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THE MAGAZINE OF THE VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

THE TRAVEL ISSUE

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In Memoriam

Since our last issue, the following members
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Ill.: Donald E. Sauer, 33°

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about this issue

Brother Mark Twain said, “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.” When you travel, you always leave a part of yourself behind as well as bring a piece of that new place home with you. Whether your travels take you to distant lands, new Valleys, or different Jurisdictions, it is certain that you will return a changed man.

Those who attended the Steel City Invitational can attest to that. It was an event that forged many bonds that will last for decades to come.

We hope you enjoy escaping into this issue and experiencing the world through the eyes of our writers.



The Deputy

A message from the Supreme Council Deputy for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

The Trip of a Lifetime

By Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

It has been said that we are “traveling men” which is just another way of saying that we are brother Freemasons. As Scottish Rite Masons, our travel began with our first petition to the symbolic lodge and continued until we reached the coveted 32nd Degree. The itinerary entailed many elements. We started by being shown the light. We learned to shape ourselves into better men through the working tools, then focus those efforts further with the Scottish Rite core values. Through all the history, the allegory, and the symbolism, it is the trip of a lifetime.

On the journey, we learn to love one another, to care for our brothers in need, and to share the beautiful lessons learned from our ritual. No other organization can match what Freemasonry can teach men.

Our journey permits us to meet many others with the same interests as us. Each of us has become friends with dozens, even hundreds, of other men because of our Masonic relationship. It is a journey of Fraternal friendship and mutual

respect known to few other organizations.

For me personally, my journey began fifty-four years ago, and throughout those years I was rewarded with many new friends and brothers. My journey gave me many opportunities that I would not have had if not for this glorious Fraternity.

This journey, for me, provided an opportunity to serve,

to lead, and most of all to enjoy the fruits of my labors. Yes, for me the Masonic journey was a trip through life. I have had the privilege to travel through the vineyards of Freemasonry and the honor is all mine! □

“I have had the privilege to travel through the vineyards of Freemasonry and the honor is all mine!”



Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

TheActive

A message from the Supreme Council Active for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

A Toast to the Hosts (and Guests)!

By Paul J. Roup, 33°

There's a lot of talk of travel in this issue, of visits to other lands, other valleys. Travel can broaden your mind, cast off your preconceived notions, and enrich you in unexpected ways if your heart is open to it. But for every sojourner, there is an equally important counterpart—the host. The quality of experience for a traveler in a strange land can be made or broken by the host. An attentive and empathetic host—one who can help you navigate the culture, cuisine, and customs, anticipate your needs, and make you feel welcome—is invaluable. In the end, both host and guest are changed for the better—each having learned something from the other.

The pineapple has a nearly universal recognition as a symbol



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for hospitality. Since Freemasons are already accustomed to studying symbolism, perhaps a little history on the pineapple as a mark of welcome is in order. Originally brought to Europe by Columbus, the pineapple quickly became an indication of status. Only the wealthiest could afford this exotic, sweet fruit—the arduousness of the transatlantic journey spoiling much of the fruit before it could reach port. So coveted was this unimaginatively named fruit that King Charles II commissioned a portrait depicting him accepting a pineapple as a gift.

Later in colonial America, the trip from the Caribbean islands to the northern colonies was much shorter, but even still, only the quickest ships (or favorable winds) could bring pineapples to Boston, New York, or Philadelphia at their freshest. Families there showed their status by serving pineapple to their guests. If your host served you pineapple, you could be sure that he had spared no expense. In fact, less wealthy families were able to rent them as centerpieces before returning them to the more well-to-do for consumption.

To further elevate the pineapple as a mark of hospitality, tradition holds that the captains of the ships which were bringing the pineapples north would, upon returning home, place one on their fence, windowsill, or stoop to let their friends know that they had arrived in port safely and were ready to accept visitors.

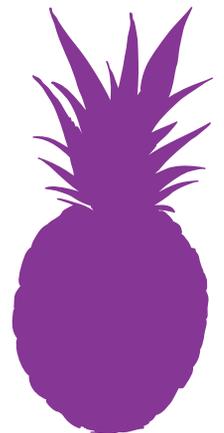
In November, the Valley played host to the Steel City Invitational. There may not have been pineapple,

but the two-day event featured exquisite Pittsburgh-themed food, legendary Scottish Rite fellowship, the sharing of Degree work, and Masonic conversation. In short, we grew.

When the festivities came to an end, we shook hands, embraced, exchanged contact information. Amid the wishes for safe travel and the promises to reciprocate visits, there was a palpable sense that we had all been changed—hosts and guests alike.

On Friday afternoon, we came together as Masonic acquaintances but parted that Saturday evening with a clear understanding that we are so much more alike than we are different. Whether we are from Cincinnati, Coudersport, or St. Cyprian Consistory, whether we belong to Uniontown or Pittsburgh, we all want the same thing: companionship, support, and encouragement as we seek to make ourselves better in the eyes of the Great Architect of the Universe and our fellow men.

To our guests: I thoroughly enjoyed your company. Thank you for sharing your talents and bringing your light to Pittsburgh. And to the Valley of Pittsburgh: Thank you for being gracious hosts, for sacrificing time and talent to make sure that our visitors wanted for nothing. I raise a glass to all of you. Make mine a Piña Colada. □





VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

**Children's
Christmas
Party**

The Princes line pulled a few strings with their friends at the North Pole and managed to get Santa to once again pay a visit to their annual Children's Christmas Party. The jolly man in red took the time from his busy schedule to visit with all the kids. He even made sure he brought enough presents so that each could go home with a toy.

Prior to Santa's arrival, the children and their families were entertained by magician, Michael Misko, and ventriloquist, Cindy Speck.

Mark your calendars now for this year's party to be held on December 14th.

□



The Chief

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

CONSISTORY

A Masonic Travelogue

By Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°



TRAVELING AND MEETING like-minded people with similar values along the way is one of the many benefits of the Craft. I often talk of the intent of being not only a Freemason but a Scottish Rite Mason. Since joining the Fraternity 26 years ago, I have eagerly traveled within many Masonic circles, meeting fine men of every economic and social class. To me, an intriguing facet of our group is that no matter the circumstance or condition, a Brother is always there to aid and assist, to offer hospitality and comfort when needed. I want to share just a few instances of brotherly love and assistance for your contemplation.

Brother George Etling served as guide when I was entered, passed, and raised and we became friends. He once told me about a trip that he and his wife had taken to Florida. They were somewhere in the Carolinas when Mrs. Etling started feeling very ill. George knew they needed to get off the road and rest for the night. As the story goes, they stopped at several motels, but alas, there was nary a room to be had. The problem: NASCAR was in town. As Brother George was about to leave the last motel, worried, tired, and dejected, the owner noticed his Masonic ring. He immediately made a few calls to the Brethren and found a place for them to rest for the night.

I was in New Brunswick hunting black bear one summer. Before I left Pennsylvania, I searched the web for any Lodges that may have been meeting during my stay. I learned that Hiram Lodge No. 6 in Fredericton, would be meeting that week. Not knowing the dress protocol, I packed my tuxedo. How many folks would pack formal wear on

a black bear hunt? The only person not astonished was my wife, Sharon, since living with me for a number of years has rendered her impervious to most of my shenanigans. To forgo an evening bear hunt to attend a lodge meeting, why that's just plum crazy. When I arrived at the lodge, the brethren performed the usual niceties to confirm that I was indeed a Mason. From that point forward, I was the honored guest. They had a steak fry and would not allow me to pay for my meal or beverages. They tried to seat me with the District Deputy Grand Master, and I think I may have offended him when I sat in the back. Four or five of the members pleaded with me to stay at their homes overnight fearing that I may hit a moose during the two-hour trip back to camp. Luckily the moose cooperated, and I returned safely to camp. In retrospect, it might have been a decent trade-off (a vehicle for a moose)—moose meat is that good. Unfortunately, I missed a bear that week. However, all was not lost. Brother Tim Shumar, seizing the moment, crafted a gavel for my year as Thrice Potent Master of the Valley of Uniontown. He managed to procure the toenail of a bear, and it hangs off of that gavel. To this day, he insists it was the only part of the bear I hit. Real funny guy!

A few years later King Solomon's Lodge sojourned to Brockville, Ontario to exemplify the Master Mason's degree. Our brothers to the north had a welcome dinner when we arrived Friday evening. The degree work was Saturday afternoon followed by a banquet. On Sunday, Brother Joe Borio hosted a party at his home located in the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River. He served a wonderful meal, shared some of the



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*“...no matter the circumstance or condition,
a Brother is always there to aid and assist...”*

finest Scotch in the world, and provided a band for entertainment. Another old friend, Brother Peter Alexander, provided a Tomahawk (Peace) Pipe for the enjoyment of the gathering. I don't mind sharing that I was a bit nervous two days later. As luck would have it, I wrecked a delivery truck and had to submit to the mandatory drug test. I thanked God that it was just tobacco in the peace pipe! Whew! They visited with us in Connellsville the following summer, and we reciprocated.

In November of 2017, the Valley of Pittsburgh was asked to confer the 19th Degree at the Queen City Invitational. The brothers of the Valley of Cincinnati could not have been more accommodating. They went above and beyond the call of duty. We were so appreciative. This past November they conferred a degree as part of the Steel City Invitational, and we were privileged to return the favor by rolling out the black and gold carpet for them.

In reflecting on these and many other encounters with Masons, I have realized that while conferring degrees is gratifying and taking care of Masons is satisfying, the greatest takeaways are the lifelong memories and fraternal

relationships, relationships that are easily forged because of our membership in the Fraternity. To paraphrase Ill. Thomas K. Sturgeon, Deputy for Pennsylvania: The bond that exists between Freemasons cannot be purchased or described, it's just there.

Over the past 26 years, Masonry has changed my life and the lives of my family. I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the positive effect it has had on Sharon and me, our boys, their wives, and our grandchildren. The journey from “where we've been” to “where we are” has been nothing short of astounding. Then I stop and realize that the trip is not complete, and, Lord willing, there are many great

Masonic relationships to be made that will continue to mold us into better people. It makes sense then, that in the end, it's all about how you, I, and all Masons positively affect others every day. In my view, I am so blessed to know each and every one of you, for it is you that makes me a better me. I hope you will agree that the possibilities our gentle Craft affords each of us are endless. They simply need a bit of nurturing.

