

The Rite News



The Magazine of the

Valley of Pittsburgh

VOL. XXII NO. 2

December 2012



**HOLIDAY
GREETINGS**



Valley of Pittsburgh

Teaching children with dyslexia

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

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

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

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

Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

Active Member of Supreme Council



Emery & Carol Anden



David & Carol Bagaley



Robert & Jacqueline Beatty



Jeff & Susan Biddle



George H. Cox



James Ecker & Donna Murtha



Robert Eckbreth



James & Ellen Flanigan



Howard & Sharon Flynn



Donald & Debora Green



Eugene F. Hlavac, Jr.



Raymond & Dorothy James



Robert & P.J. Jones



Paul & Penny Kappel



David & Sandy Kearns



Roy & Sara Jane McCullough



Jay & Joanne McElravy



Glenn & Mary Miller



Dr. Glenn & Roberta Miller



Jack & Carol Miller



Richard & Bette Rodibaugh



Don & Ginny Sauer



Joseph A Schrock, Jr.



James W. Seel



William Shaw



George & Norma Vance



Bob & Charlene Wells



James & Annetta West



James & Jill West



Jeff & Karen Wonderling

Builders Council Enrollment Form

I pledge the sum of: \$10,000 \$15,000
 \$20,000 \$25,000

With payments in equal installments over a period of:
 3 years 5 years 10 years.

This pledge will be payable: Annually
 Semi-annually Quarterly Monthly

*Monthly payments may be made only by credit card.

First payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

Deduct my pledge from my credit card when due:

MasterCard Visa American Express
 Discover Other _____

Number _____ Exp. date _____

Name you would prefer in recognition:

This gift is anonymous.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph. () _____ Date _____

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



Builders Council

to read – one child at a time!



James S. Dean



Mario & Linda DeBlasio



Bill & Heather Dickey



Raymond & Lynn Dietz



Fred & Kathy Donatelli



Wallace & Leah Grossett



Harvey & Carol Gumto



John & Ruth Habel



Leland A. Hale, Jr.



Jeff & Lauren Heiger



David & Judy Kielman



John Kovac



William & Babara Magnotti, Jr.



Jack Marsh



John & Judy McCombs



Donald & Barbara Murphy



John & Valerie Nicklas



Raymond & Joy Nicklas



Ronald & Karen Plesh



Bruce A. Robinson



William Slater II



Samuel & Judy Spanos



Thomas & Joan Sturgeon



Kurt & Nancy Tesche



Gregory Triko



30th
Masonic
District

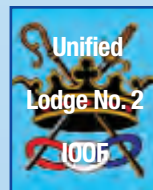
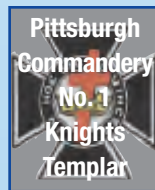


Chartiers
Lodge No. 297
F. & A.M.



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

Place your picture here! Call 412-939-3579!



Happy Holidays

The holiday season is nearly upon us and malls are already swarming with shoppers looking for that perfect gift. It is that time of year that's often devoted to giving. It is also a time that we sometimes forego our own self-indulgences and reach out to others.

Many of my Scottish Rite Brethren and Masonic Friends have provided a special gift to the children with dyslexia who attend our Learning Center. Not only have your contributions helped these students learn to read, but you have given them the gift of success, the gift of hope, the gift of self-esteem, and the most precious gift of a brighter future. These are truly gifts that are special and priceless!

Sometimes we get so caught up in our "important" offices and responsibilities that we forget to say thank you to the many, many Brethren who have so faithfully, year after year, supported our Children's Dyslexia Center. The generosity of our members is the envy of the entire Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Thank You!!!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Golf Outing, the Walk-For-Dyslexia, and the Popcorn sales. Thanks to Hiram's Riders who generously added another \$25,000.00 to the endowment fund from the success of their annual motorcycle drawing. Special thanks goes out to the members of the Builder's Council, to those who choose to honor or memorialize a loved one, and to all of the Scottish Rite Brethren, throughout western Pennsylvania, who have sent in monetary contributions just because you felt it was the right and caring thing to do.

With economic times as they are, we are grateful to everyone for their contributions. Please continue to support your Learning Center, your Lodge, and your Scottish Rite. You are the true source of our success. Keep up the good work!!

Here's hoping that each of the Brethren, your loved ones, and your families may truly enjoy the upcoming holiday season and share in the blessings of a healthy and wonderful New Year!!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Rich Rodibaugh

Chairman, Board of Governors
Children's Dyslexia Center

www.childrenslearningcenters.org

Christmas in the Valley



Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8

11:00 a.m.

Cookies ★ Soft Drinks

Photos with Santa ★ Gift for each Child

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Entertainment

A **FREE** Children's Party for Scottish Rite Masons & Guests sponsored by the Valley of Pittsburgh

Hosted by **Pennsylvania Council Princes of Jerusalem**

Eric K. Cohen, 32°, *Sovereign Prince*

Hiram's Riders Christmas Luncheon



Grants Grill & Lounge

Grant St. Millvale

\$25
per
person

Saturday, December 15

Fellowship Hour: 11:00 a.m.

Lunch: 12:00 noon

★ Surf & Turf (8oz Filet Mignon & Shrimp)

★ Officer Change of Watch ★ Awards

ALL MASONS & FRIENDS WELCOME!

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!

Enclosed is my check payable to **Hiram's Riders** in the amount of:
\$ _____ for _____ reservations.

Name _____

Name _____

Phone () _____ **Questions? - 412-683-0359**

E-Mail _____

Mail to: **Hiram's Riders, GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh. PA 15237**

Christmas Luncheon



Shannopin Country Club

Windmere Road, Ben Avon Heights

Saturday, December 1

Social Hour 11:00 a.m. ★ Door Prizes

Choice of Entree:

Lemon Chicken ★ Orange Roughy, *English Style*

Roast Beef, *Bordelaise Sauce*

Holiday Entertainment

Assigned Seating
(tables of 8 available)

\$25
per
person

Please List Guests (first & last name)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON RESV. FORM

Enclosed is my check payable to **Lodge of Perfection** in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ reservations for the annual Christmas Luncheon at Shannopin Country Club.

Name _____

Phone () _____ For info. call 412-939-3579

Entree Choices: _____ Fowl _____ Fish _____ Beef

Note: If you desire to sit with a particular party, please include their name/s with your Reservation. [] check if table of 8

Mail to: **GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh. PA 15237**



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The Rite News

VOL. XXII NO. 2 December 2012

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Commander-in-Chief's Message



Richard A. Rodibaugh, 33°

Commander-in-Chief, Pennsylvania Consistory

To my Scottish Rite Brethren and Friends

For many of us the holiday season is a time to reflect on the past and a time to look to the future. It is a time of joyful celebration and a time of compassion. It is a time to remember our dear friends and beloved family members whom we may have lost during the year.

The Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and other holiday observances naturally directs our attention to the love we have for those around us and to the needs of others and those less fortunate.

Take time to give, to share, to laugh, and to joyously celebrate all the blessings we have received over the past year. Continue to build respect and fraternal love for your Masonic Brother, which will help us, as Scottish Rite Masons to become a stronger fraternity.

Remember with gratitude those men and women who serve our country at home and abroad and those who will spend their holiday away from their families providing vital public or emergency services.

But most of all – enjoy the season. The lights, the colors, the snow (but not too much), the holiday music, gifts, parties, and get-togethers all contribute to a sense of belonging and caring for one another whether it be with your families or your Masonic friends, enjoy this time to share in one another's company, as it will pay rich personal dividends to you in the coming year.

