



# Denver's RiteWorks

JUNE 2025 vol. 18 #6



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**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.**

**Parking Permit Required** - A Denver Consistory parking permit **MUST** be displayed on the lower left of your vehicle windshield. (Where the emission certificate is located.) Do not place the permit in a location other than the lower left of the windshield. If you park in the garage without a properly displayed parking permit you will receive a ticket. Denver Consistory cannot dismiss the ticket and we will not pay it. We do not own the garage; we do not control the parking, and we do not issue the tickets. Parking permits for members are available in the Consistory office.

## PLANNING CALENDAR

### June 2025

Mon, JUN 2	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, JUN 6	11:30 a.m. Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken)
Fri, JUN 13	11:30 a.m. Lunch (\$13 - BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches)
Mon, JUN 16	Stated Meeting - <b>Parking Garage Available</b> <u>Hawaiian Shirt Night</u> 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner (Chicken Cordon Bleu w/Cream sauce—\$25) <b>DINNER RESERVATIONS A MUST!</b> 7:00 p.m. Entertainment—Ill. Brother Chris Hodapp, 33° - Speaker Open to all members and guests
Fri, JUN 20	11:30 a.m. Lunch (\$13 - Soup & Make Your Own Sandwiches)
Sat, JUN 21	11:00 a.m. <b>Ladies Luncheon at Denver Botanic Gardens</b>
Fri, JUN 27	11:30 a.m. Lunch (\$13 - Hamburgers)

### July 2025

Fri JUL 4	<b>Consistory CLOSED - Independence Day Holiday - NO LUNCH</b>
Fri, JUL 11, 18, 25	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken on 11JUL)
Sat, JUL 19	6:00 p.m. Summer Dinner <b>Parking Garage Available</b>

### AUGUST 2025

Fri, AUG 1, 8, 15, 22	11:30 p.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13—Fried Chicken on AUG 1)
Mon, AUG 11	<b>Consistory CLOSED</b> 1:30 p.m. <b>SRMC Golf Tournament—Hiwan Golf Club</b>
Wed, AUG 13	6:00-7:30 p.m. Officers' Midyear Planning Meeting at Denver Consistory
Wed, AUG 20	7:00 p.m. Degree Council Meeting
Fri, AUG 29	<b>NO LUNCH—Holiday Weekend</b>

### SEPTEMBER 2025

Mon, SEP 1	<b>Consistory CLOSED for Labor Day Holiday</b>
Fri, SEP 5	<b>Consistory CLOSED for Grand York Rite Session</b>
Mon, SEP 8	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, SEP 12,19,26	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken on SEP 12)
Mon, SEP 15	<b>Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available</b>
Sat, SEP 27	12:30 - 5:30 p.m. <b>Honors Conferral (By Invitation ONLY)</b> <b>Parking Garage &amp; PERA lot available</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Honors Banquet (Garage &amp; PERA lot available)</b>



# EDITOR'S NESTLEBOARD



**BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°**

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## The Times, They Have Changed



**First, a little housekeeping. (1) There will be no July/August RiteWorks. We're dark and not much is happening. (2) September RiteWorks will be a "catch-up" issue like last year.**

Read Brother Van-Troi Perozo's oration in this issue. It has a direct bearing on what I'm about to say.

From 2012-2020 I was the Executive Director of the Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association. We are an association of former Navy CT's (Communications Technicians, later Cryptologic Technicians) and Cryptologic Special Duty Officers. This is the group that broke the Japanese PURPLE code in WWII and broke the German ENIGMA being used by the German U-Boat Wolf Packs in the Atlantic. As well, these folks broke the traffic that told them where Admiral Yamamoto's plane was going, allowing it to be intercepted and shot down in the Pacific.

Originally, these folks were classically trained Radiomen, who had received additional training to copy the unique Japanese Katakana Morse code. Eventually, they were designated "Specialist Q" to differentiate them from traditional RM's. Because their training was special, highly classified, and there was no spare space in any navy building in DC, they were trained on the roof of the navy building, hence their nickname "On The Roof Gang."

Over the years, the CT rating had 6 subspecialties—TAMORI—where T was "Technical" those operators copied non-Morse banded signals; A—was for Administrative (security officers and yeoman like duties); M—Electronics Maintenance; O—Operators that worked with crypto gear and sent out teletype messages; R—Radio Intercept—these were the "ditty chasers" - Morse code folks; and I—Interpretive specially trained linguists in many different languages according to the needs of the Navy at the time. As you might guess, there was a significant "esprit de corps" associated with being a CT (because they had "special" clearances"), and a little "branch" special rivalry and competition as well. It made for a VERY close knit community under the aegis of the then "Naval Security Group Command (NSG)."

At some point in the 90's, the NSG was disestablished and renamed into the Navy Network Warfare Command—the first inroads to computer network communications exploitation. The rating and branches remained the same, so we didn't see much change in the spirit and unity of the rating. BUT, along came NIOC (Navy Information Operations Command—and we started seeing a couple of the rating branches merge into other ratings and be redesignated. It is

around this time that we see the integration of more traditional ratings (YN-Yeoman, RM-Radioman, EW-Electronic Warfare, and so on). So, we began to lose a little of the swagger because these new ratings didn't have the history and background of the original ratings.

Now, you're probably wondering, what has this got to do with the price of watermelon? Well, it turns out that NCVA—when I took it over in 2012—was struggling with membership just as Masonry is today. Why? BECAUSE, this was the leading edge of the CYBER community being integrated into the mix. I was tasked to go to Fort Meade and make a pitch to the CT community stationed there encouraging them to join the NCVA (and our dues are WAY cheaper than your Consistory dues). We did a lot of up front coordination with the folks on active duty as well as the local retirees that were already members of the NCVA. The time came for my presentation, and there were THREE, count them, THREE CT sailors in the audience, I had 10 NCVA retiree members to support me. The command had over 2000 sailors and officers assigned. The Executive Officer (XO) - a Commander (former CTR) - was embarrassed by the poor showing of the command folks and was falling all over himself to apologize.

