himself a punching bag for Facebook "friends" on both sides. I may or may not be speaking from experience here. (Spoiler alert: I am speaking from experience.)

This is not normal. Far from it.

How did we get here? How did we allow ourselves to become so extreme in our thinking that even an illness can become political? I blame the echo chamber.

Social media has two major flaws. First, it makes us feel like we must weigh in on every issue. I am certain that most of us over the age of 30 can remember a time when we didn't know exactly how each of our friends felt about every issue, about every candidate, every book, actor, and movie. I pine for the mystique of not knowing (or caring) how my neighbor felt about House Bill Eleventy or Proposition Twenteen. Neither of those is real, by the way, so don't write me and try to convince me one way or another about them.

How did we get here? I blame the echo chamber.

The ease with which we can share our feelings has made us think that we are doing something real to change the world. Armchair advocacy has replaced actual activism. *I mean, sure I feel strongly about my cause, but not strong enough to get out and do something. Besides, look at all the validation I'm getting. Likes, shares, hearts, retweets! I'm changing the world and keeping up with the Kardashians at the same time.* Which brings me (finally) to my point about the echo chamber.

All those little thumbs (in either direction), hearts, angry faces, retweets, and shares tell us who is in our corner and who is our enemy. We know who is going to come to our aid if someone dares to throw out an opinion counter to the one we are comfortable with. We know who will help us chase away those ugly people with alternative views. And once they leave, we have ourselves a safe space. A place where we can opine and have the likeminded shower us with praise for our intelligence, wit, and ability to change the world with a simple post.

And there is the second flaw. We aren't changing the world. We aren't even changing minds. You remember that girl you blocked for having the audacity to support the other candidate and you just couldn't deal with her? She did the same thing to you for pretty much the same reason. Now the two of you are sitting at home preaching to your respective choirs, all the while becoming more polarized in your views and less tolerant of those who don't share them. It is an awful cycle.

What does the Modern Vitruvian do to get out of this cycle? I told you I was going to talk religion, so here it is: Do as you would be done by. Every religion has some version of the Golden Rule. *Love they neighbor as thyself. Whatever is disagreeable to yourself, do not unto others.* In short, don't be a jerk. If you wouldn't say it to a family member in person, don't type it on Facebook.

The sooner we learn to empathize with others, the sooner we will be on a path to goodness again.

We, as Masons, should know this. If we talk of Brotherly Love in the Lodge, we have to love our brothers (and sisters) outside of it. When we talk about Truth, we need to acknowledge that while there may only be one Truth, there are many truths (another upper-case/lower-case distinction) that are colored by our circumstances. The sooner we learn to empathize with others, the sooner we will be on a path to goodness again.

Love your neighbor. Metaphorically walk a mile in his shoes. None of us is perfect, so forgive shortcomings, seek the good, and do your best to understand. De Toqueville—or whoever actually said it—was right: America is great because she is good. When we learn to see the good in others, we bring out the best in ourselves. When we bring out the best in ourselves, it makes it easier for others to see it.

That's a cycle worth falling into. □

Virtual Class
Saturday, August 29, 2020

Do you have a friend who has been thinking about joining the Valley of Pittsburgh? Now is his chance to become a Scottish Rite Mason virtually! That's right, due to the overwhelming success of the first-of-its-kind class in May, we are holding another virtual induction on August 29th at 9:00AM.

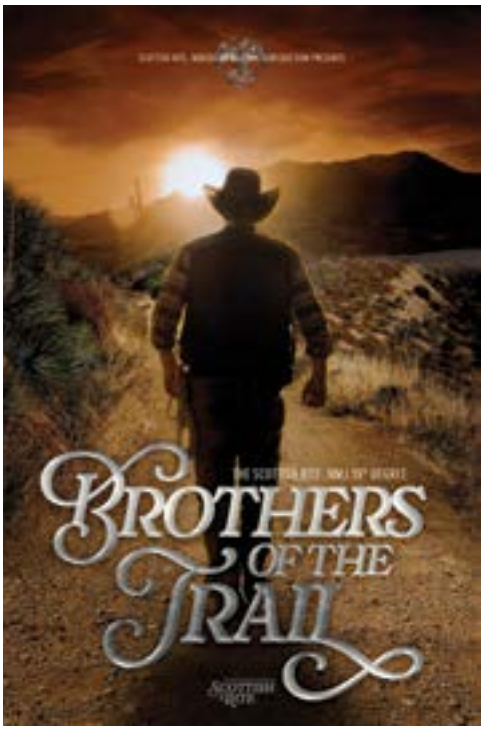
Candidates can sign on in the morning, view a selection of the Supreme Council's professionally produced degrees and be a Scottish Rite Mason by midday.