“Foot to Foot”



What Makes a Traveling

By Austin R. Shifrin, 32°

I feel the need to begin by saying I am highly conscious that my audience

includes both people who are more experienced in Masonry than I am and people who are less so. I am truly grateful for the gift you grant me, in giving me this platform, and I hope that what I share can be enlightening to some, even if there may be others for whom what I reveal is not “news.” After all, some of you have traveled this road much farther than I, while others have only just embarked upon your journey. So today, I would like us to confront the question—what truly makes a traveling man?

The metaphor of travel enters into a man’s Masonic career at the very beginning of initiation. The presence of this symbolic journey in blue lodge results in the quaint, semi-secret exchange you will sometimes see between brothers who encounter each other in public, who are not yet certain of each other’s membership; where one will inquire of the other, “Are you a traveling man?” The metaphor also extends to appendant bodies, where we refer to “your Scottish Rite journey of a lifetime,” or when we say one should continue one’s journey from blue lodge to York Rite because of the links in the content.

I suppose I could be more discriminating with the language since it is more distinctly Masonic to refer to “travel,” while many other authors have deployed the metaphor of all life as a “journey,” but I don’t think it can do us harm to encompass both here.

When I think of literal travel, I often think of my grandparents on my mom’s side, who really got to see a lot of the world in their retirement. My grandfather was the quiet, shy, and intellectual one; my grandmother was the gregarious and outgoing one. When they traveled, they would sometimes go with friends who they knew they were already comfortable with and could be at ease; and thanks to her outgoing nature, they were also likely to make new friends during the journey with whom they might stay in touch.

We might see our Masonic travel as being similar: As I was discussing with a friend at a meeting just the other night, as you move from one body to another you will see many familiar faces, and you will make new friends there as well. The Masonic bodies today are like a Venn diagram, with a great deal of overlap. But what are the strengths and weaknesses of trying to use that metaphor of world travel to look at the Masonic journey? I think there are three important points to consider.

First: The blend of people you encounter in a Masonic body might be viewed less as the group of people traveling with you, and more like the culture of the land you are visiting. In this case, I might actually prefer it if the mix of people included more of the new – I’d like my Scottish Rite experience to have a flavor that’s distinct from my Shrine experience, and those distinct from my York Rite experience, and those distinct from my Tall Cedars experience. I would like my travels to challenge my palate and broaden my mind.

Second: If the preponderance of familiar faces means that the same individuals are taking on leadership roles in multiple organizations, this could be a red flag. Even with the best of intentions, wanting to serve their fellow members and support bodies that are in need of assistance, we run a risk of simply burning people out.



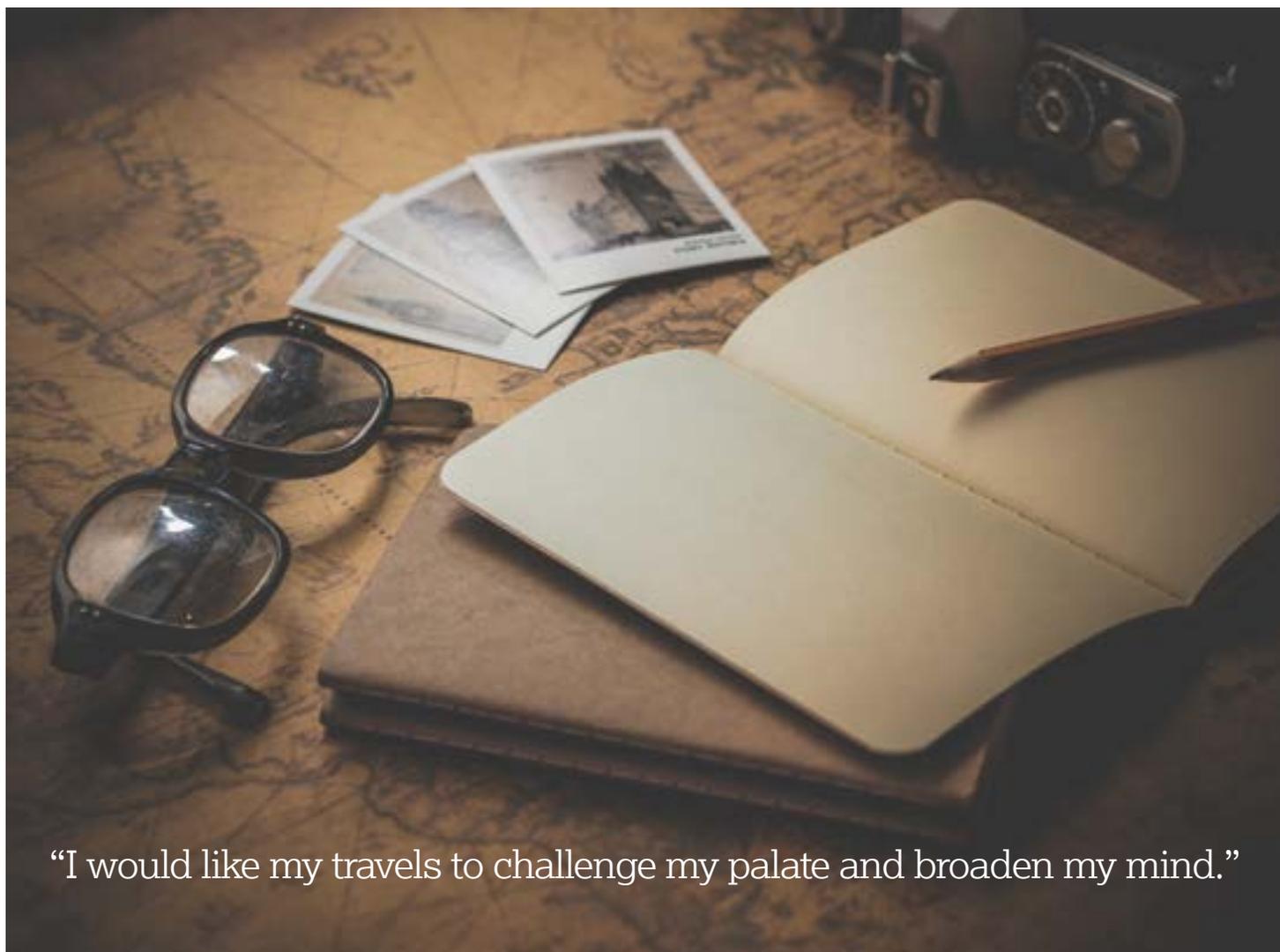
Austin R. Shifrin, 32°

Man?

And third: If the desire to explore the many appendant bodies may be analogous to the curiosity or sense of adventure that inspires us to travel to new and different lands, we should make sure not to take for granted the treasures in our own back yard. It is possible to be worldly but not be versed in the heritage of your native land. I know people who have dedicated more of their time, in

a focused manner, to an ongoing study of blue lodge—traveling more in their mother country, instead of farther afield—and the depth of their knowledge speaks well of them.

In addition to traveling through space, we might discuss the notion of traveling through time. Is this a far-fetched



“I would like my travels to challenge my palate and broaden my mind.”

“...we should make sure not to take for granted
the treasures in our own back yard.”

idea best consigned to the realm of science fiction? Yes and no. It is true that we have not yet developed a technology or method that permits us to travel backward and forward (or sideways!) through time in a controlled and intentional fashion. But approximating this kind of activity in thought and language is not so foreign as it might sound at first. After all, language is used in the second degree regarding all of us traveling forward in time as we progress naturally through life. Physics suggests to us that time might be somewhat like a dimension in space (dimensions that we use as very common terms, such as width and height) so that in the same way as we might say, viewed from above, what is in front of us and what is behind us exists on the same level plane as where we stand presently; we might say that, if we could be distanced somehow from the “plane” of time, we would see that the past and the future coexist together with the present, all in this plane of being.

If you can get comfortable with this thought exercise, perhaps we can expand in another direction. What might we mean by moving “sideways” in time? It has been suggested that, if the created universe is infinite, there must exist “somewhere” a reality like ours in every detail except for one consequential decision or outcome—a “parallel” reality (a concept first proposed by a Princeton physics graduate student named Hugh Everett in 1957). The physical analogue to aid our imagination is that if we are traveling along a timeline in the world as we know it, this parallel reality would result from a decision or outcome that differed slightly in the past, resulting in a different present “next to” us.

It might be said that by utilizing memory, we can at least figuratively travel backward in time. We might agree it is valuable to reflect on the experience of the past, to guide us in understanding the state of our present, or preparing us to make better-informed choices for our future. It might also be said that by exercising our imaginations, we are capable of traveling “sideways” to examine those hypotheticals of what might have been. But I feel this is a dangerous pitfall; is it not futile to become preoccupied with what might have been, when what’s done is done, and we cannot alter the current state once the lot has been cast?

But I think we might benefit from the notion of traveling to the future—at least, mentally. Some frameworks for describing this, such as Creative Visualization, are somewhat mystical and not very scientifically grounded—suggesting that the mere act of envisioning can shape or direct the future. But many strategists will advocate picturing the desired end state in order to work toward it. Even Stephen Covey touts, in his popular book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, “Begin with the end in mind” as the first of his “habits.” And futurist Joel Barker has presented on “The Power of Vision” to myriad organizations.

There is a phrase we deploy in the first degree, trying to explain to the candidate many curious details of his initiatic experience, asserting that all of them carry weight and significance. I believe the concept of travel as a symbol is no exception. So, whether we speak of traveling across the terrestrial orb, among the Masonic bodies, or even through time itself—I hope you will pause to appreciate the power of language and metaphor, and what it can truly mean for a Mason to be a traveling man. □



TheWise

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

ROSE CROIX

Growing on the Journey

By Joshua S. Freeman, 32°

There are very few of us who don't like to travel. Especially this time of year in Western Pennsylvania, many of us are looking for any excuse possible to go south and escape winter's grip. Travel allows us an escape. It can be an escape from freezing weather, from our usual labors at work, or the tedium of everyday life. Travel allows us to get away, to rest and recuperate, to unwind. Travel may also permit us to return. Possibly to return home to visit family, to see old friends, to revisit the



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playgrounds of our childhood, and to remember.

