

DECEMBER 2017

rite now

THE MAGAZINE OF THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH



THE CARING ISSUE



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Inaugural Event featuring the acoustic trio, Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks

In Memoriam

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

Ill. Robert A. Farquhar, 33°

Ill. Robert E. Robertson, 33°

Robert C. Antram	William F. Merhaut
Allen D. Baker	Rudolph L. Molnar
Charles W. Baum	Jack C. Moore
Stephen M. Brady	William D. Morrow
Edward S. Burnworth	Robert J. Nagel
Walter J. Chapple Jr.	George P. Null
Lawrence R. Clark	James Pappas
Russell W. Coe	Donald G. Peters
Robert L. Cook	Jerome R. Pietrala
Howard W. Depp	Nick Pilipovich
Berwyn S. Detweiler Jr.	James A. Polson
James P. Eaton	Dwight C. Porter
Harry H. Ekas	Francis R. Pritchard
Eugene G. Everly	Robert E. Reddinger
Herbert L. Feldman	Frederick G. Ride
Robert G. Ferguson	Charles E. Rose
Walter B. Frampton	Dominic A. Santaguida
Ralph F. Fytton	George E. Schweinebraten Jr.
Thomas W. Hartman	John F. Scott
Ronald H. Hough	James W. Seel
Herbert K. Howell	Robert E. Shumar
William F. Jourdan	Ralph E. Shuster
Donald E. Keener Sr.	Charles J. Smeal
Elder D. Kinder	Charles R. Smith
Robert Wayne King	Charles E. Snyder
Harold W. Lang	Thomas R. Stephenson Sr.
Theodore E. Lau	Stanley A. Thiel
Donald G. Ludwig II	William A. Thurby Jr.
Douglas E. Mahaven	Charles E. Townsley Jr.
Donn B. Manning	Gregory P. Triko
E. Wayne Martz	Robert E. Valocik
Andrew R. Matchett	Eric J. Willy
Thomas H. McCombs III	James E. Willy
Norwood A. McDaniel	Charles D. Ziel
Roger L. McDowell	George L. Zozos



riteNOW

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Paul J. Roup, 33°
Editor
pjroup@valleyofpittsburgh.org

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

Columnists
Erastus Z. Allen, 32°
D. Todd Ballenger, 33°
Rodney E. Boyce, 33°
Eric Krauss Cohen, 33°
Shawn P. Lang, 32°
James C. Mayes, 32°
Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°
David W. Morgans, 33°
John H. Piper, 33°
Robert B. Ruff, 32°
Austin R. Shifrin, 32°
Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°

Contributors
J. Blair McGill, 32°

Photography
Kenneth B. Brooks, 32°
Jason F. Craig, 33°
Thomas E. Ruch, 32°

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on the cover

On November 6th, the Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Brother David A. Glattly and the Deputy for Pennsylvania, Illustrious Brother Thomas K. Sturgeon, came to the Valley to make a special conferral of the 33rd Degree upon Brother Eric Krauss Cohen, Past Sovereign Prince.

Brother Cohen was elected as part of the Class of

2017. Due to his illness and possible difficulty traveling to Milwaukee in 2019, it was deemed appropriate that this special Coroneting Ceremony be held.

More than 40 other Honorary Supreme Council members as well as two other Active Members from Pennsylvania attended the ceremony and celebrated along with Brother Eric.

The Deputy

A message from the Supreme Council Deputy for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

The Good Old Days? Maybe Not!

By Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, WE frequently catch our thoughts reflecting on the way things were in the past. In our Masonic life, we constantly fight change based on the mantra of “We never did it that way before!” What does all of this have to do with the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Pittsburgh?

Initially, we must recognize that I am one of “the old guys.” My years of being an officer in the Valley stretched from about 1970 until 1990. Was it different then compared to now? You bet it was different!

Personal reflections would remind me that the Trustees ran the Valley. The officers at that time had little or nothing to say or do without the approval of the Trustees. The Executive Committee was made up of the four presiding officers and the seven Trustees. Not only did the Trustees invest the financial assets of the Valley, as they were expected to do, but they also controlled all expenditures. If the presiding officers, or one of the coordinate bodies, wanted to have a program, all elements of the program—including funding—required the approval of the Trustees.

New officer appointments to one of the officer lines were suggested by the presiding officer but approved by the Trustees. The Director of Work was a Trustee thereby giving the Trustees control of all programs and degree presentations.

Were these former Trustees bad and uncaring brothers? Absolutely not! They

were good men doing things “the way we always have done it.”

In 1999, I was elected by the Supreme Council to become an Active Member and subsequently the Resident Active for the Valley of Pittsburgh. Yes, you may be shocked by that decision, as was I.

The Great Days Ahead are destined to be bright and promising!

With the authority to make change, I set out to make the Valley more contemporary to 1999 and not the time in the past. We changed the structure of the Valley to empower the officers to do whatever they thought to be right. I insisted that the Trustees follow their legislative mandate of investing the assets of the Valley, and to let the Executive Committee direct all functions of the Valley.

Did empowering the Executive Committee to absolutely “run” the Valley create a danger to the Valley? It did not and does not! We now have an Executive Committee that works together, has worthy discussions, debates issues, and in the end, has made the Valley of Pittsburgh one of the premier Valleys in the Northern Jurisdiction.

So, what will the critics and brothers say about Tom Sturgeon when discussing my epitaph or my legacy? I truly do not care! The *Good Old Days* are now a memory but the *Great Days Ahead* are destined to be bright and promising, and will be monitored by Princes of the Royal Secret who have the courage to change and the willingness to forget that “We never did it that way in the past!”

□



Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

Children's Dyslexia Center **UPDATE** By Eric Krauss Cohen, 33°

THE LEARNING CENTER JUST HELD its annual Walk for Dyslexia on October 7th. Through the help of our sponsors, walkers and donors, we raised \$11,775.00 for the center. Once again, thanks to all of you, the event was a success. Although we had many competing events that day, we had the usual crowd walking, and in a new twist, we encouraged the participants to walk in their pajamas. We even held a contest for "Best PJs" which was won by Diana Kamin, a walker from BNY Mellon (and our own Brother Austin Shifrin won third place). The contest was suggested by board member Bonnie Szramowski and we will hold a similar contest next year based on the response from this year's walkers.

We had a special guest at the walk: Taylor Washington of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds professional soccer club (USL). Taylor was recruited by center tutor Kathy Hartos and is himself dyslexic. Following the walk, Taylor inquired about participating in the center and about becoming a Freemason. We hope to continue this relationship with the Riverhounds if possible. We are also exploring participation with the University of Pittsburgh and their department of education.

Walk regulars included Brother Austin Shifrin's team from BNY Mellon. The bank is generous enough to match the funds collected when Austin's team walks. Equally as crucial is the annual effort of Brother John Habel, Jr.

and his team of supporters (Team Habel). Brother John walks every year and never fails to compete, even when recovering from surgery. John and his wife Ruth also provided hotdogs and the fixings which were well received by our hungry walkers.

**DYS
LEX
SYA**

What the internet looks like to someone with Dyslexia.

Also in the news for the board of governors for the Children's Learning Center is the addition of new board members Roberta and Dr. Glenn Miller, II. Both individuals bring a great wealth of expertise with them and we are grateful to have them working with us. Anyone interested in joining the board or helping with the various annual events, please inquire in the main office.

There is much work to be done and leadership roles to be shared, so if you would like to help, please contact us. You would be a welcome addition to our team. □

For more information call:
412-931-3181

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Giant Eagle Apple for the Students program

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

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

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

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

37 students enrolled this year



The Chief

A message from the Commander-in-Chief of the Valley of Pittsburgh



Television weather warning as Hurricane Irma approached Florida.

CONSISTORY

Giving Instead of Getting

By Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33*

WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THIS publication can, at times, be difficult. Not this time. In talking about Freemasonry—and more importantly our beloved Rite—we often tout high and lofty goals. Goals such as conducting our lives in a way that they become examples that others want to emulate. We challenge ourselves to never quit seeking Light in educating ourselves concerning the principles and tenets of the Craft. We are often reminding ourselves of those famous Brethren that came before and set the table with the bounty that we enjoy in this country to this day. But today I am looking forward to penning my thoughts relative to the theme of this issue of *RiteNow*: *CARING FOR EACH OTHER*. While everything I have previously mentioned is important, in my estimation, this is the essence of our existence.

In harkening back to medieval times, we

are told that Operative Masons employed the use of Masonic signs, symbols, words and phrases for protection and to procure work in manors, towns, and on cathedrals. In many instances these Masons were far from home, alone and unsure of their future, as well as the futures of the families they had left behind. Can you be empathetic with the gravity of their situation? As is still the case today, that precious Fraternal Bond we have experienced first-hand is like a knight on a white horse to the rescue. Even then, Masons were taking the time to tend to their Brothers' needs and doing everything possible to ease their angst. Let me share a few examples of the brotherly love and affection that I have seen first-hand.

In my profession of overseeing a sales territory, the cell phone will often ring at the most inopportune times. It can be in the wee hours of the morning, late at night, weekends, Sundays, vacations,

or while I'm on a ladder with a paint brush in hand. I am certainly aware that every phone call is an opportunity. I am honored to think that while there were many outlets they could call, they chose to call me. Even so, there are times when the last thing I feel like doing is answering that darn phone—around 5:00 p.m. on the day of the first significant snowfall comes to mind. Even then when I look at the caller ID and realize a Brother needs my help, I do four things. First, I think I must walk the walk that I always talk. Then, I remind myself of the satisfaction I get when I help a Brother. Next, I smile, and finally, I answer the phone with a commitment to be the best Fraternal Brother I can possibly be.

