



Denver's RiteWorks

January 2026 vol. 19 #1



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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.**



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 The QR code on the old cards is no longer valid.

PLANNING CALENDAR

JANUARY 2026

Thu, JAN 1	Consistory Closed for New Year Holiday
Fri, JAN 2	NO LUNCH— Holiday Weekend
Sat, JAN 3	9:00-11:00 a.m. Un-decorating Party—All members, officers & wives invited
Mon, JAN 5	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, JAN 9, 16, 30	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15—Fried Chicken on JAN 9)
Sat, JAN 17	8:00 a.m.—noon Officers' Meeting and Installation Practice 5:00 p.m. KSA Whisky College (in classroom) Parking Garage Available 6:00 p.m. KSA Burns' Supper Parking Garage Available
Mon, JAN 19	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Awards and Announcements 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting - Annual Meetings of Corporations PUBLIC Installation of Officers
Fri, JAN 23	NO LUNCH—Consistory Closed for Grand Lodge

FEBRUARY 2026

Mon, FEB 2	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, FEB 6, 13, 20, 27	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15—Fried Chicken on FEB 6)
Mon, FEB 16	Stated Meeting - Feast of Kadosh Parking Garage Available 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Entertainment (President's Day, Valentine's Day) 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting— Almoner & Life Membership Annual Reports to CLOP; 5 min oration—Orator, CLOP

MARCH 2026

Mon, MAR 2	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
MAR 5-7	Supreme Council Leadership Conference—Las Vegas
Fri, MAR 6	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15 - Fried Chicken)
Thu, MAR 12	7:00 p.m. Degree Council Meeting
Fri, MAR 13	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$15)
Mon, MAR 16	Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available <u>Sports Team Shirt Night</u> 5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Awards & Announcements; Past Presiding Officer Recognition 7:30 p.m. Split Meeting: 5 min oration—Orator, Rose Croix Line

EDITOR'S RESTLEBOARD



BY: **BILL HICKEY, 33°**
EMAIL: WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM

HAPPY HOGMANAY!



HAPPY HOGMANAY

The Scottish New Year

What is Hogmanay?

Hogmanay is Scotland's traditional New Year celebration, observed on December 31st and into January 1st. Long before modern New Year's Eve parties, Scots welcomed the new year with fire, music, and community.

- 🔥 A time to release the past
- 🎵 A time to celebrate together
- ★ A time to welcome new beginnings

Singing "Auld Lang Syne"
Honoring friendship & hope for the future

Happy Hogmanay!

From the Prescott Area Celtic Society
www.prescottareacelticsociety.com

Bill

A detailed illustration of a Hogmanay celebration. In the foreground, a man in a kilt and a woman in a plaid dress are dancing. To the left, a large bonfire burns brightly. In the background, a stone castle sits on a hill under a starry night sky with a full moon and the aurora borealis. Two lanterns are on the ground.



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.

Friendship is like a bank account.

You can't continue to draw on it without making a deposit.

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.

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.

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 Wayne Arner, 33°; Illustrious Brother Ron Birely, 33°; Illustrious Brother Bob Gregory, 33°; Illustrious Brother Charlie Shaeffer, 33°; Illustrious Brother Jim Schneider, 33°; Brother Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH; Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH; Brother Dave King, 32° KCCH; Brother Tom Lincoln, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike Tims, 32° KCCH; Brother Kevin Trabert, 32° KCCH; Brother Howard Zoufaly, 32° KCCH; Brother Douglas Gordon, 32°; Brother Jim Marlow, 32°; Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°; Brother Swen Hoffman, 32°; Brother Van-Troi Perozo, 32°; Brother Thomas Peter, 32°; Brother Don Wood, 32°; Centennial Lodge of Perfection.

Congratulations - To Illustrious Brother Charlie Shaeffer, 33° and his wife Thelma on achieving Diamond Level Membership in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund Cathedral Club for making cumulative donations totaling \$100,000.

Continued on next page

Donation Challenge Update - The Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund reached the matching challenge goal of \$35,000. Donations received totaled \$75,297. Add to this the \$35,000 match for a total contribution to the Endowment Fund of \$110,297. The Endowment Fund Board of Directors offer their thanks and appreciation to each of the donors who stepped up to meet the challenge.

THANK YOU - to those who helped put up Christmas decorations on November 29th.