While travel can be an opportunity to escape, to relax, and to visit friends and family, travel is also an opportunity—a chance to explore new places, meet new people, try unfamiliar cuisines, or immerse ourselves in a different culture or community. Travel, therefore, is also a learning experience and an opportunity to broaden our knowledge. It allows us to create new memories and to expand our understanding, making a more rounded person. And while we may become rounded in more ways than one, depending on exactly how much indulging in new cuisines one undergoes, the cumulative effect of travel referenced here refers to a well-rounded, complete person, an individual who has experienced a variety of places and peoples. A journey should have a positive effect on a person. New experiences and places should allow us a broader perspective, an understanding and acceptance of a variety of people, and an appreciation for what all locales and people bring to the table.

In Freemasonry, we are taught that each of us is simply a traveler. In our symbolic degrees, we are told that we are progressing along through life in several stages and that each of these

phases of life has lessons that we are to learn, tools we are to master. As we progress through each, and as these lessons take hold and we learn to use the tools, we begin to improve. We should emerge at the end changed, altered from the experience. In contrast to the rough ashlar at the beginning, by the end of our travels, we should be the

finished stone, the perfect ashlar, ready to be fit to the builder's purpose. This, of course, is the ideal.

Much like in actual travel, in our Fraternity, it is up to us to take in the lessons and experiences. It is, of course, possible to travel to different parts of the country or around the world and not learn anything. It is up to the individual to take in their surroundings, to engage with people and places. One can undoubtedly travel somewhere with his head buried and emerge from

“Much like in actual travel, in our Fraternity, it is up to us to take in the lessons and experiences.”

the experience none the wiser. And of course, not all travel experiences are positive. We've all had those trips that seem like they were straight out of Hades. However, the important thing is to learn from each travel experience. There is something to be taken away from every event in life. If we learn from the experience, there is value to it.

Such is the case with Freemasonry. Every experience has value, has something to offer to our life view. While the

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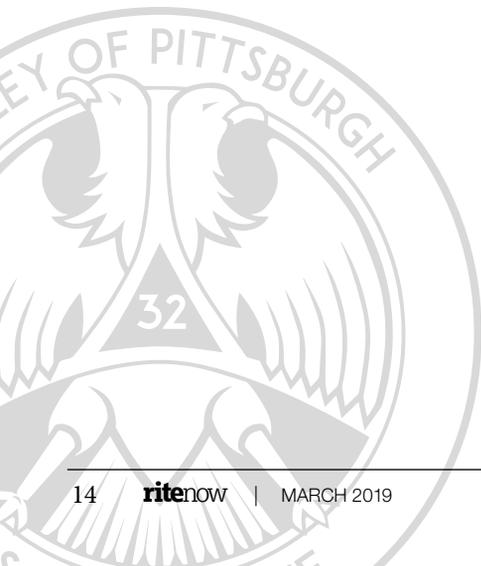
RITEHOUSE EVENING

Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks Acoustic

The third RiteHouse Acoustic Evening took place on February 2nd at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. At 7 pm, opening act, Joe Weiss, got the crowd of more than 300 ready to dance. At 8 pm, the headliners, Scott, Rob, and Greg of The Clarks Acoustic, took the stage and played a two-hour set of their own music as well as popular covers requested by the audience. All attendees received a Valley of Pittsburgh glass to commemorate the event.

Look for future RiteHouse Acoustic Evenings coming soon!

□





I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

excerpt from *The Road Not Taken*—Robert Frost



The Road Less Traveled



D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

By D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

“Are you a traveling man?” It’s one of those peculiar queries that pop up in conversation from time to time among men who believe someone to be a brother Mason. The question itself is simple enough as it is merely a thinly veiled means of identification. However, the greater implications can run much deeper. Every Mason is a traveler, but your experiences along the road help to define you in more ways than one.

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” This Chinese proverb is attributed to the philosopher Lao Tzu and is particularly true in Freemasonry. The question is, where are you going when you take that first step forward? In his book, *The Initiatic Experience*, Brother Robert Herd writes that he believes this step “is meant to spark the beginning of a new path, or journey of consciousness, personal behavior, and social interaction.” Wow. What have we gotten ourselves into? The truth is that this so-called journey is different for every Brother. What is more of a mystery to most is: where are you going?

Social Interaction

Men join Freemasonry for many reasons. Some join for the friendship and feelings of loyalty and companionship. It is human nature to want to belong to a group made up of members who share your interests. Let’s face it—we are social animals. A sense of community is important to many men. That same sense of community is also vital in times of crisis. Knowing that there are others who share a common bond gives us confidence, and in some cases assurances of relief when things don’t go as planned. The Fraternity can represent a refuge or shelter, a place of rest and

refreshment to re-energize the body and spirit. For many, this is the goal, the destination of the journey. Finding the right fit for yourself, be it in a lodge room or one of the many appendant bodies, is up to the individual. Being comfortable with your fraternal family is the goal of every such traveler.

Personal Behavior (Working Inside-Out)

There are those, however, who wish to journey farther down the figurative path. For these men, the bonds of friendship and comfort are only part of the goal. Often Brothers see the Fraternity as a means of bettering themselves by cultivating their everyday life skills. In the Lodge, they can improve their skills in public speaking, management, problem-solving, leadership, training/education, conflict resolution, and finance. Learning to serve in the Lodge will also test your creativity, teach patience, and hopefully sow seeds of compassion. Each of these abilities is very valuable in the business world, and the man who can exhibit a mastery of such assets will find great success in secular society by daring to make a longer excursion along the road a part of their Masonic

Upon the Checkered Pavement

experience and laboring within the Lodge.

Consciousness (Working Outside-In)

It has long been said that Freemasonry makes “good men better.” While that is a wonderful turn of phrase, I believe reality to be a bit more complicated. What I mean to say is that to make a man “better” than what he is requires substantial change, hard work, and continuous study. This course may lead the traveler beyond the walls of his home Lodge and to advanced studies in the appendant bodies. Yet finding like-minded Brethren interested in the more profoundly philosophical or esoteric aspects of Freemasonry may be challenging. This is the road less traveled for many on their Masonic journey. Those Brethren earnestly seeking to smooth the rough outside edges of their characters and make lasting changes on the inside follow a much longer road. To them, the path of self-improvement is an enlightenment not merely at the end of the path but in every step along the way. For these travelers, looking to sources outside of the comfort of the Lodge and seeking Truth and Light in the advanced teachings of other Masonic bodies and skilled Brethren is the best way of improving themselves on the inside.

Extended study and practical application of the ideas taught in the Craft may lead you to be a better man, but the ideals represented in Masonry are only a map. Every Brother must decide for himself how—and how far—to follow it. Whether you realize it or not, you set out on a journey with your very first step in Freemasonry. You may not have known your destination at the time or what you wanted to achieve at the end. Your goal may have been camaraderie and social interaction; it may have been to learn certain skills to make yourself more valuable in society or as a means to help others; or maybe you chose the less trodden trail and seek to make the changes in yourself that only come with time and experience. The point is, we are all Traveling Men, each on his own pilgrimage but all sharing the same road somewhere along the way. Be proud of your journey, where you’ve been, and what you’ve accomplished. Be ready to aid a fellow traveler, and never be afraid to take that next step. □

**Journeys bring power
and love back into you.
If you cannot go somewhere,
move in the passageways of the self.
They are like shafts of light,
always changing,
and you change when you explore them.**

excerpt from The Importance of Setting Out—Rumi



The Office

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

Home Base

By David W. Morgans, 33°

The concept of travel is generally not associated with the activities of the Valley office, but strangely enough, it could be. While the office functions as home base for our members, we often get news of or share in Scottish Rite Masons' travels. One way we get news is when a Valley member moves and lets us know of their new address. This is a critical form of communicating with the office. Current addresses make correspondence much easier and more efficient for the Valley. We appreciate it when our members let us know in advance of new mailing addresses as it reduces returned mail and verifies with the Valley member that we have correctly changed the address. A simple call to the Valley with new mailing information keeps our database up-to-date and allows you to receive mailings in a timely fashion.



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

An even simpler way of updating your contact information is to go to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website scottishrittenmj.org, open the "Member Center" tab, sign in with your member number on your dues card and update your information. Not only will you be able to update your mailing address, but you will also be able to add or change phone numbers, email addresses, family members and military service information. You can even pay dues, make donations, or shop for Masonic-related items from there. You will also be able to reminisce on your Scottish Rite "travels" by reviewing your Degree history. That leads me to the next way in which the Valley office shares in your "travels."

Our database can keep track of the Scottish Rite degrees that you have seen. In the past, only the individual member kept track of his Scottish Rite travels by getting his Passport stamped each time he saw a different degree. The Passport is a great way to keep track of your travels and we continue to use that method today. Passports, however, sometimes get lost. If you inform the Valley office of the degrees you have seen, we can enter it into our database to keep a duplicate account of your travels. That way, should you ever lose your

passport, we can tell you where you've been and what you still need to see, or you can look it up yourself in the "Member Center" of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website.

The Valley of Pittsburgh does a great job of offering each of the twenty-nine degrees at our reunions and exemplifications over a four to six-year period. Our members can complete their Scottish Rite journey by never leaving home. However, I would hazard a guess that most of us did not join a world-wide Fraternity only to stay home. Physically travelling to other Valleys is a great way to enhance your Scottish Rite experience. It allows you to see other facilities, witness degree work presented by different people, meet new Scottish

"I would hazard a guess that most of us did not join a world-wide Fraternity only to stay home."

Rite Masons, and bring back stories of your travels to share with those you see at home. Don't forget to let the Office know if you get to see any new degrees.

The Office staff is always blessed when Brethren and their families or friends stop by as they travel through Pittsburgh. They are always given a tour of our facility and amazed by the quality of the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. We get to hear about the journey that brought them to Pittsburgh, their home Valley, and

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The Sovereign

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

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

Hometown Proud

By Joseph G. Whitaker, 32°

The year has ended and a new one has begun. I want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting the annual Children's Christmas party sponsored by the Princes of Jerusalem. We had around 200 children come out and enjoy the pizza, magic, ventriloquist, and Santa. It was a splendid day. I look forward to doing it again next year.