He regaled me with some information that I think you might recognize—especially if you read Brother Perozo's article. It seems that he told me that the current crop of enlisted CTs REALLY knew their stuff and were very good at it. BUT ... they didn't know how to "socialize" like we used to do. We used to have bowling leagues, pinochle tournaments, cribbage tournaments, sports days, lots of opportunities to SOCIALIZE outside the workplace with our comrades. After all, we had like 40 or so overseas duty stations, each pretty small—mine was 500-600 personnel with about 22 officers, so your social circle is somewhat limited. Oh, and the base contributed about 75-80 percent of a local Masonic lodge population (where I took my degrees from EA to KT in one year). Now remember, we were a VERY closely knit population—not just because many duty stations were in a foreign country where English was not spoken, but because we were a small group of US Navy sailors and officers living and working in close quarters.

BUT, the XO continued, "these new kids just don't play the kind of games we used to play. They have apartments instead of barracks to live in, and they will put in a day's work, come home to their apartment with a large screen TV on the wall connected to a gaming console. They will invite a couple of friends (usually from work) over to play the latest action game. They will sit on the couch next to each other, play as allies or combatants, depending on the game. They'll play for 2-3 hours, never speaking to each other or looking at each other—they're focused on the game. At some point, they'll reach a stopping point, collect their belongings, thank their host, shake hands, and then say "see you in the morning."

What the XO told me is that the Navy was not the ONLY service with this problem—it was happening to ALL services—meaning, this is a generational socialization anomaly at work.

SO, some of these folks will leave the service after 4-6 years and re-enter civilian life. Some will remain for a career (20-30 years) before returning to civilian life. BUT, by the time they return, the socialization habits they developed (and let's be honest here, those habits likely were in place BEFORE they enlisted and came on active duty) are fully ingrained in their being, and this is the generation that you need to seriously consider influencing to join Masonry if you want it to endure and prosper.

All you have to do is watch my missives about the 5-5.5% PER YEAR for 50 years drop in lodge membership to realize you MUST find a way to attract this type of person to the craft if you're going to survive. You don't have to agree with them or like their socialization habits, but you have to learn to deal with them. The XO confided that NO ONE had figured out how to break these kids out of their gaming shell and start interacting with people in the real world.

So, call them Gen-Z, Gen-X, Gen-Y, whatever ... each of those "generations" is a different beastie to deal with. AND...if you wait for them to turn 50 or 60 before joining, you're just going to perpetuate the problems you have now. You can't make up 50 years of steady losses in a couple of years or even 10 years.

If you belong to a lodge that happens to have a sizeable portion of your membership under the age of 40 (heck, let's be realistic, 50 is still a dream), then good for you. Don't lose them with boring meetings that waste their time and enthusiasm. Once you do that, you'll NEVER get them back, and they won't be in a position to help bring you new members as well.

Ask any military veteran who is also a Mason. Part of them enjoys the fellowship and camaraderie that comes along for the ride in the craft—it fondly reminds them of the bonds they developed and maintained with their buddies while serving—that NEVER leaves them—especially if they served in combat. The same thing can probably also be said of Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, and jobs that seem to have a solid social bond as well as a professional one.

SO ... while it is truly important that you reach out to the newer generations (after all, they are your growth for the future), you also need to pay attention to those members you hardly ever (or never) see BECAUSE they were at one time the glue that held your lodge together. They left for some reason. You might find it instructive to reach out to them and find out WHY you never see them any more—or maybe you only see them at Reunions, or special events. In any case, there IS a message in there, if you're willing to read it and act on it.

*Bill*

Instead of relying on membership promotions alone, provide content that helps you develop relationships with membership prospects. Identify and research the different segments of your target membership market – for example, students, early career, mid-career, executives, and professionals in transition.

- What issues trouble them? What challenges do they encounter?
- What types of content do they prefer? How do they prefer to receive it?

Then, if you provide valuable content for these prospective members, they'll keep coming back to you for more. They'll begin to think of you as a reliable source of information and a partner who helps them reach their goals.



# From the Secretary's Desk

Matt Raia, 33°



## CONSISTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.*

### 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 Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH; Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike Tims, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°; Brother Richard Boyer, 32°; and the 2025 Spring Reunion Class

**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.

**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 Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

**Spring Reunion May 8, 9, 10, 2025** – Thank you to the degree directors and cast members, and the committee members who made the Reunion a success. Welcome to the following new Masters of the Royal Secret: **Christopher Donovan Jones; Donald Wayne Stewart; David Bruce Beardsley; John Andrew (Drew) Turner; Paul Patrick Perseo; Austin Gailey; Matthew Derek Smith.**

**Fifty-Year Members** – Three fifty-year members were honored during the Reunion Banquet. **Brother Richard Eshe, 32°; Brother Eugene Brenner, 32°; and The Honorable, Illustrious, Most Worshipful Brother Steve Munsinger, 33°, SGIG Emeritus.**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting** – Three members of the Spring Reunion class were in attendance. A wonderful Memorial Day program was presented, and Brother Van-Troi Perozo, 32°, Orator of the Colorado Council of Kadosh, delivered his oration (later in this issue).

**SRMC Sporting Clays Tournament was held May 23<sup>rd</sup>** – This tournament is a fund-raising event for the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and Judi's House. Thank you, **Brother James Warner, 32°** for planning and organizing this event. We look forward to next year's tournament.

**Flags for Fallen Vets May 25<sup>th</sup>** - Denver Consistory participated at Ft. Logan National Cemetery by placing American Flags on the graves. This community outreach is sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose. Croix. Thank you to those who participated.

**Summer Dinner July 19<sup>th</sup>** – The Denver Consistory Annual Summer Dinner will be July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. It will be a Summer Luau, with some traditional Luau foods along with Kona Shaved Ice. Entertainment will be provided by Tehani's Hula Colorado.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

<https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/>

**2025 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2024.** If you have not yet paid your 2025 membership fee, please do so and do not become delinquent. \$140 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. Just \$0.38 per day. WOW! That's less than the cost of one cup of coffee. Isn't your membership in the Scottish Rite worth more to you than a cup of coffee? Please do your part to help sustain the operation of Denver Consistory by paying your membership 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. **You must contact me. We can't help you if you don't ask.**

**Monthly membership fee payment plan is available** - Are you tired of paying fees at the end of the year to all the Masonic bodies for which you are a member? You may pay your annual Denver Consistory membership fee in eleven easy monthly payments rather than one lump sum, eliminating one more year end bill to pay. By authorizing an automatic credit card payment each month at the end of eleven months your membership fee for the ensuing year will be paid. Contact the office to set up a payment plan.

