



# Denver's RiteWorks

December 2023 vol. 16 #10



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

### Do NOT park in the Credit Union of Colorado Parking Lot !!!

Credit Union of Colorado, previously located at 1390 Logan Street, Denver, has MOVED. Their parking lot located on the northeast corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Logan Street is **NO LONGER AVAILABLE** for Denver Consistory's use. A word to the wise is sufficient.

## CORNERSTONE COMMITTEE

### MONTHLY COORDINATION ZOOM MEETINGS

ZOOM Meetings of the Cornerstone Planning Committee are held MONTHLY on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: 05 DEC 2023. Zoom credentials:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86818020734?pwd=VUw2cGlnTOVYa3JSdjRHMtZ6RVB4dz09>

# PLANNING CALENDAR

## December 2023

Fri, DEC 1	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13—Fried Chicken on DEC 1)
Sat, DEC 2	10:00 a.m. - noon SR Foundation & Consistory Children's Christmas Party <b>Parking Garage Available</b>
Mon, DEC 4	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, DEC 8	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Fri, DEC 15	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Sat, DEC 16	10.00 a.m. Wreaths Across America—Fort Logan Cemetery
Mon, DEC 18	Stated Meeting - <b>Parking Garage Available</b> 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner ( <b>Member Appreciation Night &amp; UGLY Sweater Night</b> ) 7:00 p.m. Entertainment; Masonic Education 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting—Annual Election of Officers
Fri, DEC 22, 29	<b>NO LUNCH</b>
Mon, DEC 25	<b>Consistory Closed (Christmas)</b>

## January 2024

Mon, JAN 1, 2024	<b>Consistory Closed (New Years Day)</b>
Fri, JAN 5	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13—Fried Chicken)
Sat, JAN 6	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Consistory UN-decorating Party (All members, officers, and wives are invited)
Fri, JAN 12	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Sat, JAN 13	8:00 - noon Officer's Breakfast and installation practice
Mon, JAN 15	Stated Meeting - <b>Parking Garage Available</b> 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Awards and Announcements [1207422] Split Meeting 7:30 p.m. Annual Meetings of Corporations; Installation of Officers
Fri, JAN 19	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Sat, JAN 20	6:00 p.m. Whisky College in Classroom prior to Burns Supper 7:00 p.m. KSA Burns Supper - <b>Parking Garage Available</b>
Fri, JAN 26	<b>Consistory Closed—GL Communication (NO LUNCH)</b>

# CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND MORE!

**FEATURING  
CLASSICAL SINGER  
ERIC J. McCONNELL**



**DECEMBER 18, 2023, 7:00PM  
DENVER CONSISTORY**





# K.S.A. Burns Night Supper and Whisky College

Bag pipes ☒ Silent auction ☒ Burns poetry

Saturday January 20th, 2024 7:00pm



## **Dinner: 7:00pm**

salad, soda bread, haggis, beef bourguignon, mashed potatoes,  
medley of roasted roots, sticky toffee pudding

\$60 - Per Person

*Prepaid online reservations required*

## **Whisky College: 6:00pm**

\$45 - Adult (21 and over)

*Prepaid online reservations required*

## **For reservations:**

Advanced prepaid reservations are available online only.  
(DO NOT contact the Consistory office).

**<http://www.denverconsistory.org/burns-dinner/>**

## **Featured entertainment.**



&

Scottish Rite Pipe Band

*Scottish Rite Masonic Center*

*1370 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203*

*Proceeds to benefit RiteCare, (<https://scottishritefoundation.org>)  
and Scottish Rite Masonic Center*

# EDITOR'S WRESTLEBOARD



**BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°**

**EMAIL: [WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM)**

## **Is Freemasonry TRULY Universal?**

Many of you know I went through the degrees from EA to KT while I was stationed in Scotland. It was truly a memorable (if not overwhelming at times) experience to say the least. Back in the late 80's after I retired from the U.S. Navy and moved here to start a second career, I started up a group called "Masonry Universal" on what was a rather new "fad" of email groups on the internet. The purpose was to provide a gathering place for Masons from ALL parts of the world—and yes, that even included female Masons (gasp! They don't really exist, do they? YEP) - because it was NOT a tyled environment and we didn't discuss any "secret" information. Even then, it was a controversial idea. What did I find out? Well, first of all, Masonry is NOT "universal" in the strictest sense of the word. Oh, we all pretty much had the same basic tenets: brotherly love, relief, and truth. We had the same first three degree TITLES, but the rituals were somewhat different depending on where you were made a Mason.

Over the years since I was made a Mason and as I've visited around, I've noticed that no matter where I go, I always feel welcome in a lodge despite the fact that some of their ritual and practices may seem a bit "strange" compared with what I originally learned in Scotland or even what I see here in Colorado. [11132261] I always felt that it was similar enough to know I was in the right environment, but different enough to "take due notice" and make sure I wasn't embarrassed by making a huge mistake during the meeting.

For example, when I was about to become the Vice Associate Grand Guardian for Colorado Job's Daughters in 2004, I could no longer serve as the Associate Bethel Guardian for my daughter's Bethel #37 and had to find a suitable replacement. The Brother we found was not yet a Master Mason, and we were making sure that he progressed in time for me to vacate the ABG position. But, his first line signer was my mentor, our late Brother Randy Trullinger, 32° KCCH, and he needed to be in El Paso with his wife and daughters on the night my relief was to be raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. He asked if I would stand in for him and actually take part in the raising ceremony. Since I had never witnessed a third degree in Colorado, I approached the Worshipful Master of the lodge and told him that I had never witnessed a Colorado third degree, but I knew from experience that the GRIP I was to give him would be "similar" to my Scottish grip, but NOT THE SAME. So, I had him give me the grip so I knew what I needed to do for my friend that was replacing me in the Bethel. I also told him that my "word" was TWO words, one of which was his word and that I would not give the

Continued on next page

second word to the Brother, as it would only confuse him unnecessarily.

