

Rite Works



Rite Works

Newsletter

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This publication is produced monthly by and for the benefit of members, staff and interested parties associated with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America and, more particularly, the Denver Consistory in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Denver Consistory or its officers.

Deadline for articles is two (2) days after the monthly stated meeting. Submitted articles should be 250 to 1,000 words. Where appropriate, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits may be included with your submission. Images will normally be restricted to a maximum 3.5" by 3.5" size, but may be larger in special circumstances. Articles may be submitted in hard copy to the office or electronic form via email. They are subject to editing and are printed with no restrictions unless clearly marked as copyrighted. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs or other materials submitted or published.

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ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY

THE DENVER



CONSISTORY

REMEMBRANCE

*The heart hath its own memory, like the mind. And in it are enshrined
the precious keepsakes, into which is wrought the giver's loving thought. ~ H.W. Longfellow*

~In Memoriam~

BROTHER

CALLED HOME

data not available at this time due to unforeseen circumstances with the
database



CALENDAR

2013 Denver Consistory Schedule

March

Mon	Mar 4	7:30 PM	Masonic Educational Program
Mon	Mar 18		Stated Meeting - Parking garage available
		5:30 PM	Red Room Business Meeting
		6:00 PM	Dinner (<i>Corned Beef & Cabbage, Chocolate chip mint ice cream w/cookie</i>)
		7:00 PM	Awards and Announcements
		7:15 PM	Celebration of Remembrance and Renewal
Sat	Mar 23	6:00 PM	Dinner-Columbine Lodge #147 Colorado Night honoring PGMs

April

Sat	Apr 13	7:00 AM	9Health Fair - Parking garage available (Fair closes at noon)
Mon	Apr 15		Stated Meeting - Parking garage available
		5:30 PM	Red Room Business Meeting
		6:00 PM	Dinner (<i>Lasagna and Tiramisu</i>)
		7:00 PM	Past Presiding Officers Recognition
		7:30 PM	Split meeting-5 minute Oration by Orator of CLOP
Sat	Apr 27	11:30 AM	Ladies Luncheon - Parking garage available

May

Wed-Sat	May 8-11		Spring Reunion (42 nd Consecutive)
Mon	May 20		Stated Meeting - Parking garage available
		5:30 PM	Red Room Business Meeting
		6:00 PM	Dinner (<i>Pork Chops and Cheesecake w/fresh fruit</i>)
		7:00 PM	Entertainment
		7:30 PM	Split meeting-5 minute Oration by Orator of RMCRC
Mon	May 2		Denver Consistory closed for Memorial Day holiday

June

Mon	Jun 17		Stated Meeting - Parking garage available
		5:30 PM	Red Room Business Meeting
		6:00 PM	Dinner (<i>Barbequed Salmon and Strawberry Shortcake</i>)
		7:00 PM	Entertainment
		7:30 PM	Split meeting-5 minute Oration by Orator of CCK

Note: all menus are listed on our web page at www.denverconsistory.org

FEATURE ARTICLE

SURPRISED BY JOY!

by Bro Walter M. Macdougall

Freemasonry is about life. It is about living our lives with a special responsibility and with a certain joy. Brother Johan Wolfgang Von Goethe wrote that:

The Mason's ways are
 A type of Existence,
 And his persistence
 Is as the days are
 Of men in this world

Freemasonry was for Goethe a grand, earnest, solemn business. It was about making a “choice” which he says is both “brief and yet endless,” a choice which is made before “regarding eyes... in eternity’s stillness.” Goethe’s words strike us where we live. It is difficult to be nonchalant about the living situation in which we find ourselves. We are bumped and shoved into an awareness that we have entered upon a perilous journey—both “we” individually and “we” as neighbors. We find ourselves dwelling upon upheavals and between crises. Brother Goethe was right. Life is a matter of making a choice which is brief yet endless—brief in terms of our little lives, endless in human significance. As all Freemasons must know, the choice of which Goethe speaks is between the Light and the Darkness.

Freemasonry is about life and about the all-important choice of how a life shall be lived and spent. Freemasonry is serious business. It involves a special moral responsibility to the well-being of the whole community, but there is more. As our ritual puts it, our Masonic responsibilities are to be both our duty and our happiness. Above and beyond the sobering concerns of our Masonic practice, we find ourselves (to use C.S. Lewis’s wonderful phrase) continually “surprised by joy!” Such experiences most often come not in exceptional, epiphanic events but rather amidst our daily and ordinary lives. In fact, it is in these moments when the commonplace and the usual are suddenly made extraordinary, when there is suddenly revealed new significance or new beauty, or

when a new empathy between human beings smiles that we find ourselves surprised by joy.

Surprised by joy! Recently I had such an experience. Browsing in a book store, I came across David Macaulay’s delightful book of sketches and commentary entitled: Cathedral, the Story of Its Construction. As I turned the pages, there came one of those moments when concepts long in the making suddenly coalesce and meanings converge into a new wholeness. I was filled with a renewed awe at the enormity of the Medieval masons’ endeavor and thrilled with their accomplishment. How did they dare such an impertinence against gravity? Who had the courage to work on the lashed pole standing more than one hundred feet above the ground? What faith gave heartbeat to this stupendous engineering and endurance? Above all there came a new realization of the marvelous extent to which the older operative practices still enlighten our speculative endeavor.

