

163 Years of Scottish Rite Masonry in Pittsburgh

The Rite News

The Magazine of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VOL. XXIV NO. 4



June 2015



HONOR
THE FLAG
OF
FREEDOM

FLAG DAY
JUNE 14

GOLF FOR DYSLEXIA
See page 20.



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.

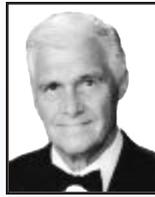
The teaching method is the Orton-Gillingham program. It is a one tutor – one student ratio. This method is very expensive but extremely effective. It costs approximately \$5,000 a year for each child. Our goal is to raise \$2,500,000 to endow the Children's Dyslexia Center for the future.

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



Robert & Janice Amend



Emery & Carol Anden



David & Carol Bagaley



Robert & Jacqueline Beatty



Jeff & Susan Biddle



Raymond & Lynn Dietz



Fred & Kathy Donatelli



Robert Eckbreth



James Ecker & Donna Murtha



James & Ellen Flanigan



Leland A. Hale, Jr.



Jeff & Lauren Heiger



Raymond & Dorothy James



James & Lisa Jenkins



Robert & P.J. Jones



Frank R. Mangery



Jack Marsh



John & Judy McCombs



Roy & Sara Jane McCullough



Jay & Joanne McElravy



Ronald & Karen Plesh



D. William Roberts



Bruce A. Robinson



Richard & Bette Rodibaugh



Don & Ginny Sauer



Kurt & Nancy Tesche



Gregory Triko



George & Norma Vance



S. Timothy Warco



Bob & Charlene Wells

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 _____

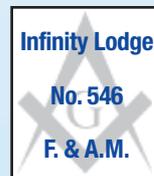
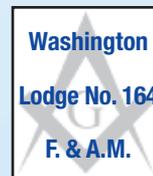
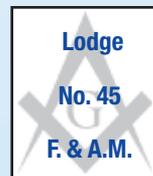
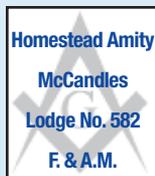
Name _____

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!



Mark & Patty Bliler



George H. Cox



Rick & Renee Cross



James & Eda Dean



Mario & Linda DeBlasio



Bill & Heather Dickey



Howard & Sharon Flynn



Donald & Debora Green



Wallace & Leah Grossett



Eric & Raylene Gumto



Harvey & Carol Gumto



John & Ruth Habel



Paul & Penny Kappel



Paul & Jackie Kauffman



David & Sandy Kearns



David & Judy Kielman



John Kovac



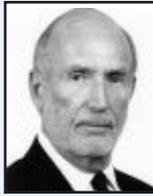
William & Babara Magnotti, Jr.



Glenn & Mary Miller



Dr. Glenn & Roberta Miller



Jack & Carol Miller



Donald & Barbara Murphy



John & Valerie Nicklas



Raymond & Joy Nicklas



Joseph A Schrock, Jr.



James W. Seel



William Shaw



William Slater II



Samuel & Judy Spanos



Thomas & Joan Sturgeon



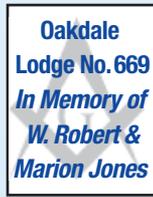
James & Annetta West



James & Jill West



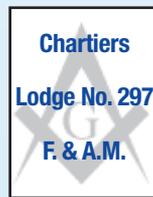
Jeff & Sharon Wonderling



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



30th
Masonic
District



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



Valley
of
Uniontown



Supreme
Council Group
Valley of
Pittsburgh



Valley of
Pittsburgh
Legion of
Honor



Pittsburgh
Commandery
No. 1
Knights
Templar



Unified
Lodge No. 2
1005

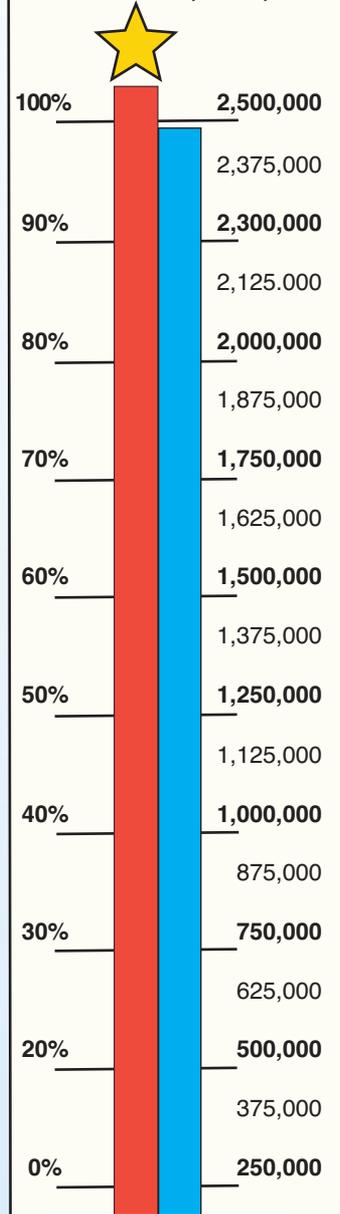


Valley of
Pittsburgh
Club

Help the Endowment Fund for Dyslexia **GROW!**

Make a Pledge or a Donation!

GOAL: \$2,500,000



GOAL \$2,500,000
***RECEIVED**

**from donations, bequests, pledges & fund raisers.*

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

– Bro. Winston Churchill

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

by Red Skelton, 33°

- Patriot • Painter • Author • Poet
- Song Writer and **MASTER MASON**

"I don't want to be called 'the greatest' or 'one of the greatest'. Let other guys claim to be the best. I just want to be known as a clown because to me, it means you can do everything -- sing, dance, and above all, make people laugh."



I - me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge - dedicate all my worldly goods to give without self pity.

Allegiance - my love and my devotion.

To the Flag - our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

Of the United - that means we have all come together.

States - individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

Of America,

And to the Republic - a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands.

One nation - meaning so blessed by God.

Indivisible - incapable of being divided.

With liberty - which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.

And justice - the principal or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all " - which means it's as much your country as it is mine.

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge Of Allegiance - 'under God'. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, 'That's a prayer' and that would be eliminated from schools, too?"



Bro. Richard 'Red' Skelton, 33°, was raised a Master Mason in Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, Indiana in 1939. He joined the Scottish Rite, Valley of Evansville, Indiana in 1940. In 1995, he received the Supreme Council's coveted Gorgas Medal.

His, now famous, explanation of the Pledge of Allegiance was first performed on his TV show, The Red Skelton Hour on January 14, 1969. (It won 42 awards and was twice read into the Congressional Record.)



Fly the Flag!

Flag Day, June 14 ★ Independence Day, July 4

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The Rite News

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Message from the Commander-in-Chief

Donald W. Boehm, 33°



“These are all honorable men”

In my 40 years as a Mason, I have seen many acts of fraternal brotherhood, as we all have. Most involve financial aid and monetary gifts to Masonic charities, or brothers aiding each other, but I witnessed one 36 years ago by a man named Dick Smith.

Richard A. Smith, the Senior Warden of Guyasuta Lodge #513 when I served as Master in 1978 and about 23 years my senior, was a bull of a man who stood 6'7", and weighed about 275 lbs. He was stronger than a country ox, but truly a soft spoken gentle giant who would do anything for a brother in need.

In 1976, our lodge purchased the old 1st Presbyterian Church in Ingram for a permanent home, where we still meet today. The congregation had merged with the United Presbyterian Church directly across the street some 10 years before, and they were eager to liquidate the empty building. A Masonic Lodge was a preferable option to the community, so a Mason to Mason handshake offer was accepted as many of the church Elders were also Masons, and the price was a fraction of market value. The agreement stated we would not resell the building for at least 7 years, to prevent us from turning a quick profit, and to provide Sunday school classroom space if needed.

Everything was fine, until a congregational split in the Presbyterian Church caused half the members to leave and form their own non-denominational church group. They approached us to rent our building for Sunday service, and we agreed as renting was not restricted in our agreement. The UP church Elders had no problem, but the Minister blew a gasket, and demanded a meeting to discuss the issue.

This so called “Man of the Cloth” had a very abrasive personality, and preached more about anger than love, complete

with language not suited for a church sermon. These were the root problems causing the congregational split.

On a November evening, I attended the meeting with 8 other brothers from our lodge including Dick Smith. As a scared 26 year old, I decided to keep my mouth shut. The Minister immediately launched into a tirade calling us everything under the sun, complete with table fist pounding and his usual abrasive language. We sat there quietly enduring his wrath until he said....“If you don’t stop renting to these people, you are not honorable men”, at which point Dick Smith said “STOP”..... and there was a long silence. Dick leaned forward in his chair, put his giant hand up to the Minister’s face and in a firm but measured voice said.....“Don’t you EVER question the honor of these men, because these are all honorable men”. Another silence ensued, as the Minister’s jaw dropped open, and his tone retreated completely.

The meeting adjourned with no agreement, but I realized later, that Dick Smith defended my honor, and that of all the attending Masons that night. His statement defended the honor of every member of Guyasuta Lodge No. 513, and the honor of every man to have ever earned the title of Mason. Think about it gentlemen, that 36 years ago, a man who you never knew defended YOUR honor, because today you proudly call yourself a Mason. That makes Dick Smith’s statement...“These are all honorable men”, the greatest act of Masonic brotherhood I have ever witnessed.

My dear friend and Masonic brother has long since passed on to that undiscovered country from whose bourne, no traveler returns, but I will never forget what he did that night. I hope this tribute to Richard A. Smith P.M., inspires all of you to live your lives by the Masonic principles we so endear, as it has for me. ❖



Brentwood & Canonsburg 4th of July Parades Need Help!

If you are interested in being in either one of the two parades, please contact D. William Roberts, 33° for the Brentwood Parade at 412-576-5856 or email: dwr47@verizon.net. Contact Howard T. Silbaugh, 33° for the Canonsburg Parade at 724-309-3231 or email: htsruck02@gmail.com. ♦

On Camera!



Bro. Edward E. Ferris, Potentate of Zem Zem Shrine in Erie, PA greets the R.W. Grand Master, Robert J. Bateman at the Enchanted Evening Gala. Bro. Ferris and Bro. Jack E. Flagh escorted the Ladies to the banquet hall. See story and pictures on page 14.



There's going to be a celebration at the home of Jeff & Karen Wonderling on Friday, July 31. See details on page 21.