Last year, I got to travel to the Valley of Scranton for a stated meeting accompanied by Brother Robert Schwanbeck. We were well received and had the good fortune to see the conferral of the 16th Degree, which is a Princes' degree. In January, the Valley of Scranton aired the Modern 8th Degree, *Solomon Ascending*. This degree was conceptualized, performed, and recorded by our Valley and is now being shown around the jurisdiction. We should be very proud!

It is nice to tell people that I am from the Valley of Pittsburgh! Our Valley is something to be proud of. No matter where I go, I always hear about what we are doing and how progressive it is. We are able

to do these types of things through the hard work and support of our members and officers. Over the last several years, we have created exciting events that most everyone can find some enjoyment in.

Car cruises, concerts, fellowship breakfasts, plays, and baseball games are just a few of the activities that we have for our members' enjoyment. We have something for everyone, and more importantly, we make fellowship a part of every event.

Your travel schedule may not take you as far away as mine, but please take some time to travel out to the Scottish Rite events. You will not be disappointed!

On a more personal note, I need to say a heartfelt thank you to all the people who came out last year to support the local Masonic Youth and their Fellowship breakfast. We served 1,061 people last year. It was an incredible accomplishment both for the kids and for the patrons. There is nothing better than sharing a meal with others and providing some charity at the same time. Keep up the good work this year! □

“No matter where I go, I always hear about what we are doing and how progressive it is.”



Joseph G. Whitaker, 32°
sp@valleyofpittsburgh.org

The Potent

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

LODGE OF PERFECTION

Riddle Me This

By Brian T. Wilding, 32°

What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon and three legs in the evening?

An old riddle, but I think a good one for this issue's theme. It speaks to a journey—the travel if you will—of the growth of man. As infants, we walk (or crawl) on all fours. In our prime, we walk on our own two feet. And in our later years, we walk along with a cane for help. What better analogies for the path of a Mason? What better images to illustrate the growth of a man as he treads the path of light out of darkness?

As an infant we are born blind, barely seeing and not aware of our world. As new Masons, the same holds true. We surely only know one or two people as we go through our degrees. We're brought from darkness into true light. We are slowly introduced to the

Masonic family. We crawl through learning our parts in our initiation, passing, and raising. We're often overwhelmed by the number of people who we now share a bond with. It's all new, like a baby learning that those fingers it has been chewing on are actually its own. We begin our crawl through the Masonic organizations, learning what group does what events, who belongs to which bodies and which ones fit our time and interests. We stumble and make mistakes like true infants, but we have people watching out for us and helping us find our way.

And once we begin to find our way, we're off and running – often to the surprise of others, and often just as careless and reckless as adolescents. We usually take on a lot to begin with, almost too much. But as we grow and mature into viable, hardworking Masons, we find our groove. We discover our paths, whether it's as an officer in a chair, as a member of a committee, or even as a regular attendee at meetings willing to lend a hand when needed. We lose the rough edge of exuberance for the more refined edge of experience and enjoyment. We walk through our lives, proud of our Masonic family, and willing to share it with others. Sometimes without even knowing it, we blaze a trail for others to follow. Either way, our path is filled with long strides, and the journey has only begun.

Eventually, we're in our Past: Past Master, Past This or Past That. Usually, we begin our journey with no bling,

and somewhere along the line, we have to decide which bling we're going to wear to which meeting. The bling, of course, being our past officer's jewels. I know, bling is a little flippant, but once you get past the seriousness of Masonry and find the enjoyment and fun, the actual terms matter little. In our years of age, if you will, we've served as officers in one or more Masonic bodies, met countless Masons, and formed friendships we would never have imagined. Some of us do indeed walk with a cane as a third leg, but moreover, I feel that our experiences become that helping hand as we walk along now. We learn temperance, patience, respect, and tolerance—even if we aren't trying to. We learn the true face of people, and we learn how to judge them as we learn to judge ourselves. The hurried pace of our Masonic life seems to matter just a little less, and we enjoy seeing everything from a different view.

And all through this, we see the journey over and over. We're part of someone's beginning as they look to us, much to our shock, for mature guidance. We're shoulder to shoulder with our brothers as we serve the Fraternity, supporting each other and learning from each other. Sadly, we're even there at the end, as we say farewell to our brothers as they are called home. Our journey is one that is unique as it's not the same for everyone. Where our journey takes us is uncertain. Sometimes it takes us to places we want to be, other times to places we need to be. But our journey is well worth the taking. The real question is where will yours take you? □



Brian T. Wilding, 32°
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Children's Dyslexia Center **UPDATE**

The Places You'll Go!

Everyone has their own path to travel in life. Every path is comprised of rough terrain and "smooth sailing." Sometimes the rough terrain is merely the natural composition of an area. There are times when "a little help" is needed to navigate through those challenging places. That's what we do at the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh.

Our students have encountered bumpy terrain that is caused by nature itself. Dyslexia is a neurobiological condition—the actual biological construction of their brain. This natural construction makes it challenging to learn to read with traditional instruction. Our trained tutors offer the students "a little help" to open a better path. We are literally building "pathways" in their brain so they can learn. We do this through the Orton-Gillingham approach: a sequential, multisensory phonetic approach.

As stated on the Children's Dyslexia Centers' website, "The positive impact of early intervention on the lives of these children and their families is enormous and inspires our commitment to this program. Services

provided by the Children's Dyslexia Centers equip children with the skills and the confidence they need to approach learning with eagerness and without fear."

Thus, the trajectory of a child's life is impacted. We are collaborating with their parents and their education to open the world. As Dr. Seuss said, "Oh, *The Places You'll Go!*" □

- "You have brains in your head.
- You have feet in your shoes.
- You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
- You're on your own.
- And you know what you know.
- And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."

Oh, the Places You'll Go!—Dr. Seuss

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



SPECIAL PROGRAM

Giant Eagle Apple for the Students program

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

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

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

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

30 students enrolled this year



TheWise continued from page 13

lessons taught in Freemasonry lay out a specific path we are to follow, it is up to the individual to fully embrace that journey. It is incumbent on us as individuals to learn from each interaction and experience. As we progress through the phases of our journey and attempt to understand the tools of the craft and their application to our daily lives, we must remember that the perfect ashlar is the ideal that we are all to strive for. We may not get there. We may have stumbles along the way. But if we do our best to learn from our experiences, we will emerge from the journey a much better person.

It is often said that the mission of Masonry is “to make good men better.” I wholeheartedly believe that—and what a valuable and worthwhile mission. But merely being a member of this great Fraternity is not enough. It is up to the individual to be willing to accept and learn from the lessons that we are taught. Much like travelers to a foreign land, if we do not embrace and engage with our Fraternity and its members, if we do not reach out and participate in the culture and experience, then we will learn nothing from it. We will have just glided along, none the better or wiser for our membership. I encourage each of you to reach out, take hold, and enjoy the journey that is this great Fraternity. Learn its lessons, meet its people, and do everything you can to learn from the experience and emerge a better person at the end of the journey. □

TheOffice continued from page 19

their Masonic connections. It is always a good time of fellowship for the office staff and a new experience for our travelling Brethren. I would encourage each of you as you travel for business or pleasure to see if you will be near a Scottish Rite facility and stop by to say “hello” to one of your Brothers.

The Valley office also shares in the tough travels of our Brethren when they are ill or when they complete the final leg of the journey of life “toward that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns.” Please let the Office know if a member of the Valley of Pittsburgh is ill or is struggling and would like to have the comfort and companionship that our Hospitalers provide. Also, please let us know if a Valley member passes away so we can make sure that they are remembered both at our next Stated Meeting as well as in this magazine. We are a family of Scottish Rite Masons and as such we are brothers who are there for each other in times of hardship and/or death, but we can't be there for each other if we don't know what's going on.

Darlene, Bob and I are home in the Office willing, ready and able to share in your journeys. Call us, email us or write us. We'll leave a light on for you. □

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2018 - July 31, 2019

Gourgas Lodge of Perfection 14°

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

Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem

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

Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix 18°

Joshua S. Freeman, 32° Most Wise Master
Matthew A. Boice, 32° Senior Warden
Kristin M. Douglas, 32° Junior Warden
Anthony J. Corcoran, 32° Orator
Jordan L. Frei, 32° Master of Ceremonies
Charles F. Zurcher, 32° Guard

Pennsylvania Consistory 32°

Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33° Commander-in-Chief
William G. Johnston, 32° 1st Lieutenant Commander
Rodney E. Boyce, 33° 2nd Lieutenant Commander
William L. Holman, 32° Orator
Benjamin J. Douglas, 32° Chancellor
Robert B. McGinnis, 32° Master of Ceremonies
Aaron J. Antimary, 32° Engineer & Seneschal
David C. Runco, 32° Standard Bearer
William B. Bittinger, 32° Guard
Paul J. Roup, 33° Treasurer
David W. Morgans, 33° Secretary
Vito A. Urso, 33° Hospitaler
Dennis R. Johnston, 33° Tiler
Charles M. Bombich, 33°, Peter A. Leary, 32°, MSA,
Joseph G. Whitaker, 32° MFS Representatives

Executive Committee

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William G. Johnston, 32° Rodney E. Boyce, 33°
Brian T. Wilding, 32° Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°
Joseph G. Whitaker, 32° Robert M. Polander, 32°
Joshua S. Freeman, 32° Charles J. Anthony, 32°
Paul J. Roup, 33° David W. Morgans, 33°
Jeff A. Biddle, 33°, Trustee . Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, Active

Trustees

Jeff A. Biddle, 33°, Chairman
Thomas M. Gasmire, 33° George W. Polnar, 33°
Keith J. Caito, 33° Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°
Richard A. Rodibaugh, 33° Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°
Brian T. Wilding, 32° Joseph G. Whitaker, 32°
Joshua S. Freeman, 32° Paul J. Roup, 33°
David W. Morgans, 33°

Allegiance

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



VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

Christmas Luncheon

Shannopin Country Club again hosted this year's Valley Christmas Luncheon.