There are 1440 minutes in a day. Every day you live –1440 minutes. For the coming new year, let's try, every one of us, to take just a few of those minutes every day to love our families a little more. A few minutes to think about the needs of others. A few minutes to care for our Brethren and friends in need. A few minutes to grow closer to God. That's not so many minutes. There are still plenty of minutes left to spare. The random acts of kindness that you do for someone else may be the best thing that you can do to help yourself.

Fraternally and with God's Blessings and Love to All. ♦

Spes Mea In Deo Est



May you have

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

which is Peace

THE GLADNESS OF CHRISTMAS

which is Hope

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

which is Love!

**To One and All –
Have a Great Holiday Season!**

Masonic Service Association

Disaster Relief Appeal for
NEW YORK and NEW JERSEY

The entire Atlantic Coast of the United States was buffeted in the last few days of October by the winds and waves of Hurricane Sandy, described by the news media as a "super storm." After crossing the shoreline in New Jersey, the storm continued inland. Extensive building and property damage, electrical outages, unhealthy conditions cause by flooding, and widespread disruption of normal living conditions have occurred in a multi-state region.

In particular, New York City and the coastal areas of New Jersey felt the brunt of Sandy. The Grand Lodges of New York and New Jersey have requested a Disaster Appeal to assist their Masonic families who have been injured or who have received extensive damage to their homes.

Please forward any donations you feel appropriate to the MSA. When remitting funds, please mark your check that you wish the donation to go to New York or New Jersey. Unmarked funds will be divided equally between the two Grand Lodges.

Make checks payable to:
MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to:

Masonic Service Association
of North America
8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203,
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

MSA is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

Thank you for your assistance for these stricken jurisdictions.

Sincerely and fraternally,

George O. Braatz, P.G.M.
Executive Secretary



In Memoriam

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



"Well Done, Good and Faithful Brother"

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

Ira W. Rice, 33°

Eugene A. Abplanalp
Francis Ament
Kenneth R. Anderson
Roy L. Bartlett
Robert S. Cochran
James G. Coldren
Howard W. Craven
Don M. Cummins
K. Donald Eichner
Donald H. Fry
Earl R. Greenawalt

William R. Hamilton
Clarence Higinbotham
Robert E Hoffman
Harry A Jenks
Arthur E. Kelly, Jr.
Homer A. Knight
Norvell S. Lilly, Jr.
David Matthews
James A. McKenna
Charles McKinley
Robert X. Medonis

John H. Michaels
Wallace F. Neuhart
William Pappas
Phillip E. Pfeiffer
Frank R. Renn
Aron Reznick
James J. Ristimaki
David J. Ross
Levon Seropian
Robert E. Sheets
Russell C Wise, Jr.



Christmas



Message



The Grand Master of Pennsylvania

As 2012 comes to a close, it is appropriate to reflect on the past twelve months and be thankful for all our blessings.

In these troubled times, let us pray with family and friends, for our country. For peace on earth and goodwill towards all men. For those who have passed on, or are not in our midst.

Let us also pray for those who are less fortunate, in distress, in sorrow, or ill.

And let us especially remember those who have served, and are serving our country, near and far to protect our liberties and freedom.

Faith makes all things possible. Hope makes all things work. Charity supports love for all 'worthy distressed brethren'. May you possess these moral virtues and attributes this Christmas and during the new year ahead.

Ill. Jay W. Smith, 33°
R.W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania



From the Secretary's Desk

Donald M. Murphy, 33°, Secretary



The holiday season is fast approaching. Where does the time go? It seems that we all have too much to do and never enough time to complete our tasks.

This year the Valley of Pittsburgh had another successful fall class. We must now begin to look

forward to all the other activities during the remainder of the Scottish Rite year. During the Christmas season we always try to remember our sick or shut in members. If you are aware of a brother who needs a call or a visit during the holidays please call the Hospitaler or the office.

Another big project that must be completed soon is the dues collection process. Our year begins on August 1st and runs thru July 31st. As of November 1, 2012 we still have about 20% of our members on the outstanding list. Please send your payment as soon as possible. If help is needed to make the payment, please call the Hospitaler or the office. Also, when sending payment, don't forget to include your voluntary contribution to the Learning Center.

Beginning after the first of the year the Valley has many activities for our members. As always, we will be having entertainment at our stated meetings. The Valley will again be sponsoring trips to baseball games next summer. At this time the Pirate outing is scheduled for June 14, 2013.

We will have our usual presentation of scholarships along with our traditional essay contest.

During the Easter season we will present the *Story of the Crucifixion*. Several other activities are still in the planning stages. Please watch our publications or web site for details. We want our members to take advantage of what we have to offer but don't forget to call and make reservations.

We are looking forward to seeing you at one or more of our activities in the next few months.

Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe Holiday Season with Health and Happiness in 2013. ♦

**Think of how much
could be accomplished
if we didn't care
who got the credit!**

Visitor from the Valley of Hawaii

Bro. James Logue (26), pictured far right, was born and raised on the Northside of Pittsburgh.

In 2006 he was stationed at the U.S. Army Schofield Barracks in Hawaii with the Military Police. He was raised a Master Mason in June 2010 and received the 32nd Degree in the Valley of Honolulu, Southern Jurisdiction, in November 2011. Currently he is a student of Hawaii Pacific University and has just returned from studying abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Bro. Logue attended the November Stated Meeting where he met Bro. Holderbaum who acted as his guide. ♦



Rob Holderbaum with James Logue

Valley Car Club Officers Appointed



Albert L. Kappeler, Jr., 33°, William R. Keller, Jr., Roy E. Williamson, Wallace E. Grossett, M.S.A., Robert M. Chambers, Thomas W. Fodor, 33°

On November 1, 2012, a meeting was held of those interested in forming a Car Club for The Valley of Pittsburgh. The following officers were elected to serve beginning January 1, 2013.

They are Roy E. Williamson, *President*, Robert M. Chambers, *Vice President* and Thomas W. Fodor, 33°, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

The Club is open to those interested in Classic-Antique Cars. Ownership of a Classic-Antique Car is not necessary to join the club.

A Christmas Luncheon is being planned for Sunday, December 9th at 2:00 p.m. at Rachael's Roadhouse, Rt. 8 at Rt. 422, Butler, PA.

Anyone interested in attending the Christmas Luncheon or becoming a member, please email Tom at chermfod@centurylink.net or call Tom at 412-292-6488.

Applications for membership are accepted by mail at: Thomas Fodor, 141 Humphrey Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057 ♦

Get on the Valley of Pittsburgh's New Email List!

We have a new email server and a whole new way to keep you informed. We promise that we won't pound you with unnecessary stuff. Meetings, announcements, special events, or important news only.

Email the Valley office at: aasr.pittsburgh@comcast.net and ask to be put on the list. A new and better way to keep you informed.



The Modern Vitruvian

by P. J. Roup, 32°

The Space Between

"The space between the tears we cry is the laughter that keeps us coming back for more." – Dave Matthews

If you are anything like me, and most of you probably are, keeping your calendar straight can be one of the most daunting tasks you face. Most of us are or have been involved in more than one Masonic body at any given time. Each of those organizations has practices, meetings, social events and duties all of which take up space on the calendar. On top of that, there is your work, family events and social activities outside of Masonry (I hear they exist). Add to that the parties, shopping, concerts and travel required by the upcoming holiday season and your calendar may run out of space.