Another simple example is the nature of the “knocks” - in a second degree ceremony, I was sitting next to our late Most Worshipful Brother R. Keith Milheim and noticed a significant difference in the knocks being used. I mentioned it to him and was assured that they were correct ... for Colorado. They are NOT the same in Scotland.

Now, you would THINK that Scotland, as the possessor of the oldest copy of a speculative lodge minutes (dating back to 1599) would sort of be an exemplar of “how things should be done” - wouldn't you? I guess everywhere has to re-invent the wheel at times.

I'm sure many of you have had the experience (likely in grade school) where the teacher sits everyone around the classroom in a circle. S/he whispers a short sentence in the ear of the child nearest and has them whisper the EXACT same sentence to the next child, and so on around the room until the very last child whispers what they have been told (at least what they heard, anyway) to the teacher, who then writes on the board what she told the first child and then what the last one told her. Any resemblance between what she first said and what was finally communicated to her would be PURELY coincidental.

As Masonry, for so many years after it started as a speculative art, was pretty much exclusively “mouth to ear” (like the children in school). I think you might see that no matter how careful you might be in passing on information, SOMETIMES, as they say in the study of foreign languages, “it loses a little in the translation.” Why else would Grand Lodges around the world keep a WRITTEN copy of their ritual closely guarded in a safe somewhere? It is only in relatively recent years that GL's have reluctantly decided (and not all of them, by the way) to provide a “clear key” ritual to their members to help keep the ritual “standardized” and avoid the inevitable mistakes that will happen in “mouth to ear” transmission.

Other examples of how things are markedly different from jurisdiction to the next include “proficiency” requirements. In Scotland, my proficiencies were 10-12 simple questions and answers designed to make sure I took away from the ceremonies the essentials to understand the lessons of the degree. That differs markedly from the requirements here in Colorado. And, say what you will, the ability to memorize verbatim a monologue or dialogue by rote doesn't always convey an understanding of the essentials that were in the degree, just so we're all on the same page on this one.

So, going back to the original hypothesis: Is Masonry TRULY Universal? I suppose it would “depend” on how you define the term “universal.” If you mean in all respects, then NO, it's not. If you mean in all the ESSENTIALS—like the tenets, the fundamentals, the CORE, the ESSENCE of the craft, then Yes it is. Just remember, it's not the SAME everywhere, just “close” to what you experience in your home lodge and Grand Lodge.

Get out there, visit around—not just other lodges in your own jurisdiction, but neighboring states and countries. After all, aren't the “wages” of a true Master Mason “knowledge”? In passing, I'll tell you that there are OVER 40 different versions of the rituals in Scotland. Each lodge may choose which one they wish to use and change at any time for any reason without first getting permission from the Grand Master. Visit a lodge 4-5 miles away, and the story is the same, but the words and HOW it is told differ markedly. You would be surprised how much you can learn by travelling just a few miles.

*Bill*



# From the Secretary's Desk

[Matt Raia, 33°](#)



## CONSISTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

***JUST ABOUT THE TIME MOST OF US GET OUR SUMMER VACATIONS PAID FOR IT'S TIME TO START WORRYING ABOUT CHRISTMAS***

### Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund Contributions

The SRMC wishes to acknowledge those who donated to the Endowment fund this past month and began or added to a Cathedral Club membership.

Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°

Brother Bruce Miller, 32°

Brother David King, 32° KCCH

Brother Mike Tims, 32° KCCH

Illustrious Brother Darren Klinefelter, 33°

Brother Joe Mitchell, 32° KCCH

Brother Howard Zoufaly, 32°

Illustrious Brother Don Emerine, 33°

Brother Basil Deem, 32°

Brother Loren Kohler, 32° KCCH

Brother Michael McMinimee, 32°

Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH

Brother Larry Bendt, 32° KCCH

Denver Lodge #5

**Transportation Available** – Brethren, if you need a ride to a stated meeting, the reunion, or one of our events, call the office and let us know. We will send a ride-share service (Lyft or Uber) to pick you up and bring you back home, **at no expense to you**. The Consistory will pay the bill. You do not have to miss out on participating in Denver Consistory events because you need a ride.

**Who reads the RiteWorks Contest** – The membership numbers published in the November RiteWorks belong to the following Brothers who were eligible to receive a free dinner for the November Stated Meeting. **Russell W. Herrick, Rusty Keithline, Andrew L. Newby, Jack D. Patten, Justin H. Kirkland, William R. Simon, James D. Kish, Victor C. Ament, Stephen A. Hiller, Gary D. Fielder.** None of these brothers called the office to claim their free dinner. Maybe this month's winners will see their membership number and call the office to claim their free dinner for the December Stated meeting.

**Congratulations** – To **Brother Chadwick Williams, 32°**, on his appointment as Honorary Consul for Germany, by The Honorable Andrea Sasse, Consul General. [11149824]

**New Garden Fence** – **Brother Jerry Rice, 32° KCCH**, built and installed a new garden fence, to replace the old one which our “friendly” street people stole in sections.

Continued on next page

**Donate Your Car** - We have a donation plan in place to give you a receipt for a tax-deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Donate your car, truck, RV, or boat. Go to [www.carsforcharity.net](http://www.carsforcharity.net) to donate for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

**November 20<sup>th</sup> Stated** – We celebrated Veteran's Day with a wonderful tribute presented by **Brother Dean McConnel, 32° KCCH**, Master of Kadosh of Denver Consistory.

**Member Appreciation Dinner December 18<sup>th</sup>** As a small token of appreciation for your support as a member of Denver Consistory, members attending dinner prior to the Stated Meeting will receive a discount on the price of their meal based upon the number of years they have been a member. If you prepaid for your dinner you will receive a refund when you pick up your dinner ticket. (i.e., a 1-year member will receive a 1% discount, 5-year member will receive a 5% discount, a 50-year member a 50% discount etc.) **You must make a dinner reservation.**

**Wear Your Ugly Christmas Sweater** – For our December 18<sup>th</sup> Stated meeting you are encouraged to wear your ugly Christmas sweater. I'm sure we will see some "interesting" sweaters.

**December 18<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting** will be the election of officers for 2024 and announcement of 2024 appointments.