January 3rd UN-Decorating Party - We will be taking down the Christmas decorations at 9:00 a.m. All members and family are invited to help pack up the decorations and put them safely away until next year.

Donate Your Car - Do you have a car you no longer need? You are not required to be a member of Denver Consistory to participate - ANYONE can participate. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors to donate their car for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and be eligible to receive a tax deduction for the donation.

It's easy to donate your vehicle to charity for the benefit of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Go to www.carsforcharity.net and click on "Donate My Car." Scroll down the list of charities and click on "Scottish Rite Masonic Center." After you have completed the form, you will be contacted with information about picking up the car. When the car has been sold by Cars for Charity, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center will receive payment. This is a great way to support the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in obtaining funds for the ongoing operation and maintenance of our building.

December 15th Stated Meeting - Our December Stated Meeting was Member Appreciation Night. Those attending dinner received a discount on the cost of their meal equal to the number of years they have been a member. The number of combined years of service of those attending was 1,455—VERY IMPRESSIVE! It was also Ugly Christmas Sweater Night. Some very colorful sweaters were on display. We enjoyed wonderful traditional Christmas music by the *"Yuletide Carolers."*

Receive a free stated meeting dinner - Prepay for an entire years' worth of stated meeting dinners and **receive one dinner free**. Prepay for nine dinners and receive the tenth dinner free. To receive the free dinner, you must prepay for all nine dinners at one time. It does not matter when during the year you decide to prepay. The time frame will run consecutively and not on a calendar year basis. No refunds or credit will be given for prepaid dinners not utilized during the twelve-month period.

January 17th All-Officer Meeting - Breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. with meeting at 9:00 a.m. followed by installation rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. **ALL OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.**

Burns Supper January 17th - The Knights of Saint Andrew Burns Supper and Whisky College will be held January 17th. 5:00 p.m. for Whisky College in the classroom and 6:00 p.m. for Burns Supper in the dining room.

Continued on next page

Election of 2026 Officers - was conducted by **Illustrious Brother Ron Birely, 33°**, Personal Representative. Congratulations to our officers elected and appointed for 2026.

Brother Larry Bendt, 32° KCCH - Venerable Master, Centennial Lodge of Perfection

Brother Tom Adair, 32° KCCH - Wise Master, Rocky Mountain Chapter Rose Croix

Brother Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH - Commander, Colorado Council of Kadosh

Brother Greg Koenig, 32° KCCH - Master of Kadosh, Denver Consistory

Welcome to the newly appointed officers:

Brother Billy Biggs, 32° - Captain of the Host, Centennial Lodge of Perfection

Brother Brock Sowa, 32° - Guardian of the Temple, Rocky Mountain Chapter Rose Croix

Brother Cris Advincula, 32° - Lt. of the Guard, Colorado Council of Kadosh

Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH - Captain of the Guard, Denver Consistory

January 19th Stated Meeting - The public installation of the 2026 officers will take place after our business meeting. In addition to our regular business, we will have the annual reports of our four corporations.

January 23rd - The Office will be closed for Grand Lodge Communication.

FRIDAY LUNCH - The Executive Committee decided to continue to offer lunch on Fridays for our members, family, friends, and prospects. **The cost of lunch is increased to \$15 per person** to help reduce the deficit realized between the income and the cost to provide the lunch. Please come out and enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet consisting of salad, entrée, dessert, and beverage to help us maintain the ability to continue to provide the Friday lunch.

2026 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2025. If you have not yet paid your 2026 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.**

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

Monthly membership fee payment is available - Are you tired of paying fees at the end of the year to all the Masonic bodies where 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.

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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.

WAYS TO KILL ALMOST ANY ORGANIZATION

1. Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is closed.
3. Never have anything to say at the meeting—wait until you get outside.
4. When at the meeting, vote to do everything, then go home and do nothing.
5. The next day find fault with the officers and other members.
6. Take no part in the organization's affairs.
7. Be sure to sit in the back, so you can talk freely to another member.
8. Get all the organization will give you, but don't give the organization anything.
9. Never ask anyone to join the organization.
10. At every opportunity, threaten to resign and try to get others to do so also.
11. Talk cooperation, but don't cooperate.
12. If asked to help, say you don't have the time.
13. Never read anything pertaining to the organization.
14. Never accept an office - it is easier to criticize than to do things.
15. If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service to it.
16. If there are finances to pay, just ignore it.
17. Don't do any more than you have to, and, when others willingly and unselfishly use their abilities to help the good cause alone, then complain that the organization is run by a clique.



Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh
Director of Education

The Architect of Accomplishment



A couple of housekeeping chores ...

First, don't forget to make your reservations for the [Annual Burns Supper and Whisky College](#) on Saturday, January 17. Whisky College is at 5 p.m. (and may well be booked full by the time you read this) and the supper at 6 p.m. Also see the flyers elsewhere in this issue of **Rite Works** for details.

Second, I want to again give everyone an advance "heads-up" about the entertainment for our Ladies at the February 2026 meeting. The **Wine and Chocolate** event last year was so well-received that we're going to repeat that experience on February 16, with more in the way of "pairing" information to address a request from the Ladies. It's just a couple of days after Valentine's Day, so **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

And, my sincere and fraternal gratitude ...

Finally, as I'll be turning over the Consistory East in just a few weeks to Brother Greg Koenig. I want to thank the Brothers who served in 2025 and made our year so successful. You are the hardest working officer line in the Valley of Denver (in my totally objective and completely unbiased opinion, of course). You've made the year a real joy for me, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honor of serving with you. It's been a 'team effort' in the truest sense of that term! My sincere appreciation to **Prior Greg Koenig, 32° KCCH; Preceptor David Spence, 32° KCCH; Chancellor Miguel Lazalde, 32° KCCH; Minister of State Shawn Calder, 32°; Master of Ceremonies Sterling Field, 32°; and Captain of the Guard Stephan Grenier, 32°!** It's also been my privilege to serve with several Brothers over the past couple of years, who were unable to continue in their positions. Turnover in our line has made 2024 and 2025 challenging years in some respects, but I nevertheless want to thank **Brothers Heath Firestone, 32° KCCH; Matthew Madrid, 32°; Connor Riddle, 32°; and Michael McMinimee, 32°** for their service.

The Architect of Accomplishment

Several Months ago, it was my honor to be asked to prepare a short educational piece for Harmony #61. The topic was left up to me, and I decided to develop a discussion around a couple of simple questions that had been on my mind for a while.

After seeing and hearing degree work for decades, it's always impressed me how Freemasonry manages to repeat many of the same moral and ethical lessons but do so in such a way as to introduce new ideas. We nearly always manage to keep the message fresh and relevant to Brothers moving along the road in their Masonic travels. So, the initial questions, which I raised with the Brethren, were, first, "Why do we repeat the concepts and lessons over and

over again in the work? The second was “How is it that we can do that, without the presentations seeming stale and old?

[Note: The list of lessons and virtues that I handed out at #61 that night follows this article. I assembled it from an examination of the teachings of the Blue, York Rite, and Scottish Rite Degrees.]

In asking them that first question, this former teacher quickly added a caveat, to keep the discussion from focusing using on the blatantly obvious: “Why do we repeat?” is a legitimate question, BUT let’s recognize, right up front, what we all know from our own experience: repetition helps us remember stuff! So, **BESIDES THAT** ... “Why do we repeat?” The discussion got interesting, as soon as the most obvious answer to the question was taken off the table. Many of the sixty-three items, on the list that follows this article (you’ll likely add more) are obviously related (“temperance” and “sobriety,” for example, or “honesty” and “truth”), but clearly, though they’re related, they do not mean the same thing. They’re offered as fresh lessons, as our travels progress ... especially in the vast array of work we portray in our Rite ... for us to learn each time in a new context.

“Context,” then, is the simple answer to both the initial questions. We repeat the lessons and principles precisely because they do **NOT** mean exactly the same thing in every circumstance! Sometimes a new and a previous application of a lesson are obvious, but sometimes we need to essentially “re-learn” the lesson to see where it applies in ways different from what we’ve encountered before. The repetition does not become stale or old, because those different circumstances make the lessons we need to learn fresh and relevant, as we see them played out in the various degrees. Our human frailty (which inclines us to rationalize ... even when we know we’re wrong), as well as the ‘demands of the moment,’ can camouflage our decisions and fool us into thinking a principle does not apply ... even when cooler reflection may tell us that it does!

So, we benefit from seeing the myriad lessons and principles of the Craft laid before us in a variety of settings, because we need to be reminded, if nothing else, that we should consider our actions (as well as the motivations for them) carefully, to keep them “within due bounds.” A few examples: ...

