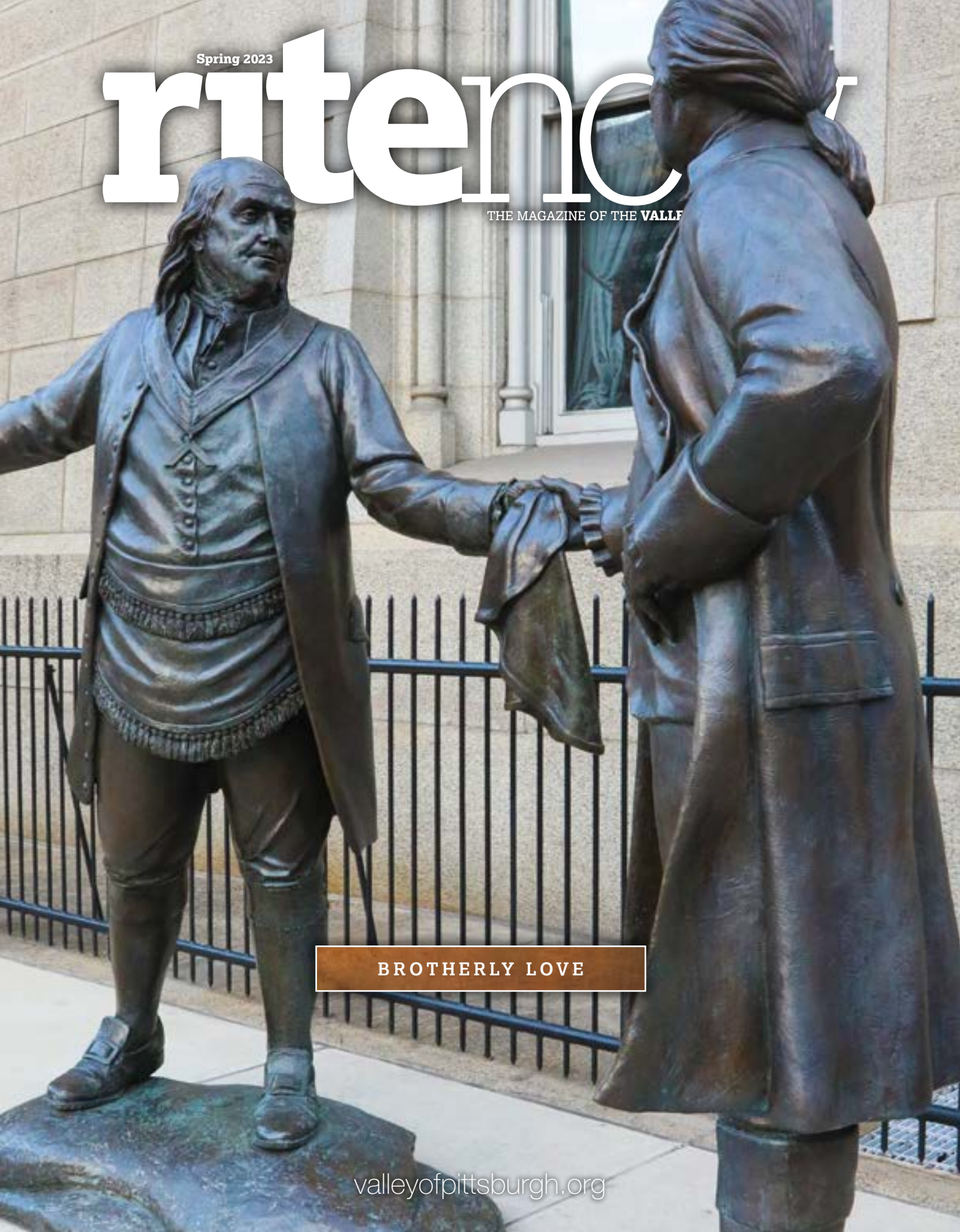


Spring 2023

# ritenc

THE MAGAZINE OF THE VALLEY



BROTHERLY LOVE

[valleyofpittsburgh.org](http://valleyofpittsburgh.org)

# In Memoriam

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

## Larry G. Wilttrout, MSA

James A. Agnew	George M. Leasure
William A. Barati	George F. MacDonald
Andrew J. Bell	Floyd L. Mahan
Lewis E. Collins Jr.	Frank X. Malloy
Thomas J. Creely	Thomas L. Manley Jr.
Henry R. Crooks	Frank J. Marmion
Robert E. Finch	Francis M. Minor
Ralph T. Fishinger	Henry Moretti
Robert K. Flack	John R. Nicklas
Charles G. Francis	Kenneth J. Noftz
Donald E. Gardner	John E. Ogro
Nathan L. Gerber	Harry J. Pearson
John Glass Jr.	Edward F. Powers Sr.
William J. Goodboy	David B. Roy
Clyde L. Hennon Jr.	Arthur C. Schwotzer
William E. Hohman Jr.	Donald W. Smith
Robert Harvey Johnston	Edward T. Stevenson
Charles H. King	Harry J. Williams



**rite**now

Vol. XXXII, No. 3  
Spring 2023

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

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

Columnists  
D. Todd Ballenger, 33°  
David A. Eichelberger, 32°  
Jordan L. Frei, 32°  
Jonathan Green, 32°  
William G. Johnston, 33°  
Richard F. Kucera, 32°  
David W. Morgans, 33°  
Paul J. Roup, 33°  
Austin R. Shifrin, 33°  
Eric S. Teasdale, 33°

Contributors  
Patricia Broskey  
Joseph A. Pullin, 32°  
Helen Snedden

Photography  
Tim McKiernan, 32°  
Leslie Morgans  
Joseph A. Pullin, 32°  
Thomas Ruch, 32°  
Helen Snedden  
Charles F. Zurcher, 32°

*RiteNow* magazine is the official publication of the Valley of Pittsburgh, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, District of Pennsylvania, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA. Opinions expressed are those of the individual author(s). Information is obtained from correspondence, press releases, Masonic publications and miscellaneous sources, which in many cases, cannot be verified. *RiteNow* magazine is published four times a year. © 2023, Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15237. Phone: 412-939-3579. Email: secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org

# inside



Your Health by Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°

## Mitral Valve Prolapse 20

Part 1

The Modern Vitruvian by PJ Roup, 33°

## 26 Three Myths About Attendance



More Light by Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

## The Many Loves 32

## 38 Upon the Checkered Pavement Brotherly Love



<b>TheActive</b> .....	4
<b>BuildersCouncil</b> .....	5
<b>TheChief</b> .....	6
<b>ThePotent</b> .....	8
<b>TheSovereign</b> .....	10
<b>TheWise</b> .....	12
<b>TheOffice</b> .....	14

Valley <b>RiteNight</b> .....	16
Our <b>Youth</b> .....	18
<b>TheCenter</b> .....	23
<b>MonteCarloNight</b> .....	24
<b>TheWord</b> .....	29
<b>Children'sParty</b> .....	30
<b>MurderMystery</b> .....	36

<b>HolidayLuncheon</b> .....	42
<b>TheLatest</b> .....	44
<b>UniontownUpdate</b> .....	46
<b>Classifieds</b> .....	47
<b>ValleyCruise</b> .....	48

### about this issue

The cover of this issue of *RiteNow* is a photograph of a sculpture entitled, "The Bond" by renowned Pittsburgh artist and Valley of Pittsburgh member, Brother Jim West, 33°. In it, we see Brother Benjamin Franklin handing an apron to Brother George Washington and inviting him to lodge.

"The Bond" is the perfect example of

Brotherly Love in action. It illustrates what happens when Freemasons stop living as individuals and live instead for the greater community of mankind. This issue of *RiteNow* examines the various aspects of Brotherly Love—both in thought and in deed. I hope you enjoy reading about the many aspects of Brotherly Love brought to life in the Craft.



# The Active

A message from the Supreme Council Active for Pennsylvania

SUPREME COUNCIL

## Around the Valley

By Paul J. Roup, 33°

It has been approximately three months since you have received your last issue of *RiteNow*. Since that time, your Valley has planned and held no fewer than five major events for you and your family to attend. There was a murder mystery at the February meeting, the children's Christmas party, the Holiday Luncheon, a night at Topgolf, and a Monte Carlo fundraiser for the Children's Dyslexia Center—Pittsburgh. Thumb through the pages that follow to see picture spreads of each of these top-notch events.

It doesn't stop there. In the three months between now and the next issue, there will be the Story of the Crucifixion, the Spring Class, two CigaRite events, the CDC graduation party, and several fellowship breakfasts. That doesn't even include the two stated meetings.

I have often said that there is no body within the pantheon of Freemasonry that gives you more to do for yourself, your family, and your soul than the Scottish Rite. You can enjoy a Washington Wild

Things baseball game with the whole family, play a round of golf with your friends, or see some first-class degree work on the Valley stage or at a Rite on the Road event near your home lodge.

This issue is built around the theme of brotherly love. The internet defines brotherly love as, "feelings of humanity and compassion toward one's fellow humans." That very real and very special feeling can't be experienced in a vacuum. It cannot be felt sitting at home on your couch. It can only truly be lived when you are out in the world and in fellowship with others. Collectively, we spent the better part of two years unable to do that. But you know what? We're back, Brethren!

The internet defines brotherly love as, "feelings of humanity and compassion toward one's fellow humans."

Make 2023 the year you return to all that the Scottish Rite has to offer. Get involved. You don't have to be an officer to help out. We are always ready to find a place for you to help. No time to do that? Just come out and support those who work so hard to make the events fun for everyone. You'll be glad you did.