Joseph E. Murphy, 33°, Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Villages of PA enjoyed a good laugh with Illustrious Bro. Robert W. Herbert, Potentate of Syria Shrine, at a recent Donor's Dinner at the Masonic Village at Sewickley. Bro. Herbert and his wife Paige are residents of the Sewickley Village.



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.



Charles A. Garnes, 33°

James R. Allen
Robert E. Artman
William H. Bane
Charles M. Beers Jr.
Myron J. Berman
Paul L. Black
Thomas S. Bounds
John H. Bradel Jr.
James A. Brown
Daniel P. Carlock
George K. Clark Jr.
John C. Conway
Owen T. Cook
Armond E. Couch Jr.
Robert N. Cresswell Jr.
Edward L. Cunningham Jr.
Lyle G. Cunningham
Richard P. Dorman
John W. Drotar
Charles R. Dyer
William R. Edgar
Jay H. Eisenhauer Sr.
Harry D. Ferguson
Kenneth F. Ferris
Robert E. Fleming Jr.
Harry K. Floyd
Glenn R. Frye
James F. Garvin
David W. Gove
Wendell S. Grimm
Walter S. Gross Jr.

Gary H. Grubb
Albert J. Gurtner
George H. Hartman
William V. Higbee
James W. Hines
George R. Hixon
Stanley W. Hower
Charles R. Huffman
John R. Hufhand
Thomas Hunter
Gordon J. Isherwood, Jr.
Milos Jankovich
Frederick Kirschensteiner
Paul R. Knox
Leroy S. Kreinbrook
Fred R. Kugler, MSA
Robert E. Landis
John W. Lyon Jr.
William R. MacDonald
Richard D. Manning
Joel O. Marshall
Robert B. McBeth
John G. McMillan Sr.
Joseph E. Meyer
Larry F. Miller
Donald R. Morris
Harvey K. Neel
John Onufer Jr.
James G. Owens II
Richard D. Pearson

Neton E. Peterman Jr.
Eugene H. Plummer
James O. Powney
Carl M. Reel
Daniel T. Rose
Donald C. Rothery
Norman H. Russell
Edward Ruzomberka
Charles E. Sahler
Robert E. Sarver
Joseph H. Schriver
John A. Scozio
William A. Shepler
James H. Stull
Joseph N. Succop II
Robert D. Thompson
Neil M. Tomer
Benjamin A. Venables
John F. Walker
Elmo J. Walter Jr.
Charles A. Wedge Jr.
Robert E. Weinert
Gerald L. Wendorf
John D. White
Raymond E. Wien
Melvin K. Willett
Howard E. Williams
John H. Wilson
Stephan Yakub
Ralph W. Young
Clifford G. Zipf



June Stated Meeting

Thursday, June 4



Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

The June Stated Meeting of the Valley of Pittsburgh will be alive with activity –

★ **DINNER!** ★ **LADIES BINGO!**

★ **BRIEF STATED MEETING!**

★ **PRESENTATIONS!** ★ **DOOR PRIZES!**

★ **FELLOWSHIP!** ★ **DESSERT & COFFEE!**

Entertainment for the June 4th Stated Meeting, once again, will be a Ladies "One Card Bingo" with \$500.00 in Valley cash given away. This was done at the first meeting in September, and it's back again by popular demand! Wives, Widows and Masonic Village Ladies are welcome to participate. With the "One Card" per Lady Bingo Game, all have an equal chance to win. Bring your lucky dauber or marking device, along with any other lucky charms, and take home some Valley cash!

Door Prizes will include 4 field box Pirate tickets to the June 23rd game against the Reds, the usual 32" flat screen TV, Gift Cards, Valley Shirts and more.

Attention Spring Class Candidates!

Any new member from the April 17/18 Spring Class attending this meeting will receive a FREE Valley of Pittsburgh Golf shirt.

– Time Line –

5:30 to 6:45.....Dinner \$10.00.

Reservations Required

Call 412-939-3579

6:45 to 7:45.....One Card Bingo.

FREE for the Ladies only.
\$500.00 in cash given away.



7:00 to 8:00.....Members Stated Meeting.

In auditorium including installation of officers.

8:00 to 8:30.....Open presentation of retiring officer jewels.

8:30 to 9:00.....Coffee and dessert.

Door prizes and 50/50 raffle in banquet hall.

Last Stated Meeting of the 2014/15 Scottish Rite Year.

Next Stated Meeting will be held on September 3, 2015

Rev. "Sammy" Knappenberger, 33°, Honored by NAACP, Washington Unit



Rev. Brother Harold S. Knappenberger, Jr., 33°, "Sammy" as he likes to be called, was recently honored at the 55th Annual NAACP, Wash-

ington Unit, as its 2015 Human Rights Award Recipient.

Bro. Knappenberger is a pastor in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

A native of Warren, Ohio, he is the son of the Rev. Harold and Ruth Knappenberger and the brother of the Rev. Lyston Knappenberger.

Bro. Sammy received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Allegheny College, a Master of Divinity Degree from Drew University and a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Allegheny College.

He has served as a pastor for a total of sixty-seven years in the following ten communities: Mt. Vernon and Bemus Point N.Y, Erie, Franklin, Johnstown, Greenville, Washington, Mt. Lebanon, Finleyville, Houston and as a Chaplain at Manor Care Nursing Home in McMurray, Pennsylvania.

In addition to his pastoral and denominational duties he has been a servant in the communities as well: Leadership in construction of Educational Units in two churches, Director of Summer Youth Camps, Radio and Television Ministry, United Fund participation, 1977 flood in Johnstown, Counseling in finding employment in Greenville, President of Highland Ridge Com-

munity Development Corporation, Co-Chairperson of Religious Affairs as a member of the Executive Committee, NAACP Washington Unit.

To better understand the people of the world and to learn from national and church leaders, he has visited 33 countries: Visitation to Pinson College, Camaguey, Cuba (before Castro), four mission tours with medical supplies to Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti, A Churchman's Study Tour of the Soviet Union visiting five cities, the countries behind the Iron Curtain and East Berlin, and an around the World tour with emphasis on the Middle East, Far East and Israel.

He has memberships in numerous Masonic Bodies. He has been the Presiding Officer in sixteen of them and also served as Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain.

He is a 33rd Degree Mason and has been awarded the Knights Templar Cross of Honor. He is currently a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of PA, the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of PA and Associate Grand Prelate of the Knights Templar of PA. His past affiliations are: member of the Rotary Club, Kiwanis & Lions Club.

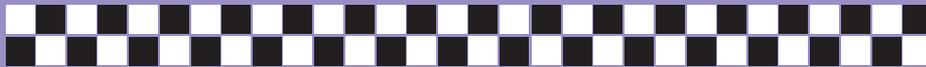
In 1992 Sammy married Elsie Werkmeister. They each were the parents of four children. Today Elsie has nine grand children and four great grand children and Sammy has twelve grand Children and eleven great grand children.

Sammy's Mission statement is expressed in the words of John Wesley, Co-Church Founder of the Methodist Church:

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can."



Upon the Checkered Pavement



D. Todd Ballenger, 32^o, Feature Writer

What Came You Here to Do?



There once were two men. The first came from a family of means. He was educated at the best schools and afforded great opportunity. However, when he was called upon to serve, he said, "No. I don't want

that job. It's beneath someone of my education and status." The man's life continued, and for a while, he was successful, though for smaller and smaller periods of time. He had multiple houses filled with beautiful furnishings, but no friends. He was even alienated from his family. As he grew older, his attitude never changed, and opportunities soon disappeared completely. He was alone, never realizing that all his knowledge and education had not served him, because he had failed to serve. Now it was wasted. The man's knowledge was outdated and limited, and so was he.

The second man came from an ordinary family in an average town. He worked a warehouse job and tended bar for additional money. This man was also educated, but had a very special knowledge that had been unique to his family. He studied and made the most of his opportunities as well. However, when he was called upon to serve, he said, "Yes." This man gave of himself by sharing his great knowledge with those whom he chose to mentor - his students. He taught them for different reasons and gave each student something of himself that he knew would help them be the best they could be. Some students stayed; some left. Some came back. There was never much in the way of financial reward. He even taught without the thought of compensation. But the more the second man taught, the more he learned from his students and about himself, and was rewarded with the love and respect of those whose lives he had touched.

Now these are two very different stories of two very different men. At the pivotal moment, however, each man chose to use his knowledge and education to promote an agenda. The first man chose to serve only himself, while the second man chose to serve others.

Freemasons are fond of reminding each other that we share a special knowledge that makes good men better. How do you care for that knowledge, though? Do you use it to

better only yourself, or do you share it with others when it comes time for you to serve? Does the education that you once mastered grow stale and faulty as you fall out of practice, or do you continue to learn from new people, both young and old, and reinforce those ideals by practicing and sharing them with others?

Granted, the lessons learned in the rituals and symbolism of the Craft are meant to help us better ourselves. We are charged to constantly strive toward perfection, eliminating the rough edges of our characters in order to be more useful to the Grand Architect. But doesn't improving on how we think and act naturally extend to those around us? It should. In fact, it should be the most natural part of the process, simply following as the next logical step in a personal transformation.

As the poet reminds us:

What Came You Here to Do?

And now my Brethren,
What came you here to do?
When you joined our mystic circle,
Had you a purpose in your heart
To be of service to your fellow man,
And perform your allotted part?

Or come you out of curiosity
Or motives personal in view?
Tell me, Brother of the Square,
What came you here to do?

Have you failed to grasp the meaning
Of the symbols of our Craft?
Have you learned to subdue your passions
And make improvements in your Art?
Do you always, always uphold the trusts
On which we firmly stand,
Teaching the fatherhood of Man?

Have you been willing to aid the Brother
When Life's surges were fierce and wild?
Have you offered cheer and comfort
To the Mason's widow, wife, and child?

If you have done so, my Brother,
You are a Mason good and true,
And can give a correct answer,
"What came you here to do?"

~ Author Unknown

D. Todd Ballenger, 32^o, is a Past Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection, District Deputy Grand Master of the 55th Masonic District, and is exceedingly pleased to be a regular contributor to *The Rite News*. You can read more from Bro. Ballenger at his blog, *The Luminosity of Souls* (luminosityofsouls.blogspot.com).

Valley Car Club Elects Officers

On Monday, May 11, the Valley of Pittsburgh Vintage/Classic Car Club held a meeting to elect officers.