- “Honesty” has a different implication when we’re handed too much change at the cash register ... versus when we’re placed under oath in court ... versus when we explain to a young daughter why it’s wrong to lie about hitting her brother! All, nevertheless, are worthy applications of the principle.
- We may willingly exercise “charity,” when contributing to a worthy cause. But are we equally charitable in our assumptions and conversation about a Brother, with whom we disagree, when we relate his words or actions to another? The demand that we be charitable deserves our attention as much in one instance as in the other!
- “Self-reliance” may garner the well-deserved praise of our Brethren, families, and friends, when we pursue it as a leadership trait. But is the attribute as admirable when it makes us reluctant to allow others to help us when we need it ... or when they merely want to be involved? How many times have we said, “It’s too much work to explain the task to others, I’ll just do it myself!” and in doing so deprived a Brother of a chance to contribute his interest and talent?

Continued on next page

Why then do we repeat ourselves in teaching the countless lessons of Freemasonry? If we're to learn all the subtleties and variations of the Craft's lessons and do so in such a way as to apply them effectively in our lives, then we need to see those lessons illustrated in as many situations as it takes for us to really understand what they mean, in their almost infinite variety! To put it simply, we must be able to see what is good and true in terms of ALL of its implications for our mortal existence. And so, in our Masonic experience, we teach the lessons from multiple perspectives. Motivational writer and speaker, Zig Ziglar, put it this way ...

“Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment.”

Bill

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303-775-5727

Last Month's Trivia Question: Which of the four officer lines is responsible for each of the following functions at the Valley of Denver?

- Entertainment for Valley Stated Meetings and special events. (**Consistory Line**)
- Calling Committee (**Council of Kadosh Line**)
- Feast of Tishri (**Lodge of Perfection Line**)
- Volunteer Events at Fort Logan Cemetery (**Chapter of Rose Croix Line**)

This Month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's Rite Works):

- (A) Which officers in each Valley officer line are elected?
- (B) Which are appointed?
- (C) Which Valley officers serve all the bodies and are appointed by the SGIG?
- (D) Which Valley Officers are appointed by the Personal Representative?



MADE IN SCOTLAND

Adhesive Postage Stamp: invented by James Chalmers from Arbroath, Scotland.

Bicycle: The pedal bicycle was invented by Kirkpatrick Macmillan from Keir in Dumfries and Galloway.

Bond: James Bond was created by author Ian Fleming, who was the grandson of Robert Fleming from Dundee, a merchant banker. Bond is the son of Andrew Bond from Glencoe and was famously played by Sean Connery, so you can't get much more Scottish than that.

Cash Machines: the first automated cash machine was developed by John Shepherd-Barron, whose father was Scottish, while James Goodfellow from Paisley patented Personal Identification Number (PIN) technology used in a different type of cash machine.

Cordite: the smokeless (compared with gunpowder) explosive used in shells was developed by chemist and physicist Sir James Dewar from Kincardineshire.

The following is a thematic list of lessons, virtues, and truths taught in the Blue, Lodge, York Rite, and Scottish Rite Degrees:

Balance	Freedom	Prudence
Benevolence	Honesty	Punctuality
Brotherly Love	Honor	Rationality
Charity	Hope	Reliability
Circumspection	Humbleness	Relief
Courage	Immortality	Repentance
Devotion	Independence	Reverence
Discretion	Industry	Righteousness
Disinterestedness	Justice	Self-reliance
Duty	Liberality	Service
Earnestness	Liberty	Silence
Education	Love	Sobriety
Enlightenment	Mercy	Subordination
Equality	Morality	Temperance
Equity	Moderation	Tolerance
Fairness	Modesty	Trust
Faith	Obedience	Truth
Fervency	Open-mindedness	Understanding
Fidelity	Optimism	Vigilance
Fortitude	Patriotism	Wisdom
Fraternity	Piety	Zeal



Member in the Spotlight
By Jeffery L. Gowin, 32° KCCH
1st Lieutenant Commander (elect)
Colorado Council of Kadosh

William (Billy) C. Biggs, 32°



William (Billy) C. Biggs was born in Denver, Colorado. He currently resides in the Harvey Park neighborhood of South Denver. He grew up in Georgetown until the age of 6, then moved to Idaho Springs, where his mother currently resides in the family home. Billy went to Clear Creek High School in Idaho Springs. Upon graduating, he attended Kansas State University to pursue his Bachelor's degree and then continued his education at Logan University for Graduate Studies. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. He earned another Bachelor of Science in Life Science from Logan University, followed by his Doctor of Chiropractic.