Guests dressed in their holiday finery to enjoy cocktails and holiday cheer with their friends from the Valley of Pittsburgh. The elegant three-course meal started with a roasted tomato bisque. The main course was a choice of crab cake, chicken marsala, brined pork tenderloin, or stuffed portabella.

Bob Addleman and Bill Dorfner entertained the crowd with holiday favorites, and at the close of the event, nearly everyone went home with a beautiful poinsettia.

□



Short Games Basics—Pitching

By Eric S. Teasdale, 32°

IN THIS ISSUE, we will continue to build on the other lessons to help develop and improve your golf game by continuing with the scoring shots. In this article, I will focus on providing a methodology for getting the ball in the hole more efficiently through pitching.

To review my previous article on chipping: one basic rule of thumb regarding all short game shots is this: putt the golf ball whenever you can, chip the golf ball when you can't putt it, and pitch the golf ball **ONLY** when you have to. A pitch is a longer swinging motion—a lofted shot where the golf ball gets in the

air, lands on the green softly, and does not roll very much. It is also the most complex of short game shots due to the number of moving parts, so proper technique is critical to the success of the shot.

Nearly all golfers struggle with their pitching because it is a relatively long swing for the distance that the shot is going to go. The longer swing is essential to achieving speed which, coupled with the loft of the club, will get the ball in the air quickly and help it to land softly. The clubhead has to be accelerating through impact to be successful. Unfortunately,

most golfers decelerate the clubhead during the downswing which results in poor contact and poor distance control.

The main principle, which I will be mentioning repeatedly throughout the short game series, is that the position of your hands at impact **MUST** be in front of the golf ball, with the shaft leaning towards the target, at impact. This very important principle is essential to solid consistent contact, which will help improve your direction and distance control. Please refer to the following series of illustrations below on how to properly pitch a golf ball.



Set-up Position

Get into your normal balanced set-up position with the following exceptions: I prefer to have my feet at shoulder width to maintain a firm base, set my hands even to slightly forward of the golf ball at address (very little shaft lean), and set my ball position more forward in my stance—off my left instep. My weight is evenly distributed at address. These four set-up keys are essential to ensuring solid contact for directional and distance control which is the key to successful pitch shots.



Back Swing Position

During the backswing, two things must happen for success. It is essential for both wrists to hinge, or cock (above left), and to have the right forearm rotate clockwise to open the face of the club (above right). This will promote a steeper angle of attack and keep the face open to get the golf ball in the air. Again, the hands, are coordinated with the arms. The length of the backswing is dictated by the distance needed for the golf shot. Also, please notice that there is very little movement in the legs during the backswing, which helps maintain a firm base.



“Happiness is a long walk with a putter.”

—Greg Norman



Eric S. Teasdale, 32°

Club Choice

As with chipping, most golfers have a favorite club when it comes to pitching which will lead to inconsistent results. Because the shot is a lofted shot, you will be choosing from the more lofted clubs (the wedges) in your bag. In my golf bag, I have a lot of flexibility in that I carry four different wedges. Side note: ideally there should be a gap of 4 degrees between each wedge in your golf bag. The loft of the wedges in my bag are: 46, 50, 54 and 58.

When choosing a club for pitching, determine the following: what carry distance is required, and how much green you have to work with once the ball lands. If you do not have a lot of green

between the fringe and the flagstick, use a **MORE** lofted wedge. If you have a significant amount of green between the fringe and the flagstick, use a **LESS** lofted club and let the ball roll to the hole. Choosing the right club for the situation will make your pitching more consistent. Think of it this way: if you were to use the same club every time, you would have to increase the speed of your arm swing for longer shots and decrease it (or decelerate the club) for shorter shots. As I stated in the chipping article, the goal is to have a consistent arm swing relative to speed or effort and change clubs depending on the total distance of the shot and how far you have to land it on the green.



Mid Forward Swing

As you can see in the picture, the wrists are maintaining the same level of hinge, or cock, on the forward swing as at the top of the backswing. This is where most golfers err. This principle helps to create a steeper angle of attack, helps to keep the clubhead accelerating, and helps to keep the hands slightly forward at impact.



Impact Position

At impact, the club will strike the golf ball with the body in the same position as in the set-up position. This will help with a more repeatable motion. Remember, the number one fundamental is for the hands to be in front of the golf ball at impact. The left wrist **MUST** be firm through impact. Also, notice that my right knee has started to shift/pivot toward the target and my chest is starting to rotate toward the target. Also, in this picture, you will note that the clubhead is under the ball and the golf ball is in the air. Lastly, remember that solid contact equals good distance control and direction.

“I’ve always made a total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against me. I never quit trying; I never felt that I didn’t have a chance to win.”

—Arnold Palmer

“I love to play golf, and that’s my arena. And you can characterize it and describe it however you want, but I have a love and a passion for getting that ball in the hole and beating those guys.”

—Tiger Woods



Finish Position

My right knee has continued to pivot toward the target (above left) and I have finished my forward pivot. There is still a gap between my knees which indicates a firm base. Note that both arms are extended which helps the golf ball land softer. My chest has fully rotated toward the target (above right). Look at how the left wrist has still not broken down and my head has started to rotate **AFTER** impact. Finally, the face of the clubhead is still pointing toward the sky which has helped produce a lofted shot. That position—clubface pointing up—is another position where most golfers err, tending to close the face quickly.

Summary

Remember that the goal for pitching is to produce a lofted shot that lands softly on the green between the fringe and the flagstick and does not roll very much.

This article is the second in a four-part series designed to help you with the scoring shots. In the next issue, we will take a look at bunker basics. Remember, the easiest way to lower your scores and improve our golf game, is to practice and work on these scoring shots. If you routinely take two or more shots to get the ball on the green and you can improve that to one shot, you are going to improve drastically. Again, golf is not a hard game, but to get better, proper practice and technique are required.

If you continue to have trouble with your pitching, please consult your local PGA Golf Professional. □

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

UniontownUpdate

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

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

The Road to a Better Me

By Thomas G. Taylor, 32°

While it has been said that “the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step,” it is one question — “How do you become a Mason?” — that begins a Man’s Masonic journey to enlightenment and self-improvement.

When my nephew and I asked that question of my dad, we began a journey that may have only required three steps, but those ancient steps led us down a path of self-discovery and growth that many good and worthy men have traveled before us, ultimately making us better men for having taken the journey.

Since beginning my Masonic journey, I can honestly say that I have noticed a change in how I handle most situations. I attribute that change—as well as many others—to the lessons taught in the Masonic degrees. I find myself listening more so that I may better understand the situation at hand, allowing me to better resolve the issue facing me. I can’t tell you the number of times that I have been met with a

daunting task or situation when, in the back of my head, I hear a voice citing something from one of the degrees, obligations or charges. That voice has caused me to pause, re-examine the situation and come to a solution/conclusion that I might otherwise not have reached. Oh, I still have my moments when the voice gets drowned out, and I revert to my old ways, but I can honestly say that I find those instances are becoming fewer and fewer as I continue on my never-ending Masonic journey.

I also find myself to be more confident. I owe that newfound confidence not only to the lessons taught in the Masonic Degrees but also to my journey toward the East during which I learned and conferred many degrees - each time finding a new meaning or coming to a better understanding of the lessons it taught. In addition, I have exemplified several degrees at the Regional School of Instruction. Let me tell you, that is definitely a confidence builder, especially when the Regional Instructors compliment you on your exemplification.

Not only has Freemasonry given me the tools to help me to improve myself, but it has given me the added bonus of

belonging to a Fraternity of Brothers unlike any that I have known or ever will know. I take great comfort in the knowledge that I am never alone in my journey, that my Brothers will always be there to help when needed. If I stumble, I know that they will be there to lend a hand. If I’m confused

or doubtful, I know that they will provide guidance and support. And my Brothers should know that I will always be there for them, even if it’s only for something as simple as lending them a listening ear to tell their troubles to.

Growing up, I had the Masonic benefit of being surrounded by a great group of men (now my Brothers)—starting with my dad and granddad. I was lucky to be the recipient of their kindness and generosity. It wasn’t

until I became a Mason, though, that I truly understood what it meant to be a Mason—how it can help a man to not only better himself and those around him but also to help improve his community.

If I have one regret, it’s that I didn’t ask the question sooner. So, to anyone that may read this that isn’t a Mason but is thinking about it, I say don’t hesitate. Ask the question, “How do you become a Mason?” Trust me. You will not be sorry that you did. □

“I take great comfort in the knowledge that I am never alone in my journey..”



signposts

By PJ Roup, 33°



PJ Roup, 33°

I chose this path. Or maybe it chose me. One may argue that since I sought out the Lodge, found two men to recommend me, and paid the requisite fees that I surely decided to be a Freemason. Fair enough. But what if I told you that I wasn't looking for it? Well, I wasn't.

Maybe you have a similar story. You weren't specifically seeking wisdom. You weren't actively searching for answers. You just had a longing in your soul, and something about Freemasonry chose you. It could have been the symbols. Maybe it was the mystique given to us by pop culture.

Or maybe you really did seek Freemasonry. Perhaps you are second, third, or fourth generation Mason and you wanted to keep the tradition going. Maybe your coworkers belong, and they convinced you to join. It could be that all the men you admired in your youth were brothers, and you felt that joining would help you follow in their footsteps.

“Try to imagine life had you taken a different road at each of those intersections.”

This article isn't about why you chose to become a Mason, but rather what happened next. Each of us began this journey in the same way—at an altar. From there, though, we have followed our own signposts, stopping at every intersection to make a choice. You might have chosen to become an officer right away, or perhaps you decided to delay until your children were older. Maybe you disappeared right after your third degree but found your way back once work settled down.

Take a moment to think about the intricate web of paths that have brought our more than 5,000 members to the Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh. We are accountants and acupuncturists, preachers and plumbers, engineers and electricians. We are artists, humanitarians, politicians, dreamers, and seekers. We are single, married, divorced, or widowed. We are grandparents, parents, or even childless. We live in the same world but see it through very different eyes. Somehow, though, Freemasonry has brought us together.

Those fingerposts—one at every crossroad we encounter—have taken each of us on a journey. When we are living our lives in real time, we don't see them. We aren't aware that we are standing at an intersection when we turn in our petition, when we take our first obligation, or when we say yes to a leadership role. We can't see it while we're there, but in retrospect, there was life before Lodge and life after. A way of being before the Rite, and a very dissimilar one after.