**2024 Membership Fee Notices** have been mailed by the Supreme Council. Please do not set aside the notice to pay it later and then forget about it. Membership fees are our primary source of our income, so it is important that you do not forget to pay them. We are charged Supreme Council per capita on your membership regardless of whether you have paid us your fee.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to pay your membership fee PLEASE CONTACT ME. We have programs available to assist you so that you are not suspended for nonpayment. But you must contact me. We can't help you if you don't ask.

When paying your dues **please consider making a tax-deductible donation to your Scottish Rite Masonic Center.** Your contributions help us maintain our historic building



### Automatic Membership Fee Renewal Program

Supreme Council created and installed an auto renewal program to pay annual membership fees. This is a completely voluntary program that gives our members the option to have their membership fee automatically deducted using a credit or debit card through the online Membership Portal.

The automatic payment will occur in August annually for those who sign up for the program, and the payment will be applied to the following year. Members who sign up for the program will receive an email reminder a few days prior to the debiting of their credit or debit card. Supreme Council staff will mail a membership card to all enrollees directly from the House of the Temple approximately three weeks after the annual payments are processed. This program will give members the option to avoid the end of the year Masonic membership fee crunch as well as help ensure members are always in good standing.

**Life Memberships** are an ideal way to avoid paying future membership fee increases. A Life Membership guarantees that you will never be suspended for nonpayment should your future financial situation change. It also ensures that should you no longer be able to take care of your finances you will not be suspended for nonpayment because your Scottish Rite Membership is of no significance to the individual handling your finances. By purchasing a Life Membership, you leave a continuing legacy to Denver Consistory.

#### Life Membership Fee:

75 years old and older – a single payment of \$1,250

62-74 years old – a single payment of \$1,750

Younger than 62 – a single payment of \$2,500

Extend payment terms may be arranged. Contact the office for details.

**BUILDING SECURITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!** We ask that you be mindful of who you let into the lobby through the glass doors and also be aware of who follows you into the building. We have many "street people" waiting for an opportunity to slip into the building. **Do not let anyone in who you do not know to be a member of Denver Consistory.**

#### Membership Statistics

November 2022 1,499

November 2023 1,405

Net: **-94**



# TIME IS RUNNING SHORT

For **YOUR DONATION** to the Consistory Endowment Fund to **DOUBLE**  
If we can raise \$50,000 by December 29<sup>th</sup>, this amount will be MATCHED by a  
donor. In other words, your contribution will be Doubled if you act NOW.

## Why is this fund and YOUR contribution important?

It is mandatory that we have the finances necessary to maintain our exceptional building for future Masons. It costs about \$5,700 per month to “keep the lights on” and that amount is likely to increase in the future.

Once the Endowment Fund is fully funded, only the income and growth will be used to maintain the building.

Please act NOW to help secure our success.

## **How to donate:**

On-line:

<https://squareup.com/store/centennial-lodge-of-perfection>

Click on: Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund

Write a check payable to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Put Endowment Fund on memo line.

Call the office to make a donation by credit card.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENORIOSITY.**



## Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Director of Education

### Synonymous Terms?



#### First a personal note:

As I prepare to finish up this month's offering on Thanksgiving morning, I'm thinking about how grateful I am every day for the friendship and brotherhood we share. I am so fortunate to be able to call each of you my Brother, and I find that the connections only deepen as time passes. That sentiment always gets a boost coming out of our reunion experience, and this year was no exception. We welcomed eleven new Masters of the Royal Secret at the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion: exceptional men and Masons, whom I invite you to seek out, get to know, and welcome into active participation in Denver Consistory.

#### Synonymous Terms?

In Craft Masonry, we make repeated references to the close ties between our philosophical system and the study of Geometry, going so far as to say that the two were "originally synonymous terms." Now there's no doubt at all that the fundamentals of geometry were and are critical to the development of architecture and therefore to the Operative Craft (although one might question the apparent importance of balance and proportion in some modern architectural forms). Be that as it may (and though I very much doubt that there was ever much literal interchange of the two terms in common usage), yes, it was pretty much impossible to be a Master Builder "back in the day," without being an expert geometrician.

When we examine the development of the Speculative Art, we must appreciate that it was natural for the elements of what those builders knew best to become the foundation of the symbolism of Masonic thought, and the Craft as we know it today is enriched by the symbolism of the builders' art. The working tools and their analogies in moral philosophy, the layout of the Lodge, the stations and functions of the officers ... all these and more link operative and speculative labor. [10324929] But when we move to the degrees of our Rite, we rapidly reach the boundaries of what the builders art can comfortably encompass, at least without straining the limits of architecture and construction to cover the subtleties.

Where then do we turn, to find a philosophical system that can enrich and undergird Masonic thought, as it becomes increasingly nuanced? An intellectual depth is required, amid the deeper concepts we teach in our degrees, to accomplish for them what the symbolism of the Operative Craft does for the foundations of the Speculative. Since the ancient Greeks, for all intents and purposes, turned their minds to virtually every concept Mankind can intellectually fathom, I turned my focus there and discovered what I believe is quite a thorough framework for Masonic thought — without conflicting with the operative underpinnings — and one which provides a deep intellectual reserve.

What launched me on my journey was returning to an idea encountered when we were developing the J2SR programs and undertook a re-reading of Rex Hutchens' *A Bridge to Light*. That exercise reacquainted me with the idea of “disinterestedness” or “equanimity” (the Greek word is “apatheia”) as presented in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> Degrees. Then, in becoming reacquainted with the ideas of the ancient Greek philosophers, I was reminded (first in a general way and then in a manner I found stunning) just how much Freemasonry shares with all the ancient philosophical schools: Platonist, Aristotelian, Stoic, Epicurean, and Skeptic ... or, if you prefer, how much they share with us.

