



Denver's RiteWorks

October 2025 vol. 18 #8



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 3:	What's Up With the Garage?
Page 4:	Planning Calendar (October 2025 - December 2025)
Pages 5-6:	Editor's Trestleboard: The Importance of History
Pages 7-9:	From the Secretary's Desk
Page 10:	SRMC Endowment Committee Challenge
Pages 11-12:	Consistory Preceptor: A Reminder For Our Times
Pages 13-16:	Director of Education: Nine Great Truths - Part 5
Pages 17-18:	Member in the Spotlight: Miguel Lazalde, 32°KCCH
Pages 19-20:	KSA October Trestleboard
Pages 21-22:	Denver-Fitzsimons #37, National Sojourners
Pages 23-24:	SoldierStone
Page 25:	October Special Birthdays
Page 26:	Memorial Scroll
Page 27:	Fall Reunion Announcement
Pages 28-29:	Miscellaneous Flyers

New Parking Garage Management Company – The owner of the parking garage hired a new company to manage the garage, which will impact how we have been allowed to use the garage for our meetings, reunions, Friday lunches, and special events. It is unclear, at this time, what the changes will be. Denver Consistory does not own the garage, and we do not manage the garage. The ground lease between Scottish Rite Properties and the garage owner allows the Consistory to use the garage on a restricted basis. **We are in the process of working with the garage owner to come to an understanding on our use of the garage. Please bear with us while we work through the 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.**



DENVER CONSISTORY PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP—NEW QR CODE

Pocket petition cards with the new QR code are on the Tyler's desk. Pick up some of the new cards and discard the cards you have been saving in your wallet. The QR code on the old cards is no longer valid.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE GARAGE?

The Consistory owns the land upon which the garage sits. We do not own the garage, and we do not manage the garage. A ground lease was signed in 1996, between the owner of the garage and Scottish Rite Properties, which, among other things, sets forth a provision for use of the garage by Denver Consistory. The lease stipulates that Denver Consistory will have 120 parking spaces for our use for our ten monthly meetings, and 120 parking spaces for ten special events each year. The lease also stipulates that we have 225 spaces for our two Reunions. **When the garage is available for our use it is listed in the Consistory calendar published in RiteWorks, on our website, and the lobby bulletin board.** (Parking garage available)

There is no provision allowing use of the parking garage by Denver Consistory other than our monthly meetings, reunions, and special events. The Consistory is given six spaces for office use. We determine who can park in these spaces. Over the years the company that managed the garage was very lenient and allowed our members to park in the garage during non-specified times, (i.e. Friday lunch, degree practices, committee meetings) if the vehicle displayed a Denver Consistory parking permit.

September 1, 2025, a new company took over management of the garage (Parkade). As a result, the following changes are in effect.

The garage doors will no longer be open, allowing anyone to enter. Those who have an assigned space can open the door to allow them to park in their assigned space.

For our monthly meetings, special events, and reunions, a parking attendant will be at the entrance to allow members to enter the garage. You will be told which numbered space to park in. You are not allowed to park in any space you chose. **If you park in a space other than the one assigned to you by the parking attendant your vehicle is subject being ticketed and/or towed.** The spaces must be vacated no later than 10:00 PM. After 10:00 PM the space will no longer be reserved for our use.

Your vehicle MUST display a Denver Consistory parking permit. (This is not a new policy. It has been in effect since 1996) If not, your vehicle is subject to being ticketed and/or towed. **Denver Consistory will not pay the ticket or tow fee because you chose not to follow the rules.**

You may purchase hourly parking for times other than our monthly meetings, special events, and reunions, by using the app or scanning the QR code at the entrance to the garage to gain entry. Then come to the office or tyler's desk and scan a code to validate your parking for up to 3 hours. Your account is credited and the Consistory account is charged.

If you have questions, contact the Consistory office. Please be patient and understand that our use of the garage is dictated by the provisions of the 1996 ground lease.

PLANNING CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2025

Fri, OCT 3	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken)
Mon, OCT 6	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, OCT 10, 17, 24, 31	11:30 p.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Sat, OCT 18	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. KSA Consistory Cleanup (All are welcome to help out)
Mon, OCT 20	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Dinner
	7:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting with Grand Commander Cole

NOVEMBER 2025

Mon, NOV 3	5:00 p.m. Special Officers Meeting to read petitions
	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Wed, NOV 5	5:15 p.m. Children's Hospital RiteCare Presentation
Thu-Sat, NOV 6-8	7:00 a.m. Fall Reunion (64 th) Parking Garage Available
Sat, NOV 8	5:30 p.m. Banquet, 25 & 50 year Presentations
Fri, NOV 14, 21	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13)
Mon, NOV 17	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Dinner
	7:00 p.m. Entertainment: Veterans Recognition Program
	7:30 p.m. Split Meeting
Thu-Fri, NOV 27-28	Consistory CLOSED—Thanksgiving Holiday
Sat, NOV 29	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Consistory Decorating Party—all members, officers and wives are invited.