See you around the Valley! □



Paul J. Roup, 33°  
proup@srrnmj.org

# Builders Council

Benefactors of the Children's Dyslexia Center-Pittsburgh

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

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

- **Pledging monthly/annual gifts for a period lasting no longer than 10 years**

- **Naming the Children's Dyslexia Center in your will**
- **Making a bequest to the Children's Dyslexia Center**
- **Establishing an annuity or trust**



## BUILDERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

30th Masonic District F&AM  
Demo Agoris  
Edward & Joan Aiello  
Robert and Janice Amend  
Emery & Carol Anden  
Avalon Lodge No. 657 F&AM  
David & Carol Bagaley  
Robert & Jacqueline Beatty  
Dr. Jeff A. Biddle  
Mark & Patty Bliler  
Chartiers Lodge No. 297 F&AM  
George H. Cox  
Rick & Renee Cross  
James S. Dean  
Mario & Linda Deblasio  
Bill & Heather Deickey  
Raymond T. Dietz  
Fred & Kathy Donatelli  
Robert L. Eckbreth  
James Ecker  
James R. Flanigan  
Howard and Sharon Flynn  
Franklin / St. Johns / Trinity Lodge No. 221  
Gourgias Lodge of Perfection  
Donald & Debra Green  
Wally and Leah Grossett  
Erich & Raylene Gumto  
Harvey & Carol Gumto  
John A. Habel  
Leland A. Hale Jr.  
Jacque Hauser  
Jeff & Lauren Heiger  
Helen Ruth Henderson  
Raymond Frank Hess  
Hiram's Riders of Valley of Pittsburgh  
Gene Hlavac

Homestead Amity McCandless  
Lodge No. 582  
Infinity Lodge No. 546  
Jim & Lisa Jenkins  
Robert B. Jones  
Paul Kappel  
Paul and Jackie Kauffman  
David & Sandy Kearns  
David S. & Judith Kielman  
John G. Kovac  
Richard & Mary Ruth Kucera  
George & Judith Lewis  
Lodge 45, Pittsburgh, P.A.  
William & Barabara Magnotti Jr.  
Frank R. Mangery  
Jack W. & Edna Marsh  
John McCain  
John F. McCombs  
Roy A. & Sara Jane McCullough  
Julia and Calvin McCutcheon  
Jay E. McElravy  
Joann McElravy  
James A. & Earlene McMahon  
Craig & Amy McVicker  
Mike Melde  
Dr. Glenn & Roberta Miller  
Glenn D. & Mary B. Miller  
Jack & Carol Miller  
Donald M. Murphy  
Jack & Joy Nicklas  
John & Valerie Nicklas  
Oakdale Lodge No. 669  
Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1  
Knights Templar  
Ronald and Karen Plesh  
Raymond R. & Dorothy K. James

D. William Roberts  
Bruce A. Robinson  
Richard & Bette Rodibaugh  
Don & Ginny Sauer  
Joseph A. Schrock Jr.  
James W. Seel  
William P. Shaw  
William Slater  
Samuel & Judith Spanos  
Steel City DeMolay - Coraopolis, PA  
Christian L. Stein  
Thomas Sturgeon  
Kurt R. Tesche  
The Supreme Council Group  
Valley of Pittsburgh  
Gregory Triko  
Unified Lodge #2 I.O.O.F.  
Valley of Pittsburgh Legion of Honor  
Valley of Uniontown  
George T. Vance  
Vintage-Classic Car Club  
S. Timothy Warco  
Washington Lodge No. 164  
Bob & Charlene Wells  
Chester Arthur West Jr.  
Louri Ann West  
John & Jerry Williams  
Jeffrey & Sharon Wonderling



# The Chief

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

CONSISTORY

## My brothers and my Brothers!

By William G. Johnston, 33°

As I've grown older, I can only imagine how my mother must have felt to be in a household with my father, my two brothers, and me. She definitely earned a new level of sainthood for what we put her through. I'm the oldest of three boys. There are five years between my middle brother, Nathan, and me. And there are nine years between me and my youngest Brother, Eric. It's somewhat sad to realize now that I probably wasn't the best big brother in my youth. The five-year gap between Nathan and me made it very easy for me to bully him, make him the butt of my jokes, and test out the newest wrestling move on him. The nine-year gap with Eric allowed me to be a little nicer to him, but I wasn't really involved in much of what he did growing up. I was at a different stage of my life. I just didn't associate much with either of them—at least not as much as I should have.

It is a part of my past that I deeply regret and that I will continue to apologize for. I should have been there more to stick up for them in situations. I should have spent more quality time and shared experiences with them. I should have taught them more and learned more from them.

I should have been a better brother. When I joined Masonry, I tried to turn over a new leaf. I tried to put some of my youth behind me and be that "Better Man" we all claim that Masonry teaches us. I developed a better relationship with my father when I joined the Fraternity, and as my brothers came of age, I participated in their joining the Craft. Even then, I still fell short of being the Brother I should have been, not only to my biological brothers, but to my Fraternal Brothers as well.

I should have taught them more and learned more from them. I should have been a better Brother.

Early on, when I joined Masonry, I was one of the youngest active members in my Lodge and in other appendant bodies.

I had many members much older than me give me opportunities to serve in the Lodge. They treated me as a Brother Mason, regardless of our age difference. They trusted my leadership as I progressed through the officer lines and led the organization. They were better Brothers to me than I had been to my own flesh and blood. It was unquestionably an eye-opening experience.

I'm not exactly sure when it happened, but it happened. I began to realize that I had a lot more knowledge to acquire about being



William G. Johnston, 33°  
wgjohnston@valleyofpittsburgh.org

## Since you were made a Mason, have you endeavored, at all times, to be charitable to your Brethren, in thought and in deed?



Brothers Bill, Eric, William (their father), and Nathan Johnston.



Brothers Bill, Eric, Christopher Carr (a mutual friend), and Nathan Johnston.

had I never knocked at the portals of Freemasonry.

In the 14th degree, during the inquiry, the candidates are asked a series of questions relating to their behavior as men and as Masons. In my opinion, these are some of the most powerful questions in any Masonic degree. One, in particular, stands out: *Since you were made a Mason, have you endeavored, at all times, to be charitable to your Brethren, in thought and in deed?* Every time I hear them, I reexamine myself and determine how I need to adjust my actions and beliefs toward my Brothers. Will you take the same opportunity to reevaluate your relationship with your Brothers in Masonry? And if you are unhappy with your results, will you endeavor to return to the principles of Freemasonry, especially that of Brotherhood?

Will you?



a Brother. I had to grow more to live the values we extoll in our degree work. I had to offer others the same experiences I had been offered in Masonry. The Brotherhood that our

Fraternity offers is unlike anything I've experienced in any of the other facets of my life. The relationships I have made with men of all ages and all walks of life wouldn't be possible

# The Potent

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

LODGE OF PERFECTION

## Member, Brother, Friend

By Eric S. Teasdale, 33°



I have been very fortunate to have been employed at Shannopin Country Club as the PGA Golf Professional for the past 27 years. During that time, I have also been fortunate to meet many good people—both members and guests. There is a very fine line that exists regarding the relationship between the member and the employee.

In the private service industry, it is expected that the employee calls everyone by their preferred salutation—Mr., Mrs., Dr., etc. In my case, I am on the employee side of the equation, and I take this interaction seriously..

I was also fortunate to become more acquainted with the membership, and to be able to travel and play golf with many of them. I was regularly invited to play golf with different groups of members and had the privilege of spending some time with them and getting to know them. At that time, I did not have any children and was very flexible with my time. It was during these golf trips that I came to understand that the Club had a very substantial Masonic presence. At that time, I was not a Mason, but I found it very interesting how close they all were and how they would call each other Brother. On occasion, I would ask them some general questions about Masonry and

would get very vague responses, and it would go no further than that. In hindsight, at that time, Pennsylvania Masons operated under the “To Be 1, Ask 1” principle. I continued to be intrigued by Masonry though.

That all changed in 2010 when one of the members who I frequently traveled and played golf with,

approached me about Masonry and invited me out to dinner. We had a very informative and enlightening discussion about Masonry, and I was presented with a petition to fill out. I was very fortunate to have two members who thought enough of me to be my

first- and second-line signers on my petition. The next thing I knew, in the fall of 2010, I was raised a Mason and started my very rewarding Masonic journey.

In the spring of the following year, I started traveling and playing golf with the membership and was astonished to find out how many of them were Masons. They would slyly call me Brother in passing. At this point, I started to struggle with communicating with them. How do I address them? Were they members, Brothers, or Friends? Again, in my professional life, I was expected to address them by their preferred

I would ask them some general questions about Masonry and would get very vague responses.



Eric S. Teasdale, 33°  
tpm@valleyofpittsburgh.org



We had a very informative and enlightening discussion about Masonry, and I was presented with a petition to fill out.

salutations. Would that make them feel awkward? Would I be showing favoritism by calling them by their first names or Brother? How do I mix my professional life with my Masonic/personal life? The struggle was real.

Despite my dilemma, ALL the Masonic members went out of their way to support me and became my biggest

So, you may ask, are they members, Brothers, or friends?

advocates—both professionally and in Masonry. They participated in Club events, took golf lessons, and had me fit them for golf clubs, etc. They also attended many Masonic memories of mine, i.e., my first Lodge meeting, my first-degree conferral, when I was installed as Master, and throughout my journey in the Scottish Rite. They continue

to do that to this day, and I am very thankful and appreciative of that.

So, you may ask, are they members, Brothers, or friends? Well, I am happy to say they are all three, but most importantly, I would refer to them as Brothers and friends. The support that they have shown me over the years has been overwhelming. They still call me “Pro,” and I might still call them Mr. or Dr., but I know that they have my best interest at heart. Is that not a Brother and a friend? □



# The Sovereign

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

PRINCES OF JERUSALEM

## The Cement that Binds Us

By Richard F. Kucera, 32°

The tenets of Freemasonry include Brotherly love, relief, and truth. Brotherly love is a difficult concept to describe but easily recognized when you see it. Having never had a biological brother has made it a little more difficult for me. Like many concepts in Freemasonry, the expression of Brotherly love changes over the years and the situation. With Masonic Brothers, hopefully, the interaction will start with a handshake and end with a smile. Brotherly love accepts the fellow Mason as a friend. We do not ask for any favors that are a selfish gain. However, in matters of support, concern, sacrifice, and selflessness, aiding a Brother and enjoying his company and companionship are what transcend and remain constant regardless of the social mores, etiquette, or situation. Brotherly love rises above politics, religion, wealth, and social values.

So, what makes Brotherly love such a difficult concept to grasp? Brotherly love can come easily in many situations. Where Masonic Brotherly love comes into play is when good men of honest intention disagree but remain supportive, respectful, caring, and friendly despite the disagreements. Conflicts among Brothers stop at the door, for brotherly love is the cement of Freemasonry and the keystone that

holds us all together. We always need to remember this and rise above any conflict.

Brotherly love is based on truth, honesty, integrity, and empathy and also transpires in many forms. We are all well aware of stories where Brotherly love occurred during the American Revolution and Civil War. However, Brotherly love does occur

Brotherly love accepts the fellow Mason as a friend.

in many other settings. I remember the first day I stepped into the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center to become Scottish Rite Mason. Several of the officers sat down at a table with me and started to talk

in a friendly manner with a cup of coffee in hand, a big smile, and an accompanying handshake. This started my adventure as a Scottish Rite Mason—an act of Brotherly love while being accepted into the Valley of Pittsburgh.

I also recall first children's Christmas party at the Valley. I was working with many Brothers who I hadn't really met before, and we had the daunting task of guiding approximately 130 children through a line to receive gifts from Santa Claus and then feast on pizza and cookies. Amongst the chaos, the bonds of Brotherly love guided the spirit of cooperation, which resulted in an enjoyable experience for all the children and



Richard F. Kucera, 32°  
sp@valleyofpittsburgh.org

## Brotherly love is based on truth, honesty, integrity, and empathy.

families that day. One of the more personal and quiet ways to show Masonic love is through donations to the Blue Envelope appeal; the Membership Education Fund; the Children's Dyslexia Center through the Builders Council; the Leon M. Abbott Scholarships; and the White Flower Society.