I recently found myself on the way home from a Masonic meeting I had thoroughly enjoyed. The presentation was thought-provoking, the ensuing conversation was spirited and the fellowship that followed were precisely the reasons I became a Mason. I left there uplifted, challenged and proud to be a member of this great Fraternity.

Instead of enjoying that, instead of living in that rare moment where what I wanted and what I got were the same thing, I got in the car and cued up my iPhone to play the lines I was rehearsing for another event. The Lodge building was still visible in my rearview mirror, and I had already moved on to the next event in the calendar.

In today's world, we are too quick to focus on what's next. What do we have to do? What do we have to buy? Where do we have to be?

Our Masonic meetings are an all-too-brief respite from the chaos of the world without, but they are only part of the picture. We need to use what we learn there to focus on *The Space Between*.

This is the perfect place to give you the OED definition of space. My reasons are twofold. First, there are 168 separate and distinct definitions listed and that is just if you use it as a noun. Listing all of those would take up entirely too much . . . space. Secondly, doing that seems too scholarly, which flies in the face of the mission of this column.

Why is *The Space Between* important? I'm glad you asked.

First of all the space between words makes sentences much easier to understand. Also, space in the form of punctuation such as commas and dashes – let's not forget dashes – helps to add emphasis or change the meaning of a sentence. Night, the space between our days, is where we rest and refresh ourselves in preparation for tackling the next events on the calendar.

Why then do we not enjoy the space between our meetings as a time to really practice being a Freemason? Instead, we rush home or hurry to the next appointment not really cognizant of the fact that an opportunity may have slipped by. If you left the meeting early and didn't stay for refreshment and fellowship, you may have missed the chance to form or strengthen a bond with someone. If you do what I did and immediately dive into the next task that lay before you, you would – as I did – squander an opportunity for personal growth and transformation by not allowing what you learned to have an adequate time to take root.

The Space Between is where you live your life. It's where you grow; where you can impact others. It's where the magic happens. It's the "laughter [that] keeps us coming back for more." What you learn in Lodge is what prepares you to make the most of life outside of it.

A Modern Vitruvian needs to use Masonry's lessons to govern how he acts. The working tools of the Blue Lodge teach you how to use your time, talents, and treasure, and the moral lessons of the Scottish Rite Degrees assist you in making the right decisions in your interactions with others.

Between now and the next issue of *The Rite News*, I ask you to pay close attention to what you do and how you act in *The Space Between*. Don't miss opportunities to show the world why Masonry matters. Don't drive off cavalierly and forget what you learned moments before.

I encourage you to share your stories on what you've done or plan to do with *The Space Between* on the blog at the-modernvitruvian.blogspot.com.

If you have a smart phone, you may scan the QR code to the right



and it will take you there.

One of my favorite movie quotations comes from *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, where Benjamin states, "Our lives are defined by opportunities, even the ones we miss." Every second of *The Space Between* brings with it the opportunity to implement the beautiful lessons that Masonry has taught you. Interactions with others, moments of reflection and self-evaluation, and alone-time with your God all offer chances to make the most of the life we are given. Strive never to miss the opportunities you get in *The Space Between*. You will be a better man and Mason for it.

It is my hope that the space between the top of the page and this sentence has given you something to inspire, challenge and make you better fit to face the world as a Modern Vitruvian. ♦

Bro. P.J. Roup, 32° is Junior Warden of The Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, Valley of Pittsburgh. In addition to The Modern Vitruvian, he owns The Point Within the Circle (www.district54.blogspot.com). He can be reached at pittmason@yahoo.com.

Happy Hanukkah Merry Christmas

Hanukkah and Christmas are only two of the many mid-winter holidays celebrated by cultures across the globe. The Christian holiday, Christmas, marks the birth of Christ and is celebrated on December 25th. The Jewish holiday Hanukkah is an 8-day festival commemorating the rededicating of the Temple in 165 BC. It begins on the 25th day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar.

According to Jewish law, Hanukkah is one of the less important Jewish holidays. However, Hanukkah has become much more popular in modern practice because of its proximity to Christmas.

Hanukkah falls on the twenty-fifth day of the Jewish month of Kislev. Because many Jews live in predominantly Christian societies, over time Hanukkah has become much more festive and Christmas-like.

Jewish children receive gifts for Hanukkah – often one gift for each of the eight nights of the holiday. Many parents hope that by making Hanukkah extra special their children won't feel left out of all the Christmas festivities going on around them. ♦



6,598 American Flags Honor Veterans Lost in Recent Warfare

The Grand Lodge Liberty parade float was one of the focal points of interest in the 2012 Tribute to Veterans sponsored by the National Sojourners on Veterans Day.

A memorial to each soldier who has died in combat since 9/11, the "Massing of the Colors," covered the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown's Veterans Grove in red, white and blue flags from Monday, Nov. 5 through Wednesday, Nov. 14.

The community was encouraged to visit the display, which was lit at night.

The "Massing of the Colors" is a memorial created by the National Sojourners

- Harrisburg Chapter No. 76. Residents of the Masonic Village, members of the Sojourners, and volunteers from the community set up the thousands of American flags in the Veterans Grove on Saturday, November 3.

On Monday, Nov. 5, at 1:30 p.m., an opening ceremony including music and an invocation was held to dedicate the flag display at the Veterans Grove. A closing ceremony was also held Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 1:30 p.m., at which time the display was removed.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, at 2:00 p.m. (with a musical prelude at 1:30 p.m.), a Veter-

ans Day program was held in the Freemasons Cultural Center's Brossman Ballroom, including the Navy Club Band of Lancaster County - Ship #166; Elizabethtown Mayor, Bro. Chuck Mummert; speaker, retired Brig. Gen. Tom Kuhn, former commander of the 193rd Special Operations Wing of Pennsylvania Air National Guard; and other special features.

The National Sojourners are a Masonic organization of military members which aims to foster appreciation of the American heritage of freedom of life, liberty, religion and free expression.



Residents of the Masonic Village, members of the Sojourners, and volunteers from the community set up the thousands of American flags

Funds for the flags have come from donations and a private grant. The Sojourners first displayed the flags on Memorial Day 2004 at the Zembo Shrine Center in Harrisburg to commemorate the deaths of those who have served our country in the War on Terrorism.

Along with the 6,598 flags from the "Massing of the Colors" display, 182 American flags from the "Paw-Prints for Pennsylvania Patriots Program" was also on display.

This program helps provide service dogs for veterans returning home with combat injuries.

Supporters purchased flags in memory or honor of a loved one, and the flags have been displayed at the Masonic Villages across the state throughout the last year.

Supporting troops and veterans at the Masonic Village has been a long-standing tradition which dates back to Memorial Day ceremonies held in the

cemetery in 1915. Masonic Village established the Veterans Grove in 1920.

The 268 trees represent the 268 Pennsylvania Masons who gave their lives serving the United States in World War I. In 1927, Masonic Village unveiled a monument, symbolizing the allegorical mother, in the grove.

In 2007, the Veterans Grove received renovations and upgrades and now provides a place for residents, employees and community members to walk and picnic while they commemorate the men and women throughout the generations who have served, are serving or will serve our great nation through the Armed Forces.

As our nation pauses to remember our veterans this month, the community is encouraged to visit the Masonic Village to reflect on and honor the sacrifice of our fallen heroeses. ♦



For directions and more information, please visit the Masonic Villages at www.masonicvillagespa.org

GOURGAS LODGE OF PERFECTION



Message from the THRICE POTENT MASTER

Jonathan D. Ballinger, 32°



Brethren the holiday season is rapidly approaching, and with it comes another opportunity to serve our fellow man. Times are tough for everyone, and if you are not in a position to donate a monetary gift to a worthy charity (such as our wonderful Children's Dyslexia Center) then please consider giving the gift of your time. There are many opportunities available in the community during the holiday months to participate in volunteer work that can help

others in need. We must never lose sight of our obligation to assist others in their time of need.