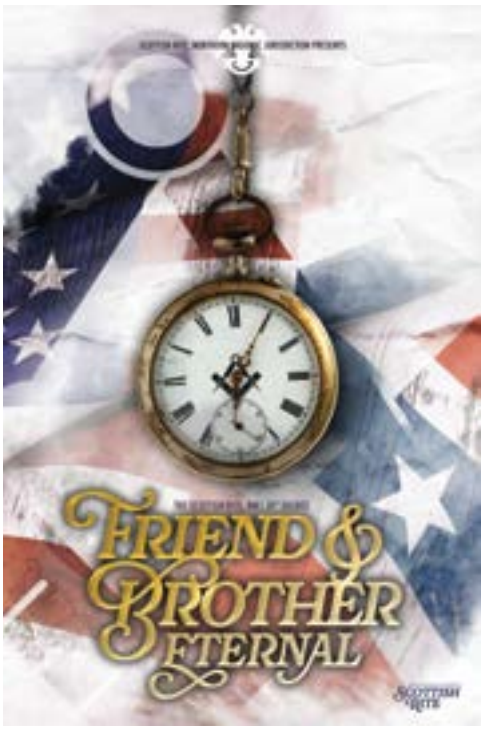
Likewise, if you are looking to fill your passport, you can sign on to see the degrees as well!

After the class, members (new and old) are invited to join a Zoom Afterglow to socialize and reflect on the events of the morning.

All new members from the May and August classes will be invited back to the Valley to have breakfast and witness the 32nd Degree live (if the situation permits) on September 26th.

Candidates may fill out a paper petition or visit ScottishRiteNMJ.org to complete their application. Members who wish to receive login credentials may email Dave Morgans at secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org





Background Actors Needed!

(No experience necessary.)

The Supreme Council is shooting a movie at the Valley of Pittsburgh, and you and your family can be a part of this special event. Background actors will be needed for several scenes tentatively scheduled to shoot from September 20-30, 2020. You can be a part of as few or as many as your schedule allows. There will even be a Family Life event scene, so your significant other and children can even share the screen time.

If you are interested in being a background actor, please email a picture of yourself (and any interested family members) to holmanwl@gmail.com. Include all of your names and a cell phone number.

Don't miss this chance to have you and your family be a part of Scottish Rite History!

holmanwl@gmail.com

UniontownUpdate

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

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

For Country and Craft

By Kiley B. Sexton, 32°

When I hear the word patriotism, several things immediately come to mind: dedication, honor, sacrifice, and of course, "love of country." These same values are incorporated within the threads of Freemasonry. When you first become a Mason, you are making a decision to be a better man. You are committing yourself to the Craft whose roots have been around for generations.

The ideals of patriotism and Masonry are very similar. Patriotism asks you such things as: *How much do you love your country? Are you willing to stand up for what is right? Will you treat others as you want to be treated?* The foundations of Masonry are based on similar concepts: *Are you dedicated to improving your own life while helping others along the way? Are you willing to lead by example? We know actions speak louder than words, so will you uphold the values of Freemasonry that were taught to you so that you may teach others the importance of honor and respect of brotherly love to all?*

All throughout our country's past, patriotism and Masonry have gone hand-in-hand with unanimity. No fewer than fourteen of our Presidents of the United States were Freemasons. These men were not only leaders within their respective lodges, they led an entire nation.