DECEMBER 2025

Mon, DEC 1	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, DEC 5, 12, 19	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13, Fried Chicken on DEC 5)
Sat, DEC 13	12:00 noon Wreaths Across America (Fort Logan National Cemetery)
Mon, DEC 15	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available
	<u>Member Appreciation Night; Ugly Sweater Night</u>
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Dinner
	7:00 p.m. Entertainment
	7:30 p.m. Split Meeting: Annual Election of Officers for 2026
Wed-Fri, DEC 24,25,26	Consistory CLOSED for Christmas Holiday

EDITOR'S NESTLEBOARD



BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°

EMAIL: WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM

The Importance of HISTORY



A long time ago, when I was stationed in Scotland, I was helping to set up the Royal Arch floor for a regular meeting. We met in an old church that was used by St. Ninian's Lodge, #66 on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. As I was digging out the various items from the closet, I noticed about 5 stacks of thin books about 5' high just sitting on the floor.

I called over to our Scribe E (secretary) who was also my lodge secretary and a local national. I said "Jimmy, what are all these books in the closet?" He glanced over and replied rather nonchalantly, "Oh, those are the minute books from the lodge." Really? I said, "But they're just sitting on the floor." Jimmy responded "They're JUST minute books Bill."

So, I asked him how far back they went. "All the way back to the founding of the lodge, around 1714." I said again "BUT THEY'RE JUST SITTING ON THE FLOOR!" Jimmy responded (as if to remind me) "They're JUST minute books, Bill."

I asked if it was OK if I took a look at one of them. I was told "sure, just be careful."

I picked a book at random from one of the piles. As I opened it up, I could tell it was obviously written with a quill ink pen. The secretary used the infamous "ff" characters we typically see in some documents from that period. It was hard to read, even though it resembled calligraphy and lettering was quite precise. Spelling is a little different over there, plus the use of certain words and idiomatic phrases were obviously from another time in history.

As I thumbed through the book I had selected, I stumbled onto a passage by the lodge secretary to the effect that three brothers would not be at the meeting that night. They were "in the highlands with the Pretender." For those unfamiliar, the "Pretender" was Bonnie Prince Charlie, who was leading the Jacobite rebellion trying to restore the Stewarts to the throne of Scotland and eventually Great Britain.

What made that passage even more startling was that the entry was made about a week before the Battle of Culloden Moor—where the English decimated the clans and eventually crushed the rebellion leading to outlawing bagpipes, weapons (they were allowed to keep their sgian dubh (small knife usually found in the sock as it was considered an essential eating utensil)).

What is important here is not the entry itself, or anything mundane about the meeting minutes. What is significant is that this entry tells historians exactly what was going on in that place and time without any politicization or emphasis on the emotions at that time.

My comment to Jimmy after discovering that entry was "Jimmy, do you know what an historian would do if he knew this information was in here? They would KILL to get their hands on it." ... Jimmy's response? "They're JUST minute books Bill.

I reported aboard my command in July 1978—our Bicentennial year. At the same time, the entire United Kingdom was making extensive preparations for the SILVER (25th) Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth II. The comments about OUR Bicentennial from the locals was essentially something along the lines of "200 years? How quaint." You see, to them 200 years was relatively recent history. Things in that part of Scotland were hundreds, and sometimes more than a thousand years old, many structures and building STILL standing and being used at that time.

Now, let's fast-forward about 10+ years. I have just retired from the Navy in 1989, moved to Colorado to take a job and carve out a new career. It's a few years more before my youngest daughter gets involved with Job's Daughters and I end up being "gently persuaded" to take a position in the Job's Daughters Grand Line.

I go around the state and visit every Bethel—all of which meet in a lodge building. Some of these buildings date back to the late 1800's or maybe early 1900's, so they are nowhere near the age of anything I saw over in Scotland.

What surprised me ... is how cavalierly the serving officers treated THEIR minute books. In some cases, where a lodge or Bethel had closed, the minute books were basically discarded!

While they may be JUST minute books to us, think not about how WE view what is in them, think about what an historian 100 years from now will think about that information. Remember, they were born long after we departed this life—they know little about what it was like, what we thought, how we dealt with our situations—unless they can get our MINUTE BOOKS!

Oh, sure, they can probably access newspapers ... but we all know that newspapers are written to make money. Minute books are written to document what is happening ACCURATELY without regard to monetary influences.

So, the next time you think about minute books, pause for a few minutes and put yourself into the shoes of someone in the distant future trying to understand what it was like to live in our times. Then, ask yourself, how much do YOU know about what it was like for your grandparents and quite possibly your parents to live just a few decades before you.

I know for a fact that I never met my grandfathers, and know precious little about them BECAUSE my father's generation didn't really talk about their lives much—after all, they lived through the great depression, World War II, Korea. It's not until Viet Nam that I pick up living through what is now "history" for the current generation.

PLEASE—take care of your documents, even if you think they mean nothing or are worthless. SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, at some TIME, might well find them interesting, informative, and essential to understand THEIR history.