This season is one of the busiest of the year for most people. It can be incredibly easy to get so wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of everything that's going on, that we lose sight of the true meaning of the holidays. I encourage all of you to stop and remember what you are celebrating and what it honestly means to you. Take a second to step back and truly be thankful for the blessings in your life.

I wish each and every one of you a very blessed holiday season, and safe travels until our next meeting. ♦

Spes Mea In Deo Est

200th Session of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction Held in Cleveland, Ohio

11 Valley Members Coroneted 33° Masons



Valley of Pittsburgh (l to r) Emery D. Anden 33°, Donald W. Boehm 33°, John R. Corey 33°, Thomas W. Fodor 33°, Bruce A. Robinson 33°.

2nd row, (l to r) Howard T. Silbaugh 33°, James R. Toward 33°, Valley of Uniontown, Paul E. Burd III 33°, Steve P. Leskinen 33°, Timothy I. Shumar 33°, Gerald R. Solomon 33°.

Freemasonry and Christmas

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns. On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been saying it for years—it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon A Charlie Brown Christmas which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason?

Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies.

The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do until you." In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft—**faith, hope** and **charity**. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas-time. ♦

Merry Christmas



Pennsylvania Council Princes of Jerusalem

Message from the Sovereign Prince

Eric K. Cohen, 32°



Brethren, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season. As this time of year becomes hectic, I am wishing you a peaceful season with your loved ones.

The Prince's line will once again be hosting the Scottish Rite Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m. The party is open to all Valley members and their families. We will be having a magician, karaoke, toys, pictures with Santa, clowns, pizza, and other refreshments. Our officers are looking forward to seeing you there.

I would also like to thank all of you that came to the November stated meeting. After the meeting and the live entertainment, we honored our 50, 60 and 65 year members. The night was very special and memorable.

I look forward to the new year and best wishes to all. ♦

Fraternally,

Eric K. Cohen
Sovereign Prince

Spes Mea In Deo Est

Hiram's Riders Fundraiser for Dyslexia



A 2013 Harley Davidson
Electra Glide Classic
in Ember Red accented
in Merlot with Trailer
to match or
\$17,000.00 cash!

Purchase of a \$10 ticket helps provide **FREE** tutoring of Children with Dyslexia. Details on our Web Site:

www.valleyofpittsburgh.org

or call 412-683-0359 or dwr47@verizon.net for questions and/or information.

*We're making a difference
in the lives of kids with Dyslexia*

Bro. Edward J. Smith Receives Meritorious Service Award



David W. Morgans, John A. Habel, Jr., 33°, Edward J. Smith, M.S.A., David E. Kearns

At the November Stated Meeting, Bro. Edward J. Smith received the Meritorious Service Award (M.S.A.) for outstanding service to Masonry and the Valley of Pittsburgh for over sixty years. Bro. Smith was initiated into Masonry in 1946

and belongs to Duquesne-McKeesport Lodge No. 731 where he is, two times, a Past Master. In the Valley, Bro. Smith serves on the Reception Committee.

Congratulations Bro. Smith for your many years of service to Masonry. ♦

Support Your Valley of Pittsburgh



**Social Events
and
Special Activities!**

Valley Honors 50 & 60 Year Mem



1st row: Richard A. Rodibaugh, 33°, *Commander-in-Chief*, Clarence H. Anderson, John C. Evans, Nicholas Angeloff, W. Wayne Brandon, Robert
Edward J. Smith, Frank Comunale, III, Carl C. Rueter, 33°, Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°, *Most Wise Master*. 3rd row: John D. Neel, William J. Eberts
Jr., Lee D. Rouse, Roger E. Lyon.

50/60 YEAR MEMBE

James W Allison, James A Babcock, Robert Baierbach, Edward C Banker, Edwin L Bartsch, Paul E Bash, Daniel F Beatty, William C Berg Jr., M
W Brinkman Jr., Robert A Broggi, Robert C Buchanan, Robert B Burt, John N Christenson, Edwin D Clarke, William R Cooper, William J Copel
C Demart, John Donald, Frank E Dowling, Stanley N Ehrenpreis, David R Elms, Stanley C Elms Jr., Ralph T Feick, Charles J Fisher Jr., Cliffor
C Hale, Charles E Hall, Earl J Hall, Warren W Hall, Terry M Harrison, Foster B Hartman, George H Hartman, Charles M Hawkins, Arnold G Ha
Jagdmann, Bruce G Johnson, John K Johnson, Arthur E Kelly Jr., George H Kintzing, Robert D Kirchner, Charles Kloman, Robert J Koepf, Al
Edgar E Mallick, William H Mallinson, James G Manolakas, Robert B McBeth, Everett R McCall, William F Minnick Jr., Fenton M Mitchell, Rob
Jr., Robert F Pemberton, Calvin O Peterka, Robert D Pfischner, Albert R Powell, Donald R Rhodes, Jack L Riley, Clarence J Rummel Jr., Cha
Shepard, Jack D Shields, Wilbur J Singley Jr., Wayne A Smay, Winfield S Smith Jr., William F Snider, Harry Sotereanos, Howard P Starr Jr., G
James M Thompson, William Tignor, Norman F Tisdale Jr., Charles E Townsley Jr., Henry R Truax, Leroy B Webber Jr., James E Weetman Jr.



Members at November Stated Meeting



1st row: Robert G. Golden, Jonathan D. Ballinger, *Thrice Potent Master*. 2nd row: Eric K. Cohen, *Sovereign Prince*, Richard A. Dankmyer, Kenneth L. Menke, Thomas W. Hartman, W. Richard Shearer, Samuel C. Williamson, 33°, *Past Grand Master*. 4th row: Walter E. Locher, John W. Hoak,

MEMBERS NOT PICTURED

Matthew M Blistan, Calvin G Borland, William G Bothwell, William M Bowser, Dale E Braithwaite, James L Brewer, Robert W Briney, Lawrence C Borland, Alfred Cox, Robert N Cresswell Jr., Darwin W Crocker, William J Cudlipp, Robert J Cunningham, Melvin C Dalzell, C Allen Davis, Herbert W Flegal, Harry K Floyd, Kenneth J Frazier, James H Garrity, Joseph L Gibbs, John Glass Jr., Theodore V Guenther, Edward W Gust, Calvin W Gay Jr., John E Hein, Frederick B Hildebrand Jr., John A Holland, Elmer P Hoop Jr., Donald C Huffman, Jimmie L Huit, Thomas Hunter, Paul E Hulen L Kohl, William W Kottner Sr., Gordon H Landess, Ralph H Lang, James N Lardas, Clarence R Lessig Jr., Robert I Long, Daniel J Maljak, Robert H Montgomery, Robert P Morris, Robert L Moser, Robert W Mullin, Raymond J Nicklas, Walter J Norris Jr., James C Ogle, William T Parry, Charles E Sahler, George J Schaffer, Arthur J Schmitt Jr., Martin H Schneider, Donald W Segui, William G Sharra Jr., Harold R Sheetz, Robert G Stephenson, Clarence W Stephenson, William K Stevenson, Carl J Strutz Jr., William M Summerville Jr., James L Taylor, James A Theys, Larry C Thomas, J Ronald West, Norval R Williams, Robert L Wingert, Edward A Wood Sr., Lloyd W Wright, Robert Z Yaley, Raymond H Zedel, Clifford G Zipf

Children's Dyslexia Center Budget for 2012 - 2013 is \$125,000.00

How the Budget is Funded

Supreme Council	50,000
Member Donations	35,000
Golf Outing	10,000
Dyslexia Walk-a-Thon	14,000
Memorial Contributions	6,000
Other	10,000
TOTAL	125,000

The Endowment Fund

Current Assets of the Fund

Cash	1,283,453.00
Pledged	268,718.00
TOTAL	1,552,171.00

Annual Contributions to the Fund

Pledges	45,000
Hiram's Riders Motorcycle Club ..	25,000
Interest	23,000
TOTAL	93,000

The Valley's Children's Dyslexia Center opened its doors in 1994. Shortly thereafter, an Endowment Fund was established to permanently endow the Center. Initially, the Fund consisted of donations from a Blue Lodge, Valley fund raising events, and contributions from members.