Macaulay chronicles the construction of Chutreaux Cathedral and his sketches give a vividness to the whole building operation. Here, for instance, built between the buttress piers and against the cathedral wall are depicted the lodges where the masons labored, planned, and looked after the needs of their brethren. In these lodges those freshly come to the labor were entered as apprentices, those who had learned their trade were made fellows of the craft, and the masters of the work drew details upon the trestle boards.

There must have been problems aplenty in those operative lodges—even grimness and despair. For eighty-six years these masons, generation on generation, labored through exciting moments and discouraging times. For five years there was no work at all until more money could be raised. The original master of the work grew too old to oversee the operations. The master who took his place died of a fall from the vaulting scaffolding before the cathedral was dedicated. This is a story of human vision, sacrifice, tragedy and persistence.

One fact is clear, for those who labored in these lodges built against the cathedral walls there could have been no doubt as to their mission nor the importance of their work. The building itself defined their worth in their own eyes and in the opinion of the community. To them there must have come moments of joy when what had been so carefully crafted was hoisted into place and became part of the growing fabric—when stone by stone the magnificent nave enclosed the space where a multitude of people would look up and feel themselves in the very presence of God. *Surprised by joy!* I was having one of those Masonic moments when one feels a sense of the builder's vision and of purpose shared. How closely the parallels run between ourselves and those builders of the cathedrals! From their lodges built against the cathedral walls, they came forth trained in the use of their working tools, united in a network of belonging and shared purpose, and directed by a vision made manifest in well laid plans. They would build a high place of worship which let in the Light. In a harmony of parts, in soaring lines which lifted the spirit heavenward, and with a moral geometry they consummated their choice, their purpose and their reason for being. Nor was this their vision alone. It found reality in the need of the community—the felt need to create a glorious place of connection between the dimness of this world and God's resplendent kingdom.

As our operative brethren came forth from their lodges trained as builders, so we emerge from our speculative lodges inspired and fitted for our task. We come forth as heirs to a rich tapestry of allegory—that ancient understanding in which we have received our preparation. What an essential, inspired and ongoing training it is filled with the human adventure and a reverence for that which lies beyond our understanding and within the glory of God. Under a constellation of symbols, we have seen a vision and acquired an art. It was Thomas Carlyle who put the essential nature of such an education in these words: *“It is through symbols that man unconsciously and consciously lives, works and has his being.”* Through such a language of symbols we have received our skills as builders, and it is through this vital medium that we continue to learn. How often here in our lodges of preparation we are surprised by joy when a new understanding, like a

burst of creative light, emerges from the ritual.

Surprised by Joy! I was talking to a group of new masons about our working tools and endeavoring to explain how the square enlightens moral truths. In an effort to illustrate its operative use, I was applying the square, which I had in my hand, to the edges of the podium. In that instant, it was I who was illuminated. I saw anew how the square tests a right relationship between two different surfaces and how the moral square of virtue speaks to a right relationship between individuals. There in a moment's understanding was expressed that “I and Thou” relationship which is so desperately needed in our world. There was an expression of what we as Freemasons have a responsibility to build—and build not only between individuals but between every segment within our communities if there is to be a cohesion and an environment of “just relationships”. Here from this ancient symbol of the Craft spoke the urgency of just correspondences—the relationships of the square, the right angle, between the level of equality and the plumb of rectitude. Thus does our Masonic education continually enlarge our understanding, give us our calling and in joy send us out to labor.

Today our Masonic lodges stand close by the human community in which we are to build. Moreover, as in the case of our ancient brethren, the urgency of our calling arises not only in our Masonic vision but in the needs of our communities. In this response to needs both challenging and sobering also lies our happiness.

In the installation charge to the master of a Masonic lodge there is the following perennial and wise admonition which needs to be kept fresh in our minds: Charge the brethren to practice outside of the lodge those virtues they have learned in it; so that when a man is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrows, to whom distress may prefer its suit, whose arm is strengthened by justice and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.

This is our calling; to be responders to the needs of our communities in the midst of darkening times, to be choosers of the Light, “restorers of peace to troubled minds,” forgers of partnerships in purpose,

practitioners of a moral geometry whose axioms are tried and unfailing principles, to be demanders of equality based upon the dignity of all human beings, to be voices with instructive tongues, seekers with attentive ears, searchers after wisdom, and believers in the possibility of a better world.

With such responsibilities and visions, we Freemasons come forth from our symbolic lodges. And in the morning of a new century, we shall find our strength and our prosperity—our reason for being. We shall find all these things in the consummation of our building. Goethe was right. Freemasonry is a grand, earnest, solemn business, but as he also knew, our happiness lies in our response to the serious duties of Freemasonry. For that eternal Light does run through all that we do and shall experience in the name of brotherly love, relief and truth, and over and over again and most often when we least expect it, we shall be surprised by joy!

Bro Walter M Macdougall is a member of Piscataquis Lodge #44 and serves the Grand Lodge of Maine. He also is a faculty member at the College of Education, University of Maine, where he teaches philosophy

Editor

**INTERNET
RESOURCE
DESK**

<http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/main/>

This is The Phoenixmasonry Masonic Museum and Library site. A nice site for general information and some interesting papers that have been written over the years.