The following Brethren were voted to positions for a 2 year term, 2015-2016:

President Robert Chambers, Jr.
Vice President William Keller
Secretary Thomas Fodor, 33^o
Treasurer Albert Kappeler, 33^o
Car Cruise Coordinator...David Whittinger
Membership Coordinator..Roy Williamson

This was the final meeting before the annual Valley of Pittsburgh Summer Cruise on Sunday, June 7. (See ad on page 9 and article on page 21).



Pictured above is Valley Car Club President Robert Chambers, Jr. presenting a *Plaque of Appreciation* to Past President Roy Williamson for leading the Club in its initial two years. ♦



SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 21

Dyslexia Center Report



by Rich Rodibaugh, 33°
Chairman, Board of Governors

**To My Scottish Rite Brethren
and Dyslexia Center Friends:**

We, as Scottish Rite Masons in the Valley of Pittsburgh, should be especially proud of the reading success and accomplishments generated within our Dyslexia Center. Students come to us burdened by a reading disability that often grinds them down into a state of frustration and failure. As a result of the expert instruction provided by our tutors, students can unlock the keys to reading and reading comprehension. Self-esteem increases with each reading goal that is now accomplished. Dreams for a bright future, which may have been abandoned, are once again renewed.

Students are currently completing their final tests, and many are looking forward to graduating on Wednesday, May 27th.

We are expecting that more than fifteen students will graduate from our Center this year. I'm sure that this will be a happy and important milestone for both the graduates and their parents.

Brethren, our Children's Dyslexia Center can and does make a positive and life-long change in the lives of children every year.

How can you help the students and the Dyslexia Center continue to reach their goals? There are many ways that you can support our kids!! Here are a few opportunities for you to consider:

- Begin or continue to make an annual contribution to the Dyslexia Center.
- Attend the Walk-For-Dyslexia on Saturday, October 3rd. Gather pledges. Bring a group of friends, neighbors, and maybe even co-workers to share in this fundraising event.
- Become a member of the Builder's Council or make a bequest to our school in your will. Call the Valley Secretary for more information.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. Blessings and Peace to each and every one of you. ♦

"You will find, as you look back on your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others."

— Henry Drummond



Find us on
Facebook

Go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

Message from the
Thrice Potent Master

P.J. Roup, 33°



In this, my final column as Thrice Potent Master, I will not use my allotted space to thank those who have served with me on the Lodge of Perfection line, for they know they have my gratitude. Nor will I spend several column-inches of this magazine to tell you what a pleasure it has been to serve. Just know that it has been.

Instead, I will use this column to tell you all about a new club forming in the Valley of Pittsburgh. The recent success of WWCD – The Modern 31st has made it apparent that there are many within our ranks who have more than a mild passion for the theater arts. In fact, the number one complaint (if it can even be called a complaint) from the cast and crew was that they were unable to invite their families to see the production that they had poured so much love and energy – more than 1,000 man hours – into.

In an effort to capitalize on the excitement generated by WWCD, several

members of the Valley are in the process of organizing a Community Theater Club. There are very few details in place as of publication time, but the over-arching objective of the club will be to bring high-quality theatrical productions to the Valley of Pittsburgh stage, both as entertainment for Valley functions, as well as performances for the public.

You need not have theater experience to join, only a willingness to contribute in a meaningful way. If you are interested, continue to check the Valley's Facebook page and website for information updates that will be posted as they become available. ♦

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The Modern Vitruvian

by P.J. Roup, 33°



Calls of Duty: Part Three

Continued from the April issue



Dylan stood in the doorway speechless. He wasn't even certain that the person standing in front of him actually was his father. In fact, he was sure it *wasn't* him. His real father

was at the family cabin in the mountains more than three hours away, seated at a long oak table, surrounded by the rest of the family. He was probably, right this second, doing what he did every Thanksgiving for as long as Dylan could remember – holding a turkey leg in each hand, shaking them above his head, proclaiming, "It's good to be the king." So who was this man standing in Henry's doorway?

"Why are you . . . What are you doing in Henry's house," Dylan asked, still struggling to make sense of the scene before him.

"Well, you rushed out this morning before I could tell you Happy Thanksgiving, and that didn't seem right. So I got to thinking, maybe I'd bring you a little care package so that at least you could have some of your mom's turkey and stuffing. Get in here," his father commanded, taking him by the arm. "It's freezing."

"But how did you get in? What about mom and the rest of them? You didn't need . . ." He stopped, his mind still racing to process it all. Glancing back at Henry, he asked, "You knew?" It was both a question and an accusation.

Henry flashed a broad smile. "Yeah, I knew. Meet Don, my friend from church." He mimed air quotes for the last three words. "I think you usually call him Dad." His eyes turned toward Don, "Thanks for letting the dog out," he added with a wink.

"But this was the big family weekend. You really just up and left? They're going to be so mad. I'll never hear the end of it."

"Please quit worrying, son. No one is going to be mad," Don said as he led them into the kitchen. He glanced over his shoulder at Henry. "I'm so glad that Eva is going to be okay."

"How do you know that," Dylan asked. "She was still in surgery when you called."

"Henry sent me a text before the two of you left the hospital. How about getting us some drinks, Dyl? Iced tea for me."

"Wow. Eva is going to be okay *and* Henry sent a text. Truly a day of miracles," Dylan said, taking three glasses from the cabinet above the sink. The strong smell of turkey and stuffing reminded him that he hadn't eaten a thing since he had left the cabin.

"That's two and it's not even dinner time yet. The night's still young," Henry said. He waited until Dylan turned toward the freezer to fill the glasses with ice before shooting a furtive wink to Don.

"The turkey won't be done for a few minutes, but we can start on the salad now. Take this into the dining room," Don said, handing Dylan the largest bowl of salad he had ever seen.

"Seriously, Dad? There are restaurants that don't go through this much romaine in a night."

"Salad travels well, and your brothers didn't save you much turkey."

"I can smell it, so I know they left *some*." "Just go put it on the table."

Dylan paused for a second to formulate a plan for opening the French doors that separated the dining room from the kitchen without upsetting the salad. He was trying to come up with another smart comment about the salad as he pushed down on the door lever with his elbow. He felt the latch release from the strike plate, and as he pushed the door open, the lights came on. Seated around the table was the rest of his family. He looked at each of them without saying a word. His brothers, sisters, and their spouses all wore wry smiles, proud of their subterfuge. As he met each set of eyes, his heart grew more full. He struggled to keep his composure until finally he saw his mother standing just away from the table, her hand still on the light switch.

"Happy Thanksgiving, son," she said as she wiped a tear from her cheek.

Great waves of emotion overtook him, and Dylan felt as if he would lose his legs at any moment. "I . . . I think I should sit down," he stammered.

"Here you go, little bro," his brother said, rising to offer his seat.

For the next several minutes, Dylan listened with astonishment as they took turns telling the story of how they ended up there, gathered around Henry and Eva's table. His mother explained that, right after he left, she went and woke his father to tell him what happened. "You know your father, alpha male extraordinaire. Well, within five minutes, he had the whole group out of bed and gathered around the kitchen table."

"Yeah, thanks, Dyl. You know how I love five a.m. You were right that you'll never hear the end of it," his brother interjected with a wink.

"Shush, Jeremy. Be nice to your brother. He's had a long day," his mother said. Henry walked in to listen. He stood behind Dylan's chair and placed his hands on his shoulders.

"So has Jeremy, Mom," said Amanda. "It was his first sunrise. Such a big boy now," she teased, pinching Jeremy's cheek. Amanda, as the oldest of the siblings, was the family's self-anointed sarcasm queen. She used the interruption as an opportunity to take over the storytelling duties.

"So," she sighed. "Dad made this big deal about how you were his favorite, and we should all drop everything we were doing, pack up the car and follow you down here." She punctuated it all with an exaggerated eye roll, not wanting to miss an opportunity to tease her little brother.

"That's not true, Amanda. We love you all equally," his mom interjected.

"They just love me *more* equally," Dylan retorted, scrunching up his nose at Amanda.

The fact that he could make that joke indicated to Dylan that his shock was finally giving way to a sort of tentative joy. He tried hard to give his full attention as his family took turns telling the rest of the story, but it proved difficult. He marveled as he watched Amanda comfort Henry. Her arm stroked his shoulder softly as he talked to her. He had never seen the compassionate side of Amanda before, and he liked what he saw – glimpses of his own mother in her mannerisms and tenderness. He couldn't hear the conversation, but he was pretty sure Henry was recounting how he had found Eva this morning. *Was that really just this morning*, he asked himself. To him, it seemed like weeks ago. He thought about how lucky he was to have such families. *Such a family*, he corrected himself. He realized that this selfless act on the part of his parents and siblings meant that Henry and Eva were indeed family, and not just to him. As he glanced around the table at the people that mean the most to him in the world,

he experienced a fullness that he had never felt before.

The story was all but wrapped up as his dad appeared in the doorway to announce that dinner was just about ready. Despite all of his inner distractions, he had managed to pick up a few details. First, that the decision to take the dinner on the road was unanimous, despite Jeremy's protestations to the contrary. Also, that he was on clean up since he had shirked all of his other duties. *Fair enough*, he thought, even though he was pretty sure it was said tongue-in-cheek.

Without further direction, the siblings and their spouses lined up single file, Dylan at the rear, and proceeded toward the kitchen, each, doubtlessly, to return with a serving bowl overflowing with food. *We must look like ants*, Dylan thought to himself. Henry and Dylan's mom remained in the corner of the dining room, talking softly. As he approached, Henry intentionally increased his volume to draw Dylan in.

"You have a very special boy, Marlene. I honestly don't know what I would have done if Dylan hadn't come down," he said.

"He made me an incredibly proud mother today," she replied, pulling him in close and lifting herself onto her tiptoes to kiss his cheek.

"So you *do* love me more," Dylan said, uncomfortable with the compliment.

"I'm serious, Dylan. From the moment Henry called, you knew the right thing to do, and you never shied away from doing it, even though it was hard."

"It was no big deal."

"Nonsense," Henry interjected. "The easy thing to do would have been to stay at the cabin with your family and let this old man fend for himself."

"I'm really not that special. I barely had the courage to tell my mom what I wanted to do this morning. Ask her." He blushed a little remembering his lack of courage.

"That's so far from the truth, Dyl. You didn't struggle with telling me. You were searching for a way to make me *feel* the right thing as deeply as you do, and that's not always easy for my analytical mind. Your father wants to tell you more, so I'll stop. I don't want to steal his thunder. I'm – we're – just so proud of you . . ." She fanned her eyes vigorously to prevent her mascara from running. "Let's go help in the kitchen."