In 2004 the Builders Council was created. Bros. Jeff A. Biddle, Raymond T. Dietz, James R. Flanigan, John A. Habel, Jr., David S. Kielman, John G. Kovac, Jay E. McElravy, Donald M. Murphy, William Slater II, Thomas K. Sturgeon, Kurt R. Tesche, James A. West, and James A. West, Sr. submitted pledges to "kick-off" the program. In addition to those individuals, two Masonic organizations, the Valley Legion of Honor and the Unified Lodge No. 2 IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows) committed their support.

At the current rate of funding the Fund, it will take several years to meet the goal. **Until then, we will need to hold extensive fund raising events to fund the annual budget.**

There are four ways for you to make a commitment as part of the Builders Council.

1. A donation in cash or property.
2. A pledge of \$1,000 or more a year, payable over a ten year period.
3. Establishment of a gift annuity or charitable remainder unitrust.
4. Bequest designation specifically worded to provide \$10,000 or more to the Children's Dyslexia Center. (see page 2 for directions)

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

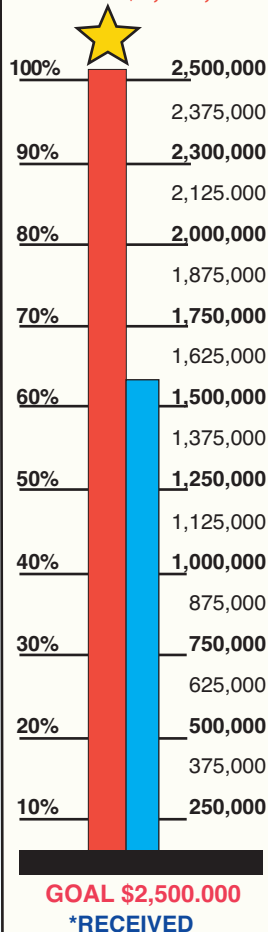
— Bro. Winston Churchill

Help the
Endowment
Fund for Dyslexia
GROW!

Make a Pledge!

Make a Donation!

GOAL: \$2,500,000



*from donations, bequests,
pledges & fund raisers.



**It's A Baseball Night
at the Ball Yard!**

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Pirates vs Dodgers

The annual Valley of Pittsburgh
Baseball outing at PNC Park.

Friday, June 14, 2013

\$32.00 includes

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

Questions? - 412-939-3579

Baseball Ticket Order

Enclosed is check payable to **Lodge of Perfection** for \$_____ for _____ tickets to the baseball game at PNC Park on Sat., June 14, 2013 at 7:05 p.m.

Name _____

Phone () _____

Mail to: 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh. PA 15237

Please include a *stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope* for return of game tickets and directions to the tail gate party.

MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY!



Contributions
to the
Children's
Dyslexia Center
are Income Tax
Deductible.
Make Yours Now!

Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix

Message from the
MOST WISE MASTER

Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°



As I sit here with pen and paper in hand (really a computer and mouse) collecting my thoughts for this article, it is uplifting to reflect upon the successes of the past few months as well as contemplating the future with great anticipation.

The "Walk for Dyslexia" was a great success with a continued increase in walkers that participated. A special "shout out" to Austin Shifrin who managed to bring enough of his coworkers to garner matching funds from his employer. There has been some debate as to which line raised the most money, the Prince's line or the Rose Croix line. As Most Wise Master I concede victory to the Prince's line because of the tireless effort put forth by their leader and chairman of the event, Brother Eric Cohen. Kudos to you, Brother Eric. I would also recognize Ill. Bro. Donald Murphy 33° and his Lady Barb for the incredible amount of work they put into the event. You are truly amazing.

At our Officer's retreat at Sandscrest this past August our membership Chairman and 2nd Lieutenant Commander Bro. David Morgans suggested that we have a "Blazing Saddles" night. Somehow an uncut version of the movie was acquired and shown in the Grotto room. Brother Murphy's beans and brats were just part of the menu. The attendance was between 75 and 100 men including members and non-members. What a "gas"; a raucous time was held by all. Shame on you for 100 years if you missed it.

At the November Stated Meeting 50, 60 and 65 year emblems were presented. Bro. Ed Smith received one of the most prestigious and respected awards that can be given by the Valley, the Meritorious Service Award. We were entertained by a Patsy Cline Tribute show. Congratulations to all who were honored that night. The Valley Christmas Party will be held on December 1st followed by the Children's Christmas Party on December 8th.

January is a great time to renew your enthusiasm for the Valley. The first stated meeting will be held Thursday, February 7th. A rare exemplification of The Feast of the Paschal Lamb will be performed at the Masonic Village at Sewickley on Sunday March 3rd. Palm Sunday will find us offering the Passion Play at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center.

I spent the last two days at the Valley of Uniontown witnessing wonderful degree work and renewing old friendships-cherished friendships I would have never known if I had not become involved in the Valley of Uniontown. Many have asked me over the years why, after

having served as Thrice Potent Master and having received the 33rd Degree, I would start all over again on the Rose Croix line in Pittsburgh. The answer is very simple. For me, Masonry is about Fraternity, about what things I can do every day to help my Brethren. Most importantly by becoming active in a "different" Masonic geographic area I have more than doubled my Masonic network. I am developing new friendships every day with men that I can confide in, depend upon and trust. Why not attend one of our many events and begin your own network? I believe you will find it easier than you might think.

Information pertaining to our upcoming events can be found in The Rite News and Newsletters. We have also developed an electronic messaging system. You may send an email to aasr.pittsburgh@comcast.net and request to be added to the database. We promise that we will not inundate you with correspondence. If you do attend an event please introduce yourself. I would be honored to be the first friend in your new network.

Sharon and I wish each of you a most blessed and joyous Holiday Season. May you enjoy every precious moment you will spend with your friends and loved ones. "Foot to Foot" ♦

Jeff

Spes Mea In Deo Est

*Show You're
Proud to be a Mason*

Place a 'Masonic License Plate' on your car. (call 412-939-3579 for application)



Purchase a sheet of vinyl 3" fade resistant 'Car Badges' - six to a sheet in various colors.

\$10.00



Purchase a Valley T-Shirt all sizes available - **\$14.00**



**Proud to be a Mason
Lapel Pin - \$5.00**



Purchase a Valley Golf Shirt all sizes available - **\$30.00**

When ordering individually, add \$2 for mailing.
Save! Purchase Pin, Badges & T-Shirt for \$25 Incl postage. Send check payable to Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.
Questions? 412-683-0359.

The Plates have arrived. Purchase yours NOW!