The Declaration of Independence, one of our country's most prestigious documents, contains 56 signatures. Approximately twenty-four of those fifty-six signatures were Freemasons. It is very evident that patriotism and Freemasonry share a proud history together, a common bond of dedication to God, family, brotherhood, and love of country.

It is our duty and responsibility to uphold the values that were established long ago by men who believed in their country, freedom, and brotherhood. In today's modern society, there are so many things that pull each of us in different directions daily.

> It is our duty and responsibility to uphold the values that were established long ago by men who believed in their country, freedom, and brotherhood.

Our world today is very fast-paced, demanding, and full of different distractions that stretch our personal time very thin. I believe it is our job as Freemasons never to forget our roots, never forget where we are from, and never forget what our Forefathers sacrificed not only for the love of country but also for the love of their fraternity.

The knowledge that we gained from our past is still the blueprint used today in maintaining a strong foundation for our country and our Craft. May we continue to pass this knowledge down to future generations so that our children's children understand the importance of patriotism and the high standard of being a Mason.

The Latest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

AUG 29

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

Virtual Class

Join us as we welcome new members into the Valley of Pittsburgh via the second ever online degree presentation. The online presentation begins at 9AM. Be sure to contact the Valley Secretary for registration and login information. Online petitions are available on the Valley website.

TIME: **9:00AM**
LOCATION: **Online**
COST: **Free**
RSVP: **AUGUST 28**

SEP 3

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

Stated Meeting

Join us for a casual night in the Valley as we return to in-person activities. Dress is business casual. You and your lady are invited to join us for a cookout-style meal. Outgoing officers will share farewell remarks and officer jewels will be exchanged. Watch for more details in your upcoming meeting notice.

TIME: **6:00PM/Dinner, 7:00PM/Meeting**
LOCATION: **GPMC**
COST: **$15/Dinner**
RSVP: **AUGUST 31**

SEP 26

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

Degree Morning in the Valley

Come for breakfast, stay for degrees, and be a movie extra! Enjoy the Fellowship Breakfast, then watch the 32nd Degree live at 10AM. The 4th Degree will be shown at 9:30AM for those who have not yet received it. Following the 32nd Degree, we will shoot scenes for *The TwiRite Zone*. To be an extra, see page 40. Dress is business casual.

TIME: **10:00AM**
LOCATION: **GPMC**
COST: **Free**
RSVP: **Requested.**

OCT 3

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

Children's Learning Center–Pittsburgh Walkathon

Please consider donating, sponsoring, or walking to support the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh. This once a year event is fun for all. This event is open to the public. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

TIME: **8:30AM Registration/10:00AM Start**
LOCATION: **GPMC**
COST: **Adults: $15 Advance/$25 Day of walk, Children 6-12: $10, Children 5 and under: Free**
RSVP: **SEPTEMBER 26**

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: **$7/person (all you can eat)**
RSVP: **None required**

JUL 25

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

SEP 6

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

Fall Car Cruise

Join us for a spectacular display of classic cars, antique cars, vintage cars, hot rods, and muscle cars! All proceeds benefit the Children's Dyslexia Center–Pittsburgh. Food, prizes, D.J. music, 50/50 raffle, silent auction baskets, giveaways every 30 minutes, and much more! Plenty of parking for non-cruise cars and spectators. (No alcohol or pets are permitted.)

TIME: **11:00AM-3:00PM/Weather Permitting**
LOCATION: **GPMC Parking Lot**
COST: **Free**
RSVP: **None Required**

NOV 5

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

Stated Meeting

Join us for our November Stated Meeting. Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem will be presiding. Dinner and entertainment will be provided. Watch for more details in your upcoming meeting notice.