The turkey had been reduced to little more than a pile of bones, the plates were cleaned and the wine glasses were nearly empty. The din of the conversation was even dying down as the tryptophan did its

work. Capitalizing on this rare silence, Dylan's dad lifted his knife from his plate and gently tapped it against the bowl of his wine glass to get everyone's attention.

"Before we have dessert, I want to say a few things," he began. "First, we are all thankful beyond words that Eva's surgery went well."

"God is good," Henry agreed.

"Today turned out very different from how I had envisioned it when I headed to bed last night," Don continued. "Just before I turned off the light, I looked at Marlene and said, 'We have so much to be grateful for, and they're all right here under one roof.' Didn't I, honey?"

Marlene flashed a closed-mouth grin and nodded in affirmation.

"Well, it turns out that I couldn't have been more wrong. We had family a hundred miles away – a family that needed us," he fought hard to keep his composure, "and one that we needed as well. We never would have known this family if it wasn't for a young man with one of the biggest hearts and greatest capacities for compassion that I have ever known." Despite his best efforts, a tear ran down first one, then the other of Don's cheeks, but he wiped them and continued.

"Dylan, I'm incredibly proud of what you did today. And you may think that we packed the food and ourselves into the cars and drove down here just to see you, but that's not the whole story. You showed us – all of us – that there are always things more important than just ourselves to consider. You knew where you should be, and you decided to go there without hesitation. Your selflessness inspired us to do the same."

Dylan bit his lower lip hard to avoid sobbing.

"Your mother and I," Don continued, "we're analytical by nature. We look at every situation as a problem to be scrutinized and solved. We try to distill it into costs, benefits, and outcomes. But you – you see people and their pain, their joy, their need. You see their spirit, Dyl. You see people for who they are at their core, and you make decisions based on how you can best nurture their souls. And Henry, his friendship with you has made that blossom."

"I was a little skeptical when Dylan first joined the Masons. All I ever knew were the conspiracy theories, secret society nonsense and what the internet told me about how evil they were, but now I know that none of that is accurate. They're just good people trying to do good things. You have helped him to grow in ways I never could

have. Thank you."

The words just hung in the room. No one wanted to break the silence. Henry finally did. "Well," he started, but quickly thought better. He desperately wanted to say that Dylan has done so much for him as well – that it was not a one-way street – but his emotions were so raw from the stress of the day that he knew he would never get the sentence out of his mouth without a complete breakdown. "You and Marlene raised a good one – five good ones from what I've seen today. I'd be proud to call all of you my family."

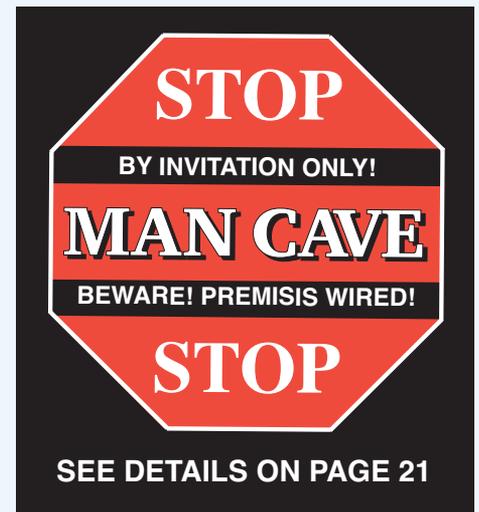
"Dylan, you better get Henry back to the hospital. I'm guessing you'll be allowed to see Eva soon," Marlene said. "How about if I put a plate together for the surgeon? Just to say thanks."

Henry smiled. "You sound just like Eva."

"I'll drive," Don said. "You two have been working on no sleep, plus the ride over will give me a chance to find out where you Masons stash the gold."

The three of them piled into the car, Dylan insisting on the back seat. As they left the driveway and he looked over his shoulder at his mother waving from the porch, Dylan said his second silent prayer of Thanksgiving that day. In the morning, as he had pulled away from the cabin, he had given thanks for *having* these two families. Now he thanked God that he was a part of them. He knew, in that place of deep, sure knowing that each of us has, that today marked the beginning of a new family, bound by blood and obligation equally. He certainly had a lot to be thankful for. Two of them, his dad and his Brother, were in the seat in front of him. *Maybe my Brother and my Brother someday*, he thought to himself.

Dylan smiled. ♦





Princes of Jerusalem Message from the Sovereign Prince

Austin Reed Shifrin, 32°



Freemasonry Invested with Renewed Enthusiasm – the Conclusion

Brothers, in this column I will endeavor to present you a summary and conclusion of the work I have presented to you thus far.

I have also been pleased to see that my thoughts and feelings have been shared by others in the Valley, and will note those correspondences for you. You may recall that in all my articles thus far I have tried to elaborate on one consistent theme, Freemasonry Invested with Renewed Enthusiasm, or FIRE (I'm fond of a good acronym). I continue in the hope that this will grow into a movement, over time.

In my contribution to the October 2014 issue, which began the thesis, I explained that my goal is to nurture existing strengths of the fraternity; that one such asset is the reputed harmony and unanimity of our members; and that there is a threat from within, when we do not live up to that reputation. Specifically, I stated:

Newer members, if they hear biting speech from the more experienced among us, might well wonder if this is acceptable behavior and they ought to follow suit; and non-members, if they hear Masons speak uncharitably of each other, ask justifiably what has happened to the vaunted fellowship they have heard of.

I was glad to see Illustrious Brother Dave Morgans expound on similar concerns in his fiery piece, "Freemasonry in the Hands of Idiots", from the March 2015 issue (incidentally, if you have not read in full, any of the other gentlemen's articles that I reference, please do so – my summaries will not do them justice). He stated that "the one common thread that stitched its way through each idiotic act was selfishness". Selfish attitudes and behaviors are in direct contradiction to our stated principles from Blue Lodge, and an error we cannot afford. You may also note that I'm addressing not only a harm to existing members, but to efforts toward recruitment and retention – an issue I will return to.

In my contribution to the Dec 2014 issue, I addressed "Scottish Rite Ritual – Past, Present and Future". I touched on: The origins of our degree work in medieval and Tudor morality plays; the current state

of affairs, in which initiates receive some degrees as live productions and view others as recorded performances; and pondered what the future of degree work might be, as we enter an era where technology makes virtual experiences possible, and we may discover innovative ways to convey ancient moral lessons.

I was pleased (but not surprised, having shared the stage with him many times) to see Brother Todd Ballenger's article "The Play's the Thing", also in the March 2015 issue. He, too, talks about the special tie between drama and our understanding of ourselves. He makes two central arguments: One, that we can take away from dramatic performances more than just entertainment, because the stories often contain another level of content available for interpretation; and two, that in your daily life you can conceive of yourself as a moral actor, and should "try to make a difference by how you play your own role".

In my contribution to the March 2015 issue, entitled "Flux, Granfalloon and the Night Kitchen", I shared a little with you about my life and creative endeavors before Freemasonry, in order to highlight a challenge both for the institution and for the members: How to harness the energy of creative and unique individuals, in an institution that emphasizes and rewards consistency and conformity.

What better answer could there have been to my question, than the production of "The Modern 31st"? Anyone who missed this performance missed out on a truly epic mixed-media production. It incorporated new costumes and scenery, video, and audio, and still did not overshadow quality performances of the roles. I sincerely believe this production went beyond doing justice to the spirit of the lesson of the degree. And, you need only review Illustrious Brother PJ Roup's article from the March 2015 issue, "Unintended Consequences", to see the other result of this project – how the collaboration of creative, inspired labor-

ers strengthened their fraternal bond.

The last tenet of FIRE I wish to address is the importance of the personal touch, in recruitment and retention. While I write for the benefit of a Scottish Rite audience, I am thinking of this issue in the Blue Lodge as well. Without enumerating specifics to "pat myself on the back", I have been involved in recruitment and retention in both bodies. I can say from experience that while we try to leverage older tools such as the US mail, as well as newer tools such as email and websites, there is no substitute for the personal touch, in the form of a phone call – not a robo-call, but an actual, personal call from one man to another – or a face-to-face conversation. Something must be done to keep our cherished institution of Freemasonry from looking no better than perpetrators of junk mail and spam email. Something must be done to welcome and integrate candidates who, as a result of practices which hasten the initiation process, show up on our doorstep like a baby in a basket with a note that says "please take care of him". I believe the mentoring initiative recently spearheaded by Mitch Goldstein will help address this need in the Valley. I am glad to offer him my services, and I hope that others will do the same.

So in summary, this is what I mean when I talk about FIRE:

- *We should attend to our practice of true brotherhood, and be mindful of how our behavior and speech impacts both those who it's directed at, and those who witness it.*
- *We should deliver the best ritual we can to our initiates, because whatever aspects of Masonry we enjoy, it is ritual which differentiates masonry from just another assembly of men.*
- *We should seek out ways that creative and innovative people can "bring their gifts to the construction of the temple", even as we try to preserve the landmarks of the fraternity.*
- *We should never forget the importance of the personal touch, so that our brotherly bond does not devolve into just another marketing campaign.*

Brother Larry Horath, our High Priest, soon to become our Sovereign Prince, once gained some notoriety for his dry delivery of a line in a degree: As one officer in the temple admonishing another, to "mind the sacred fire, my brother". As I prepare to turn the leadership of our line over to his capable hands, I ask all of you to join me in minding this sacred FIRE, that it might please God, and never go out. ♦

A.:M.:A.:G.:

From the Desk of the Secretary

by Donald M. Murphy, 33°



Believe it or not, the 2014-2015 Scottish Rite year is quickly coming to an end. This year has provided several memorable moments. We have had two great reunion experiences during the year. All of our other activities have also gone very well.

Attendance at our Stated meetings continues to improve. The entertainment committee has done an outstanding job in providing first rate entertainment at our meetings for the enjoyment of the members and the ladies. If you have not been to a Stated meeting lately, June 4th would be a perfect opportunity. Where else can you get dinner and a show for \$10? All we ask is that you call and make dinner reservations if you plan to attend.

Speaking of reservations, it is very important that everyone who plans to attend must call and make appropriate reservations. It is extremely difficult to plan for the proper number of meals when people do not call to let us know they will attend our activities. At our Spring Reunion, we had 50 more show up for lunch than had made reservations.

We always want to accommodate everyone but it is difficult when people do not call!