<http://bessel.org/webindex.htm>

Trust me when I tell you this is one *comprehensive* informational website for Masonic information of all types. Paul is a personal friend, a lawyer, and has been active in DC area Masonry for many years.

<http://la-sr.org/MoralsAndDogma.pdf>

The Los Angeles Scottish Rite Consistory's website, has a free downloadable copy, in pdf format, of Albert Pike's "Morals and Dogma". This is a good opportunity for anyone wanting to read it, but who does not have a copy, or to have an electronic copy that then can read on their laptop or tablet while traveling.

If you have a favorite web site resource that might interest our brethren, please email that information to Bill Hickey at wa3h@hotmail.com and he will check it out and try to include it in a future issue of RiteWorks.

Views on Aging

by Unknown

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions.

'How old are you?' 'I'm four **and a half!**' You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead.

'How old are you?' 'I'm **gonna be** 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life You **become** 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony **YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!**

But then you **turn** 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He **TURNE**D; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're Just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You **BECOME** 21, you **TURN** 30, then you're **PUSHING** 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you **REACH** 50 and your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You **MAKE** it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you **BECOME** 21, **TURN** 30, **PUSH** 40, **REACH** 50 and **MAKE** it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you **HIT** 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you **HIT** Wednesday!

You **get into** your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you **HIT** lunch; you **TURN** 4:30; you **REACH** bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; 'I **Was** **JUST** 92.'

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!'

May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. **Throw out nonessential numbers.** This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay 'them.'
2. **Keep only cheerful friends.** The grouches pull you down.
3. **Keep learning.** Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the **devil's** name is **Alzheimer's**.
4. **Enjoy the simple things.**
5. **Laugh** often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
6. **The tears happen.** Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.
7. **Surround yourself with what you love**, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. **Your home is your refuge.**
8. **Cherish your health:** If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. **Don't take guilt trips.** Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.
10. **Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.**

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,
but by the moments that take our breath away.



Commitment & Support

by Roy A. Snyder, 32° KCCH
 Wise Master,
 Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix

By a ritualistic practice of complying with two words, commitment and support, whether in public, private or masonic life, determines the success of any endeavor. Let's focus on these words as they apply to our Brothers in the masonic fraternity. Commitment should not be taken lightly. Before committing to any responsibility, one must give much thought to how it will affect their home and business life, family and friends. Once this

determination is cemented in one's thoughts, either by not committing or by stepping up for the challenge, it must be carried through for the duration. This duration could be for a one-time daily event or as expansive as seven (7) years by being appointed an officer in one of the four (4) bodies in the Denver Consistory. Once committed, you must make every effort possible to keep that commitment with the exception in cases of family emergency, illness, or other reasons beyond one's control. You will gain the respect of your Brothers and leaders with this type of action.

Support is the other part of the equation. Think back at a time when you may have been the presiding officer and very few showed up for your endeavor. I am sure you felt anger, disbelief or even felt hurt. Once committed, you must support those ahead of you. This is what I refer to as stepping up the ladder of support. It doesn't stop there. Once atop and stepping down the other side, you must also support those who were rising behind you as they supported you. The reality is not a six (6) year supporting role, but a twelve (12) year supporting role. The critical action is being true to your commitment and support for the committed. It is not for everyone. In my opinion, it would be better not to commit than to do so and then falter in that obligation.

We also apply these two (2) words in the *Ceremony of Remembrance, Renewal and Commitment* that takes place this month. We commit ourselves to remembering our departed brethren who have passed to the Supreme Architect of the Universe in the past year. We charge ourselves to support the survivors of the departed and prove ourselves good knights and true masons.

Please commit and support your Denver Consistory by attending our Stated Monthly Meeting and the other fine programs it offers.

As the Denver Consistory's annual *Ceremony of Remembrance, Renewal and Commitment* is this month, remember, "the rose was anciently sacred to Aurora and the Sun, it was the symbol of dawn, the resurrection of light, the renewal of life, and therefore of immortality. The cross was also an ancient symbol of life. The two symbols united mean immortality, won by suffering and sorrow."



What Is The Degree Council?

by Ron Birely, 33°

I have been asked to talk about what is the Degree Council. That is really not an easy assignment because the Council has so many facets, personalities and responsibilities. I suppose I could list the titles of the membership, but that really does not tell the story of the Degree Council. In my experience with the Council I would say that it is a group of Scottish Rite Masons, comprised of Degree Directors, Assistant Directors and Committee Chairs that create and produce some of the most spectacular and meaningful Masonic work anywhere on this planet. These are men who love the Degrees. Members of the Degree Council want the lessons in these Degrees to come to life. To do this, the Council has set certain objectives for themselves.

The Degree Council has five (5) stated objectives:

1. The Degree work presented must provide a meaningful, significant, and emotional event for the new Scottish Rite Mason.
2. We must be continuously improving the quality of the Degree work. All support Committees are critical in this effort.
3. Involve every Scottish Rite Mason in the Denver Valley that wants to work during the Reunion, in Degree or Committee support.
4. Present the Degrees with feeling and passion.
5. The Directors expect the participants in the Degrees to know their parts and deliver them with confidence and passion for the lesson presented.