From Plato we inherit the “theory of universals,” which contributes so much to our focus upon symbols for effective and deeply meaningful teaching. Plato and Aristotle both emphasized the importance of logic, rationality and virtue ethics, all of which play extensively into the lessons of our degree system. In the ideas of the Epicureans, we discover the love of nature and its bounty, which relates to the appreciation we feel for the natural world and upon which we base our imperative to be good stewards. The ideas of the Skeptics teach us to suspend judgement, and that better enables us to function in harmony with those whose ideas and motivations are different from our own. A healthy skepticism should always be a powerful tool in the effort to avoid fanaticism and intolerance: a very Masonic point of view!

Finally, I began a look at Stoicism, and was stopped in my tracks! Whereas, in looking at the other philosophical schools I found this or that teaching which dovetailed with Masonic thought, in the principles of Stoic philosophy I discovered an approach to thinking and living that could almost be used as substitutes for degree lectures! Indeed, in looking at an outline of Stoicism, it becomes difficult to find any inconsistencies with Masonic thought.

I'll make two introductory points, before outlining these ideas. First, be sure not to confuse the philosophical school of thought with the use of the word “stoic,” as a common adjective. In common usage, “stoic” is taken to mean merely “hiding or suppressing one’s emotions” and can even be implied more in a critical than in a complementary way (e.g., “We never knew he was in such pain. He’s such a stoic!”). In contrast, Stoicism is a way of looking and dealing with life and its daily occurrences. My second introductory point is, therefore, that Stoicism is a complete system of philosophy — in its entirety, a “worldview” — and, as such an approach to helping us to lead full and satisfying lives. It is, in this sense, not unlike the other ancient schools and is, at its core, a set of recommendations for how to deal with the many aspects of daily life which may otherwise cause us to be unhappy or in conflict with the world around us: including (and most especially) with our fellow human beings. Stoicism’s kinship with Freemasonry is especially clear on this level, for, while not a religion, it is thoroughly compatible with sincerely held and practiced religious belief and spirituality.

So, who are Stoics and what do they believe? Historically, the Stoics were a group of ancient Greek and Roman philosophers who developed their ideas beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Their approach to life is realistic, in that the Stoic approach is focused upon coping with the issues of everyday life. However, the Stoic way is, at the same time, morally idealistic, because it sets a high standard for human behavior and demands that the individual control his own attitudes and approach to life. The Romans enthusiastically embraced Stoic thought: so much so that when we characterize ancient Roman society and institutions we are, for all

practical purposes, describing its Stoic roots! There is also much Stoic thinking in the development of Christian theology, with a revival of direct links evident among early 20<sup>th</sup> century theologians.

Here, in a nutshell, are eight of the main ethical notions held by Stoic thinkers. With each, I shall attempt to show a link with our Masonic way of looking at the world and our role in it ... although I'm certain major parallels will jump out at you anyway, as they did for me:

**Nature:** Nature is rational. All that occurs (even if we cannot say that there is a "reason" as humans might see "cause and effect") is supposed to occur. All is governed by divine logic or reason, called by the Greeks *Logos*, which might be seen as an expression of the Divine plan ... even as a kind of intermediary between the Architect and physical reality. There's a huge chunk of both Masonic perspective and of Christian doctrine in that, with the ancient church even adopting *Logos* as a term for Christ.

**Law of Reason:** The universe is governed by the law of reason. Humans can't escape its inexorable force, but they can, uniquely among all creatures, follow the law deliberately ... and even in spite of selfish interests to the contrary. As Masons we, of course, emphasize the importance of following the path laid out for us, in terms of our duties to society as a whole and to our Brethren.

**Virtue:** A life led according to rational nature is virtuous. As Masons we do not believe that the proper path for us to take in living our lives is at all hidden or obscured, but is, instead, laid out for all upon "our moral and Masonic trestle board." It is expected that we will make a conscious commitment to following a path to contribute to the betterment of mankind, so as not to be "deemed a drone in the hive of nature."

**Wisdom:** Wisdom is the root virtue. From it spring the cardinal virtues: insight (which clearly equates to prudence, since that which is the most judicious behavior is that which can be foreseen from past discernment), bravery (fortitude), self-control (temperance), and justice.

**Apatheia:** Passion (emotion) is irrational; life should be waged as a battle against it. Intense feeling (i.e., emotion that supersedes reason) should be avoided. Since any action which may have a strong rational justification may also carry with it strong emotional motivation, acting for the right reason demands "disinterestedness," which we see portrayed in several of the degrees of the Rite. By this is not meant "apathy," in the sense of "not caring about an event or outcome," but rather the ability to see past the emotional ties one may have to some preferred outcome, to the most rational and therefore virtuous result.

**Pleasure:** Pleasure is neither good nor bad. It is acceptable if it doesn't interfere with the quest for virtue. In being given the duty of overseeing the Craft at refreshment, the Junior Warden is the executor of this principle, and, in equal measure, we are all tasked to "keep our passions within due bounds."

**Evil:** Poverty, illness, and death are not evil ... they simply "are." As parts of the human condition, these things are within the scope of our experience to give us opportunities to relieve the distress of our Brethren and to support all mankind.

**Duty:** Virtue should be sought, not for the sake of pleasure, but for duty's sake. In Freemasonry — and especially in the Scottish Rite — we learn that to engage even in the most laudable behavior with the expectation of reward is misguided. Virtue, both to benefit ourselves and others whose interests we try to serve, must be its own reward. Anything less and the benefit, both to ourselves and others, is sullied by selfish motives.

How then does a life lived by Stoic principles appear to the world? This, I believe, is where the simplistic notion of Stoicism as “hiding one's feelings” probably arises. As explained by a modern-day Stoic writer, Massimo Pigliucci, "Briefly, their notion of morality is stern, involving a life in accordance with nature and controlled by virtue. It is an ascetic system, teaching perfect indifference (apatheia) to everything external, for nothing external could be either good or evil. Hence to the Stoics both pain and pleasure, poverty and riches, sickness and health, were supposed to be equally unimportant."

If all of that seems “a bit much to expect” (either of oneself or of others), consider the fact that this attitude toward reality, virtue, and daily life simply takes a core Masonic teaching (“It is the internal and not the external qualifications of a man that Masonry regards.”) and extends what we are taught to regard most in others to demand that we look at ourselves applying the same standard!