The one moment that affected me most profoundly happened shortly after I had become a Scottish Rite Mason. It occurred when I was working in the intensive care unit. The patient had just arrived from the emergency room, and they were very ill. Their loved one was standing at the bedside. I noticed a Scottish Rite ring on the loved one's right hand and asked him which Valley he belonged to. He told me, and in a shaky voice, scared, he asked

me as a Brother to do everything I could for his loved one. He put out his hand, and I grasped it while looking into his eyes and told him I would do everything possible, and I felt things should be fine. The loved one looked at the five bags of fluid flowing through IVs at the bedside and the monitor with all its noise, colored lines, and numbers. He looked at me and said, "Brother, I believe you." Several days later, the patient recovered and left the intensive care unit.

Yes, Brotherly love is expressed in many ways. But it's often best when expressed through our labors and not just words and accompanied by a kind and empathetic heart. It is the cement that binds us as Brothers. □



# TheWise

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

ROSE CROIX

## The Proper Care & Feeding of a Brother

By Jordan L. Frei, 32°

In 2003, talk show radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger penned a book titled *The Proper Care & Feeding of Husbands*. Her message surmised that because American men are largely raised by women, they have an inherent need to be praised by women. On the contrary, if a man defines his relationship with his spouse to be nagging or controlling, he'll withdraw.

Critics were quick to bash the premise, arguing that women bring more to the table than their ability to nurture and that the infamous "Dr. Laura" has no business telling women that their role is to properly care for and feed anyone but their children.

Fortunately, in Freemasonry, we have a set of directions that tell us how to love a Brother. We are reminded of those directions at the closure of every stated Blue Lodge meeting. The beauty of our Masonic prose is found just about everywhere, and we all have our favorites. Mine is by far the closing charge. It is a schematic manual on how to love a Brother—with cordial honesty.

Humans are flawed. We are flawed. It is as easy to say this out loud as it

is to say "good morning" to a co-worker. But it's far more difficult to actually look inward at your flaws and determine if, how, and to what extreme you can or should go to address them.

This is why our closing charge is so important. "Making good men better" does make a terrific promotional tagline, but how do we go about doing that? We all may answer that differently.

But it's far more difficult to actually look inward at your flaws and determine if, how, and to what extreme you can or should go to address them.

For myself, when a confidant reminds us of our failings and, figuratively speaking, of course, holds our head to the mirror, he is forcing us to examine every aspect of our being; to study our flaws and examine how they may hold us back from being the best man possible; and to consider how we are perceived by our spouses, our families,

and our peers. In doing so, we have an opportunity to become better husbands, better fathers, and better employees.

Of course, this isn't easy. This type of introspection puts our egos at great risk. Even if you can admit that you have not been your best self in one avenue of your life, can this truth be applied to other avenues as well?



Jordan L. Frei, 32°

mwm@valleyofpittsburgh.org

## But only by looking beyond our egos can we truly grow as men.

Frightening as this may be, we must not hesitate.

If used properly, our egos serve us well. They help us take pride in what we are doing and display ourselves to the world. After all, we know how we perceive ourselves and what greatness we can bring. So, we are determined to demonstrate that to others.

But egos have a dark side that can force us into a defensive mode. They can be comfort zones, walls with hollow bricks of perceptions and conclusions, graffitied with rosy colors to inflate our self-perceptions. How dare anyone suggest that we are not as great as we think we are!

But only by looking beyond our egos can we truly grow as men.

By accepting hard truths about ourselves, we can set forth on new paths of self-discovery. Now amplified by a new sense of freedom, we can examine what we have been holding ourselves back from in every aspect of our lives.

This may be the greatest gift in Freemasonry—and it is to be given to us, by us.

It must be pointed out that the closing charge doesn't require us to **hear** and **accept** our brothers' sound advice, potentially shattering our own self-perceptions, to then begin some magical quest of personal

growth. The closing charge instead, only reminds us that we are to **give** such sound advice.

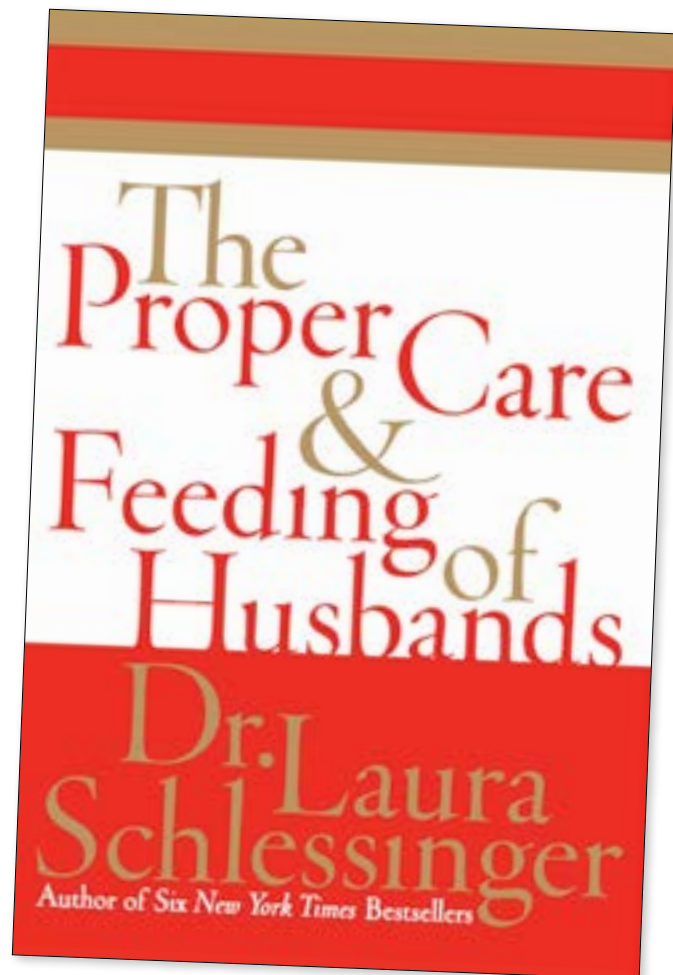
I often wonder about that. After all, if advice is offered without it being sought, it is most certainly criticism. That's dangerous ground because criticism is more likely to be defended against rather than taken to heart, no matter its value. Certainly, our forefathers in Freemasonry knew this, right? Why would the closing charge only speak to our responsibility to whisper good counsel to each other without demanding, or merely suggesting, that we accept it?

To that, I can only offer that our closing charge reminds us of where we were when we took the Masonic oath and saw a light of truth. There, it has been revealed to us that the pursuit of knowledge is among the first priorities of being a good man and the bedrock of all other

Masonic obligations. Perhaps, it was determined this needed no reminder.

Finally, the closing charge tells us that the gift of honest, helpful insight is not reserved exclusively for Mason-to-Mason friendships. Instead, it says that every human being is worthy of our effort and that we should do good unto all.

Just a bit more, especially to our Brother. □



# The Office

A message from the Secretary of the Valley of Pittsburgh

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## Here to Help

By David W. Morgans, 33°

Brotherly love is always a great theme to have for a Masonic magazine. Brotherly love and affection are the cement that holds all Masons together. Without it, we are just a bunch of unfinished stones randomly strewn throughout the world. Brotherly love helps to fill in the rough spots we have in our characters as individual Masons and binds us in such a way that we have unity of purpose and displays to the world a group of men who care about their Brothers' welfare.

This Brotherly love begins in our home lodges and follows us in our travels in various appendant bodies. This is especially true in the Scottish Rite. In the office, we get to see Brotherly love in action as we talk with our members and assist the Hospitalers in the performance of their duties. Each Mason sees Brotherly love as they interact with other Masons, and each should have numerous stories to share regarding Brotherly love in action. Obviously, the more active we are with our Brothers, the more examples we should have.

One of the great deterrents to exhibiting and experiencing Brotherly love is when Masons have a break from their Masonic affiliation due to suspension. These breaks in service isolate the suspended Brother. He may still have Masonic friends with whom to interact, but he can no longer attend meetings or activities. He can no longer enjoy the benefits of participation. And he will no longer receive any correspondence about the Masonic activities of the body to which he no longer belongs. The sad thing about the suspension of any Brother is that, in most cases, it can be easily avoided.

We are far better together than we are separated from one another.



As of the writing of this article, there are approximately 630 Brothers in solely the Valley of Pittsburgh and 153 in both the Valley of Uniontown and Pittsburgh who have not paid their dues for the current Scottish Rite year. These Brothers risk the chance of being suspended at our June meeting. They run the risk of not being able to experience the world with Scottish Rite Brothers by their side. Most of the Brothers who are behind in their dues have the ability to pay but, for some reason, have just overlooked the three dues notices and the email reminders they have received to date. I hope those Brothers will respond before it's too late. They can mail their payment or log on to the Member Center at the ScottishRiteNMJ.org website to pay by credit card at any time that is convenient to them. They can even call the office to pay by credit card over the phone.

Others, however, haven't paid, not because of oversight but because they are experiencing issues in their lives that hinder them from paying. For those Brothers, I sincerely hope that they contact the office to confidentially share with us the problems they face so we can remit their dues for the year. Not one Scottish Rite Mason benefits from a member being suspended. We are far better together than we are separated from one another. Please don't let your Scottish Rite experiences with Brotherly love and affection end because of a suspension for non-payment of dues. We are Brothers. We stand together, and we lend helping hands to those who need them. □



## Need Assistance?

**No one likes to find themselves in financial hardship.** No one likes to ask for help. However, many Brothers would rather be suspended than ask for the help that we all promised to render to a Brother when we joined the Fraternity. If you need to have your dues remitted this year, please, please, please contact the Office by phone (412-939-3579), by letter (Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237), or by email (secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org). Your request will be kept confidential, and you will continue to be a vital part of our Valley.



## Senior Member Status

**If you are 80-years old or older or are a 50-year plus member,** I would like to remind you that the Scottish Rite does not automatically remit your dues. The Scottish Rite has a program for senior members. The Senior Member Program was implemented to ensure that NO member over the age of 80 (or over 75 with 50 years of membership in the Scottish Rite, NMJ) having financial hardship would be suspended for non-payment. If you qualify for Senior Membership, you will no longer have to pay dues.

If you think you qualify for Senior Member status, please contact the Office by phone (412-939-3579), by letter (Valley of Pittsburgh, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237), or by email (secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org).

**If you are a caregiver for someone who may qualify, please contact us and let us know of the need.** We are ready, willing, and able to help but can only do so if we are aware of the need.