Try to imagine life had you taken a different road at each of those intersections. You stand there staring at the sign. The arrows point in opposite directions, *Freemasonry* or *The Easy Way*. The former is overgrown, rutted, and seems to climb steeply. After all, honest self-evaluation, accountability, and the hard work of character formation aren't easy. The other path is well-worn, smooth, and level. You have to choose.

What if you had dismissed your father when he handed you a petition? *Now's not a good time, dad.* Where would you be if you had allowed the din of the world to silence the still, small voice inside you that was asking for more?

If you had let those things happen, the chances are good that you would be living a markedly different life. If you had looked up that challenging path

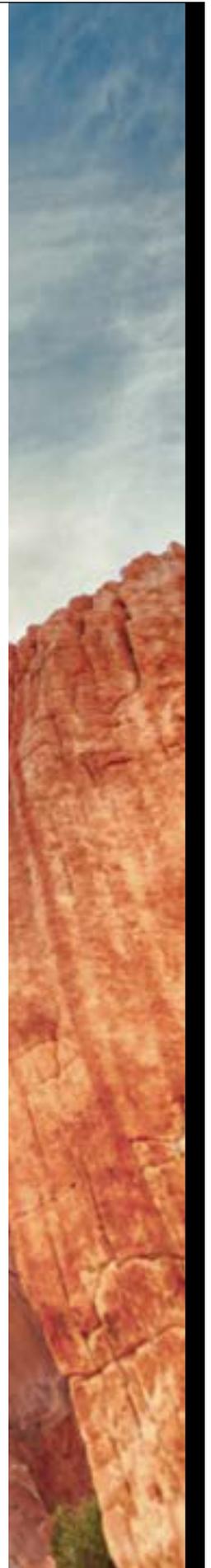
and thought, *Nah, it's not for me*, you probably wouldn't be reading this magazine. You wouldn't know most of your Masonic friends. After all, there is no other organization that would have allowed you to meet on the level and form those bonds. You would never have had the chance to join the Scottish Rite, to broaden your Masonic connections, or expand your understanding of yourself, your place in the world, and your duty to your fellow man.

“If viewed from above, our individual paths to this point would be an indecipherable mess...”

I have a difficult time with that thought exercise. I am glad that when I first saw that Friend to Friend videotape that my grandfather received from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, I listened to that part of my soul that whispered, *Ask him about it.* The work has been difficult, and there is so very much more to do—my rough ashlar still looks like a jagged, round rock—but I would never trade it for the easy way.

In ancient times, it was said that all roads lead to Rome. While not all roads lead to the Rite, all of ours have. Some have been winding and circuitous, others straight. Some have found the road easy, and others have struggled. If viewed from above, our individual paths to this point would be an indecipherable mess, but we have all arrived here—together—and what we have is beautiful. I am grateful for all our signposts and the decisions we made that brought us to where we are.

I await the rest of the journey. □



Salute to Veterans

A message for Military Veterans of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

DD-214

By Robert B. Ruff, 32°



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

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



Robert B. Ruff, 32°

Rruff2u@gmail.com | 412-621-0872

Recently, I have been getting requests for assistance in acquiring DD-214 Forms. A DD-214 could be needed for various reasons. It was given to you at discharge along with a nice-looking certificate (which is useless) that is probably hanging in your house in a nice frame. Some frequent reasons for needing your DD-214:

1. Medical/legal benefits—VA related or not
2. Education/résumé information and enhancement
3. Job preferences for applications (Some companies and government jobs give veterans special exemptions, benefits, or job advancement preference for their military service.)
4. Death benefits
5. Home mortgage loans
6. Nursing Home placement

I would urge everyone to go to their County courthouse and have a certified copy placed on file (for FREE), that way it is always easy to obtain a certified, notarized copy. The correct form has DD-214 in the lower left corner. (see image at left)

If you are starting from step one you must either go to a Federal Office Building (in Pittsburgh, it is located at the corner of Grant St. and Liberty Ave.), apply online at www.DD214.us, or call the National Personnel Record Center at 314-801-0800. Applications usually take a minimum of six to eight weeks to process—another good reason to have one on file.

Many times, family members are burdened with the task of finding a

valid copy for their loved ones, and usually at a time that is already trying and emotional for them. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

I would like to share this poem whose words, to me, capture the spirit of both military service and Freemasonry:

I See You've Traveled Some

Wherever you may chance to be
Wherever you may roam
Far away in foreign lands,
Or just at Home, Sweet Home;
It always gives you pleasure.
It makes your heart strings hum
Just to hear the words of cheer
"I see you've traveled some."

When you get the brother's greeting,
And he takes you by the hand,
It thrills you with a feeling
That you cannot understand,
You feel that bond of brotherhood
That tie that's sure to come.
When you hear him say in a friendly way
"I see you've traveled some."

And if you are a stranger,
in strange lands all alone
If fate has left you stranded
Dead broke and far from home,
O, its a grand and glorious feeling
It thrills you—makes you numb,
When he says, with a grip of fellowship,
"I see you've traveled some."

And when your final summons comes,
To take that last long trip,
Adorned with Lambskin Apron White
And gems of fellowship;
The tiler at the Golden gate,
With square and rule and plumb
Will size up your pin, and say, "Walk in.
I see you've traveled some."

□

PART ONE

Kidney Stones

By Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33*

IN THIS ISSUE OF *RITENOW*, WE WILL DISCUSS kidney stones, a topic with which I am unfortunately all too familiar. Kidney stones are hard crystalline mineral formations that develop and are found within the kidneys, ureters, or bladder. Kidney stones form when there is a decrease in urine volume and/or an excess of stone-inducing substances in the urine. Nephrolithiasis is the medical term for the condition of having kidney stones. Urolithiasis is the medical term for having stones in any portion of the urinary tract. Ureterolithiasis is the medical term for having stones in the ureters. The medical term for a kidney stone(s), renal

Kidney Stones are more common in males than in females.

calculus(calculi), is derived from the Latin words “renes” meaning kidneys and “calculus” meaning pebble. Kidney stones have been known to exist for thousands of years with documentation in medical texts from ancient Mesopotamia, India, China, Persia, Greece, and Rome. In fact, a stone discovered in an Egyptian mummy was dated to 4800 BC. Additionally, the surgical removal of kidney stones (lithotomy) dates back to as early as 600 BC and was described in the Roman medical text “De Medicina” by Aulus Cornelius Celsus (25 BC – 50 AD). Famous people who suffered from kidney stones include Napoleon I, Napoleon III, Epicurus, Peter the Great, King Louis XIV, King George IV, Benjamin Franklin, Sir Isaac Newton, and President Lyndon Johnson.

In the United States about 9% of the population has suffered a kidney stone at some point in their lifetime. The lifetime risk of developing a kidney stone is 10-15% in the developed world with an increased risk of 20-25% in the Middle East. Calcium containing stones are the most common types of kidney stones throughout the world. However, uric acid stones are more common in the Middle East than calcium containing stones. This increased risk is due to the increased risk of dehydration in hot climates in addition to a diet 50% lower in calcium and 250% higher in oxalates. People in the southern or southwestern United States also have a higher rate of kidney stones because of the climate. In 2015, approximately 22.1 million cases occurred worldwide. This resulted in about 19,000 deaths. The incidence in the Western world has increased since the 1970s, quite possibly secondary to the increased obesity rates.

Kidney stones are more common in males than in females with about 65-80% of the cases in men and 20-35% of the cases in women. Males usually experience their first occurrence somewhere between 30 and 40 years of age whereas the first incidence in females is somewhat later. Additionally, there is a bimodal distribution for the first incidence in females with peaks at 35 years and 55 years of age. Pregnancy may slightly increase the risk of developing kidney stones by slowing the passage of urine due to increased progesterone levels, mildly increasing





Dr. Glenn D. Miller, 33

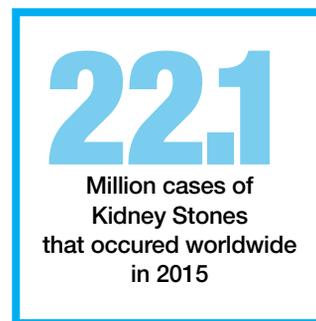
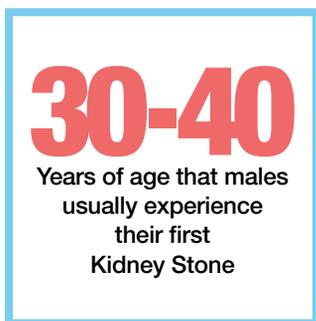
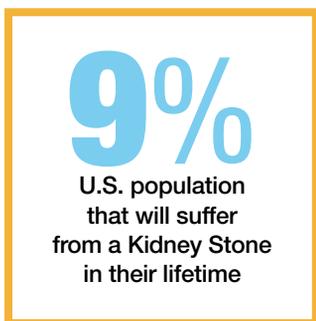