Another example occurred when it became apparent that I would be on the ballot to be elected the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden. To show me support, as well as, to cast their votes for me, the Lodge rented a bus and traveled to the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. This was a diverse group of men. Some had limited or fixed financial ability. There were others that receive precious few vacation days through their employers. Regardless of their personal circumstances, they took the time and bore the expense to be there for me. I cannot overstate the impact it had on me.

When I stumbled onto their plan, I made sure that Brother R.J. Arenholt, P.D.D.G.M. of West Virginia was on the trip. You see Brother R.J. rarely misses Stated Meetings of several Pennsylvania Lodges near the Mason-Dixon Line. Did I mention that he is in his mid-eighties and travels over an hour through any type of weather to attend many of these meetings? I invited him to attend the December Quarterly and the Annual Grand Communication, and I made sure his costs were covered. It was priceless to see the look of awe and wonder he had on his face when he toured our magnificent Masonic Temple.

This past September, Illustrious Brother Tom Sturgeon was scheduled to have surgery. At the same time, his wife Joan was experiencing some health issues as well. I realized that Joan would definitely need help—especially if the news wasn't positive. My wife, Sharon, agreed to fly to Sarasota and assist as needed. Unbeknownst to us, the Grand Master decided to fly down and lend support to his dear friend and Brother too. Did I mention that they flew to Florida on

Let me share a few examples of the Brotherly love and affection that I have seen first-hand.

Tuesday, five days before the area took a direct hit from Hurricane Irma? Sharon was absolutely petrified, but knew she had to help. Leaving Joan to fend for herself was not an option. The Grand Master had booked a round trip flight so he was able to return home and maintain his schedule. Joan and Sharon visited with Brother Tom on Thursday and Friday. Jennifer Dietz-Powell and husband, Brother Earl Powell, learned of their dilemma from her father (the Grand Master). They, in turn, graciously offered their home as a safe haven during the storm. It was decided that the Powell home in Groveland, Florida, located inland, would be the better option for riding out the storm. The lesson here is that at every turn, a Mason was there to assist. I am pleased to report that Brother Sturgeon has resumed his activities to the fullest.

As it turned out, our house in Fort Myers was directly in the path of Irma. Fortunately, the damage was limited to six shingles blown off of the roof. It soon became apparent that with all the "major" damage inflicted by the storm, it would be unlikely to find a roofer to make the necessary repairs. I had visions of the roof leaking and the interior of the home being severely damaged. My schedule would not allow me to make

the repairs until Thanksgiving. Once again, a Mason to the rescue. I learned that my friend, Brother Rich Mort, had traveled to Florida to assist his children in repairing damage to their homes. That Friday evening, I called him and asked when he had planned to fly home. He said he was returning to Pittsburgh on Tuesday. I told him of my quandary and he said he would replace the shingles in the morning. We were finished finalizing our plan when I learned it would be a 3 HOUR ROUND TRIP! I had assumed that he was in or near Fort Myers. HE WAS IN SARASOTA! By early afternoon the next day the repairs were complete. He never hesitated or gave it a second thought. I cannot thank him enough for his efforts.

These are just a few examples of adhering to those promises we each pledged to keep as we knelt at the Altar before God and our Brethren. I haven't even talked about our core Scottish Rite Charities. The Hospitaler's Committee performs great deeds under the radar every day, not to mention the work of our Grand Almoners Fund and the Pittsburgh Dyslexia Center.

My Brethren, I will offer again and again and again that IF WE WORK HARD AT GIVING, AND NOT WORRY ABOUT GETTING, OUR FRATERNITY WILL FLOURISH. Helping a Brother can be as simple as offering him a kind word.

"Foot to Foot"

□



Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°
jwonderling@valleyofpittsburgh.org



16 new members

Seated: G. Richard Zimmerman, Jeffrey M. Wonderling
Row 1: Brian D. Pollak, Michael D. Russell, Jordan T. Eberhart, Michael B. McCreery, William J. McCreery
Row 2: Shawn D. Roberts, Philip R. Sahady, Michael B. McCreery, William J. McCreery
Row 3: Vincent S. Hinzy, Harry T. Hinzy, Jeffrey H. Matthews, Allan M. Matthews

MEMBERSHIP

Fall Reunion Honors Illustrious Brothers

The Fall Reunion of the Valley of Pittsburgh was held on November 17th and 18th at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. The 4th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, and 32nd Degrees were conferred and we were pleased to welcome 16 new members to the Valley of Pittsburgh.

Our class was named for **Brother Raymond T. Dietz, RWGM**, and we also honored **Illustrious G. Richard Zimmerman** with the title of Music Director and Organist Emeritus. Brother Zimmerman began his tenure as Music Director in 1969.

Our April Class will be named for Illustrious David A. Glattly, Sovereign Grand Commander. Mark your calendar, and come out to see traditional (and reimagined) Degrees conferred again by your Valley!



Michael J. Peer, James B. McCreery, Ralph L. Bernabo, William E. Branthoover, Lawrence J. Guthridge, McDougall, Rudolph S. Yurkovich



Raymond T. Dietz

The Potent

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

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Lest We Forget

By Shawn P. Lang, 32°

From this place of quiet and consecration, we return to a world torn by strife and filled with tragedy.

AS THE STORY UNFOLDED, A SINGLE gunman had just committed what is being called one of the largest mass shootings in American history. 59 dead, hundreds injured as terror rained down on a country music festival taking place in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday, October 1, 2017.



Shawn P. Lang, 32°

tpm@valleyofpittsburgh.org

I found myself torn by emotion as I listened to the news report on the radio during my Monday morning commute to work. How could a man choose to create such devastation? How much hate is in a man's heart to be able to plan an attack on innocent people and produce a fate that would destroy so many lives?

I was angry, no doubt about it; and angrier still to hear the gunman chose to end his own life, leaving little to no resolution for this heinous act. My heart then turned to sadness as I thought about not only those who were killed and injured but also the men, women, and children now left trying to pick up the pieces of so vile a tragedy that hurt or killed their loved ones. Fear came soon after that. What kind of world am I walking around and raising my children in?

Is it time to build a concrete bunker and convince my family that a life of seclusion is far better than the fate that awaits outside?

As the details of the event became known over the hours and days that followed, I felt a sense of inspiration. I saw selfless act after selfless act from bystanders trying to protect one another, unheralded acts of courage brought on by nothing more than the sheer will to survive, and first responders working feverishly to subdue the chaos of what was described as pure carnage. I wonder: if I were ever faced with something so horrific, would I have it in me to step up?

By now you may be asking yourself, Thrice Potent Master, why are you writ-

ing about this? We have all seen the news or read the reports. So if you are, I would like to answer that. We have joined this beloved fraternity for many reasons, and I would like to think that one of the more common concepts is because we are good men determined to become better. Our world today

What kind of world am I walking around and raising my children in?

makes it very easy for a good-natured person to turn cynical, to turn their backs on society in order to stave off the heartbreak we come to believe as inevitable. But our Masonic fraternity, more specifically our Scottish Rite affiliation, begs something different. *In this hour of trial...let us go forth, trusting in God and highly resolved to play our parts as men and Masons.*

Brethren, the world is truly a scary place. We are charged to look after

each other as well as those around us, to uplift those who are in sorrow, and to be charitable to those in need. We hold ourselves to higher, nobler standards than others may, and I urge each of you to go forth and live by the principles that have been so earnestly encouraged by the teachings of Freemasonry.

I believe I would indeed have it in me to step up in the hour of need, not by myself, but with strength and support of my brothers. I pray that it will not come to a situation for any of us that we need to become superheroes, and I hope our continued support of each other and those around us in our daily lives never be forgotten.

□

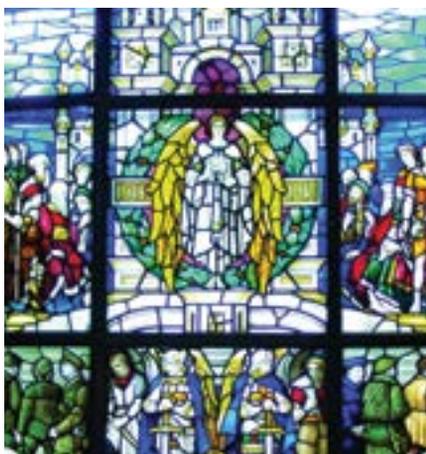
ANGELS... GOD'S MESSENGERS

By Rev. John H. Piper, 33°

THIS SUMMER, MY WIFE AND I HAD THE opportunity to spend a few weeks in London visiting with a friend of ours. I have been to England many times over the years, beginning in 1966, but I never once ever visited the Freemasons' Hall in Central London. But since this year is the 300th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England, I made visiting the home of our "mother lodge" a priority. To my amazement, my friend had made contact with a Masonic friend of his named Eric who offered to go with me for a tour of the Hall. Eric even treated me to a "Pub Lunch" at a pub across the street from the Hall where he said the Brothers always gather after their meetings for "fellowship!"