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

# Bogeys, Birdies, and Double-headed Eagles

The inaugural Valley Rite Nite event was on the virtual links at Topgolf in Bridgeville. Valley duffers enjoyed two hours of golf, food, and a lot of laughs in Topgolf's heated bays.

Valley Rite Nites will be held on the first Thursday of the months when the Valley doesn't meet. Be sure to check the website, meeting notices, and future issues of *RiteNow* for details on upcoming events.







# Our Youth

News and information about the Masonic Youth in our Valley

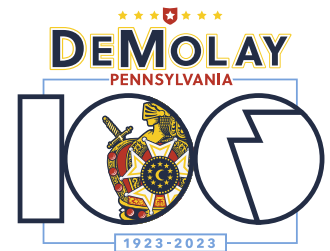
## The Brotherhood Retreat

For many years, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge have had a mutual respect agreement, allowing members of both programs to visit each other for meetings and other social gatherings. A few years after this agreement, DeMolay and Knights of Pythagoras in PA signed a similar arrangement, allowing members to attend both organizations for their events and meetings. On February 24-26, 2023, at the Patton Campus in Elizabethtown, DeMolay and the Knights of Pythagoras met for what is known as the Brotherhood Retreat.

The weekend was a return to the Brotherhood Retreat that existed in the late '80s and early '90s, where DeMolay and Knights of Pythagoras members made an effort to build friendships with people outside of their respective organizations. They had the opportunity to share stories, learn the similarities and differences between the two

programs, and enjoy fellowship through sports, games, and other activities. For example, a bowling event hosted by the Lancaster Lodge of Perfection to support the Children's Dyslexia Centers closed out the festivities on Saturday night.

The most significant objective of this weekend was to allow the youth to build friendships and bonds with youth who share similar goals. The mutual respect between the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge inspired this program, and it is an exciting time to bring this program back to help strengthen the ties between DeMolay and the Knights of Pythagoras. □



[pademolay.org](http://pademolay.org)

## Ready for Life

**Founded** in 1922 by Past Grand Master and Scottish Rite member Rev. W. Mark Sexton, Rainbow extolls the tenets of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Our Rainbow program teaches benevolence and service through a program of fun, fulfilling, and fraternal activities. Rainbow prepares girls for responsible and purposeful adulthood through character and leadership development encouraging unselfish service and higher ideals in life and promoting teamwork and effective interpersonal communications.

Rainbow demonstrates the importance of belief in the existence of a Supreme Being and the value of the spiritual truths taught in the Scriptures. It teaches girls to preserve the dignity of their character, and to strive for higher things in life. There is a “Bow” of Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, and Violet. These brilliant colors reflect and correspond to what members learn: Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism, and Service. Behind each of these lessons are three basic beliefs: Faith in a Supreme Being and in others; having Hope in all that you do; and Charity towards others. Rainbow also teaches leadership skills, patriotism, and service to others. These lessons are taught in a ritual of ceremonies presented from memory by the members.



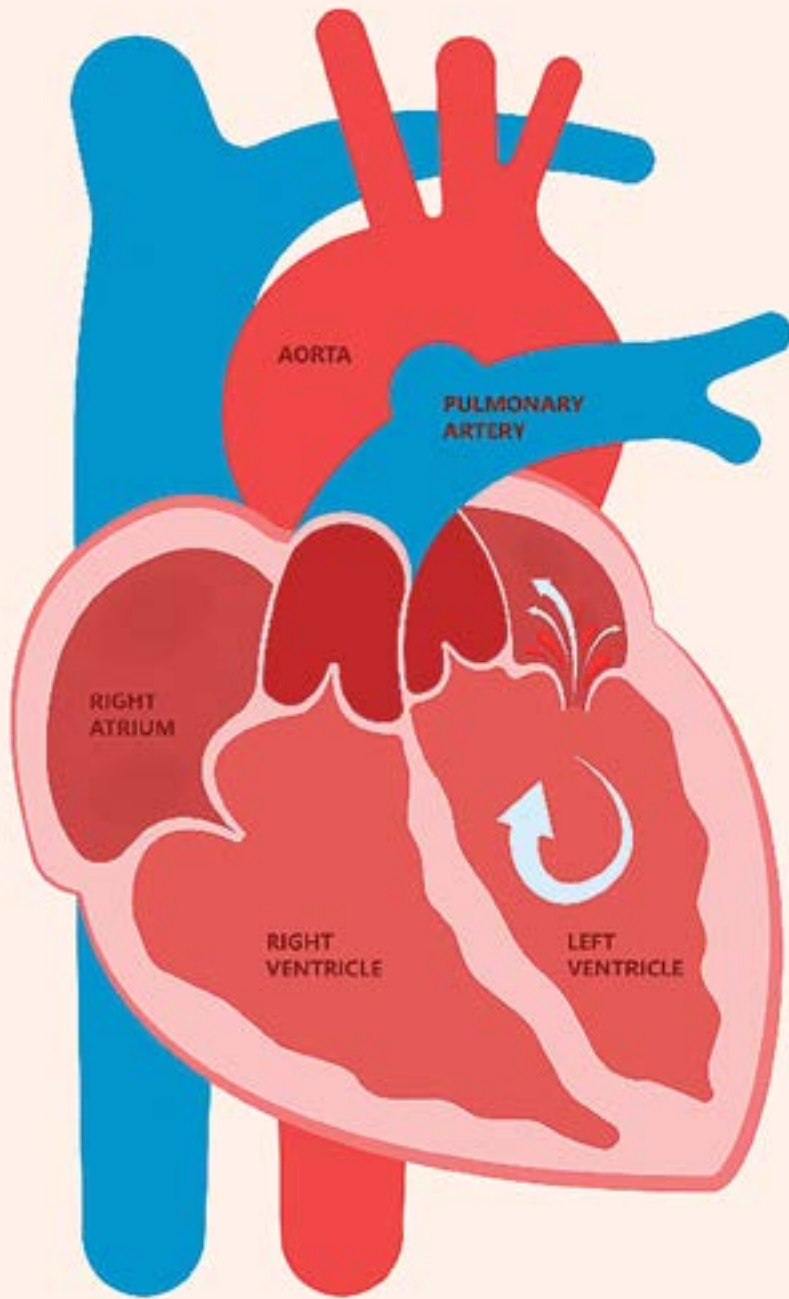
The Rainbow program also includes fun activities such as dances, parties, social events, sports, choirs, picnics, visitations to other Assemblies, and much more. Members experience the excitement of what a productive, well-rounded life has to offer.

Rainbow Girls also enjoy working for and/or with different charities. This helps to improve their public speaking while mastering the lessons of Rainbow. Members tackle lots of challenging hurdles, but they ultimately walk away with a sense of pride and accomplishment. Sometimes there are various fundraisers for their chosen charities. Many Rainbow Girls find fun and satisfaction in participating in Charity events including volunteering in nursing homes, bell-ringing, placing wreaths, making cards of cheer for shut-ins, and collecting personal items for the needy, veterans, and so much more. Our State charity is “My Stuff Bags.” Locally we are collecting coins and aluminum can tabs. If the goal of raising \$3,000 is reached before our July Grand Assembly, there will be a huge water balloon battle at Grand Assembly.

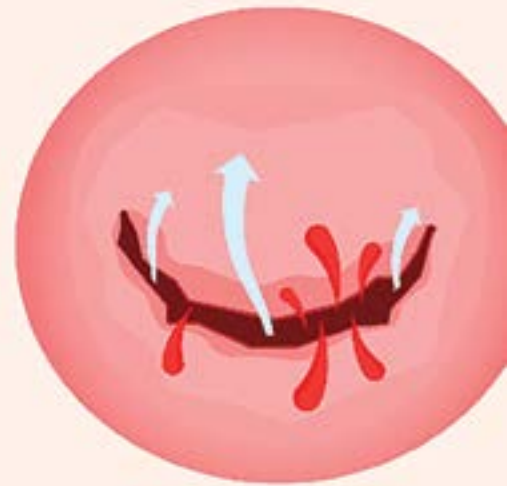
Rainbow “Gets Girls Ready for Life.” This is the Supreme motto that helps to guide all the planning, activities, events, fun, and fellowship of the organization. □



[parainbowgirls.org](http://parainbowgirls.org)



HEALTHY MITRAL VALVE



BLOOD LEAKING BACK INTO LEFT ATRIUM



Dr. Glenn D. Miller, 33°

# Mitral Valve Prolapse **Part 2**

By Dr. Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°

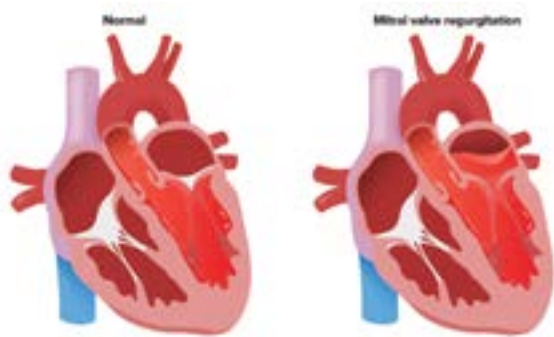
The diagnosis of mitral valve prolapse (MVP) is often made as an incidental finding on a routine physical examination since the majority of patients with MVP are asymptomatic. The initial preliminary diagnosis is made by the physician when he or she listens to the patient's heart with a stethoscope. As previously outlined, the physician will hear a mid-systolic "click" from the prolapsing leaflets snapping against each other during contraction, followed by a late systolic murmur from the turbulent blood flow of the mitral regurgitation. When mitral valve prolapse (MVP) is suspected, the physician typically orders a transthoracic 2D or 3D echocardiogram to confirm the diagnosis. The echocardiogram permits an accurate measurement of the mitral valve leaflet thickness as well as a measurement of the distance of leaflet displacement relative to the mitral valve annulus. The echocardiogram also assesses the degree of mitral regurgitation if present. Transesophageal echocardiograms (TEE) may be required for those patients whose body habitus or lung volumes (COPD) prevent adequate images for assessment of the mitral valve apparatus. TEE's are also often necessary for those patients in whom surgical repair or replacement is being contemplated. Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can be utilized as an adjunct to echocardiography to provide more detailed information about the mitral valve apparatus and the heart muscle, especially in patients undergoing presurgical evaluation for mitral valve repair or replacement. Patients undergoing presurgical evaluation for mitral valve surgery also typically have a cardiac catheterization to assess for significant coronary artery disease so that any required coronary artery bypass grafting can be performed at the same time.