Kidney Stones

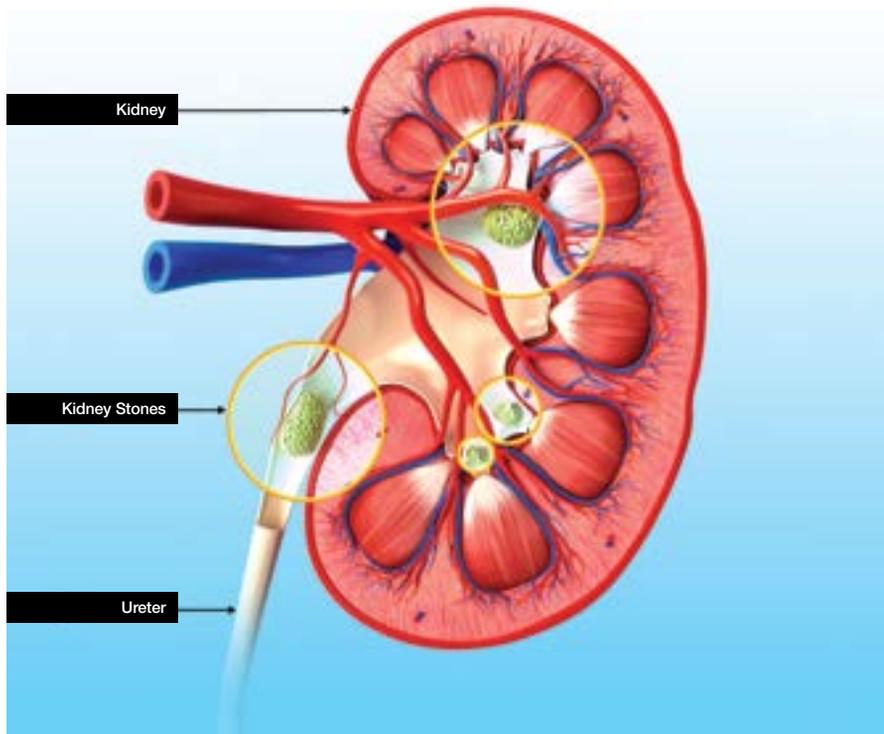
As previously stated, the most common types of kidney stones contain calcium. Calcium oxalate and calcium phosphate stones account for approximately 80% and 5-10% of all kidney stones respectively. Other types of kidney stones include uric acid (5-10%), struvite (10-15%), cysteine (1-2%), and xanthine (extremely rare). Some studies have shown that people who take supplemental calcium or Vitamin D have a higher incidence of developing calcium kidney stones. Interestingly, high dietary intake of calcium does not appear to increase the incidence of developing kidney stones. High dietary intake of sodium may increase the risk of kidney stone formation by increasing urinary calcium excretion. Low dietary intake of magnesium has been associated with kidney stone formation and stone growth. However, high dietary intake of potassium appears to reduce the risk of kidney stone development because it promotes the urinary excretion of citrate which inhibits calcium crystal formation.

Oxaluria, or increased oxalate in the urine, can also contribute to kidney stone formation. It can be caused by

urinary calcium excretion, and by generally diminishing fluid intake secondary to a decreased bladder capacity from the effects of an enlarged uterus. Kidney stones are more common in Asians and Caucasians than in Africans, African Americans, or Native Americans. For people who have suffered a kidney stone, the recurrence rate is approximately 50% over ten years and 75% over 20 years. Some unfortunate people have been known to suffer ten or more episodes over the course of their lifetime.



Kidney Stone Illustration



10-15%

Lifetime risk
of developing a
Kidney Stone in the
developed world

19,000

Approximate number
of deaths resulting
from Kidney Stones
in 2015

inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's Disease or increased dietary intake of oxalate (many leaf vegetables such as spinach, rhubarb, beets, and Swiss chard, as well as wheat germ, fruits, nuts, and soda pop). It also has a higher occurrence rate in people who have undergone small bowel resection. Calcium phosphate stones are associated with Proteus bacterial infections and hyperparathyroidism. Uric acid stones are associated with obesity, gout, previous colon resection surgery, and diets rich in animal proteins and purines which are especially high in organ meats, fish, and shellfish. Struvite kidney stones contain ammonium magnesium phosphate and are formed most often secondary to an infection by a urea-splitting bacteria. These infections tend to occur in people who have risk factors for recurrent urinary tract infections such as those with spinal cord injuries, other forms of

neurogenic bladder, vesicoureteral reflux (abnormal flow of urine from the bladder back up into ureters), and other obstructive uropathies. Cystine kidney stones occur when cysteine (an amino acid found in protein) leaks through the kidneys and into the urine where it forms crystals. This is usually associated with a few genetic disorders that affect metabolism.

In the next issue, we will conclude our discussion on kidney stones. We will cover the signs and symptoms associated with kidney stones as well as the diagnostic tests and treatment options, including pain management, currently in use. We will also review some of the preventive measures, as well as discuss some pharmacologic therapies available for the prevention of kidney stones. □

TheWord

Observations from Reverend John H. Piper, 33°

TRAVELING MEN

When I was just a kid in grade school in the 1950s, my grandparents took me on a trip to Florida. On our way there at a restaurant in the South, I heard my grandfather say to a man wearing a Masonic ring, “I see you are a traveling man.” It was their way of making a Masonic connection with each other.

This week I searched for my grandfather’s phrase online and found out many Masons have never heard it being used as a way of talking to a person they assumed to be a Freemason. One person, having never heard it himself, even opined that it was perhaps unique to Prince Hall Masons. Another assumed it to be European.

Well my grandfather was a “traveling man,” and obviously, so am I. As a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for the last 27 years, I have had the honor of traveling with our Grand Masters and Grand Lodge officers to many parts of our Commonwealth for Grand Lodge functions. My life journey has been greatly enriched by these experiences, especially meeting and working with so many awesome and talented men who now are not only brothers but friends.

In 2017, my wife and I visited a friend of ours in England for a few weeks. While we were there, my friend introduced us to a friend of his who was a Freemason. In all my many trips to England, I had never visited the Freemasons Hall in central London. My friend’s friend, Eric, offered to take me and show me around the Hall. I wrote about my visit to this magnificent structure in a previous issue of *RiteNow*. It was an occasion I will never forget.

Now to digress a bit. I am a United Methodist minister. In the years following the American Revolution, Methodism became the largest Protestant denomination in the state of Pennsylvania due to the efforts of scores of young men on horseback who were called “circuit riders” or “traveling

preachers.” One of the churches I serve right now began in 1790, when a family in Elizabeth asked a circuit rider to make their home a regular preaching spot as he made his rounds from village to village. Eventually the people built wooden churches for worship and a house for the preacher, but my denomination still kept their ministers moving from place to place. In my 55 years of ordained ministry, I have traveled from place to place, and in every town and city where I have served, I have let my flock know that I am a Freemason. I have even made it a point to sit in lodge with men from each of my churches from time to time.

“...in every town and city
where I have served,
I have let my flock know
that I am a Freemason.”

Freemasonry is a journey. My grandfather was a “traveling man”, but he never asked me to travel with him. It was in a church kitchen in Avalon right after I graduated from seminary, where some young adults were making hardtack candy, that two young men suggested that I become a Mason. Those men ultimately signed my petition to join Avalon Lodge—and my Masonic journey began. I had the honor of having my grandfather, a Past Master of Ambridge Lodge, putting my first Masonic pin on my lapel on that special night in 1965.

So, after you have read this article, take a moment and think about a family member, friend, business associate, or member of your synagogue, temple, or church that you would like to have join with you in traveling on an amazing journey called Freemasonry. Then ask him to travel with you! □

Membership

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

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

You Never Know

By Rodney E. Boyce, 33°

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

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



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

I WAS PROCRASTINATING. I almost knew what I was going to write about. We had a great Fall Reunion—the “Steel City Invitational”—when we honored Ill. Brother Callaway and welcomed nineteen new members into the Valley (*details can be found on page 40*). As it turns out, my procrastination paid off. My article wrote itself—and out of a disaster came a lesson on Freemasonry, hospitality, and the road we travel in life.

I imagine you and I are a lot alike. We love the Craft, but we aren’t so good at describing it or finding the words to express the deep appreciation we have for it. That makes it a hard sell for us. Much about Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite are intangible and difficult to describe. So, let me share a recent story with you.

On Saturday, February 2, I was sitting at home on my couch waiting for my parents to arrive. They were going to join my friend, Mike, and me for lunch before we all headed into Pittsburgh for the RiteHouse Evening.

I heard a crash and then an ongoing roar.

I had no idea what was happening. I quickly ran to see if snow and ice were rolling off my roof. As I got to my entryway, water began pouring out of all the recessed ceiling lights and smoke detectors. I opened the front door to see if my roof had collapsed,

but everything looked normal.

I reentered the house, only to see nearly 4 inches of water already on the floor. My friend Mike had jumped into action and yelled, “Buckets!” I ran to the garage to get my large trash cans, spilling their contents onto the floor before bringing them in to collect water. I also grabbed a couple of push

brooms. Together we started to fight the water.

As things began registering in my mind, I realized the water must be coming from the sprinkler system. By now, alarms are going off everywhere. Water had spread to multiple rooms and was pouring out of numerous points of the ceiling of each of them. I attempted to access the system via the pump house in the rear of my home. It

was locked with a combination that I thought I had known, but in the confusion, I transposed two digits and couldn’t get in! My next option was to locate the key in a neighbor’s home. The local fire dispatcher and monitoring systems were also calling me on the phone. I explained there was no fire, but that water was filling my home.

Within minutes I had entered the pump house and shut off the main valve. Multiple fire departments had arrived and began assessing the situation—covering my belongings with tarps and moving as much water

“...there are truly opportunities everywhere to share our Fraternity with others.”

out of the house as possible. It is estimated that between 90 and 125 gallons of water per minute entered my home for about 18-20 minutes.

It is hard to describe, but when something this overwhelming happens, your mind and body spring to action and do what is necessary to survive. Mike and I moved stuff and did things I don't even remember in the rush of the situation.

So how does all of this relate to membership, hospitality, and traveling?

Membership. I met Mike because we were both involved in DeMolay. He and his wife, Jeanine, and both of our families have become close friends. Several firemen responding to the emergency stopped me, said they had seen my office, and then introduced themselves as Masons and offered any help I needed. My neighbor, Dave, joined Lodge and Scottish Rite after learning about our District's Charity Golf event to benefit youth scholarships. Dave has been a constant source of help and support throughout this ordeal.

Hospitality. I have a pineapple sculpted from wood hanging in my entryway. It is a symbol of hospitality and welcomes everyone into my home. Days later, as the ServPro team did their work in my house, I overheard two of them discussing this item: "What is that?" one of them asked as he removed the pineapple from the

wall. She responded, "It's a pineapple. It's a symbol of hospitality."

"That's pretty cool," he replied.

Also, I cannot begin to list the many friends and brethren who offered me a place to stay. It has been incredibly comforting and overwhelming.



Traveling. We all know Masons far and wide. One day, one of the young men working to dry and demo portions of my home asked me about Freemasonry. He had seen all the memorabilia on my office wall. And he had heard of the Fraternity but

didn't know a lot about it. I briefly explained it to him, and he asked me how to join. I gave him several brochures, some reading materials, and my card.