These are not easy objectives. But, the Council holds themselves to these standards and our progress toward meeting these objectives are reviewed after each Reunion. At the same time, while this sounds like all work and no play, the Council strives to meet all of these objectives in a spirit of fun and fellowship. Among many of the duties of the Degree Council it is also their responsibility to set the tone for the Reunion. It is our expectation at the Denver Consistory that Reunions are to be inviting to all who wish to attend.



HOW DO WE PERCEIVE EACH OTHER?

By John Warren, 32° KCCH

As individuals, everyone has an opinion on everything or everybody else and this is certainly true in Masonry as well. We sometimes look at a Brother's Masonic Activities and perceive him as being someone or something he may not be or think that he is.

In searching the Internet, I found many definitions of the word perception. The definition that seems the most pertinent comes from dictionary.com and they call it “the act or faculty of perceiving, or apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind; cognition; understanding.”

So, we have to ask ourselves if we are being fair to our Brother when we perceive him as something he may not consider himself to be. Probably not, but everyone does it! On the other hand, individually, we have a responsibility on how we present ourselves to others. Sandra Carey said it best when she commented: *“Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life.”*

This thought came to mind several weeks ago during my Blue Lodge meeting. We came to the *Good of the Order* portion of the meeting wherein a Brother stood up and commented on the Consistory Reunion in May. Another commented on upcoming activities in the York Rite and Shrine and mentioned that the Reunion Friday night entertainment would be the Shrine public Ceremonial. He asked if anyone from our Lodge was involved with that?

There are a few, but I did say “yes, I was.” At this point, a Brother asked if I was in everything. That innocent comment made me think for a moment about how my schedule of activities might be seen by others as “being in everything” while I do not.

Leo Tolstoy said: *“The vocation of every man and woman is to serve other people.”* This says to me that we ALL have an obligation to serve. In addition, Jonas Salk once said: *“I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more.”*

I do what I do because of my affinity for the degrees and rituals of Masonry and because I truly enjoy

helping to bring understanding and, hopefully, enlightenment to others. Many Brothers may be more involved or less involved than I, all for their own reasons. Of course, it is easy to see how Brothers, because of job, family or other constraints, cannot do as much as they would like and would think of those with “less busy” schedules as “being in everything.”

Some may perceive “being in everything” a tad bit arrogant. But it should make us all think about how others perceive us. I did not mention that night in Lodge that I also have a small part in the York Rite’s *Journey to Light* in March which probably would have added to this “being in everything” perception.

And, of course, we have a Masonic obligation not to be overly critical of other Brothers. This can be hard, especially if how we perceive a Brother is not what we believe ourselves. The answer to this dilemma comes from a sign I spotted outside a large church recently which said: “Civility costs nothing and buys everything.” Buys everything indeed!

In a more recent example of this type situation, some Brothers believe in certain enhancements to the Blue Lodge Rituals while others do not. This went all the way up to Colorado’s Grand Master of Masons for resolution. Some Brothers agree with his decision and some do not, but all must accept it. Perhaps the solution to this entire perception problem can be found in the first paragraph of the Orator’s part in the Shrine Ceremonial. Substitute mention of the Shrine with any other Masonic body and the words still apply. The paragraph says: “The purpose of the Order of the Mystic Shrine is the teaching of the broad principles of Toleration, Charity, Benevolence and unselfish friendship”. Some forget this from time to time.

Having said all this, sometimes you need to take chances in life you may not have considered before. To learn from mistakes is no sin. To not learn is.

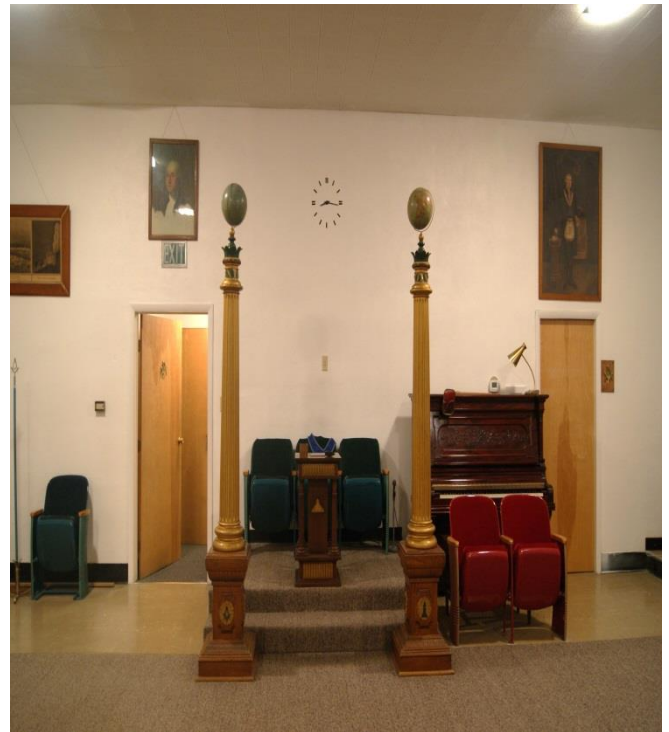
William Ralph Inge said, “*The happy people are those who are producing something; the bored people are those who are consuming much and producing nothing.*”

I feel pretty happy these days! How about you?



Between the Columns

by Michael D. Moore, 32°



The West at Greeley Lodge

That Time of the Year

I am noticing buds on the trees in the backyard and shorter nights with my star gazing, so that must mean one thing – spring is coming.