TIME: **6:00PM/Dinner, 7:00PM/Meeting**
LOCATION: **GPMC**
COST: **$15/Dinner**
RSVP: **NOVEMBER 2**

AUG 29 | SEP 26 | OCT 31

Looking Ahead

OCT 17

Council of Deliberation
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Valley Forge Casino Resort
King of Prussia, PA

NOV 6

RiteHouse Acoustic Evening featuring Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
GPMC, 7PM, $40

NOV 6 | NOV 7

Valley of Uniontown Reunion
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6-7
Uniontown Masonic Temple

DEC 12

Children's Holiday Party with Santa Claus
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
GPMC, Free

! Please note:

All events are subject to change. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage you to visit our website or call the Valley office to confirm the status of all events occuring this Fall. The Valley of Pittsburgh is committed to keeping all members and guests safe, and will observe all guidelines set forth by local, regional, and state government agencies, and healthcare professionals.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

RiteHouse Presents

Scott, Rob and Greg of

THE CLARKS ACOUSTIC

ALL INCLUSIVE ADMISSION! Your ticket includes admission to the reception, the performance and complimentary appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks throughout the evening!

FRI. NOV. 6

8:00 PM

Reception beginning at **7:00**PM

GREATER PITTSBURGH MASONIC CENTER | 3579 MASONIC WAY | PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

For tickets, contact the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh

at **412-939-3579**

or visit **srgoftheclarksacoustic.eventbrite.com**

$40 Per Person

Advanced Tickets Required

Scan for tickets

RiteHouse Evenings

A live casual acoustic performance series hosted by the Valley of Pittsburgh

CigaRite

An evening of Fellowship and Cigars

When:

Friday, August 7, 2020

6-11PM

Where:

GPMC PATIO

3579 Masonic Way
McMurray, Pennsylvania
412.939.3579

Details:

B.Y.O.B. | BRING YOUR FAVORITE CIGARS
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
PIZZA AVAILABLE AT YOUR OWN COST
NO RSVP NECESSARY | OPEN TO ALL | FREE!

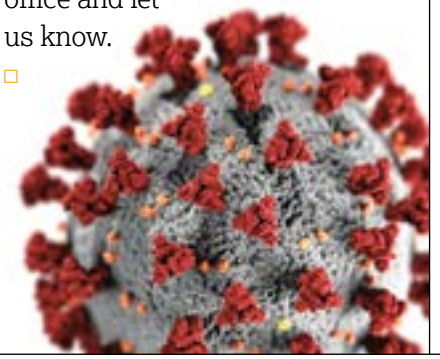
For more information:
Dave Moore | 724.986.0798

Hospitaler Appeal

Throughout the Coronavirus lockdown, your Hospitaler and his staff have been checking in with (and meeting the needs of) members of the Valley of Pittsburgh who have needed assistance. That help has come in the form of grocery assistance, home improvements, medical equipment, and more.

Our Hospitaler's Appeal letter will be arriving in your mailbox soon. When you get it, please consider donating to this worthy Valley charity. All monies go directly to helping those in need.

One of the most difficult things in life is to admit you need help. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance from the Hospitaler, please call the office and let us know.



VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection 14°

Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° . . . . . Thrice Potent Master
David L. Moore, 33° . . . . . Deputy Master
Eric S. Teasdale, 33° . . . . . Senior Warden
Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA. . . . . Junior Warden
Christopher A. McNeal, 32° . . . . . Orator
David C. Allison, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies
David C. Runco, 32° . . . . . Guard

Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem

Robert M. Polander, 32° . . . . . Sovereign Prince
Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° . . . . . High Priest
Richard F. Kucera, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden
Robert H. Nelson, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden
B. Scott Allen, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies
Aaron J. Antimary, 32° . . . . . Master of Entrances

Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix 18°

Matthew A. Boice, 32° . . . . . Most Wise Master
Kris M. Douglas, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden
Jordan L. Frei, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden
Charles F. Zurcher, 32° . . . . . Orator
William B. Bittinger, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies
Benjamin J. Douglas, 32° . . . . . Guard

Pennsylvania Consistory 32°

Samuel C. Williamson, 33° . . . . . Commander-in-Chief
Rodney E. Boyce, 33° . . . . . 1st Lieutenant Commander
William G. Johnston, 33° . . . . . 2nd Lieutenant Commander
David E. Thumm Jr., 32° . . . . . Orator
Robert B. McGinnis, 32° . . . . . Chancellor
Greer C. R. Lukens, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies
Thomas J. Anke, 32° . . . . . Engineer & Seneschal
Erich W. Gumto, 33° . . . . . Standard Bearer
Richard J. Saxberg, 32° . . . . . Guard
George W. Polnar, 33° . . . . . Treasurer
David W. Morgans, 33° . . . . . Secretary
Vito A. Urso, 33° . . . . . Hospitaler
Dennis R. Johnston, 33° . . . . . Tiler
Robert F. Dunkle, 33°, Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA, Ronald A. Plesh, 32°, MSA . . . . . MFS Representatives