**Automatic Membership Fee Renewal Program**

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

**2025 Life Membership Fee Structure**

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

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

Younger than 62 years old - a single payment of \$2,500

**Extended payment terms may be arranged. Contact the office for details.**



The Supreme Council will mail the 2026 membership fee notices in August of 2025. Please pay your membership fee when you receive the notice, and do not lay it aside and forget about it and then become delinquent.

<b>DENVER CONSISTORY</b>
<b>PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP</b>
<b><u>NEW QR CODE</u></b>

If you have "pocket petitions" in your wallet and have not picked up new ones since the Spring Reunion you need to throw them away and use the new ones. The old QR code is no longer valid.

## **Coming Events**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> KSA Meeting** –All Scottish Rite members are invited to attend.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** Masonic Author Illustrious Brother Chris Hodapp, 33°, will be the guest speaker.

**June 21<sup>st</sup> – Ladies Lunch** – The ladies lunch will be held at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Attendance is limited to 75 guests. Please RSVP ASAP!

**July 19<sup>th</sup> – Consistory Summer Dinner Party**

**Scottish Rite Golf Classic August 11<sup>th</sup>** – The Scottish Rite Masonic Center golf tournament to benefit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, and the Scottish Rite Foundation will be held at Hi-wan Golf Club. Go to the tournament website [www.scottishritegolf.com](http://www.scottishritegolf.com) to sign up. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

**August 20<sup>th</sup> – Degree Council Meeting**

**Stated Meeting September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Will be the presentation of the Annual Scottish Rite Foundation Dwight Hamilton scholarships.

**No RiteWorks** – RiteWorks will not be published for the months of July and August. The next edition will be for September.

**Friday Lunch** – Friday lunch, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, will continue during the summer. Bring your family and friends with you to enjoy an excellent all you can eat buffet, including beverage and desert, all for only \$13, and enjoy the fellowship with your brethren. (Lunch is not served the Friday before a holiday weekend)

# Thank You!

Sherry Coulter and her group did a presentation on the Quilts of Valor program for the ladies at the May Stated meeting break out session.



Abandoned water bottle during the Spring Reunion. Call the office to claim.





## **Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Center**

The Board of Trustees would like to give a short update on the ESMRC situation.

We first want to Thank everyone for the support and donations given to help the residents immediately after the explosion. We also Thank you for your donations to help the campus as we move forward. The golf tournament will still be held and all funds raised will be used for immediate needs of the campus.

The Board has made the decision to not reopen the Robert Russell Building and not to lease any of the Star Vista units, until a complete evaluation of the future can be determined.

The investigation into the explosion is ongoing and is expected to be 2 to 3 weeks before it is completed.

We have been advised that it could be 2 to 3 months before any cost estimates are available.

The residents personal items are being cleaned, packed and delivered locally, and it is estimated to be completed by May 1, 2025.

There are many more questions than answers currently, that is why we give more “I don’t know” responses. This is a long-term project.



# SPRING REUNION 2025



**DID YOU MISS THE  
REUNION THIS YEAR?  
Don't Forget the FALL  
Reunion for the "Rest  
of the Story."**





# STATED MEETING - 19 MAY 2025

## Memorial Day Tribute





## Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh  
Director of Education

### Nine Great Truths - Part 3



#### The usual, shameless promotion...

I'll make one last appeal for everyone to take a moment to look at activity promotion flyers posted elsewhere in this issue of *Rite Works*, and, yes, especially the plug for our June 16 special speaker event. Masonic author Chris Hodapp will visit Denver Consistory, on that date, for a talk and book-signing. His time with us will be during the public portion of our Stated Meeting, so it's a great opportunity to bring guests **and prospects** and, perhaps, stake them to a signed copy of *Freemasons for Dummies*, *Solomon's Builders*, or other Masonic best-sellers. Dinner reservations are already available via the [CLOP Marketplace](#).

Now, on to Part 3 of Albert Pike's "Nine Great Truths of Masonry." The full list will be found elsewhere in this month's *Rite Works*.

#### Moral truths are as real as physical truths...

SGC Pike's complete statement here is that *"Moral truths are as real as physical truths. They are not created by God but are a part of His nature; therefore, morality is not an arbitrary law of God but a part of that goodness which constitutes His essence."*

Where to begin? This declaration is packed with critical implications for Masons and for all humanity. First and foremost, there is the recognition that moral truth is not merely a matter of opinion, any more than gravity or the laws of motion are matters of opinion! Declaring that something is right, when it is objectively wrong, no more makes it right than declaring "I shall jump out of this window and proceed to rise into the heavens!" will make it so! The point truly is that there is an objective reality to moral truth, and the implications are staggering for the way we view the world.

Let me posit one example. If we can agree, other things being equal, that it is morally wrong to take the life of another person, then let's look at the implications of that. While we believe that our human laws are derived, ultimately, from moral truth as we understand it, still there are lots of circumstances under which we do not call homicide (the taking of human life) "murder" ... and others in which we specify less than a maximum penalty for the act. Does the way we deal with the person who kills another - up to and including levying no penalty at all - therefore mean, in certain situations, that homicide is morally "right?"

That quickly becomes a slippery slope, doesn't it? There are obviously many circumstances in which we say that "justice may be tempered with mercy," which, nevertheless, do not change the underlying principle. Even in the case of self-defense or (maybe the ultimate example) combat in wartime, we're not really justifying the act as morally right ... at least not as individuals. Rather, civil society declares such use of force as "justifiable" or at least



“preferable to the alternative,” and chooses not to hold the individual liable in the same way as it would for a cold-blooded act. The law, however, does not proclaim, nor do we understand as a result, that the act has become morally right!

If we want to wax philosophical, we could get into the issue of why we do this. Suffice it to say that “men are not angels” and that we do not live in societies in which absolute justice is possible (or, on a human level, even desirable) to enforce. As the Greatest Teacher advised the Pharisees, “Let him who is without sin cast the first stone!”