Spring always makes me happy. It is a very historic thing to be like this around this time of the year, for it meant that the worst of the cold and snow was over, life was coming back to the world, longer and pleasant days were ahead.

For the Mason, this time of the year should mean much more. Easter is coming with all the symbolism that is associated with that day, the general theme of “more light” is always near and the best of the year is not far away.

If you are like my wife Denise, you start to crave green near the end of winter. It is a color that we need in our lives on many different levels, when so much around us is brown, dead or hibernating.



Tim Hogan and I debating this last month in the Consistory lodge room.

I think it is the best time of the year for raisings, reunions and the start of a new Masonic life. My own first knocks on the lodge doors was around this time of the year. Yes, this time of the year does make me happy. I may not go around singing a song about the month of “May” like they do in the movie Camelot, but the theme is within me.

A Reunion is on the horizon, plans of getting together with other brothers are being made and the warmth of the sun is working on all I see. Life tends to be good in the spring. Which is nice, for a while I have been seeing downturned faces at different meetings I frequent. There is something about a frown or unhappiness that just does not seem appropriate in our groups.

We are about the opposite – joy within, love toward those around us, understanding to those different, a closeness to our Creator and betterment of all. A frown just does not seem to have a place with all this.

Happiness and understanding do go together. They are not exclusive of each other, nor can you ultimately separate the two. A world without hate, progressing towards a better state for all is fertile ground for what I am writing about.

Yes, this is a good time of the year to be alive. To be breathing, moving, learning and loving. One of the greatest joys I have is when I see brothers truly showing love and affection to each other. A good hug that gives off noise from backslapping, smiles and crushing of each other; those little behind the scenes actions that one friend does for another that helps him; the positive comments and recommendations that I hear about a brother when he is not around; all add up to knowing that what we are adamantly working towards is starting to take its effect.

Enjoy the time of the year, look in the mirror with a relaxed face and see how your smile hangs. Does it go up at the corners or down naturally? Let what is in your heart and soul show itself on what others see as your most prominent part of your body – your face.





From the Secretary's Desk

by Claud E. Dutro, 33°, Secretary

The February Stated Meeting was the occasion to present Supreme Council patents, name badges and class pictures to many of the members from the November reunion class. In addition to Chef Michael's culinary creations, do you know what is the best part of the meals that we enjoy prior to the entertainment and meetings? The fellowship and social interaction with interesting people that share your dreams, goals and dedication to the fraternity. What a great (and inexpensive) way to share time with friends. Guests are welcome, but don't forget to make reservations.

The Brother to Brother phone program got off to a great start on Saturday morning, February 23. Chairman Rick Wenzel, 32°, and his committee spent a couple of hours using their cell phones to call members in the local area just to find out how they were doing and to invite them to the May reunion. If you would like to be a part of this personally rewarding program, phone the Consistory office at 303-861-4261 to volunteer.



For those of you who have asked for more Masonic Educational Programs, Alex McIntosh, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh of Denver Consistory, has arranged for Tim Hogan, 32° KCCH, our own internationally acclaimed author and lecturer, to provide a program on Monday, March 4,

beginning at 7:30 pm in our auditorium. His remarks will include discussion of the role of Alchemy in the history of the Masonic fraternity. All Master Masons are welcome. Invite your blue Lodge brothers.

If You are a York Rite Mason, you might like to come to our auditorium at 1370 Grant on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9, when the

York Rite bodies will perform their Journey Into Light festival starting at 7:30 am. In those two days they will exemplify all of the York Rite Masonic degrees from Entered Apprentice through Knights Templar in chronological order. If you are a proficient Master Mason, but not yet a York Rite Mason and would like to become a Knight Templar



in this two day period, contact one of your York Rite brothers or contact me at 303-861-4261 with any questions. The initiation fee for all three York Rite bodies (Royal Arch, Cryptic Mason and Knight Templar) is a total of \$150.

Our Next Stated Meeting will be on March 18. Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's day, but the celebration doesn't have to be limited to the parade on Saturday and green beer. Your cailin (colleen) will delight in sharing the traditional corned beef and cabbage as you share stories with your brothers and friends during the relaxed dinner. Our entertainment will be a remembrance of those we have lost during the past year and a rededication to our Masonic commitments. The ladies will then complete their work to support the children of the Scottish Rite Care program while the members hold their short business meeting. It is my goal to have everyone on their way home before 9:00 pm.



Bobby Juchem 32° in the green hat and Mike Tims 32° at the Past Masters degree in Georgetown on February 16, 2013. Was Doc around the lodge somewhere?



FAMOUS MASONS

by Bill Hickey, 32° KCCH

This will be the first in a series of articles on the subject of “Famous Masons.” From time to time, we all wonder who might have been a Freemason in the past – especially those of particular notoriety. While I don’t claim to have ALL the potential famous masons, I certainly have a number of resources that will help us get an idea of who these men were, why they are considered famous, and perhaps what they contributed to Masonry or society in their time.

So, for this first installment, let’s focus on FAMOUS U.S. PRESIDENTS. How many of our presidents have been Masons? Well, technically, it’s 15 – although almost everyone will say it’s only 14 because Lyndon Johnson was initiated in Texas on October 30, 1937 – and did not return for the other degrees because he was elected to congress in 1937 and found that his duties in congress did not leave enough time for him to complete the degrees.