Since the vast majority of patients with mitral valve prolapse (MVP) do not have any symptoms, most patients do not require any treatment or activity restrictions. In fact, antibiotic prophylaxis for endocarditis is no longer recommended by the American Heart Association for most patients with mitral valve prolapse who are going to have dental or other minor medical procedures performed. Exceptions to these newer guidelines would be patients who had previously suffered from endocarditis or those who have undergone mitral valve replacement surgery for mitral valve prolapse (MVP). If patients develop

**When mitral valve prolapse (MVP) is suspected, the physician typically orders a transthoracic 2D or 3D echocardiogram to confirm the diagnosis.**

arrhythmias as previously outlined, they should limit the intake of stimulants such as caffeine and nicotine, as well as alcohol. If the arrhythmias persist, treatment with oral medications such as beta-blockers or calcium-channel blockers can be instituted. In some instances, antiarrhythmic medications may be required. If the arrhythmia is atrial fibrillation, anticoagulants may be required to reduce the risk of a stroke from potential blood clots that can develop in the left atrium. Life-long anticoagulant usage is also required in patients who undergo mechanical mitral valve replacement surgery for mitral valve prolapse. Patients with anxiety issues or panic attacks may benefit from anxiolytic medications. Patients with episodes of dizziness and/

or fainting need to maintain adequate hydration with liberal salt and fluid intake. Conversely, patients with evidence of peripheral edema or congestive heart failure secondary to associated significant mitral regurgitation will benefit from diuretic therapy.



Patients with mitral valve prolapse (MVP) that develop moderate-severe or severe mitral regurgitation will most likely require surgical intervention, whether they are symptomatic or asymptomatic. The goal of mitral valve surgical repair or replacement is to prevent or stop the progression of heart enlargement and/or congestive heart failure. Ideally, surgery should be performed prior to the development of heart enlargement, decreased left ventricular systolic

**Since the vast majority of patients with mitral valve prolapse (MVP) do not have any symptoms, most patients do not require any treatment or activity restrictions.**

function, and/or symptomatology. Mitral valve surgical repair is generally preferable to valve replacement because it preserves the native valve apparatus, has increased surgical survival rates, has a lower risk of perioperative stroke and endocarditis, results in better preservation of left ventricular function, and does not require long-term anticoagulant therapy. Details of mitral valve surgical repair are beyond the scope of this discussion but include placing a partial or complete annuloplasty ring around the annulus of the mitral valve, possible resection (removal) of the damaged part of the valve leaflet with sewing together of the remaining edges, and possible repair or replacement of some chordae tendineae. Surgical replacement of the

mitral valve is required if the valve is not amenable to repair. Prosthetic mitral valves are either made from metal (mechanical) or tissue (biologic). The biologic tissue valves are either bovine (cow), porcine (pig), or human heart tissue. The tissue valves do not require long-term anticoagulation but typically last for only 15-17 years on average. The mechanical valves have been known to last for 20-25 years but require the patient to be on lifetime anticoagulation therapy.

**The goal of mitral valve surgical repair or replacement is to prevent or stop the progression of heart enlargement and/or congestive heart failure.**

People with mitral valve prolapse (MVP) should follow up with a cardiologist on a regular basis. If the patient does not have any significant symptoms or any significant associated mitral regurgitation, an evaluation every 2 to 3 years is acceptable. Regular echocardiograms are not typically required for these patients. If the patient has previously documented moderate to severe mitral regurgitation, follow-up examinations with echocardiograms every 6 to 12 months are generally recommended to assess for any change in the patient's condition as well as for any possible enlargement of the patient's heart and decrease in left ventricular systolic function. As previously outlined, mitral valve repair or replacement surgery should ideally be performed prior to any of these developments. Additionally, follow-up examinations and echocardiograms are recommended for patients who develop any new symptoms or experience any change in their symptoms.

**In summary, the vast majority of people with mitral valve prolapse (MVP) are asymptomatic, never develop symptoms, do not require any treatment, do not have any activity limitations, and live a normal lifespan. For those patients who develop symptoms and/or medical complications/conditions, there are a myriad of medical and surgical treatments that are available to improve the quality of life and enable a normal or near-normal lifespan. □**

# The Center

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

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## Seeing Stars

By Patricia Broskey

The CDC students have been seeing stars lately! Here's the story:

We received a phone call from a board member. "Hello, we have some paper and stickers to donate from our business. Are you interested?"

"Absolutely!" I replied.

The "stickers" ended up being over a hundred pages with more than 200 stars per page.

What to do with all those stars? Of course! Our students are stars. Maybe they should see a visualization of their efforts!

Voila! The star chart was created with each student's name. The students "earn" stars based on the following criteria:

- ★ One for every session they attend
- ★ One for arriving on time for their session
- ★ Up to 3 additional stars, as agreed upon with their tutor. These stars are for effort and cooperation—giving it their all.

When a student accumulates 50 stars, they receive a monetary reward. Oh, the excitement!

Stop in some day and see all our stars—the small ones on the chart and the multiple sized ones working and learning in each tutoring room!

Also, we can NEVER forget what stars our tutors are! Hmmm... there may be another star chart in our future. □



For more information:

**412-931-3181**

**Patricia Broskey**, Director  
[pittsburgh@cdcinc.org](mailto:pittsburgh@cdcinc.org)









VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

## High Rolling for a Cause

The Children's Dyslexia Center held its very first Monte Carlo night fundraiser on March 11, 2023. It was a fantastic night of fun and fellowship, raising more than \$8,300 for the Center.

Partyline Catering provided delectable Hors D'oeuvres, Devon Allen Johnson entertained all with his acoustical gifts, and Elite Casino Events professionally ran the various casino games. There were many unique gift baskets that everyone was excited to take a chance on with their raffle tickets, especially the winners!

This was a great inaugural event! Mark your calendars for March 9, 2024 for the second annual Monte Carlo Night. □





**Three**  
*myths*  
**About**  
**Attendance**

by PJ Roup, 33°



PJ Roup, 33°

► **Since I have** taken on the role of Active Member of the Supreme Council and editor of *The Northern Light*, I have spoken with many of our members about how the Scottish Rite has evolved over the years. I have had conversations with young members from Pittsburgh and old members from Peoria. I've talked to new Masons from Akron and seasoned members from Youngstown. No matter who I talk to, where they're from, or how long they've belonged, one thing is clear: it is without debate that today's Freemasonry in general, and the Scottish Rite in particular, are not the same as one we might have visited thirty, forty, or fifty years ago.

Freemasonry is different. Society is different. So what? Different is fine. Different is acceptable—as long as we remain mentally nimble enough to recognize and adapt to change. Too often, we hide behind excuses like, *Times have changed* or *All social organizations have declining membership* to justify our unwillingness to see our Fraternity through the eyes of the next generation.



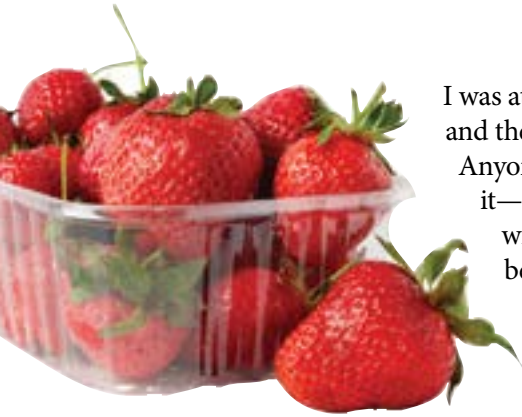
In essence, these excuses have become anchors—not anchors that steady us in stormy seas, but ones that keep us from even unfurling our sails and leaving familiar shores. What follows is a list of the most common myths about Lodge attendance.

**Today's man is too busy for Freemasonry.** The myth of the overbooked schedule has been around for ages. In an effort to explain declining attendance, people point to the 1950s and how the wife took care of the house and kids, giving the man an opportunity to go to his social club at night.

While that may be true, it is equally valid that men today still spend time together. Cigar clubs, bowling alleys, restaurants, and bars are full of men socializing on nearly any night of the week. Men regularly take time away from their busy family schedules to watch their favorite teams compete. They even participate in sports like golf, tennis, hunting, and fishing without negatively impacting their home lives.

What we need to ask ourselves, then, is why they aren't choosing Freemasonry.

One reason is that we are viewed as a sort of dinosaur that somehow survived the Ice Age. We only have ourselves to blame for that. We have held on to our customs, refusing to adapt to the change that has taken place around us.



I was at a Lodge last June, and the program was... Anyone? You guessed it—Strawberry Night. I will resist the urge to begin a rant about how *Strawberry Night* is no more of a Lodge program than *Freemasons at Gettysburg* is a side

dish for your roast beef dinner. At this meeting, there were thirteen of us—the Lodge officers, one visitor, and me. Sadly, I can almost guarantee you that this year’s program for June will also be *Strawberry Night*.

If we fail to observe what it is that young men want, choosing instead to give them what the men of the 1950s wanted, we are sure to fail.

“Fine,” you say, shaking your head. **“No one is going to want to \_\_\_\_\_.”** No matter how you complete that sentence, as long as it is an activity that is within the bounds of decorum and social responsibility, it is simply untrue. In your Lodge, there is someone who would: go to an art museum, flower show, or concert. There is also someone who would volunteer at the food bank, homeless shelter, or church. There are still others who would attend yoga class, golf, ride a motorcycle, or shoot sporting clays. There is simply no way to know what people will do until you give them a chance to do it.

How do you measure the success of a first-time event? Not by attendance. Every Valley has early adopters—those few intrepid souls who will brave the new adventures without fear or hesitation. Likewise, every Valley has those who will sit by and see how the first run goes before they commit—rushing blindly into the unknown universe of ballroom dancing is reckless, after all. Quite simply, we should gauge success by the quality of the time shared, the bonds created, and the memories made rather than by the number of people who attend.

The last, and arguably the most damaging myth, is that **Freemasonry has nothing to offer today’s young man.**

Nothing can be farther from the truth. There exists no organization that offers a man what Freemasonry does. We give men a deeply symbolic, moving, initiatic experience, an illuminated path to being their best selves, and a chance to meet men they would never have had the occasion to meet anywhere else. Additionally, Masonry comes with an extended family that literally spans the globe. Masons are never alone, never without help, and never far from a friend.

Don't

believe the myths.  
Men need us, but they  
need to know about us.

The brotherly love that binds us to each other cannot be duplicated. Other organizations may give you a feeling of community. There are activities outside of the Craft where you may feel that what you do matters, but Freemasonry is the only one that gives a man access to a true global brotherhood that is capable of changing the direction of the world.

Don't believe the myths. Men need us, but they need to know about us. Don't assume that your young neighbor doesn't have the time to join a Lodge. Ask him. Let him know that time with us is not time wasted. If he gives us a few of his hours, we can teach him to be a better husband, father, and son. Don't be timid about trying new events. People will come, maybe slowly at first, but they will come. Finally, don't forget that what we offer is valuable. We take ordinary men and make them... Freemasons. □



# TheWord

Observations from Brother and Reverend David A. Eichelberger, 32°

## BROTHERHOOD AND THE ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

When our editor first shared the theme of Brotherhood and Masonry for this issue, I was excited to share some of my experiences in our Fraternity. Being the only son with three sisters, I never knew what it was like to have a brother growing up. I garnered from my friends, neighbors, and even from my father that it had its ups and downs. Some brothers—especially older brothers—would ignore you. Some would take delight in tormenting you, and some would encourage and watch over you. The best part of having good brothers was that when dangers threatened, good brothers would rally around and be at your back.