That seems a long way from Pike’s point ... but is it? Personally, it seems to me that our Past SGC is making much the same point as Plato made in suggesting that there are perfect absolutes (“ideal forms”) which serve as models for us to employ in grasping the realities of the world around us. Demanding that literal perfection be the actual standard by which we judge all our own and others’ actions would make us fanatics. Nonetheless, abandoning such absolutes, just because they cannot be lived up to in every detail (i.e., becoming total “relativists”), would likewise make us fanatics ... and arguably evil ones into the bargain!

Just as important a distinction, emphasized by Pike, is that the moral law was not devised by God to make Deity a “cosmic killjoy” to prevent our happiness. In fact, the law was not “devised” at all! Pike’s observation is, rather than being arbitrary, that moral law is an expression of the very nature of Deity. It is as natural a part of Creation as the air we breathe or the land we walk upon. All of which means, even while we may struggle with the difficulties of applying moral principle—in the effort to be just and merciful at the same time—that The Great Architect is faced with no such struggle!

### **The distinction between good and evil is essential...**

SGC Pike states that *“The distinction between good and evil is essential. Having the ability to make the distinction is a unique quality of man whose ability to do good is only made meaningful by his ability to do that which is not good.”* In this statement, the word “essential” is not only being used as a way of saying that the difference between good and evil is an “important matter.” “Essential,” in this context, also means “part of the very nature of.” To paraphrase, then, “The difference between what is good and what is evil is found at the very core of their existence”: they are unalterably different things.

Philosophers and theologians have argued that evil cannot, ultimately, have an existence of its own: that it only exists as a negation of what is good: “betrayal,” for example, has no meaning as a concept, without first there being “loyalty.” Of course, there’s also the *dualist* argument that there are two basically, if not entirely, co-equal creative Deities, but, even in that worldview, there is the assumption that the most fundamental creative force is that of “good.” It’s possible to get way off into the weeds quite quickly, trying to discuss that concept, but the idea (critical to the rest of Pike’s statement ... and to the dominant focus of Western philosophy and theology) is that only Deity can create and that all creation - reflecting the divine will and mind (which the Stoics would call “Logos,” a term that found its way into Christian doctrine) - is “good.” Allowing the existence of “evil” (not creating it) is, therefore, an implication of Deity’s provision for human “free will” ... and that brings us back to the rest of our Past SGC’s statement.

Man can understand good and choose to pursue it, but he is also (via his free will) empowered to conceive of and do that which is evil. This *unique quality of man*, as Pike phrases it (i.e., to understand the difference and to choose between the two) is what makes our every life-choice either admirable or contemptable. In our 26<sup>th</sup> Degree, a soloist favors us with a musical rendition of "The Lord's Prayer." One of that prayer's entreaties is for God to "lead us not into temptation," and I admit to having experienced some confusion over that. Does (would) God actually "lead us into temptation," to make it necessary to ask that He not? Christian scripture (1Cor.10:13) does give the assurance that "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able," and there is comfort in that, at least insofar as we are told that we will have the *ability* to resist ... the *willingness* to do so being a matter of choice!

Whether or not we are ever "led into temptation," as a test of our fidelity or for some other purpose, is a question for whatever theological or doctrinal system we embrace and follow. It is, nevertheless, true that this plea is relevant simply because it is in our very nature as men to be tempted by the infinite variety of experiences and choices that face us each day: some with good and some with evil implications. As Scottish Rite Masons, we are aware that excess - even of that which is, by its nature, good - is to be avoided in our pursuit of equilibrium. What we must recognize, within the framework of our Masonic journey, is that there are decisions which we all make - which we must make - that determine whether we maintain that balance and uprightness through life or if we, instead, allow the "vices and superfluities of life" to remain untrimmed from our ashlar. We do know that we have been given the working tools needed to build the edifice, using the wisdom, strength, and beauty we draw from the Craft's teachings and by following the Architect's plan.

*Bill*

303-775-5727

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**Last Month's Trivia Question:** How does a member of Denver Consistory go about becoming involved in presentation of the degrees at our semi-annual Reunions?

**Answer:** There are several ways! Pick what works best for you. You might contact...

For Degree Casts (speaking or non-speaking parts):

Degree Director, if you have a particular degree or role in mind (see the Reunion program or call the office for contact info) or get in touch with a member of the cast,

Jeremy DeBard or Miguel Lazalde, who are the Consistory's official "talent scouts" to find out about needs and match up Brothers with parts,

Director General, Keith Anderson, or Assistant Director General Scott Bates, who can steer you in the right direction,

For Committee Work: Committee Chairmen (or any member of these Committees):

Lights: Michael Taylor Sr., 32° KCCH

Sound: William Hickey III, 33°

AV: Hunter McCallum, 32° KCCH

Properties: Bart Wegner, 33°

Makeup: Jered Minter, 32° KCCH

Music: John Trainor, 33°

Class: Dan Conway, 33°

Photography: Scott Olson, 32° KCCH

Tiling: Richard Mitchell, 33°

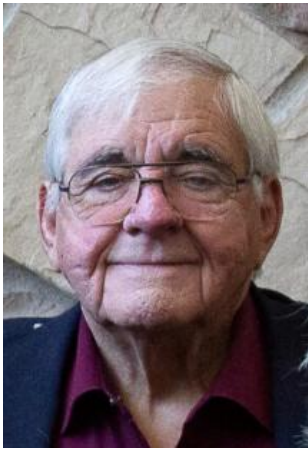
Costumes: Richard Silver, 32° KCCH & Trey Perrin, 33°



**This Month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's Rite Works):** In addition to Denver Consistory, what other Masonic bodies regularly meet at the Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center?

### Pike's Nine Great Truths of Masonry

1. No man has seen God at any time; that is, God is only spiritual.
2. The soul of man is immortal.
3. The Moral Sense of man derives from God and therefore has a divine source and is a divine imperative.
4. Moral truths are as real as physical truths. They are not created by God but are a part of His nature; therefore, morality is not an arbitrary law of God but a part of that goodness which constitutes His essence.
5. The distinction between good and evil is essential. Having the ability to make the distinction is a unique quality of man whose ability to do good is only made meaningful by his ability to do that which is not good.
6. There are no degrees in the practice of moral obligations; it is neither variable nor contingent. No excuse can justify one's failure to exercise the moral imperatives of a just life.
7. The immutable law of God requires, that besides respecting the absolute rights of others, and being just, we should do good, be charitable, and obey the dictates of the generous and noble sentiments of the soul. We are but the almoners of God's riches and thus charity can know neither rule nor limit. It is the most sacred of all Masonic obligations.
8. The laws which control and regulate the universe are those of motion and harmony. Evil is merely apparent, and all is, in reality, good and perfect. The existence of misfortune and adversity provides the opportunity for the expression of those virtues which ennoble the soul and elevate the spirit of man; thus is the evil of this world but part of the great plan of God for the betterment of man.
9. The last Great Truth of Masonry is the paradox of the equipoise of the infinite justice and infinite mercy of God; the former alone would call for man's utter destruction, the latter alone would permit the most offensive hedonism. Together they provide man with both retribution and forgiveness.