The Art Deco Hall was built in the 1920s and 30s as a memorial to the British Freemasons who perished in the Great War (1914- 1918), and it is the headquarters of the Grand Lodge of England. The central meeting room, or Great Temple, holds 1,700 persons and is magnificent beyond description; but what touched my heart that day the most was the Memorial Shrine in the vestibule of the building. Central to the Shrine is an ornate sarcophagus containing the names of the departed who gave their lives to make "the world safe for democracy". Behind and above the sarcophagus is a stained glass window featuring an "Angel of Peace"

The dictionary says that angels are, among other things, God's messengers. At this holiday season, there are images of angels all around us in stores, at the mall, and in front yards as decorations.



Memorial shrine window "Angel of Peace" in Freemasons' Hall



Grand entrance to Freemasons' Hall, London, England

In the Christmas story, angels are very busy bringing messages to Joseph, Mary, and some shepherds out in the fields.

A couple of weeks ago I preached on the sixth chapter of Isaiah where Isaiah goes into Solomon's temple and is confronted by God, as God is surrounded by angels singing "Holy, Holy, Holy." Isaiah falls to his knees and cries out "Woe is me... I am a man of unclean lips!" But then an angel takes a live coal from the altar and touches the prophet's lips and his sins are forgiven. Then the Lord says, "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah replies, "Here I am. Send me!"

Angels are messengers of God. Angels are also agents of God's comfort. As a boy at church camp, I remember singing the lines, "All night, all day/Angels watching over me/My Lord." As I mentioned earlier, at the center of the Memorial Shrine in the Masonic Hall in London, there is an angel of peace bringing peace and comfort to those lost in the war and to their families, friends and Masonic brethren.

A further point: In the book of Hebrews, we are reminded to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it! During this holiday season—this holy season—may we here in the Valley of Pittsburgh keep our hearts and our pocketbooks open to opportunities to help the poor and needy. Who knows? That child, that adult, that stranger you help may be an angel in disguise!!

God bless you and yours throughout this holy season. □

The Sovereign

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

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

Practicing the Virtue of Caring

By Erastus Z. Allen, 32°

KAREN ARMSTRONG, IN *THE Great Transformation* (2006), traces the beginnings of the world's major religions and identifies a single common feature that unites those religions that have passed the test of time. While each religion has a great variety of beliefs, they shared a practice of compassion, known to us in the West as The Golden Rule. This practice among Freemasons is encouraged without connection to a particular theology and is communicated



Erastus Z. Allen, 32°
sp@valleyofpittsburgh.org

in the symbolism and description of a Fellowcraft working tool: The Square.

Freemasonry is, in part, a mental journey consisting of reflecting on and contemplating Masonic symbolism. We must not forget that this is only one part of the plan—we must also act and apply Freemasonry's lessons in our daily lives. To miss the application of our instruction would make most of our labors a wasted effort.

Further, especially in our admonitions to employ the square, the application to our actions should not be too small. To care about each other mainly involves spending time. Our meetings are often rushed and have little opportunity to get beyond a "How are you?" and an "I'm well, how are you?" superficial conversation. To care about each other involves knowing more and doing more. We share a special fraternal bond, but we should make more time to meet for meaningful interaction.

I find the latest leaps in technology will let us easily make some small kind effort, like changing a Facebook profile picture to raise awareness or 'sending good vibes' to a social media friend who is having hard times. These activities may be better than nothing, but my worry is that we will be too-easily satisfied with stopping short of making a meaningful impact. A phone call or a brief meeting for coffee would go much farther.

Freemasonry instructs us to "Do good unto all..." and to inculcate "Universal benevolence," and it also requires certain assistance be made

especially to our fellow brothers. Yet, Freemasonry understands that care is a finite resource and that this assistance should extend to those we find worthy, and then without prejudice to ourselves. This is why caring itself is not enough, we must also be effective.

To be a better caring individual requires some practice. In an age where charity is predominantly institutional and led by government, religion, or other special interest groups, we should realize that we give up some opportunity to practice when we simply give money to others who then give the actual care and aid. When possible, we should seek to be directly helpful: to understand what care is needed and to become adept at delivering that care. Often it is just a sympathetic ear that is most helpful.

Karen Armstrong also found something deeper connected with the regular practice of caring. She found that by constantly exercising The Golden Rule, one will "enter a different state of consciousness" reaching beyond thought to "an ultimate reality...called Brahman or God or Nirvana or Tao—that couldn't be encapsulated in human thought and language."

Caring has become too much associated with a thought rather than an action. The statement "He cares about his brother" is only meaningful so far as action is associated with the caring thought. Just thinking about things, a favorite activity for myself and others, is not itself of much consequence.

To be a better caring individual requires some practice.

TheWise

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

ROSE CROIX

The Small Things Matter Too

By James C. Mayes, 32°

HELLO BRETHREN. AS MOST WISE Master, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their work at the Reunion and to welcome our new Brothers to the Scottish Rite.

Hearing that this issue of *RiteNow* focuses on caring reminds me of a time not long after I joined the Fraternity and was still learning just what it meant to be a Mason.

I will say that what eased my mind the most was that two of these neighbors were also brother Masons. One of them would even keep the snow plowed off of her driveway in case she needed an ambulance.

The small acts of kindness that my Masonic brothers, along with her other neighbors, shared reassured me that joining Lodge was a good thing.

It doesn't always take something big to show you care about a brother or a neighbor.

My mother, a widow then, had started to develop Alzheimer's. Knowing she would be more comfortable living in the home that she and my dad had built, I wanted to keep her there as long as possible. Even though it might be tough, I knew it would be the right thing to do.

The folks in the small neighborhood where she lived were all pretty close. They would all check in on her, get her paper, her mail, or just stop to chat. And I knew they would let me know if something just didn't seem right at home.

It doesn't always take something big to show you care about a brother or a neighbor. In fact, sometimes it's the smallest things that mean the most.

So, I remind you to show a little brotherly love to all folks every now and then. It will not take a lot of effort from you, but it just may mean the world to the one who receives it.

I know it did to me. □



James C. Mayes, 32°
mwm@valleyofpittsburgh.org

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DEMOLAY
PENNSYLVANIA

Each year Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix sponsors a one day Induction Class for the Western Pennsylvania chapters of DeMolay International. This Induction is open to all who are 21 and over. It's a great opportunity to meet the young men of DeMolay and in addition, you will get to view their very impressive ritual.

Join Us on Saturday, March 10 at 2PM, at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center.

Ghost Light Takes Home Awards

On the weekend of October 21st, Ghost Light Productions entered their second film contest. This time it was the Pittsburgh 48 Hour Horror Film Project. Nineteen teams had 48 hours to write, film, edit, score, and submit their films. All teams had to include the following elements in their film:

Character:

Joe or Jodi Macintosh - a writer

Prop:

Lamp

Line of Dialogue:

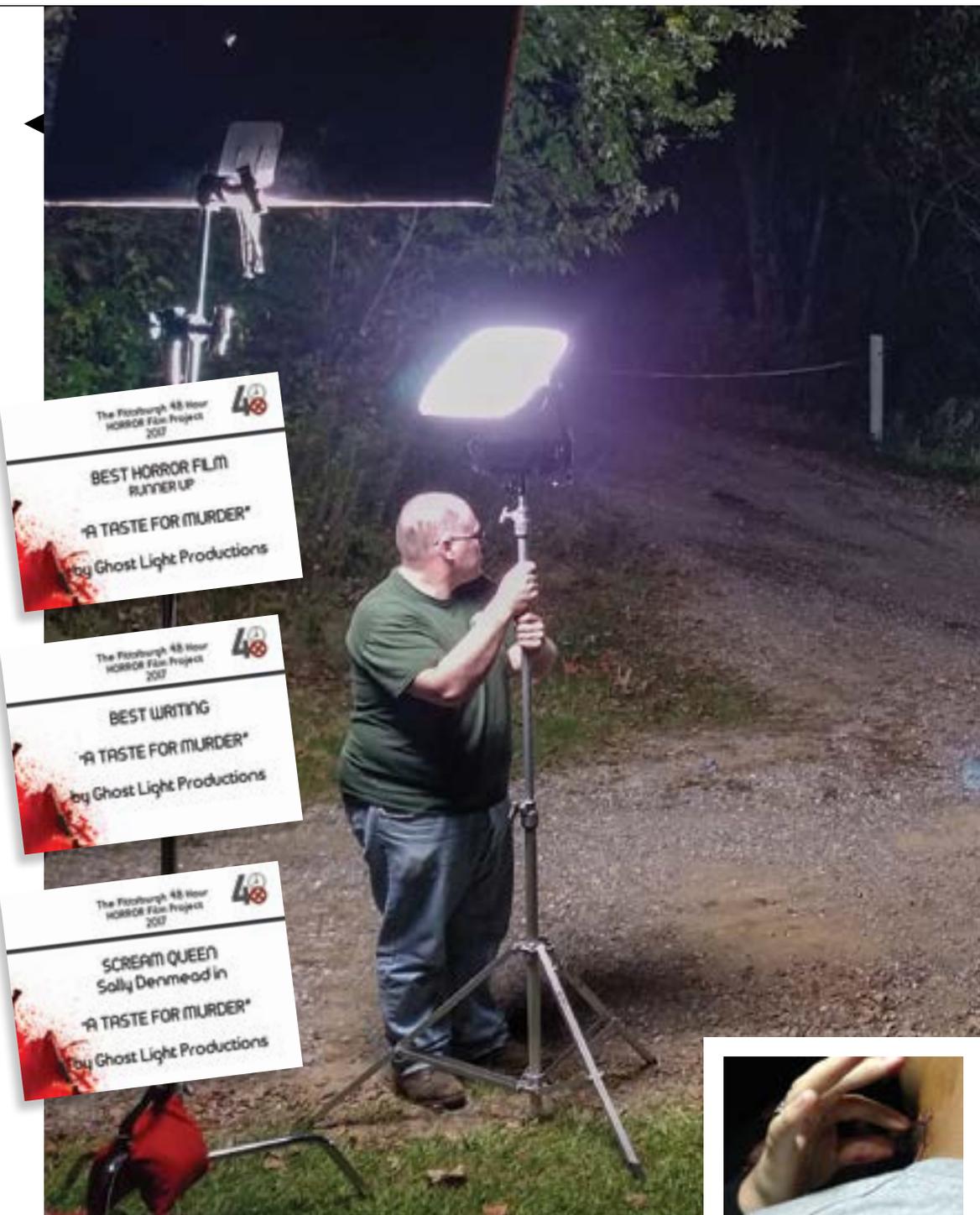
"Sometimes it's a struggle."