Collectors Commemorative Plates

featuring the

Grand Masters of Western Pennsylvania



Not shown to scale.
Actual size: 10"



The Past Grand Masters from Western Pennsylvania are being honored by a limited edition, numbered series, of china commemorative collector plates.

The series of Grand Master plates will cover the period from 1970 to the present.

Plates will be issued two per year in 2012 and three per year thereafter.

First in the series is our most recent Grand Master, Bro. Thomas K. Sturgeon.

The reverse side of the collectors plate has a descriptive paragraph about the Grand Master along with the plate production number.

Cost of the tribute plates are \$30.00 each.

Availability Limited

\$30 - Commemorative Plate Order

Please enter my order for the 1st in a series of Grand Masters Commemorative Collectors Plates.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

This order is a: Lodge Order # _____

Member Order Other

Questions?

412-683-0359 or dwr47@verizon.net

My Initiation

I heard three knocks at the Temple door
And then it was opened wide.
I felt the grip of a Masons hand
As I slowly passed inside.

I was lowered on bended knees,
As a prayer was said for me,
And then I was helped to pass around
For the Brethren all to see.

All to me was like black of night,
As my leader took me round,
And my racing heart I heard more clear
Than the organs solemn sound.

My faltering footstep here and there
Were halted on my way,
As several questions were put to me
As I struggled not to sway.

Then moving on I took three steps
And again I had to kneel
Whilst my left hand pressed a
compass point
For my naked breast to feel.

With my right resting on The Law
I took my obligation
And I swore I'd be a Mason true
At my initiation.

Some words were said which I could
not hear
Though wishing that I could see,
Then after a knock that echoed wide
My sight was restored to me.

I shall not tell more of what I saw
Or much of what was spoken
But I saw the sign and heard the word
And felt the Masons token.

I'll tell you this that I heard a charge
(which later I learned by heart)
As it told me all that a man should do
As a Mason, from the start.

It matters not if you pass the Chair
Or reach the highest station,
The best event in a Masons life
Is his initiation.

Proud to be a Mason!

Maybe You Can Take It With You

Our gentle Craft has almost as many origin stories as a superhero comic book these days, with pundits and scholars always finding some new link to the historical past that might explain where the Masonic fraternity came from and how we've grown over the years. At any given time, you might hear someone tell of the Fraternity's development from the quarry workers in medieval times, to Egyptian mystics, or to the warrior monks of the early crusades. But regardless of which tale happens to be the *raison du jour*, our Fraternity has always held forth certain standards of conduct and behavior that are symbolized in the working tools of ancient stonemasons.

Some of these tools are simple: the square, the level, and the plumb, for example. These were convenient because they served as constant reminders of the principles they represent to the men who actually worked with such tools each and every day.

Let's face it, as an operative stonemason it would be difficult to ignore the symbolic teachings of the working tools when you constantly used them to shape stones and other materials in your daily vocation. The lessons taught with these tools made a stronger impression because you were carrying them around with you everywhere you went.

But some of the symbols associated with Freemasonry are not so easily understood or readily fit in the pocket of your armor or your leather apron. I'm thinking of Euclid's 47th Problem, which is emblematic of a Mason's love of the Arts and Sciences, and also of the Point Within A Circle, another tool of geometric proof that was essential to the builder, but didn't necessarily fit in his belt.

The Point Within A Circle is characterized by a single point, around which is circumscribed a perfect circle

bounded by two parallel lines. Outside the left line, we often see Saint John the Baptist; outside the right, Saint John the Evangelist; and above the entire figure, the Volume of the Sacred



D. Todd Ballenger

Law. Now that's a symbol that should make an impression! But what is that supposed to mean and how does it apply to me as a Modern Vitruvian?

Simply put, the symbol reminds us to stay in control of our emotions and always walk in the path of Light, as dictated by Divine Law. Saint John the Baptist represents our zeal and passion for all things. Who better than a man

who lived in the wilderness and warned people unflinchingly of the dangers of living sinful lives, right? Saint John the Evangelist illustrates our more pensive side: the scholar, the writer, and the intellectual, whose knowledge comes from faith. We represent the point in the middle - or more specifically, where we should try and center our own actions. Notice that I said "should." (see related story on page 20)

In November, registered voters went to the polls and proceeded to engage in a timehonored tradition held dear by the Founding Fathers - that of electing the nation's President to serve for the next four years. And as honorable as this privilege is, I have never been more discouraged by the actions of my countrymen with regard to this event.

Now it is true that political discussions are forbidden in a Masonic Lodge. However, that doesn't mean that individual Masons do not have opinions, or the right to express them.

What concerns me is the manner in which we choose to join the discussion. More than ever, our country appears to be torn between two diametrically opposed points of view regarding the American government. The vitriolic statements and rhetoric coming from all shades of the political spectrum are not designed for the betterment of people, but to incite fear, anger, and hatred of the opposition. I suppose I can understand this given the

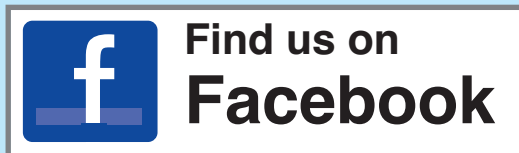
lack of personal responsibility and true character that I see pervading the populous.

But as a Mason, I hold myself and my Brethren to a higher standard. We have (or should have been) taught to constantly seek the enlightened path, to listen objectively to alternate points of view, and to respect the opinions of others while keeping our own passions in check. That is not to say that Freemasons cannot be passionate or disagree. Of course they can. But I would remind you, my Brothers, that we are to stay in control of our emotions, to take the higher road when expressing ourselves, and to maintain civility in our dealings with one another, particularly when expressing opposing points of view. It's a matter of respect.

If I take out my Square, it reminds me to treat others the way I wish to be treated. My Plumb tells me that I should walk with honor wherever I go. But the Point Within A Circle, that symbol that I can't carry in my pocket, should remind me that as a Freemason, I should be careful not to succumb to reckless discourse either in person or on some social media outlet. It should remind me to be respectful of others despite their differing opinions, because they likely feel as passionate about a certain issue as I do. It should remind me that both sides of an argument are much easier to see and interpret when standing in the middle, as opposed to being stuck far away on one side or the other.

Remember that although peace only resides in the eye of the storm, if you conduct yourselves as Masons should, then you might just be able to take that peace along with you. ♦

Ed. Note: Bro. D. Todd Ballenger, 32°, is a Past Master of Lodge Ad Lucem No. 812 and Dallas Lodge No. 231. He is also Deputy Master of the Gorgas Lodge of Perfection in the Valley of Pittsburgh.



The Valley of Pittsburgh now has its own Facebook page. Check us out at [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/valleyofpittsburgh) and search for the Valley of Pittsburgh. "Like" our page and become a fan. Not only will that make us feel special, but it will help you keep up-to-date with news, discussions, and events. Please join us on Facebook!!

The Two Saints John

The Point Within a Circle denotes Saint John the Baptist, whose "day" is June 24th and Saint John the Evangelist, whose "day" is December 27th.

They are the two Patron Saints of Masonry.

While many Master Masons are aware of the celebration of these two days, few realize why it is cause for celebration within their lodge.

The Lodge of St. John was the primitive Mother Lodge, held in Jerusalem and dedicated to St. John the Baptist and then to St. John the Evangelist, and finally to both. It is called the Lodge of the Holy Saints John of Jerusalem and from this lodge

all other lodges descended."