## **Member in the Spotlight** **By Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander**  
**Colorado Council of Kadosh**

**Terry Joe Hudson, 32°**



### **A Life of Service and Brotherhood**

Brother Terry Joe Hudson, a steadfast member of our fraternity, has lived a remarkable life filled with dedication to family, career, and Masonic service. Born in Peru, Indiana, Terry grew up in a close-knit town of about 18,000 during the vibrant 1950s. He fondly recalls a childhood rich with social activities, where he played football and wrestled in high school while working at his father's Shell Service station. Initially drawn to architecture, Terry briefly attended drafting school before deciding to join his father's business, setting the stage for an adventurous career path.

In the early 1960s, opportunity knocked when Terry joined the C&O Railroad as a Special Agent, prompting a move to Chicago. In December 1968, he transferred to Denver, where he built much of his life. Terry's 30-year railroad career spanned five companies due to mergers and closures, with roles in claims and customer service during his final seven years. After a brief return to Chicago from 1996 to 1998, he retired, leaving behind a legacy of adaptability and commitment.

Terry's personal life is equally inspiring. Married to his wife, Bonnie, for an extraordinary 65 years, he is a proud father of two daughters and one son, grandfather to four grandsons, and great-grandfather to a girl and boy. Family remains a cornerstone of his life, alongside his passion for golf and cherished moments with loved ones.

Masonry runs deep in Terry's family and life. Raised a Master Mason in Calumet Lodge #716 in Blue Island, Illinois, on September 28, 1968, he joined Perfection Lodge #193 after moving to Denver, serving as Worshipful Master in 1978 and 1995. His Masonic journey expanded with membership in Rocky Mountain Consistory (November 7, 1987) and York Rite (June 5, 2004), where he served as presiding officer in all three York Rite Bodies. Terry's Eastern Star involvement is equally notable, having served as Worthy Patron alongside his daughter in Unity #97 OES for two terms and with others for a total of five times. His family's Masonic heritage is strong: his father was a Master Mason, York Rite Mason, and Eastern Star presiding officer, as were his mother, sister, two uncles, and daughter.

Since 2003, Terry has served on the Board of Trustees for the Robert Russell Eastern Star Campus, currently as Board Chair, exemplifying his ongoing commitment to service. Brother Terry Joe Hudson's story is one of resilience, family, and unwavering dedication to the principles of our fraternity. We are honored to count him among us.

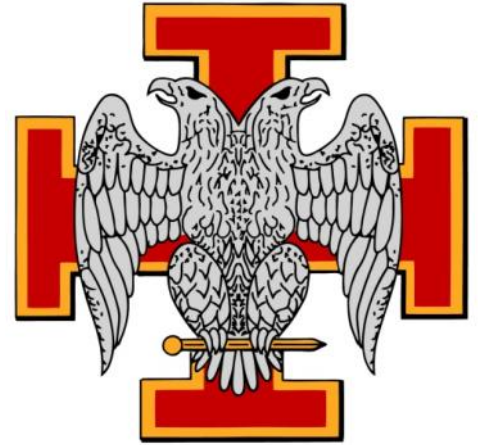


## Colorado Council of Kadosh

Oration—May 19, 2025

Van-Troi Perozo, 32°

Orator



Good evening dear Brethren. I must apologize to you in advance, for some of the words that will come out of my mouth tonight might offend you. This, however, is not my intention. I have only been a mason for less than 15 years; a Scottish Rite member even less. In the span of that time I have seen our Reunion classes come and go. Some have been outstanding in the number of new members, others not so much.

We can certainly remember our first time being greeted by friends, Masons, and mentors during our time receiving more light and hopefully valuable instructions on how to be a better man and Mason during those three days. While some of the degrees are somber, others, through merriment and liveliness try to impart wisdom and a sense of urgency for the task of every man to be closer to his Creator.

One thing we can all agree upon is that nowadays the light of Masonry is urgently needed during these divided times. Which brings me to the point I'll try to make tonight: in order to attract and retain new members, some things might need to change (scary word for some), while others might need to be done with once and for all. I can't remember who my first line signer was. I'm sure he got points towards a ribbon or medal, as such things go. After my Reunion, not one Brother reached out to inspire me to continue or follow-up on my Masonic journey. I felt as lost as the day I walked into the Consistory for the first time. With no mentor to guide me, I became less and less interested in the organization as time went by. Thanks to Pablo C. for bringing me back.

Now, imagine a Gen-Y (those born from 1981-1996). Today, they are the largest generation in the U.S. comprising 20% of the population. That is a generational shift that is impossible to ignore. In 2016 the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite (NMJ) commissioned the most comprehensive analysis to date of the state of our institutions. The results of that study are outlined by former Sovereign Grand Commander John William McNaughton (NMJ) in his book "Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry," a must read if we are going to grow. (credit: Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website) To forge this path, he focused on three elements:

1. We will increase our engagement with members of the Scottish Rite.
2. We will embrace technology to further engage with them in between the times we see our Brothers in person (text, email, call).
3. We will become a strong and clear voice for Freemasonry, working with all Brethren to

Continued on next page

attract good men to the Craft, and in turn, Scottish Rite Masonry.

I want to briefly focus on that tonight. How many of you present and watching via ZOOM tonight have heard that the Scottish Rite is the “University of Freemasonry?” I know I have. After hearing that, I had more curiosity and pressure from my mentor that made me sign up for the Reunion.