Each team randomly drew two subgenres of horror and had to make their film true to one of those genres.

Ghost Light drew the genres serial killer and holiday horror movie and opted for serial killer.

The nearly sleepless weekend resulted in their movie, *A Taste for Murder* winning awards for Best Writing, Scream Queen (Best Actress), and Runner Up for Best Picture.

There will be a special screening at their upcoming performances of *Adult Content* on February 2nd and 3rd. If you can't wait, you can visit the Valley website for a YouTube link, or scan the code below!





It didn't take much for her to acquire...



A Taste for Murder

DIRECTED BY PJ ROUP

STARRING SALLY DENMEAD AND TODD BALLENGER

EDITORS JULIA BAHNEY, BETSY STOWINSKY AND PJ ROUP PRODUCTION MANAGER ROBERT DUNKLE

WRITTEN BY PJ ROUP, TODD BALLENGER, BILL HOLMAN, MIKE MARCUS AND BETSY STOWINSKY

MUSIC BY ERIC KRAUSS COHEN AND WAYNE MINNICKS POSTER PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTY DENNY



Membership

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

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

The Path Forward

By Rodney E. Boyce, 33°

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

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



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

WHEN I WAS ELECTED SECOND Lieutenant Commander and became the Chairman of the Membership Committee, I asked myself, “What does the Membership Committee do?” I imagine each of you have asked this same question yourself. There is no definitive answer, yet I believe the answer is simple—the committee is responsible for growing and engaging the membership of the Valley.

My first step was to research the membership statistics for the Valley from the past five years. Since 2012, we have averaged a loss of 478 members per year (deaths, suspensions, demits, expulsions, and discharges). And during this same period, we have averaged a gain of 218 members per year (initiates, restorations, and affiliations).

Next, I looked at the current age of the membership of the Valley. Currently, 14% of our members are age 18-49, 13% are age 50-59, 22% are age 60-69, 24% are age 70-79, and 27% are age 80 and above.

As you can see, we have a problem.

But I can tell you with certainty that your officers are working to correct these trends. Last year was the only year in the previous five that we did gain membership. We have been less successful this year, but we are hoping that our new programs will soon begin to show progress.

I am a true believer that our Fraternity is not broken, that we have what men want—we just have to make that connection. Recently, each of you received the November issue of *The Northern Light* magazine. Included with it was a special report titled *The Path Forward*. It is fair to say that I was not really surprised by the results. The officers of the Valley have been discussing these very issues for several months and are taking steps to improve our activities to reflect what the statistics confirm. We are working

to add more social events; our leadership is more open-minded; we are increasing our support for members via the Hospitaler's Fund; and we are gaining ground on improving our social media presence. We have the product, Brethren, we just need to improve our brand awareness.

Inside this issue of *RiteNow*, you will find several new events that are coming soon.

Last year was the only year in the previous five that we did gain membership.

On Saturday, January 20th, a **Burns Night Supper** will be held at the Ligonier Country Inn (*see page 36*). This event honors the birthday of Brother Robert Burns with a celebration of his life and works. The evening will feature a four course meal, open bar, music, Highland Dance, poetry readings, traditional Scottish food, desserts, and of course, Scotch. Join us for a great evening of fun and fellowship!

On Friday, March 16th, we will host our very first **RiteHouse Evening**, a concept

OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC!

RiteHouse Presents

Scott, Rob and Greg of

THE CLARKS

ACOUSTIC



ALL
INCLUSIVE
ADMISSION!

Your ticket includes admission to the reception, the performance and hot appetizers, snacks, beer, wine, and soft drinks throughout the evening!

MARCH 16 7:30 PM

Reception
beginning
at 6:30PM

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

For tickets, contact the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh

at **412-939-3579** or visit srgacoustic.eventbrite.com

\$35 Per Person

Advanced Tickets Required



Scan
for
tickets

RiteHouse Events
All proceeds benefit the Valley of
Pittsburgh Hospitalers Fund



About SRG

Scott, Rob and Greg of The Clarks are the acoustic alter-ego of one of Pittsburgh's favorite homegrown bands, The Clarks. SRG features Scott Blasey (vocals/ acoustic guitar), Rob James (vocals and acoustic guitar) and Greg Joseph (vocals and bass). Not to be confused with their regular day jobs as The Clarks, SRG play a stripped down but rip roaring set of songs. You're bound to hear original Clarks' songs as well as cover songs from their favorite artists (Tom Petty, The Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp, Elvis Costello, and many more). The song selection is made up right on the spot. There is no set list, the guys play to the crowd. You're bound to hear lots of requests from the audience and maybe even a few songs they've never played before. It's a wide open acoustic evening with something for everyone to enjoy.

Scott, Rob and Greg of The Clarks started out with Scott and Rob forming an acoustic duo during their days at IUP (Indiana University of Pennsylvania). The format looked like so much fun that Greg joined in as a regular at their always crowded stints at the former Nick's Fat City (Southside). The popularity of the trio has grown from there and is well known all throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Scott Blasey is a Connellsville, PA native now living in Peters Township. Rob James is a North Allegheny grad now living in Beaver, PA. Greg Joseph is a North Allegheny grad now living in Hampton, PA. All are IUP alumni and were presented with the IUP Distinguished Alumni Award in March of 2004

to bring live acoustic music into the Valley. The reception and performance will feature hot appetizers, snacks, wine, beer, and soft drinks, in a casual atmosphere for all to enjoy. Our premiere event will feature Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks (*see ad at right*).

Beginning early next year, get ready for **RiteLightning**, a new concept of joining together at a predetermined location for an evening of fellowship and fun. We will visit local bars and clubs, wearing Scottish RiteLightning t-shirts. We want to demonstrate to the public how Freemasons act and enjoy each other's company. We will send out an email blast to all members who are interested, announcing a location, date and time. Then we will all meet and spend the evening together. A RiteLightning t-shirt will be provided to all who attend.

On Saturday, May 5, look for our inaugural **Kentucky Derby Party!** Gentlemen and ladies, break out your best duds and bonnets as we celebrate the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby, live at the Valley of Pittsburgh. Fun, food, and great entertainment will be provided as we await the race. Place your bets that this will be a one-of-a-kind experience!

That's just a few of the ideas your committee is working on. All of these events are open to the public. All are geared toward getting our members active and providing an opportunity for all of you to introduce the Rite to non-Masonic and Masonic friends and family.

So, as you can see, we are working on a solution. You are an important part of it. Please join us for one or more of these new events. □