We never know when an opportunity to share our Fraternity will come—sometimes it is in our very own homes. During my time as a member, I have had the opportunity to visit Lodges in many other jurisdictions and countries. I have met many men who have become close friends. And in Masonry, word travels fast when someone is experiencing difficulty and help is offered from far and wide. It is unbelievable how many brethren have reached out to me from all over.

It has been a pretty interesting few weeks for me—to say the least. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that there are truly opportunities everywhere to share our Fraternity with others. We can talk about the great incentives we have in the Valley: one year's free dues for every member who's petition we first line sign; and a reduced initiation fee of \$125 (that includes your dues paid until 2020) for any new member who joins. But the truth is, our Fraternity sells itself. We just have to find the opportunity to talk about it and share it with others. □

INAUGURAL
EVENT

FALL REUNION

Steel City Invitational

The Steel City Invitational kicked off its festivities on Friday, November 16th with a reception featuring local wines and beers as well as Pittsburgh-themed appetizers followed by a multi-Valley presentation of the 4th Degree.

On Saturday, candidates and guests enjoyed a full day of excellent stage work. The morning featured the 13th Degree (*Master of the Ninth Arch*) performed by the Valley of Uniontown followed by the 29th Degree (*Knight of St. Andrew*) presented by the Valley of Cincinnati. The brethren of St. Cyprian Consistory No. 4, Prince Hall Affiliation, then staged the Valley of Pittsburgh debut of the Prince Hall 20th Degree (*Master Ad Vitam*) to rave reviews. Attendees were then served a Pittsburgh-themed lunch of Primanti's sandwiches and Eat'n Park Smiley Cookies before reconvening in the afternoon to see the 26th Degree (*Friend and Brother Eternal*) performed by the Valley of Coudersport and the Modern 32nd Degree (*WWCD*) performed by the Valley of Pittsburgh.

Following the Degrees, our Class Honoree, Ill. George M. Callaway, Deputy for the Orient of Pennsylvania, United Supreme Council, PHA was received with customary honors. Brother Callaway thanked the Valley of Pittsburgh for honoring him. "It is probably the highlight of my Masonic career to receive this honor from you, my Brothers," he told the crowd.

□



Seated (left to right) Rudolph Culberson, SGIG; Raymond L. Bradford, SGIG; Major A. Greene, SGIG; Larry D. Moore, SGIG; Samuel C. Williamson, RWPGM; Paul J. Roup, Active for Pennsylvania; George M. Callaway, Deputy for Pennsylvania, PHA; Thomas K. Sturgeon, Deputy for Pennsylvania; Jeffrey M. Wonderling, Commander-in-Chief; Keith E. Parkinson, Active for Pennsylvania; Jeffrey R. Jones, Deputy Master, Lodge of Perfection; Joseph G. Whitaker, Sovereign Prince; Joshua S. Freeman, Most Wise Master; Timothy J. Cager, RWJGW, PHA





Welcome to our newest members!

Standing (left to right) James W. Levers, Michael J. Minder, Brian W. Moon, Clint Matthew Harris, James J. Crawford, Christopher D. Stants, Felix Bacot, Brian A. Keefe, Ronald Bakewell, James Lauder Langenhahn, Christian Lee Stein, Richard C. Reutzel, Richard M. Celko, Jr, Shane Urbine, Marlon Klement, Joshua Blackwood, John K. Waas, Courtney A. Clayborn, Robert J. Lopes



ValleyNews

A collection of recent happenings in the Valley of Pittsburgh



Cancun Leaves Valley Members Breathless

This year's Valley vacation group spent a week at the end of January at the Breathless Riviera Cancun Resort and Spa. The group, eighteen in total, enjoyed swimming, boating, dining, relaxing, and a whole lot more while they escaped the bitter cold of Pittsburgh.

Plans are already underway for next year's trip. Be sure to check future issues of *RiteNow* for details.



Ghost Light Sees Ghosts

The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Yet To Come visited the Valley stage when Ghost Light reprised Philip Grecian's *A Christmas Carol: A Radio Play*. The troupe offered three performances of this holiday favorite the weekend before Christmas.

To keep up with their latest offerings, follow them on Facebook: @ghostlightpgh.



Can you help?

The Valley of Pittsburgh Hospitaler is in need of new or gently-used wheelchairs. Your donation may greatly help a brother or his family in their time of need.

Please contact the Valley Office for more details or to coordinate a donation pick-up or drop-off.



Visit to St. Cyprian

Following up on some tentative plans made at the Steel City Invitational, a few members of the Valley of Pittsburgh braved the early February cold to pay a visit to St. Cyprian Consistory, PHA in Wilkinsburg. All in attendance shared fellowship and brotherly love as well

as an excellent paper presented by St. Cyprian member, Ill. Major A. Greene, SGIG.

Check the Valley Facebook group or contact the office to be informed of future visits.



Passport Completion

At our February Stated Meeting, Brother Rob Holderbaum, PSP received a certificate for completing his passport, meaning he has witnessed all 29 Degrees. Brother Holderbaum also received a special gold passport that he may begin filling in again.

For more information on the passport program, contact the Valley office.



Degree Day

The first Saturday Degree Conferral of 2019 took place on January 26th. Attendees were able to have their passports stamped for the 14th Degree (*Grand Elect Mason*) and 22nd Degree (*Prince of Libanus*). The latter was staged as the musical version for the first time at the Valley of Pittsburgh to the approval of all in attendance.



Hautes Grades Academy

Brother Larry Horath, PSP received his certificate and jewel for completing the Supreme Council's Hautes Grades Academy. Brother Larry was the first from the Valley of Pittsburgh to receive this honor.

The Hautes Grades Academy was designed to foster individual research into the deeper lessons of Scottish Rite Masonry. It is open to all Scottish Rite, NMJ Masons in good standing. More information can be obtained by visiting scottishritenmj.org.

The Latest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

MAR
23

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

Rose Croix DeMolay Induction Class

Join with the Officers of the Valley as we welcome and share fellowship with the members of Pennsylvania DeMolay. An all-star team will exemplify the Initiatory and DeMolay Degree (on stage and in full costume) as they induct new members into their Chapters.

TIME: 1:30PM Registration, 2PM Start

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: FREE, business dress. (Coat and tie/Officer Dress)

MAR
31

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

Feast of the Paschal Lamb

The past and present officers of Pittsburgh Chapter Rose Croix exemplify the *Feast of the Paschal Lamb*. This presentation is open to all and will be hosted by the Masonic Villages—Sewickley, in their Clubhouse.

TIME: 2PM

LOCATION: Masonic Villages—Sewickley, Clubhouse

COST: FREE, business dress. (Coat and tie/Officer Dress)

RSVP: March 26, 2019

APR
12

APR
13

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

Spring Class Honoring S. Eugene Herritt, RWGM

Our annual two-day class will feature presentations of the 4th, 6th, 18th, 27th, 31st, and 32nd Degrees. *Complete details will be posted in the April Bulletin.*

TIME: 5PM Friday, 8AM Saturday

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: FREE to members, \$125 per initiate

RSVP: April 9, 2019

MAY
23

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

Celebration of Education and Recognition Dinner

The Valley hosts our annual dinner to present educational scholarships and awards. In addition, each of the four Scottish Rite bodies will name and honor their choice for Family Man of the Year.

TIME: 6PM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$25/person

RSVP: May 20, 2019

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

APR
4

Reservations are required for dinner!

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

Stated Meeting

The piano man, Brother Gerald McGrew, will thrill the audience with his high-energy covers fan favorites, standards and special requests. *Complete details will be posted in the April Bulletin.*

TIME: 6PM Dinner, 7PM Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: : \$15/person Dinner/Meeting No Charge

RSVP: **April 2, 2019**

JUN
6

Reservations are required for dinner!

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

Stated Meeting / Installation

Join us as we install our new Valley Officers. Our outgoing Presiding Officers will be recognized for their faithful service with the presentation of their Past Officer Jewels. Dinner will be served at 6 pm followed by the Stated Meeting at 7 pm. Installations and presentations will follow the meeting and are open to all. *Complete details will be posted in the June Bulletin.*

TIME: 6PM Dinner, 7PM Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: : \$15/person Dinner/Meeting No Charge

RSVP: **June 4, 2019**

MAR 30 **APR 27** **MAY 25** **JUN 29**

Upcoming Events

MAR
30

Abbott & Valley Scholarship Applications Are Due

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

(must be postmarked by 3/30/19 or hand delivered to the Valley office by end of business on 4/1/2019)

MAY
4

Kentucky Derby Party

SATURDAY, MAY 4

(Details coming soon)

MAY
20

Children's Dyslexia Center Graduation and Picnic

MONDAY, MAY 20

JUN
15

Valley of Pittsburgh Golf Outing

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

JUN
21

Colorado Rockies vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

PNC Park, \$55, Reservation Deadline June 14
FRIDAY, JUNE 21

JUL
7

Super Summer Car Cruise

SUNDAY, JULY 7

JUL
27

Boomers vs. Wild Things— at Consol Park

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Fraternal Classified Services Directory

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

ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

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

ADVERTISING SPECIALTIES

Grimes Advertising 412-921-1325
Eddie Grimes

ATTORNEYS

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

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

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

AUTOMOTIVE

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

BAKERY / EXPRESSO BAR

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

BEARINGS & POWER TRANSMISSION

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

BOOKS

A. Wayne Ross, Author awayneross.com
3 Hour Mysteries: paperback available at amazon.com
Audiobooks available at audible.com

CATERING

Hudson's Catering 724-438-2025
Richard Hudson www.UniontownCatering.com

Party Line Catering 412-882-7110
Brian Meador

CHIMNEY REPOINTING & REBUILDING

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

DISC JOCKEY

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

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Wear It with Pride



White (A)



True Royal (B)



Charcoal (C)



Dark Navy (D)

Harriton M345 Advantage IL Snap Placket Performance Polo

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

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

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

Cost: \$33 / each for all sizes



True Royal (E)



Charcoal (F)

Harriton M315 Polytech Polo

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

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

Colors: True Royal (B)

Cost: \$33 / each for all sizes

Harriton M990 Full-Zip Fleece

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

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

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

Cost: \$38 / each for all sizes



Navy (G)



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