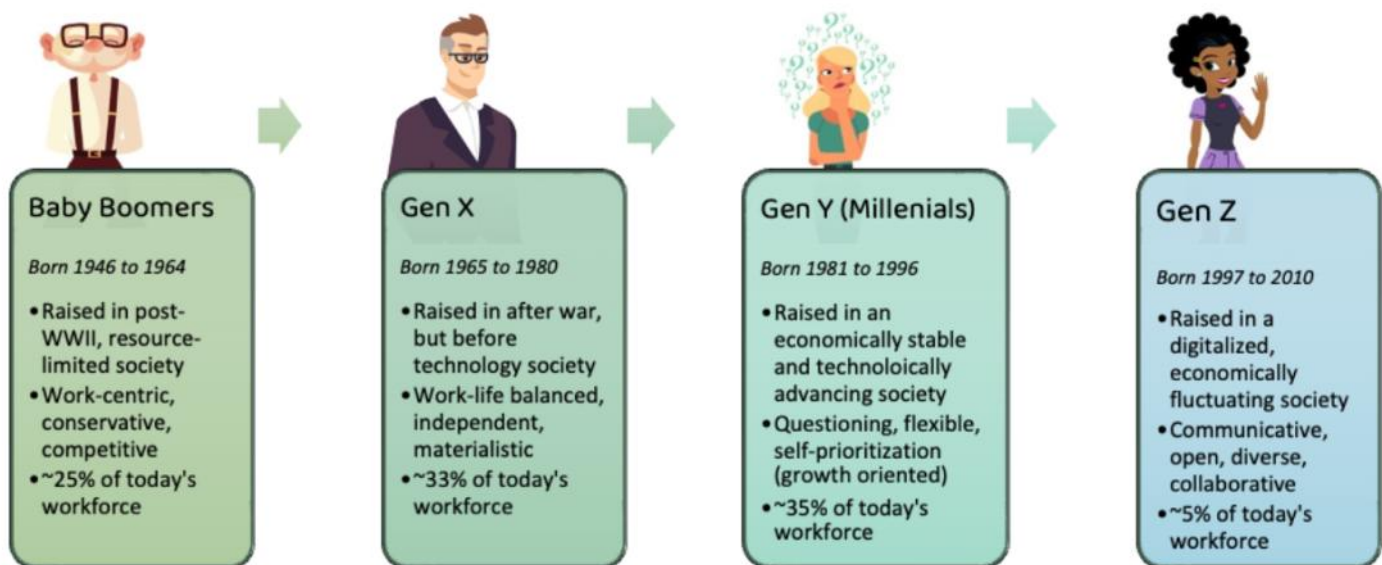
I hope this will not be the case from now on. We need to realize that men in these past two generations have grown up in a different world, a much more technical world that promises connection - but delivers coldness, apathy, and loneliness. These men don’t know what a landline, rotary dial phone, or much less writing and mailing a letter actually means. We need to meet them where they are with a clearer message about what Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite mean. Why should they join? Why should they stop playing videogames with people around the globe for a long meeting? What’s the value in that? The “me, me, me” generation needs to be reached differently:

- \* Golf (not necessarily tournaments)
- \* Whiskey (or Whisky—if you know the difference) and cigars night.
- \* Scottish/Highlands Festival participation (is it already being done?)
- \* Podcast/Apps
- \* Riding with the Widow’ Sons

These are but a few examples of things that the younger generations crave - a sense of belonging. We can not wait for them to engage only once per month. Light, my Brethren, just like fire needs feeding from time to time.

The Kadosh line can NOT be the only group that engages in retention. If you want to pass a vibrant Masonic community to your kids or grandkids, NOW is the time you need to engage as well. If you have a clear, well-defined idea - reach out. We’ll be listening..

Fraternally,  
Van-Troi Perozo, 32°







## Special Birthdays

### 100 Years “VERY YOUNG”

George Robert Lewis

### 90 Years “YOUNG”

Eugene Roy Brantner

### 80 Years “YOUNG”

Lynden Philip Bridges

Harry Lee Thomas

### 70 Years “OLD”

Lonnie Lee Farmer

Terry Ray Keller

Donald Thomas Marshall

Mark James Mathisen

David Earl Stoner

### 50 Years “OLD”

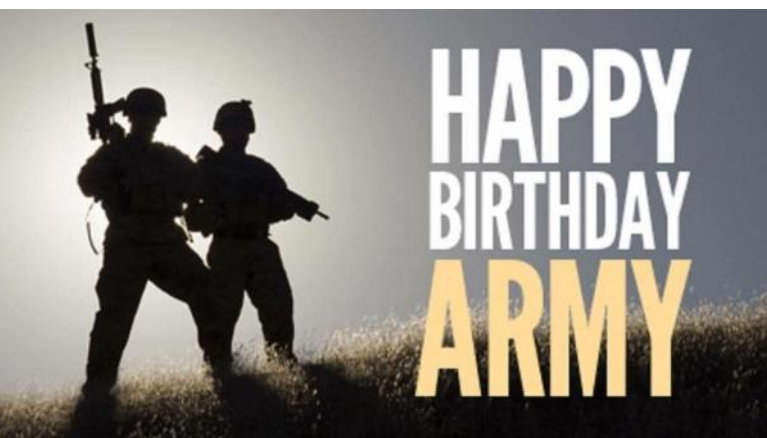
Cory Martin Curtis

### Our June Youngster

Hunter Matthew McCallum (33)

## Interesting Facts about JUNE

- June is named after the Roman goddess Juno, who is associated with marriage and childbirth. This connection makes June a popular month for weddings.
- Originally, June was the fourth month of the year in the Roman calendar before Julius Caesar reformed it in 46 BC, making it the sixth month.
- No other month in the year begins on the same day of the week as June.
- June has both the longest and the shortest days of the year, depending on where you’re standing! If you live in the northern hemisphere, then June 21<sup>st</sup> is the longest day of the year. If you live in the southern hemisphere, the 21<sup>st</sup> is the shortest day of the year.
- If you were born in June, then you’re one of two star signs. If you were born on or before June 20<sup>th</sup>, then you’re a Gemini. Gemini’s are said to be passionate, adaptable, and smart. If you were born on or after the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, though, then you have the Cancer star sign. Those born under the Cancer sign are said to be loyal friends with great emotional depth.
- June has THREE birthstones: alexandrite, moonstone, and pearl. Alexandrite is said to represent longevity and health. Moonstones, on the other hand, are said to bring good luck and are associated with love and passion. Finally, we have pearls, the main birthstone of June. Above all else, pearls represent purity and faith.
- Here are some just plain “fun” days in June:
  - June 1: Say Something Nice Day
  - June 3: Chimborazo Day
  - June 6: National Yo-Yo Day (also D-Day)
  - June 8: Upsy Daisy Day
  - June 21: Go Skateboarding Day
  - June 30: Asteroid Day
- June’s full moon, the full STRAWBERRY Moon, occurs on Wednesday, June 11. It reaches full illumination at 11:41 PM (EDT) that evening.