The Saints John

Little is known about either of the Saints John in the Masonic sense. What we do know is that Saint John the Baptist was a stern and morally just man. He was a direct descendant from Ishmael's bloodline. (Ishmael was Abraham's eldest son, born by his servant, Hagar.) John's mother, Elizabeth was a relative of Mary, (Jesus' mother) and both John and Jesus were contemporaries (born about the same time).

John the Baptist baptized Jesus and proclaimed Him the "Lamb of God". John the Baptist is probably best known for his survivalist in-

stincts, (as we read of his living off of locusts and honey) and for his zealous virtue in keeping God's laws.

Saint John the Evangelist is said to be the disciple whom Jesus loved. Saint John the Evangelist is also known as John the Apostle. He is probably best known as a teacher of knowledge, the author of the Gospel book of John, the book of Revelation in the New Testament and later wrote the three Epistles in the Bible called John 1, John 2 and John 3.

He was the only one of the twelve disciples who did not forsake Jesus at the hour of his death. He is remembered as a gentle teacher of brotherly love and was the last surviving apostle, and believed to have died at a very old age (90+), circa 101 A.D. at Ephesus, Turkey, which is about halfway between Jerusalem and Rome.

At a later date, a church was built over his tomb and subsequently, a beautiful Moslem Mosque.

There is no historical evidence that either of the Saints John were ever members of the Craft of stonemasons, but because of their righteous lives and their strength of character, both of these Godly men have been adopted as the two Patron Saints of Masonry. ♦



Hiram's Riders Motorcycle Club

Interested in becoming a member of Hiram's Riders? If so, you are invited to join us at our annual meeting on Saturday, November 24 at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center.

Breakfast will be served that day from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at a cost of \$6.00. Hiram's Riders meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Our activities consist of an annual ride for Dyslexia, social functions, and our number one project - raising funds for the Endowment Fund of the Pittsburgh Children's Dyslexia Center by conducting a drawing, based on the PA Lottery, for a Harley Davidson Electra Glide Classic cycle and matching trailer. To date, we have raised \$175,000.

Come join us, talk to us, and if you desire, become a member. ♦

The Story of the Crucifixion

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
Palm Sunday, March 24, 2013
Curtain - 3:00 p.m.
Dinner following performance - \$10.00

The Story of the Crucifixion

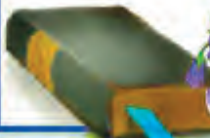
Please reserve _____ tickets. (no charge)

Enclosed is my check payable to **Lodge of Perfection** for _____ dinner tickets at \$10 each.

Name _____

Phone () _____

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



Peace on
Earth
Good will
to Men



M ♦ E ♦ M ♦ B ♦ E ♦ R ♦ S ♦ H ♦ I ♦ P

At some point in our Masonic journeys we have no doubt heard the statement that, "you only get out of Masonry what you put into it." There is a lot of truth in that statement however; in my journey thus far I have found that I consistently get more out of Freemasonry than what I put into it. This is a lesson that the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh seems to teach repeatedly. Just in October alone there were wonderful fellowship opportunities that took place in our Valley.



David W. Morgans
Membership
Chairman

The Oktoberfest that took place on October 4th was a lot of fun with roughly 100 men and women in attendance. There was a fantastic German meal and incredible entertainment performed by the Barons. At \$20.00 per person everyone certainly got more out of the evening than what they put into it.

The following Saturday, October 6th, was the 9th Annual Walk for Dyslexia which could not have happened without the hundreds of people who took part in planning, pledging, donating, walking (and or running), and coordinating the event. There was plenty of excitement, laughter, and joy that day as we all came out to raise money and awareness for the Children's Dyslexic Center that the Valley of Pittsburgh supports. Being even a small part of helping children to overcome dyslexia gives everyone who participates much more back than what they put in. After all, what price could you put on positively changing a child's life forever?

On Friday, October 12th, over 75 men gathered together to enjoy, beans, brats, beer, and the movie "Blazing Saddles." There were Scottish Rite Masons, non-Scottish Rite Masons, and non-Masons all enjoying an evening filled with tons of laughs, good & plentiful food, and a special type of relaxed fellowship that is not normally experienced at most Masonic events. All that fun was had for no cost at all to the participants.

Need I point out that everyone got more out of the evening than they put into it?

By the time you receive this issue of the Rite News our Fall Reunion will have most likely taken place and each of us will have more Scottish Rite Masons as Brothers of our Valley. This new class of Scottish Rite Masons will undoubtedly hear that they "will only get out of the Valley what they put into it." It will become our duty to teach them, and all other Valley members who don't know, that they will actually get more out of the Valley than what they put into it by showing up for events.

In December 2012 the Valley will host two events which will, once again, give us opportunities to get more out of Freemasonry than what we put in. The first is on December 1st with the annual Valley Christmas Luncheon Party for Scottish Rite Masons, ladies, and friends. And the second will be the Children's Christmas Party with Santa, to be held on December 8th.

If you want to experience "more" come out to one of the Valley's events and find out for yourself how much more you get out of our Valley than you could possibly put into it.

I look forward to meeting you at the Christmas Luncheon at the Shannopin Country Club just off I-279 North at Camp Horne Rd. on Saturday, December 1. ♦

FREEMASONRY
An International
Fraternity of Men
with Integrity, Morals
and Decorum

Now Booking 2013 Lodge Programs

The Valley of Pittsburgh will continue to perform the Lincoln Degree in 2013 for interested Blue Lodges, but this will be the last year as the program has run it's course.

To date, the following Lodges have scheduled our show, and we have room for several more, but time is running out — so contact us soon to have this inspiring program performed at your lodge's stated meeting.

- February 21Dallas No. 231
- March 11Dormont Whitehall No. 684
- March 27Lodge No. 45
- April 5Parian No. 662
- April 10Infinity No. 546
- May 13Philanthropy No. 225
- May 20Sunset No. 623
- Sept 3Verona No. 548
- Sept 18Crafton Guyasuta No. 513

The Lincoln Degree

The Lincoln Degree is the former 26th Degree in Scottish Rite Masonry that has been decommissioned and declassified for public viewing. Our Degree Team has adapted this historically accurate stage play into a lodge room presentation for one of the best programs you will ever see at a stated meeting. Since we perform at the conclusion of your meeting, you can make it an "Open House" night and invite wives and kids to see one of the so called "Big Secret" degrees of Freemasonry! Serve a dinner prior to the meeting, and hit the trifecta of Food Family and Fraternity.

We don't solicit or expect any money for our show, but will accept donations for our Children's Dyslexia Center should your lodge choose to donate. Our only fee is: **A Good Night of Fraternal Brotherhood!**

The (not so) Secret Degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry

If you prefer a more traditional type program for your stated meeting, consider this 20 minute presentation. The title says it all. The 29 degrees of Scottish Rite span the eras of time from the Old Testament to WW II. Our degrees reinforce and celebrate the Masonic principals of fraternal love and brotherhood, love of country and humanity and reverence for a supreme being — oops, I just gave away all the Blue Lodge secrets. Contact me and I will gladly come to your lodge and give you a tour of the Scottish Rite Degrees.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Donald W. Boehm 33°
1st Lt. Commander

aasrpgmembers@yahoo.com
Home. . . . 412 885-5621 evenings
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FOR OFFICE USE

YOUTH



NEWS

Pennsylvania Masonic

Youth Foundation

Youth Groups to Be a Part of History

One of the most important events in the upcoming year will be the Inauguration of the President of the United States. Since January 20 falls on a Sunday, there will be a private swearing in when President Barack Obama takes his Oath of Office at Noon on Sunday, followed by the public swearing in and inaugural parade on Monday, January 21st – and our Masonic Youth Groups will be there!