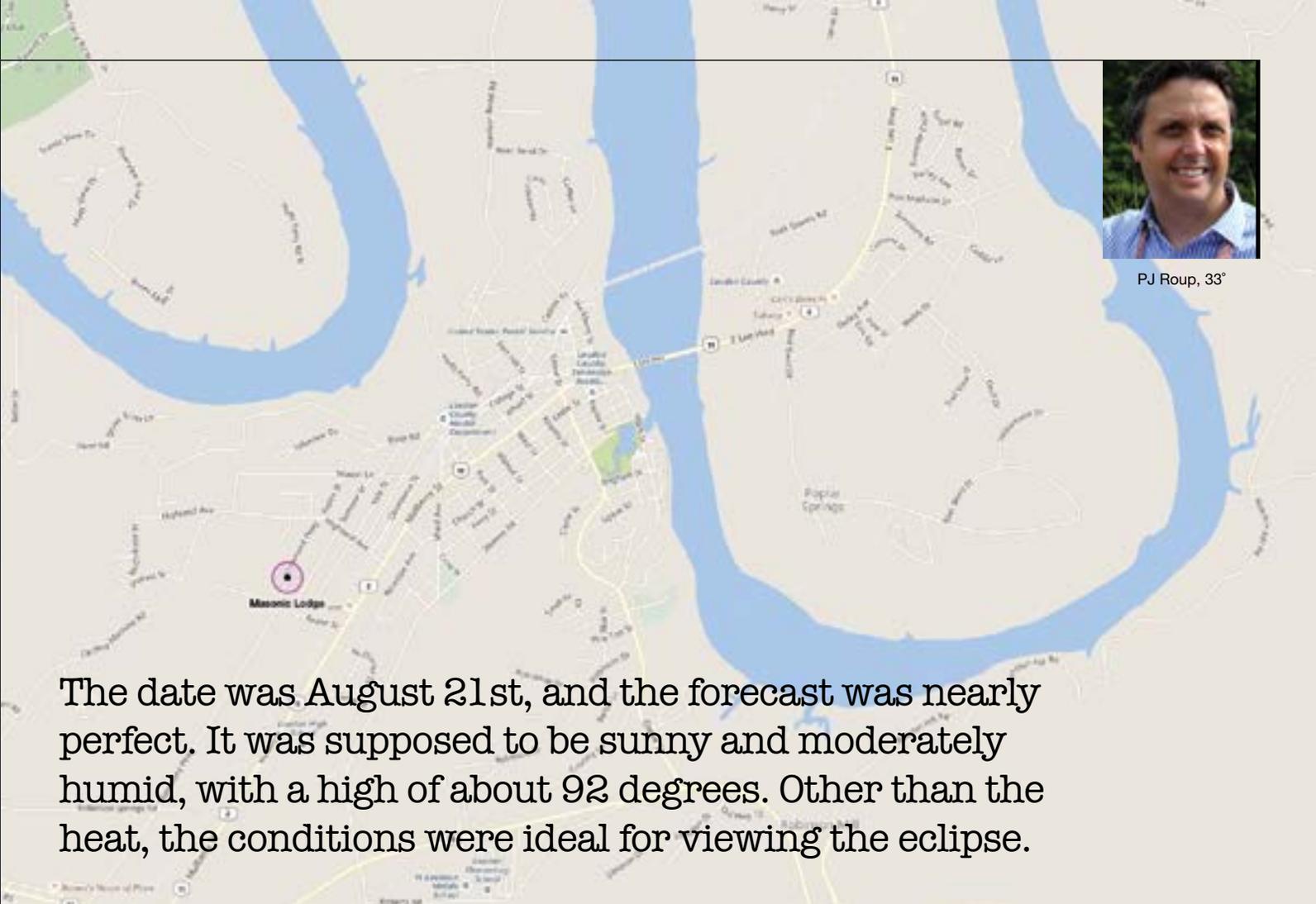


By PJ Roup, 33°

Sharing Light in the Darkness of the Eclipse



PJ Roup, 33^o



The date was August 21st, and the forecast was nearly perfect. It was supposed to be sunny and moderately humid, with a high of about 92 degrees. Other than the heat, the conditions were ideal for viewing the eclipse.

Brother Eric Waggoner and I made the trip from Pittsburgh to Knoxville, Tennessee, to witness the first total eclipse in the United States since 1979. We figured we would get to town and check with the locals to see where we should set up camp. Our hotel was just inside the line of totality which meant that while we could stay put and see a total eclipse, it would only last for about fifteen seconds. The locals told us that if we headed west about 30 miles or so, we would be able to see over two minutes of totality. They did caution us, however, that while the weather forecast was terrific, the traffic forecast was abysmal. In fact, our waitress said she was leaving her house at 5:30 am—nearly six hours before totality—to get to her chosen viewing site. She also warned us that once we got into a town,

we might not be able to find a place to view the eclipse.

Some online reconnaissance showed us that there was a Masonic Lodge in a little town called Loudon. Loudon is nestled in a couple of sweeping and dramatic S-bends on the Tennessee River south-

west of Knoxville and boasts a population of just under 6,000. Google Earth showed that the Lodge had a large parking lot with a clear view of the sky. Perfect.

We arrived at their Lodge a few hours ahead of the eclipse. I called one of the Lodge contact numbers and got Brother



Eric Waggoner, PJ Roup, and Ben Robinson

The Modern Vitruvian

Ben Robinson, the Senior Warden. I told him that a couple of Masons from Pittsburgh were at the Lodge and were hoping to set up a telescope in the parking lot to view the eclipse. He told me that we were welcome to do so. There were no crowds, and we still had some time to kill until the big show, so we drove to a coffee shop to get out of the heat for a bit. We weren't there long before my phone rang.

"Hi. This is Ben. I thought you said you were in the parking lot."

"Well, we were. It was hot, so we drove down the street to a coffee shop to cool off," I explained.

"Shoot. I dropped by to meet you and unlock the Lodge. I'll just leave the side door open. That way if you need the restroom or a place to cool off, it's available. We also have snacks and cold water in the kitchen. Help yourself."

I was floored. This man had never met me. I called him out of the blue, and without a second thought, he was willing to treat us like trusted friends based on nothing more than our claiming to be Masons. "Hang on," I told him. "We'll be right up. We'd love to meet you."

"Sure, I'll stay for a while," he said.

We returned to the Lodge where Ben and his chihuahua, Dixie, met us at the door. Ben had silver hair and a beard to match. His kind eyes and an almost permanent, welcoming smile instantly made us feel like we were long-lost family. He gave us a tour of the Lodge, and we spent the next half hour



Pat Robinson waiting for Totality

or so talking about Masonry, life, and the eclipse. He had not intended to stay for the eclipse, but after we set up the telescope, not only did we persuade him to stay, but he even called his wife, Pat, and sister-in-law, Selina, to come down to meet us and witness it together.



Safe view of the Eclipse

The eclipse was magnificent—one of the most spiritual experiences of my life. Just before totality, it was eerie. There was a palpable quiet. The deepening dark and crescent-shaped shadows—caused when the eclipsing sun's light passes through small holes in the tree cover, or even between your fingers as you splay them before you—made me feel like I was in a simulated reality. There is also

an effect called shadow snakes where shadows from nowhere slither and dance across the ground. Once totality began, the horizon was aglow with the hues of sunset in every direction, and there was near-total darkness above. The street lights came on, and the cicadas started to sing. Above us was a dark disc with a magnificent glowing aura surrounding it. A little less than two-and-a-half minutes later, it was over. The whole process played out in reverse, and life slowly returned to normal.

We didn't spend more than a few hours together, but in that short visit, we made a lifetime of memories. Under a darkening Tennessee sky, we shared the real light of Brotherhood. The eclipse was fantastic, but perhaps the eclipse itself was eclipsed by the hospitality of strangers-who-weren't-really-strangers because of this thing called Freemasonry, and by the people who opened not only their Lodge but their lives at an impromptu watch party in the parking lot of Tennessee Lodge No. 204 in Loudon, Tennessee. □

Note: The next total eclipse in the United States will be on April 8, 2024. It will pass through Indianapolis, Cleveland, Rochester, and Buffalo. I urge you to consider making the trip to one of those locations. You won't be sorry.

TheOffice

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

Happy Holidays to You and Yours

By David W. Morgans, 33°

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS approaching fast and the Valley of Pittsburgh offers some great opportunities for you and your family to enjoy great fellowship and great food as you prepare your hearts and minds for this season of celebration. We started the festivities off with our adult Holiday luncheon held on Saturday, December 2nd at Shannopin Country Club (see pages 28-29).

Saturday, December 9th is our Children's Christmas party at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center starting at 10:30 a.m., complete with food, entertainment, gifts for the children, and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus. The Saturday after that, December 16th, is Hiram's Riders dinner party which is open to all Scottish Rite Masons and their ladies.

These events are a great way to share in the holiday spirit which is so prevalent during this time of the year. To make sure that we have plenty of food, drink, and space for everyone, it is imperative that you make reservations to attend. That's where the Valley Office comes in. Darlene Guest, Bob Mellon, and I are here to answer your questions and take your reservations for these, or any other Valley events. You may reach us at 412-939-3579 to make your reservations or email me at

secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org and I will make sure a place is saved for you.

To make registration and payment easy, the Valley is now able to process credit card payments for events over the phone or in person. In the coming weeks, we will have a portal in place on the website to do the same.

From everyone here at the office, may you have a Happy Holiday Season!

We have a large and active Valley and communication is the key to making our Valley a success. With the speed at which we communicate these days, email is an efficient and cost-effective way to reach large numbers of people. If you are not currently receiving emails from the Valley, please send your address to secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org and I will add you to our email list.

From everyone here at the office, may you have a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with joy and contentment. □



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

CHILDREN'S DYSLEXIA CENTER

2017 Walk-A-Thon

Saturday, October 7th

Officers, members, and friends of the Valley came out in force to support the Walk-a-Thon. This year, the participants were encouraged to dress in their favorite pajamas for the walk. Syria clowns were on hand to entertain the youth and adult walkers. **Team Habel** and **Austin Shifrin's BNY Mellon** team were there as usual to support this worthy cause. Thanks to all who participated, donated baskets, or supported this worthy cause. Your efforts helped to raise almost \$12,000 for the Children's Dyslexia Center.







Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°

PART TWO

Lyme Disease

By Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°

LYME DISEASE IN CHILDREN HAS IT'S OWN UNIQUE features which require special attention. Children are vulnerable to tick-borne diseases because they are physically low to the ground and play in the grass and leaves where ticks are located. They also tend to hug and cuddle pets which increases their risk of tick exposure. Since children cannot always clearly explain what is wrong with them, their symptoms tend to be more nonspecific and vague which can make them appear to be cranky and irritable. Some of the common symptoms seen in pediatric patients include headaches, poor concentration and short term memory, confusion, mood swings, noise and/or light sensitivity, attention difficulties, difficulty with thinking and expressing their thoughts, reading and/or writing difficulties, decision making difficulties, feeling overwhelmed by schoolwork, uncharacteristic behaviors, dizziness, insomnia, severe fatigue despite sufficient rest, nausea, abdominal pain, joint pain, and fever or chills.