I will conclude with what I find a profound synopsis of Stoic thought, as expressed by another modern Stoic philosopher. Remember that the object of these philosophical schools is to give human beings a moral and intellectual anchor to guide daily life. Because of that, you'll likely recognize, within this statement, a very practical and powerful application of these ideas to the human condition. In describing the object of Stoic principles, William R. Connolly said that “[t]o avoid unhappiness, frustration, and disappointment, we, therefore, need to do two things: control those things that are within our power (namely our beliefs, judgments, desires, and attitudes) and be indifferent or apathetic to those things which are not in our power (namely, things external to us).”

May I then respectfully suggest that what geometry is to the core teachings and symbolism of the Craft, Stoic philosophy may be to a practical application of Scottish Rite Philosophy to our lives and lifelong study?

*Bill*

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303-775-5727



Sources:

Borghini, Andrea. "The 5 Great Schools of Ancient Greek Philosophy." ThoughtCo, Apr. 5, 2023, [thoughtco.com/five-great-schools-ancient-greek-philosophy-2670495](https://www.thoughtco.com/five-great-schools-ancient-greek-philosophy-2670495).

Gill, N.S. "Stoics and Moral Philosophy - The 8 Principles of Stoicism." ThoughtCo, Aug. 26, 2020, [thoughtco.com/stoics-and-moral-philosophy-4068536](https://www.thoughtco.com/stoics-and-moral-philosophy-4068536).

**Last month's Trivia Question:** A three-part question:

- (1) What is the complete title of the document known as *The Circular of 1802*?
- (2) What was its purpose when published?
- (3) Why is it important in the history of the Rite?

**Answer:** Thanks once again to WB Juan Carlos Millan for his work to address and submit an answer.

(1) *Circular Throughout the Two Hemispheres* was the somewhat ostentatious title of the first official proclamation of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, issued more than a year after the formation of the body in 1801.

(2) The publication of the *Circular* was intended to announce the establishment and purpose of the Supreme Council to Symbolic and Sublime Grand Lodges throughout the world ... and, most immediately, in the United States. [9844234]

(3) The purpose (and, indeed, the eventual effect) of the document was to begin the critical process ("critical" to the institutions promoting the "higher degrees") of bringing order to the evolution of the Fraternity beyond the Craft Degrees. So disorderly and destructively competitive had the development of Freemasonry been, up to that time, that the term usually associated with the issuance of the *Circular* was, even at the time, *Ordo Ab Chao* (*Order From Chaos*).

I'll leave the study of the details of the event and the actual document to you as individuals, Brethren, and again shamelessly recommend the Supreme Council's Master Craftsman Course of that same name (*Ordo Ab Chao*). I believe you'll find it a fascinating study of the wise approach taken by those early leaders of the Rite to solidify the institution and put it on a path to be what it is today.

**This month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's Rite Works:** What actual, justiciable penalties are generally prescribed, by Grand Lodges, for un-Masonic conduct?



**Member in the Spotlight**  
**By**  
**Thomas L. Gaffney, 32° KCCH**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander**  
**Colorado Council of Kadosh**



**Michael W. Rudloff, 32° KCCH**  
**Prior, Denver Consistory**

As part of this month's "Member Spotlight" I would like to shine the light on another of our "Honormen," this one from two classes back, and one of our very active brothers, Michael Rudloff, current Prior in the Consistory Line, from whom you will be hearing a great deal.

I have asked Mike to provide some of his own insights and background, often using the words that he himself has supplied.

He was born in Casper, Wyoming, "Where the Jackalopes roam free and plentiful" and he now resides in Centennial, Colorado.

He attended Junior High at Carmody and High School at Bear Creek. Mike attended college at Rangely Community College, (Aviation Occupations); at the University of Northern Colorado, (Business Trade School); and obtained a FCC General Radiotelephone Operators License at Elkins Institute and a Real Estate License at Armbrust Real Estate Institute

When asked where he grew up, Mike says *"Casper was my playground through Grade School. The town (and state) where the wind almost never stopped and on those rare occasions when it did, provided a topic of discussion. Dad's job moved to Lakewood in 1966/67 During the Denver floods". I worked 1969-1973 at the Old Elitch Gardens for several summers in Kiddie Land, starting as a ride operator, became the Manager of Kiddie Land and moved to the Stockroom my last year. Elitch Gardens, what a great place to learn and grow!"*

Like many of us, he received his draft card in 1972, just as Vietnam was winding down but his number was not called. He looked into the Marines and Air Force but post-war, nothing was available in his areas of interest. Mike and his wife Judith celebrated their 22nd anniversary last August, still going strong. Mike says that it is common to have a toast for another 40 to 50 years, so far they are looking forward to maintaining that tradition.

When asked about any children Mike says *" No, Kiddie Land satiated all those desires and then some. Traveling my wandering star was far more attractive. I do have a special appreciation for those who are parents and are successful at that task".*

Mike began his Masonic journey in June of 2007 at Englewood Lodge, where he completed the degrees in 2007, joining the line in 2009. He then served as Past Master of Englewood Lodge #166 in 2014 and 2018. [2496784] He is now the sitting Master of New Frontier Lodge #134. Mike is active in the Scottish Rite and currently serves as the Prior in the Denver Consistory Line. In the future perhaps he will look into the Shrine and York Rite bodies, but for now he's enjoying doing one thing at a time, doing it, to the best of his ability, and then moving on to the next destination.

Continued on next page

Mike's favorite Masonic activities are the Reunions. For the last four years or so he has been part of Properties. *"During the 2023 Fall Reunion the opportunity presented itself and I was able to try my hand at switching Video for many of the degrees. Who knows perhaps Audio for the next Reunion?"* Mike says he is always looking for something fresh and fun to do, and that being well versed in several skills sets adds to a variety of challenging opportunities and fun tasks in an ever-changing situation.