Executive Committee

Samuel C. Williamson, 33°, Chairman
Rodney E. Boyce, 33° . . . . . William G. Johnston, 33°
Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° . . . . . David L. Moore, 33°
Robert M. Polander, 32° . . . . . Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32°
Matthew A. Boice, 32° . . . . . Kris M. Douglas, 32°
George W. Polnar, 33° . . . . . David W. Morgans, 33°
Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°, Trustee . . . . Paul J. Roup, 33°, Active

Trustees

Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°, Chairman
Austin R. Shifrin, 33°, Vice Chairman
Richard A. Rodibaugh, 33° . . . . . Thomas M. Gasmire, 33°
Brian A. Maxwell, 32° . . . . . James C. Mayes, 32°
Samuel C. Williamson, 33° . . . . . Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°
Matthew A. Boice, 32° . . . . . Robert M. Polander, 32°

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. Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill.∴Robert J. Bateman, 33°, Deputy for Pennsylvania. Other Active members for Pennsylvania are: Ill.∴Thomas R. Labagh, 33°, Ill.∴George Nakonetschny, 33°, Ill.∴Keith E. Parkinson, 33°, and Ill.∴Paul J. Roup, 33°.

Fraternal Classified Services Directory

These listed businesses subscribe to providing high quality customer service, delivered with a sense of warmth, friendliness, individual pride, respect, honesty, and the fraternal spirit.

ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

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

ADVERTISING SPECIALITIES

Grimes Advertising 412-921-1325
Eddie Grimes

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*

AUTOMOTIVE

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

BEARINGS & POWER TRANSMISSION

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

CATERING

Hudson's Catering 724-438-2025
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

Family Wealth Mgmt Group, LLC. 724-743-6170
John T. Daley, ChFC® *FamilyWealthGroup.com*

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, III, 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*

