

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Kansas City, Orient of Missouri



The Herald

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Come One, Come All to the Costume Ball!!!

On October 28, 2005, the Valley of Kansas City will host a costume ball. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. The ball is open to the friends and family of all Masons. It will start at 7:30 pm. Hors D'oeuvres will be provided as well as soda and mixers for any alcoholic drinks. If you wish to drink any alcohol, please bring it with you. You may make reservations by contacting the Valley office at 816-561-2277. Please make reservations no later than October 21, 2005.

THE OLD PICCOLO
Trash or Trophy

In the book of Ecclesiastes we are taught that we should remember our Creator in the days of our youth. This admonishes us to recognize God early in life. This helps us to cope with those evil, cloudy, and pleasure less days which are inevitable.

We are not to put off our relationship with God until the keepers of the house tremble and the strong men stoop.

At this point I would introduce my old really old piccolo which actually has a bend in its body.

Back to Scripture - when the grinders cease because they are few warns us that someday our teeth will be gone.

My old really old piccolo has missing key pads, and those that remain have torn edges.

When men rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint predicts hearing problems. When the almond tree blossoms reflects our developing white hair. And desire no longer is stirred tells us that reproduction days are over. The conclusion is that you can't depend on having a healthy body in old age.

My ORO piccolo can no longer make music. It was manufactured to play music written in the key of D Flat. Today's arrangements are written for piccolos built for the key of C.

Replacing the pads and straightening the body would be a waste of effort. So, what do we do? Throw it in the trash barrel? I cannot bring myself to do that. Why, this ORO piccolo has played "Stars and Stripes Forever" so many times from high school concerts to miniature golf course openings. In the same year it was on the streets of Pasadena, CA, for

the 65th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade AND the avenues of Washington, DC, for the National American Legion Convention Parade. Once it had a solo line with the Greenville, SC, symphony and was in a concert for the kids at the Shriners Hospital there. It and my lamb skin apron belong in my burial box.

Healthy and effective groups such as Church congregations, civic clubs, professional sports teams, and Fraternal bodies are a proper blend of rookies, players at their peak, and

seasoned veterans. Totally remove any one of those sections from the group and it becomes something much below its potential. Enthusiasm, Experienced Talent, and Seasoned Experience are all essentials to growth and maintaining success.

Often we are reminded of the average age of our members. Is this a bad thing? If so we could easily lower that average by recalling membership cards from everyone over 50, 60, you name the year. I always challenge the age accusation. The ages of the officers in our Lodge of Perfection line for 2005 span at least 50 years.

About twenty-five years ago I was a member of the Ararat Concert Band, which played the opening concert for the annual circus at Municipal Auditorium. After the concert I placed my flute and piccolo in the back of our Suburban, which was in a nearby parking lot. Our family and friends then enjoyed the circus. When we returned to our vehicle all the doors were unlocked, the glove box was rifled, and my instruments were gone. Losing the Haynes flute, which had been a part of my life since junior high was extremely traumatic.

OUR SISTERS

By Robert E Miller 33°, Venerable Master

Once there was a father whose family was the largest you've ever seen.

Among the multitude of his offspring several of his daughters are worthy of our attention.

One was a teacher. When you and I failed in the moral and social lessons she taught our children to say; "No, Sir," "Yes, Ma'am," "Please and Thank You." All have met her, but few really know her. Fifty-two Sundays a year, sixth pew from the front, third seat over... There is GRACE.....the amazing one.....with her hat and gloves in place.

And, Oh, there was JOY! How she filled our lives. The sparkling eyes.....shining cheeks..... the full toothed smile.....her hair never quite all in place.....and never a tear.....that you and I can see.

The third one was never quite in step with her peers. Off the wall...hearing that other drummer...on the threshold of therapy.....a constant candidate for an ulcer. But no matter how deep the depression...how great the sorrow.....or dark the storm.....FAITH always said, "The Sun is shining.....somewhere!"

The one who caused her parents the most concern spent her early years with her nose in books while her contemporaries danced and played among the flowers of the fields. Later she acquired many higher degrees, and today HOPE stands on the frontier researching for solutions to the physical and moral problems of the world.