No Master Scottish Rite Mason is ever too old to stop mentoring and encouraging those who are learning the work of the Scottish Rite.

My other source of information about brothers came from my studies in Sunday School, and they caused me to have my doubts about Brotherhood. In the Book of Genesis are several stories about brothers: Cain killed Abel because God liked his sacrifice better. Jacob stole his brother Esau's blessing from their father and spent a long time running away from Esau's threat to kill him. Jacob's sons seemed very similar in that they hated their younger brother Joseph. They threatened to kill him and eventually sold him into slavery. Fortunately for them, Joseph came to see that God had a plan in mind to rescue his family. He forgave them and provided for everyone—even the hateful brother—in their time of need.

Masons seem to come in several flavors as Brothers as well. Some older Brethren are glad to have younger Brethren

in the Fraternity but are not too keen to engage with them. Others are too eager to turn everything over to them before they have matured in their knowledge of the ancient traditions and landmarks and have demonstrated their ability to handle the responsibility needed for their positions.

Our Masonic model of Apprentices, Fellowcraft, and Masters should guide us in these matters. New Scottish Rite "Apprentice Masons" have much to learn, but they also need opportunities to demonstrate what they are learning as new Brethren among us. "Fellowcraft Scottish Rite Masons" have had more time to accumulate knowledge and perspective, have had opportunities to work with others, and demonstrate their growing ability to manage and give leadership with guidance. "Master Scottish Rite Masons" have demonstrated a high level of skills and are still needed to mentor those who are learning and growing. They must be willing to acknowledge when those they have mentored are seasoned enough to move forward with more responsibility and accountability. No Master Scottish Rite Mason is ever too old to stop mentoring and encouraging those who are learning the work of the Scottish Rite. The wisest know when it is time to step aside and let others take up the mantle of leadership.



What kind of Brother will we seek to be? One who welcomes and encourages? One who teaches the ropes and helps others to find their way? Or a Brother who ignores or even impedes others from gaining the best sort of Brotherhood they could enjoy? Each of us must make a choice! For our Valley of Pittsburgh to flourish and regain its preeminence, I believe we are called to seek excellence in ourselves and encourage it in others. □

**VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**Santa Claus**  
**Came to Town**

Magician T.J. Hill opened this year's Children's Holiday Party with tricks, illusions, and jokes before everyone adjourned to the dining room for pizza and cookies provided by the Princes of Jerusalem.

Santa even took time out of his busy schedule to visit with the good girls and boys who accompanied our Valley members. The jolly man in red took the time to listen to the requests of each of the children and made sure that they went home with a toy. Before he left, Santa promised to return again next year, so keep an eye on the Valley calendar and plan to bring the special children in your life to next year's event.











Austin R. Shifrin, 33°

# The Many Loves

by Austin Shifrin, 33°

**We talk of Brotherly love in Freemasonry so casually that we risk diluting the importance and the impact of the phrase we use to express this pivotal notion.**

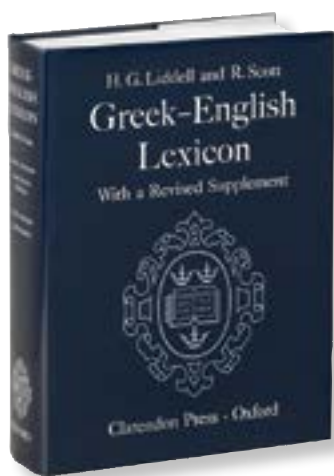
I turn to the ancient Greeks for a deeper exploration of the concept, as they had several different terms for “love,” each with more specific and nuanced meanings for use in different contexts. I am wary of the hazards surrounding the Whorf-Sapir hypothesis, which claims that the more expansive a vocabulary a culture had to refer to a concept implied something about the way they conceptualized their world. After all, once you start looking into root words versus prefixes and suffixes, you can get into some trouble with how to determine whether you are truly counting distinctive words. But in this case, we have six genuinely distinct words in ancient Greek which I think

we should explore. Some are more familiar to us than others, from their use and adaptation in modern times. Some of them even seem to have a bit of overlap in their definitions, which made me curious. I believe all six of these are relevant to our Masonic experience and deserve some further consideration in that regard.

One that I have had recent and salient exposure to is agape, which according to *Liddell & Scott’s Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* directly translates as, “love: especially brotherly love, charity; the love of God for person and of person for God.” Indeed, in the bible, in Romans 5:5 and 5:8, the term *agape* is used to express God’s unconditional love for his children—which to me seems to overlap with a different term we cover later, which is supposed to be more parental in nature.

**In my Traditional Observance lodge, we refer to our dinner after the meeting as an agape, where we also make a series of toasts to honor and recognize various individuals or entities.**

After all, we use terms like “God the Father” because we model and imagine our relationship with the deity based on notions of parental love. And brotherly love is also expressed by another Greek term; so, for agape, I’m inclined to focus on the charitable aspect—such as the charity of thought we are admonished to exercise toward our Brethren. Thomas Aquinas reinforces this in the *Summa Theologiae*, where he asserts that it means “to will (wish for) the good of another.” In addition, early Christians used the term agape or love-feast to refer to their practice of holding morning prayer sessions and sharing a simple communal meal afterward. In my Traditional Observance lodge, we refer to our dinner after the meeting as an agape, where we also make a





series of toasts to honor and recognize various individuals or entities (our past masters, our visitors, the Grand Lodge). In that fashion, we show our appreciation (or love) for how they enrich our lives generally and our Masonic experience in particular. Toasting, or drinking to someone's health, is an

ancient form of "willing the good of another."

Many of us are more familiar with the concept of the word *eros* due to its appearance in an English descendent of the word *erotic*. *Eros* means "love, mostly of the sexual passion," while the modern Greek word *erotias* means "intimate love" (perhaps giving us more interpretive leeway). All told, we might choose to conclude that surely it could have nothing to do with Freemasonry and leave it at that. Unless, that is, we wish to attend to the writings

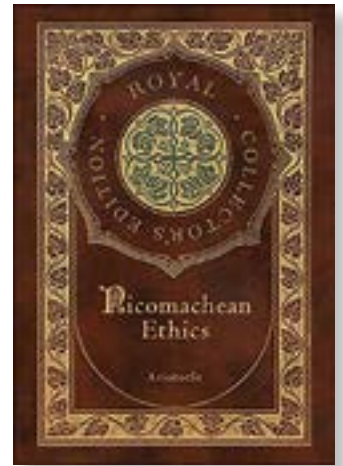
of Plato. In his *Symposium*, Plato argues that the ultimate purpose of *eros* is that attraction to physical beauty eventually gets sublimated into something more like a passion for spiritual truth. Hence, the reason why we label love that is not rooted in physical intimacy as "Platonic."



We also have some familiarity with *philia*, which refers to "affectionate regard and friendship," typically "between

equals." It signifies a love more rooted in duty and virtue than sentiment. Thus, it carries overtones relating to loyalty, such as that one has to community, family, or friends—as outlined by Aristotle in his *Nicomachean*

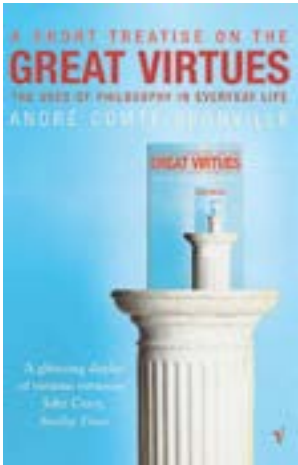
*Ethics*. We have seen it in combination with *adelphos*, or brother, to give us Philadelphia, that highly Masonic city of brotherly love. We can clearly see how a principle of love that manifests as loyalty applies in the context of our Masonic lessons regarding our obligations to our Brethren.



It also reminds us of another important lesson when combined with the phoneme *auto*, relating to the self, to give us the word *philautia*, or self-love. Our Masonic lessons also include guidelines regarding how we should treat ourselves. In this context, I think of the lessons of André Comte-Sponville in his work, *A Small Treatise on*

**With too little self-love,  
we might never aspire to live up  
to our full potential, and with  
too much, obviously, we might  
succumb to solipsism at the least  
or narcissism at the worst.**

*the Great Virtues*: He explains that often, a quality that constitutes a virtue in the correct quantity becomes a vice if we possess too much or too little of the same thing. In this case, surely we ought to have enough self-love to know that we should carry ourselves with dignity and are worthy of respect. With too little self-love, we might never aspire to live up to our full potential, and with too much, obviously, we might succumb to solipsism at the least or narcissism at the worst.



The term *storge* seems to have been used infrequently in the ancient Greek texts and even so, to have taken on something of a dual nature. Typically, it signifies “love and affection,” particularly “of parents and children,” and therefore implies an innate empathy. This is the term (other than *agape*) that I surmised might be used to express the

way that man and God relate to one another, given this parental nuance. However, in an odd twist, *storge* is also used to convey merely tolerating something or someone—as one might speak of loving the Pirates, in spite of feeling like they’ve let you down—a begrudging support.

And finally, we also have *xenia*, the expression of hospitality for the ancient Greeks. You might be familiar with the root of this word as it appears in xenophobia or xenomorph, *xeno* meaning relating to that which is foreign, other, or different in origin; alien. *Xenia* is sometimes expressed in translations as “ritual friendship” or “guest

friendship.” Hence, it carries the connotation that it is not motivated by familiarity or an emotional connection to the recipient but rather by custom. Such treatment was considered an ethical imperative in ancient times (and is held in similar regard in some traditional cultures today). I am inclined to think that in the Masonic setting, a toast to visitors could fall under this rubric—they might be Brethren with whom I’m



not personally familiar yet, but I recognize my duty to salute them and welcome them.

**I hope it stimulates your contemplation of our Craft and will give you something enlightening and valuable to share with the Brethren, as you dwell together in unity.**

For the scholar who wishes to pursue further, one might even look into the “colour wheel theory of love,” proposed by Canadian psychologist John Alan Lee in his book, *Colours of Love: An Exploration of the Ways of Loving*, in 1973. In his work, he grouped these 6 and 3 others (*ludus*, *mania*, and *pragma*) into a diagram and explored the separately as well as in interplay. I did not believe they merited elaboration here as I didn’t perceive resonance with Masonic concepts, but I would be interested in being proven wrong. Even considering only those initial six, I feel this exploration of the ancient Greek language can broaden our appreciation of the concept of love within Freemasonry—not only the Brotherly love we hear so routinely touted but these other shades or flavors as well. I hope it stimulates your contemplation of our Craft and will give you something enlightening and valuable to share with the Brethren, as you dwell together in unity. □







VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

# Murder Most Foul

At the February meeting, murder was on everyone's minds. The Dinner Detective troupe helped those in attendance solve a mystery. It seems that someone stuck a knife in our own Brother Ron Plesh. But who?