We hope you have already purchased your Pirate tickets for the game on June 12th. We have a few tickets remaining but they are going fast. Our second baseball outing for the summer will be at the Washington Wild Things in Washington, PA on July 17. Tickets are still available for this game but we only have 150 to sell. Remember we have a tailgate party before both games. Come out and enjoy the fun.

Our annual Golf Outing to benefit the Learning Center will take place on June 6th at Butler's Golf Course near Elizabeth, PA. This will be a great time. If you are a golfer, come out and have an enjoyable day. Better yet, form a foursome and help to support our Learning Center. If you are not a golfer, we can also take lunch only reservations. Remember, it is a Saturday and we will have a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. All proceeds from the day goes to support the Learning Center.

We are all looking forward to a good summer. Why not join your Masonic Brethren and attend one or more of our summer activities? ❖



Doing the right thing isn't always easy, but it's always right.

Bro. Robert Chambers – Valley Hero

by P.J. Roup, 33°, Rite News Staff



Photo by Margaret Stanley, Allegheny County

(L - R) Councilman James Ellenbogen, Luke Chambers, Ashley Chambers, Brother Robert Chambers, Anne Digiorgi (mother) and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

In the wake of so much recent negativity about law enforcement officers, it is refreshing to be able to share a story of the bravery and heroism of one of our own.

On the morning of February 23rd, Sheriff's Deputy and Brother Robert Chambers, 32°, was driving to work when he witnessed an assault on a pedestrian in the Uptown section of Pittsburgh. When Brother Chambers exited his vehicle and identified himself as a police officer, the nineteen year old suspect fled. After first

checking on the well-being of the victim, Brother Chambers radioed for backup, then gave chase on foot for three blocks before successfully apprehending the suspect.

For his actions, he received a Proclamation from the Allegheny County Council on March 24th.

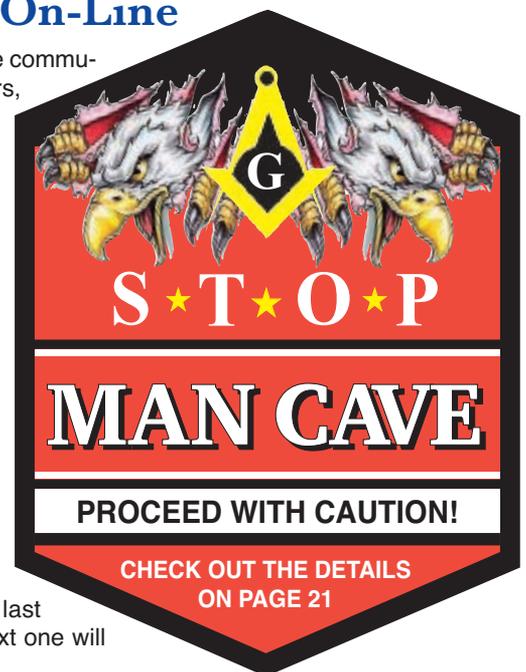
In describing the incident to the County Council, Brother Chambers noted, "I was just in the right place at the right time, and hopefully anybody would have done what I did that morning." ❖

Rite News Goes On-Line

Recognizing a need for more communication with our members, an On-Line Edition of the *Rite News* will be posted on the Valley web site inbetween times the printed *Rite News* is mailed to your homes. This will be an on-line edition only and will not be mailed.

Our membership is becoming more and more computer smart, and the Valley sometimes schedules activities and events, at times, that the *Rite News* cannot be used to promote those events – now our members can go to the web site:

www.valleyofpittsburgh.org for up-to-date information. The 1st web edition was placed on-line last month. Take a look at it. The next one will be on-line in June. ❖





An Enchanted Evening in Paris



Betty Allshouse



Jeanne Thomas



Marie Backeris



Laverne Lanich



Emily Allback



Teresa Friday



The Enchanted Evening is unique to the Masonic Village at Sewickley and is an elegant event planned for the enjoyment by the female residents located in the Star Points and the Thomas K. Sturgeon Health Care units.

This, the 8th year, was no exception. It was an evening of fine dining and entertainment sponsored by the William Slater Master Masons Club and organized by Bros. Tracy H. Miller, PM, and Arthur C. Williams, who co-chair the spectacular evening.

Financially, it is supported by the Masonic Lodges, OES Chapters in Western Pennsylvania, Retirement Living Residents, staff, friends, and family members. The event is coordinated by the Enchanted Evening Committee: Ann Beck, Peter Countouris, Karen Hammond, Roberta Maruschock, and Cindy Stefl.

Each female resident, deemed by the staff to be able to attend, receives a hand addressed invitation. On the day of the big event a group of ladies from Retirement Living, calling themselves *The Primpers*, help the party ladies (120 of them) with their makeup, jewelry, hair style, etc.

Before entering the dining room, each *Queen* is presented with a wrist corsage, has her photograph taken, as a remembrance of the evening, and is escorted to the dining room by Rainbow and DeMolay Youth Groups to enjoy a dinner fit for a Queen.

Dinner began with a Champagne Cocktail, Assorted Cheeses, Fresh Fruit and Petite Canapes.

Surf & Turf, Lobster Vol Au Vent and Bavarian Inn Filet Mignon Medallions was the entree. It was served with Steamed Basmati Rice and Baby Zucchini Parmigiano.

Athenian Cheesecake with French roasted coffee and herbal tea was served for dessert – all prepared by the excellent Culinary Staff of the Masonic Village under the direction of Pete Countouris.

Mark M. Venneri, a professional pianist, provided background music. The flowers were provided by Taunia.

The Enchanted Evening is all about the Ladies. Each and every one of them is considered a Guest of Honor and made to feel like a Queen.

To experience it is to appreciate the hard work that goes into it. ♦



Joyce Billedeaux



Joan Hartman



Dottie DeWeese



Virginia Daer

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- Valley of Pittsburgh
- Wm. Slater Master Masons Club



Guests: (L - R) Tracy Miller, *Event Co-Chair*; D. Todd Ballenger, *DDGM, 55th Masonic District*; Robert J. Bateman, *R.W. Grand Master*; Mark A. Haines, *R.W. Grand Secretary*; Timothy L. Shumar, *DDGM, 30th Masonic District*; William A. Moisey, *DDGM, 37th Masonic District*; Eric Gross, *Executive Director, Masonic Village at Sewickley*.



Pennsylvania Brothers of the Trowel Motorcycle Club members Edward E. Ferris and Jack E. Flaugh are part of the escort team that escorts the ladies to the Enchanted Dining Room for dinner. Bro. Ferris is also potentate of Zem Zem Shrine in Erie.

Musician Mark Venneri has been providing the background music for the Enchanted Evening for the last eight years. Unfortunately for the Wm Slater Master Masons Club, the sponsor of the evening, Mark will be moving to Florida later on this year.



Dorothy Moore



Susan Edwards



Donna Stevens



Patty Fleming



Joan Haberland



Marjorie DeCoursey



Anne Phipps



Joyce Miller



Chapter of Rose Croix

Message from the

Most Wise Master

Robert F. Dunkle, 32°



Ice Jams on the Allegheny River

Where is Parker Pennsylvania? It is located along the Allegheny River about 60 miles north of Pittsburgh. It is the smallest City in the United States. About a mile north of Parker is Foxburg also on the river. Foxburg is home to the Foxburg Golf Course, the oldest golf course in the United States in continuous use. Nine Holes. Growing up as a kid, spending time in the area, then later going to Clarion State College, the river would frequently jam up with ice - generally fifteen to twenty feet deep. From time to time it would push up onto Rt. 268 in Parker, closing the road. The last 20-25 years this had become a rare phenomenon. I began to think maybe global warming was really having an effect. Over the last two winters the ice jams have returned in full force, and route 268 was closed.

The river behavior helps me understand how the last two winters have seemed to be longer and colder. The good news is winter is gone and we see spring flowers in bloom, baseball games at play, and summer just around the corner. A very pleasant change.

As I reflect back over my nine years on the officer line, and now Most Wise Master, it has changed. My membership began in 1982 when I joined the Valley with my older brother. I was Senior Warden in my Lodge at the time. Our father was very proud to see us join. There were 719 in our class. Dad was First Vice President of Syria Caravan No. 16. Back in the 1960's and 70's there were classes of thousands in our Valley at the same time the Allegheny River frequently had major ice jams and winters were tough. Lots of Brethren have asked the question - how can we keep going as a Valley with the steady decline in membership? This question has been posed and repeated over the last three decades.

The good news is - we are still here and in good financial condition. I truly believe we are not beyond the point of

no return. Will we flourish like the 60's, probably not. What I am seeing is sparked interest in our Valley from many directions. Groups like Hiram's Riders, the Car Club, and now, a new Mentor Committee, are some examples. The most significant piece for me personally was being part of the group of brethren that produced and performed in the Modern 31st. I had the opportunity to deepen my fraternal relationships in ways I remember from my Masonic career years ago. You can't put your finger on it, nor can you describe it, but when it happens you know it. It was truly amazing and refreshing. The vehicle was putting the performance together.

When I was a kid in high school I had the opportunity to stand on the banks of the Allegheny River and gaze over the ice jams. I learned that the power of nature is awesome. Ice would start flowing and suddenly jam and the ground would shake. The noise sounded like a couple of tractor trailer trucks in a head on collision. The forces of nature are unstoppable by man. A few weeks later, when spring is on the horizon, the jams bust loose and the river flows freely for another year. This was a great learning experience for me.

Sometimes we have ice jams in our fraternity and they are not easily stopped or preventable. We have all heard the statement *When Freemasons go hand in hand success usually crowns their work*. This year has proven to me that we have an opportunity within our grasps to turn our Valley around.

We need to continue to provide multiple vehicles for our membership to become active participants.

I challenge each of you to go hand in hand with me, our officers, and our brethren to make it happen. Yes, it will take some hard work, but we just might have some fun doing it. And the most important part is - it will strengthen our fraternal bonds. It's time to go hand in hand and make it happen! ❖

24TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
MOTORCYCLE & SCOOTER

**RIDE TO
WORK
DAY**
MONDAY
JUNE 15th
2015
RIDETOWORKDAY

HERE'S A BETTER IDEA!
**Take the day off and join
Hiram's Riders way to
celebrate Ride to Work Day**

RIDE TO LUNCH

at the

IRON BRIDGE INN

Rt. 19 N, Mercer, PA

**Attention Car Club Members
YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Attention Valley Members
YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Attention All Masons
YOU'RE INVITED!**

**Want to take a guest?
WHY NOT!**

Meet at the GPMC at 9:30 a.m. for Coffee and Donuts. Depart at 10:00 a.m. for a leisurely ride to the Iron Bridge Inn on Rt. 19 N & enjoy a great lunch & fellowship. Going? Please send an email to dwr47@verizon.net with your name & phone number. Questions? 412-683-0359.