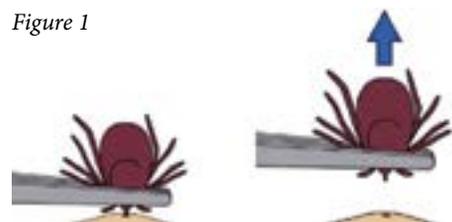
Lyme disease is a “clinical diagnosis” meaning that the diagnosis is based upon the patient’s symptoms, physical findings (rash, arthritis, Bell’s palsy, etc.), and history of possible exposure to infected ticks. The most utilized blood tests for Lyme disease are tests that measure a patient’s antibody response to infection, not the presence of the bacteria directly. Unfortunately, the two-tiered system that is currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) misses approximately 50-55% of patients who are infected with the disease. Conversely, these two tests have roughly a 99% accuracy in detecting HIV in infected patients.

The best way to prevent getting infected with Lyme disease is to avoid the areas where deer ticks live, especially in late spring and the summer months when the young ticks are most active. These areas include woods, places with a lot of bushes, fields with tall grass, and any area with a significant deer population. Other recommendations to decrease your

risk of getting infected include wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants that are tucked into your socks, gloves, and a hat when you are in high-risk areas. You should also apply insect repellent with at least 20% or higher DEET concentration as well as spraying your clothing with permethrin (or wear clothing pretreated with permethrin). Permethrin sprayed on clothing will kill deer ticks on contact. After exposure to a possible tick-infested environment, clothing should be washed in hot water and dried in a dryer using the “hot” setting in an effort to kill any ticks. It can also be helpful to shower as soon as you return indoors which can help to remove any unattached ticks which may remain on your skin for hours prior to attaching themselves. It also bears mentioning that people should closely check children and pets for ticks if they are exposed to susceptible environments. Pet owners should also use tick collars or other topical tick treatments since dogs, cats, and horses have been known to contract Lyme disease.

Attached ticks should be removed as soon as possible because removal within 36 hours of attachment can reduce the risk of infection. In fact, infection is unlikely if a tick is attached for less than 24 hours. The best way to remove the tick is to use tweezers to carefully grasp the tick near its head or mouth and pull gently but steadily until the tick is detached from the skin (*Figure 1*). Care must be taken to avoid crushing the body of the tick and/or twisting the tick’s head from its body. An antiseptic should be applied to the bite area once the tick has been removed.

Figure 1





Children tend to hug and cuddle pets which increases their risk of tick exposure.

As a general rule, it is not recommended that all people bitten by deer ticks should be treated with antibiotics since the risk of infection is low if the deer tick has only been attached for 24-36 hours. However, if the deer tick has been attached for at least 36 hours, or is engorged, a single dose of doxycycline given within 72 hours after tick removal may reduce the risk of contracting Lyme disease.

In patients with diagnosed Lyme disease, the primary treatment is either oral or intravenous antibiotics. In patients with early localized infection, oral doxycycline is the treatment of choice in most adults and children older than 8 years of age. In children younger than 8 years of age, and females who are pregnant or breast feeding, doxycycline is contraindicated. In these instances, amoxicillin, cefuroxime, and azithromycin are acceptable alternatives. A fourteen to 21-day course of antibiotics is typically recommended. In patients with early disseminated or late infection, which can include symptomatic cardiac disease and/or neurologic involvement such as meningitis or encephalitis, intravenous antibiotics are indi-

cated. Ceftriaxone is often the first choice with doxycycline and cefotaxime utilized as alternative choices.

Antibiotic therapy given to patients in the early stage of Lyme disease often results in a cure. However, the CDC estimates that 10-20% of patients with early Lyme disease are not cured with antibiotic therapy and go on to develop chronic Lyme disease (aka post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome). The International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) estimates that early Lyme disease and chronic Lyme disease have a 16-39% and 26-50% antibiotic failure rate respectively. Deaths from Lyme disease are extremely rare with only about 23 cases ever documented. A vaccination for the prevention of Lyme disease was available in the United States from December 1998 until February 2002 when it was withdrawn from the market in the settling of a number of class-action lawsuits and negative media coverage over potential side effects, none of which were ever substantiated after investigations by the CDC and FDA.

□

The Banquet

By Austin R. Shifrin, 32'

A certain Rabbi Haim of Romshishok had the opportunity to visit both Heaven and Hell, guided by an angel. On his journey to Hell, he is surprised to encounter what appears to be a beautiful and sumptuous banquet. As he draws closer, he discovers that all of the souls seated at the long banquet table have splints tied to their arms so that none of them can bend at the elbow. As a result, none of them can eat, and he can hear their groans of frustration and suffering.





Austin R. Shifrin, 32°

As we move throughout our lives, then, let us always be prepared to give care.

On his arrival in Heaven, he is even more surprised to discover the scene before him seems strikingly similar: A long banquet table, set with many delicacies, and a great many people seated at the feast, all with their arms bound with splints, unable to bring a utensil to their own mouths. But among the residents of heaven, he hears only happy and contented discourse, and as he draws nearer, he discovers the difference: the souls seated at this banquet are feeding each other.

Participating in blue lodge Masonry in Pennsylvania, or any of the appendant bodies, offers a great many opportunities for philanthropy. Calling cards and baby showers provided to military families, supported by our blue lodges; tutoring for dyslexic children sponsored by the Scottish Rite; the children's hospitals funded by the Shriners; and the summer camps for children with Muscular Dystrophy backed by the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, all fill me with pride for the good deeds and impact we can accomplish in the world around us.

I am always impressed and humbled by the accomplishments of our Valley Hospitaler as well when I think of the countless hours and countless miles put in by Brother Vito Urso (and Brother Sammy Knappenberger before him). They have traveled far and wide, installing stairlifts and providing beds and other hospital equipment to our brothers in need, and have set an amazing example for any brother to look up to and emulate. They are the true embodiment of the vision that we should "strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members."

Amid all of this naches, I will admit there is a fact that still troubles me—how often we do not know that there are worthy brothers in need, out there suffering in silence. Maybe you too have experienced one of those embarrassing moments in your lodge, a sudden revelation that someone who had not been seen or heard from in some time has encountered some hardship—or worse yet, has passed on—without their brethren being aware of the circumstances.



I think the way to address this is two-fold. One aspect is doing what we can to maintain or improve the communication between our Masonic bodies and our membership. You may be approached by an officer, asking you to help by calling up a few brothers now and

then just to stay in touch; or the call may come in a more general form, from an officer standing up in the body of a meeting looking for volunteers. Don't take one step backward like one of the weaselly characters from *F Troop*. Step forward proudly like one of the heroes of the Bible and say, "Here I am!"

The other aspect is, I think we need to get beyond the stigma that surrounds asking for help when we need it. We know that men are stereotypically bad at this: Whether because we have a fixation on our role as "providers"; or because we feel obliged to be (or appear) tough; or because we don't want to be objects of pity. I must argue that we should have more faith in our brothers than to assume they will think any less of us for circumstances beyond our control. In fact, even if we have arrived at these events due to our own flaws, a good brother is not going to scorn you—a good brother is going to remember that he is just as flawed as you are. Give him a chance to prove himself a good and faithful servant.

As we move throughout our lives, then, let us always be prepared to give care. And, maybe more than we have been, let us be open and ready to receive care. And by this accumulation of our good deeds, big and small, let us make this world a fit dwelling place for the Grand Architect of the Universe by making it a brighter, happier, and more caring place for everyone else. □

The Valley held its annual Christmas Luncheon at Shannopin Country Club again this year. Surrounded by poinsettias and holiday decorations, 57 members and guests welcomed the opportunity to visit with each other before the busy-ness of the Christmas season made that all but impossible.

The participants kicked off the holidays in style with a delicious meal, holiday drinks, and entertainment provided by Bob Addleman and Bill Dorfner.

At the close of the event, a drawing was held, and many of the attendees were lucky enough to take home the poinsettias to add Christmas cheer to their own homes.

Valley Christmas Luncheon

Saturday,
December 2nd





PART TWO

The Coach's Manifesto

By D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

WELCOME BACK, FRIENDS, TO THE FINAL

installment of my hockey series. Over the past three issues, I've introduced you to some of my experiences as a hockey coach and shared insights on team-building and leadership from the player's view on the ice as well as the coach's view from behind the bench. Most of these thoughts come from years playing the game, coaching youth hockey, and an assist from USA Hockey, the primary governing body for youth ice hockey in America. It is from USA Hockey that I borrow the titular "Coach's Manifesto" as well as the "Player's Manifesto" presented in earlier articles. In each of these teaching tools, I have found wisdom applicable not only to the game itself, but also everyday life, and at all levels of age and experience. In this, my overtime article, I would like to share two more of my favorite thoughts from a coach's perspective and then tie both coaches and players together to show how mutual cooperation and respect can only help your team.