Mike is active with the Consistory Education and Entertainment Group within the Denver Consistory Line, led this year by Brother Greg Koenig, and would be remiss in not taking this opportunity to mention it. He says *"It is my belief that this group will shine once again in 2024. The new year the CEEG will be led by Brother David Spence, presumed to be Chancellor. Our success is directly tied to supporting the Consistory. So, let's pull together and have an eventful and fun Centennial Year for the Denver Consistory. The best in, let's say, the last 100 Years."*

Mike participated in this year's Annual Golf Tournament, where his goal (same as mine) is to have fun, avoid losing balls and not hit the other golfers down range. This he achieved. He says that the empty score card is a fond reminder of a good day and kept as a fond memory. His favorite other activities are traveling near and far, learning the local history, and drinking in their culture (and local beer when available), Scuba Diving, lunches with friends, gardening and watching the stock market.

Mike's primary career activities has been in TV Broadcasting, which for him was the breakthrough job. He relates *"...The founders of KDVR, Chanel 31 were looking for the young and ambitious. A job was offered to me if I went out and found any job in electronics and passed the First-Class Radiotelephone License, a daunting task for my one semester in electricity. I signed up for a class at Elkins Institute while working at Denver Burglar Alarm. Six weeks later, I passed the class and took the FCC Test, passed with a high score, and took my "Victory" into the next 25 years"*.

When asked about the Reunions and degree work, Mike says that he enjoys working in different departments and performing in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Degrees. (note: I drafted him into the 17<sup>th</sup> a year or two back). He says that he enjoys the Lessons and Moral teaching of Masonry, without adherence to a specific Dogma, and the freedom and acceptance of all avenues in search of the Truth. *"Much like the phrase all roads lead to Rome. We all have our own unique path to go home"* (and notes that the rare upper patio moments are enjoyable as well).

When asked about an interesting fact about him, he says *"A joy in life is to offer people a chance to laugh. We all have a funny bone and I'm always looking for that special combination (an opportunity) to make the Serious and the Stoic break down in a belly laugh."*

I will close with Mike's own words when asked what Life Lessons and philosophies he has embraced from Masonry he says, *" The Brotherly environment, the lessons taught in the Degrees and the opportunity to be involved in a positive environment that can and has changed many lives for the better. Yes, my wife has commented on the positive changes that she sees in me. In the past, earliest years, I was expected to walk down a very narrow restricted path. Eventually I broke out of that environment and now share a passion to learn, what was restricted to me and from me. With that in mind my Lodge Education presentations over the*

*years have brought in speakers that share many religious dogmas and beliefs, sharing how their faiths are related to Masonry. We also have had many Brothers that have shared their personal thoughts on Masonry in general and have spent several nights looking at the deeper meaning of the Masonic symbology. Again, there are many paths, but they are all pointing to the same destination. Only if some might recognize that, Truth. Perhaps that is why we all are here. Just a thought”.*



## **It's SCAM Season ... Again!**

During this time of year, especially, there is often a significant surge in impersonation scams. Stay safe by learning to recognize, identify, and avoid them. In “impersonation scams,” a scammer will reach out to you pretending to be someone you trust to get personal and private information like your social security number, bank information, or account details. Scammers change tactics quickly, which sometimes makes them hard to detect.

**SCAM TREND: Email Attachment Scams** Scammers will send emails posing as representatives of an organization you may do business with and include PDF attachments prompting you to “click” on that attachment to “update your account.” These links may well be false and take you to a SIMILAR site in an attempt to get you to provide payment information or account login credentials.

### **IMPORTANT TIPS TO IDENTIFY SCAMS**

1. Trust the actual business site when you are seeking customer or technical support—do NOT click on an embedded link from an email, especially if you are looking to make changes to your account (password, payment information, contact information).
2. Be **WARY** of false urgency. Scammers often try to create a sense of urgency to persuade you to do what they're asking. Be especially suspicious any time someone tries to convince you that you **MUST “ACT NOW.”**
3. **NEVER** pay over the phone. If you are asked to provide payment information (which can include gift cards or “verification cards” as some scammers might call them) for goods or services over the phone, **POLITELY** but **FIRMLY** decline and ask for an alternative method.
4. **VERIFY** any links first. Sometimes, all you have to do is hover your mouse icon over a suspected link to see that it does not take you to the advertised location. While this is a simple and quick method to check on a link's validity, it's not foolproof. Remember, scammers are getting better and better all the time at imitating legitimate businesses to separate you from your money. [1786391]
5. **BE EXCEPTIONALLY CONCERNED** and wary about unexpected bills or statements that **LOOK** legitimate—AI (Artificial Intelligence) programs are getting **VERY GOOD** at giving you the look and feel of a legitimate website—remember, don't click—go directly to their website if you **MUST** do business with them via your computer.

A hearty crew braved the cold and snowy roads to come out and help decorate the Denver Consistory for the holidays. The annual Kids Christmas Party on Saturday, December 2 will officially kick off the holiday season at the Consistory.

We put up trees in the dining room, the Green Room and the huge tree on the stage in the Cathedral Room. Lights were strung and the whole building was transformed into a winter wonderland.

There were lots of friends and family members there to help out. Brothers Larry Tygart and Bart Corfee brought their families and we were joined by our dear friends Mike and Mary Peery, the First Couple of Nevadaville. Brother Joe Magoffin brought his beautiful daughter Olysia with him to help us. Christmas is a special season to share with family and friends and we had a great time!



*Winter is gnoming!*







## **A Brother's Personal Journal From The Fall 2023 Reunion:**

### **Thursday**

Got to the reunion nice and early. I forgot my parking pass; hope I don't get a ticket.

I want to make sure to sign in with the tiler.

First, I need a cup of coffee. I wonder where they keep it?

I think they have breakfast burritos in the classroom. I wonder if I can sneak in and take one?

Can't forget to sign in with the tiler.

Where is that coffee? [3832664]

I found breakfast burritos in the properties room. Wish I hadn't grabbed that one from the classroom.

Someone said there are donuts in the dining room. As soon as I find some coffee, I will head down there.

Who is Ron? People keep asking me if I've seen Ron.

Spent some time (and too much money) shopping for masonic pins. Spent all my money so I couldn't buy that esoteric textbook I wanted. Fortunately, I had enough money to buy that masonic dagger!