Another has been the model for countless statues, portraits, and photos. Conscientious, considerate, compassionate. The most read about, but the least copied. The imitation of this virtuous one would over shadow the results of the labors of all her sisters, but.....you ain't

never gonna know her.....unless Your name is CHARITY.....and you catch a glimpse of yourself.....reflected in the eye of the recipient of Your Love.

Both Good and Evil or Right and Wrong

Every Candidate for initiation into the Mysteries of Freemasonry is given a brief explanation of its principles on his first admission into a lodge room. If he approves of them, he can proceed, if not he can retire. He is informed that Freemasonry is a system of morals: that is to say it is an orderly method of procedure that offers light or makes clearer the distinction between the opposing poles of both Good and Evil, or Right and Wrong.

The paradox of morality is that it requires both Good and Evil. If there are no opposing inclinations how can one make moral judgment? If a man is a marionette of God he cannot make choices of his own, so morality is inapplicable and he is not accountable. Morality requires freedom of conscience. It also requires that his intentions are good and the results of his actions be right.

The Masonic system uses enigmatic symbols, susceptible to more than one interpretation and allegories that should not be understood literally but has running parallel to them great moral lesson. It requires imagination and creative thinking by each person to find answers to those questions they raise that are of ultimate concern to man, that avoid the snare of indoctrination.

It requires men who dare to think for themselves since their destiny does not rest upon what others believe and do but upon what they themselves believe and do.

Creation is an ongoing process. As environmental and cultural changes occur old answers to important questions always raise new and more complex questions. The new questions require that those ancient but eternal and universal truths, be restated in a contemporary form. Man's reach exceeds his grasp. He needs curiosity, doubt and criticism to find new answers.

Men who are not poor blind candidates who have long been in darkness but already know all there is to know about the creator and creation can benefit from associating with other men of intelligence, integrity and social grace but they will not receive the light or enlightenment he petitioned the Lodge for. He will not search for light because he believes he already has it all.

The foundation upon which Freemasonry is built is a few postulates that are accepted as self evident

whether proven or not. If men can come to a consensus on those postulates they can build a platform upon which they can stand to leap up to avenues leading to enlightenment.

Those postulates are:

1. There is only one living and true God.
2. Mans soul survives the grave.
3. The whole human species is one family.
4. They have obligation to love and assist each other.
5. One must develop habits of virtue.
6. Spend a lifetime in search for truth.

Freemasons hope to unite men of race and language, every social and intellectual level and every great religious tradition and conciliate true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance -- to have a decent respect for the intelligence, honor and sincerity of all men. The failure in the past to have this respect has drenched the human race in ferocious hate and bloodshed. Deliberate ignorance and indifference to other men's beliefs is also a deadly peril.

The excess of fanatic religious fundamentalists pit us against them and builds impregnable walls of separation. Freemasonry offers a passport between those ancient animosities. The event in even our time clearly shows the urgency for the spread of Masonic tolerance.

But where does Freemasonry search for and find moral authority? Or what exactly is right that transcends mere opinion? Speculative masonry can be compared to a mighty river whose waters flow into a confluence from many highland tributaries. Just so, the authority for Masonic morality flows from great highland moral tributaries into confluence at a time in history described as the, "Age of Enlightenment", at which time speculative masonry emerged.

Those Tributaries are:

1. Ancient Israelites commandments and prohibitions.
2. Greco – Roman philosophy of virtue.
3. Christian teachings of self sacrifice and universal love.
4. Islamic combination of the sacred and secular.
5. Humanism
6. Natural law.
7. Scientific process.
8. Esoteric diagrams of the Kaballah and Hermeticism.

Freemasonry found common ground in all that diversity and formed a system that is not doctrinally absolute, irrationally relative or intellectually preposterous. One that reconciles intuitive revelations, empirical evi-

dence and reason as a basis for conviction, tolerance and universality that ensures the well being of members of our species.

Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddists and others find unity under the Masonic umbrella, but as individuals, they congregate in their own houses of worship to feel the presence of God, commune with him in prayer, contemplation, music, study and come away comforted, refreshed and inspired.