Everyone got in on the action, doing their best to make excuses, ask hard questions, and see if they could figure out just whodunnit. With the help of some expert sleuthing, the group was able to prove that, thankfully, a non-Valley member was guilty of the crime.

The sentence? Fun for all!

□



# Brotherly Love?

by D. Todd Ballenger, 33\*





D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

“Brothers that say they never fight are most definitely hiding something.” —Lemony Snicket

**Ah, brothers.** Some folks have one. Some have more than one. I’ve got one by blood and a whole lot more by Rite. The ones that come to mind at the moment, however, are some of the classic greats: Cain and Abel; Romulus and Remus; Noel and Liam Gallagher; Joseph (the Biblical one with the Technicolor Dreamcoat) and... well, he had a whole caravan of brothers, didn’t he?

Now hold the phone for just a minute. What’s going on here? Sure, these guys are brothers, but they all—well, most of them anyway—tried to kill each other, didn’t they? Heck, some even succeeded!

Okay, let’s take note...



### Cain vs. Abel

After Cain discovered the Lord preferred veal over fruits & veggies, he cracked his brother’s noggin open with a rock.



### Romulus vs. Remus

Best buddy brothers until they tried to build a city together and discovered they couldn’t agree on the site. Remus died in the ensuing fight and Romulus named his new city Rome.



### Noel G. vs. Liam G.

Literal rockstar siblings who are fantastic together as the band Oasis but can’t be near each other for the length of the song Wonderwall. Noel once commented about his brother: “He’s like a man with a fork in a world of soup.” No reported deaths... yet.



### Joseph vs. Everyone

So all your brothers are good at working the land and herding the sheep, but Joe’s talent was interpreting dreams. This lame job skill and a father’s outward favoritism marked Joseph as the object of his brothers’ ire. They beat him, threw him down a well, and sold him into slavery, telling their distraught father that a wild animal had killed him. Tough break, kid!

Of course, growing up, Mom said, “You don’t have to like him, but you do have to love him. He’s your brother!” Great. Super. Fine. Let’s face it, we’ve all felt this way about our brothers at one time or another. And believe it or not, this applies to both the family kind and the Fraternal kind. Yes, I imagine we’ve all entertained the desire to use the bonds of Brotherhood that bind us together in Lodge as something to bind some folks’ hands while applying a liberal swatch of duct tape to their mouths [Ed. Note - *This would be bad. I mean really bad. Don’t do this.*].

Yeah, yeah, I know. Mr. Editor is right [Ed. Note - *Indeed I am.*]. But if the Fraternity is built on brotherly love, what are you supposed to do when you really have a problem with someone? How do you get past these feelings? How do you avoid the pitfalls that lead to these spats? And most importantly, how do you recover if something bad does happen?

## **If leaving your baggage outside isn’t helping heal the hurt, then try turning down the volume on your issues.**

As Masons, we are all taught several indispensable lessons. First of all, it’s not how you dress or what you do; we are to judge on internal character. Sometimes, though, that good internal character gets lost. That’s why we’re reminded to leave such private animosities outside - preferably far outside—the room. You’re with your Brothers to make great things happen together, and that means all of you. Don’t be the weak link in the chain just because you feel the need to carry a grudge. Think about the positive good you and your Brothers are accomplishing. Maybe it’s for the group; maybe it’s for something else. Most importantly, you’re working together in harmony to create something to benefit everyone.

If leaving your baggage outside isn’t helping heal the hurt, then try turning down the volume on your issues. Personally, I wouldn’t look to the Gallagher brothers for advice on this front (those guys are always turning the volume up). So, you can’t get rid of some of that dirty laundry—okay. But you don’t have to bring it out and wave it like a flag for all to see, either. As Masons, we

## **We are always stronger together, my Brothers.**

should learn to correct with kindness. Control your voice, both volume and pitch, and for crying out loud, remove the attitude from your tone! Sarcasm doesn’t heal. In fact, it conveys the opposite message. If you’re going to correct someone, do it with the intention and demeanor of teaching them something new that will actually benefit the group as well as the individual. My Dad used to say, “You can catch more flies with honey rather than salt.” If you pull that Grumpy Past Master stunt, you’ll soon find that the only thing you’ll be catching is a cold from standing outside the Lodge all by yourself. Trust me, if you practice treating others like you wish to be treated, then soon you’ll forget that you had any bad feelings about anyone at all.

Even though the Fraternity’s Opening and Closing Charges are wonderful at reminding us how we should act toward one another both in and out of the Lodge, there may come a time when you discover you just don’t get along with certain Brothers. I get it. It happens, but believe it or not, it is not the end of the world. Not even close—because you’ve got more! Listen well: you are not chained to the Lodge that raised you. There is absolutely nothing confining you to that room or building. It’s a Lodge, not a prison. If those Brothers aren’t singing the songs you like, then, my friend, look for a new Lodge. It’s much better to find new friends than to stop going. We all need to find where we fit, and often our preferences and tolerances change over the course of our lives. Life happens. You can’t stop it. But you can get by with a little help.



“I get by with a little help from my friends.” —Ringo Starr

Okay, let's recap...



## Cain vs. Abel

Perhaps instead of splitting his brother's wig in a jealous rage, Cain should have focused on how he could improve himself and thereby become a better offering to the Lord. Remember that Freemasonry is about making the best you that you can be.



## Romulus vs. Remus

Maybe the twins would have made it had they concentrated on how to best work and best agree instead of digging in and refusing to budge over a trivial argument [*Ed. Note - Wow! never seen that in Freemasonry*].



## Noel G. vs. Liam G.

Okay, if you absolutely cannot get along, even the fact that you're family does not mean that you have to be in the same Lodge or Valley. Take your talents and energy to where they are appreciated. You are responsible for your own harmony as well as that of those around you. If the song is no good where you're standing, then, my Brother, you need to take it somewhere new—for everyone's sake.



## Joseph vs. Everyone

I get it. Being sold into slavery, accused of adultery, thrown in prison, and told to predict the future by the sovereign or else, is kind of a bad lot. But, our buddy Little Joe decided to face things with a good attitude (and some help from the Big Guy), and things turned out all right for him. He even got the opportunity to get back at his brothers for sending him down this dark road in the first place. Oh, wait! He forgave each and every one of them, didn't he? Well, doesn't that just beat all?

Understand, this brotherly love is the love we all share. It's the desire inside each of us to belong; to contribute; to teach; to console; to celebrate; and to strengthen. We are always stronger together, my Brothers. Even if we get a bit

miffed every now and then, we'll be better when we get over it. Together, we can overcome such trivialities. We can get by if we stick together to lighten the load. After all, he ain't heavy. He's my Brother. □

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH

# Catching the Christmas Spirit

On December 17, the Valley of Pittsburgh hosted their Holiday Luncheon at Shannopin Country Club. The festivities began with a cocktail reception, followed by a three-course meal. Bob Addleman and Bill Dorfner were once again on hand to sing and play all of the holiday favorites.

It was the perfect way for our members and their guests to get into the holiday spirit. Those who attend continue to remark that it is one of the best events the Valley of Pittsburgh has to offer. Keep an eye on future issues of *RiteNow* for information about next year's event. You won't want to miss it.





# The Latest

Important happenings coming soon to the Valley of Pittsburgh

APR

6

**Reservations are required for Dinner only!**

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

## Stated Meeting

Join us for our April Stated Meeting where we will elect the slate of officers to serve the Valley for the 2023-24 Scottish Rite year.

TIME: 6:00PM Dinner / 7:00PM Meeting

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: \$15 per person for Dinner, no charge to attend meeting

RSVP: April 4

APR

21

APR

22

**Reservations are required.**

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

## Spring Class

Friday night will include the 4th and 14th Degrees and Saturday will include the 9th, 16th, 30th, and 32nd Degrees performed onstage with video degrees interspersed throughout the weekend. The initiation fee is \$150 and first line signers earn a \$20 credit to be applied to their next year's dues for each candidate.

TIME: 5:00AM-9:00PM Friday, 8:00AM-6:00PM Saturday

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: None for members. Candidates must submit petitions and pay initiation fees

RSVP: April 18

MAY

5

**Reservations are not required.**

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

## CigaRite

Its back! CigaRite returns on the first Friday of the month for another season of good fellowship, good food, and good fun. You need not be a cigar smoker to attend. Scottish Rite Masons, non-Scottish Rite Masons, and non-Masons are welcome so join us on the patio for a laid back, wonderful evening.

TIME: 6:00-11:00PM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: None for members or AASR prospects.

RSVP: None

MAY

6

**Reservations are required.**

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

## Ambassador Training

We will have representatives from Lexington here to conduct a "How To" seminar for anyone who is or would like to be a lodge ambassador for the Scottish Rite. Join us and get some great working tools to help you learn how to talk about the Scottish Rite in your home lodges. Lunch will be served. Reservations are required.

TIME: 8:30AM-3:00PM

LOCATION: GPMC

COST: None for members.

RSVP: May 2

## 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: \$9/person (all you can eat)

RSVP: None required

APR

29

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

**APR**  
**29**

**Reservations are required.**  
Please contact the Valley Office:  
[secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org)  
412-939-3579

## COD Officer Training

The officers will convene at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center for a morning of statewide officer training followed by lunch and an afternoon of individual Valley planning and training.

TIME: 8:30AM-3:00PM  
LOCATION: GPMC  
COST: None for officers.  
RSVP: April 25

**MAY**  
**20**

**Reservations are required.**  
Please contact the Valley Office:  
[secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org](mailto:secretary@valleyofpittsburgh.org)  
412-939-3579

## CDC Graduation

Come out and join us as we celebrate the students who are graduating from the CDC. This event personalizes the work that is being done through our signature charity. Reservations are required to help with food planning.

TIME: 6:00PM  
LOCATION: GPMC  
COST: None for members.  
RSVP: May 18

**MAY 27**   **JUN 24**   **JUL 29**

# Looking Ahead

**JUN**  
**2**

**CigarRite**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 2  
6PM  
GPMC

**JUL**  
**3**

**CigarRite**  
FRIDAY, JULY 3  
6PM  
GPMC

**JUL**  
**8**

**Council of Deliberation**  
SATURDAY, JULY 8  
10AM  
Harrisburg, PA

**AUG**  
**4**

**CigarRite**  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 4  
6PM  
GPMC

**AUG**  
**19**

**Wild Things Game and Picnic**  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19  
4PM Picnic, 7PM Game  
Wild Things Park  
Washington, PA

**Valley Rite Nite**  
TIME AND LOCATION  
TO BE DETERMINED  
Watch for Details!

# UniontownUpdate

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

VALLEY OF UNIONTOWN

## A Standout Brother

By Jonathan Green, 32°

I got my start in Freemasonry from a Brother I met at a gun club. Having been an avid trap and skeet shooter, I would hear these guys talk about their lodge and finally asked what it was. I've enjoyed the journey ever since.