THE DATE IS MONDAY JUNE 15



A Hiram's Riders sponsored Rain or Shine event.

Summer Happenings Around The Valley

North Hills Lodge No. 716

invites you to

BIKE NIGHT

Thursday, June 11, 2015

6:00 p.m.

*Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Kielbasa
Salad, Soft drinks*

Come out and see the Bikes on display!

Contact: Eric S. Teasdale, WM
724-816-9673
esteasdale@aol.com



SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 21

Martha Rainbow for Girls #11

invites you to a

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

Friday, June 26, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON MASONIC CENTER

44 W. Wheeling St. Washington PA

Fundraiser for Martha Assembly #11 Rainbow Girls. A fun, family friendly night out for a dinner and a show. Contact Roxanne Moore for tickets. Call 412-736-0423

Syria Shrine

invites you to the annual

SPORTS/GUN BASH

Saturday, June 13, 2015

\$25.00

\$30.00 at gate

Shrine Pavilion

Food & Refreshments Included

Questions? Syria Shrine office
724.274.7000

www.syriashriners.org

37th Masonic District

invites you to their

FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 28, 2015

Festivities begin at 1:00 p.m.

*The Lodge at
Brady's Run Park*

Contact: William A. Moisey, DDGM

DDGM37@pagrandlodge.org

Marion Lodge No. 562

invites you to the 16th

MEETING IN THE HILLS

Friday, July 18, 2015

\$25.00

A delicious New York Strip Steak Dinner is served with all the fixin's at 6:00 p.m. A great evening of fellowship attended by over 500 masons. Call Robert B. Zelmor at 724.640.0469 for tickets and directions or email him at:

rzelmor@zoominternet.net

Syria Shrine Poker Run

Sunday, July 12, 2015

The ride starts at Syria Shrine Center. Registration begins at 9:00 am and the motorcycles go out at 11:00 am. The first 600 to register will receive a ride pin. The 100 mile poker run will end with classic motorcycle displays, food and more. Prizes will be awarded for the best and second best poker hand.

For more information call (412) 367-1201, or go to syriamotorcorps.org.

Washington Lodge No. 164 Blue Knights Chapter XVI

invites you to the Charity Fundraiser

BLUE RIDE

Sunday, July 26, 2015

Registration: 9:00 a.m. - N. Strabane Twp.
Volunteer Fire Dept. on Rt. 19

\$20 single / \$30 couple

Lunch Following Ride Included

Questions? David Richards, 742.746.8474
drichards@northstrabanepolice.com

Hiram's Riders

invites you to the

WASHINGTON CO. FAIR

August 15 thru 22, 2015

- ★ Rides & Amusements
- ★ Shows nightly
- ★ Food & Beverages
- ★ Livestock Exhibits
- ★ Demolition Derby
- ★ Fun for the whole family

Questions? Tim Warco, 742.263.1555

washingtonfair.org

Coraopolis Lodge No. 674

invites you to attend their

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Saturday, September 12, 2015

Enter by July 19

Ponderosa Golf Course

Shotgun Scramble - 8:30 a.m.

\$75.00

Application Form? Call 724-457-1581

Grand Lodge of PA

invites you to attend

GRAND LODGE QUARTERLY

Saturday, June 20, 2015

at the

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

10:00 a.m.

pagrandlodge.org

Valley of Pittsburgh

invites you to attend the annual

WALK-A-THON FOR DYSLEXIA

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

10:00 a.m.

Questions? 412.939.3579

valleyofpittsburgh.org



Your Health



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

STROKE

A stroke, often referred to as a cerebral vascular accident (CVA), is the loss of brain function due to the disruption of blood flow to a segment of the brain. The disruption in blood flow is caused by either a blockage in an artery supplying the brain (ischemic stroke) or the rupture of an artery supplying the brain (hemorrhagic stroke). Disruption of blood flow to the brain results in the brain not receiving enough oxygen and nutrients which leads to the damage and death of brain cells. Consequently, the affected area of the brain will not function normally and activities controlled by that portion of the brain will be adversely affected. Common deficits that occur as a result of strokes include limb weakness or paralysis, loss of balance and coordination, confusion, altered smell/taste/hearing/vision, memory deficits, and difficulties with understanding and/or formulating speech.

Hippocrates (460-370 BC) was the first to describe sudden paralysis that is often associated with ischemic strokes.

Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States (1 death every 4 minutes) and was the second leading cause of death worldwide in 2011 (6.2 million deaths). Heart disease, cancer, and chronic lower respiratory disease are the top three causes of death in the US. In the US approximately 750,000-800,000 people suffer a stroke each year.

Worldwide, approximately 17 million people suffered a stroke in the year 2010 and, at any given time, there are roughly 33 million living survivors of a previous stroke. Overall, two thirds (66%) of strokes occur in people aged 65 or older and males are 25% more likely to suffer a stroke than females. In the US, deaths secondary to strokes are more prevalent in females (60% females vs 40% males) probably because females live longer and are older at the time of the stroke.

As previously stated, there are two basic categories of strokes: ischemic and hemorrhagic. Ischemic strokes are the most common and comprise approximately 85% of all strokes. They are usually caused by a blockage or severe narrowing in an artery that supplies the brain. These obstructions are

typically due to either a clot forming locally (thrombosis) or a clot/fat cells/cholesterol plaque forming elsewhere in the body and traveling to the brain (embolus).

Common causes of an embolus would be a clot developing in the heart secondary to atrial fibrillation, fat cells released into the bloodstream secondary to a fractured bone, or a piece of cholesterol plaque breaking loose from a carotid artery. Other causes of ischemic stroke include systemic hypoperfusion (lack of adequate blood flow) such as a loss of blood pressure in cardiovascular shock, and venous thrombosis which is a clot in a vein of the brain that prevents the normal blood flow from the brain's arterial system into the venous system.

Hemorrhagic strokes occur whenever an artery in the brain either leaks blood or bursts. The hemorrhaged blood accumulates and puts pressure on the surrounding brain cells which results in brain cell damage and/or death. Depending on the vessel(s) involved, hemorrhagic strokes can either be intra-axial (blood inside the brain) or extra-axial (blood inside the skull but outside the brain).

Risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, atrial fibrillation, high blood cholesterol levels, diabetes, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, heavy alcohol usage, diet high in processed red meat, tobacco usage and/or exposure to second hand smoke, pregnancy, childbirth, hormonal replacement therapy for menopause, psychological stress, illicit drug usage (most commonly amphetamines and cocaine which can cause stroke due to intracranial vasculopathy and/or acute episodes of hypertension), and previous stroke. 5-15% of stroke patients will suffer a second stroke within 12 months. High blood pressure accounts for 35-50% of stroke risk but a 10 mmHg systolic or 5 mmHg diastolic reduction results in a stroke risk reduction of approximately 40-50% (both ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes). Atrial fibrilla-

tion increases a person's yearly age-adjusted risk of ischemic stroke by approximately 5-7% but anticoagulation with warfarin essentially normalizes this increased risk. Statin drugs used for lowering blood cholesterol levels have been shown to reduce the risk of stroke by approximately 15%. Diabetes Mellitus increases the risk of stroke 2-3 fold but intensive control of blood sugar levels has not been shown to reduce this increased risk. No universally accepted studies have proven the effectiveness of weight loss, regular exercise, smoking cessation, or reduction in alcohol consumption in decreasing the risk of stroke. Carotid endarterectomy is an effective surgical method of reducing stroke rates in patients with documented carotid artery disease.

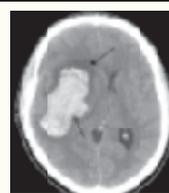
Stroke symptoms often appear suddenly without warning. The symptoms depend on which area(s) of the brain are affected and on how much of the brain is affected. More functions are typically lost when a more extensive area(s) of the brain is affected. Common symptoms include confusion, dizziness, difficulty in speaking and/or understanding speech, numbness in the

face/arms/leg particularly when isolated to one side of the body, difficulty with vision, and difficulty with walking. Headache is usually only associated with hemorrhagic strokes. The acronym FAST is an easy way to remember the signs of a stroke: F (facial drooping), A (arm weakness or numbness), S (speech difficulty), and T (time to call 911).

The diagnosis of stroke, and the localization of the affected

area of the brain, is usually made by a combination of the physical examination and either a CT scan or MRI scan (or both) of the brain. Carotid ultrasound can be used to look for carotid artery disease or carotid artery dissection as a contributing factor. An echocardiogram can be used to check for blood clots in the heart in patients with atrial fibrillation. Cerebral angiograms (x-ray studies utilizing dye injected into the brain's blood vessels) can be used in hemorrhagic strokes to look for aneurysms as a potential etiology.

Treatment for acute ischemic strokes is aimed at removing the vessel blockage and restoring normal blood flow as soon as possible to minimize the amount of permanent brain cell damage. The use of "clot busting" drugs such as tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) is becoming more widespread. This is the same drug, with the same mechanism of action, that has been used to treat



CT scan of an intraparenchymal bleed (bottom arrow) with surrounding edema (top arrow)



Illustration of an embolic stroke, showing a blockage lodged in a blood vessel.



myocardial infarctions for many years. TPA should be administered within the first 4.5 hours (preferably within the first 3 hours) of symptom onset for maximal benefit.

Mechanical removal of the vessel blockage (thrombectomy) is also a potential option for those who are not candidates for TPA depending upon the location of the blockage. Hemispherectomy, the temporary removal of the skull on one side of the head, is sometimes required in large strokes that result in significant swelling of the brain.

Hemorrhagic strokes sometimes require surgical repair of the ruptured blood vessel, aneurysm, or arteriovenous malformation (AVM) which is a tangled connection between arteries and veins that is more fragile and prone to burst.

Disability affects 75% of stroke survivors enough to decrease their employability. 30-50% of stroke survivors suffer post-stroke depression. Stroke rehabilitation is therefore extremely important in helping these patients return to a normal life as much as possible. Stroke rehabilitation should begin almost immediately and typically consists of speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Stroke rehabilitation can last anywhere from a few days to a year or more, although most return of function is realized within the first few months. After 6 months of rehabilitation the chances of further improvement are greatly diminished.