However, fanatical fundamentalist and religious conservatism are as dangerous to their adherents as they are to others. A Hindu not a Muslim killed Gandhi, a Hindu. A Muslim, not a Jew, killed Sadat, a Muslim. A Jew not a Muslim killed Rabin, a Jew. A Christian not a member of another religion killed Martin Luther King Jr.

The moral sentiment is the decisive element that raises man above other living species. All organizations whether political, religious or fraternal have at the top, power and money, which causes men to desire them and eventually corrupt them. Freemasonry is right in helping individual men to keep their intentions good and go out into the world they inhabit and work for what is right, instead of building an institution that is in competition with or confronts other institutions.

This is how I see it. How do you see it?

John Howard Yingling, 33°

Temple Guard

Greetings from the Temple Guard. Are you tired of reading about what the Scottish Rite is doing in "The Herald"? We invite you to come out and be an active part in what is going to happen at the Scottish Rite. If you haven't picked up your "Calendar of Events for 2005", we meet the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM (except for the months of July, August, & December) on the mezzanine of the Scottish Rite Temple. For further information, you can contact Morris Coburn (aka Rooster) at 816-380-7402 (suppose to be toll free in the Kansas City Metro area) or at standing-rooster@earthlink.net. If you don't first establish contact, please be patient!

Wardrobe

By Morris Coburn, KCCH

Brethren: There has been considerable talk about the movie, "National Treasure". Perhaps we should think about the Scottish Rite Treasure that our forefathers have given us. We see the GREAT building, but do we stop to think of the treasures that are within those walls? Having had the opportunity to explore behind back stage, I have found that we really do have great treasures within our organization. There are the brothers that put their hearts and souls into attempts at maintaining the breath of life within our GREAT organization. Then the furniture and fixtures, which become history lessons within themselves. Becoming really familiar with the wardrobe, has been a fantastic learning experience for me. We have some of the greatest costumes, that can not be replaced. Cost would be out of sight and craftsman to fabricate these articles are no longer found. I would like to extend an invitation to one and all, during the reunions, if you have a chance come down to wardrobe and visit, you can even stay and help out if you want. Just ask for Morris Coburn, aka Rooster.

SPRING REUNION - A SENSATION

By Lloyd C Callwell 32°
Director of the Work

As you are reading this, we completed another sensational reunion. The spring 2005 Class will always remember the Outstanding Degree work and Oscar Award worthy performances they observed on March 12th and 19th. But we would be remiss if we didn't take a minute to appreciate all the hard work and time put in prior to these two

memorable weekends.

From the Reunion Staff we had coordinating meetings with all Staff Departments such as the directors from the 4 bodies, the Stage Mgr., Sound Mgr., Wardrobe, Properties, Lights, just to name a few. Then we have the Degree coordinators and the casts, the rehearsals, some degrees requiring as many as 6 rehearsals or more. Let's not forget the Executive Secretary and his great Office Staff handling last minute requests for scripts. Printing and folding programs and schedules. Sometimes we have a tendency to become nonchalant about the material contained in these scripts. The office staff is tasked with the control of all scripts as they do contain classified material. But, if we take a minute and think; it is self-evident that this material needs our guardianship.

To all these people and the many more that I have missed I want to say a Heart Felt THANK YOU for a job well done. to the Spring Class of 2005 welcome aboard, I'm sure you will find that you have grabbed the proverbial Tiger by the tail, and as if you haven't heard it before "The more you put into it, the more you will appreciate it."

Would You Like to Hear Some Good Music?

Ararat Shrine Temple's Big Band is the solution to your music hunger. For more information or to make reservations, you can contact Illus. Brother Bill Dean, 33°. He can be reached at 816-230-7098.

Ship in a Storm

I have attended rehearsals recently for the Scottish Rite as an actor. While at a rehearsal, some of the brethren noticed some equipment that was set up for a satellite broadcast of a speech that was given by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam. One of the brethren, while observing the equipment, made the comment, "In a few years, the Scottish Rite degrees will be given in this manner." At that time, and now, I must respectfully disagree.