He began his Masonic journey at Georgetown Lodge #12 in 208. His great-grandfather, grandfather, and father were all Masons on his paternal side, and some were also in the Scottish Rite. Billy has been a member of the Scottish Rite and the Knights of Saint Andrew since 2023, and has helped out in the costumes department at the last few reunions. He was recently elected as the Junior Warden at Georgetown #12 and Senior Warden at Paul Revere #130. He is also the sitting Treasurer for the Knights of Saint Andrew. He was just appointed Captain of the Host for the Centennial Lodge of Perfection for 2026. Billy really enjoys being involved with Blue Lodges, and regularly participates in the Memorial Day Flags at Fort Logan. He participated in numerous fellowship events for both Paul Revere and Georgetown. He's done cemetery clean-ups, top golf events, whiskey distillery tours, and an annual crawfish boil with Paul Revere Lodge #130.

Billy enjoys the fellowship and overall good times at all the different functions. His time in the costume department and spending the weekend with those brothers have become the highlights of the year. He likes meeting the attendees at the reunions; it has become very rewarding. It's also great to learn something new while watching the degrees. Billy has regularly participated in the 28th and 29th degrees at the Spring and Fall reunions, respectively. He appreciates and loves getting to meet other Masonic brothers from other lodges and having the opportunity to branch out and meet more like-minded men. As a candidate, he was fortunate to have several Paul Revere Masons in his class, which led to his obtaining plural membership there and forming even more rewarding relationships with great Masons. This enabled him to expand his involvement into two lodges.

While away from his Masonic family, Billy enjoys hiking around the mountains and traveling as much as possible. He is an avid snowboarder in the winter months. He also enjoys shooting paper targets with rifles and pistols as well as sporting clays with a shotgun. Billy

Continued on next page

Member in the Spotlight - William (Billy) C. Biggs, 32°

Billy enjoys attending masonic events with his girlfriend Felicity. He has two dogs, Louie—a German Shepherd mix, and Gunner—a Chihuahua-Pug mix, who get to share in the outdoors with him.

Billy has been drawn to the institution of Masonry for the brotherhood and being able to be around a diverse group of men, all of whom are striving to be better themselves and make each other and their respective communities better as well. After becoming a Mason, it just seemed like something that was missing in his life that he didn't even realize, and he feels that Masonry has been worth every minute spent. Billy makes a conscious effort to attend both reunions every year, help with costumes, and participate in the degree work.

When asked what a surprising or little-known fact about him is that might intrigue others, Billy answered, "I'm a 4th generation Mason and was initiated and passed by my father, who passed away prior to my Raising to the Master Mason degree. I come from a long line of veterans, including my grandfather, who flew a bomber during World War II. I was also blessed with the opportunity to meet and spend the day with a fellow Scottish Rite brother while visiting Italy, and to learn about some of the subtle differences in the craft that exist in other countries."

Billy has learned that, despite our differences, we can come together as men seeking a common goal: being better and making the world around us better. He has learned a level of patience he never thought possible, and an understanding that helps him be empathetic and understanding toward his fellow man. Overall, he has learned that Masonry provides a brotherhood that extends beyond having a pint or sharing a joke. Billy says, "My fellow Masons are there to help when things are rough, to celebrate successes, and to be a guiding light when needed."

We all look forward to seeing this amazing man, Billy Biggs, at many events throughout 2026.



MADE IN SCOTLAND (continued)

Dolly the sheep: the world's first cloned mammal was the work of scientists Ian Wilmut and Keith Campbell. Campbell's father was Scottish and the work was done at the Roslin Institute, which is part of Edinburgh University, so Dolly was Scottish.

Electric toaster: invented by Alan MacMasters from Edinburgh.

Electromagnetic Radiation: the theory of electromagnetic radiation was devised by James Clerk Maxwell from Edinburgh.

Flush Toilet: often incorrectly credited to Englishman Thomas Crapper, the flush toilet with S-bend to retain water and banish smells was invented by Alexander Cumming from Edinburgh.

Hypnotism: James Braid from Kinross was a surgeon who pioneered hypnotism and hypnotherapy.