There is currently a significant amount of research being conducted into utilizing cutting edge technology for the purpose of diagnosing and aiding the rehabilitation of stroke patients. A "strokefinder" helmet is being developed that utilizes microwaves to examine brain tissue to determine whether a patient is suffering an ischemic stroke or a hemorrhagic stroke. There is a smartphone epilepsy app which can detect seizure activity (which sometimes occurs with acute strokes) and notifies your cell-phone carrier with your GPS location. Additionally, there are multiple smartphone apps that verbalize for patients who have lost that functional capacity. ♦

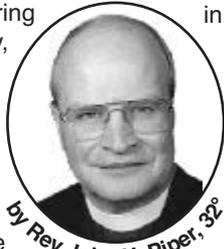
In the next issue of the Rite News we will discuss Mini-Stroke, more commonly known as TIA's. These mini-strokes are often a warning sign that a true stroke is likely to follow.

"This medical column will cover common ailments, both acute and chronic, that are likely to affect either one of us directly or someone in our families.

The purpose of the column will be to provide an overview of that particular condition and to stimulate you to discuss the matter further with your personal physician should you have any concerns.

My Grandfather

While doing some Spring cleaning the other day, I came across my grandfather O. I. Davis's Past Master's jewel presented to him on January 1, 1946 for his service to Ambridge Lodge No. 701 as Worshipful Master for the year 1945. I was a boy of six when he was in the East.



by Rev John H. Piper, 33°

I remember being in his home when often, behind closed doors, he was teaching someone their oath and obligation or their ritualistic work.

Fifty years ago in 1965, when I joined Avalon Lodge No. 657 in Bellevue, it was my grandfather who taught me my oath and obligation and pinned my Masonic pin on my lapel, after I received my Third Degree.

On April 7, 2015, when I received my 50 year pin at a meeting of Avalon Lodge, I told the assembled brethren that this special event could have happened a few years earlier, if my grandfather had suggested that I join the craft that meant so much to him. . . but he didn't!

In 1964 after I graduated from the Seminary, I was appointed as Associate Pastor of the Greenstone Church in Avalon. It was there I came in contact with some younger men who were members of the church, but also members of Avalon Lodge No. 657, who nudged me in the right direction and my Masonic journey began.

Twenty-five years later when I arrived at Avalon Lodge to receive my 25 year pin, I was cornered by, soon to be Grand Master, Bro. Edward H. Fowler, Jr. who asked me if I would serve the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as a Grand Chaplain. I accepted and I still have the honor of serving the Grand Lodge in that capacity.

My Scottish Rite journey began when the Editor of the *Rite News*, D. William Roberts, sponsored me for membership

If only one of our brothers, or their family members, is stimulated enough to seek medical evaluation which results in the prevention of a life threatening condition, then I will consider this column to be a resounding success."

– Dr. Glenn D. Miller II, 33°

Ed. Note: You can write to Dr. Miller at Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Or by email at: aasr.pittsburgh@comcast.net

in the Valley of Pittsburgh and conferred the 14th degree on me on April 17, 1993. A journey that will lead me to Indianapolis this summer to receive the honorary 33rd degree.

If my grandfather had aimed me toward becoming a freemason when I was 21, my journey could have begun five years earlier, probably in Ambridge... but who knows where that adventure would have led me then!

So today as I honor my grandfather O. I. Davis, Past Master of Ambridge Lodge No. 701. May I suggest that if you know some man worthy of joining your Lodge or our Valley...

NUDGE HIM !!!!!!! ♦

Supreme Council Group 33°



The Valley of Pittsburgh Supreme Council Group represents the honorary 33rd Degree Masons of the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh.

Officers for 2015/2016 are:

Donald W. Boehm, 33°	President
Dr. Glenn D. Miller, 33° . . .	Vice President
Donald C. Wobb, 33°	Secretary/Treasurer

The group has one business meeting per year, and holds a summer picnic and a Christmas Party in December. The Group also proudly represents the Valley at the annual Supreme Council meeting of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, where newly nominated members are coroneted to the title of 33rd Degree.

Congratulations to the following Valley members who will receive the Honorary 33rd Degree in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 29 to September 1, 2015.

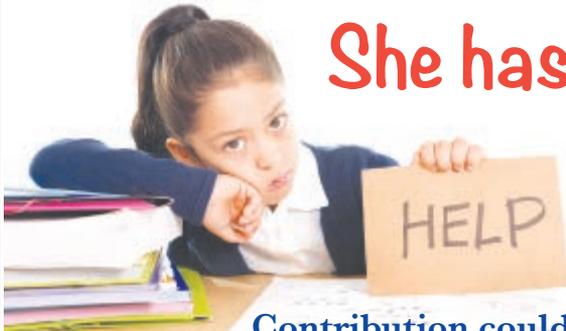
D. Todd Ballenger	Charles C. Bell
Charles M. Bombich	Rodney E. Boyce
George J. Kelly, Jr.	John H. Piper
Dennis J. Snedden	Mark V. Tranquilli
William H. Weichsel	

From Uniontown

Robin W. Beissell	Jason F. Craig
Robert S. Zelmor	

Pittsburgh Dyslexia Center for Children

Operated by **Scottish Rite Masons**
Providing **FREE** Tutoring - 412-939-3579



She has dyslexia!

3
Numbers
per ticket
\$10.00

A \$10.00
Contribution could win you
\$20,000 and help her overcome dyslexia

Proceeds benefit the
FREE
tutoring of children
with dyslexia!

Winning Numbers Based on
PA Lottery at 1:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Labor Day, Sept 7, 2015.
(1st Number)

Questions? 412-683-0359
dwr47@verizon.net
Small Games of Chance License #16987.

Mail the coupon with check payable to Hiram's Riders and you could win \$10,000 on the four digit number at 1:30 p.m. on Labor Day and you could win another \$10,000 on the four digit number at 7:00 p.m.

Here's my \$_____ contribution for dyslexia. Please send me _____ tickets.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____

Please enclose a self-addressed stamped, envelope for return of ticket/s. Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh., PA 15237.

She had dyslexia!

After tutoring at the
Pittsburgh Dyslexia Center.



Fundraising project managed by Hiram's Riders Motorcycle Club of the Valley of Pittsburgh for the **FREE** tutoring of kids diagnosed with dyslexia.

*Benefits the Pittsburgh
Children's Dyslexia Center*

Valley of Pittsburgh
CHARITY GOLF
Saturday, June 6

Butler's Golf Course

800 Rock Run Road Elizabeth, PA 15037

Open to men, women and non-members.



Registration: 8:00 a.m.
Play Begins: 9:00 a.m.
Snack: 1:30 p.m.
Fee: \$90.00 per golfer.
Includes a golfer's gift, bag service, greens fee, cart, snack at turn, lunch, and door prizes.
Lunch Only: \$25.00.

- 2015 Registration Form -

Enclosed is my check, payable to **Charity Golf** in the amount of \$_____ for:

- Golf, \$90 per golfer
 Lunch Only, \$25 per person

Please print Golfers Names

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ph. () _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ph. () _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ph. () _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ph. () _____

Mail by **June 1**, with check, to **Charity Golf**, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Questions? Dave Morgans, 412-728-6533.

Summer Stag

and a Man Cave debut

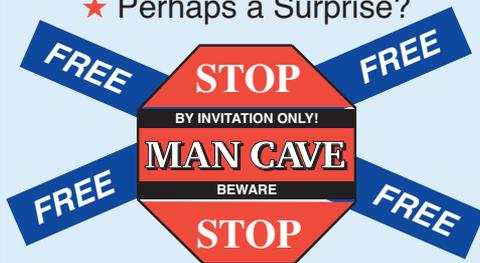
Dinner, Laughs & Fun

Friday, July 31 – 6:00 p.m.

Jeff Wonderling's
Brand Spanking New

MAN CAVE

- ★ 50's type Steak Fry
- ★ Swimming Pool Open
- ★ Clay Pigeons ★ Horseshoe Pit
- ★ Cornhole Competition
- ★ Bocci ★ Door Prizes ★ 50/50
- ★ Adult Beverages
- ★ Perhaps a Surprise?



**IF YOU'RE A MASON . . .
YOU'RE INVITED!**

Directions to the Wonderlings

6390 Thompson Road, Export PA 15632

From the Monroeville Exit (Exit 56) of the
Turnpike and Route 376 from Pittsburgh

Take Rt 22 East to Left at light onto Cline Hollow Rd
(Panera Bread on right and Rite Aid Pharmacy on left)
Follow to 'T' make Left onto Hills Church
Follow to 3rd right onto Farm Rd
(just past Murrysville Community Park)
Follow 1 Mile to "T" turn left onto Hilty Rd
Then 300 Yards to Right onto Thompson Rd
2nd Driveway on Left.

From Greensburg

Route 66 North through Delmont
After passing Valero R.V. Center take the 3rd road on
Left onto Paradise Rd to left onto Thompson Rd
¾ miles to 6390 on Right.

Questions: 724-396-8001 cell

Let us know if you are attending!

CALL 412-939-3579 - THIS IS A MUST!

Vintage Car Club Summer Cruise

The Valley Of Pittsburgh Vintage Classic Car Club will host its annual "Summer Car Cruise" on Sunday, June 7, 2015 at the GPMC benefitting the Masonic Children's Learning Center.

The cruise will start at 11:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. The first 100 cars will receive dash plaques, and Summit Racing "goodie bags". The Ross Twp. Fire and Police will again be directing traffic at the Cemetery Lane entrance of the GPMC, as we had over 200 classic vehicles participate last year, and several hundred additional visitors. We are expecting well over 300 cars in this year's show/cruise.

Along with the show cars, the event has become a family oriented event. We will again have the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit performing child ID fingerprinting, and handing out safety information for homeowners and senior citizens. The Ross Twp. Police Swat truck will be on display along with a police car, and the Ross Police will give a tour of their truck and equipment. The Berkeley Hills Fire Dept. will again display their new ladder truck, and interact with everyone and show how the fire truck operates. The Allegheny County 911 Van will be there to show everyone how a 911 dispatcher operates, and children can interact with the van and learn how to speak to a 911 operator. Ross Township and Allegheny County services have helped make our event what it is. We appreciate their continued support.

We will have refreshments available, as well as hot dogs and hamburgers. The popular 50/50 raffle will be available, and there will be several gift bas-

kets to be raffled at the cruise. DJ Clint Stokes will be playing the popular car cruise oldies songs, and there will be several car related random giveaways from our sponsors throughout the day. There will also be several car clubs in attendance helping support our cruise.