Brethren, we find ourselves in a peculiar situation. Recently, there has been an upswing of interest in Freemasonry by younger men. If my age, and the age of some of the incoming candidates is any indication; there seems to be renewed interest within the 30-40 year old range of men in the traditions and philosophies of Freemasonry. It is true Freemasonry, and many organizations similar to it, has seen a decline in membership. Many volumes, studies and much thought have been exhausted to ask why. I would submit that it's all about priorities.

In my life, at this time, I am active in both my Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite. I am the Treasurer for my lodge, the Treasurer for the KCCH Club and the editor for this newspaper. I work 40 plus hours a week in a job where the upper management has stated that the job is the most important thing in my life. At that job, in addition to my normal duties, I am the administrator for some email distribution lists, the editor for the newspaper in my particular job section and a photographer for special events. I am probably not the busiest person that I know. But, each of those responsibilities keeps me busy every day of the week. For each one of these responsibilities, I have assigned a particular priority depending on what day of the week and what time of the day it is. In the midst of all of this activity, I also am in a bowling league and manage to play a round of golf every week. So, how do I decide what priority to place on what activity?

The answer is found in the 32nd degree. The lesson of this degree is universal equanimity. There must be calmness in each of our lives if we are to be wholly Masonic men. We cannot attain this calmness without being involved in the world around us and remembering our Masonic teachings. What brings me back to the Scottish Rite again and again? It is the knowledge that I am doing something different that I can't do anywhere else. I am studying philosophy and discussing it with other men, my brethren, who are just as inquisitive as I am.

So, why would I disagree with my brother on his statement if he and I are here for the same purpose? I believe we won't lose touch with our degree work because there is a great difference between a living performance versus the filmed performance. Our lessons are all the more impressive because we have a dedicated ritual cast, a dedicated stage crew, a dedicated sound crew, dedicated wardrobe people and a host of other dedicated people who will refuse to do it any other way. It is true that a lot of our brethren who have worked on ritual work in the past no longer do so either due to sickness, old age or a host of other reasons. But, this isn't the time to lose hope.

It will take the courage of each one of us, all of us, to make sure that the fraternity endures. The younger brethren must, and should, ask the older brethren of the fraternity what they did, how they did it and the success or failure of their actions when they were young in the fraternity. It is only by cultivating this knowledge that we can prepare ourselves for what lies ahead. I am not going to get excited about what may happen in the future. I can't predict it. I can only prepare for it. I will prepare for the future of this fraternity with calmness in my heart and a firm belief in the principles of Freemasonry. I hope each one of you will do the same. We will weather the storms of our future and find safe harbor for this ship.

Michael L. Mack, KCCH
Editor, Scottish Rite Herald

A Fortress or A Base of Opportunities?
By Marshall Welch, Wise Master
Chapter of Rose Croix

A very well educated minister tells me that many churches were becoming fortresses. He told me that the members were so withdrawn into the body of the church that reaching out to their neighbors was becoming abhorrent to them. By being so self-centered, outsiders were turned off and did not feel welcome.

Do you suppose this could be applied to the Scottish Rite today? Are we becoming so self-centered, so clannish in our mentality, that we don't really welcome new members or petitioner's? The statement could summarize this, "If he wants to join, he'll let us know."

This mentality is apparent on occasion. Many of us have lost the desire to witness for our craft. We do not seek out the opportunities to invite Blue Lodge brothers to become Scottish Rite Masons. When they do join up and are initiated at a reunion, very little follow up on making them welcome is ever done.

In the bylaws of each of the lines are the following statements: "Visit a Scottish Rite Club at least once as a representative. Visit a Blue Lodge meeting each month as a Scottish Rite representative." These statements are highlighted in heavy print for every line officer to see. Evidently, the compilers of the Officer's Handbook felt this was an important part of being a Scottish Rite Officer.

The lack of visitations to Blue Lodges by Scottish Rite Officers is deplorable as well. In 2001, brother Robert James visited Adelphi Lodge in Edgerton, Missouri as a Scottish Rite representative. In questioning the master's of the lodges in the 16th and 17th districts, as far as they know, he is the only officer of the Scottish Rite who has ever visited any lodge north of the river. I can not speak for other districts in the Kansas City area.