Obviously, George Washington was arguably our most recognized Freemason president. Not just because he was the first president, but because he was so openly associated with Freemasonry. In fact, for many years when U.S. Masonry had separate organizations for color, the two groups were termed “Prince Hall Masonry” and “George Washington Masonry” to differentiate which kind of Mason you were.

Other presidents who were Freemasons:

- James Monroe (5th President)
- Andrew Jackson (7th President)
- James K. Polk (11th President)
- James Buchanan (15th President)
- Andrew Johnson (17th President)
- James A. Garfield (20th President)
- William McKinley (25th President)
- Theodore Roosevelt (26th President)
- William H. Taft (27th President)
- Warren G. Harding (29th President)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt (32nd President)
- Harry S. Truman (33rd President)
- Gerald R. Ford (38th President)

And, what is also telling is who, among our more famous presidents were NOT Freemasons.

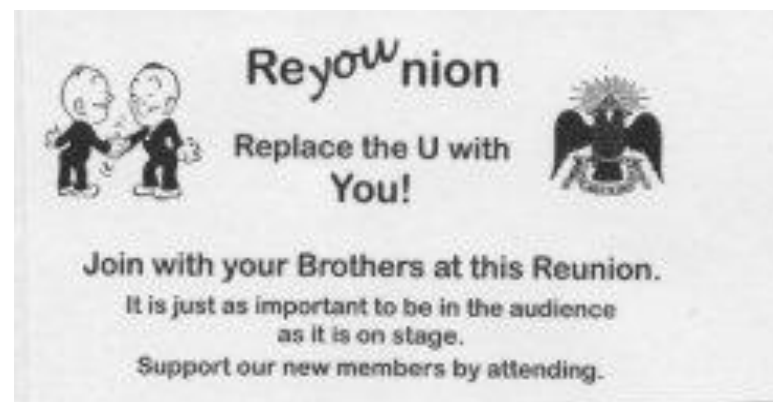
For example, many people believe that Thomas Jefferson (3rd President) was a Freemason, but he was not. Many of his ideas were certainly compatible with Freemasonry, but there are no records to indicate he ever became a member of the craft.

Likewise, many think Lincoln was a Freemason. It is believed that he thought highly of the craft, but because his opponent in the famous debates, Stephen A. Douglas, who WAS a Freemason, he felt that it wouldn’t be proper to become a Mason at that time because it might be viewed as opportunistic. He is thought to have intended to join the craft upon leaving the presidency, but as we know, that was not to happen.

A number believe Woodrow Wilson might also have been a Freemason – mostly because of his idealistic views at a time when the world was at war. Sorry. Perhaps wishful thinking.

Lastly, there have been recent rumors that Barack Obama is a member of Prince Hall Masonry. Neither the Grand Lodge of Illinois nor the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois have any record that Obama was made a Freemason. Obama has never said that he was a Freemason. There are no photographs of him in masonic regalia.

Next installment: Some famous leaders from around the world who are/were Freemasons.



TAKE MY HAND; FOLLOW ME

Author Unknown

*When I was a young man, a long time ago,
The secrets of Masonry I wanted to know.
Of a Mason I asked what those secrets might be.
He replied, "First, we talk, then we will see."*

*A petition he granted and ordered it filled
To be read at a meeting and a judgment be willed.
Then questions I answered about God and home;
Of habits and friends; a wife or alone.*

*In time I was summoned - a date to appear
Before an assembly of men gathered near.
I entered the building and looked up the stair;
Does pleasure or pain await me up there?*

*A hazing by paddle, taunting by joke?
My petition accepted or maybe revoked?
Introductions and handshakes welcomed me there
And lessons symbolic, an aid to prepare*

*For a journey in darkness, a predestined plight
To a Holy of Holies, the source of all light.
How well I remember what I heard someone say,
To enter God's Kingdom there is but one way;*

*Be ye naked and blind, penniless and poor;
These you must suffer fore entering that door.
The journey ahead is not yours to know,
But trust in your God wherever you go.*

*Then assurance from the darkness whispered tenderly,
"My Friend, be not afraid;*

**TAKE MY HAND;
FOLLOW ME."**

*With nervous attention a path I then trod;
A pathway in darkness to the altar of God.
With cable-tow and hoodwink, on bare bended knee,
A covenant was made there between God and me.*

*Charges and promises were made there that night.
Dispelling the darkness and bringing me light.
Mid lightening and thunder and Brethren on row!
Cast off the darkness! And cast off the tow!*

*In the company of men, a man you must be,
Moral in character, the whole world to see.
Trust in your God, promise daily anew
To be honest and upright in all things you do.*

*Each man is a brother in charity to share
With those suffering hunger, pain or despair.
The widow and orphan and brother in pain
Depend on your mercy their welfare to gain.*

*The secrets of Brethren keep only in mind.
To the ladies of Brethren be noble and kind.
Go now, my brother, your journey's begun
Your wages await you when your journey is done.*

*That journey I started, Oh, so long ago
And I've learned of those things I wanted to know.
I've learned of the secrets, not secret at all,
But hidden in knowledge within Masons' hall.*

*Childhood yields to manhood, manhood yields to age,
Ignorance yields to knowledge, knowledge yields to
sage.*

*I've lived all my life the best that I could,
Knowing full well how a good Mason should.*

