

165 Years of Scottish Rite Masonry in Pittsburgh





Valley of Pittsburgh

Teaching children with dyslexia

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

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

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

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

Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°

Deputy for Pennsylvania



Demosthenes Agoris



**Edward & Joan
Aiello**



**Robert & Janice
Amend**



**Emery & Carol
Anden**



**David & Carol
Bagaley**



**Raymond & Lynn
Dietz**



**Fred & Kathy
Donatelli**



Robert Eckbreth



**James Ecker &
Donna Murtha**



**James & Ellen
Flanigan**



Benjamin Henderson



**Raymond & Dorothy
James**



**James & Lisa
Jenkins**



**Robert & P.J.
Jones**



**Paul & Penny
Kappel**



John L. McCain



**John & Judy
McCombs**



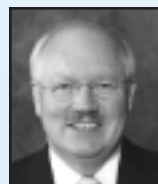
**Roy & Sara Jane
McCullough**



John McCutcheon



**Jay & Joanne
McElravy**



Bruce A. Robinson



**Richard & Bette
Rodibaugh**



**Don & Ginny
Sauer**



Joseph A. Schrock, Jr.



James W. Seel



**Bob & Charlene
Wells**



**James & Anetta
West**



**James & Jill
West**



**John & Jerry
Williams**



**Jeff & Sharon
Wonderling**



Builders Council Enrollment Form

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

With payments in equal installments over a period of:

☐ 3 years ☐ 5 years ☐ 10 years.

This pledge will be payable: ☐ Annually

☐ Semi-annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly

*Monthly payments may be made only by credit card.

First payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

Deduct my pledge from my credit card when due:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express
☐ Discover ☐ Other _____.

Number _____ Exp. date _____

Name you would prefer in recognition:

☐ This gift is anonymous.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph. () _____ Date _____

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

Builders Council

to read – one child at a time!



Robert & Jacqueline
Beatty



Jeff & Susan
Biddle



Mark & Patty
Bliler



George H. Cox



Rick & Renee
Cross



James & Eda
Dean



Mario & Linda
DeBlasio



Bill & Heather
Dickey



Howard & Sharon
Flynn



Donald & Debra
Green



Wally & Leah
Grossett



Erich & Raylene
Gumto



Harvey & Carol
Gumto



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Leland A. Hale, Jr.



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David & Sandy
Kearns



David & Judy
Kielman



John Kovac



George & Judith
Lewis



William & Barbara
Magnotti, Jr.



Frank R. Mangery



Jack Marsh



Glenn & Mary
Miller



Dr. Glenn & Roberta
Miller



Jack & Carol
Miller



Donald & Barbara
Murphy



John & Valerie
Nicklas



Raymond & Joy
Nicklas



Ronald & Karen
Plesh



D. William Roberts



William Shaw



William Slater, II



Samuel & Judy
Spanos



Thomas & Joan
Sturgeon



Kurt & Nancy
Tesche



Gregory Triko



George & Norma
Vance



S. Timothy Warco



Avalon
Lodge No. 657
F. & A.M.



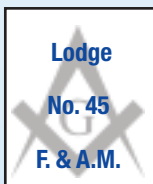
Chartiers
Lodge No. 297
F. & A.M.



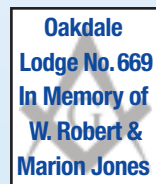
Homestead Amity
McCandles
Lodge No. 582
F. & A.M.



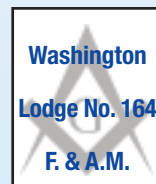
Infinity
Lodge No. 546
F. & A.M.



Lodge
No. 45
F. & A.M.



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



Washington
Lodge No. 164
F. & A.M.



30th
Masonic
District

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." – Bro. Winston Churchill



Pittsburgh
Commandery
No. 1
Knights
Templar



Unified
Lodge No. 2
1005



You're Lodge, Club, or Name could be here!
Call 412-939-3579.

VALLEY OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

August 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016

GOURGAS LODGE OF PERFECTION 14°

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Sam H. Jessee, 32° Deputy Master
Shawn P. Lang, 32° Senior Warden
Brian T. Wilding, 32° Junior Warden
Brandon T. Plesh, 32° Orator
Zack S. Morgans, 32° Master of Ceremonies
Jeffrey R. Jones, 32° Guard

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William J. Wiker, 32° High Priest
Erastus Z. Allen, 32° Senior Warden
Joseph G. Whitaker, 32° Junior Warden
Robert M. Polander, 32° Master of Ceremonies
Charles H. King, 32° Master of Entrances

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Robert B. Malwitz, 32° Senior Warden
James C. Mayes, 32° Junior Warden
Joshua S. Freeman, 32° Orator
Charles J. Anthony, 32° Master of Ceremonies
David B. Firda, 32° Guard

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David W. Morgans, 33° 1st. Lt. Commander
Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33° 2nd Lt. Commander
David L. Moore, 32° Orator
Joshua L. Miller, 32° Chancellor
Mitchell D. Goldstein, 32° Master of Ceremonies
Richard H. Kucera, 32° Engineer & Seneschal
Eric S. Teasdale, 32° Standard Bearer
Matthew A. Boice, 32° Guard

Paul J. Roup, 33° Treasurer
Donald M. Murphy, 33° Secretary
Vito A. Urso, 33° Hospitaler
Dennis R. Johnston, 33° Tiler
Peter A. Leary, 32°, Joseph G. Whitaker, 32° Masonic Fund Society
Charles M. Bombich, 32° Representatives

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Sam H. Jessee, 32° Robert B. Malwitz, 32°
David W. Morgans, 33° Donald M. Murphy, 33°
Paul J. Roup, 33° Robert B. Ruff, 32°
William J. Wiker, 32° Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°
Vito A. Urso, 33°, *Trustee* Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33°, *Active*

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Albert L. Kappeler, Jr., 33° Robert Mellon, 33° Donald E. Sauer, 33°
Walter L. Sykes, 33° Kurt R. Tesche, 33°

SECRETARY EMERITUS

Elwood R. Schultise, 33°

TREASURER EMERITUS

D. William Roberts, 33°

ALLEGIANCE

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

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In Memoriam

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



"Well Done, Good and Faithful Brother"

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

Carl L. Anderson	Laurence W. Jones Jr.	James W. Rutledge
Kevin D. Bork	James H. Jordan	William R.
Nicholas C. Bruich	Robert M. Kass	Schwartzmiller
Samuel E. Buckingham	William V. Keselich	Adam L. Snyder
William M. Cipkala	Daniel Koch	William E. Snyder
John A. Cole	William W. Kottner Sr.	William F. Spicher
Donald E. Dukstein	Paul M. Kunst	Carl H. Swanson Jr.
John O. Dulaney	Leo W. Martin	George R. Taylor
Charles F. Fox	John S. McKean	Edgar R. Taylor Jr.
Roy A. Gilliland Jr.	Robert L. McNall	William H. Thomas
Timothy P. Gorant	Clyde E. Miller	Melvin Trkula
George H. Gray Jr.	Gerald E. Miller	Joseph E. Turpin
Dallas E. Haun Jr.	Jacob R. Minsinger	George G. Weddell
William K. Henley Jr.	Frank L. Moore Jr.	Robert L. Williams Sr.
George C. Hipsley Jr.	George S. Morgan	Russel M. Winter
John W. Hoak Jr.	Robert A. Mousseau	Earl E. Wood
William J. Hoegel	Carl T. Oberg	Roy E. Worthy
Dean E. Hughes	Edward P. Prihode	Paul J. Wright Jr.
Stanley Ivosevic	William W. Reese Jr.	Robert V. Yanssens
	Edwin R. Reynolds	



THOMAS K. STURGEON, 33°
Deputy for Pennsylvania



My Dear Brethren of the Valley of Pittsburgh – Thank You!

I continue to be pleased to serve as your Resident Active and also to serve all of Pennsylvania Scottish Rite Masonry.

In 2016 we had a very successful One Day Journey where we welcomed over 1500 new Scottish Rite Masons into our various Valleys. Much of this was possible due to the Grand Master having a One Day Masonic Journey and that we were invited, by him, to participate.

The great Valley of Pittsburgh led the way that day – bringing over 300 into our Valley. All of our membership, especially the officers, are to be congratulated for their effort.

What we have created in the Valley of Pittsburgh in the past several years is heartwarming for us, the old guard, or the veterans.

I attend meetings and events throughout Pennsylvania and I assure you that no Valley is more progressive or doing as many good things for the Craft as we are in Pittsburgh.

When I travel around the state, or to

Supreme Council offices for meetings, I stand tall with pride as a member of this great Valley.

Last year, in 2016, Pennsylvania initiated over 50% of the new Scottish Rite members in the entire Northern Jurisdiction. Add the numbers from the other 14 states and we got more new members than all of them put together.

Next year we will have a new Sovereign Grand Commander as Ill. Brother McNaughton retires after eleven years of service.

The new Commander is Ill. David Glattly from New Jersey. Brother Glattly is a friend of Pennsylvania and a special friend of mine. This relationship will be good for Pennsylvania.

To each of you, I wish you a great New Year. Take time to enjoy this wonderful Fraternity and at the same time love your family and love your God.

If you take time for those things you will find that your life is good. Or, as Constans says in the 32nd Degree –

“MY HOPE IS IN GOD”

Flag Day
Wednesday, June 14



Fly the Flag of Freedom

I am old glory; for more than 9 score years I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation of Americans.

Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states.

Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American Faith, my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions.

Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men.

So long as men love liberty more than life itself, so long as they treasure the priceless privileges bought with the blood of our forefathers; so long as the principles of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America. ❖

Saturday, May 13th 2017

SCOTTISH RITE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Sponsored by the Valley of Pittsburgh, AASR NMJ USA
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700**



An event open to all 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions

Come for a full day of informative lectures and exemplification of both NMJ and SMJ degrees, including prominent guest speakers.

COMING
MAY
19, 20

ORDER
TICKETS
NOW!

THE CASE
OF THE PRINCE
FORMERLY
KNOWN AS

HAMLET

A JUSTIN THYME MYSTERY
BY BRUCE KANE

"It ended like most of my cases... with everybody dead."

From the files of Justin Thyme, Fictional Detective, comes The Case of the Prince Formerly Known as Hamlet, a tale that is one part Shakespeare and one part Dashiell Hammett (or vice versa).

Name's Thyme, Justin Thyme. I'm a fictional detective. I take on the toughest, dirtiest cases in English literature. That's why the King dropped a dime: to tell me something was rotten in the state of Denmark. But before the old guy could cry "murder most foul", somebody croaked him, and I was up to my peepers in betrayal and revenge. It was the most dangerous case of my career and the greatest murder mystery ever told. If I were you pal, I'd take notes.

- TICKET ORDER INFORMATION -

Early Bird Special: Tickets \$8.00 to April 15 - \$12.00 after April 15.

Order online at: justinthyme.eventbrite.com

Reserve by phone: **Call 412-939-3579**

Order by Mail: Curtain Time 7:30 p.m.

Enclosed is check for \$_____ for _____ tickets @ ☐ \$8.00 - ☐ \$12.00

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ ☐ May 19 - ☐ May 20

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Make check payable to Ghost Light Theater)

Mail to: Ghost Light Theater, GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237 **Questions? 412-939-3579**



Scan to
buy tickets!

Note: This performance contains language, themes, and situations that some may find offensive and others find hilarious. Theatergoer discretion is advised.



GHOST
LIGHT
theater
company



Something Hilarious in the State of Denmark

Don't let the name fool you. Ghost Light Productions' newest show, *The Case of the Prince Formerly Known as Hamlet* is not Shakespeare's Hamlet. Sure, it takes place in Elsinore Castle, and the characters are Shakespeare's (mostly), but this is not your typical Shakespeare.

Why is that?

Well, for starters, Shakespeare's version of the tale did not have Justin Thyme, time-traveling, film-noir-detective style agent from the FBI (Fictional Bureau of Investigation), on-hand to sling puns, cause trouble, and chase the women of Elsinore all while helping Prince Hamlet avenge the murder of his father.

Next there's the sexy Ophelia – her friends call her Feelya – who chases Thyme until he catches her. She tells Thyme that he's different than the other men she's dated. When he asks her in what way, she replies, "Well for one thing, you're not a relative."

And when we meet Queen Gertrude, she's simultaneously planning her husband's funeral as well as her marriage to her husband's brother, Claudius. She seems unaffected when she's told that she will become her own sister-in-law.

The show, which is being directed by PJ Roup, stars Bill Holman as Justin Thyme, Sam Jessee as Prince Hamlet, Sally Denmead as Gertrude, and Chelsea Barnes as Ophelia.

The jokes, puns, and innuendo come fast and furious in this ever-so-slightly edgy comedy from author Bruce Kane.

"This isn't your typical Scottish Rite production," says Roup. "There is some adult humor and themes sprinkled throughout the show. It's a chance for people to come out and see something a little out of the ordinary. I hope they enjoy it in the spirit it is intended."

Tickets are on sale now. There are three ways to order:

- Order online: justinthyme.eventbrite.com
- Reserve by phone: 412-939-3579
- Order by Mail: Use coupon in the ad.

Get yours before the prices go up on April 16th! See the ad to the left for details. ♦

GHOST
LIGHT
PRODUCTIONS

HAPPY EASTER



Message from the Commander-in-Chief

"Believing that good and true men can be trusted to act well and wisely, this Supreme Council considers it the duty of the Fraternity to impress upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, to enlighten them as to those things which make for human welfare, and to inspire them with that feeling of charity, or well-wishing, toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action."

Declaration of Principles

There are many great benefits to being a Freemason. One of those many benefits is knowing that we have Brethren who are ready, able, and willing to come to our aid at a moment's notice. We come to each other's aid because we obligated ourselves to do so when we joined the Fraternity. However, I would like to think that we do not come to the aid of our Brethren just because of our obligation but because we know and understand the meaning of brotherly love.

This Masonic brotherly love was demonstrated in a powerful way to me just recently. My father-in-law passed away in mid-January 2017. Prior to his death, he asked that I take the Worshipful Master's part in his Masonic funeral. I was honored to fulfill that request but knew it would be difficult. My son, and his grandson, offered to stand next to me while taking the Chaplain's part. On the night of the funeral service, I was overwhelmed by the Brethren who showed up. I don't know the actual count but it seemed as if around forty Masons showed up that evening. Some of those attending knew my father-in-law and others did not. All showed up as a way of fulfilling their Masonic obligation and showing their brotherly love.

As stated earlier, this service was going to be difficult for me to get through even though I have taken the Master's or Chaplain's part in well over 100 funerals in my travels. Just the thought of knowing that I would be looking at my wife and family as I uttered the comforting and meaningful words of the funeral service



David W. Morgans, 33°

caused a lump to grow in my throat. As I gave instructions to the Brethren assembled about the funeral service I apologized in advance to them if I were to “crash and burn” while doing the service. That apology was met with a show of support from those Brethren who knew the funeral service well. Each one offered to step in and prompt me if needed.

Knowing that I was going to be surrounded by not only brotherly love but also by brotherly help, aid, and assistance gave me courage and strength as we processed into the sanctuary of the church for the service. If I was going to fall, my Brothers were there to catch me.

That is the beauty of Masonry, Brothers supporting Brothers. The funeral service went well. My son and I did fine because we knew that we had the support of our Brothers. We each should have the confidence of knowing that we don't walk through life alone. We have Brothers out there who are willing to help us in our moments of need whether it is

emotional, physical, or financial. It is amazing and wonderful to see the various ways in which Masons support one another. It is concerning, on the other hand, to see how some Masons never are able to experience this brotherly love and support because no one ever knows of their need.

Some Masons would rather be suspended for non-payment of dues than to ask for assistance. Some would rather struggle with problems of all kinds than to ask for help. Some would rather fight against the temptations and fears of life than to allow a Brother to come alongside them to support and encourage them in their struggles. Masons are standing by ready, able, and willing to help a Brother who might be “crashing and burning” in the various parts of life but they can only do so if they know of the need.

Brethren, never forget that we have a built in network of good and true men who can be trusted to act well and wisely when others need help, aid, or assistance. Be honest and open with your Masonic Brethren and experience the brotherly love that is so uniquely present in our great Fraternity. I will always be grateful for all the Brethren who have supported and encouraged me over the years. I am equally grateful to all the Brethren that have asked for my support and encouragement because they gave me the opportunity to practice the virtues of Freemasonry and experience firsthand one of the many great benefits of belonging to this wonderful Fraternity, brotherly love. ❖



Wonderling onders!

by Jeffrey M. Wonderling, 33°
1st Lieutenant Commander
R.W. Junior Grand Warden



Now that several months have passed and the dust has settled. This is the time of the year when my professional life slows down a bit and I have the time to sip a merlot and assess the recent past. As I ponder the events of last year I am ecstatic to see a cultural change beginning within our Fraternity. Our newer members are talking about Freemasonry with other quality men that are joining us daily. A big thank-you to our Active Member, Illustrious Brother Thomas K. Sturgeon, 33rd Degree, and Right Worshipful Past Grand Master for decision to allow "selective invitation" in 2010. It wasn't a popular decision at the time but most times the right decisions aren't. Also a huge thank you to Bro. Raymond T. Dietz for the One Day Masonic Journey which afforded men hampered with busy schedules an opportunity to join our ranks.

Lately I have noticed new members participating in Valley activities which is a great sign that Brother Mitch Goldstein and his team are indeed mentoring them and engaging them. Another huge thank you to Illustrious Brother David Morgans, 33rd Degree, your Commander in Chief and his team for the outstanding "Hollywood" event welcoming everyone to fellowship together at the Valley. As Mike Lange, Hall of Fame announcer for the Pittsburgh Penguins would muse "If you missed that event, shame on you for six weeks". The important message is that through proper mentoring and caring for

each other we are slowly turning the ship in a positive direction. I caution it would be a mistake to think that things will turn around overnight but we are turning the tide. I would like to offer each of you my heartfelt gratitude for not only being a Freemason and a Scottish Rite Mason in particular.

I had just about finished my Merlot and was calling it a night when solemnity of the moment was pierced a breaking story on the evening news concerning the recent election. I had been deep in thought and didn't realize the noise in the background. I became quite aggravated that my quiet had been interrupted by rhetoric

surrounding an event that concluded 3 months before. I think that no matter what your thoughts or political persuasion, after 2 years most of us have had enough. It was then I had an epiphany. In the past two years I had attended numerous lodge meetings however not once had I heard, Trump, Clinton, Sanders, Cruz, etc., mentioned at a Masonic gathering. The nights in fellowship with my Brothers had been a retreat from the rigors of daily life. It occurred to me that as a group we had helped a myriad of people and made the lives of many just a little bit better. I sat back in my recliner, tuned out the noise and thanked God for the gift of Freemasonry. And I thanked Him for personal profit of self-satisfaction one realizes through his beneficence to others. So I say to you my brothers—"Well done true and faithful servants, my brothers of the Craft". You should feel pride in being a Scottish Rite Mason and the work we do. I suggest you reward yourself with your favorite refreshment. Personally I will have a celebratory glass of Merlot. ♦

"Foot to Foot"

There are three parts to the Valley of Pittsburgh Membership Program:

The 3R's!