We need a concerted effort to become known in the several districts surrounding Kansas City. This effort will encourage the Blue Lodges to look favorably on us and will convince them that their members should also be Scottish Rite members. Currently, none of the lodges display any of our literature, brochures or petitions.

Brethren, it is well and good to visit our Scottish Rite clubs, but I believe the harvest is in the Blue Lodges. When the harvest is reaped, we must mentor each candidate, overwhelm him with brotherly love and affection; get to know him, his hobbies, his job, family and help him find a niche in our work that fits him and encourages him to continue on the path of Masonic knowledge. This is how we will increase our membership.

Before I could finish this, I read an email from Bill Bailey that listed the rentals and need for workers at them. Every one of us needs to get behind this moneymaker for

our Valley. He is doing a great job of securing rentals of the building. You and I need to provide the help and make each rental a success.

I would like to refer back to the heading of this article. Let's make the Scottish Rite Valley of Kansas City the base of opportunities to further the work of the fraternity. They are there if not discovered for the moment. Look for them and then push and work until they become reality!!!

Brethren, the following is a speech that was given for the Grand Master at the Spring 2005 reunion:

Brethren, I first bring you greetings as Grand Master of the State of Missouri and sincerely wish I could be present in person to speak with you. I have had this date on my calendar for several months and have looked forward to this day so much for two primary reasons: first, to be with the members of this Class as you take your first steps on this journey in Scottish Rite Masonry and, secondly, it is an honor to be present at the reunion that is designated as honoring the office of Grand Master. However, due to surgery and some complications this week, I am not able to travel today. Therefore, please accept my most sincere apologies and receive my message through Right Worshipful Brother David Ramsey.

This year I have been extending this challenge for every Mason in Missouri: Harmonize Your Life. It is a call to live in tune in our individual lives so that we may live in harmony with all brother Master Masons. Perhaps you have heard that challenge or will be able to do so before this year is over. Today I wish to take us in a related, but slightly different direction.

The challenge for this year has been symbolically based on my undergraduate degree in Music Education. That degree declared that I was proficient to be a music teacher and the Lifetime Teaching Certificate detailed that I had received the appropriate education to teach vocal music from kindergarten through 12th grade as well as both strings and piano. For one semester between graduating from college in January and entering seminary in September, I lived out that proficiency as a music teacher.

If I had remained in the field of music education, there would have been many opportunities for advanced degrees, seminars, and other training events. Yet, I was declared a proficient music teacher who had the basic knowledge needed to do that job based on that Bachelor of Music Education

Degree.

This parallels where you and I are today either as long-term or beginning Scottish Rite Masons. When we received our third degree we had obtained all of the Masonic teachings necessary for living as a true and loyal Freemason. Nothing was left out! If we never joined another Masonic organization, we would be as much a Freemason as we would be if we were members of every possible organization.

However ... there is an important place in Freemasonry for our Appendant Bodies. We will view that through the Scottish Rite today.

While the degrees you receive during this Reunion will not provide you with any more of the fundamentals of Masonic Life, the beautiful teachings of those degrees will help you know better how to live as a Mason. The historical accounts that have been and will be shared with you tell of great faith and faithfulness of our brethren of past ages. Please listen to and watch carefully the lessons presented and allow them to inform you and enable you to grow more fully as a Master Mason.

Scottish Rite Masonry also opens to us an additional avenue to live out that great teaching that charity, next to a belief in Deity, lies at the foundation of Freemasonry. I encourage you to be supportive of the Scottish Rite charities, especially in the area of Language Disorders. We have the potential of miraculously changing the lives of children through this great charity.

Brethren, I have not regretted one moment during these 30 plus years as a Scottish Rite Mason, but am proud to pin on the double-headed eagle to let the world know that I am a member of such an ancient and honorable part of the Masonic Family.

To the members of this Class, I extend hearty congratulations and urge you to fully support and enjoy Scottish Rite Masonry.

Most Worshipful Brother Elmer E. Revelle, Grand Master

Grand Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in Missouri

Scottish Rite

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