# JUNE 14, 1775

# MEMORIAL SCROLL

Robert Edward Barton, 32°	10/20/2022
Larry E. Bowser, 32°	12/18/2024
Charles Ellsworth Brewer, 32°	04/10/2025
Donald Lee Carpenter, 32°	03/15/2025
Ronald Carl Dendorfer, 32°	04/13/2025
Harvey Wiley Riggs, 32°	03/25/2025
Lester Howard Vickers, 32°	05/01/2025



**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: Keith M. Anderson, 33° - Chairman; Thomas W. Adair, 32°; Scott A. Bates, 33°; John H. Buchanan, 33°; Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH; 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°; 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 Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33° for more information.**



# CLAYS FOR A CAUSE—2025





# HONORS BURIAL CEREMONY

Lakewood Chapter 1071 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) performs several Honors Burial Ceremonies each year to properly pay last respects to veterans whose cremated remains have gone unclaimed by family members or friends for several years. In 2024, we did 31 Honors Burial Ceremonies and on May 7, we honored an additional 11 veterans. In every case, each veteran's records and history are carefully researched in hopes of finding a living relative or friend. After exhaustive research, the funeral homes contact the VVA for the Honors Burial at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Many of our Scottish Rite Brothers are members of Lakewood Chapter 1071 of the VVA and we are honored to participate in these dignified and well-deserved ceremonies. We were blessed to have Most Worshipful Grand Master William Marshall join us for the May 7 Honors Burial Ceremony. We honored veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. We were also pleased that Tina Fenimore, wife of Ill. Brother Jerry Fenimore could join us.

These ceremonies are open to all who wish to attend and pay respect to these departed veterans. We will keep you apprised as the Honors Burial Ceremonies are scheduled.



Each veteran's remains are in a hand-crafted wooden box with his or her name, date of birth and death, years of service and branch of military service inscribed on the lid.

Those attending on May 7 included (Below, L-R): Thayne Coulter, William Marshall, Tina & Jerry Fenimore, Tony Clark, Danny Tomlinson and Steve Munsinger.







# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HONOR FLIGHT #51

May 2025

**By: Danny Tomlinson, 32° KCCH**

Brothers - I believe that you will enjoy watching this brief (less than 3 minutes) video that was made yesterday (May 10) at Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Brother Jerry Fenimore was an Honored Veteran on Mission #51 of the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight and I was blessed to be able to again serve as a Guardian on this flight and as the Lead Guardian for the wreath-laying ceremony. Brother Jerry is in a red RMHF shirt on the front row and I am directly behind him in the blue RMHF shirt.

This truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that Jerry and I shared and that we will always remember proudly. We were able to meet three of the Tomb Guards and we were presented with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier challenge coin. Jerry represented the US Army and I represented the US Navy. We were joined by another Vietnam War veteran representing the US Marines and a Korean War veteran from the US Air Force.

Jerry and I spoke often of our sadness in missing the Scottish Rite Reunion but this experience could never be duplicated. We are blessed and so grateful to be able to share this with our Brothers. We hope you will take a few moments to witness this incredible experience.

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Yes, I know it's a big & long URL...the file Danny is providing to us is a movie that is 300 MB in the cloud—way too long to simply email in his original notification. You will need to click on the “download” button, and then have an application that plays a .mov file. (like VLC) File is available until 10 JUNE.

Continued on next page







## FLAGS FOR VETS—FORT LOGAN 25MAY2025



We were at Fort Logan National Cemetery this morning to place Flags for Fallen Vets. Nearly 100 Masonic Family volunteers were there to help with honoring those American heroes resting in the almost 150,000 graves at Fort Logan. And our wonderful friend Nick and all the great folks at Lookin' Good Restaurant fed us well after we had finished placing flags.

We are also asking for volunteers to help next Saturday, May 31 at 0900 (9 o'clock) for retrieval.

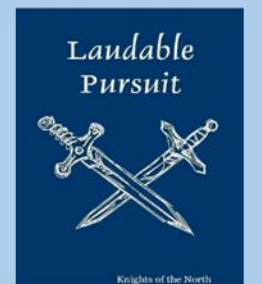
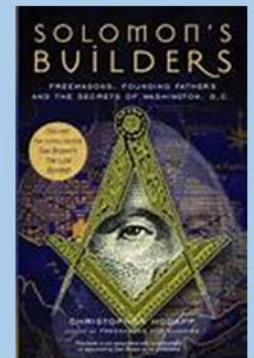
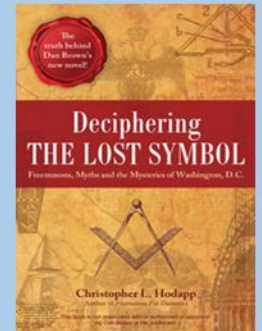
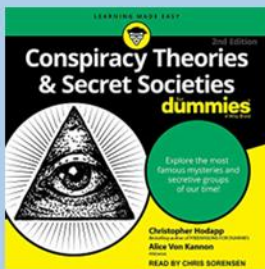
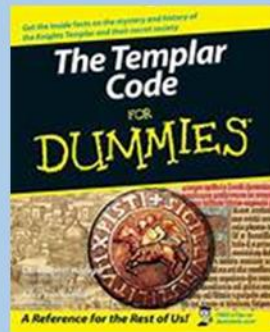
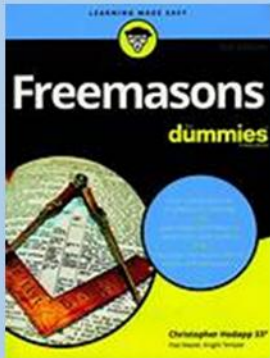