Players go all in for the Team

Nobody's Perfect

Relentlessly positive. "You'll catch more flies with sugar than with salt." That's my dad—my little league baseball coach growing up and a respectable high school football coach himself back in the day. Like many of you, I've never had a coach who didn't reach into his bag of crazy sayings from time to time and pull out a gem like that—a real "Dad-ism." We collect them like baseball cards and used concert ticket stubs. Why, you ask? Because first of all, they're cool and funny; but slightly more significant is that they remind us of important things that should stick with us throughout our lives. No one wants to remember bad times; tragedy; hurt feelings; unfairness. These aren't productive thoughts. Do these feelings sometimes shape who we are? Of course; but you should never define yourself based on something negative.

As a coach, you must strive to find the positive in every botched play, mental lapse, and loss. Facing down the negative empowers your players. Encouraging them to continue regardless of their imperfections only moves the team forward—you progress despite adversity. However, human nature is fickle, and we are all aware of the ease with which negative ideas, emotions, words, and actions can find their way into your game. That's why it's important for the successful coach to be relentlessly positive. Find the good and try to focus your team's energy in that direction. Keep moving forward!

The Passion Play

Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. There are all kinds of coaches and all kinds of leaders. Some are cerebral (NBA Coach, Phil Jackson—the "Zen Master"), while others are explosive (NCAA Basketball Coach, Bobby Knight). Some are frequently successful



D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

*“When we lose a game, that’s on me.
When we win, that’s on you.”*

(NHL Coach, Scotty Bowman), some speak sparingly (NFL Coach, Tom Landry), and others inspire through their own courageous battles (Women’s NCAA Basketball Coach, Pat Summitt). Regardless of the individual styles of these legendary coaching figures, they all share a common trait: their passion for the game. No team ever followed a leader who had no passion for his pursuit or a love for his players, and the same is true for all of your other daily endeavors. How can you coach without a love of the sport? How can you lead with no love for those who follow you? You can know every system, every drill, draw X’s and O’s on a white board like Rembrandt attacked a canvas, but if your players don’t buy into YOU, I promise you’ll find yourself alone on that bench surrounded by individuals doing their own things for nothing more than personal satisfaction—no team. Prove your passion first—not for yourself, but for those you wish to lead. Show your team that, above all else, you care what happens to them. My high school baseball coach (not my dad) used to say, “When we lose a game, that’s on me. When we win, that’s on you.” He took failures on alone to protect his team, and stood aside when we celebrated victories together as players. Coach Fisher understood. It wasn’t about what he knew as a coach, but how much his caring inspired us as players to always perform our very best. When you care like that, your team will respond, too.

Friends, the game clock has wound itself to zeroes and the Zamboni driver’s threatening to run us all over if we don’t clear off the ice. Now that we’re finished, I want you to consider these takeaways: your team is made up of players and coaches—it needs both. Find what suits you and BE A PLAYER or BE A COACH. It doesn’t matter which one you choose as long as you remember that it is your positive effort and influence that keeps the team moving forward. Look for different ways to apply some of these thoughts to your game,



Coaches and Teams for the Love of the Game



Teammates

then try them out in your life. I think you’ll find that success on any given team is born in the heart and carried in the spirit. Be relentlessly positive in your pursuits and you’ll find that your team will always end up winners.



UniontownUpdate

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

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

We Are Unique In Our Work

By J. Blair McGill, 32°

THE VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN is unique in that it is one of the few Valleys, if not the only one, in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction that presents all of the Lodge of Perfection degrees live on stage. I believe this makes the Valley's annual Reunion an especially meaningful experience for our candidates, as they witness the lesson of each degree depicted by the brethren of the Valley in dramatic fashion.

In each of the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection, our candidates and visitors are presented a valuable lesson. We



Members of the Valley prepare the stage for the reunion

learn the importance of discretion and the sanctity of a Mason's word. We are taught to respect the memory of those who have preceded us in the Masonic journey. The role of a Mason as a peacemaker and mediator who renders, impartially, equal justice to all men is depicted in our degrees.

We are told our diligence in labor is seen by the Lord. Even in a good cause, we are admonished to avoid excessive zeal and to be respectful of the laws of God and man. We are taught to be faithful to our obligations and that our efforts will ultimately be rewarded. Virtue is held as equal to talent in successful completion of our labor. We are shown that, although we will inevitably face difficulties and dangers on our journey, we must not allow them to deter us in our progression in pursuit of Perfection. And finally, when we reach the degree of Perfection, we are taught that a Mason's heart and body should be a temple where God may dwell. If we live our lives in such a way as to make that temple worthy of His residence, the world will be made better and happier as a result of our efforts.

As we experience and contemplate the lessons taught in the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection, we should be mindful of their relevance in our everyday lives as men and as Scottish Rite Masons. There is really nothing "mysterious" about

them. In their hearts, good men already know them and possess these qualities. As we have been told repeatedly, the purpose of Freemasonry is to make good men better. The Scottish Rite journey, beginning with the Lodge of Perfection, serves to enhance these basic

human values and in doing so, goes a long way toward accomplishing that noble purpose.

Our Valley's Fall Reunion exemplifies the spirit of Freemasonry.

Our Valley's Fall Reunion exemplifies the spirit of Freemasonry. It is truly a labor of love. The brethren who erect and disassemble the stage, the wardrobe and make-up staff who prepare the casts for each degree, the stage crew who labor behind the scenes, the kitchen staff, the directors, the officers, and the indi-

vidual degree teams all work hand-in-hand with unanimity. The teamwork and fellowship make the Reunion the high point of our Scottish Rite year.

Our Valley has historically welcomed visitors to our Reunion from all across the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and elsewhere, recently from as far away as Britain, who come to witness the Lodge of Perfection degrees with our class. If you have not yet had that experience, I extend a most cordial and fraternal invitation to join us next fall. I am confident that you will find it to be a most enjoyable and fulfilling stop in your individual Masonic journey. □

*** T H E ***
VETERANS
 CORNER

Welcome to the first edition of The Veterans Corner. Hopefully, you will find this column informative, interesting, and rewarding.

First of all, let me THANK all of our veterans and their families for their combined service to our country. It ensures that the freedom we love as Americans continues- no matter what the challenge.

Let's start by me asking a few questions.

Did you know that the Valley of Pittsburgh has a Legion of Honor for veterans only to join? Did you know that the MSANA (Masonic Service Association of North America), in addition to disaster relief, has a special hospital visitation program at both of the VA hospitals in Pittsburgh, and that YOU are all part of it as Masons.

Did you know that, as a veteran, you should be enrolled in the healthcare system even if you don't plan on using it (ever been on vacation or overseas)?

How about your DD214? Do you have a certified copy on file with the county office you reside in so you can quickly get a replacement if you should lose yours?

Do you know a veteran who needs assistance understanding the federal regulations, how to apply for claims or benefits, or navigate the healthcare system? If you have any questions or need any help with the VA, please contact me for assistance.

Would you like to volunteer at our local VA facilities? Do you have friends who would be willing to join you? Would your Lodge like to sponsor an outing, event, or party at the local VA hospital?

Remember Brothers back to the time you took the oath to protect and defend—there was NO expiration date on that—just like your Masonic oath and obligation. □

Spes mea in Deo est!

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

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



VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection 14°

Shawn P. Lang, 32° Thrice Potent Master
 Brian T. Wilding, 32° Deputy Master
 Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° Senior Warden
 David L. Moore, 32° Junior Warden
 Eric S. Teasdale, 32° Orator
 Peter A. Leary, 32°, MSA Master of Ceremonies
 Christopher A. McNeal, 32° Guard

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 Joseph G. Whitaker, 32° High Priest
 Robert M. Polander, 32° Senior Warden
 Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° Junior Warden
 Richard H. Kucera, 32° Master of Ceremonies
 Robert H. Nelson, 32° Master of Entrances

Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix 18°

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 Joshua S. Freeman, 32° Senior Warden
 Charles J. Anthony, 32° Junior Warden
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 Kristin M. Douglas, 32° Master of Ceremonies
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Allegiance

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts, and whose Officers are: Ill.: John Wm. McNaughton, 33°, *Sovereign Grand Commander*, Ill.: Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, *Deputy for Pennsylvania*. Other Active members for Pennsylvania are: Ill.: Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°, Ill.: George Nakonetschny, 33°, Ill.: Robert J. Bateman, 33°, Ill.: Keith E. Parkinson, 33°.

ValleyNews

A collection of recent happenings in the Valley of Pittsburgh



Valley of Pittsburgh participates in the Queen City Invitational

On November 11th, the Valley of Cincinnati hosted the Queen City Invitational, a multi-state, interjurisdictional degree day. In addition to the team from the Valley of Pittsburgh, Valleys from Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky participated as well.

The Valley of Pittsburgh was invited to confer the 19th Degree, *Brother of the Trail*, that afternoon. Brother Jeff Wonderling was the Prologist, and Brother PJ Roup portrayed Aaron. Brothers Bob Dunkle, Peter Leary, and Rodney Boyce were on crew, and Brother Dave Morgans directed.