Irn-Bru: 'Made in Scotland from girders' was how drinks company A. G. Barr advertised Scotland's other national drink. The bestselling soft drink in Scotland is not made from girders, but it does actually contain iron. It is exported all over the world and made under license in Russia. World-wide, Barr sells around twenty cans of Irn-Bru every second.



DECEMBER 2025 STATED MEETING





Denver Consistory Knights of St. Andrew

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



Burns Night Supper & Whisky College

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado 80203

Scottish Music  Silent Auction  Burns Poetry

Presented by the Denver Knights of Saint Andrew



Whisky College | 5:00 p.m. | \$55 – Adult (21 and over)

Join us for a captivating Scotch whisky tasting and educational journey led by a true expert. This year's special class features selections from Glenmorangie Distillery, showcasing how a single malt evolves through time and craftsmanship. Discover how age, cask type, and maturation techniques transform aroma, taste, and finish—revealing the subtle complexities that make each expression uniquely exceptional. *Price includes a commemorative tasting glass!*

Dinner & Entertainment | 6:00 p.m. | \$74 – Adult (13 and over)

Pear Salad, Haggis, Filet Mignon, Asparagus, Twice Baked Potato, Chocolate Mousse

Join us for a lively dinner in honor of Robert Burns: Celebrate Scotland's beloved bard with an evening of traditional fare, poetry, and song. Enjoy the stirring sounds of the El Jebel Pipe Band and the Celtic folk tunes of Gobs o' Phun. Raise a glass to heritage, humor, and Highland pride in true Burns Night fashion!

Advance tickets only!
denverburnssupper.com
or scan the QR code

*Reserved table with purchase
of 8 dinner tickets*



Proceeds support RiteCare Colorado's programs for childhood language disorders
and the Scottish Rite Masonic Center building preservation

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.

Mt. Zion, Chapter #133, OES

Golden Masonic Center, 400 10th Street, Golden, CO.



January



2026

Happy New Year!



!!BREAKFAST!!

“OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVENT”

WITH THE ADDED TREAT OF MASONIC LODGE TOURS!

BRING YOU FAMILY & FRIENDS!

Sunday, Jan. 25th

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes or Waffles

Sausages

with

coffee, tea, cocoa, milk & orange juice

Adults & Children over 12yrs - \$10.00 ea.

Children 8-12yrs - \$5.00 ea. Children 5 & under - **Free!**



MEMORIAL SCROLL

Charles Edward Burrows, 32°

05/10/2025

Russell Ellis Davis, 32°

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.



Special Birthdays

100 Years!!!

James Alvin Prather

90 Years "YOUNG"

Donald Adams

David Kendall Craiger

Charles Harry Wingfield

80 Years "YOUNG"

Leslie Marc Davidson

60 Years "OLD"

Kenneth Leon Norris

50 Years "OLD"

Jose-Guillermo Ortega-Roldan

Our January "Youngster"

Dillon Ray Brickhouse (34)

Interesting Facts About JANUARY

January is named after the Roman god Janus, who had two faces – one looking back to the past and one looking forward to the future. It's a time for reflection and anticipation, setting the tone for the year ahead.

Birthstone: Garnet

Flower: Carnation and Snowdrop

Zodiac Signs: Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19), Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Anglo-Saxons called January "Wulfmonath" meaning "wolf month."

In Tudor England, January 1st gifts were called "handsel," which refers to a gift given to mark a first occasion or new beginning.

In Scotland, "first-footing" is practiced on New Year's Day, where the first person to enter a home brings gifts for luck.

Eating 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve is a Spanish tradition believed to bring good luck.

In Japan, people eat toshikoshi soba (year-crossing noodles) on New Year's Eve for good luck.

Many cultures believe that what you do on January 1st sets the tone for the entire year.

In some parts of the United States, eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day is thought to bring prosperity.

The popular New Year's song "Auld Lang Syne" was adapted and partially written by Robert Burns from traditional Scottish folk songs in 1788.



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](#)



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Denver Scottish Rite Consistory

<http://www.facebook.com>

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

QUESTIONS: [Randy Penn, 32° KCCH](#)



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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DENVER CONSISTORY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Bill Hickey, 33° - Chairman

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

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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



Ronald D. Birely, 33°
Personal Representative of the
SGIG in Colorado



Larry Bendt, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master (elect)
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



Tom Adair, 32° KCCH
Wise Master (elect)
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Rose Croix



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