Our Valley of Pittsburgh members who have founded the car club are proud of the event, as it has grown bigger than we could have imagined. Beginning in 2015, after only 3 years in existence, the Valley Of Pittsburgh Vintage/Classic Car Club has become a member of the Valley Of Pittsburgh Builders Council. The club has worked hard to promote our fundraising activities though the enjoyment of cars, and membership has grown each year. The car club has participated in numerous parades, other car cruises and events in an effort to promote raising funds for the Masonic Children's Learning Center, and to promote Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Our car club members all vary in age, and different car interests. We have members with a wide range of interests in all types of cars, from antiques to muscle cars, sports cars to Corvettes, modern muscle cars, and even trucks. Some don't even have a classic car, but have an interest in cars. If anyone is interested in joining the Valley Of Pittsburgh Car Club, email Bob Chambers at valleycarclub@gmail.com and we will forward information to you. If you stop by the car cruise on June 7, we will have a table for Valley or Blue Lodge members to sign up.

If you are online, check out and "Like" our Facebook page! ♦



Valley Of Pittsburgh Car Club Members pictured above (left to right): Dave and Shirley Whitlinger, Gene Mehring, Bill and Carol Keller, Roy and Bobbi Williamson, Tom and Celeste Fodor, Paul Cherep, Bob Chambers, Cybil and Al Kappeler.

Evening of Fun Baseball



Friday, July 17, 7:05 p.m.

Consol Energy Park
Washington, PA

**Gateway
Grizzlies**
vs
**Washington
Wild Things**



Your ticket includes:

- ★ A private pavilion pre-game tailgate picnic from 5:30 p.m. 'til gametime,
- ★ A reserved seat ticket.
- ★ The post-game fireworks display.

ORDER NOW!

Please send check, payable to Lodge of Perfection, GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh. PA 15237.

Please enclose a #10 self-addressed, stamped, envelope for return of your tickets & directions.

**Check our Web Site
Regularly for New Events**
www.valleyofpittsburgh.org

Collectors Commemorative Plates

featuring the
Grand Masters of Western Pennsylvania

4th plate of a series,
in production.
Order yours NOW!

Not shown to scale
Actual size: 10"



Availability Limited

QUESTIONS?
412-683-0359 or
dwr47@verizon.net

The Past Grand Masters from Western Pennsylvania are being honored by a limited series, of numbered china commemorative collector plates. The series will cover the period from 1970 to the present. Plates are being issued two per year. Bros. Thomas K. Sturgeon, Samuel C. Williamson & James L. Ernette have been completed. A few are still available.

The reverse side of the collectors plate has a descriptive paragraph about the Grand Master along with the production number. Cost of the tribute plate is \$35.00 each.

\$35 Commemorative Plate Order

Please enter my order for the 4th in a series of Grand Master Commemorative Plates.

Name _____

Address _____ Ph _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 with check payable to Grand Master Collectors Plates.



Toni's Hair Tips

by Toni Boehm

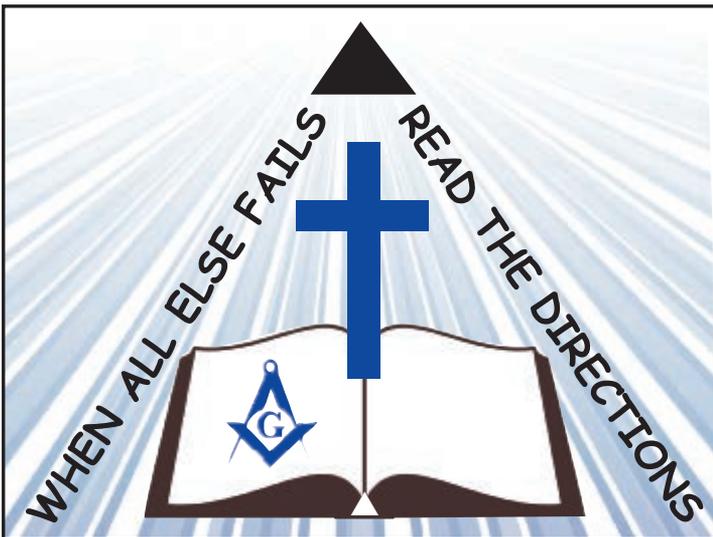


A growing and modern trend in women's hair care is the use of hair extensions, which have become popular in the last 10 years with improvements in quality and technology. Extensions range from simple "Clip In" hair pieces to individual "Bundles" that are clamped into place. They can be human or artificial hair, are used to obtain thickness or length, and can be matched to your hair color. They come in various lengths, but a woman must have a minimum length of hair to be practical. A consultation with your hair professional is required to determine the best process and price for your individual needs. Prices can range from about \$100.00 to....?

Scottish Rite Lobby at Masonic Village at Sewickley Opens



The beautiful new Scottish Rite Lobby on the ground floor entrance to the Thomas K. Sturgeon Wellness Center at the Masonic Village at Sewickley is now open. The Lobby was sponsored by the Valley of Pittsburgh.



Peanut Butter - Chocolate Banana Cream Pie

With layers of peanut butter, bananas and chocolate, this creamy pudding pie is a grown-up's dream come true — and a direct route back to childhood.

what you need

- 35 vanilla wafers, finely crushed (about 1 cup)
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 2 oz. BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, divided
- 1/2 cup PLANTERS Creamy Peanut Butter
- 2 bananas, cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into quarters
- 2 pkg. (3.4 oz. each) JELL-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding
- 2 cups cold milk
- 2 cups thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, divided
- 2 Tbsp. PLANTERS Salted Peanuts, coarsely chopped

make it

HEAT oven to 350°F.

MIX wafer crumbs and butter until blended; press onto bottom and up side of 9-inch pie plate. Bake 5 to 8 min. or until golden brown. Cool completely. Meanwhile, make chocolate curls from 1/2 oz. chocolate. Refrigerate.

MICROWAVE remaining 1-1/2 oz. chocolate and peanut butter in microwaveable bowl on HIGH 1 min.; stir until chocolate is completely melted and mixture is well blended. Place bananas in crust; drizzle with melted chocolate.

BEAT pudding mixes and milk in large bowl with whisk 2 min. Stir in 1 cup COOL WHIP. Spread over bananas; top with remaining COOL WHIP.

REFRIGERATE 3 hours. Top with chocolate curls and nuts just before serving.

SIZE WISE – You don't have to miss out on your favorite foods if eaten in moderation and mindful of portions.

A serving of this sweet treat can fit into a balanced diet on occasion.

SPECIAL EXTRA – Garnish each slice with a vanilla wafer just before serving.

HOW TO MAKE CHOCOLATE CURLS – Warm BAKER'S Chocolate slightly by heating it, unwrapped, in the microwave for a few seconds until you can just smudge the chocolate with your thumb. Hold the chocolate steadily between thumb and fingers of one hand and draw a peeler slowly over flat bottom of chocolate. Allow a thin layer of chocolate to curl as it is peeled off the bottom. This will make long, delicate curls. Make short curls using the same technique on the narrow sides of the square. To arrange curls on a dessert, use a toothpick to lift them into place.

Brought to you by The Rite News and Kraft Kitchens. ♦





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WELCOME!

★ Groups & Parties

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The Valley of Pittsburgh

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As this year's president of Hiram Riders, I would like to welcome you to the oldest and greatest fraternity known to man.

It is with highest expectations that I ask you to join Hiram's Riders Motor Cycle Club or the Vintage Car Club. Your fraternal brothers in the Valley of Pittsburgh are some of the most generous, sincere, honest, and professional men that you will ever want to associate with.

Take the time to learn more about our organization and cause. This benevolent and charitable cause is one that we can all be proud of. Come out and enjoy in the fun. After all it's for the kids, the kids with dyslexia that is!

Mark C. Giles, 32°
President Hiram's Riders

"Today's Man 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. The moral lessons of the Scottish Rite Degrees assist you in making the right decisions in your interactions with others."

— P.J. Roup, 33°
Thrice Potent Master

PIRATES



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

Pirates vs Phillies

The annual Valley of Pittsburgh
Baseball outing at PNC Park.

Friday, June 12, 2015

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

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A valid passport is necessary for travel. To make reservations, call **All Seasons Travel** and ask for: The Valley of Pittsburgh Alaskan Cruise. 800-435-1077 or 724-483-7989.

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Calendar of Masonic Events



May 2015

- 26 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 30 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

June 2015

- 04 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 06 - Valley Charity Golf Tournament- Butler's Golf Course, 9:00 a.m.
- 07 - Car Club Cruise - GPMC
- 11 - Bike Night - North Hills Lodge No. 716
- 12 - Pirates vs Philadelphia Baseball - PNC Park
- 13 - Shrine Gun Bash - Shrine Pavillion - 11:00 a.m.
- 15 - Hiram's Riders Ride for Lunch - 9:30 a.m. - GPMC
- 19. 20 - Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication - GPMC, 10:00 a.m.
- 23 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 27 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 28 - Hiram's Riders Ride for Dyslexia - TBA

July 2015

- 04 - Brentwood 4th of July Parade
- 11 - PA Council of Deliberation - Seven Springs, Champion, PA
- 17 - Wild Things Baseball - Consol Park, Washington, PA
- 18 - Meeting in the Hills - Dawson, PA - 5:30 p.m.
- 25 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 26 - Blue Ride Charity Ride - Washington, PA
- 28 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 31 - Summer Stag - Wonderling Residence (see ad on page 21)

August 2015

- 07 - Masonic Day - Kennywood Park
- 25 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 29 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 30, 31, Sept 1 - Biennial meeting of Supreme Council - Indianapolis, IN

September 2015

- 03 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 13 - Car Club Cruise - GPMC
- 22 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 26 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

October 2015

- 01 - Oktoberfest - GPMC
- 03 - Walk for Dyslexia - GPMC
- 27 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 31 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

November 2015

- 05 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 20, 21 - Fall Reunion Class - GPMC
- 24 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 28 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

December 2015

- 05 - Valley Christmas Luncheon - Shanoppin Country Club
- 12 - Children's Christmas Party - GPMC
- 17 - Hiram's Riders Christmas Luncheon - TBA
- 24 - High 12 Luncheon - Masonic Village at Sewickley
- 27 - Installation of Bro. Raymond T. Dietz, 33° as R. W. Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh Convention Center

Schedule updated monthly: www.valleyofpittsburgh.org

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