Retention: Get the present membership involved.

Re-Instatement: Get members who dropped out to re-commit.

Recruitment: Get new members.

The Annual Grotto Lenten Fish Dinner

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Friday: Mar. 17, 24, 31, Apr. 7, Apr. 14

Served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. — Purchase Tickets at the Door!





The Valley is Alive with Activity

By Sam H. Jessee, 32°, *Thrice Potent Master*

Gourgass Lodge of Perfection

On Saturday, January 21, 2017, the Valley officers met for a mid-year meeting to review the first half of this AASR year and to evaluate the plans for the remainder. There were many successes in 2016 for the Valley of Pittsburgh: the initiation of over 300 new members at the One Day Masonic event held in October, the Hollywood Gala celebrating the National Scottish Rite Day in November, both the adult and childrens' Christmas parties, and a well-attended and enjoyable presentation of *A Christmas Carol* by Ghost Light Productions, LLC.

On Saturday, January 28, 2017, many of our new members, as well as veteran members, saw the Fourteenth Degree, Grand Elect Mason, exemplified by the Gourgass Lodge of Perfection. On behalf of the current and past officers of Gourgass LOP, we sincerely hope the message(s) of this degree made a deep and lasting imprint on your conscience.

If you attended all or most of these events, we are sure you enjoyed yourself and that you contributed to the success of the Valley. If, however, you did not attend any of these events, we strongly urge you to attend events planned for the remainder of the AASR year. There are a number of events planned over the next 4 months:

- DeMolay Conferral (March 11)
- Story of the Crucifixion (April 9)
- Spring Class (April 21-22)
- Education Seminar (May 13)
- Mother's Day Luncheon (May 14)
- Ghost Light Production (May 19-20)
- Scholarship/Awards Night (May 25)
- Car Cruise (June 4)
- Golf Outing (June 10)
- Pirates Game (June 16)

There are sure to be additional events planned for this period and the Calendar of Events listed in *The Rite News* will provide information as it becomes known.

In the short term, perhaps the most



important effort you can make to benefit your Valley is to identify those members of your Blue Lodge or other Masonic bodies to which you belong that you believe would be valuable and contributing members of the Valley of Pittsburgh. Talk to them about the Ancient Ac-

cepted Scottish Rite! Talk to them about why you are a member! Answer their questions about the Valley of Pittsburgh! Bring them to any event in the near future to show them what they are missing! Give them a Petition for the Spring Class!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Illustrious Brother William D. Johnston, 33rd Degree, for being appointed District Deputy Grand Master for the 37th Masonic District of Pennsylvania.

Illustrious Brother Johnston has given an unquantifiable number of hours of his time and energy as Director of Work for the Valley of Pittsburgh as well as to many other Masonic bodies to which he belongs. ♦

Spring Flower Show at Phipps

March 18 – April 16, 2017

Join us in celebrating rebirth and regrowth at the Phipps Spring Flower Show: **Enchanted Forest** as birds, frogs, ducks, bees and more critters awaken from their long winter snoozes to explore the tens of thousands of vibrant spring blooms that wash the glasshouse in color.

The Conservatory is positively buzzing with life and bursting with blooms, offering a treat for the senses and the perfect way to spend a spring day.

Set your heart aflutter in Palm Court as you witness the remarkable development of a chrysalis before a beautiful butterfly emerges amidst pops of pink hyacinths

and yellow primula. Sink to the forest floor in the Serpentine Room as you wander beneath massive mushrooms, marvel at vibrant azaleas, snapdragons and tulips, and meet a friendly snail, frog and turtle on the banks of a tranquil pond.

Then, meander among a sea of blue, coral, red and pink spring blooms in the Sunken Garden as feathered friends chirp and tweet from their perches. Colorful sights and whimsical delights are waiting around every corner and in nine display rooms at the Spring Flower Show:

Enchanted Forest! ♦



ATTENTION BLUE LODGES!

If 3 of your lodge members joins the Valley of Pittsburgh, a 4th member can join for free.

Or, all 4 members can join at a 25% discounted rate, \$150 a member.

Also, the lodge with the most candidates in the Spring Class, April 21 and 22 will be invited to the June Stated Meeting with dinner on the Valley.

(Scottish Rite Members only, ladies would be paid for by the member.)

Interested lodges should contact the Valley office at 412-939-3579 for further information.



Visit the Valley website at www.valleyofpittsburgh.org





Upon the Checkered Pavement



D. Todd Ballenger, 33°, Feature Writer

The Player Manifesto Part I

I'm a hockey coach. Though I'm certain many of you already know that, I'd be willing to bet that there are a few who don't. Still, it's true. I am a card-carrying, USA Hockey-certified coach. Classes, clinics, continuing ed - yeah, I do that; and over the next few issues of *The Rite News*, I'd like to share some of the interesting things that I've learned along the way both on the ice and behind the bench. Don't worry, I'm not going to "X and O" you to death. But I do think that I've picked up some particularly intriguing concepts in my time that you may be able to put to good use.

First things first - in organized hockey you've got players and coaches. In my experience, these two groups need each other in order to be truly successful. Great players almost always had a coach that was especially helpful to them at some point in their careers. Great coaches are typically known for their teams filled with talented players and together they experienced the thrill of victory. But think about this: what if you were missing one, or even both sides of that equation? What happens if you're a player without a coach, or a coach without players? Believe me when I say that there are things that you can easily do from both perspectives to make your team successful - player or coach, any team, on or off the ice.

The Player Manifesto

USA Hockey has adopted a methodology for teaching the game to youth. This American Development Model (ADM) takes into account such things as the physical and mental growth of players through the various stages of development with regard to age and ability. It also stresses the concept of team growth and contributions to the group in order to promote more successful team play. That means training players to have the right *attitudes* to be contributing teammates. I first encountered *The Player Manifesto* on the wall of a hockey rink in Its-Way-Too-Early-to-Be-Playing, Pennsylvania,



when the direct infusion of coffee was still not quite enough to completely engage my brain. Then, an unusual poster caught my eye. It contained no photos or illustrations - only text in numerous fonts and sizes, all in black with the exception of three words: **BE A PLAYER**, which were in bold red. This was *The Player Manifesto*, a promotional tool distributed by USA Hockey that encapsulates a number of concepts behind having the right attitude for a player. And, as we are all part of one team or another, I'd like to share some of my favorite ideas from this teaching tool with all of you.

Wake Up - Chase Dreams!

Nurture the dreams that inspire you to go beyond your limits. Why are you here? It's a very basic question, but an important one. I would hope that it is your desire to be a part of the team that brought you here in the first place. Some people dream of being hockey stars. Some dream of discovering the secrets of Freemasonry. One thing is true, however. In the very beginning, none of us has a clue as to how to go about being a contributing part of the team. But we do have dreams, and those dreams instill in us a vision of success. That's important. Why?

Because it's that very vision of success - whatever it may entail - that drives us forward when we've had enough. When things get difficult, be it work, practice, people, or some other internal struggle, those dreams keep us from chucking in the towel and quitting. I've watched my own son skate so far past his limits that he physically could not pull his feet under him on the ice, for no other reason than he wanted to be a hockey player. For the record, he was ten at the time and playing developmental hockey. He now plays on his high school JV team as well as on another team in the amateur leagues. He kept his dream and focused on his vision until he succeeded. It's the same with all of us, whether at home, at work, or in lodge. If there is something you really want - I mean *really* want to achieve - you should allow that vision to drive you to that success. Your efforts will pay off in the end. And when setbacks happen to stall your progress, just remember my son's first coach's words: "We don't fail when we fall down. We fail when we don't get back up again." Build a vision for yourself, your lodge, your team. Take that vision and pursue it until you succeed. You may go through ups and downs. Your vision may even evolve, or take a new shape entirely. But having that passion and persistence to reach something you love not only makes you better, but inspires those around you to do the same. That's what makes a worthy dream.

It's Not Whether You Win or Lose . . .

Effort over Outcome. Sports poet Grantland Rice famously penned, "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game." He also wrote, "Failure isn't bad if it doesn't attack the heart. Success is all right if it doesn't go to the head." Both ideas are critical components of the "effort over outcome" mantra for players. It's not so much about the win-lose aspect, but more about what you did to contribute to the team's performance. Not everyone on the team has the same job. Some require different skill sets and different game plans. That's why you see offensive and defensive assistants, goalie coaches, skating coaches, and the like involved with hockey teams. Every position has its own nuances, and for a team to be successful, everyone has to be responsible for his/her own preparation and play during the game, or else the team falters. Sound familiar? Have you ever tried doing lodge work with people who don't take things seriously or are



poorly prepared? Rough nights, huh? But I've also been part of those evenings when despite the preparation and concentration, things just don't go well. A positive mental attitude is invaluable when you need to encourage a teammate or a Brother. A team that doesn't take a setback to heart is already halfway to its next success, and that goes for individuals, too. The positive attitude of a single person can often carry over to others and drive the group forward in their vision of success.

Next time, we'll pick up with some more on-ice wisdom from coaching class that hopefully, you'll find useful in other aspects of your lives. I know I enjoy sharing them, mainly because I know they work. I've seen it. Now take a lap and get off the ice before the zamboni guy runs us both over! ♦



Bro. & Coach Todd Ballenger with his son, Ian, who plays for the SHAHA Panthers.

D. Todd Ballenger, 33°, is a Past Thrice Potent Master of the Lodge of Perfection and an Assistant Coach for the South Hills Amateur Hockey Association (SHAHA) Panthers Bantam B team.

A 10-year veteran of various adult hockey leagues, he still loves the smell of the ice (yes, you can), the sound of skates being sharpened, and wrapping stick blades and various injuries with hockey tape.

You can read more from Bro. Ballenger at his blog, The Luminosity of Souls (luminosityofsouls.blogspot.com).



Friday
July
7th

Make Plans NOW!

Shrine/Freemason Night



★ ★ ★

Fraternal Night Out



Lernerville Speedway





★ \$14 Admission

★ Reserved Seating

★ \$1 Dog Night

★ Pit Tour Included

★ Victory Lane Access

★ Fab4 Race Night

★ Bring Friends/Family

Please use this portion of the form to make your reservations and include a self-addressed stamped envelope so we can send you your tickets in advance. Checks should be made payable to Allegheny Valley Caravan #16. Make your reservations no later than July 1st, 2017. Reservations MUST be mailed to John J. Cossentino, Secretary, 616 Whispering Pines Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044-8154. Any questions, please contact John Cossentino at 412-215-3847.

Name: _____ Last: _____
Other Guests: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Padded number: _____ Reservations for the Lernerville Speedway Night at \$14.00 per person for a total of \$ _____

COME ONE, COME ALL, FOR A FUN DAY!

Run Away and Join the Circus for a Day!



PAINTS
ARENA

FRI. SAT. SUN.
APRIL 7, 8, 9

68th Anniversary
Shrine Circus

ORDER
TICKETS
NOW!

— TICKET ORDER —

Check enclosed for ____ Reserved seats at \$17.00 each. Total Payment \$ ____.
(Select Performance Below!)

*** COMPLETE YOUR PERFORMANCE SELECTION ***

Friday, April 7

7:00 p.m. ____ seats

Saturday, April 8

10:30 a.m. ____ seats

2:30 p.m. ____ seats

7:00 p.m. ____ seats

Sunday, April 9

2:00 p.m. ____ seats

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE

Make checks payable to: **SHRINE CIRCUS FUND**
1877 Shriners Way
Cheswick, PA 15024-1075

CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED (VISA) / (MASTERCARD) CIRCLE ONE

Name on Card: _____ Card No. _____ Expire Date: _____

Seats assigned on first response basis. Tickets will be mailed approximately 2-3 weeks prior to event.

Proceeds benefit Syria Shriners. Ticket purchases are not deductible as a charitable contribution.





Looking to the Future Part II

By William J. Wiker, 32°, *Sovereign Prince*

Pennsylvania Council, Princes of Jerusalem



In my last column, I discussed what a treasure we had here in the Valley of Pittsburgh, as well as the importance of participation in its events.

So, as I sat at my desk, wringing my hands in anxiety, trying to come up with a topic for this column, I realized that in order to keep the Valley moving forward, new ideas and new programs are needed to propel this progress. These ideas and programs usually come from both members and officers, committed members and committed officers.

So, the Valley needs not only participation but also commitment. Not a commitment to attend every meeting or every event, but, rather, a commitment to try to improve the Valley in some way. Attendance is always **good**; attendance and participation is **better**; attendance, participation and commitment to improves the Valley – **BEST!**

If you have an idea that you think may improve the Valley in some way, please don't hesitate to talk to any of the men in white, yellow, red and blue hats. If they can't help you, they certainly could redirect you to the right person. All ideas have value; and new programs, as well



as the revival of some old ones, are constantly being proposed and implemented.

One new event coming up is the Masonic educational seminar on May 13, 2017.

The proposed speakers are truly excellent. Good attendance with feedback from attendees gives the officers an idea of the

value of the program to the members and may signal the renewal or cancellation of the event. The input from the members is essential to this and every other program; and the criticism must be both constructive and honest.

Tir is takes a form of commitment on the part of the members; the commitment to be both honest, as well as showing the respect one brother should have for another when criticizing.

It's really not so difficult. Attend the meetings and events as you are able. Be committed enough to place some priority on the Scottish Rite. If you like what you see, talk it up; invite new Masons to join and long-time members to reconnect. If you don't like what you see, let us know. Be concerned enough to share your feelings about the Valley honestly. We value your opinion. ♦

GOLF For Dyslexia



Join us for a grand day of Charity Golf and fellowship at the annual Valley of Pittsburgh Golf Outing benefiting the Children's Dyslexia Center.

The date is Saturday, June 10 at the Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with play beginning at 9:00 a.m. Player fee is \$90 which includes a golfer's gift, bag service, greens fees, cart, snack at the turn, lunch and awards.

For "non-golfers" wanting to attend the fellowship luncheon, the cost is \$25.

We are limited to 120 Golfers, but unlimited as to Program Sponsorships or Charitable Donations in any amount.

The Children's Dyslexia Center is the only one of its kind in the Pittsburgh area offering **FREE** tutoring.

To continue this magnificent program we must annually raise at least \$125,000 to cover material and educational expenses.

The Center opened in April 1999 and offers a dynamic reading program at no cost to the students family.

This program has had many inspiring success stories in bringing children, who could not read, up to their reading grade level and beyond.

Currently there are 36 students enrolled in the 28 week (during the school year) reading learning program and a long waiting list of children who can benefit from it.

The Center is also recognized by Penn State University as a student curriculum training program.

Please share this information with those who might want to golf in this event, or be a financial Sponsor, or make a Donation.

Complete the application form on page 20 and mail today!

Questions about sponsorships, program advertising, or general information?

Call Bro. David Morgans, *Chairman*, at 412-939-3579 or call or email:

Donald Murphy, Secretary

412-939-3579

aasr.pittsburgh@comcast.net

The Valley of Pittsburgh

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

presents a free on stage production of the drama



The Story of the Crucifixion

Palm Sunday, April 9 – Curtain Time 3:00 p.m.

Dinner following performance (optional) \$10.00

Please reserve _____ show tickets (no charge). Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to **Lodge of Perfection** for _____ dinner tickets.

Name _____ Phone () _____

Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700



Grand Master Presents Bro. William D. Johnston as DDGM of the 37th Masonic District



On January 18, Grand Master Raymond T. Dietz presented Bro. William D. Johnston as the new District Deputy Grand Master of the 37th Masonic District replacing Bro. William A. Moisey who retired after serving five years as DDGM of the District.

Bro. Johnston was initiated into Freemasonry in Crafton Lodge No. 653 on April 22, 1988 and served as Worshipful Master in 1992.



He became a member of the York Rite, joining Crafton Chapter No. 312 (now St. Clair Chapter No. 300) in 1988 serving as High Priest in 1993. He then joined Allegheny Council No. 38 serving a Thrice Illustrious Master in 1997 - 98. He is

also a dual member of Zerubbabel-Duquesne Chapter No. 162 and also a dual member of Mount Moriah Council No. 2. In Commandery, Bro. Johnston is a member of Chartiers Commandery No. 78 and also Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1. He was the Eminent Commander in 1995-96 and is currently the Eminent Commander of Pittsburgh No. 1.

In Scottish Rite masonry, he joined the Valley of Pittsburgh on November 12, 1988 and served as the Sovereign Prince in 1995-96. He has served on several committees and is currently the Director of Work.

He is a Charter Member of Hiram's Riders Motorcycle Club, serving as Treasurer. He was Coroneted a 33° Mason in 2003 at St. Louis, MO.

Other masonic organizations to which Bro. Bill is a member of include: Charter member of the Roland C. Fisher Mark Lodge No. 401; Knights Masons, Gateway to the West Council No. 5; Knights of the York Cross of Honour, Keystone Priory No. 26 where he is a Past Prior (2013-14); Red Cross of Constantine, United States Premier Conclave, serving as Puissant Sovereign in 2010; the Royal Order of Scotland; Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Wa-chagree Forest No. 149; Syria Temple; Islam



Grotto; Scottish Rite Research Society; Joshua Association; The Royal Arch Mason; Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Transfiguration Tabernacle XXIX - 2010.

For the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, he is a member of the Guest Committee, Principle Instructor of the Pittsburgh School of Instruction (2011-16) and now DDGM of the 37th Masonic District (2016).

Bro. Johnston's wife Maggie is his right

hand helper with all the masonic organizations he belongs to. They are also the proud parents of three children, Eric, Nathan, William, who are also members of the Craft and active in their Blue Lodges. Bro. William G. Johnston, the oldest son, is a Past Master of Crafton - Guyasuta Lodge and a Past Thrice Potent Master of the Valley of Pittsburgh Lodge of Perfection, and currently 2nd Lieutenant Commander of the Consistory. He also



serves on the Directors staff.

Bro. Johnston in his remarks, thanked the Grand Master for his confidence in him in appointing him as the DDGM of the 37th Masonic District, his wife, Maggie, and his family who was present for his installation. He also told the district lodge brethren present, that he was looking forward to working with them in the coming months and years.

Following the presentation of Bro. Johnston, the Grand Master presented the outgoing District Deputy, Bro. William A. Moisey with his past deputy apron and jewel.

Bro. Moisey also thanked the Grand



Master and the Masters of the Lodges in the 37th District for their loyal cooperation during his tenure as the DDGM.

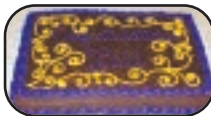
We offer our congratulations and thanks to both 'Bill' and 'Bill' for their service to Freemasonry. ♦





Surprise Toast & Roast Party for DDGM William A. Moisey

A Photo Essay





infection for the first few months of life. Varicella infection in a pregnant woman, especially if the infection occurs during the first 28 weeks of gestation, can lead to fetal varicella syndrome (congenital varicella syndrome). Potential effects on the fetus can be extremely severe and include underdeveloped fingers and toes, severe anal and bladder malformation, encephalitis, microcephaly, hydrocephaly, aplasia of the brain, microphthalmia, cataracts, optic nerve atrophy, visual impairment, damage to the cervical and lumbosacral spinal cord, motor/sensory deficits, and Horner's syndrome. Additionally, maternal infection is associated with premature delivery and low birth weight. ❖

In the next issue of The Rite News we will cover the topic of shingles, which is the most common sequelae of chicken-pox.



Luncheon Buffet and Entertainment

Greater Pittsburgh
Masonic Center

Sunday, May 14
hor's d'oeuvres

followed by

Buffet Luncheon
and Entertainment

Call 412-939-3579 for
Reservations.

Hiram's Riders .30-30 Rifle Winner



Mark Bliler presents rifle to Jim Beck

Bro. Mark Bliler, 33°, Co-Chairman of Hiram's Riders Fund Raising Raffle for Charity, sold the winning ticket on the .30-30 Wildlife Tribute Rifle to fellow employee Jim Bick of Pittsburgh. The drawing, based on the PA Lottery, was held on December 19. ❖

New Gun Raffle for Charity

Colt .45 Competition Pistol



- * Dual spring recoil system
- * 2 colt magazines
- * Novak adjustable rear sights
- * Fiber optic front sights
- * Undercut trigger guard
- * Upswept beaver tail grip safety
- * Custom blue Colt logo G10 grips
- * Custom Masonic logo grips
- * 5 inch national match barrel

\$10.00
per ticket
2 numbers

Buy A Ticket NOW!

Enclosed is my check payable to **Hiram's Riders** in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ tickets for the Colt Competition Pistol.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Ph. _____

Mail to: Hiram's Riders, GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. **Include** a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of tickets.



Drawing: PA Lottery 3 digit (1st) evening number
Monday, May 29, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Small Games of Chance License #16987.

Must be 21 years of age to purchase.

Winner need not be present.

Questions? Call 412-576-5856

King Solomon's Lodge No. 346

invites you to the 20th

MEETING IN THE HILLS

Friday, June 16

If you have never been to a Meeting In The Hills, do yourself a favor and get a few Masons together and head for the hills. You'll not regret it! It's a lot of fun.

It's a great evening of fellowship and food attended by over 500 masons. A delicious New York Strip Steak Dinner is served with all the fixin's at 6:00 p.m. A brief meeting follows dinner. Then dessert!

Call Brother Alan R. Sandusky, PM, 724.628.4463 or 724.557.1441 for tickets, questions, and directions or email him at:

sandusky4@verizon.net

From the Desk of the Secretary

by Donald M. Murphy, 33°

The Scottish Rite 2016-2017 year is half complete. So far we are having a great year. We are seeing more members at our activities and meetings. We are looking forward to our Spring Class. Excitement is building. We had a great fall class and are hoping for good numbers this spring.

With only a few months to go before the June meeting we still have the potential of suspending several hundred members. This would be quite a blow to the organization. We lose many members to death each year but to lose many more to suspension would definitely weaken the Valley.

Perhaps some members do not realize how the system works. In 2011 Supreme Council started a new dues card system. Each member was mailed a permanent plastic dues card. This card becomes valid each year



upon receipt of your annual dues. If you have misplaced that gray plastic card we can secure a new one to replace the original.

Each year we mail at least three notices to those members who have not yet paid their dues. After three notices you become delinquent in your dues. Again, it is your responsibility to respond to these notices and make proper restitution for the statement. If at the June Stated Meeting you are two years behind in your dues, the constitution requires that we suspend people who find themselves in that circumstance.

If you have any questions regarding your dues, please feel free to contact the Valley office at 412-939-3579.

We cherish your friendship and membership in the Scottish Rite, so if you happen to be in financial need, please call us so that we may be of assistance with your concerns. ♦

**Benefits the Pittsburgh
Children's Dyslexia Center**

Valley of Pittsburgh CHARITY GOLF Saturday, June 10

Butler's Golf Course

800 Rock Run Road Elizabeth, PA 15037

Open to men, women and non-members.



Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Play Begins: 9:00 a.m.

Snack: 1:30 p.m.

Fee: \$90.00 per golfer.
Includes a golfer's gift,
bag service, greens fee,
cart, snack at turn,
lunch, and door prizes.

Lunch Only: \$25.00.

- 2017 Registration Form -

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

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

Please print Golfers Names

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **Ph.** () _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **Ph.** () _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **Ph.** () _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip _____ **Ph.** () _____

Mail by **June 1**, with check, to **Charity Golf**,
3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.
Questions? Dave Morgans, 412-929-3579.



CAR CRUISE



Sunday, June 4, 2017

11 AM ~ 3 PM

No Entry Fee Open To The Public DASH PLAQUES FIRST 100 CARS

GREATER PGH MASONIC CENTER PARKING LOT

3579 MASONIC WAY PGH PA 15237 (Off 279 to Cemetery Lane)

*******One of the BEST & BIGGEST cruises in the BURGH!*******

Oldies DJ Clint Stokes ~ 50/50 raffle ~ Silent Auction Baskets

Classic, Antique, Vintage, Hot Rods, Muscle Cars, Corvettes

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY ~ COMMUNITY EVENT

SHERIFF CRIME PREVENTION VAN ~ 911 VAN

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FIRE TRUCKS ON DISPLAY ~ CAR CLUBS WELCOME!

HOT DOGS / SODA / FOOD AVAILABLE ~ RESTROOMS

GIVEAWAYS EVERY 30 MINUTES ~ MUSIC

~ GOODIE BAGS FOR PARTICIPANTS COURTESY OF SPEEDWAY MOTORS ~

BENEFITS MASONIC CHILDRENS CENTER FOR DYSLEXIA

Vendor Spaces Available call BOB @ 412-487-4356 for info



We Have to Care for Each Other

By Robert B. Malwitz, 32°, *Most Wise Master*
Pittsburgh Chapter of Rose Croix



We are now at the mid point of winter and so far the snow has stayed away. The weather has been fairly nice and I for one am looking forward to Spring.

I was sitting and watching the birds at my bird feeding area and after I filled the three food containers, I watched the birds. I have a fairly large seed container that the birds can take from, a couple sort containers and a bird seed stack that they can peck at. I have watched cardinals, bluejays and other birds as well as a squirrel or two eat the seeds. I noticed that they get along fairly well. They all eat from all the seeds. I also noticed as the seeds disappear from one container the birds don't show up as much. and as

all the seeds are eaten and the ground is cleared of the seeds they tend to fly off and go elsewhere till the next time the feeders are filled.

What has this to do with Masonry? Well, if we don't take care and see that our

members are taken care of they will soon depart for fresher pastures. Over the years I have seen active Masonic bodies lose their membership simply because they didn't take time to care for their members. From time to time they will attend a meeting but if they don't see anything to keep their interest they will soon leave. We took in a large class in October and it would be a shame to see them leave because we didn't care for their needs.

We have another opportunity in the spring to have another large class but we will have to get out and work at it. We have an active membership chairman and an active mentoring committee. It behooves all of us to roll up our selves and help them as much as we can. I look forward to seeing a large class in the spring and having members of the last class participate in our degree work as well as attending reunions and other Valley activities. ❖

Spes Mea In Deo Est

Pride of Lonership

Continued from page 11.

"Sounds like something Henry would say. Maybe he's right. I probably am too proud. Stubborn even. I've hardly been able to look at Sarah." He started sobbing. "I wanted her to be proud of me, you know. It's my job to take care of her, and I've failed. I've been doing odd jobs – shoveling driveways, handyman work – all winter long just to make a couple of bucks. What kind of husband am I?"

"Look at me," Dylan ordered. "You're the best kind of husband, and the best kind of father because you're doing everything you can. Sarah isn't ashamed of you, she knows this is temporary. She loves you. That's why she protected you earlier today."

"You're too good to me, Dyl," Carl said. He blew out a long breath. "I . . . I need help – short-term help. What do I do?"

"You just did it. You asked," he replied. "Make sure you have a shirt pressed on Monday morning. I know I can get you something in my department. We're expanding and haven't even advertised yet."

"How? I thought it was hard to get in there."

"It can be. But I have lunch with the CEO a couple of days a month. Just the two of us."

"Seriously? How'd that happen?"

"Long story. The short version is that I accidentally sat at his table on my first day because I was nervous and he had the only friendly face in the room. Now we eat together when it works out. Weird, huh?"

"A little. I don't know what to say, Dylan."

"Just say you'll be ready to start on Monday when I call you. And promise me that you'll be back to Lodge Monday night. Your brothers miss you."

Carl took off his hat and ran his hands through his hair. He sat up straight, met Dylan's eyes. "Thank you. . . Brother," was all he could manage through the tears.

"Not necessary," he replied as he rose to go.

"Listen, there's one more thing you can do for me," he added.

"Anything."

"One of those grocery bags has a couple of juicy ribeyes and a bottle of wine in it. Grill those up for you and Sarah tonight. Tell her you love her and that it's going to be okay."

Carl engulfed him in a long, tight hug before walking Dylan to his car.

"They say that pride comes before the fall," Carl said. "Mine came after the fall. I was too proud to get help. I am an idiot."

"No, you're not. You're human. Now go start the grill," Dylan said before he drove away.

Carl stood and watched as Dylan's car made its way back to the road. Sarah came out and took him by the hand.

"Is everything okay?" she asked.

"It will be," he said, taking her in his arms. "It definitely will be. ❖"

FELLOWSHIP



9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Last Saturday of the Month
(except December)

GPMC \$6⁰⁰ per person
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

Buffet Features

Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon
French Toast, Potatoes, Toast
Milk, Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice

★ All Masons and Guests
WELCOME!

★ Groups & Parties
WELCOME!

*If you have a large party, please
call 412-939-3579 and let us know.*

Served by
Ohio Valley Rainbow Girls
Pittsburgh DeMolay

MARK YOUR CALENDAR SUMMER STAG PARTY

HIRAM'S HIDEAWAY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
details in June issue of
The Rite News



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Directing Dickens

By D. Todd Ballenger, 33°

When my friend Bill Roberts asked me to put down my thoughts about directing the recent Ghost Light Productions offering, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Radio Play* by Philip Grecian, I very nearly fell into the same trap that I did when I pitched the treatment for the play to the producers and took the director's chair at the outset of the project. I mean to say, I really didn't consider all of the aspects of what I would like to write about prior to saying, "Sure, Bill, I can do that. No problem." And truthfully, it's not a problem. What is typical is that it is very easy to underestimate the scope of a writing assignment, just like it is to underestimate the duties and responsibilities that are attached to piloting a show through the waters of production all the way to performance.

So here is your own personal peek behind the scenes of a real stage production - a moment or two in the director's chair, so to speak. Hopefully, it will give you an idea of the efforts and camaraderie of those both seen and unseen who work for months to bring you seventy-five minutes of distraction.

As with most things, directing begins with an idea - a vision. Having seen dramatic readings of Mr. Dickens' classic and even been a part of the cast of a radio play version of the story, I thought it would be an ideal piece for a holiday performance. The story was familiar, but the presentation in the form of a 1940's radio production with on-stage music and sound effects was just the thing to set our show apart from other productions. Picking the script and pitching the idea was the easy part. The real fun was about to begin.

Talking to Girls

There were several interesting points that made this version of *A Christmas Carol* special, but the one that comes immediately to mind was the fact that for the first time, our Ghost Light company actually had to talk to girls. That's right - real females; and not just one, either. Four very talented female actors helped bring Dickens to our stage. I must admit that after years of working in the all-male casts for the Valley of Pittsburgh, it was a bit odd to share the stage with actresses. That's odd in a good way, mind you. It was refreshing to be able to portray a story in an environment more reflective of what we see every day - a diversity of people,

voices, and attitudes that aren't necessarily driven by adrenaline and testosterone.

Multiple Personalities

This diversity of people, however, didn't stop with the personality of each individual actor. Oh no, that would be entirely too easy. Another unique facet of directing Dickens for Ghost Light was the premise of our production. Though the story is familiar to most, our staging had Mr. Scrooge's classic tale presented by a group of actors in a 1940's radio studio, performing an on-air play. That's right: a play within a play. Use your imagination and picture yourself sitting in the living room in front of your Philco radio console listening to the voices coming from the speaker painting a picture of old Victorian London with the sights and sounds of the day filling your head as the story unfolds. What this play presented was a peek inside the studio with all the actors playing, well, actors. And an enormous challenge for the actors was the task of portraying anywhere from three to six distinct characters each within the drama. Watching these actors bring the characters in Dickens' world to life and helping to mold them for a live audience was pure magic.

Dancing with Myself

The last really unique part of *A Christmas Carol* was working with what may have been the most complicated members of the cast. If you think acting with your voice can be difficult, then consider the two Foley artists in the play, who were given the task of bringing all of the sound effects to life. Just as the other actors were doing their vocal gymnastics to bring different characters to the stage, these two actors were dancing dervishes of arms, legs, hands, feet, knees, and elbows making the sounds of the world come alive! To catch everyone up, the art of Foley refers to manually-produced sound effects on stage or screen. They are named for Jack Foley, a sound-effects pioneer at Universal



Foley Artists, David Morgans, assisted by Megan Leary, provided the sound effects.

Studios in the 1930's and are still used today in modern film-making. Don't misunderstand, the actors working the sound effects weren't difficult, but mixing voice-acting talent with live-action effects in front of an audience was something very different on our stage. Believe me, it was a treat to witness all the different atmospherics come to life in real time! And if that weren't enough, the majority of the music in the production was performed live on the same stage - an incredible treat for both the eyes and the ears!

These are just a few of the more exciting aspects of directing my first production, and I couldn't be happier with the results. If you happened to miss it, then hopefully you'll make yourselves available for the next Ghost Light production coming to the stage on May 19 and 20.

We have an incredibly talented group of people working behind the scenes to bring a different kind of entertainment to you all - different themes, different genres, and different twists on stories designed to let you enjoy something familiar in a brand-new way. That's what happened to me; and I'll tell you now, I had a Dickens of a time doing it. ❖

Spring Class 2017

Conferral Schedule

Friday Evening April, 21, 2017

5:00	Registration & Dinner
6:00	Welcome by Thrice Potent Master, Declaration of Principles, Communication of 5th thru 10th and 12th thru 13th Degrees.
6:10	4th Degree Ceremonial
6:20	4th Degree DVD
7:00	11th Degree
8:00	Degree - DVD (Possible)
8:30	14th Degree

Saturday Morning April 22, 2017

8:00	Coffee and Donuts
9:00	16th Degree
10:15	Class Picture
10:45	18th Degree
12:00	Lunch

Saturday Afternoon April 22, 2017

1:00	Communication of 19th thru 23rd and 25th thru 31st Degrees
1:10	24th Degree Speaker-Secretary
2:15	Degree - DVD (Possible)
2:45	32nd Degree
3:45	Official Reception Speaker-Hospitaler
4:15	Dinner



The 10th Enchanted Even



Rose Verzella



Betty Nolf



Dottie DeWeese



Mildred Huntsman



Betty Morris



Loretta Fitzgerald



On Wednesday, February 15, the Wm. Slater II Master Mason's Club sponsored the 10th Annual Enchanted Evening for 104 ladies residing in the Star Points Personal Care and the Sturgeon Health Care Center communities.

Ladies from both areas received a beautiful invitation for the special night out. One week before the event, the ladies were given the opportunity to shop for their formal evening wear from four portable clothing racks of evening gowns, party dresses, and pants suits.

After a visit to the beauty shop, they were assisted with makeup and jewelry by Retirement Living "primpers."

After receiving their beautiful corsage and their photo taken, they were escorted to dinner by Rainbow Youth Members, DeMolay, and

Master Mason Club Members.

Donna and Mark Groom provided music while the ladies enjoyed an elegant meal of Lobster Tail & Filet Mignon prepared by our own MVS Food Service Staff. Corsages and Floral Decorations were provided By Taunia.

R.W. Grand Master Raymond T. Dietz was the featured speaker, and his lady Lynn. Other special guests were District Deputy Grand Master William D. Johnston, and his lady Margaret, Beth Bossert, COO of Health Care Services at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, Tracy Leja, Assistant Executive Director of the Masonic Village at Sewickley, and Michal Lea and Erica Pryor, sisters of the late David P. Rihl, P.M., Co-Founder of the Enchanted Evening event.

While the ladies dined on Surf "n"

Turf, men from Personal Care and Health Care Communities enjoyed "Beer & Pizza, Black-Jack Poker, and a Dog Racing Game on the Big Screen T.V. in the P.C. dining area.

This wonderful evening for all of our residents would not have been possible without the generous financial support from Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, Valley of Pittsburgh and Valley of New Castle Scottish Rite, Wm. Slater Master Mason's Club, MVS Retirement Residents, Relatives and Friends of the Masonic Village.

A special recognition goes out to the dedicated staff members and volunteers who contribute their un-tiring effort in making this special TENTH ANNUAL "ENCHANTED EVENING" a huge success for our residents. ❖



Helen Kennedy



B.J. Manzinger



Emily Albeck



Betty Jonosy



Virginia Baker

ing at the Masonic Village

The Donors Who Made It Possible!

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Parker City No. 60
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Springdale No. 453
Stoneboro No. 110
Uniontown No. 263
Woodlawn No. 164
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MVS Retirement Living
Syria Shrine
Valley of New Castle
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Wm. Slater Master Masons Club

Thanks!



Tracy H. Miller, P.M.
Co-Founder

In Memory of David Rihl, P.M.
Co-Founder



Donna Stevens



Miriam Bennett



Lois Nelson



Liz Baltzer



Marian Lippert



Grand Master Raymond T. Dietz assisted guitarist Dee Dee Evans in entertaining the ladies while they were waiting to be escorted to the dining room.



Janet Burland



Margie Gleichert



Arlene McKrell



Shirley Tomb



Cheryl Hart



Esther Slemenda

T.T.G.O.T.G.A.O.T.U.

Thursday, April 6, 2017

7:00 p.m.

STATED MEETING OF THE FOUR COORDINATE BODIES

A Stated Meeting of the Four Coordinate Bodies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Pittsburgh, PA will be held at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Business will be transacted in the Lodge of Perfection 14°; Council of Princes of Jerusalem 16°, Chapter of Rose Croix 18° and Consistory 32°. Officers of the Gourgas Lodge of Perfection will preside.

David W. Morgans, 33°
Commander-in-Chief

Robert B. Malwitz, 32°
Most Wise Master

William J. Wiker, 32°
Sovereign Prince

Sam H. Jessee, 32°
Thrice Potent Master

ATTEST:

Donald M. Murphy, 33°
Secretary

4th Stated Meeting of the 2016 - 2017 Scottish Rite Year

★ Ladies & Children Invited

★ Entertainment
following dinner

★ Enjoy a Fellowship Dinner
before the meeting!

\$10.00

Served from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Please make Reservations
412-939-3579

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An Evening of Comedy, Mystery & Dinner

Thursday, April 6

Valley of Pittsburgh AASR

Stated Meeting

Mobsters & Molls



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for reservations or call 412-939-3579
Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for Dinner
Show starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Changes are underway both inside and outside at the GPMC

By Mike Marcus

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center Fund Society

A major project recently began behind the Masonic Center that will expand the usable acreage of the GPMC campus as well as generate revenue for the facility.

For the past several years, the GPMC Board of Directors has been working with a major construction company on a project that would benefit both organizations.

The construction company has several large-scale projects in the region underway as well as additional projects scheduled for the next several years.

The GPMC has contracted with the

steps forward in the documentation and preservation of the museum and library collection. This long-term project is already underway with the documentation of items currently on display in the cases along the library hallway.

In the coming weeks, the museum cases will continue to be catalogued, cleaned and cleared in anticipation of a series of thematic museum-quality exhibits to rotate every 6-8 months. In addition, the Museum & Library team is documenting the artwork and photography which previously hung in the



company to provide a location for the clean fill dirt excavated from those projects.

The construction company will soon begin the placement of excavated fill from their projects in an engineered manner that will ensure their stability and the construction worthiness of the acreage gained by the Masonic Center.

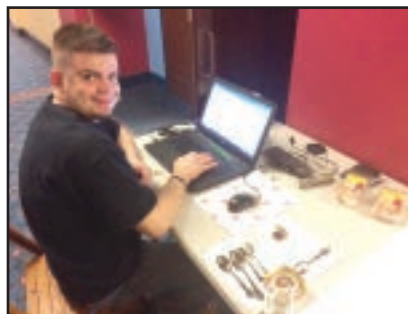
The company will also pay the Masonic Center a fee per cubic ton of soil deposited on the property. Steps have been taken to protect the African-American cemetery located along Cemetery Lane, as well as remediate rainwater runoff during the clearing and construction process.

The Masonic Center leadership is also in talks with the construction company regarding the development of an amphitheater as part of the project. If you have questions regarding the project, contact the office at 412-931-1996.

Inside the Masonic Center, a team of volunteers has taken significant

hallways of the Center with the intent to rehang them in an organized manner including text panels with information on each displayed artwork.

If you have any questions about the Museum & Library project, or are interested in volunteering, please email Mike Marcus, at gpmcmuseumlibrary@outlook.com ❖



Robert Schwanbeck from Dallas Lodge works on cataloging museum pieces during a recent Museum work day. The next Museum & Library work day is scheduled for Sunday, March 12).



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

Pirates vs Cubs

The annual Valley of Pittsburgh
Baseball outing at PNC Park.

Friday, June 16, 2017

\$55.00 includes

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



Questions? - 412-939-3579

Baseball Ticket Order

Enclosed is my check payable to **Gourgass Lodge of Perfection** for \$_____ for _____ tickets to the baseball game at PNC Park on Friday, June 16, 2017 at 7:05 p.m.

Name _____

Phone () _____

Mail to: GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way, Pgh. PA 15237
Please include a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope for return of game tickets and directions to the tail game party.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Don't be disappointed, order early!



Celebration of Education Dinner

Thursday, May 25 - 6:00 p.m.
Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
\$25.00 per person

The Celebration of Education Dinner features distribution of Abbott Scholarships to high school and college applicants from Scottish Rite families. Applications are available from the Valley office (412-939-3579) or on line at: www.scottishritenmj.org (click on philanthropy and scroll down to Abbott Scholarships and 'click here') Mail two copies to the Valley office at 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The deadline for submission of applications is April 3.

The four Valley presiding officers will also select four Masons (*not necessarily members of the Valley*) who will be recognized as the ideal Family Man – living by the principles taught in the Scottish Rite.

Additionally, two grants will be presented to Rainbow members and two grants to DeMolay members to attend leadership conferences to be held in the summer.

Applications for these grants are available thru Youth Leaders and must be submitted by April 3.

The evening of student recognitions, and family life, celebrates masonic values, and reinforces individual commitment to the family. ♦

Make check payable and mail to:
Lodge of Perfection
GPMC, 3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(tickets held at door)

Valley of Pittsburgh Caribbean Cruise



JANUARY 6 - 13, 2018



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Prices subject to change.

Call 800-435-1077

Per person price based on double occupancy

Rates include all port charges, government fees and taxes. No air or transfers are included in the above rates. Air will be available by August.

Added bonus: Each person will receive a drink package consisting of 12 beverages in bars, restaurants, and includes, wine by the glass, beers, non-premium spirits and cocktails, soft drinks, mineral water and hot drinks.

Deposit is required at time of booking of \$250.00 per person with final payment due Oct 02, 2017.

A valid passport is required for travel.

To make reservations, call **ALL SEASONS TRAVEL** and ask for the **Valley of Pittsburgh Caribbean Cruise**. 800-435-1077 or 724-483-7989.

Former Smithfield Street Bridge Canopy Clock Now a Coffee Table at the Masonic Village at Sewickley

When the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad (P&LE) Station was running over 80 passenger trains a day from the station at the southern end of the Smithfield Street (now the Grand Concourse Restaurant) an elaborate handsome structure across the bridge protected people from weather as they came and went by trolley. Embedded within the canopy was a large clock.

Years later, the P&LE announced the proposed demolition of the structure and

a coffee table. However, he was never able to confirm that, but visitors to a house in Sewickley spoke of it.

On a recent visit to see Bro. D. William Roberts, at the Masonic Village in Sewickley, Mr. Ziegler was pleasantly surprised to find the clock coffee table in the lobby of the Club House of the Masonic complex. "We are very happy to see that the clock is a major feature and located in a good public space that visitors can see."

Following the removal of the clock from



the Masonic Village and the clock came with them. Mr. Allyn passed away in December 2006. His wife, Betsy, had the clock appraised, but did not like the idea it would end up some place strange, so she donated it to the Masonic Village at Sewickley. (April 11, 2011)

The clock is now displayed in the lobby of the Clubhouse where residents gather with friends and family. Running on electricity, it still keeps accurate time. If the power goes out, however, staff have to wait until the next day, at the exact same time of the power outage, to restart it.

The clock weighs about 1,500 lbs., including a 700 lb. glass face (the largest single piece built by Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company (PPG) at that time. ♦



Arthur Ziegler, president of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (PHLF), called the then president of the railroad, Curtis D. Burford, and asked that it not be taken down. The president of the railroad's response was: "we want to be part of the new Pittsburgh."

The canopy over the Smithfield Street Bridge was removed in July 1967, and along with it, the clock.

Years later, Mr. Ziegler heard that the clock itself had been saved and made into

the Smithfield St. Bridge canopy in July 1967, it was placed in storage. Some years later, Mr. Henry 'Hank' Allyn, who was president of P&LE from 1969 - 1982, was taken by surprise when P&LE, in recognition of his service, asked if he would like to have the clock which had been transformed into a table. After some further modification, it became a beautiful coffee table in his home, and as a personal touch, Mr. Allyn added a model train to its center.

In 2005, the Allens moved into a Villa at



Note of Interest: Brother D. William Roberts, Editor of *The Rite News*, serves on the Board of Directors of the Landmarks Development Corp., a division of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

"It ended like most of my cases... with everybody dead."

See Page 6 for details



COMING
MAY
19&20



CALENDAR Masonic & Other Events 2017



GPMC - Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
MVS - Masonic Village at Sewickley MVE - Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

MARCH 2017

- 12 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 23 - Lunch & Learn - MVS - 412-749-6862
- 25 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 28 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS

APRIL 2017

- 06 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 07, 08, 09 - Shrine Circus, PPG Paints Arena
- 09 - Story of the Crucifixion - GPMC
- 13 - Lent ends
- 15 - Shrine Bunny Bash
- 21, 22 - Valley Spring Class - GPMC
- 25 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 29 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

MAY 2017

- 13 - Education Seminar - GPMC
- 14 - Mothers Day Lunch Celebration - GPMC
- 17 - Lunch & Learn - MVS - 412-749-6862
- 19, 20 - Ghost Light Theatre production GPMC
- 25 - Scholarship/Awards Night - GPMC
- 23 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 27 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

JUNE 2017

- 01 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 04 - Classic Car Club Cruise - 11 a.m. GPMC
- 10 - Valley Golf Outing - Butler Golf Course
- 16 - Pirates vs Chicago Cubs - PNC Park
- 16 - Meeting in the Hills, Dawson, PA
- 17 - Shrine Gun Bash
- 21 - Lunch & Learn - MVS - 412-749-6862
- 27 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 30 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

JULY 2017

- 14 - Washington Wild Things Baseball
- 22 - GPMC All Masonic Bodies Picnic
- 25 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 29 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 30 - Blue Ride - Washington, PA

AUGUST 2017

- 04 - Masonic Day at Kennywood
- 05 - Hiram's Hideaway Stag - Wonderlings
- 09 - Lunch & Learn - MVS - 412-749-6862
- 22 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 26 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 27, 28, 29 - Supreme Council Annual Meeting
Rochester, NY

SEPTEMBER 2017

- 02 - Hiram's Riders Gun Bash - GPMC
- 07 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 10 - Classic Car Club Cruise - 11 a.m. GPMC
- 23 - One-Day Class
- 26 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 30 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

OCTOBER 2017

- 07 - Community Festival - MVS
- 14 - Autumn Day - Elizabethtown
- 24 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS
- 27 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC

NOVEMBER 2017

- 02 - VALLEY STATED MEETING - GPMC**
- 25 - Fellowship Breakfast - GPMC
- 28 - High 12 Luncheon - MVS

DECEMBER 2017

- 02 - Valley Christmas Party
- 08 - Grand Lodge Quarterly - Philadelphia
- 09 - Children's Christmas Party - GPMC
- 16 - Hiram's Riders Christmas Party - GPMC
- 26, 27, 28 - Grand Lodge Annual Meeting -
Installation of Brother S. Eugene
Herritt, 33° as R. W. Grand Master -
Hershey Convention Center

Schedule updated monthly:

www.valleyofpittsburgh.org



Norman E. Flaherty, 33°

*the official Irishman of
Pittsburgh and Freemasonry sez:*

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 17

*May your pockets be heavy
and your heart be light,
May good luck pursue you
each day & night!*

THE RITE NEWS

VOL. XXVI NO. 3

March 2017

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The Rite News magazine is the official publication of the Valley of Pittsburgh, AASR, District of Pennsylvania, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA. Opinions expressed are those of the author(s). Information is obtained from correspondence, press releases, Masonic publications and miscellaneous sources, which in many cases, cannot be verified. Published four times a year.

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DON'T FORGET THE BLUE RIDE

Sponsored By
Washington Lodge
No. 164
and
Blue Knights
PA Chapter XVI
**SUNDAY,
JULY 30**

This is the Fourteenth Annual Charity Motorcycle Run. Proceeds from the run will be divided between the two organizations, and used to support area charities.

Registration will be at North Strabane Twp. Volunteer Fire Department on Rt. 19 Canonsburg, PA from **9 am to 11 am**, and will depart promptly at **11:30 am**. Cost for the ride is \$25.00 single, and \$35.00 double.

Pre-Registration preferred by July 20, 2017.

Cost for Pre-Registered riders is \$20.00 single and \$30.00 double.

Make Checks Payable to: **"Blue Ride Fund"**

Send to: PO Box 422, Eighty Four, PA 15330

Need More
Information or a
Pre-Registration Form?
Contact Br0. Richards:
dave.richards114@comcast.net

724-263-6218

**SUNDAY,
JULY 30**



◆ M ◆ E ◆ M ◆ B ◆ E ◆ R ◆ S ◆ H ◆ I ◆ P ◆

Greetings, Brethren!

It is a new year, which means some new things coming to the membership of the Valley, and also a return to some of the old ones.

Last year saw a cancellation of the Spring and Fall Classes, with the One Day Masonic Journey. The number of new Scottish Rite Masons initiated that day will be impossible to duplicate, but that shouldn't really be our focus. Since they have joined, many of our new brothers have attended events such as the Gala, the Fourteenth Degree Exemplification, and even our Stated Meetings. I believe many have enjoyed their first experiences and are eager to get involved in the workings of the Valley. We need to be there as members to invite and encourage them to participate. Making them feel welcome in the Valley and find profit in their membership will encourage them to spread the word in their Blue Lodges and speak well of the Rite. Hopefully, their good experiences will make them good ambassadors for the Valley. We will be having a traditional Spring Class on April 21-22.

We will be conferring the usual line officer degrees, 14th, 16th, 18th & 32nd, but we will also be conferring the 11th and 24th degrees, which haven't been presented since 2010-11. Many of these will be the first degrees our new brethren have seen in the Valley, and it will definitely be their first experience with a reunion weekend. I have been reaching out to many of our new brethren and trying to get them involved on stage. I should mention that even if you've never seen a degree, you still get everything out of it by being in it, perhaps even more. If we all waited until we saw every degree to participate, many of our cast members wouldn't be involved now. That also goes for the *Story of the Crucifixion*, which is taking place on Palm Sunday, April 9th. This event is open to the public, so friends and family can see your participation on stage. If you are interested in getting involved in the degree work, or any aspect of the Valley, please do not hesitate to reach out. I will put my contact information at the end of this message.

We are bringing back our Mother's Day Luncheon this year. Ghostlight Theatre Company will be having another production this May. The annual Celebration of Education Dinner and Charity Golf Outing are both returning this year. Details for all of these events will be found in this issue, as well as subsequent issues and electronic

William G. Johnston, 32°
Membership Chairman

media as well.

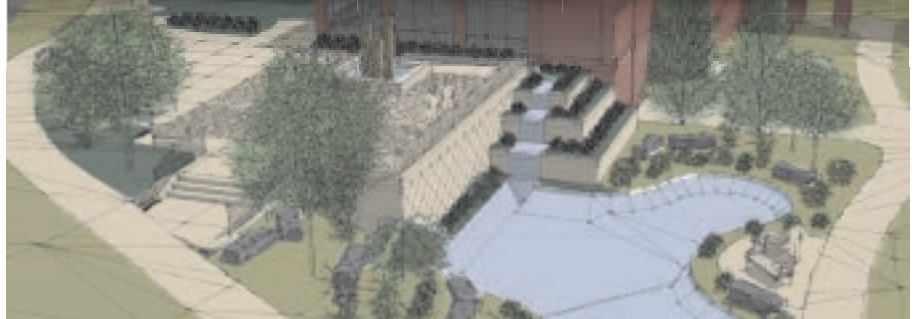
I will also be organizing some social events outside of the Valley to promote fellowship and fraternity between the members of the Valley, and to increase public awareness of the fraternity. We all grow our friendships when participating in Valley activities and functions, but sometimes they leave only enough time to take care of the business aspect of things. We need to have more times out having fun with our brethren and their families. Just meeting for a beer, a cigar, to play a game of cards, or simply to shoot the breeze helps to cement our bonds of brotherly love. Look for

information about these events coming by way of email and the Valley website and Facebook pages. If you are on Facebook, but are not following the Valley page, please do so. If your email address or phone number is not current with the Valley database, please contact the office at (412) 939-3579 or aasr.pittsburgh@comcast.net. We are working on an outreach program to all of our members, and its success depends on current contact information.

I look forward to seeing, meeting and working with you all to make the Valley of Pittsburgh the best in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction! ♦

wgj11_11@hotmail.com
(412) 977-3714

VETERANS GARDEN



Masons have long supported our military, who sacrifice daily to preserve our freedom. The Veterans Garden and Pond at the Masonic Village at Sewickley will recognize and honor veterans in a meaningful, lasting way. It will be a place for loved ones to pray for, celebrate and memorialize those who have, and those who continue, to serve our country. An unveiling and dedication ceremony will take place **October 7, 2017**.

Several featured items, such as a life-sized bronze statue of George Washington in his military regalia, as well as a water fountain, pond and benches, are available for individual recognition on a bronze or Corian tile. Individuals, families, Masonic lodges and other organizations may also purchase pavers to be inscribed with the name of donor(s), veteran(s) or loved one(s) serving in the armed forces. The sale of the pavers support the construction and maintenance of this sacred area.

If you have any questions, please call 1-412-741-1400, ext. 3011 or 1-800-599-6454.

VETERANS GARDEN DONATION FORM

As a way of honoring or memorializing an individual, a paver can be inscribed to permanently honor an individual(s) service to our country.

Lodge Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Email _____

Choose a paver size:

- ☐ 12"x18" Paver (\$500) will accommodate 5 lines with no more than 20 characters per line
☐ 8"x12" Paver (\$250) will accommodate 4 lines with no more than 14 characters per line

Please print paver inscription below exactly as you would like it to appear; spaces are included in character count.

Credit Card

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Card# _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Security Code (3 digit) _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Please return both completed form and check payable to the Masonic Charities to:

Office of Gift Planning • Masonic Village
1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143

Valley of Pittsburgh

GOURGAS LODGE OF PERFECTION

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, USA
Instituted 20 January 1852

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 412-939-3579 **Fax:** 412-939-0560

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Discover an active 60+ community where you can have it all! At Masonic Village, your monthly service fee covers one meal daily (or if you miss one, enjoy two another day); twice monthly housekeeping; maintenance and repairs; transportation to appointments, shopping centers and special events, like Pirates games; and much more. Access a 24-hour fitness center and a pool and spa. Enjoy parties, programs and trips planned just for you. Even personal care and nursing care services are covered thanks to Lifecare. Welcome to a worry-free retirement!

RETIREMENT LIVING CLUBHOUSE

10 a.m.: Lifecare Presentation
11 a.m.: Tours of the Community
Noon: Lunch is served

See Events Calendar on page 30
for 2017 dates



www.masonicvillages.org | 1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA | Open for Everyone. |