Bob Dunkle, PJ Roup, Jeff Wonderling, Dave Morgans, Rodney Boyce, and Pete Leary at the Valley of Cincinnati

Valley of Pittsburgh announces an Elected 33° for 2017

Ill.·Eric Krauss Cohen, 33°

Valley of Pittsburgh announces the 33° nominations for 2019

William O. Chisko, 32°
Robert F. Dunkle, 32°
William G. Johnston, 32°
David E. Kearns, 32°
A. William Kiehl, Jr., 32°
Peter A. Leary, 32°, MSA
Brandon P. Neuman, 32°
Harry F. Smail, Jr., 32°
Eric S. Teasdale, 32°
Ronald C. Troy, 32°

Valley of Uniontown announces the 33° nominations for 2019

Franklin D. DeCarlo, 32°
Brian S. Phillips, 32°
Joseph A. Scaffoni, 32°

Valley of Pittsburgh announces the Meritorius Service Awards for 2017

R. Bruce Leary, 32°
Dwayne D. Kielman, 32°

Father and Son Receive Masonic Service Awards

On April 5th, Illustrious Walter Sykes was honored for his 80 years of membership in Freemasonry. Brother Sykes served as Thrice Potent Master of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection in 1976 and is a Trustee Emeritus for his long-time service to the Board of Trustees. At the same reception, Walter's son, Brother Robert Sykes received his Fifty-year Service Emblem as well. Congratulations to the Brothers Sykes on 130 years of combined Masonic service!



Grand Master presenting service awards



Current and former District Deputy Grand Masters of the 26th District

Prosit!

The Grotto room was transformed into a Bavarian banquet hall for the Valley's Oktoberfest and beer tasting on September 30th. An authentic German buffet complimented the beer samplings from Coal Tipple Brewery and All Saints Brewing Company. The crowd was entertained by Brother and DJ Nick Barcio.



Mindhunter Premiere

On October 13th, Ghost Light Productions and the Masonic Fund Society hosted a Pittsburgh premiere of the new Netflix series, *Mindhunter*. The David Finch series was filmed in Pittsburgh, and several Valley of Pittsburgh members worked as background actors in the show.



Extreme Makeover—Stage Edition

In January, the auditorium at the Valley of Pittsburgh will undergo a major renovation of the lighting system. State of the art LEDs, computerized fixtures and controls, as well as new video projectors are due to be installed. The new system will allow the Valley to fully customize the color and intensity of each light, adding a new level of ambiance to the degrees and plays that take place there. Be sure to come see the new system in action at the Spring Class in April.



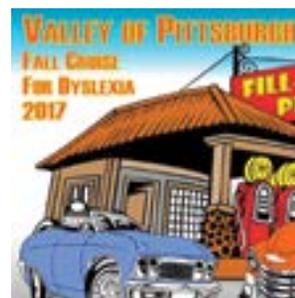
Music Director Emeritus Named

Illustrious G. Richard Zimmerman, 33° served in the U.S. Army in 1952. While stationed in Japan he joined John J. Pershing Lodge, a Military Masonic Lodge. After returning home, he settled in Washington, Pennsylvania, where he transferred to Sunset Lodge No. 623, and served as Worshipful Master in 1968. He is an

active member of the Valley of Pittsburgh where he has served as Choir Director and Organist since 1969. He also has served as Grand Organist for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Syria Temple Shrine. Brother Zimmerman was coroneted a 33° Mason in 1980.

Fall Car Cruise

More than 120 vintage, classic, and muscle cars showed up for the September Cruise for Dyslexia. Thanks to the attendees and the sponsors (Ray Donch Auto Body, Edelbrock, and Eagle One), more than \$900 was raised for the Children's Dyslexia Center.



TheLatest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

JAN
20

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

Burns Night Supper

A Celebration of the Life and Works of Robert Burns. The evening includes traditional Burns Night fare & entertainment: A four course meal, open bar, music, Highland Dance, poetry readings, and traditional Scottish food, desserts, and Scotch. Attire is Highland Evening Dress, Formal Evening Wear or Business Attire.

TIME: 6:30PM to 9:30PM
LOCATION: Ligonier Country Inn, Laughlintown, PA
COST: \$45/person
RSVP: **January 5**

FEB
2

FEB
3

Tickets are required!
For more details, please
contact the Valley Office:
secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org
412-939-3579

Adult Content

Join Ghost Light Productions for *Adult Content*—an evening of four one-acts, each examining a different aspect of adult life. *See full details on page 39.*

TIME: 7:30PM/Friday, 7:30PM/Saturday
LOCATION: GPMC
COST: \$10/earlybird
(purchased before Jan. 25)
RSVP: **January 25**
(after January 25, \$15/person)



FEB
1

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

Stated Meeting

Our February Stated Meeting will be a Ladies Night. Dinner will be available and entertainment will be provided for you and your lady. *Look for complete details in the upcoming meeting notice, arriving in your mailbox in January.*

TIME: 6:00PM/Dinner, 7:00PM/Meeting
LOCATION: GPMC
COST: \$10/Dinner
RSVP: **January 30**

FEB
24

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

Special Degree Exemplifications

Step back in time with a visit to a special meeting of “Poor Richard’s Lodge” as the Valley exemplifies the 25th Degree, *Master of Achievement*, honoring Brother Benjamin Franklin. In addition, the members of Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix will exemplify the 18th Degree, *Knight of Rose Croix of Heredom*.

TIME: 10:30AM
LOCATION: GPMC
RSVP: None required

Fellowship Breakfast

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

TIME: 9AM to 10:30AM
LOCATION: GPMC
COST: \$6/person (all you can eat)
RSVP: None required

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

MAR
16

Tickets are required!

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

RiteHouse Evenings presents:
Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks

Join us for our first ever RiteHouse Evening! The night will feature acoustic music from one of Pittsburgh's most iconic trios. You, your family, and friends are all invited to this open-to-the-public event. *Full details can be found on page 17.*

TIME: 6:30PM/Reception, 7:30PM/Performance
LOCATION: GPMC
COST: \$35/person
RSVP: **Tickets are required**



APR
20

APR
21

Reservations are requested.

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

**Spring Reunion Honoring
Ill. David A. Glattly, 33°,
Sovereign Grand Commander**

Join us for this annual two-day event that will feature several degrees, a traditional Friday night dinner and Saturday Luncheon. *Watch for more details in upcoming issues of the meeting notice.*

TIME: 5:00PM/Friday, 8:00AM/Saturday
LOCATION: GPMC
RSVP: **April 16**

JAN
27

FEB
24

MAR
24

Looking Ahead

MAR
10

**Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix
DeMolay Induction Class**
SATURDAY, MARCH 10 - 2PM

MAR
25

**Valley of Pittsburgh
The Story of the Crucifixion**
SUNDAY, MARCH 25

APR
5

**Valley of Pittsburgh
Stated Meeting**
THURSDAY, APRIL 5

MAY
5

**Inaugural Kentucky
Derby Party**
SATURDAY, MAY 5

JUN
7

**Valley of Pittsburgh
Stated Meeting**
THURSDAY, JUNE 7

JUN
10

Super Summer Car Cruise
SUNDAY, JUNE 10 - 11AM

JUN
16

**Valley of Pittsburgh
Charity Golf Outing**
SATURDAY, JUNE 16

Fraternal Classified Services Directory

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

ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

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www.RichReynoldsCPA.com

ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES

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Allen W. Ross www.mnr2insure.us

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Robert X. Medonis & Associates
Wills, Estates, Litigation 412-531-3131

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

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

AUCTION SERVICES

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

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

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

BAKERY / ESPRESSO BAR

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

BEARINGS & POWER TRANSMISSION

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

CATERING

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

Party Line Catering 412-882-7110
Brian Meador

CHIMNEY REPOINTING & REBUILDING

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

DISC JOCKEY

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

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

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

FUNERAL SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN / CREATIVE SERVICES

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

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

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

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

HOME REMODELERS

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

INSURANCE

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Michael Misour 724-274-6333

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

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

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Brian Winfield 724-864-9000

JEWELER

Werner Jewelers Since 1969 412-367-2336
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Alex Walters alexlandscaping@comcast.net

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Bob Johnston 724-695-7730

MERCHANT CREDIT / DEBIT CARD SERVICE

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jpodolinski@getnationwide.com 724-366-4900

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Budget Charters 724-246-1982
Gary F. Shimshock

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Wholesale Rates Paul@PAEquity.com

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HAnderson@Northwood.com

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Tom Coffey thomas.coffey3@verizon.net

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Bob Bennett bennettbuildings@aol.com

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H. Carl Brandtonies carlb@worldview-travel.com

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

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

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

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

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

VIDEO SECURITY

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

VIDEOGRAPHY SERVICE

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

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

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

ADULT



Sure Thing



Tarantino Variations



Brooding and Dangerous



Katie and Frank

CONTENT

A collection of four short stories.

FEB. 2 & 3 7:30 PM

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

For tickets, contact the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh

at **412-939-3579** or visit **adultcontent.eventbrite.com**

\$15 Regular Tickets

\$10 Earlybird Tickets*

*Tickets purchased before January 25, 2018



Scan for tickets

Enter Discount Code:
AASR
to receive **\$3.00** off
of your ticket price.



About Ghost Light Productions

Membership in Ghost Light Productions is open to all Scottish Rite Masons. We currently produce one or two runs of stage plays per year. In addition, we have produced two movies to compete in the 48 Hour Film Project. If you have an interest

and/or talent in any aspect of live theater or in film (acting/sound/wardrobe/lighting/camera/front-of-house/crew/marketing), please consider joining our team. More information can be obtained by contacting PJ Roup at pjroup@valleyofpittsburgh.org.

Valley of Pittsburgh
Gourgas Lodge of Perfection

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
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Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700



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