I think some of our brothers are having issues. Every time I walk around a corner, I find a brother pacing back and forth muttering to himself.

I almost missed the degree! Luckily, I was able to follow the cast in. Spotlights sure are bright.

Oops, forgot to turn off my phone. Hope nobody heard the "Big Butts" ringtone.

I shouldn't have had the HOT burrito. I hope this degree gets over soon.

Whew, just made it. Note to self, no more HOT burritos.

Might as well go get a donut. They should know that people need coffee in the morning.

Wow, they have coffee in the dining room. (Who would have thought?). Too bad I spent all my money. 59 cents should be enough for a donut, right?

Ooh! Can't forget to sign in!

Not really hungry at lunch time, but I did buy a ticket. Maybe just a little dessert.

Wow, that was a great nap! Shouldn't have made 3 trips to the dessert bar. Must have been a great degree, all the applause at the end woke me up!

After the last degree, I had a long conversation on the ills of the world with a very knowledgeable brother. I think he was really onto something with that one idea. Wish I had written it down. I wonder who that was?

Continued on next page

## A brother's personal journal from the Fall 2023 Reunion—Continued from previous page

### Friday

Note to self, no scotch until Saturday night ... ugh.

Ran into one of my lodge brothers. He needs me to fill in on a degree!

Oh man, I had a HOT burrito again...

Costumes guys were not happy with me...

Can't forget to sign in today, I never made it to the tiler's desk yesterday.

Found the donuts and coffee. I feel so much better.

Time for lunch!

Boy the afternoon degrees were kind of rough. I saw at least 2 brothers miss their cue. They must have missed lunch. They should pay more attention!

I wonder what I'm supposed to do with that passport I bought?

When I got home, my lovely wife was looking at me strangely and the dog was growling. Note to self, remove makeup after the degrees. Especially the beard.

### Saturday

This is my big day! I have been practicing my part for months (well...at least days). Better make sure to find my script. Good thing it's only one line.

Had to do a little more shopping. After all, what good is just one dagger?

Think I will get my donut first today.

I was late getting up to costumes. Must have been that HOT burrito.

Just made it onto the floor. The director was not happy. He should learn to relax. Everyone is too tense!

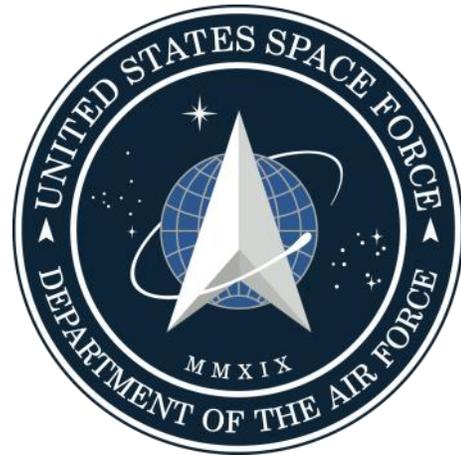
The degree was great! I missed my cue, but I don't think anyone noticed. Even so, I will try to make it to a rehearsal next reunion.

Must be lunch time.

I wonder if I need reservations for the banquet?

Wow, they pulled out all the stops on the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree! The class members looked so proud when they put their caps on. Makes me remember the many steps of my masonic journey. I have had so much fun at this reunion. I was able to catch up with brothers I hadn't seen in a while, I heard some great jokes, and we did a lot of kidding around.

But looking back on the weekend, I realize that the reunion had a more profound effect on me. My reverence for Deity, feelings of fraternity and my love of mankind has been renewed and my spirit nurtured.



**20 DECEMBER 2019 (4 years)**

**December Special Birthdays**

**90 Years "YOUNG"**

Charles Michael Baum  
James Reimers Marsh  
Warren Wayne Mizell  
Henry Hassel Taylor

**80 Years "YOUNG"**

James Raymond Shoemaker  
Earl Alfred Spurlock  
Paul Jerome Stembel  
Robert Brandon Turner, Jr.

**70 Years "YOUNG"**

Tracy Ace Turner

**60 Years "YOUNG"**

Michael Joseph Fiorella  
Thomas Scott Kerr  
John Alexander Klein  
Charles David Tuck

**50 Years "YOUNG?"**

John Willard Butler

**Our December Youngster**

Colin Nickolas Hause (32)

A word to the wise is unnecessary. It's the stupid ones that need the advice.

"All the world's a stage, and most of us are desperately unrehearsed." Sean O'Casey, Irish playwright.

"If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing." - [8549347] Anatole France

We may prefer to think of ourselves as fallen angels, but in reality we are risen apes." - Anthropologist Desmond Morris.

"If the world were a logical place, men would ride sidesaddle." - Rita Mae Brown

"Most hierarchies were established by men who now monopolize the upper levels, thus depriving women of their rightful share of opportunities to achieve incompetence." - Laurence J. Peters

"The two most abundant things in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity." - Harlan Ellison

Politician Georges Clemenceau: "America is the only nation in history which miraculously has gone directly from barbarism to degeneration without the usual interval of civilization."

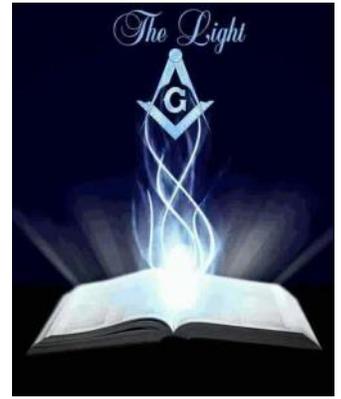




# The Prelate's Pulpit

Rev. James H. Harris, 33°

Prelate for All Scottish Rite Bodies



Goethe was a member of our fraternity. When he lay dying, a friend was watching over his bed. Goethe said to his friend, "Open the window and let in more light." - the last request of a great poet and the first request of every Mason. If a person was asked to say the only word that could sum up the meaning of Masonry, that word would be "light." All the degrees reflect the mission of Masonry and that is to reflect the light of God into the light of man. When a man is asked "in your present condition, what is it you desire most?" - the answer is "further light."