For the sixth consecutive Presidential Inauguration, Pennsylvania DeMolay will be sponsoring a bus trip to Washington D.C. so that the members of the youth groups will have the opportunity to participate in this historical event. The one-day trip included a stop at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia; a

ride on the metro-rail into the city; a box lunch, and an opportunity afforded few young people: a chance to be the part of a ceremony that is very unique to the United States of America.

DeMolays, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls and their Advisors will experience the security measures, including snipers all over the rooftops, checkpoints where entrants are searched, and law enforcement personnel of all kinds; anticipated long lines and delays, and an historic event that will be remembered for a lifetime. Some participants will also seize the opportunity to take in a few of the sites of the city, like the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, and the Sculpture Gardens of the National Art Gallery. ♦

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Pennsylvania DeMolay Invites You to Attend The Annual Rose Croix Induction Class

Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Exciting Opportunity

If you know a young man, age 12-21 who would like to join DeMolay at the **Rose Croix Induction Class** please contact the PA DeMolay Office at 1-800-266-8424 Ext. 4 for all the details on how to do this!

- 1:30 PM - Guest Registration
- 2:00 PM - Induction Begins
- 4:15 PM - Remarks & Closing
- 4:30 PM - Light Refreshments

Yes! I plan to attend the Rose Croix Induction Class on March 16th!

There will be _____ people attending in my party.

Name: _____ Title: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: () _____

Return to PA DeMolay by March 8, 2013 at 1244 Bainbridge Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or phone reservations to the PA DeMolay Office at 1-800-266-8424 Ext. 4

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Send to: **Proud to be a Mason**
Valley of Pittsburgh
3579 Masonic Way
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License Plates Make Great Gifts. . . If You're A Collector

On a recent luncheon trip to the Masonic Village at Sewickley, we were invited to visit the villa of Bob and Jean Lenhardt. It is a beautiful villa with a great view of the hills surrounding the Masonic Village.

When we were about to leave, I noticed the garage door was open and looked inside - to discover an amazing collection of license plates from around the world. When asked about the collection, Bob stated "I started collecting license plates about ten years ago. I had just built a new three-car garage and I wanted something interesting and colorful to decorate the walls. I had seen a license plate collection at a local notary and tag service office. Their collection contained plates from all fifty states installed around the room at the top of the walls.

My state plate collection began with a few plates I was able to get from several out-of-state friends and relatives. I have been told that I am a person who is difficult to shop for. Guess what! I got plates as Christmas presents, and also for my birthdays. One cousin apparently kept all his old plates and sent them to me. Let me know if you need a New Hampshire plate. I found that if I sought out a salvage yard located in close proximity to an interstate highway I could get some out-of-state plates there. My wife just loved sitting in the car while I talked-up the good-old-boy at the yard. We make an annual trip to Florida, also known as "Flea Market Heaven." My brother-in-law and I enjoyed several treasure hunts at Florida's large and interesting markets. It took me about three years to complete my state collection.

In the process of gathering the state plates, a "monster" was created. I occasionally came across some old Pennsylvania plates, as well as some specialty plates. After I bought a box of plates at an auction, I began to get serious about a Pennsylvania collection. In that box were some porcelain-backed plates from the early years, including one from the first year, 1906. It took me about five years to get my collection filled (from 1906 through 1958) I have not collected plates after PA



Bob Lenhardt with his License Plate Collection

started to use the annual "stickers" to indicate the year.

My collection also has a variety of specialty plates, including municipal and military plates; temporary plates, motorcycle plates, vanity plates, organizational plates (of course, a Masonic plate); and even a bicycle plate from Johnstown. I also have plates from several foreign countries. A fellow traveler sent me a plate from Tasmania. We met on our Australia trip and did not re-connect for him to give me the plate prior to returning home. He looked up our address

and sent me that special surprise.

My collection currently has about 300 plates, and is displayed in my garage at the Masonic Village at Sewickley. I do not have a lot invested in the collection, and that makes it all the more enjoyable. I have never bought a plate on-line, and I have never stolen one directly from a car. My collection will probably never be complete, as I still get tempted when I see an unusual piece of this interesting and colorful part of our lifestyle." ♦

by D. William Roberts, 33°, Editor



View of the Masonic Village at Sewickley campus from the Lenhardt's balcony

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013



**2012 - 2013
Calendar of
Masonic Events**



November 2012

24 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

December 2012

01 - Valley Christmas Luncheon, Shannopin Country Club
08 - Valley Children's Christmas Party, GPMC
15 - Hiram's Riders Christmas Luncheon, Grants Bar

January 2013

12 - 19 SCOTTISH RITE CRUISE
26 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

February 2013

07 - SCOTTISH RITE STATED MEETING, GPMC
03 - Scottish Rite/Grotto Super Bowl Party, GPMC
13 - Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins
23 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

March 2013

03 - Feast of the Paschal Lamb - Masonic Village at Sewickley
10 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
16 - Annual PA DeMolay Rose Croix Class, GPMC
24 - "The Story of the Crucifixion" GPMC
30 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC
31 - Easter Sunday

April 2013

04 - SCOTTISH RITE STATED MEETING, GPMC
19, 20 - Spring Class, GPMC
27 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

May 2013

25 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

June 2013

06 - SCOTTISH RITE STATED MEETING, GPMC
10 - Valley of Pittsburgh Golf Tournament
14 - Pirate Baseball Game, PNC Park
29 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC
30 - Hiram's Riders Ride for Dyslexia

July 2013

04 - Independence Day Parade - Canonsburg, PA
12, 13 - Council of Deliberation - Seven Springs
27 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC
28 - Washington Lodge 164/Blue Knights Ride for Charity

August 2013

18 - 20 - NMJ Supreme Council Meeting, Washington, D.C.
TBA - Picnic with the Grand Master - Masonic Village
31 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

September 2013

05 - SCOTTISH RITE STATED MEETING, GPMC
28 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

October 2013

05 - Walk for Dyslexia, GPMC
26 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

November 2013

07 - SCOTTISH RITE STATED MEETING, GPMC
30 - Fellowship Breakfast, GPMC

GPMC - Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Schedule updated monthly: www.valleyofpittsburgh.org

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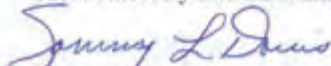
Dear Brethren,

As a Vietnam Veteran, wounded during a military operation, I understand the plight of thousands of military Veterans who must visit or stay in our VA Hospitals. It is no easy task going through recovery and rehabilitation. Some experiences can produce lifelong complications. As a nation, we owe our Veterans our thanks and our promise that at critical times in their lives they will receive proper attention and care.

I am proud to be a Mason, and I know that through the Masonic Service Association (MSA) Hospital Visitation Program, Masons are serving Veterans by providing appropriate attention and care to make every Veteran's stay at a VA medical facility as pleasant and comfortable as possible.

I encourage everyone to support **MSA and its Hospital Visitation Program.**

Most sincerely and fraternally,


S.F.C. Sammy L. Davis, 33°

On November 18, 1967, Private First Class Sammy L. Davis, wounded and under intense enemy fire, crossed a river to rescue three wounded soldiers near Cal Lay, Vietnam, and on that same day, Davis continued fighting against a large Viet Cong force until it broke and fled. On November 19, 1968, Davis received the Congressional Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Brother Davis became a Master Mason in 2003 in Union Village Lodge #545 in Indiana, and he received his 33rd Degree in Scottish Rite Masonry in 2012.



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