Want a good HISTORY book to read? Best one I've ever run into. DECEMBER 1941, by Craig Peterson. Each chapter is a day in December. He researched telegrams, letters, newspapers, and magazines in English, Italian, German, Spanish, French, and Russian. Easy reading and quite interesting. It let me know what my parents and grandparents had to live through.

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.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

NEW PARKING GARAGE MANAGEMENT COMPANY—The owner of the parking garage hired a new company to manage the garage, which will impact on how we have been allowed to use the garage for our meetings, reunions, Friday lunches, and special events. (See notice on Page 3)

New Denver Consistory Web Site !!!

<https://www.denverconsistory.org>

Our Denver Consistory website has been completely redesigned by our webmaster, **Brother Pablo Colombar, 32° KCCH**. Take a few minutes to check out the “new look.”

Front Door Scanner

There is a problem with the front door card scanner reading the bar code on the 2026 dues cards. If your 2026 card will not open the front door, inform the office (Illustrious Brother Alex). **KEEP YOUR 2025 CARD** and use it if your 2026 card does not open the door.

PARKING PERMIT REQUIRED - A Denver Consistory parking permit **MUST** be displayed on the lower left of your vehicle windshield. (Where the emission certificate is usually 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 are available in the Consistory Office.

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 John Ballard, 32°; Brother Gary Jewel, 32°; Brother Thomas Jones, 32°; Brother Mike Katich, 32°; Brother Carlos Klinger, 32°; Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°; Brother Dale Pierce, 32°; Brother Clifton Schmit, 32°; Brother Jay Siegel, 32°; Brother Ronald Soule, 32°; Brother Ronald Tanski, 32°; Brother Steven Tygart, 32°; and Brother Paul West, 32°.

Endowment Fund Challenge - A new fundraising challenge has been issued for the period of September 15, 2025 to December 21, 2025! (See flyer in this issue)

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.

MailChimp Notifications - If you notice that you are not consistently receiving Mail Chimp messages from Denver Consistory, check your spam or junk mail folders. Occasionally the Mail Chimp messages may end up in your spam or junk mail folder instead of the inbox.

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 to donate for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Thank you to **Illustrious Brother Scott Bates, 33°** and **Brother Scott Weakley, 32°**, for donating their vehicles for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

Masonic Special Event Calendar - **Brother James Warner, 32° KCCH** created a Google Calendar to help expand awareness of Masonic events going on throughout the state. (See Flyer)

October 20th Stated Meeting - ZOOM “Town Hall Meeting” with Grand Commander, Illustrious Brother James D. Cole, 33°. This will **NOT** be a closed meeting. Ladies are invited to attend. If you have a question for the Grand Commander, submit it to me matt@denverconsistory.org before October 13th to allow me time to collate them and send them to the Grand Commander for his review and preparation.

Fall Reunion - The Fall Reunion (November 6, 7, 8) is dedicated to **Illustrious Brother Steve Hubbard, 33°**. We need you to do your part to facilitate the Fall Reunion. **We need candidates!** Get those petitions turned in to the office, don't wait until November. We need volunteers to work on the AV, Lighting, Sound, Properties, Stage, Costumes, and Makeup committees. If you can help, even for just a day or part of a day, please contact **Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°**, Director General, keith.anderson166@gmail.com. We are asking for only a little bit of your time to help the existing committee members, and to ease some of their work load as well.

If you are interested in being a cast member in one of the Degrees (speaking or non-speaking part) contact **Brother Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH**, debard@me.com or **Brother Miguel Lazalde, 32° KCCH**, mikealazalde@gmail.com. If you would like to be a degree director, contact our Director General, **Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°** keith.anderson166@gmail.com.

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First Line Signer Incentive Program: **THREE** petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership fee for a year. If you are a life member, it entitles you to receive stated meeting dinners for a year.

2025 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2024. If you have not yet paid your 2025 membership fee, **you are delinquent** and we are coming into the time when 2026 fees are due as well. \$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.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS are an ideal way to avoid paying future membership fee increases. A Life Membership guarantees that you will never be suspended for non-payment of membership fees 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 non-payment 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 after your death.

Current 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.

From generous past contributions and growth in the investment of those funds, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund is now comfortably
over a million dollars!

A NEW CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MADE.

In an effort to continue that growth, the
members of the
Endowment Committee
have committed that they will
personally match additional
contributions received during the period
of September 15, 2025 through Decem-
ber 21, 2025,



A Reminder For Our Times

David W. Spence, 32° KCCH
Preceptor, Denver Consistory



Brothers, in this season of hot social and political contention in our society, I feel, for my own sake and the brotherhood's, it is a good idea to revisit a couple of core precepts of our ancient and honored fraternity. For indeed our nation exists in no small part due to the exertions of several of our brothers, both in its beginning and continued sustainment. During his own time of political and social strife, Albert Pike looked to this gentle craft and declared that "Masonry is engaged in her crusade, against ignorance, intolerance, fanaticism, superstition, uncharitableness, and error. She does not sail with the trade-winds, upon a smooth sea, with a steady free breeze, fair for a welcoming harbor; but meets and must overcome many opposing currents, baffling winds, and dead calms."

This understanding is mirrored again by the Chancellor in our 30th degree, when he declares the new mission of the Knights to be that "Masons of the Scottish Rite continue to war against oppression, injustice, and usurpation. We labor to free men from their own ignorance, prejudice, and error. These vices lead to the bondage of despotism and enslavement by spiritual tyranny."

I would specifically admonish us to consider those timeless admonitions from the 2nd degree and on, to guard against superstition and fanaticism. These two human conditions can uniquely take those things that are good in a man's heart and in society and make them harmful.

As Manly P. Hall points out. "While superstition hates all things, wisdom, with its deeper understanding, loves all things; for it has seen the beauty, the tenderness, and the sweetness which underlie life's mystery."

Superstition is a spiritual state born of fear and hate. It perverts faith into fear; charity into cruelty. It abandons reason and tolerance in favor of prejudice and injustice. It is often used as a tool to usurp undue authority or gain, by those men of selfish intent. We see this in the unjust accusations leveled against the Templars and specifically Grand Master Jacques DeMolay or again in the accusation and hanging of innocent widows in Salem on the superstitious hysterics of a couple teenaged girls, that made the local sheriff wealthy.

Fanaticism is driven by the same irrational emotional responses and allows blind passions to rule the man and thus declare everything it does not understand to be evil. And often, under the guise of something more noble, it justifies undue violence and the vilification of good

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people.

Once again Manly P. Hall notes that “When the mob governs, man is ruled by ignorance; when the church governs, he is ruled by superstition; and when the state governs, he is ruled by fear. Before men can live together in harmony and understanding, ignorance must be transmuted into wisdom, superstition into an illuminated faith, and fear into love.”

So, what are those precepts of our ancient and gentle order that seek to make men better: that are a protection from falling into the traps of superstition and fanaticism? First, above all, is tolerance—a love of your fellow brother and mankind, as a whole—that lends itself to seek first to understand and second to assist in finding common ground. It is indeed a work of putting Christ’s second commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” into action.

The second is to seek reason over blind faith: in a movement, in public personalities, or in unsubstantiated rumors. Social media is a river flowing with rumors and false stories. Please, dear brothers, turn a critical eye to those extraordinary claims from people and personalities, especially those the seek to be anonymous. For extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof. As brother Voltaire once noted “Those who can get you to believe absurdities can get you to commit atrocities.”

This is why the founders, as learned men who knew all too well the abuses of prince and potentate in the past, devised the separation of powers and the requirement of due process for everyone. These basic principles are there to prevent the usurpation of power and the rule of the fanatical mob.

So how do we as brothers help ourselves and society around us? By always toning down the rhetoric, seeking reason and wisdom, with others who disagree with our own perspectives: first seeking to understand and then finding common ground.

Fraternity, David

Also, for an interesting perspective on national division from Brother Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) read his short work “War Prayer”.



"The War Prayer", a short story or prose poem by Mark Twain, is a scathing indictment of war, and particularly of blind patriotic and religious fervor as motivations for war. The structure of the work is simple: an unnamed country goes to war, and patriotic citizens attend a church service for soldiers who have been called up. The people call upon God to grant them victory and protect their troops. Suddenly, an "aged stranger" appears and announces that he is God's messenger. He explains to them that he is there to speak aloud the second part of their prayer for victory, the part which they have implicitly wished for but have not spoken aloud themselves: the prayer for the suffering and destruction of their enemies. What follows is a grisly depiction of hardships inflicted on war-torn nations by their conquerors. The story ends with the man being condemned as a lunatic, "for there was no sense in what he said".



Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh
Director of Education

Nine Great Truths - Part 5



It's now time for the conclusion of our look at Albert Pike's *Nine Great Truths of Masonry*, as we continue with #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.

My first reaction, I admit: "WHOA!" SGC Pike goes on to say that "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." I'm "all in" on that last part ... but "evil is merely apparent?!?"

I'd make two observations to begin our look at these assertions. First is a comment about Pike's position on good and evil. You'll remember that, in last month's article, I mentioned that "Our human relationships give us opportunities to practice our obligations ..." and this squares with what he says here about the "expression of ... virtues." There is no situation in which the Great Architect gives us trials beyond our capacity to cope, even though we may well not see that fact as we are in the midst of adversity. How, indeed, can the spirit of Man triumph and prove the Divine spark that we believe dwells within us, if we are not called upon to deal with difficult ... and even with existential challenges? One does not become stronger or more proficient—at anything—by facing only weak or inferior competition!

The second observation I would make, about the whole of this statement, is that it absolutely reveals SGC Pike as a proponent of Stoic philosophy, and this, contrary to some common first reactions, is not in the least a non-Christian or an anti-Christian point of view! He is **not** saying that evil does not exist or that it is somehow an illusion! He is also **not** saying that God created evil! What he is saying is that all of creation, being as it is the work of the Supreme Architect, is fundamentally good. Evil, the Stoics would argue, is **not** a created thing, but rather a negation of good; that is to say, it does not have existence all on its own, but only in opposition to a "first cause": Deity ... which we are admonished to "esteem as the Chief Good." Evil cannot be the creation of God, because that would be contrary to His nature. Likewise, it cannot be the creation of "the Evil One" (by whatever name we choose to call that entity), because only God can create. In whatever way one perceives this opposing power (possibly with the exception of a "Dualist" ... and there are even strong contrary arguments there) the usual attitude is that this contradictory moral entity is the opposite but not the **equal** of God!

I would make one additional, quick comment regarding Freemasonry and Stoicism, to repeat what I've observed before about this system rooted in ancient Greek and Roman thinking. The Stoic perspective of man and his circumstances are the most

thoroughly “Masonic” of all the philosophical schools of thought: so much so as to be stunningly apparent to any member of the Craft who makes the effort to study Stoic precepts. The compasses especially ... as we symbolically apply them ... provide a fundamental statement of Stoic principles.

What then does Pike mean, when he says that “evil is merely apparent?” A useful way of looking at this is first to recognize that we do not view the world from the same perspective as the Grand Architect. Rather, we look at everything around us from the point of view of our human limitations: limits of place, time, and understanding. In the Christian tradition, we see this in 1 Corinthians 13:12: “For now [i.e., during our human lifetime] we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then [i.e., hereafter] we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” (NIV). If you prefer the Jewish perspective, then look to Ecclesiastes 8:17: “No one really comprehends what happens on earth. Despite all human efforts to discover it, no one can ever grasp it. Even if a wise person claimed that he understood, he would not really comprehend it.” (NET) Every religious tradition has something of a similar position on this theme.

We simply do not have—cannot have—as accurate a perspective on anything as that of Deity. Evil appears to us to be just as real as good, because we can only truly see either good or evil from our limited viewpoint. The Stoics teach, even though we are never fully capable of apprehending such truth, that we are at least able to comprehend that an essential difference exists between the two. With this knowledge, we may develop the wisdom to reject that which is false. At that point, what we can comprehend as “evil”—all of the trials and tribulations of life ... both for ourselves and others—becomes a lifetime of opportunity to overcome adversity and focus on the improvement of man and to contribute to the relief of those who suffer: taking advantage of the “opportunity” we are given.

And, finally...#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.

“Equipoise” is not a word we often hear today, but, as we near the end of our look at these Great Truths—just as when we neared the end our first reunion experience in the Scottish Rite—it is a word of critical and eternal meaning to us. We may understand it as referring to balance or equilibrium (words of special symbolic significance to us as Scottish Rite Masons). But we must understand that it is not **just** a balance ...as if two objects were to be placed separately on opposite sides of a scale. Rather, what is meant is a condition resulting from an eternal tension between opposites eternally threatening to surround or even become a part of the other ... as Chinese philosophy would portray it in the reality of the yin and yang ...



... a tension being eternally a part of our daily experience: light and dark, generosity and avarice, charity and callousness, love and indifference.

Achieving equipoise is never simply the conscious selection of a “middle road,” which somehow magically ends up being the correct path. If that were the case, then one might just as well expect to blunder upon the right road by accident as find it by strenuous moral exertion. That, of course, is not the normal human experience! Indeed, it is much more common—both for those whose bad choices led them to excess (and often to ruin) and for those whose lives become models of moral rectitude—to realize that the final destination was achieved either by a series of willful errors or by thoughtful application of moral truth. Both those who achieve balance and those who do not are generally ... often painfully ... aware of the arduous journey that has brought them to one result or the other. The critical moral issue isn't at all that of finding the right road. The question is how to stay on it once found!

The Great Architect, we might observe (and as SGC Pike recognizes in this final Great Truth) is disposed to allow all of us to make our own choice of outcomes, based upon how seriously we seek a balance between the extremes our free will allows us to pursue.

Bill

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Last Month's Trivia Question: Stated Meetings never get into the details of the Consistory's bills and other financial transactions. Is there a way for me to see the details of the Valley's regular expenses and financial transactions? What is the process?

Answer: Although more detail about the monthly bills is included during the pre-dinner business meeting each month, any member may request an appointment with our Secretary/Recorder/Registrar, Illustrious Brother Matt Raia. He'll be happy to lay out the records for you and explain both the process and the individual transactions.

This Month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's Rite Works): As we head into the Fall Reunion next month, how do I get started on filling out a Passport, and what do I do with it when it's completed?



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**

1st Lieutenant Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh

Miguel Lazalde, 32° KCCH



When you sit down with Brother Miguel Lazalde, you quickly discover a life marked by music, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to Masonry. Born in 1985 in El Paso, Texas, he grew up immersed in punk and metal bands, chasing his love of sound and creativity. That passion led him to study music theory and composition at the University of Texas at El Paso before shifting to mechanical engineering—a change made necessary when family responsibilities called him into the workforce.

Life's journey eventually carried him to Littleton, Colorado, where he now lives with his wife, Corina, whom he married in 2018. But long before that, Masonry had already begun to shape

In 2015, Brother Miguel Lazalde was Initiated, Passed, and Raised in Wallace Hughston Lodge #1393 in El Paso—all within the span of three months. It was there that Lodge mentors took him under their wing, showing him what it truly means to be a Mason. Rather than simply learning the parts, he threw himself into the ritual work, determined to relieve the older Brothers who had carried the burden of lectures for years. "The first time I ever saw the Fellow Craft degree was when I conferred it," he recalls with pride.

Even when life carried him away from Texas, Masonry never left his side. In Oklahoma, he filled in as Junior and Senior Warden at Edmond Lodge and later became active in the York Rite. Across each jurisdiction, Masonry offered him a new lens on ritual, tradition, and service.

Brother Miguel Lazalde's Masonic path is as varied as it is committed. In addition to his Blue Lodge work, he joined Al Maida Shrine and the Clown Unit—"which makes perfect sense for anyone who has met me," he jokes. He has served in the Valley of El Paso as Director of the 30th Degree, in the York Rite officer lines, and in multiple capacities with the Scottish Rite. Today, he directs the 29th Degree, serves as Assistant Director of the 4th and 12th Degrees, and has played roles in several others.

For him, Scottish Rite Masonry represents something profound: "I truly believe that the Scottish Rite is a School of Philosophy. The lessons aren't simply handed to you—you have to work for them. But if you put in the time, they are among the most beautiful lessons ever presented."

From ritual floorwork to mentoring others, education has been at the center of Brother Miguel Lazalde's Masonic passion. He believes Masonry offers not just tradition, but transformation: "It allows me to make a change in myself, in the Brothers I mentor, and in the society

Continued on next page

in which I live.”

Outside the Lodge, his interests are just as rich—hiking in the mountains, playing music, and sharing meals with Brothers and friends. He is also a student of history, a road-tripper at heart, and keeps company with his dog, Warden, and cat, Mason (fitting names, indeed). Few know that he once worked in the copper mines of Arizona, invested in a Filipino restaurant, and dreamed as a child of becoming a symphony conductor—a dream that still shines in his ability to play nearly every orchestral instrument.

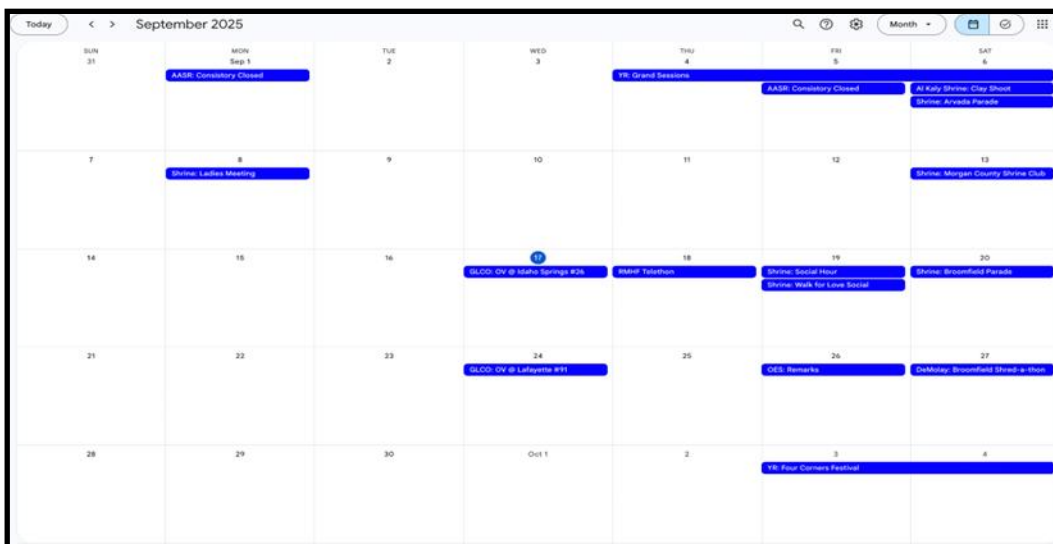
As the upcoming reunion approaches, Brother Miguel Lazalde plans to once again lend his energy to both degree work and supporting the properties team. For him, reunions are not just events, but opportunities to deepen friendships and breathe life into lessons that have shaped his journey.

In every chapter of his story, one theme remains constant: Masonry is not something Brother Miguel Lazalde does—it is part of who he is.

Public Calendar for Masonic Special Events in Colorado

Have you ever had a free evening and wondered if any Masonic events are going on that you could drop in on? Now there’s an easy way to find out!

In our September Stated Communication, Brother James Warner presented a Google Calendar he has created to help expand awareness of Masonic events going on throughout the state. Each month, Brother James reads through the various bodies’ newsletters and adds the special events each body is hosting to a Google Calendar he maintains. This gives us all an opportunity to drop in on a Shrine parade, a Consistory dinner, a York Rite ritual, a Grand Lodge visitation, and even Masonic youth group events! For example, there were 18 days of special Masonic events in the month of August, and there are 9 events still ahead of us in the last half of September.



To access the calendar, just email JamesIsInDenver@gmail.com Once Brother James adds you to the calendar, you can decide to toggle the calendar on or off so it won’t clutter your screen.



Denver Consistory Knights of St. Andrew

**James A. Warner, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master**



OCTOBER TRESTLEBOARD

Sir Knights:

This has been a busy summer in Colorado Masonry, and I appreciate your continued dedication to the craft in the many ways we stay active in our communities and masonic bodies.

Please remember that Consistory meetings resumed on Monday, September 15th. I encourage you to re-engage yourself in the activities at our Consistory. There is an optional business meeting at 5:30 PM in the Red Room downstairs, dinner (needs a \$25 ticket purchased in advance, along with an RSVP beforehand) is at 6 PM, and the Stated Communication is in the cathedral room at 7 PM. Please plan to attend at least the Stated Communication to help with our escorting duties.

The KSA meeting on Monday, October 6th, at 7 PM in the Lodge Room, will bring the Denver Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew back to light after the summer and holidays. In this meeting:

- The officer line will report on the steps they have taken to make the Burns Supper event coming up on Saturday, January 17th a success.
- I will take an initial headcount for the KSA's Consistory cleanup event we have scheduled for 9-11 AM on Saturday, October 18th.
- Sir Knight Senior Warden will report on the results of the Finance Committee's audit of Sir Knight Treasurer's books.
- I will provide a brief education on the KSA's Historical Lecture which Sir Knight Secretary will be giving in the Fall Reunion (November 6-8), and Sir Knight Treasurer will be giving in the knighting ceremony we will hold in our December meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming meeting on October 6th, and being able to personally welcome our new knights who joined us right after the Spring Reunion.

Fraternally,

James Warner, 32° KCCH

Venerable Master

Denver Consistory Chapter, Knights of St. Andrew

Whisky College
Year 12
Saturday, January 17, 2026
5:00 p.m. **PROMPTLY**



For the past 11 years, Professor Stan Holtzswart has taken the class on some pretty special journeys discovering some unique and rare whiskies (and whiskeys as well). This year, he will have a special class using Glenmorangie Distillery's products of various ages and maturation casks to show how a single malt from one distillery will change it's taste, finish, and other unique characteristics as it ages and is matured in different casks and combinations of casks.

This is an unique opportunity, not to be missed. Remember, seating is limited (fire code) so you don't want to postpone your reservation once it is announced by the KSA in association with their Burns' Supper announcement later this year...so keep your eyes open and be ready for what could be your most unique "post-graduate" Whisky College experience yet.



Denver-Fitzsimons Chapter #37

National Sojourners®, Inc.

Danny L. Tomlinson, 33°
Past President



Denver-Fitzsimons Chapter #37, National Sojourners, Inc., was chartered 100 years ago on September 11, 1925. We are one of the oldest Chapters of National Sojourners in existence that is still active. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Golden Corral Restaurant at Riverpoint (Hampden Avenue and Santa Fe Boulevard). Our meetings begin at noon and our ladies and guests are always welcome. We encourage any Master Mason who is a veteran or is currently serving (active duty, reserves, or national guard) to join our chapter.

"The purposes of National Sojourners shall be to organize current and former members of the uniformed services of the United States, and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons, into Chapters for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation, for bringing together representatives of the uniformed services of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military needs of national defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the national security."

We were honored and pleased to celebrate our 100 year anniversary with a special presentation by National 2nd Vice-President Bill Free at our regular September 10th meeting. Brother Bill and his wife Julie had come from their home in Texas to make the presentation on this auspicious occasion. We also presented two of our newest members, Brother Jason Berk and Brother Jim Weekes with their membership patents.



On the following Saturday, September 13th, we were pleased to hold a special dinner meeting to honor three of the four high school students that we awarded scholarships to for **Founding Forward at Valley Forge** (Formerly known as Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge). The Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) continue to be a four-day conference which affords students an opportunity to interact with experts on citizenship, democracy, the free enterprise system, the judicial system, and the American political process. The program includes thought-provoking lectures; historical tours of Valley Forge and Philadelphia; and experiential workshops, all designed to develop leadership skills and deepen an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of engaged citizenship.

The three students, together with their parents and siblings, were joined by GySgt Jerry Benally, USMC (Ret) - their Navy JROTC instructor and many of our Sojourner members and their wives at the Golden Corral Restaurant. The young people shared their thoughts and take-aways from their recent trip to Valley Forge. It was truly an encouraging evening to hear these young people speak about their experiences at Valley Forge and their renewed enthusiasm for America! Many of our readers also know Aubrey Harris, son of Brother Bryan and Heidi Harris. Aubrey was not able to attend this special meeting because of another commitment, but we hope to have him join us at a future meeting as well.

We welcome new members to join our Chapter of National Sojourners. Please contact Brother [Danny Tomlinson](#), Brother [Bill Hickey](#), Brother [Danny Will](#), or Brother [Tim Lambert](#) for more information.





SOLDIERSTONE

**A special monument to
Remember our Vietnam
Veterans.**

Danny L. Tomlinson, 33°



The SoldierStone Monument sits at an elevation of 11,500' at the Continental Divide outside Saguache, Colorado - about a 4-hour drive from the Denver metro area. The road to the monument is a fairly rough dirt and rock road that requires high-clearance for the vehicle. The SoldierStone was dedicated in 1995 to the veterans of the Vietnam War and to all veterans for their service to our country.

In the fall of 2024, several of us, including then-Most Worshipful Grand Master Dave Reynolds visited SoldierStone. It was a deeply moving day and we decided then to repeat the trip this year. On Sunday, September 28th a much larger group of Masons, many of whom are also Knights Templar, made a return trip to SoldierStone, along with several friends.

The day was spectacular—the aspens were at their peak colors, the weather was cool but beautiful, and Brother Joe Magoffin furnished an outstanding lunch for all. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Our time together at SoldierStone included a blessing for the Brothers there assembled and for our military, wherever they may be dispersed; the Pledge of Allegiance; a Toast to the Flag; some war stories and memories of our time in the military; a lot of hugs and many tears shed. We closed with a prayer for a safe journey home. It was a wonderful day and we plan to continue the tradition of making this journey to express our respect and gratitude to the men and women that have served our country. We hope you enjoy the photos.

There is a recent article out of KUNC Greeley that provides background and information on the monument.

[The Story Of Soldierstone, A Mysterious War Memorial In The Colorado Wild | KUNC](#)





Additional trips to SoldierStone will be made in the future. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Illustrious Brother Danny Tomlinson, 33° at:

dtomlinson@msn.com.



Special Birthdays

90 Years "YOUNG"

James Philip Earhart
Dwight Allen Singleton

80 Years "YOUNG"

Michael Stephens Carrington
Anthony Skelding Clark
John Albert Warren

70 Years "YOUNG"

Steven Ray Dickey
William Eucker III
Roy Lee Ince, Jr.
Charles Lucien Martell II

Kevin Lindsey Pape
Paul Jonathan Phelps

50 Years "OLD"

Gareth Kiefer Alexander

40 Years "OLD"

Joshua James Ruegsegger

30 Years "OLD"

(Also Our Youngest for October)

Elias David Trzos



October 13, 1775
(250 years old)

Interesting Facts About OCTOBER

The meaning behind October's name is far from accurate these days. The ancient Roman calendar was based on the lunar cycles, as opposed to our current calendar which is based on the solar cycles. This meant that there were originally 10 months in their calendar, and October was the eighth month. Its name literally translated into "the eighth month" in Latin. In 451 BC the two months of Ianuarius and Februarius were added to the beginning of the calendar, making October the 10th month.

The Anglo-Saxons' name for October was Winterfylleth, with its name containing the words for winter and full moon respectively. It was named this because winter was said to begin from the first full moon of the month. The Saxons had a name for October, too. Theirs was Wyn Monath, which translated into "wine month" because it was the time of the year for making wine.

The first full moon after the Harvest Moon quite often falls in October and even has its own name. Known as the Hunter's Moon, it's one of the only two full moons (along with the Harvest Moon) that aren't connected to a specific month. Depending on the year the Hunter's Moon either falls in October or November.

October has two birthstones, tourmaline, and opal. Opals come in a myriad of striking colors that often seem to swirl together and are a symbol of faithfulness, purity, and hope.

October 31st (Halloween) origins go all the way back to the Gaelic people of modern-day England, Scotland, and Ireland, who celebrated the festival of Samhain. The original celebrants of Samhain would dress in costumes or disguises and go door-to-door receiving gifts of food, much like how today's children dress up and receive treats!

MEMORIAL SCROLL

James Calvin Callahan, 33°
Robert Edward Durrum, 32°
Edward Allen Robinson, 32°
Stanley Eugene Shafer, 32°

08/20/2025
09/29/2023
08/31/2025
08/14/2025



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° KCCH; 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, 33°; 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.



SCOTTISH RITE REUNION

Denver Consistory

November 6, 7, 8, 2025



Preparation



Organization



Having Fun

First Line Signer Incentive Program: THREE petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership for a year. If you are a life member it entitles you to receive stated meeting dinners for a year



Denver Consistory 1370 Grant Street Denver, CO 80203

denverconsistory@denverconsistory.org

303-861-4261

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 • 720-284-4304

Scan the QR code for a
complete list.



SCAN ME

MEDIA PRESENCE



Denver Consistory Web Page

<https://denverconsistory.org>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: [Pablo Colombar, 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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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

or

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°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in Colorado



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SGIG in Colorado



Jered Minter, 32° KCCH
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Centennial Lodge of Perfection



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