*I know of those times when I slipped and then fell.
What's right and what's wrong were not easy to tell.
But a trust in my God and a true brother's hand.
Helped raise me up and allowed me to stand.*

*I've strode down the old path, Masonically worn
By all Mason's raised for the Masons unborn.
But this tired old body, once young and so bold,
Now suffers the afflictions of having grown old.*

*The almond tree's flourished; the grinders are few.
The housekeepers tremble; desires fail too.
The locusts are a burden; fears are in the way.
The golden bowl is breaking, a little every day.*

*Mine eyes are again darkened, my sight again to fail;
I sense the Master's presence mid my family's silent
wail.*

*I've laid aside my working tools, my day is nearly done.
For long I've played the game of life; the game's no
longer fun.*

*Life's pathway ends before me. I see what's meant for
me;*

*An acacia plant is growing where a beehive used to be.
The Ethereal Lodge has summoned from beyond the
wailing wall*

*And I vowed that I must answer when summoned by a
call.*

*Again I stand bewildered at the bottom of the stair
In nervous apprehension of what awaits me there.
Once again, and now alone, I stand without the door.
With faltering hand, I slowly knock as once I did before.*

*I pray again to hear those words,
whispered tenderly,
"My son, be not afraid.*

**TAKE MY HAND;
FOLLOW ME."**



**SATURDAY – APRIL 13, 2013 –
7am-noon**

by Bill Hickey, 32nd KCCH

We're in the home stretch now. Many of you have come to me at our stated meeting and indicated a desire to volunteer. Some of you, I'm sure, are thinking that you've volunteered in the past and I (and my co-coordinators) will KNOW that and factor it into our plans. Sorry, we can't do that – too many people have conflicting activities and plans from year to year that we can't "assume" (don't you just hate that word?) people will be available for a given fair. So, you DO need to actively let us know that you want to volunteer.

This year, I have some rather SPECIFIC needs. If you are interested and available, PLEASE let me know as soon as possible so I can check these off my list of "to-do's".

FRIDAY April 12: I need at least ONE PERSON who is available to be at El Jebel Shrine around 8:30 a.m. to help D.J. Cox load his pickup with the partitions and curtains that we use to separate the blood draw and first aid areas or any other activities that need a little more privacy. If you are also available to help set up at the consistory, that would be great, but not essential.

FRIDAY April 12: I need 2-3 people at the consistory to help actually set up the partitions, post all the signage, and generally get things ready for the fair on Saturday. I'll be there around 8 so that I can be there when DJ arrives...and we should be able to get most of the work done before the normal Friday lunch. However, because of lunch, there are just a few things we CAN'T do until people leave...so 1 or 2 people who can stay after lunch for about an hour to move tables around and do the last minute set up will be MOST appreciated.

SATURDAY April 13 – We will be providing a complimentary breakfast (6AM) and lunch (1PM)

for our volunteers. This typically starts AFTER we've broken down the fair and provided DJ with the poles, plates, and curtains to return to El Jebel (and by the way, a person to help him over there would be nice as well). Once we've cleared the area, lunch is served usually between 12:30 and 1:00pm. While we can usually count on a couple of people who were at the fair helping to break it down, it would be nice for us to KNOW who will be planning to help us do that rather than HOPE we get enough.

For the fair itself...I will not be at the meeting in March – I will be in Montana overseeing my daughter's surgery recovery. And, we can't be sure that Jack White will make it down from Loveland or that Fred Runyan will be turned loose from his job – so I need email confirmation that you are intending to volunteer OR ... actually ... it is better for you to:

- open a browser to <http://www.9healthfair.org>
- then on the left menu, select "volunteer"
- then "volunteer for a fair".

You will be taken to a form where you fill in your information and select the fair you want to serve (you have to pick OUR fair, or you go into la-la-computer-land and I won't find you. You have an opportunity to leave a short message that I'll see, so let me know what size tee shirt you wear, whether you will be staying for lunch, and if you have a specific area or function you'd like to perform at the fair.

Thanks again for your support of the Consistory's 9 Health Fair. See you there.

Contacts:

Bill Hickey: 303-726-6603 (cell)
wa3h@hotmail.com

Fred Runyan: 303-204-4307 (cell)
fred.runyan@kiewit.com (Medical)

Jack White: 970-402-3866 (cell)
jacques611@msn.com (Non-Medical)



Just My Opinion ...

by D. J. Cox, 33°

The theme for this month's publication is JOY, as in happiness, laughter, brotherhood, fraternal understanding and companionship. This may seem to be a strange theme for this publication, but how many of you take the time to realize what power joy has on our very being?

I don't want to get hung up with definitions or personal preferences. Let's just focus on the joy of the fraternity. Bro Walter M. Macdougall gives us his perspective in this month's feature article. Bro John Warren has been giving his to us the past few months.

Mozart wrote a famous Cantata: *Die Maurerfreude* (Masonic Joy). Words by Franz Petran, composed on 20 April 1785 and first performed in Lodge Zur gekronten Hoffnung (Lodge Crowned Hope) on 24 April 1785 to honor Ignaz von Born, Grand Master of the United Lodges. As you can see (and hear), joy comes in many forms.