HOME REMODELERS

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

INSURANCE

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

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

State Farm Insurance
Brian Winfield *724-864-9000*

LANDSCAPING

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

MACHINE SHOP

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

MOTORCOACH TRANSPORTATION

Budget Charters 724-246-1982
Gary F. Shimshock

PLUMBING

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

REAL ESTATE

McIlrath Realty Group-Keller Williams
Mac McIlrath CRB *412-882-9002*

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.*

TREE & STUMP SERVICE

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

TRUCKING

JLE Industries 724-603-2228 x3055
Donald L. Cox *Don.Cox@JLEindustries.com*

TRUCKING / TARPAULIN SYSTEMS

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

VIDEOGRAPHY

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

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

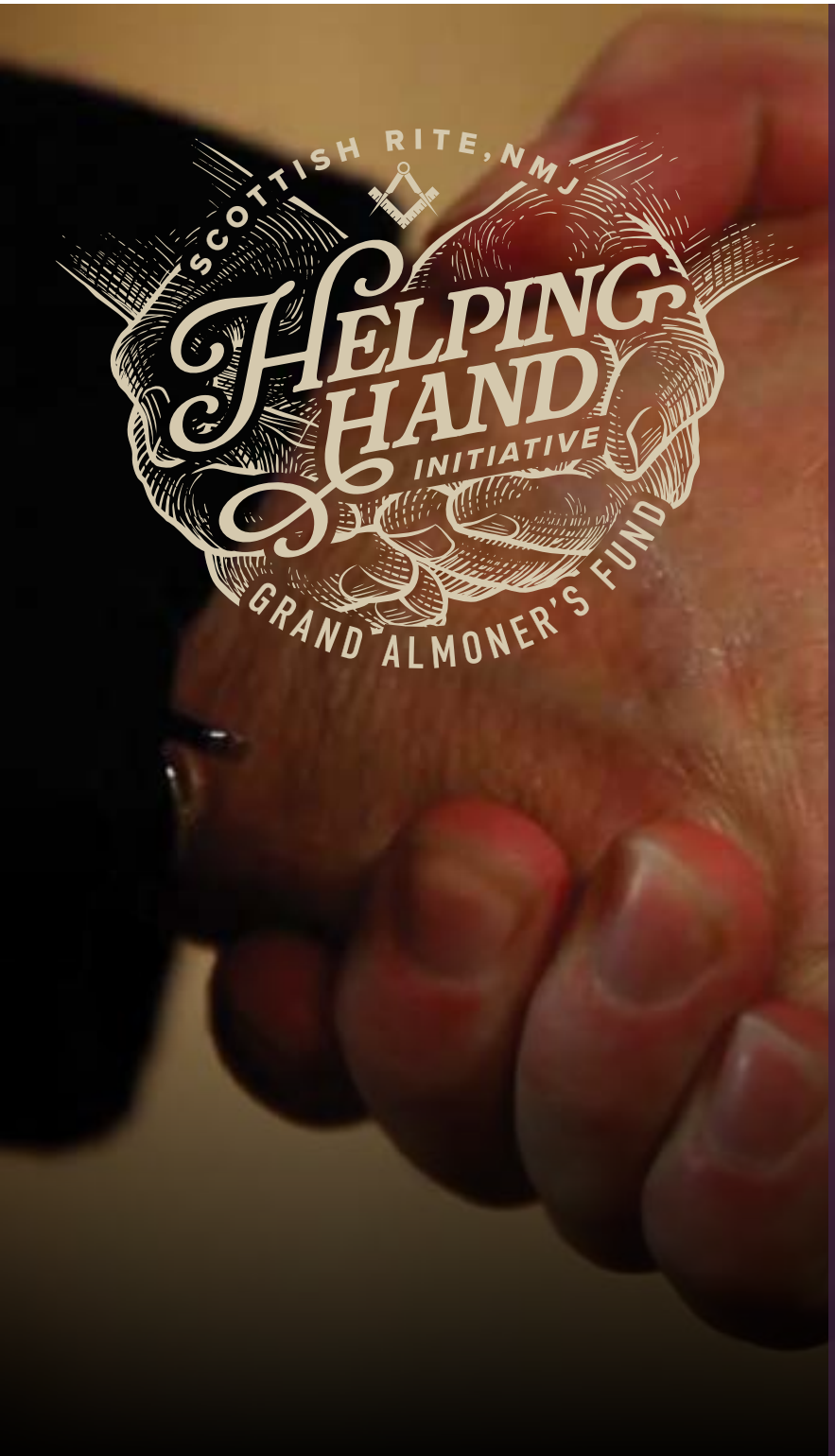
We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic Obligation to care for our members.

Our Scottish Rite, NMJ vision is more important now than ever.

If you are in need of brotherly help, contact your Valley.
If you can help with the Grand Almoner's Fund, go to **DonateRite.org**.

Frank's Story: Bro. Frank C. Clark joined us at our luncheon in Orlando with his family. As a member of the Valley of South Bend for nearly 50 years, Frank said "I'm so proud to be a Scottish Rite Mason for the last 49 years. The work of our Charities gives me hope for our future."

Valley of Pittsburgh
Gourgas Lodge of Perfection
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700



Helping Hand Initiative

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Fund has launched the Helping Hand Initiative, a fundraising campaign to remind brothers financially impacted by the effects of Coronavirus that we are here to help them in their time of need, and to encourage brothers who are able, to give whatever they can to our relief effort.

As our community begins to recover from this difficult time, it is important to remember that many of our brothers and their families will continue to struggle from the devastating economic and social impact that this virus leaves in its wake. Our goal is to raise $100,000 to lend a #HelpingHand to those brothers in need.

To contribute to this campaign, visit scottishritenmj.org/donate.
If you prefer to donate via check, please reach out to us at the following address:

Helping Hand Initiative
33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02421
(781) 465-3326

SCOTTISH RITE
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction