ILLUSTRATED ENVELOPES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR by Hilary Anderson Stelling & Jeffrey Croteau

A BROTHER’S VOICE by Bro. Sherwin Kenneth Baril

SINCE SEPTEMBER: THE PATH FORWARD TEAM by Linda Patch
### CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Message from the Sovereign Grand Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Collectanea Close-Up From the Museum &amp; Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Since September The Path Forward Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Proclamation November is Scottish Rite Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Joining Has Never Been Easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Stamp Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Scottish Rite Charities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Notes From The Scottish Rite Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Brothers on the Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>In Memoriam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Whatever Happened to Memorization?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Book Nook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Health Wise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Meeting at the Imperial Shrine Headquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>A Brother’s Voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Listen My Children...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Today’s Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>More Than Just Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Masonic Moments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Et Cetera, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Greetings,

New members are the life blood of any organization, and Freemasonry is no exception. New members add enthusiasm, excitement, and energy to lodges and Valleys, and bring new ideas and new ways of approaching activities and creating new events.

I have always been interested in recruiting friends to join in organizations where I’ve been a member. In my youth, I worked hard to build up my local DeMolay Chapter. As State Master Councilor of New Jersey DeMolay, we achieved 100% of our membership goal, recruiting 605 members in one year throughout 43 chapters. As Executive Officer of DeMolay in New Jersey, our team achieved membership growth in all five years of my tenure.

As the Senior Warden of my lodge, we held an open house inviting friends of the members to learn more about Freemasonry. That resulted in balloting on 20 petitions at my first meeting as Worshipful Master and scheduling four sets of Degrees to follow. In 2005, MW Dan Wilson, as Grand Master of New Jersey, appointed me as the state chairman of a one-day class for Freemasonry. Thanks to the work of that state team, we raised 1,700 Masons in one day.

I don’t report this information to you to brag – well, maybe a little bit. My point is that I have always found that a good plan and some good hard work can attain the goals you wish to achieve. Maybe my career as a salesman has helped me learn to be a good membership sales person. So, we will set a good plan for Scottish Rite membership in the NMJ.

Realizing that all membership is local, similar to “all politics is local,” we plan to support and provide back-up to all of our Valleys.

Working with our Deputies, we have established state, or COD, membership chairmen, in communication directly with our membership team at headquarters. Each state chairman is to establish his own local team, as well as a set of Scottish Rite Ambassadors.

The staff here at headquarters is developing a Scottish Rite “invitation” packet that any of our members may use to invite a fellow Mason to join. There will also be “new member kits” sent to each new member directly by headquarters once a member receives the 4°.

Our team is developing a 4° kit to establish a set procedure in presenting the 4° and an orientation in helping a Brother become a Scottish Rite Mason at anytime, bringing a member on board between scheduled reunions. The purpose here is to allow a Mason to become an active Scottish Rite Mason and participate immediately, rather than wait for a reunion date. The 4° members may then catch up with their passports as time and degree scheduling allows.

Our Path Forward team is working with our consulting firm that developed the “Not Just a Man…” campaign to develop our “Join” campaign for Scottish Rite. This will enhance the local efforts.

Our team has set up an online application to join Scottish Rite, which is now active and being used by the Valley Secretaries.

These are exciting times for Scottish Rite. I trust you are enjoying your membership. Feel free to invite your fellow lodge members to join us.

Fraternally,

David A. Glattly, SGC
Illustrated Envelopes of the American Civil War

Following the November 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, seven states in which slavery was legal individually seceded from the Union. Lincoln’s opposition to the expansion of slavery in the western United States prompted the secession. South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas declared themselves the Confederate States of America (C.S.A.), and established a capital first in Montgomery, AL, and then in Richmond, VA. After the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina in April 1861, four more slave-holding states joined the Confederacy. The C.S.A. was never officially recognized by the United States or any foreign government. The American Civil War, fought between the Union and the Confederate South, lasted until 1865. Casualties on both sides, from death, disease, and wounds, totaled over one million.

Shortly after the war began, publishers began printing illustrated envelopes related to the conflict. The designs treated a variety of subjects—soldiers, battles, and politics. Publishers released 3,000-4,000 individual Union envelope designs and about 160 individual Confederate envelope designs. From the start, Americans began collecting these envelopes. As early as 1861, manufacturers marketed special albums that consumers could fill with envelopes that they had acquired. Some soldiers and civilians also put these envelopes to practical use, using them to mail letters home to the front or to their families. Colorful and evocative, these envelopes speak to the bold rhetoric and political passions of the American Civil War.

The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library in Lexington, MA, holds over 1,000 illustrated envelopes from the American Civil War in its collection. The vast majority of them were the gift of William Caleb Loring, 33°. Loring served on the museum’s board of directors and was a generous donor to the museum. In addition to his collection of envelopes, Loring gave over 150 items to the Museum & Library over the years, including documents, objects, and stereographs. A selection of illustrated envelopes from the Civil War will be on view in the Library & Archives reading room through December 1, 2018.

For Soldiers and Civilians

Beginning in the spring of 1861, publishers such as Hartford’s Car Bell and Boston’s James M. Whittemore began publishing patriotic envelopes illustrated with images related to the American Civil War. Almost immediately, consumers began to collect them. Bell marketed his products as collectibles that would gain value over time. He also noted that “A collection of Union envelopes in a few years from now will form a most valuable and pleasing curiosity.” One of his competitors, Whittemore, sold special albums designed to help collectors easily gather, display and preserve envelopes. Both companies used actual envelopes to let consumers know about the specialized Civil War stationary they offered for sale.

While many people collected unused enveloped, some soldiers and civilians used these envelopes to mail letters. Union soldier John E. Fisher wrote to his parents back home in Boston on red, white, and blue stationery. His letter, dated May 11, 1862, mailed in an envelope that matched his writing paper, describes the Union’s occupation of Norfolk, VA, and of the Confederates’ destruction of their own ship, the Merrimack, the day before. This act prevented the ship being captured by Union troops. Unlike most of the illustrated envelopes in the Library & Museum’s collection, which were never used, Fisher’s envelope went through the mail and bears a post mark.

Publishers produced many envelopes depicting soldiers. In some cases, the images were celebratory, such as that of the Zouaves waving an American flag. The Union
army consisted of more than 70 volunteer Zouave regiments, their soldiers recognizable by their stylish uniforms with short coats and billowy pants. Sentimental images of a soldier saying a poignant goodbye, uncertain of the future, were common. “The Girl I Left Behind Me,” the title of a song that became popular during the American Civil War, drew on this theme.

Some firms repurposed envelopes from the 1860 presidential campaign during the war, literally stamping some politicians as “Traitors” and calling out others as “Patriots.” John Bell ran for president on a ticket with Massachusetts’ Edward Everett. When war broke out, Bell, from Tennessee, sided with the Confederacy. Northern envelope publishers marked him as a traitor.

Northern publishers also made clear their disdain for England’s material and financial support of the Confederacy and that nation’s implicit support of slavery, by issuing envelopes illustrated with satirical caricatures. Some of these envelopes depict “John Bull,” a personification of England, or “Victoria Rex,” a symbol of England’s monarch, Queen Victoria. Some caricatures suggested that England has turned its back on the plight of enslaved people in favor of ensuring the prosperity of the cotton-reliant British textile industry. Others satirized England’s political balancing act, by showing John Bull as

**Secession, Slavery, Traitors**

The first shots of the American Civil War were fired on April 12, 1861, with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor. Fort Sumter became a powerful symbol for both sides of the conflict. The Confederacy viewed it as the flashpoint of an independence movement, while the Union saw the incident as a rallying cry to fight against the southern secessionists’ rebellion. The central cause of the American Civil War was slavery. The Confederacy sought to defend slavery and to oppose the fight to abolish it. From the Union point of view, those supporting the Confederacy were traitors who were levying war against the government.

Publishers’ products reflected these strong feelings.
a horse trick-rider, holding a cotton bale on his back while he tries to ride two horses, one representing the Union, the other “Secession,” or the Confederacy.

**Potent Symbols**

Using a limited range of colors and a small space—only what could fit on one side of an envelope—publishers relied on strong images and symbols to convey their message. The vocabulary of symbols featured on envelopes included historical figures and contemporary leaders. From the start of the war, patriotic stationery publishers in the North often included imagery that linked the Civil War—the “present Rebellion”—with the American Revolution. These connections were often explicit, such as pairing Joseph Warren with Elmer Ellsworth. Warren was an early casualty of the American Revolution and Ellsworth was the first officer killed in the Civil War. Other envelope publishers called attention to the shared dates—April 19—of the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, which marked the beginning of the American Revolution to the Baltimore Riot in 1861, which marked the first deaths by hostile action in the American Civil War.

Contemporary leaders were also familiar to consumers of patriotic stationary. Abraham Lincoln’s portrait began appearing on envelopes during the 1860 Presidential election. Some of these envelope designs were repurposed during the war and overprinted with new imagery. Topical events, such as a comet that was visible to the naked eye for over three months in 1861, were incorporated into an envelope design that emphasized both Lincoln and the Union flag. Jefferson Davis served as President of the Confederate States for the entirety of the war. Even after the war, with the dissolution of the Confederate government, Davis continued to be featured on envelopes. For example, on a souvenir envelope published after the war, he was declared the “Champion of the South.”

**Martyrs and Battles**

Over the course of the war, people celebrated individuals for their actions and sacrifice. For example, both revered and vilified, John Brown, the fiery abolitionist who advocated for an armed struggle against slavery, led a raid on the Federal armory at Harpers Ferry in 1859. Many saw this act as a key precursor to the Civil War. Brown, who was later executed because of his role in the raid, was viewed by many as a martyr to the abolitionist movement.

Though he died before the conflict began, envelope publishers featured his image on their products during
the war. Publishers also highlighted military heroes. Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth, the first Union officer killed in the war, and Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in the war, were both regarded as martyrs to the Union cause. Luther C. Ladd, who died during the Baltimore riot in April 1861, was remembered as the first Union soldier to lose his life in action during the war. All of these men were depicted as heroes on collectible illustrated envelopes.

Northern publishers also produced envelopes that commemorated successful battles waged during the war. Arguably the most important naval battle of the Civil War, the battle between the Union’s USS Monitor and the Confederate’s CSS Virginia (built from the remnants of the USS Merrimack) took place from March 8 through March 9, 1862. It was the first naval battle between two iron-clad ships. Other envelopes depicted maps referring to battles, such as the Battle of Shiloh, a two-day battle fought in southwestern Tennessee in April 1862. Although the battle was considered a Union victory, the cost was high. Union forces suffered 13,000 casualties, compared to 11,000 Confederate ones.

The envelopes discussed here represent only a fraction of the thousands printed and collected during the Civil War. This glimpse of these colorful and compelling images allows us to see how publishers used the strong emotions Americans experienced during the war to sell their products. In turn, these illustrated envelopes helped Americans express and capture some of their own feelings about the conflict.
Here is an at-a-glance look at all we have done in the past year to create a richer more satisfying member experience. You told us what you wanted, and we listened. Listed here are accomplishments that have happened just since September. We hope you are heartened, and maybe a little impressed, at what we have put into action as the Scottish Rite moves forward.

**NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON. IS LAUNCHED**

We launched the strategic marketing and outreach initiative *The Path Forward.*

*The Not Just a Man. A Mason.* pride campaign premiered with nine ads expressing the nobility of Freemasonry and the power of Brotherhood in a modern, accessible way.

We produced the video, “Even Better,” an anthemic articulation of *The Path Forward* goals:

- to reignite pride in the membership
- tell the true story of who we are
- make Freemasonry appealing to new member and a new generation

The campaign was trademarked to insure its integrity.

**NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON. MADE AVAILABLE TO GRAND LODGES NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY**

We made the entire *Not Just a Man* campaign available digitally and free of charge to all Grand Lodges across the United States.

*Why?*

To shine a fresh light on Freemasonry, raise our profile in society, and help blue lodge Masonry grow.

*The reaction?*

As of this writing, the campaign is being used in 29 states from the Grand Lodge to the local lodge levels.

*And...*

It is being used in every Canadian province. It is being implemented in Australia and New Zealand. Mexico has asked that we translate it into Spanish for their use.

**NOTJUSTAMAN.ORG IS LAUNCHED**

This website is where Grand Lodges, Valleys, and local lodges order their customized campaign materials with each order supervised for quality by Supreme Council staff.

**WE BUILT A NEW WEBSITE FOR YOU**

We built a new, dynamic member website filled with services and information for you. More than 5,000 of your Brothers have registered in the member center. Have you?

We now offer single sign-on, and the ability to not only pay dues online, but you can now update your personal information too.

**New Discussion Forum**

We began a member-only discussion forum on the website. It is a place for Brothers to meet, talk, and stay connected. Check it out in the Member Center and get in on the discussion.
NEW ONLINE APPLICATION TO JOIN
We added an online application to the website. Now the joining process is more convenient and responsive to today’s modern Mason.

PCI MEMBER DIRECTORY
More than 43,000 of you have updated your information through our directory project with PCI. We can stay fully and frequently in touch thanks to your participation.

YOU SAID YOU WANTED MORE EDUCATION
We opened Hauts Grades Academy, our premier educational offering consisting of three challenging levels. More than 770 Brothers are currently enrolled.

We began a series of Masonic education livestreams including How Fraternalism Transforms Character and Generation to Generation: Exploring the Ageless Bonds of Freemasonry. Stay tuned for a full fall/winter lineup.

YOU REQUESTED MORE INTERACTION WITH LEADERSHIP
Sovereign Grand Commander David A. Glattly hosted Meet the New Guy, an interactive livestream discussion open to all. You will see more of him and other Scottish Rite leaders in online and video events to come.

Commander Glattly, First Lady Monica, and the entire Path Forward team has been traveling throughout the jurisdiction meeting members, and taking part in Valley, Grand Lodge, and local lodge events. Every state in the NMJ has been visited by a Path Forward team member.

THE NORTHERN LIGHT
The Northern Light was redesigned and fresh content added to complement our Path Forward initiative. Look for innovations to bring The Northern Light alive digitally in the coming months.

SQUARE AND COMPASSES MEDIA
Square and Compasses Media was opened, our new video studio to provide ongoing video content and web broadcasts for you.

OUR NEW ONLINE STORE
The Masonic Marketplace online opened, now a national center for customized, on-demand Masonic items ranging from apparel, to luggage, to jewelry, to car decals, and more. It is unlike anything else in the Masonic world. Based on the response so far, you seem to like it too.

THE GRAND ALMONER’S FUND
More than $1,000,000 has been distributed through the Grand Almoner’s Fund to your Brothers, their families, and widows in need. Thank you for the amazing financial support we received from you this year.

And all of this was accomplished since September. Change takes time. But the commitment from your Supreme Council and your Sovereign Grand Commander to put you, the member, in the center of all we do is steadfast and will not waver.

There’s much more to come as we travel the Path Forward. Stay tuned.
PROCLAMATION

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER, DAVID A. GLLATTLY, 33°
PROCLAIMS NOVEMBER AS SCOTTISH RITE MONTH

TO ALL BROTHERS:

LET IT BE KNOWN AND SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE JURISDICTION

Whereas, The Scottish Rite, NMJ believes in the values of Reverence for God, Devotion to Country, Integrity, Justice, Service, and Toleration, and

Whereas, The Supreme Council promotes the aforementioned values through the written and performance exemplification of its degrees, and

Whereas, The Valleys of the Scottish Rite, NMJ seek to further inculcate the mission of the organization through its ritual and social programming, and

Whereas, The members of the Scottish Rite, NMJ are committed to upholding these values in their daily lives, and

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that I, David A. Glattly, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, NMJ, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2018 as Scottish Rite Month in all of our Valleys throughout the jurisdiction.

I encourage all Valleys and Brothers to plan, and participate, in events that demonstrate the strength and resolve we have for our organization, and the values for which it stands, and further cement the relevance of Freemasonry as part of history, as well as the future.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the Scottish Rite, NMJ to be herein affixed.

Sovereign Grand Commander

[Signature]
NOVEMBER IS SCOTTISH RITE MONTH

Scottish Rite Month is an opportunity for all members across the jurisdiction to collectively participate in events that highlight and promote the benefits of being a 32° Freemason and instill a sense of pride in membership in the Scottish Rite. During this month, the Supreme Council will highlight the values of Reverence for God, Devotion to Country, Integrity, Justice, Toleration, and Service. We encourage our state organizations, Valleys, and members to plan and host activities throughout the month as well.

Part of the awesomeness of your membership in the Scottish Rite is knowing that you are part of something bigger than yourself. The goal of our charities is to have a positive impact on the lives of people in our communities. In furtherance of those two sentiments, we have developed a jurisdiction-wide promotion for the month of November. The goal is to incorporate all Valleys and build toward one shared cause. We have designed a Scottish Rite Eagle stuffed animal that can be purchased either for yourself, or, even better, for a child or children in your life that need a little cheering up, or to let them know you were thinking of them. For every eagle purchased, the Supreme Council will donate an eagle on behalf of the Valley to a local children’s charity in that area. This activity will have a positive impact on a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. and also share that goodwill with the Shriner’s Children’s Hospital, local children’s hospital, Toys for Tots, or other local charity.

When we focus on our core values and successfully implement programming that is congruent with those values, no one can argue the relevance of Freemasonry, specifically, the Scottish Rite. Through The Path Forward survey, we learned that our values set resonates with men today, and they would join an organization that stood for these values.

We also have an obligation to care for our current members; not just the ones who attend meetings and degree days but the ones who have provided the foundation for who we are today, the newest members who are seeking something more beyond just the degrees, and the ones whose circumstances don’t allow them to be as involved as they want to be.

State-wide Activities

On a single day, members/casts from all Valleys in the state come together and put on degree work, host a meal/reception, or any other activity that promotes the presence of the greater Scottish Rite community and shows the members they are part of something bigger than their individual Valley.

Valley Activities

Throughout the month, the Valley will host events that bring members together and engage in activities for the betterment of their members, recruit new members, celebrate their members, etc.

Many States and Valleys currently have events planned. The following list is meant to assist in idea generation.

- Beef, Beer, Brotherhood Event
- Brother-Bring-a-Friend
- Brotherhood Night
- Charity Program
- Cigar/Tasting Event
- Couples Night Out
- Degree Day/Nights
- Family Game Night
- Family Ice Cream Sundae Event
- Family Life Event
- Father/Son Dinner event
- Financial Planning Program
- Luncheon for Senior Members
- Masonic Home Visit/Event
- Masonic Pub Crawl
- Member Appreciation Dinner
- Member Milestone Recognition
- Open House
- Public Degree with Program
- Public Service Event
- Remember the Widows Event
- Thanksgiving Event for Seniors
- Trip to Museum/Zoo/Sporting Event
- Visit Shut-ins

Individual Activities

The core of what we are is contained in our vision statement. It is the duty of each Brother to lend a hand to another Brother in need. At this very local level, members can participate in Scottish Rite Month by having personal interactions with other Brothers. This can happen in any community, anywhere there are two or more Freemasons. Examples of these types of activities are Brother-to-Brother calling/note writing, visiting widows, visiting shut-ins, deliver meals, take a member to lunch/coffee, “Help a Mason” by assisting with lawn care, transporting to doctors’ appointments, or other needs.

We hope through the programs of this month it will reignite your passion as a member and remind you of the reason you joined the Scottish Rite.

Be on the lookout for more information on Scottish Rite Month through your Valley Secretary’s office as well as social media and email. For questions regarding Scottish Rite Month feel free to email Associate Director of Membership, George Taylor, at gtaylor@srnmj.org.
JOINING HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

The new, enhanced website for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction has just made joining the Scottish Rite easier than ever. Be sure to tell your blue lodge Brothers about our fraternity and just how simple it is to become a member.

For an online application, head to ScottishRiteNMJ.org and click on the word...

"Join"

on the top navigation bar. This brings up a page titled “Become a 32° Mason.” In the text, click on the words...

“membership application.”

And there you are.

There are a few points to be aware of, while filling out the form. First, don’t use “Mr.” in the prefix. That is assumed. Here is where you would put “Dr.,” “Prof.,” “Sen.,” and so forth.

When typing your name be sure to use your full name, just as you did when joining your lodge (use full middle name if you have one.)

Also, when signing the Oath of Fealty, typing your full name is acceptable.

When the form is complete, at the bottom of the page simply hit...

“Submit.”

You will receive an email confirmation and the appropriate Valley Secretary will be informed, also via email. The Secretary then needs to review the application and inform the applicant.

ALREADY A SCOTTISH RITE FREEMASON?

As a member of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction you have access to your online membership data. Once registered at the site you can review your degree history, and you can update your personal information (address, email, phone number, etc.)

For help feel free to call the I.T. Department at (800) 814-1433
Bro. Florian was initiated in 1779, in the Lodge “Les Neuf Soeurs” in Paris. He was honored on a stamp from September 1955, which was issued to commemorate the bicentennial of his birth. His mother died when he was a child; his uncle and a guardian who had married a niece of Voltaire introduced him at Ferney, and, in 1768, he became a page at Anet in the household of the Duc de Penthièvre. His first literary efforts were comedies; his verse epistle and eclogue were crowned by the French Academy in 1782 and 1784. In 1782, he also produced a one-act prose comedy. He became a member of the French Academy in 1788 and published several works. His collection of fables includes several which have passed down the years into colloquial French. Having studied at the artillery school at Bapaume he obtained, from his patron, the Duc de Penthièvre, a captain’s commission in a dragoon regiment. On the outbreak of the French Revolution he retired to Sceaux but was soon discovered and imprisoned. Though his imprisonment was short, he died a few months later - on September 13, 1794.

Bro. Stratham is pictured on a stamp released by Nevis on October 23, 1984. He was initiated on January 21, 1958, in the Lodge of High Endeavour No. 7366 in Manchester, England. Born in Gorton, England in 1930, he played cricket for Whitworth Street in Manchester schools cricket matches. He played his earliest cricket for Denton West CC in the North Western League along with his three brothers. He joined the Royal Air Force for his national service, and at the age of 18 he came to the notice of the Lancaster officials and was offered an engagement. He became one of the leading English fast bowlers of the 20th century English cricket and was a consistent force for Lancashire in the County Championship and in TEST cricket. He died in June 2000, and was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in August 2009.

Charles A. Lindbergh grew up in Little Falls, MN, studied mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, and then enrolled in a flying school in Lincoln, NE. He began flying in 1922, and in 1924 enlisted as a flying cadet in the U.S. Army flying school at Brooks Field, TX. Competing for the Orteig Prize of $25,000, he flew his “Spirit of St. Louis” from New York to Paris on May 20-21, 1927 in 33 hours 30 minutes. As a U.S. Army Air Corps Reserve officer, he also received the Medal of Honor, for his historic flight. In the late 1920s and early 1930s he used his fame to promote the development of both commercial aviation and Air Mail services in the United States and the Americas. Being contrary to the policy of the Roosevelt administration, Lindbergh resigned his commission as a colonel in the U.S. Army Air Force in April 1941. Nevertheless, he did support the war effort after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and flew 50 combat missions in the Pacific Theater as a civilian consultant. After the War he moved to Darien, CT where he became a consultant to the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force and to Pan Am Airways. He finally moved to Hawaii and died there.

Stamp of Approval

A quarter century ago the editor of The Northern Light, Dick Curtis, reached out to Bro. Robert Domingue, editor of The Philatelic Freemason to create a column on Masonic stamps for this magazine. In his opening remarks in column number one, Domingue points out that he “cannot attempt to chronicle all of them.” He is so right. Masonic stamps are released faster than we ever could report on them. Instead, he set out to “highlight those which have a broad attraction factor.” In that first submission he displayed stamps from Jamaica, The Philippines, and Mexico. And “The Stamp Act” is still going strong 25 years later, as he has told us about, and showed us, postage stamps from nations all over the world. We salute Bro. Bob Domingue on his 100th column in The Northern Light, and we eagerly await the next 100.
The Rite way to give is a personal plan you develop based on what works best for you. No donation is too small to make an impact.

For some of the newest Hirams, it is easier to give a small, recurring monthly gift that fits into their budget. This monthly program, known as “Giving by Degree” has been fostered by the Scottish Rite, NMJ for many years. In the next few months, you will see an expansion of this program, as we’ve made it easier than ever to contribute to the Scottish Rite Charity closest to your heart.

My wife and I decided to pledge a monthly, recurring donation to the Grand Almoner’s fund because we wanted to support members and their families, like those shared with you today. This monthly, recurring donation was the Rite option for us since it is automatically withdrawn from our checking account on a date of our choosing. It was easy and convenient to set up at DonateRite.org.

Whether you contribute through giving your time, your talents, or a financial contribution, thank you for supporting our four Scottish Rite Charities: the Grand Almoners Fund, The Children’s Dyslexia Centers, the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, and the Leon M. Abbott Scholarships.

Below are just a few examples of letters we’ve received from Brothers who have received a helping hand in the toughest of times. These stories are only possible because of the generosity of Brothers like you.

WORDS OF THANKS

To say that I am overwhelmed and touched by your expression of concern and the gift cards would be an understatement. I cannot begin to express my appreciation for this kind display of charity and Brotherly love. I never imagined that I would be the recipient of Masonic Charity... Just knowing that the Brethren care and are concerned is one of the greatest rewards of membership in this great fraternity.

- Kenneth, 33° Scottish Rite Mason, Southern Jurisdiction

How can we ever express our gratefulness for your generous gift? It was more than words could express. This experience still seems so surreal. I will never be able to express how grateful we are. We were rescued by boat, lost both cars, and took in three feet of water. We had been in our new house for two months. Again, I don’t know how to thank you.

God bless.

- Richard & Jill, Masonic Family
I am one of the distressed Texas Brethren who has benefited from the generosity of our Northern Brethren. My wife and I lost our home of 33 years and most of our clothing and possessions due to Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to the kind and generous aid y’all have provided we have been able to purchase those items necessary to reestablish our household for the time being. Please accept my gratitude and best wishes to all those Brethren who have contributed to our relief – we appreciate y’all. Sincerely & fraternally,

- Bill, 32° Scottish Rite Mason, Southern Jurisdiction

I hardly have the words to thank you for the donation of gift cards at a time in my life when I almost felt hopeless. This Harvey disaster has devastated so many lives, but in that devastation I receive a blessing. We serve a good God who sends people like you to help us who are hurting from this loss. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Believe me, it really came in handy. There is so much to replace. It is truly mind-boggling.

Thank you again,

- Becky, Advisor, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

“DOUBLE THE DONATION”

A worthwhile secret might be dug deep in your employee handbook, something so forgotten about it gets looked over time and time again – matching gifts.

If you’re unfamiliar with matching gift programs, the concept is simple: companies match their employees’ gifts to eligible 501 (c)(3) non-profit companies. This means your employer will literally double and sometimes triple your donation. Your $50 becomes $100, $200 becomes $400, and so on. These programs are put in place by employers to encourage charitable giving among their employees. Clearly this is great for you, as your donation could get multiplied but matching gifts are also beneficial for your company.

Recently, Bro. Jim Malkowski, 32°, Manager of Change Management at KPMG International reached out to his HR Department about matching gifts to support one of his favorite charities, the Children’s Dyslexia Centers. Armed with some key information and within just a few days, KPMG matched his gift. Bro. Malkowski said, “It was simple and straight forward. What better organization to ask my employer to donate to than one of our Scottish Rite Charities?”

Feel free to reach out to your Scottish Rite Charities team with help on matching gifts or future planned giving, (781) 465-3326.
Q & A

Recently The Northern Light talked with Bro. Yasser Al-Khatib, one of the founders of the Hauts Grades Academy. The program is part of the new education program of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Before we begin, tell me about your Masonic background. When and where did you join the fraternity?

Back in November 2006, I joined Fritz Lodge No. 308, in Conshohocken, PA. I was Worshipful Master in 2010.

How about Scottish Rite?

I became a member in the Valley of Philadelphia in 2012. Four years later I was awarded the Meritorious Service Award, and I was nominated to receive the 33°, in 2019, in Milwaukee. Currently I am Sovereign Prince for the DeJoinville Council, Princes of Jerusalem.

You are one of the prime movers of the new Hauts Grades Academy. Where did the idea for such a program originate?

It was a joint effort. Many years ago I became interested in learning more about Freemasonry. I attended several seminars. I signed up for the Academy of Masonic Knowledge in 2007: It’s a three-tiered program. I continued on, joining the Lodge of Research of Pennsylvania. Later, I started to teach. There’s an old saying: “To learn it, teach it.”

How did you go about making it happen?

I felt that more Masonic education was needed so I contacted Mohamad A. Yatim, 32°, E. Oscar Alleyne, 32°, and Conor P. Moran, 32°, acquaintances who felt a similar need for more Masonic knowledge. Between us we developed an outline for the program. In the spring of 2017, we presented the idea to the Sovereign Grand Commander. With an initial go-ahead we brainstormed and put the building blocks together. We made a presentation to the SGC and Leadership Committee in August. With their buy-in and support, we launched in January of this year.

Who else is involved?

In addition to the four of us, our board includes Ill. James O. Dill, 33°, Ill. William Holland, 33°, and Linda Patch, from Supreme Council headquarters, and Ill. Christopher Hodapp, 33°, a noted Masonic author and former editor of the Journal of the Masonic Society.

How does one enroll in the program?

First, you express interest. Go to the NMJ’s website member section and complete an intent of interest – in other words, an application form. When accepted the applicant receives an email with a user name and password. You will watch a video, then sign a form stating that you will not reveal anything that should not be shared with the outside world. This, of course, is on the honor system.

Tell us a little about the program. What are the steps? How does it work?

There are three levels. In the first you will learn some history, and there will be randomized questions on all degrees. There are 29 quizzes - one on each Scottish Rite degree - with four questions per quiz. You must attain at least a 75% grade on all four. There is no limit on the number of times a quiz can be taken. Once completed, a person moves on to level two. Here you will write a series of self-reflective essays. Also, one must choose a degree to research and write about. Subjects include the core value exemplified in the degree and how well it was communicated, if at all. It ends with a two- to three-page essay. It serves multiple purposes. Not only does the person
learn the degree but it gives him writing practice. Many of the program members may not have been required to write since their school days.

Then it’s on to level three.

Here, the candidate is required to conduct a research project, resulting in a paper of about 2,500 to 3,000 words. Certain criteria must be met. The paper needs to cover history, philosophy, and ritual. A side goal of this section is to generate a number of academic papers. They may appear in *The Northern Light*. Potentially we choose a best paper of the year, much in the fashion of the Prestonian Lecture. The early plans call for a paper to be delivered every two years at the Supreme Council Annual Meetings or at some other event.

**What type of Mason do you envision enrolling?**

They are coming from all walks of life, places, and ages.

**Any early feedback yet?**

We have received many thank you notes. People seem to be enjoying it. There also has been constructive criticism, and we’ve implemented much of the advice. For instance, at the request of several participants we have created an entire section containing resource materials, instructions, a list of core values by degree, and a quick lesson on how to reference and cite sources.

**What’s in store for the future? Are you planning any changes?**

It’s a little early to make any changes, but we do feel that we need a “deep dive” every three years. We’ll take a look at what’s worked, what hasn’t, and what needs tweaking. We want the program to continuously evolve. Eventually we want some of the early participants to join the board to provide an insider’s look.

**When you’re not working on the HGA program, what do you do?**

I’m thinking about HGA. Actually, I am a registered nurse, and I am an associate hospital director for patient services at a Philadelphia based health system. Also, I am an adjunct professor.

**Do you have any final comments?**

We are very much interested in feedback. This will never be a final product. Don’t judge it as being final. It needs to be an ever-progressing, ever evolving, ever-changing program.

Thank you, Yasser, for taking the time to explain this exciting new program, and congratulations to you, Mohamad, Oscar, and Conor, as well as to those at Supreme Council headquarters who helped bring this about.
The single largest fundraising event for the Southern Jurisdiction is the annual Celebrating the Craft (CTC) webathon. On Saturday, May 19, the seventh annual CTC was broadcast live on the SJ website. This event featured hosts Rusty Garrett, 33°, Maynard Edwards, KCCH, and Ali Hale. Fifteen performers from Valleys around the jurisdiction showed up for the “Scottish Rite Has Talent” feature, with a chance to take home $1,000 for their Valley’s charitable activities. The scholarly team Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, GC, and S. Brent Morris, 33°, once again hosted their popular “On the Square” feature and answered questions about Masonic history and practices. Viewing parties were held in Valleys across the Southern Jurisdiction, and pledge challenges flew back and forth all night. One special challenge resulted in Grand Commander Ronnie Seale wearing a long necktie for the first time in twenty-two years!

A new donor program was introduced at CTC 2018: The Acacia Guild. A donor giving at least $1,000 during a calendar year qualifies for membership, and receives a distinctive purple neck collar and sterling jewel. A total of $1,208,311.09—including 39 Acacia Guild memberships—was raised over the course of five hours to support the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc., and Scottish Rite 501(c)(3) charities in the Valleys. The winner of the Scottish Rite Has Talent contest was Timothy L. Ishmael, 32°, vocalist/guitarist of Guthrie, OK, based on the number of donations given in his name.

This very special Scottish Rite event can be enjoyed now by watching the on-demand video at the SJ website, https://scottishrite.org. Highlights are being edited now and will soon be posted. It’s inspiring to see so many people brought together across the country, all to support Masonry.

In an age when it is rare that sons join fathers in Freemasonry, the Phillip family of the Alliance Valley is an even rarer exception. Under the leadership of Bob Phillip, one son, three grandsons, and a great-grandson continue to be active at the Alliance Reunions.

At age 96, Bob Phillip, 33° is patriarch of the family. Bob was raised a Master Mason at Alliance Lodge No. 183 on April 25, 1946. A co-worker paid for his Scottish Rite degrees on the condition that he get involved with the stage crew to pay it back. Bob must be still paying off that debt, because he’s been on the stage crew ever since, missing only one reunion since 1946. Bob ran the stage crew until his son Don took over in 1986. Bob received his 33° in 1991 and Don his in 2007.

Don’s oldest son is Walt, who is in charge of the sound system during reunions and helps with the set-up of the stage as well. He received his 33° in 2007. Don’s second son, Scott Phillip, works with Walt on the sound system and stage set-up. Scott received his 33° in 2013. The third son is Terry Phillip, who is the curator of the reptile gardens in Rapid City, SD, and is an expert on poisonous snakes. Terry received his 33° in 2017. Walt’s son Geoffrey Phillip—Bob’s great-grandson—does several parts in the degree work in the Reunions, and received his KCCH in 2015.
An increasingly fragile right to privacy

In America, privacy long has been viewed as the concept that personal information is protected from public scrutiny. Privacy rights in America are unequalled. At least until now.

“We used to be able to have conversations in secret with people. If I were to say something to you in private now, others wouldn’t hear it – that isn’t the case anymore. We lost our security a long time ago. We’ve lost our privacy and it’s been abused,” Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak told Sabrina Hoffman, editor-in-chief of Business Insider Deutschland.

Do people realize privacy is an endangered species? Do they even care? Do you care?

Consider a MagnifyMoney (magnifymoney.com) poll that found 50 percent of those surveyed said they are concerned about last year’s Equifax data breach. Nonetheless, most have done absolutely nothing to protect their personal information and are unlikely to do so. A meager 8 percent told pollsters they have locked or frozen their credit files.

This year, we learned the British political analytics firm Cambridge Analytica obtained unauthorized access to the private information of as many as 87 million U.S. Facebook users. Furthermore, Facebook acknowledged “malicious actors” took advantage of search tools on its platform, making it possible for them to discover the identities and collect information on most of its two billion worldwide users.

Still, MagnifyMoney found that only 43 percent of survey respondents were concerned about the Facebook scandal. As of this writing, investors remain bullish on Facebook stock.

As for Facebook users, there is no evidence the revelations have caused many to head for the exits. The research firm eMarketer estimates Facebook is losing users under the age of 24. Most analysts believe this loss is due to the fact than many in the 24 and under crowd no longer view Facebook as “cool.” (Of course, it may be “cool” again by the time you read this.) Also, analysts caution that eMarketer’s numbers only are estimates.

On the other hand, eMarketer predicts Facebook’s total U.S. user numbers will continue to grow, at least in the near-term.

My own unscientific survey of 32 Facebook users found only one who planned to dump her Facebook account. I doubt she will.

Also, eMarketer predicts Instagram, owned by Facebook, will expand to 105 million users this year. While Instagram is best known as a photo sharing app, it allows messaging. And it may well compromise your privacy.

In effect, social media sites are personal information mining operations. They collect a user’s name and photo and much more, such as religion, political preferences, work and education histories and even sexual orientation.

All of the electronic information about you is of immeasurable value to marketers, researchers, government agencies, thieves, and many others.

However, privacy concerns go well beyond social media, credit bureaus and retailers.

Consider the National Institutes of Health All of Us Research Program. Its medical researchers want one million Americans to provide their medical histories, blood/urine samples and a DNA sample. The stated purpose is to help researchers learn why some people contract a disease while others do not, as well as to help determine why therapies work for some patients and not others. They shouldn’t have a problem. MIT Technology Review reports more than 12 million people have given DNA samples to such services as 23andMe, WeGene, MyHeritage DNA, and AncestryDNA.

This year, California authorities arrested a suspected rapist and murderer based on DNA evidence. They used GEDMatch to compare crime scene DNA against the database and got a match. Authorities did not have a warrant nor did they ask permission because the information on GEDMatch is freely available.

Perhaps your reaction is: “So what. They nabbed an accused killer.” Then I must assume you would willingly allow police to swab your cheek to help solve a crime? That has happened and it will again. Maybe we should ditch the Miranda warning and the Fourth and Fifth Amendments while we’re at it. Maybe we just collect DNA samples from every American and make it available electronically.

Perhaps you find none of this troubling. Perhaps you subscribe to the theory expressed in the motto of Britain’s government surveillance program: “If you’ve got nothing to hide, you’ve got nothing to fear.”

Then again, you just might be one of those old-fashioned individuals who still believes in the Constitution, the rule of law, the right of privacy, and traditional values. I’ll admit I’m in that camp and have had more than one person tell me that my views are passé.

We’ve discussed the ways to protect your personal information in past columns. Now is the time to act and you just might want to begin by freezing your credit files. And let your elected representatives know you value your right to privacy and that you want the federal and state governments to make it easier for individuals to understand their online privacy rights. We’ll explore this issue in greater depth in future installments.

If you have specific questions or just want to make a comment, send them to me at cpstlrr@gmail.com and I will reply as promptly as possible.
Ill. Donald D. Thomas, 33°

1931 – 2018

Ill. Donald D. Thomas, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of this Supreme Council for the state of Delaware, died on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

Raised a Master Mason in Hiram Lodge No. 25, Newark, DE in 1965. Additionally he was a member of the Delaware Lodge of Research and served as its Master from 1977-79.

In September 1954, he was united in marriage to Pamela Brewell, who survives together with their children, Tracy and Chris, as well as grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

For the complete balustré on the life of Ill. Donald D. Thomas, 33°, visit the “Member’s Center” at ScottishRiteNMJ.org.

Ill. Gardner C. Sconyers, 33°

1936 – 2018

Ill. Gardner C. “Cy” Sconyers, 33°, an Active Emeritus Member of this Supreme Council for the state of Rhode Island, died on Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Raised a Master Mason in Handley Lodge No. 1140, Fort Worth, TX on Aug. 28, 1958. He affiliated with St. Paul's Lodge No. 14, Middletown, RI, where he served as Master for two terms.

On December 28, 1957, he married Sheila Anne O'Neill, who survives together with their children, David and Chris, and a daughter Gabrielle Hart. He also leaves his sister, Jeanette Powell, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter Hannah Hart.

For the complete balustré on the life of Ill. Gardner C. Sconyers, 33°, visit the “Member's Center” at ScottishRiteNMJ.org.

Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°

1951 – 2018

Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°, an Active Member of this Supreme Council for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, died on Monday, June 4, 2018.

Raised a Master Mason in Cumberland Valley No. 315, Shippensburg, PA, in 1974.


For the complete balustré on the life of Ill. Jeffrey W. Coy, 33°, visit the “Member's Center” at ScottishRiteNMJ.org.
During the Conference of Grand Masters in Indianapolis one Grand Master stopped by our booth and asked, “Only one-third of our lodges can do the ritual, what can we do about that?”

Well, good question.

Ritual presentation and memorization have actually been evolving for a long, long time. Originally, primarily because there was no option, all Masonic ritual was communicated mouth-to-ear. The next great innovation was the printed (usually in code) ritual, likely used not only to standardize ritual but also as a teaching aid to memorization. Wall and floor charts with pictures were other modifications. It is unclear if these charts were introduced prior to or after the printed ritual came along. These charts served not only to prompt the presenter but the pictures served to dramatize the ritual and hold the interest of the observer. These charts were generally kept rolled up so as not to disclose any of our “secrets.”

Electronics entered the picture next with the advent of machines capable of showing slides and, interestingly, a few of these are still in use—gosh, some of the slides are even presented on televisions instead of screens. You get the point; ritual has always evolved.

So why is memorized ritual becoming more difficult to have? First, with the decline in membership most lodges have fewer and fewer members who are either willing or able to memorize the ritual. Second, our schools seldom, if ever, require students to memorize. Why? With the advent of electronic communication virtually anything one needs to know is available at our finger-tips so why bother memorizing? Lastly, our candidates and members live in a busy world. Besides making a living there is a host of other organizations and activities that demand their time.

Interestingly, during the survey conducted by the Scottish Rite for The Path Forward initiative we learned “…Scottish Rite members remain deeply committed to ritual and its value to the craft…” The question then is how do we present ritual that is well done and inspirational if we have difficulty finding competent members to present it? A couple of thoughts:

Form ritual “teams” within the lodge itself or, if necessary, the teams could consist of members from several adjoining lodges. Other Masonic bodies, such as Scottish Rite, York Rite, or Shrine could also form teams to confer ritual when requested to do so. Do those members who have always done a certain part in ritual continue to hang on never allowing a new member to perform the part? Under this circumstance why would anyone bother to learn the ritual if they are never allowed to use it? Recognize members or lodges that confer exceptionally good ritual. Some jurisdictions already confer “ritualist” lapel pins, etc. Any form of recognition might help. Poorly done ritual is difficult to sit through and certainly not inspirational or memorable. Is the leadership of the lodge inextricably linked to the memorization of ritual? Do we lose good, potential leaders who don’t have the time or ability to memorize ritual? Do good ritualists tend to get pushed aside because they are not officers? Controversially, is it time to consider electronic ritual presentation? I can hardly wait to hear the response on this one. It reminds me of the old joke: “How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb? Answer-four. One to hold the ladder, one to change the bulb and two to debate if they like the old bulb better than the new one.”

So, to answer the question posed by the Grand Master, there are six ideals suggested. There may well be others. Which is right for your jurisdiction, you will have to decide. Remember, ritual is important but it must be presented in an enjoyable and inspirational manner. Just as important, however, is what do you and your lodge do with the lessons presented in all of our rituals; are they merely words or are they put into practice?

Bro. Kemp is a Past Grand Master for the state of Indiana and an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council.
Theatre of the Fraternity
Edited by: C. Lance Brockman
Published by: Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, and University Press of Minnesota
Caleb W. Haines 32°, review

Do you have an interest in, or participate in the stagecraft and production of the Scottish Rite degrees? Do you enjoy Scottish Rite history, art, scenery, props, wardrobe, acting, and engage in the logistics of taking a ritual to a realized live production? Are you new or seasoned in the Scottish Rite and want further light about the tradition of degree conferrals, their changes as a result of technological advancement, or are you in need of a rationale as to why having video conferral at our disposal is a good thing? If so, the 1996 work *Theatre of the Fraternity 1896-1929* is a must read. The work is a scholarly adventure into an aspect of fraternity that is seldom viewed.

Firstly, prepare to be amazed by the beautiful large-print color images of backdrops, scenery, costumes, and design. The scale of this 11” by 15” soft-cover book is impressive. Indeed, for a work of this size, I would have preferred a hardcover option.

Secondly, this work is a collaborative effort and has a well-ordered chronological trajectory of not only Scottish Rite history, but also the heyday of American fraternalism. It reveals how American entertainment influenced fraternal rites and largely focuses on our Masonic fraternity in America. Thirdly, the work acknowledges that technical theatre is only one facet of the Scottish Rite Mason’s experience. You do not need a master of fine arts degree to appreciate the work.

For all those looking for a way to help preserve and better understand a part of our Masonic culture and their own Valley’s history and property, this work is both imperative and inspirational. My favorite part of this work remains the beautiful images of backdrops, floor plans, and architecture. The painted backdrops and wings are reminiscent of the neo-classical work of the late great American painter Maxfield Parrish. Furthermore, this work chronicles Masonry in a truly scholarly, historic, practical, and artistic way. I recommend *Theatre of the Fraternity* to all and especially to those Brethren whose vocation or interest is in arts. I am sure you will be inspired.

Transactions of the Philosophic Lodge of Research: A Selection From 1943 to 2017
Selected and Edited by: Chuck Landau and Justin A. Duffy
Published by: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform 2017
Caleb W. Haines 32°, review

What did the senior Past Master whisper to his younger Brethren engaged in levity during the conferral of the Fellowcraft degree? “Brothers, please, can you guys... just, get a grip?”

Get a grip is exactly what you should do with this 245-page work. Why? It includes 30 well written research papers from the Philosophic Lodge of Research Library that are sure to pique your interest. Granted, some topics may appeal to you more than others, but the range of subjects provides ample material to satisfy most within the spectrum of Masonry. Indeed, *Transactions of the Philosophic Lodge of Research* is an interdisciplinary anthology of Masonic subjects and scholarship that members of this research lodge have undertaken from 1943-2017, and is ceremonious of its 75th anniversary through Bros. Landau and Duffy’s careful selection.

In turn, I am confident in my endorsement, and that this work is appropriate for the scholarly and avid Masonic reader, ritualist, historian and esoterically inclined, and to those who are new to our fraternity. Simply put, the book is a concentrated form of research for each subject. In one essay the reader may explore the significance of the Shekinah and Sacred Feminine, another may explore the nuances of the Winding Stairs in the Fellowcraft degree. There is something for everyone here.

For those unfamiliar with research lodges, a brief paper on the history of the Philosophic Lodge of Research commences the book. Another positive is that a majority of these papers include the dates when they were written and bibliographies referencing their sources.

In conclusion, my favorite papers included “The Qabalah of the Lodge,” “Esoteric Examination of Ritual Opening and Closing,” “The Comacines, The American Indian and Masonry,” and “Prince Hall Freemasonry in the United States” because they interested me and compelled me to research further. I also enjoyed the flow of the compi...
lation in Landau and Duffy’s arrangement. As a whole, I am pleased that these papers and elapsed time between, revealed an intergenerational resonance of purposeful self-discovery and learning. They provide proof that our Masonic work not only fosters insight and equips us with tools to live upright, but also that applied Masonry lends to the intended result of making good men better. Get this book. Help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Philosophic Lodge of Research not only because there is a lot of good reading but in that collective efforts like these are a cache of intergenerational knowledge, wisdom and understanding that we can only hope to unite us in a continuously strong chain of union.

For more information on the Philosophic Lodge of Research visit: www.philosophiclodgeresearch.org

By R. William Weisberger
Published by: McFarland & Company Inc.
Joshua A. Irizarry, Ph.D., 32°, review

In this book, historian R. William Weisberger seeks to show how Speculative Freemasonry contributed to the development and spread of the Enlightenment movement during the 18th Century. Weisberger proposes four characteristics of this relationship: first, that Masonic lodges were conducted in accordance with Enlightenment political thought. Second, that Masonic ritual transmitted Enlightenment ideas to initiates and members. Third, that Freemasons themselves disseminated Enlightenment ideas through cultural, political, and scientific activities. And fourth, that Masonic lodges spread Enlightenment thought through the cultural and social works they sponsored. Establishing this framework, Weisberger sets out to demonstrate how this interaction between Freemasonry and civil society played out in the five culturally and politically distinct cities listed in the title.

It is commonly accepted that the morals and lessons of early Freemasonry were inspired by Enlightenment thought, but Weisberger looks to reverse the usual order of the relationship by showing how the goals of the Enlightenment were furthered by Freemasonry. His thesis is ambitious, but he is hampered from the outset by the questionable reasoning that because some Freemasons were Enlightenment thinkers, all of Freemasonry was responsible for furthering the Enlightenment – this is a logical misstep known as a “fallacy of composition.” Rather than organizing the book around an examination of lodge-based cultural and civic activities, Weisberger dedicates long stretches to describing the professional achievements of individual Masons, concluding from their distinguished résumés that their lodge membership constitutes Freemasonry’s contributions to the Enlightenment. In several places, the evidence for his argument is convincing. Too often, however, it feels that Weisberger is missing the forest for the trees, confusing Freemasonry as an institution with the accomplishments of its notable members.

As a consequence of this, the book struggles throughout to find its tone and its scope. This struggle is most evident in the first two chapters.

It is not until the third and fourth chapters, and particularly the sections about the Lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris and the True Harmony Lodge in Vienna, that the book finally finds its footing and voice. I found these sections, as well as the appendix on how Freemasonry (and particularly the Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection) worked to secure civic rights for Jews following the American Revolution, to be fascinating reading. Sadly, these high notes only reinforced my sense of the book’s shortcomings and missed opportunities. Had Weisberger opted to limit his coverage to lodge activities in these three cities, I suspect that it would have made for a stronger, tighter, and more enjoyable reading experience than what is to be found here.
BETTER BODY COMPOSITION HAS BEEN LINKED TO CANCER SURVIVAL

Increased muscle mass along with decreased levels of excess fat has been shown to help improve the chances of surviving cancer, according to a recent study from Kaiser Permanente, the University of Alberta, and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The chance of mortality among those with muscle deficiency was 41 percent while those with excess body fat showed a rate of 35 percent. More alarming, however, is that those with body compositions that included both risk factors succumbed to cancer in 89 percent of cases. Researchers have often studied the link between body size and cancer survival rates in the past, but traditionally they have used the body mass index (BMI) as the method of analyzing the body. Despite the strong correlation between having a better body mass composition and lowered risk of breast cancer-related death, the true causation cannot be revealed by this study alone, according to Forbes. It is possible that those with less muscle simply had more aggressive forms of cancer that wouldn’t respond to treatment and were therefore more lethal regardless of their starting mass. According to the National Institutes of Health, cancer cachexia, the progressive loss of both fat and muscle, is responsible for about a quarter of all cancer deaths and having a larger stockpile of muscle is critical. Despite the strong correlation between muscle mass and cancer mortality, some researchers believe this is not enough to make the case that muscle mass and cancer survival are causally related. They argue that although strong, the correlation between muscle mass and cancer survival is not strong enough to prove causation. The benefit of using such technology are apparent, there are still limitations and trade-offs when it comes to any current solution that prevents patients from living genuinely carefree. Strapping pieces of hardware to a person’s body is a constant reminder of the condition, and it can be a struggle to find which devices work best for each individual. Each brand carries a unique set of pros and cons, and sometimes it makes more sense to mix-and-match different pieces which can add to the complexity for everyone involved.

TECHNOLOGY MAKES LIVING WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES MORE MANAGEABLE

Type 1 diabetes is a disease that affects 1.25 million Americans and requires constant monitoring and treatment throughout the day, but new technology allows sufferers to focus more on enjoying life, according to Cnet. With Type 1 diabetes, the body makes little or no insulin, which is necessary to regulate the amount of sugar in the blood. New products, made by companies such as Dexcom, allow an insulin pump and blood glucose monitoring system to be attached to a person’s body and communicate with the person through a smartphone in nearly real time. When it detects a need for insulin, the pump administers the proper dose, and the monitoring continues. Parents of children with the disease can check on them at any time, which can remove some of the uncertainty of treatment and provide more peace of mind for the whole family. Although it still requires a couple of finger pricks to calibrate, it doesn’t need parents to wake several times per night to check their child’s glucose levels, exhausting both. While the benefits of using such technology are apparent, there are still limitations and trade-offs when it comes to any current solution that prevents patients from living genuinely carefree. Strapping pieces of hardware to a person’s body is a constant reminder of the condition, and it can be a struggle to find which devices work best for each individual. Each brand carries a unique set of pros and cons, and sometimes it makes more sense to mix-and-match different pieces, which can add to the complexity for everyone involved.

Concierge healthcare becomes popular

Concierge healthcare is merely an agreement between a patient and a primary care doctor, or group of doctors, that a monthly or annual fee will be paid in return for quick access around the clock services, according to Forbes. These fees can range from tens of thousands per year to as little as $2,000. It’s like having a doctor on retainer to ensure that an uncomplicated illness or even a chronic disease won’t require the patient to wait long hours in an emergency room or doctor’s office. The physician, on the other hand, can see fewer patients while providing more personal care and maintaining the most modern equipment. Many primary care physicians have been adopting a concierge model for their practices in recent years for financial reasons as well as personal preference. Doctors that made the switch overwhelmingly pointed to their desire to provide better preventive care as the most significant reason for the change. It allowed them to spend more time talking to their patients about the root causes of their illness and to develop treatments. For those with the need and the means to pay for it, total care platforms exist at the top end of concierge healthcare and offer services beyond easy access to doctors. Those with chronic diseases, for instance, can find custom contingency plans to handle expected complications, longevity plans to extend life, and even remote monitoring and digital diagnosis and treatment. Powered by smartphones, patients can enjoy the benefits of a doctor with intimate knowledge of their health records and receive prescriptions or referrals from wherever they may be at the time.

NEW DRUGS PROMISE TO MELT AWAY HIGH CHOLESTEROL

Patients that suffer from abnormally high cholesterol can benefit from a new class of drugs, but the cost may cause problems for some. Affordable cholesterol-lowering drugs like statins work for the majority of people, but there are about 10 million people in the United States who can’t take those drugs or who suffer from a genetic disease. Familial hypercholesterolemia is a genetic disease that causes uncontrollable high cholesterol even with the highest doses of traditional medicines. PCSK9 inhibitors such as Praluent, from Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and Repatha, from Amgen, represent a new way of tackling cholesterol. They have been shown to reduce cholesterol in eligible patients by 50 to 60 percent after a year’s worth of treatment. The drawback to the drug is the price tag. A year’s worth of Praluent is around $14,600 and Repatha demands a similar price. It is likely, however, that patients could obtain discounts from 30 to 65 percent off the retail price, according to The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. Health insurance companies may be hesitant to approve the use of these drugs as long-term use could end up costing them billions of dollars in benefits. Prescribing this treatment might end up saving them money in the long run as the estimated lifetime cost of heart failure is $110,000—many years worth of a life-saving medicine.
APPENDANT Masonic organizations are directly impacted by the ebbs and flows of symbolic lodge membership. In order to succeed, we have to work together to bolster our local blue lodges across the jurisdiction and assist them in growing new members. This mantra fit in perfectly during the annual visit to our members in Florida; Sovereign Grand Commander David A. Glattly, 33° along with Lady Monica, Vice President of Charities, Michael C. Russell, 32° (Indianapolis), and Associate Director of Membership, George T. Taylor IV, 32° (Wilmington) had the opportunity to tour the Imperial Shrine Headquarters in Tampa, FL. While there, the team met with Executive Vice President, Ill. John Piland, 33° (Danville), and R. J. “Jody” Meguiar, 32° MSA (Valley of Tampa, SJ), Membership Program Manager for the Imperial Shrine. The conversation provided an opportunity to discuss *The Path Forward*, successes of the initiative, and collaborative goals for each organization.

The meeting also allowed the group to share lessons learned in membership and philanthropic initiatives. With Shriners International as one of the most recognizable of the appendant bodies, but not everyone knowing you must be a Freemason to be a Shriner, there was a lot of conversation on how to leverage *The Path Forward* resources to continue to grow the fraternity.

We learned through our *Path Forward* research that we must control the narrative if we want to change how we are viewed. Bro. Piland very aptly put it, “we want to drive the conversation when they leave the event” in talking about the member experience. If a current or prospective member has a great time at an event, whether it’s a degree practice, performance, family life event, service event, or other, they are going to talk about it to their family, friends, and co-workers. That will then spark the conversation about membership.

One of the biggest takeaways was the Shrine’s use of mentors as part of the new member experience and as a way to keep current members engaged. This can be particularly useful in the Scottish Rite, when valleys have one-day classes or multiple degrees over a weekend, to help the new member digest everything he has witnessed. Having a mentor can also provide for the connection of a current member to a new member, who can introduce him to the broader networks with the Valleys.

As a furtherance of support for each organization, Commander Glattly was extended, and he accepted, an invitation to attend this year’s Imperial Shrine session in July. This is yet another step in our *Path Forward* as an organization to promote the positive impacts that Freemasonry has on its members, their families, and our communities.

At the end of the meeting, there was a sense of cooperation and commitment – cooperation by combining resources for the betterment of the fraternity, the up building of Freemasonry, and commitment by the leadership of both organizations to make it happen. We look forward to continuing a strong relationship with our Brothers in the Shrine and our work together to make the world a better place for all.
A BROTHER’S VOICE
By Brothers across the organization

M any times since I became a member of this grand fraternity, I have, in retrospec -
tive moments, asked myself why I am proud to be a Mason, and I dwell upon those things that Masonry has brought before me. The feelings of warmth, friendship, and potential comfort in times of distress are always with me, yet they seem to appear most readily in lodge.

I think that Masonry is many things to many people, and we all take from Masonry those things from within us that are weaker and more vulnerable; it is a kind of storehouse of moral fiber, as well as a refuge from a mad and seething world. To be a Masonic Brother affords a time when all is tranquil, when all is at peace, and in a world of turmoil, this aspect of our Brotherhood is most rewarding. In a society in which man feels so alone, so alienated, it is comforting to be with others who share the same feelings. However, more importantly, to carry those feelings away from lodge, and practice them in my daily living, and in dealings with all people at all times, to make Brothers of all men, for we are after all, Brothers in a larger and broader sense. I know full well that these noble aims are impossible to achieve at all times, but Masonic teachings has made me fully aware that we should at least attempt to live by these precepts whether they are fully achieved or not. In fact, by their pursuit alone, successful or not, we have become better men; in effect, become better Masons.

Since the coin has two sides, what do I bring my lodge in return for that which I obtain? My monetary dues are so mundane and insignificant, it matters for little in the larger realm. I do what I can for my lodge and my Brothers when I can do them, and I do it readily and without hesitation; without thought of “repayment” in any fashion, and I know, that if called upon again and again, I would perform unstintingly to the best of my ability. That, I think, is the essence of Masonic teachings. We take from our fraternity, and we give back; it is a sort of unending and open-ended life of ethics that renews itself as surely as the sun rises every day.

Frequently, I ask myself, what does Masonry do for my community? This is a question sometimes asked by town folks and it may be harder and more nebulous to answer. The presence of a Masonic lodge in any community is an asset, and most people realize this. The teachings of our order do not lie strewn about the lodge-room floor when the Master has closed his lodge; they are not discarded until the next meeting to be picked up again like comfortable old clothes. They go back into the community in the minds and hearts of all the Brothers, and in so being disseminated, the teachings of Masonry do indeed bring benefit to the community of which it is a part. Who is to say, that a certain flower in a bouquet does not impart a particularly wonderful aroma to the bouquet of which it is a part, without whose presence the scent might be much less inviting? So it is with the Masonic lodge in any community. It enhances the “aroma” of communal living in a subtle but definite fashion.

In fact, I feel that this contribution may well far outweigh the community events in which our lodges regularly participate. Events come and go, but friendship and reverence, for both our Creator and fellow man, are as permanent as the stars in heaven.

First, I think we must realize from the outset, that the Masonic order is primarily interested in the welfare and well being of its own; after all, that is the primary and most noble aim of any fraternal organization. If it were not for this feeling of self-interest and self-perpetuation, where would any fraternal organization garner its strengths and foundation?

Lastly, I ask myself again, just once more, why did I become a Mason? I think my answer is much like the mountain climbers, paraphrased perhaps, but applicable to a degree: because Masonry was there and I felt its call, to become, as we all would want to be, a better man, a more compassionate Brother to all my Brothers, and a more deserving servant to the Grand Architect of the Universe. What more could any man want to be, or ever hope to be?

Bro. Sherwin Kenneth Baril
Three times Master of Temple Lodge
No. 16 AF & AM, Cheshire, CT.
Member of the Valleys of New Haven and Bridgeport.
LISTEN MY CHILDREN...

In May we passed the 200th anniversary of Paul Revere’s death, and the occasion was marked with a wreath-laying ceremony at his gravesite. Also, church bells throughout the city, as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, rang out at noon. Interestingly, most of those bells were cast by Revere himself.

Nina Zannieri, executive director of the Paul Revere House Museum, organized and led the observance. She said that she reached out to those churches with Revere-cast bells to highlight the fact that there was far more to this famous patriot than just one historic ride. He had a long and very productive life, with strong ties to his city’s politics and community life. His primary trade was that of a goldsmith, working with both gold and silver. He produced everything from spoons to tea sets. In addition, he was an engraver, producing his work for magazines, books, political cartoons, and even tavern menus. He was responsible for the original gilding of the dome atop the Massachusetts State House. Today the building sports a golden dome, but it was built of wood. Because of chronic leaking Paul Revere’s company was contracted to cover it in copper. He was the first to use rolled copper commercially. Displaying his amazing versatility, he also was appointed as the first health officer of the city, leading the first health department in the nation.

His involvement in the American Revolution came about through his friendships with many of the movers and shakers of the fledgling movement toward independence, such as his lodge Bro. Joseph Warren, both members of Boston’s St. Andrew’s Lodge.

On hand at the ceremony to talk about Revere’s Masonic career was M.W. Paul F. Gleason, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. He began by pointing out that Bro. Revere once held that same title, serving from 1795-97. Bro. Gleason noted that many of Revere’s earliest business records show him manufacturing Masonic jewels.

Also on hand at the ceremony were direct descendants of Revere, including a namesake great-great-grandson. A member of the National Park Service spoke briefly about her first trip to Boston, in the 1990s. She said her first take as a tourist was to visit Paul Revere’s grave, and now she’s back speaking at this ceremony.

In her closing remarks, Nina Zannieri talked about the amazing popularity of the man. She, of course, credits much of that to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s famous “Midnight Ride” poem, but she said that workers and volunteers at the Paul Revere House think every year “this is when the crowds of visitors will finally abate,” but she says that they are always wrong. “Two hundred years after his death, he’s more popular than ever.”
EASY SUMMER STORM TIP
For summer storms and winter snows, losing power means you might not have water. Keep five gallons of water in rotation throughout the year for drinking. But if you know a storm is coming, one easy way to build a water reserve for pet bowls and flushing is to fill the bathtub halfway up. This should give you enough reserve to keep you going if power is off for a few hours, or even a day.

PUT THESE IN THE HOME TOOLKIT
To fix most simple home problems, build a tool kit with these items, according to Lowes.
- Screwdriver set or one screwdriver with interchangeable tips. Add a variety of screws.
- Hammer, 16 ounces, claw style with a variety of nails.
- Tape measure, 25 foot. Make sure it has a blade lock.
- Pliers, 8-inch needle nose and 10-inch groove joint. Padded grips help. Locking pliers help to turn jammed screws or pull out bent nails.
- Utility knife and blades.
- Adjustable wrench set.
- Level. Good for hanging pictures.
- Stiff-blade putty knife. You can scrape away loose paint.
- Head flashlight. Hands-free light for projects or just taking out the trash.
- Clamps. If you ever have to glue something, you need a clamp.

BRIGHT TIPS FOR LANDSCAPE LIGHTING
If landscape lighting is on your summer to-do list, a quick trip to the local home store will leave you with lots of choices and maybe some confusion. To narrow down the choices, decide if you want solar or wired lighting. Solar lighting is easy to install and probably less expensive. The downside is that it won’t work well in areas with no sunlight. The LED lights are often not as white or bright as wired lighting.

Low voltage electric landscape lighting is usually the choice of professional landscapers, according to DoItYourself.com. They look professional and offer superior illumination and timers, something you won’t get with solar lights. The downside is wiring, which usually is not that difficult but might require a professional to install. Once you decide on the electronics, placement is the next consideration. According to Better Homes and Gardens, landscape lighting falls into three categories: Space, task, or accent.

Space lighting illuminates places like gazebos, decks or patios. Task lights provide safe access along paths or steps. Accent lights highlight architectural features and are used to wash a wall with light and accent plants.

No matter what kind of lighting you need, the first rule of thumb is that less is more, according to ThriftyDecorChick.com. Too many lights distract from the beauty and too-high wattage looks and feels garish.

For wash lighting on the side of the house, use a wide beam. Pay attention to the shadows the lights cast and whether or not the lights shine too severely into the house.

With wired lighting, wait a couple of days before you bury wires. You will almost certainly change your mind on the light locations and even the number of lights. Experiment with positioning.

The idea behind great landscape lighting is to create safe areas and layers of light.

Avoid creating a runway effect with lights placed in a straight line.

Use lower-wattage wide beams focused upward to wash your home in a delicate glow. Make sure it doesn’t shine in the neighbors’ eyes.