Joy Porter highlights the vast array of masonic subjects in his book *Native American Freemasonry*. A capsule summary of the books states "Freemasonry has played a significant role in the history of Native Americans since the colonial era—a role whose extent and meaning are fully explored for the first time in this book. The work's overarching concern is with how Masonry met specific social and personal needs, a theme developed across three significant periods of membership: the revolutionary era, the last third of the nineteenth century, and the years following the First World War."

My main point is that to really experience the JOY of freemasonry is to experience it --- and learn about it in any and all ways possible. If all you do is join, pay dues, go to dinners and meetings, make some new friends/acquaintances, etc., you are not feeling the true joy to be had!

Anyway, that's my opinion!

*To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up.*

Ogden Nash



Meet your Brothers

By Jack White, 32° KCCH

Ill. and WB Dwight Dean Huffer is a Past Master of Garfield Lodge #50 in 1972 and is also a present member of both Garfield #50 and St. Vrain #23 Lodges in Longmont. Dwight is also a past officer of the Denver Consistory. Dwight also has served our Grand Lodge as Grand Chaplain.



Dwight and Virginia live in Longmont where he had worked for IBM for 26 years before retiring in 1991.

Dwight enjoys camping, traveling (especially to visit family in Illinois) in his RV, and listening to his favorite music. He also likes woodworking and getting together with his and Virginia's friends and brother masons. Dwight also feels the his being the secretary of his Masonic lodges, first with Garfield #50 and now with St. Vrain #23. He hopes to pass the torch, so to speak, to another brother to become secretary and then finally, Dwight and Virginia can sit back and rest and breathe. Dwight's faithful service to Masonry has been a blessing to the Fraternity and especially to me when I served as Master. His guidance in assisting the masters of the lodge cannot be diminished, because without his experience and quiet and faithful guidance, the business of his lodges would suffer.

Dwight relaxes by watching the old comedies on television, especially Hogan's Heroes. He and Virginia enjoy going out to dinner and he especially enjoys a nice quiet nap in his contour chair.

Dwight's goals are simple, but great. He does not plan to make any specific goals, except to remain healthy and active as long as he can and that he hopes any goals he may have will not cause any issues with Virginia.

Illustrious and worshipful Brother Dwight, thank you for your great Masonic work and you guidance to your brethren.

ALLEGIANCE

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado, acknowledge and Yield allegiance to the **Supreme Council** (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third degree of the Ancient Scottish Rite of Freemasonry For the Southern Jurisdiction of The United States of America.

LEADERSHIP



Ronald A. Seale, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council, 33°, Washington, D.C.

Stephen M. Munsinger, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
of The Supreme Council

David W. Powell, 33°
Personal Representative of the SGIG in Colorado
for Denver Consistory



L. Bryant Harris, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Centennial Lodge of Perfection
bryantone56@covad.net

Scottish Rite Creed
*"Human progress is our cause,
liberty of thought our supreme wish,
freedom of conscience our mission,
and the guarantee of equal rights to
all people everywhere our ultimate
goal."*



Roy A. Synder, 32° KCCH
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M. Edward Johnson, 33°
Almoner



Wayne Arner, 33°
Treasurer



Claud E. Dutro, 33°
Secretary-Recorder-Registrar

Can you save a Life?



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Brother Fred Runyan, 32^o KCCH is an EMT and CPR, AED, and Basic First Aid Instructor. He is offering to teach courses at the Consistory to qualify our members (or anyone else for that matter) in how to properly use an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), certify you for CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) and optionally offer a basic first aid course.

HOWEVER ... we need to understand YOUR interest and availability. The CPR/AED course is about 1.5-2 hours and will normally be offered on a weekday evening. The complete CPR/AED/First Aid course is about 5-6 hours long with a lunch break and will be held on Saturdays. If you are not available during the week, you can opt to take only the AED/CPR portion on a Saturday offering if desired. Cost for the AED/CPR course is \$18 and the full course including First Aid is \$25 for books and materials. Any profits go to the consistory

SO... Please contact Brother Fred at fred.runyan@kiewit.com or Brother Bill Hickey at wa3h@hotmail.com with your interest and availability so we can start planning for courses to be offered starting sometime in April.



WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR MONTHLY MEETING ON:

MARCH 16, 2013.

EL JEBEL SHRINE

4625 WEST 50TH AVENUE

DENVER, CO 80212

8:30 MEETING START

**THERE WILL BE NO FOOD OR BEVERAGE SERVICE,
BUT FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE .**

THE WIDOWS SONS IS AN INTERNATIONAL MASONIC MOTORCYCLE RIDING
ASSOCIATION COMPRISED OF FREEMASONS; THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS:

- TO AID AND ASSIST WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MASTER MASONS.
- TO PROVIDE A SOCIAL AND FRATERNAL OUTLET FOR FREEMASONS WHO RIDE AND DESIRE TO SOCIALIZE WITH AND TRAVEL THE OPEN ROAD WITH THEIR BRETHREN.
- TO INTRODUCE FREEMASONRY TO THE WORLD OF MOTORCYCLING AND MOTORCYCLING TO THE WORLD OF FREEMASONRY.

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE BY GOING TO

WWW.COLORADOWIDOWSSONS.ORG

IF YOU ALSO KNOW A MASTER MASON WHO RIDES, FEEL FREE TO
BRING HIM ALONG, HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

CORNERSTONE CHAPTER