I'm gonna go a little off track here and go from the beginnings to the enjoyment I've gotten out of Masonry. For years, I took pride in just being a union lineworker.

I've seen every major hurricane, ice storm, and derecho since 2000. And I've enjoyed every minute of it—restoring electricity to millions. I've stopped at various lodges in my travels since becoming a Mason and I have a whole collection of lapel pins I've picked up along the way.

At times, we wrap ourselves up in ritual and forget to sit back and reflect on the enjoyments of Masonry—from traveling to various shoots with Brothers I know to just simply handing the man who gave you your start a plaque at a Mason of the year banquet. I've learned that Freemasonry starts in the lodge, but it should be carried on and enjoyed outside of it as well. Whether it's enjoying the Shriners at the Fort Ligonier Days parade or attending the Meeting in the Hills, there are plenty of Masonic activities outside the lodge. The Masonic sporting clays shoots and the Shriner gun club shoots that are held at Clairton

Sportsman's Club are two more examples.

These events open doors to hang out outside the lodge not just in it. Whether it's a golf outing or a baseball game, try to attend it. To keep this great fraternity going, these are the events that are going to draw people to realize were not just a bunch of men in black suits that walk into a building one night a month.

At times, we wrap ourselves up in ritual and forget to sit back and reflect on the enjoyments of Masonry.

When I received my first degree, I was just so blown away by the Master doing everything by memory that I was speechless. I couldn't believe someone could memorize something like that. All the other degrees were enjoyable too but nothing as enjoyable as my first, conferred by our Mason of the year this year. He has been the

long-time Chaplain for years and made my three years as Worshipful Master really enjoyable. He's just one off those guys that is fun to be around. We can all take a little lesson from him—whether it's a corny joke or Air Jordans that look like clown shoes, he taught me an important lesson: Masonry should be enjoyed by Brothers out of the lodge as well as within it. I guess when it comes down to it, I can thank Emery Anden, Jr. for my start and my journey in this Fraternity. □



# Fraternal 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](http://www.RichReynoldsCPA.com)  
[richreynolds@MSN.com](mailto:richreynolds@MSN.com)

## ADVERTISING SPECIALITIES

**Grimes Advertising** 412-921-1325  
 Eddie & Sandy Grimes [goodadv@comcast.net](mailto:goodadv@comcast.net)  
[www.good-advertising.com](http://www.good-advertising.com)

## AUTOMOTIVE

**American Classics/Street Rods** 814-268-1234  
 Dennis A. Liegey  
[Americanclassics@windstream.net](mailto:Americanclassics@windstream.net)  
 1026 3rd Avenue, Brockway, PA 15824-1012

**Flynn's Tire & Auto Service** 724-346-3701  
 18 Locations  
 Jeff Wonderling [www.FlynnsTire.com](http://www.FlynnsTire.com)

## BEARINGS & POWER TRANSMISSION

**Gipson Bearing & Supply Co.** 412-462-7960  
 Craig Gipson [www.gipsonbearing.com](http://www.gipsonbearing.com)

## CATERING

**Party Line Catering, Deli & Bakery** 412-882-7110  
 Custer Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15227  
 Brian Meador [www.partylinecatering.net](http://www.partylinecatering.net)

## CHIMNEY REPOINTING & REBUILDING

**Coffey Contracting Co. Inc.** 412-341-1127  
[thomas.coffey3@verizon.net](mailto:thomas.coffey3@verizon.net) Pittsburgh, PA  
 Tom Coffey [www.coffeycontracting.com](http://www.coffeycontracting.com)

## FUNERAL SERVICES

**George Irvin Green Funeral Home**  
[www.georgeigreenfuneralhome.com](http://www.georgeigreenfuneralhome.com)  
 Munhall, PA Donald Green 412-461-6394

**Jefferson Memorial Cemetery & Funeral Home**  
 Pleasant Hills Harry C. Neel 412-655-4500  
[www.jeffersonmemorial.biz](http://www.jeffersonmemorial.biz)

**Warco-Falvo Funeral Home** 724-225-1500  
 Washington, PA S.Timothy Warco  
[www.warcofalvofuneralhome.com](http://www.warcofalvofuneralhome.com)

**Young Funeral Home Ltd** 724-283-3333  
 William F. Young III  
 127 W. Jefferson St., Butler, PA 16003  
[www.youngfuneralhomes.com](http://www.youngfuneralhomes.com)

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

## GRAPHIC DESIGN / CREATIVE SERVICES

**Square Peg Design** 724-925-0224  
 Rodney E. Boyce [www.squarepegdesign.com](http://www.squarepegdesign.com)  
[rboyce@squarepegdesign.com](mailto:rboyce@squarepegdesign.com)

## HOME REMODELERS

**Unglo Construction LLC** 412-977-8924  
 License # PA069933  
 Paul M. Unglo II Bethel Park, PA  
 Building, Renovation & Remodeling

## INSURANCE

**Rodgers Insurance Group** 412-922-1651  
 James M. Wehar  
 Pittsburgh, PA [jwehar@roddersgrp.com](mailto:jwehar@roddersgrp.com)

## PLUMBING

**John R. Meyers Plumbing, Inc.** 412-787-2370  
 John Meyers [jmeyers161@verizon.net](mailto:jmeyers161@verizon.net)  
 Sturgeon, PA Since 1972

## REAL ESTATE

**Mac McIlrath, CRB** [Mac13@kw.com](mailto:Mac13@kw.com)  
 Keller Williams, Associate Broker  
 4710 Clairton Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
 Cell:(412) 882-9002 Office:(412) 884-3800

## ROOFING

**Coffey Contracting Co. Inc.** 412-341-1127  
 Tom Coffey [www.coffeycontracting.com](http://www.coffeycontracting.com)  
[thomas.coffey3@verizon.net](mailto:thomas.coffey3@verizon.net)

## VIDEOGRAPHY

**Dreamscape Productions** 412-965-1860  
 P.J. Roup [pjroup@gmail.com](mailto:pjroup@gmail.com)

## VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023

### Gourgas Lodge of Perfection 14°

Eric S. Teasdale, 33° . . . . . Thrice Potent Master  
 Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA . . . . . Deputy Master  
 Christopher A. McNeal, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden  
 David C. Allison, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden  
 Erich W. Gumto, 33° . . . . . Orator  
 David E. Thumm Jr., 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 Robert W. Lovic, 32° . . . . . Guard

### Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem

Richard F. Kucera, 32° . . . . . Sovereign Prince  
 Robert H. Nelson, 32° . . . . . High Priest  
 B. Scott Allen, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden  
 Aaron J. Antimary, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden  
 Robert B. McGinnis, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 Thomas J. Anke, 32° . . . . . Master of Entrances

### Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix 18°

Jordan L. Frei, 32° . . . . . Most Wise Master  
 Charles F. Zurcher, 32° . . . . . Senior Warden  
 Benjamin J. Douglas, 32° . . . . . Junior Warden  
 Robert D. Nichol, 32° . . . . . Orator

### Pennsylvania Consistory 32°

William G. Johnston, 33° . . . . . Commander-in-Chief  
 Joshua S. Freeman, 32° . . . . . 1st Lieutenant Commander  
 David L. Moore, 33° . . . . . 2nd Lieutenant Commander  
 Edward W. Deitz Jr., 32° . . . . . Orator  
 Michael R. Bahney, 32° . . . . . Chancellor  
 Timothy L. McKiernan, 32° . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
 Steven R. Seman, 32° . . . . . Engineer & Seneschal  
 Thomas E. Ruch, 32° . . . . . Standard Bearer  
 Sean M. Tomasic, 32° . . . . . Guard  
 George W. Polnar, 33° . . . . . Treasurer  
 David W. Morgans, 33° . . . . . Secretary  
 Vito A. Urso, 33° . . . . . Hospitaler  
 Dennis R. Johnston, 33° . . . . . Tiler  
 Robert F. Dunkle, 33° . . . . . MFS Representative  
 Robert B. Ruff, 33° . . . . . MFS Representative  
 Ronald A. Plesh, 32°, MSA . . . . . MFS Representative

### Executive Committee

William G. Johnston, 33°, Chairman  
 Joshua S. Freeman, 32° . . . . . David L. Moore, 33°  
 Eric S. Teasdale, 33° . . . . . Richard F. Kucera, 32°  
 Jordan L. Frei, 32° . . . . . Peter A. Leary, 33°, MSA  
 Robert H. Nelson, 32° . . . . . Charles F. Zurcher, 32°  
 Christopher A. McNeal, 32° . . . . . B. Scott Allen, 32°  
 Benjamin J. Douglas, 32° . . . . . Paul J. Roup, 33°, Active

### Trustees

Brian A. Maxwell, 32°, Chairman  
 Austin R. Shifrin, 33°, Vice Chairman  
 Patrick G. Blackwell, 33° . . . . . Glenn D. Miller, II, 33°  
 James C. Mayes, 33° . . . . . Jeffrey R. Jones, 32°  
 William G. Johnston, 33° . . . . . Eric S. Teasdale, 33°  
 Richard F. Kucera, 32° . . . . . Jordan L. Frei, 32°

### Allegiance

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

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



**WATERSLIDES &  
SKYRIDES &  
COMEDY SHOWS &  
ALL IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE OCEAN.**

**VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH  
8 NIGHT CRUISE  
ON CARNIVAL MAGIC**

**FEBRUARY 24 -  
MARCH 3, 2024**

**ST. MAARTEN  
ST. THOMAS  
SAN JUAN  
GRAND TURK**



Cruise departs from Miami, Florida

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH ALL SEASONS TRAVEL AT:

**724-483-7989 OR 800-435-1077**



Below pricing includes cruise fare, taxes, port charges, government fees, private cocktail party, and group photo. All prices are per person and based upon two persons per cabin. Triples or other categories of cabins are available upon request. Air transfers are not yet available, but notification will be provided when available. Air options will include travel one-day prior with hotel.

Reservations are based on availability at time of booking. Cabins are limited at the rates listed below.

All persons traveling must have a valid passport. Passport must have at least a six month validity from the date of return travel.

PRICING FROM

**\$1243** BALCONY CABINS  
PER PERSON

**\$819** OUTSIDE CABINS  
PER PERSON

DEPOSIT OF \$250 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED.  
BALANCE DUE ON NOVEMBER 20, 2023.