**June 16, 2025, 7PM  
@ Denver Consistory**

**Save the Date...and Spread the Word!**

**The Consistory Education & Entertainment Group Presents:**

**Christopher Hodapp, 33°**



**Acclaimed Masonic author, editor, blogger and  
commentator will speak (topic TBD) and sign books!**

**All Masons and Their Guests Are Welcome!**

**Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
1370 Grant St, Denver**

**Dinner Reservations (6PM) @ <https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/>**





# Save the Date

June 21, 2025

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Denver Scottish Rite**

## LADIES SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

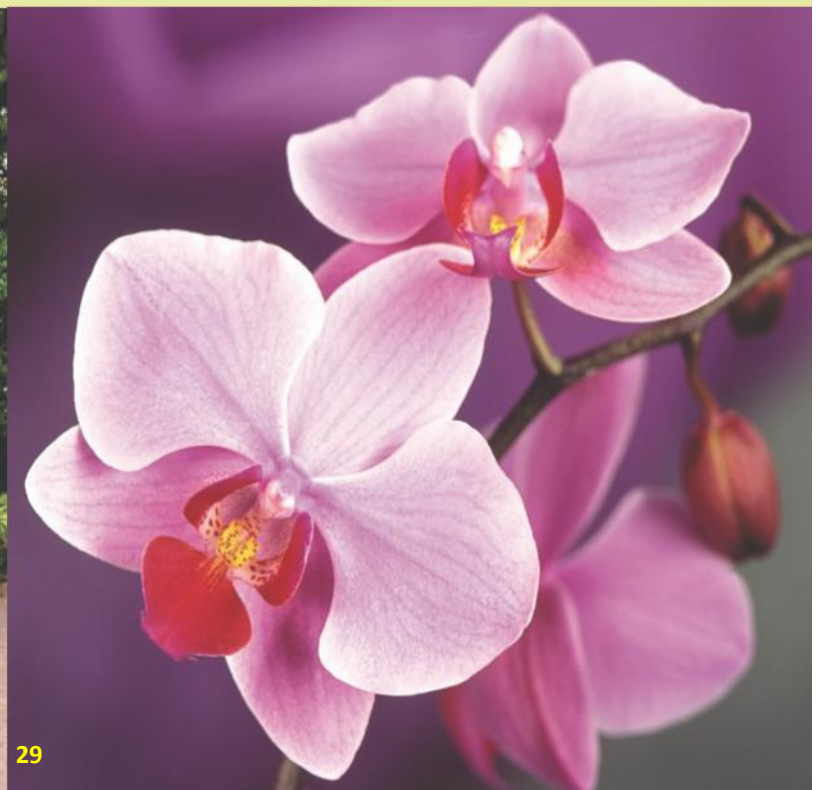
**Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Woodland Mosaic Garden and Pavilion**

Food, Beverage, Music, Full Access to the Gardens  
Parking Provided and Rides Available Upon Request

**RSVP to (303) 861-4261 by June 11, 2025**

Attendance limited to 75 guests. Please RSVP ASAP.







**Come enjoy the Consistory Summer Luau.**

**We will have some traditional Luau foods along with Kona Shaved Ice.**

**Entertainment will be provided by Tehani's Hula Colorado.**

**Evening starts at 6:00PM on July 19th 2025 at the Denver Consistory.**

**Tickets can be found on the Centennial Lodge of Perfection payment website.**

**<https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/>**

**Look for the Summer Luau entry.**



Let's get together for an  
all-masonic family day  
at **The Millhouse**  
in Castle Rock!

**July 27, 2025**

**Drop by anytime**  
**2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

### **The Millhouse**

Philip S. Miller Park  
1381 W. Plum Creek Parkway  
Castle Rock, CO 80109

**Good Eats! \$10/person**  
**RSVP by July 20<sup>th</sup>**



Network with other groups – Bring brochures! Bring petitions!

Fun for all with food ♦ games ♦ music ♦ prizes

lake views ♦ hiking trails ♦ face painting!

Plus, golf cart rides from the parking lot to our air-conditioned building!



Prefer a person?  
call ♦ text ♦ email **LYLE WILKES**  
**(303) 596-1230**  
**LWILKES893@GMAIL.COM**



# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scottish Rite Golf Classic

At the exclusive Hiwan Golf Club  
In Evergreen, Colorado



Monday, August 11, 2025—shotgun start at 1:30 pm

Check-in at noon

Format will be 4-golfer scramble

Golfer fees are All-inclusive –

- lunch at 12:30
- Awards Reception
- Player “goodie bag”

**Proceeds will benefit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Scottish Rite Foundation and RiteCare (juvenile speech and hearing therapy and treatment)**

Register now at [www.scottishritegolf.com](http://www.scottishritegolf.com)





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



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





**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**

# *MEDIA PRESENCE*



Denver Consistory Web Page

<http://www.denverconsistory.org>

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



find us on  
**Facebook**

Look for (search):

Denver Scottish Rite Consistory

<http://www.facebook.com>

You need to “LIKE” us to see what is going on.

**QUESTIONS:** [Randy Penn, 32° KCCH](#)



THE  
**SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY**  
SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°  SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

<https://scottishrite.org>

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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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**Bill Hickey, 33° - Chairman**

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

[alex@denverconsistory.org](mailto:alex@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.*



**James D. Cole, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Commander



**Karl J. Hinkle, 33°**  
Deputy of the Supreme Council  
in Colorado



**Ronald D. Birely, 33°**  
Personal Representative of the  
Deputy of the Supreme Council in Colorado



**Jered Minter, 32° KCCH**  
Venerable Master  
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



**Dillon Brickhouse, 32° KCCH**  
Wise Master  
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Rose Croix



**Lee Miller, 32° KCCH**  
Commander  
Colorado Council of Kadosh



**William Achbach, 32° KCCH**  
Master of Kadosh  
Denver Consistory



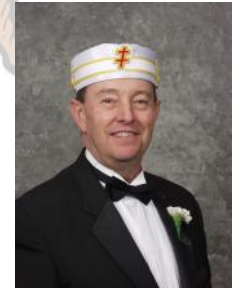
**Joe E. Kier, 33°**  
Almoner



**Grover Sardeson, 33°**  
Prelate



**Dan Conway, 33°**  
Treasurer



**Matt Raia, 33°**  
Secretary  
Recorder  
Registrar