We are a fraternity of Light. The Holy Bible teaches us that we are the lights of the world, so let your light shine before men. Light is the loveliest gift of God given to man.

From the Scriptures we read: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." [11158638]

So, my brothers, "How are we letting our lights shine?"

This is a time for Thanksgiving. I ask you brothers, "What are you thankful for?"

For me, I am thankful for a loving God, for our country, for my family, and for all the blessings God has given me. I am thankful for all of you and how you have helped me along my journey of life. I am thankful for each day God has given me to live in this world.

Blessings,

Rev. Brother James H. Harris.



# Memorial Scroll

Theodis Webster Brown, Jr., 32°	10/24/2023
Louis Eugene Ebaugh, 32°	10/07/2023
Gene Allison Lake, 32°	10/06/2023
Donald Leon Long, 32°	06/21/2023
Harry Meerdink, 32°	09/10/2023
Samuel Sidney Okner, 32°	10/11/2023
William Melvin Young, 32° KCCH	10/20/2023



All Scottish Rite Masons in good standing are entitled to have a Rose Croix Funeral Service at the time of their passing. Members should advise their families of their wishes to have this beautiful service. It is a very dignified service intended to help bring comfort to the family.

The current members of the Denver Consistory Rose Croix Funeral Team are:

**Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH - Chairman**; Thomas W. Adair, 32°; Scott A. Bates, 33°; John H. Buchanan, 33°; Jerry L. Fenimore, 33° GC; Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH; M. Edward Johnson, 33° (emeritus); Richard W. Mitchell, 33°; Scott E. Olson, 32° KCCH; Matthew A. Raia, 33°; Thomas R. Repp, 32° KCCH; John A. Warren, 33°; Richard M. Wenzel III, 32° KCCH; and Benjamin F. Williams, 32° KCCH.

If you are interested in joining the Rose Croix Funeral Team and helping them, contact the office or Brother Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH for more information.

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CORNERSTONE

Location: 1370 Grant St  
Date: July 20, 2024  
Time: 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
Host: Thomas Gaffney 32° KCCH

<b>1:30PM – 2:30PM</b>	Grand Lodge Cornerstone Ceremony,	NE Corner Consistory
<b>2:00PM – 3:00 PM</b>	Consistory doors open for attendees to tour <a href="#"><u>building</u></a> and to see displays.	Foyer/Cathedral
<b>3:00PM – 4:00PM</b>	Presentation of The Traitor	Cathedral Room
<b>4:00PM – 4:30PM</b>	Comments from Dignitaries	Cathedral Room
<b>4:30PM – 7:00PM</b>	Transition to Social/Dinner	Doc's/Dining Hall

## Additional information

The event is open to all that want to attend. Dinner will be restricted to the first 220 paid reservations. All attendees will receive a commemorative pin and those RSVPs to the dinner will receive a commemorative collector's challenge coin.

*judi's house* JAG Institute  
For Grieving Children and Families



Beginning February 20<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting supplies for Judi's House

Please drop items off in the bin located in the building. Supplies they need will be listed on a flyer above the bin.

They need things like art supplies, toys, non-perishable snacks, and everyday household supplies.

Any questions? Contact Pablo Colomban  
[pablocolomban@yahoo.com](mailto:pablocolomban@yahoo.com) • 720-284-4304

Scan the QR code for a complete list.



SCAN ME



## **Mount Zion #133 Pancake Breakfast**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, every Month, 8am – 11am**



**all the Pancakes you can eat!**

**With potatoes, eggs, sausage, coffee, tea, cocoa, milk & orange juice**

**Donations:**

**Adults & Children over 12yrs - \$7.00 ea.**

**Children 8-12yrs - \$5.00 ea.**

**Children 5yrs & under – Free!**

**And check out the “Make – an – Offer” Table!!!**



**Golden Masonic Center**

**400 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Golden, Colorado, 80401**



**Order of the Eastern Star**



**Denver's Scottish Rite Masonic Center** earns funds through King Soopers charitable Community giving program. Depending on how much you shop at King Soopers and get gas at King Soopers or Loaf 'n Jug, you can earn a little or a lot for the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

### **Create a digital account**

A digital account is needed to participate in King Soopers Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

**Search for your organization** [here](#).

**Link your Card** to Scottish Rite Masonic Center (of Denver) and click "Save".

Scottish Rite Masonic Center (of Denver) will also display in the King Soopers Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account.

If you do not have a King Soopers Loyalty Card, you can get one at your local store. Then just follow the instructions above.

**Thank you for supporting the Scottish Rite Center**

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<http://www.denverconsistory.org>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: [Pablo Colomban, 32° KCCH](#)



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Denver Scottish Rite Consistory

<http://www.facebook.com>

You need to "LIKE" us to see what is going on.

QUESTIONS: [Randy Penn, 32° KCCH](#)

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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 article submission is two (2) days after the monthly stated meeting (third Monday). Articles should be approximately 250-1000 words long. Where appropriate, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits may be included with your submission. Articles may be submitted in hard copy to the office or by electronic format via email to the editor. All articles are subject to editing and are published without restrictions unless clearly marked as copyrighted. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

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Questions pertaining to this publication should be forwarded to the Editor or the Consistory Office.

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If you have comments, constructive criticisms, recommendations, or **articles for submission**, please send them to the EDITOR, RiteWorks.

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER !!!** Let us know how we're doing. We need to know if you want to see something in particular that we haven't published previously. If you are receiving this e-newsletter, it is because we have a valid email address for you. If you know of a Brother who has email but is not receiving these notices, PLEASE have him contact the Consistory Office and get his email updated or added to our database.

Contact:

[cathy@denverconsistory.org](mailto:cathy@denverconsistory.org)

or

[tom@denverconsistory.org](mailto:tom@denverconsistory.org)

**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.*



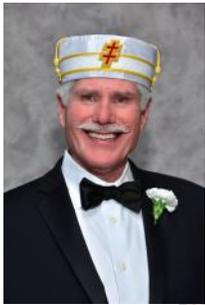
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