Uplight interesting trees.

Downlight patios and decks. Make sure you can turn the light off if you want just candlelight.

READING ALoud MAY HELP CHILDREN CONTROL BEHAVIOR
When you read aloud and play with your children, you are helping them control their behavior, a new study finds. The study, published in the journal Pediatrics, showed that from birth to age 3, reading to children helps them learn words and this enables them to control their behavior when they feel angry or sad. Parents also benefit, helping them to enjoy their children more.

The study found that children had improved behavior after their parents joined the reading/play study. The study followed up with the children and parents. It found good behavior persisted for a year and a half after the study was over. Children were less likely to be aggressive, hyperactive or inattentive.

The study was conducted by New York University School of Medicine. Parents were given books and toys and instructed to play with and read aloud to their children. Researchers videotaped the interaction and then showed parents the video, pointing out the child’s happy responses to reading and play.

THE POPULATION IS GRAYING
Recently published projections by the US Census Bureau show that the number of people over the age of 65 is set to outnumber children by the year 2035. For the first time in history, it is forecasted that there will be almost 2 million more older adults than children under the age of 18 - a trend believed to be precipitated by a decline in fertility along with aging baby boomers. According to the Washington Post, there will be increased pressure on lawmakers to fund Medicare and Social Security, especially because older Americans vote at higher rates.

While the shrinking workforce is expected to weigh on economic growth, experts say that this could be offset by automation and the use of robots to replace workers.

In the first projections published since 2015, analysts say that even with no major changes in immigration policy, immigrants will equal natural born citizens by the year 2030. By 2040, the number of immigrants will be twice as large as natural births. Although it is projected that the population will continue to grow, analysts say that there will be a change in the country’s diversity. The number of people classified as white is expected to shrink by 2024, dropping to less than half the population by 2045. Similar trends are already underway in Europe.
Behind each Masonic membership certificate there is the story of someone’s life. In the case of some individuals, they led lives that were documented and which allow us to find out more about them. I had such an experience when I decided to find out more about Jesse Pattee after seeing his name on a certificate in the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library’s collection.

Hiram Lodge, in West Cambridge (now Arlington), MA, issued this Master Mason certificate to Jesse Peaslee Pattee on April 13, 1846. Pattee served as Worshipful Master of Hiram Lodge from 1854 until 1856. He was also a Grand Lodge officer, serving as Grand Pursuivant (1857-59), Senior Grand Steward (1860), and Junior Grand Warden (1861).

Pattee was a well-known figure in West Cambridge who ran a bakery on the main commercial thoroughfare. His business and fraternalism took place in the same building. Pattee owned the building that housed his bakery. He rented out the second floor rooms to Hiram Lodge from 1844 until his death in 1863. In 1857, Pattee was involved in forming the West Cambridge Horse Railroad Company, which, two years later, opened a horse-drawn railroad line that connected West Cambridge to both Cambridge and then Boston. The railroad began at Pattee’s bakery, where he had a barn attached that housed the railroad’s cars and had stables for the horses.

Pattee was involved with many Masonic and fraternal groups. He was an Odd Fellow, serving as the Noble Grand (the equivalent of Worshipful Master) of West Cambridge’s Bethel Lodge No. 12 in 1844. In 1854, he was exalted in St. Paul’s Royal Arch Chapter in Boston and joined Boston Commandery in 1855. In 1857, Pattee was created a Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret in Boston’s Sovereign Grand Consistory.

According to an obituary in the September 1, 1863 issue of the Freemason’s Monthly Magazine, Pattee’s funeral, which took place in West Cambridge on August 17, 1863, “was largely attended by the citizens of the town.” The writer of the death notice goes on to note that the funeral procession included not only members of Hiram Lodge, but also members of seven Masonic lodges from surrounding towns, as well as the Boston Encampment of Knights Templars, and delegations from both the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and the National Lancers, a Massachusetts-based volunteer cavalry militia troop founded in 1836 that Pattee belonged to.

Pattee’s certificate is one of nearly 200 Masonic membership certificates that we have digitized and made available at the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives Digital Collections website. You can get a closer look at the Pattee certificate by visiting the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives Digital Collections website: http://digitalvgw.omeka.net/items/show/518.

The Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives is located in Lexington, Massachusetts, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library and is open to the public. Have questions? Drop us a line at library@srmml.org or give us a call at 781-457-4109.
This is a sign that is posted at the Tippecanoe Battlefield at Battle Ground Indiana. Also shown is a portrait of Major Joseph Hamilton Daviess.

Submitted by:
Robert J. Kurek, 32°
Valley of Chicago

The photo shows the presentation of the flag during a 100th anniversary observance of World War I, in Scranton, PA.

Submitted by:
Master Chief George M. Kofira, 33° USN-Ret, PM Hyde Park Lodge No. 339, Scranton, PA.
Currently SW Hyde Park Lodge #339, Commander American Legion Post #207 West Scranton, member Post #4909, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Dupont, PA.

QUOTABLES

Compare yourself to who you were yesterday instead of who someone else is today.
- Jordan Peterson

Hope is a quality inside every person, and you can place a transformative demand upon your heart to believe for the absolute best outcome.
- Rick Rigsby

My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.
- Clarence B. Kelland

You never lose a dream; it just incubates as a hobby.
- Larry Page

Don’t be afraid to fail. Greatness lies in the vast space of uncertainty. Take a chance.
- Richard Bronson

You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.
- Albert Einstein

I never dreamed about success. I worked for it.
- Estee Lauder

Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.
- John Quincy Adams

You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.
- Zig Ziglar

Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.
- Abraham Lincoln

Your success in life will be in direct proportion to what you do after you do what you are expected to do.
- Brian Tracy

The four most dangerous words in investing are: this time it’s different.
- John Templeton

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can’t lose.
- Bill Gates
Scottish Rite to the Rescue

Back in February the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts put out a call for help. Hanging just outside the office of the chief justice was an unnamed portrait, and the staff wanted to discover the subject’s identity. Cliff Allen, director of education and public programs at the court decided that the best way to solve the mystery was through crowd sourcing. Through local and national media, he put out the word that they were looking for help. Among the many people who responded were two employees of Scottish Rite headquarters – Jeff Croteau, director of the Van Gorden-Williams Library & Archives and Alan Foulds editor of The Northern Light. Judging the painting to be from the early 19th century, checking the list of justices from the era, then comparing images of likely prospects to the portrait, they settled on Lemuel Shaw. Mr. Shaw led the court from 1830-60. Using the resources of the Museum & Library Croteau took it a step further. He found a 1953 article about artist Francis Alexander in the Journal of Old Time New England in which a painting of Shaw was owned by that court, at least through that time. The Smithsonian Art Inventories database also referenced it. The information was gathered and submitted to officials at the court.

A month later Cliff Allen announced to the world that in all likelihood the subject in the portrait was unearthed – Chief Justice Lemuel Shaw. He went on to say that of all those who responded, there were ten people who had the right answer. Both Croteau and Foulds were invited to a re-unveiling of Shaw which was complete with a new nameplate.

Live Streams

On March 21, the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction hosted an online forum called “How Fraternalism Transforms Character.” The discussion was led by Brothers John Sullivan, 33°, Valley of Worcester, MA, and William “Sandy” Karstens, 33°, Valley of Burlington, VT. Bro. Len Cercone served as moderator. The panel explored the dynamics of Freemasonry in society, fraternalism’s place with younger generations, and how members can embody the moral obligations instilled in Freemasonry in their everyday lives. When asked what was the impetus for this particular program, Bro. Sullivan responded that “It was really easy to see that the Brothers – us included – were looking for more education.” Bro. Karstens added “What was at the top of the list was that members liked the idea of getting together with their Brothers to discuss what they’ve learned.” Throughout the hour-long program the trio led listeners in a wide-ranging discussion examining what fraternalism is to them, and how they put it to use. It was very popular, prompting about 1,600 people to log in, and that does not include those using Facebook to watch. Questions from the online audience were forwarded to the hosts and were addressed by them. At the conclusion Communications Director Linda Patch announced the debut of the Scottish Rite NMJ Discussion Forum. The new feature allows Masons to continue the discussions. Although the program was cast live, it is available for viewing at ScottishRiteNMJ.org in the “Videos” library under “Educational.” The plan is to continue this series with more such events.

A Brother’s Voice

In this issue we have our second installment of a new feature called “A Brother’s Voice,” and it is just that. It is a way for any Scottish Rite Mason to have a voice in the magazine. We want to see more of these, and we urge you to put your thoughts down on paper and send them in. The submissions to this page need not be as long or as deeply researched as many of our feature articles. They should come from the heart. You can tell a story, describe a project in your Valley or lodge, or maybe expound on your philosophy. You do not need to consider yourself a writer, but the editor urges you to submit something that you feel is important to say to your Brothers. This new feature is experimental for now and may take on different shapes as it matures, but here is your chance to be in on the ground floor, to be published, and to connect with your fraternity in the only communication vehicle that is distributed to the entire membership all at the same time. To submit a story and be considered for publication in a future issue, use an MS Word document of 500-1,500 words and email to afoulds@srnmj.org. Keep them coming.

The editor is in front of a painting called “The New Congress,” by artist William Gropper. The artist did several with the same theme, including “The Congress,” “The Opposition,” and “A New Bill.” This painting is part of the collection at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library.
Registration for the next class is now open

Join the waiting list!

Go to: scottishritenmj.org ➤ Resources ➤ Hauts Grades Academy

Hauts Grades Academy
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite
Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, U.S.A.