



ST. PAUL VALLEY FOUNDATIONS

VOL 1 ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

New Publication of Education and Philanthropy Begins!

By Frank Spevak 33° I.G.H., Personal Representative and Editor

We are pleased to bring you a new publication dedicated to the education and philanthropies of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, Orient of Minnesota, Valley of St. Paul.

This publication is made possible by the generous support of the Scottish Rite Foundation of St. Paul, a qualified 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The purpose of this foundation is to provide educational information about the Scottish Rite as well as promote education to others and to promote ourselves amongst the community by hosting events when possible.

We are looking for articles that we can share with our members and the public at large to best show what Scottish Rite Freemasons are all about. If you would like to contribute, please send an email to the editor, Frank Spevak at fspevak@gmail.com.

If you would like to help us continue our mission, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Foundation of St. Paul and put in your memo "Newsletter".

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Albert Pike 33° - Sovereign Grand Commander, AASR, SJ 1859-1891

St. Paul Valley Foundation Happenings

By Shawn Hunter, 32° K.C.C.H., Foundation President

Welcome to the first edition of the valley newsletter! It has been quite a while since we have used this forum to communicate, and the foundation is proud to be part of it. Your foundation has been hard at work these last few years, collecting donations from members and distributing to many worthwhile causes. Thanks to you, we have been able to donate to great causes such as the Jerry B. Oliver scholarship fund (a major "seed" contributor to start the fund), storm relief efforts for various valleys, local food shelves, and education of members and others. In fact, the printing and distribution of this newsletter is being underwritten by the foundation as part of its education focus.

The foundation has been and continues to be a vibrant part of our valley. It is one of our 4 main charitable branches (the others being RiteCare, the Oliver scholarship fund, and the almoners fund). I sincerely hope that you will reach down deep and help fund the foundation for our various charitable activities. It is easy! Just shoot a check into the valley office, earmarking it for the foundation. Thanks, y'all!!

Invitation to Join the St. Paul Scottish Rite Choir

By Jerry J. Johnson, 33^o G.C.

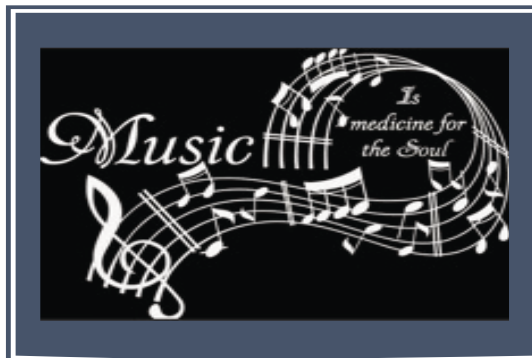
Brothers of the St. Paul Valley,

Enjoy music? Enjoy singing? Come join the newly-forming St. Paul Scottish Rite Choir!

For several months I thought about re-starting the St. Paul Valley Scottish Rite Choir. This possibility has come to fruition with the addition of our newest Master of the Royal Secret, Brother Justin Brown, 32^o. Among his many talents, Justin comes to us with musical experience including playing piano, organ and leading choral groups. In a recent discussion, he indicated strong interest in participating in a musical endeavor in the Valley and agreed to be our Choir Director and Accompanist. With this in mind, an e-news announcement was made and an announcement was given at the Lodge of Perfection Stated Meeting on June 12, 2024. The response to these announcements has been outstanding as 17 brothers have already signed up to be a St. Paul Valley Choir member!

More brothers are encouraged to join this Choir and you do not have to be a “professional” to do so. From personal experience, I have found singing in a group to be a lot of fun! I believe joining this Choir will offer a unique and enriching experience that blends musical passion with the opportunity to refine your musical skills. Your participation will allow your voice to contribute to the harmony and overall sound which can create a powerful and moving collective experience that enhances the Rite. I am reminded of the Middle Chamber Lecture where it states, “Music teaches the art of form concords, so as compose delightful harmony...”

Historically, music has been a central part of our fraternity and has been incorporated in Masonic ceremonies and social functions. The earliest evidence of Masonic music can be found in the 1723 Constitutions as there are four songs in its end-piece. Affirmation of its longstanding centrality in the Scottish Rite is found in my personal library. There, I have the book titled “*Choral Offerings for The Hidden House of the Temple of Solomon*” which was written in 1923 by Harry Sharpe, 32^o KCCH and Alfred Henry, 33^o. It was dedicated to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree and contains music for use of the Craft in exemplifying several Degrees. Having witnessed the incorporation of such music during Scottish Rite functions and degrees, I concur with others that it adds emotional depth to the experience.



Beyond the musical benefits, joining the St. Paul Scottish Rite choir will cultivate an increased sense of brotherhood and camaraderie. It will be an excellent way for like-minded individuals to share a passion for singing and music. Engaging in periodic choir activities can also provide a fulfilling break from daily routines, promoting mental well-being and offering a joyous and rewarding outlet.

Overall, joining this Choir can enhance your musical skills, provide an enriched sense of brotherhood, offer personal fulfillment, and improve your wellbeing. If you are interested in joining the St. Paul Scottish Rite Choir, please contact Jerry Johnson at jjohns770@gmail.com or 612-839-4389.

Masonic Composers

Johann Christian Bach, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Franz Joseph Haydn, Rouget De Lisle, Franz Liszt, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jean Sibelius, John Philip Sousa, Rick Wakeman

Philanthropy of the Scottish Rite-Local and National

By Gary Unger 33°, I.G.H., Donor Officer

Illustrious Brother Frank has asked me to provide an article. As a dual member of St Paul Valley, I want to thank each of you for always welcoming me on my visits from the Orient of Nebraska while representing the Supreme Council, SJ. In my position as Donor Officer for the Supreme Council, my job is to assist the local Orients and Valleys with their fund-raising efforts.

I want to briefly cover the two foundations in St Paul. The first one is the RiteCare® of Minneapolis and St Paul foundation, whose mission is to improve the lives of children affected by speech and language disorders. As a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization, RiteCare® of Minneapolis-St. Paul depends on the generous support of individuals, companies, and foundations. You can support RiteCare® of Minneapolis-St. Paul and its role in improving the lives of so many by making a tax-deductible donation.

The second foundation is the Scottish Rite Foundation of the St Paul. This foundation is how you can financial support your Scottish Rite building in St Paul. Illustrious Brother Frank is doing his best to revitalize this foundation. Your building is used by the local community for events, classes, and other functions in addition to housing historical items relating to Minnesota Masonry, the beautiful drops and costumes used in our degrees and significant pieces of Scottish Rite and Masonic Literature. Your tax-deductible contribution can support the preservation of all these items.

Additionally, we have two foundations at the Supreme Council. The Scottish Rite Foundation, Southern Jurisdiction awards scholarships and makes contributions to natural disaster relief efforts, and state Scottish Rite Foundations for support of charitable efforts. We also provide grants to our masonic youth groups and to appendant bodies annually. The House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation was set up to protect, preserve, maintain, and restore the Scottish Rite temple in Washington D.C. which contains a 250,000-volume historic public library, as well as numerous valuable masonic memorabilia in its museum area.

In the future I will provide information on the “nuts and bolts” of how you can provide support to the Foundation, RiteCare, and/or the Supreme Council. Please feel free to reach to me at gunger@scottishrite.org or call me at 402-651-9710 with any questions.

Did You Know?

Sovereign Grand Commander Henry C Clausen (1969-1985) was a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army during World War II. SGC Clausen was also an Assistant United States Attorney. Most significantly GC Clausen wrote the *Report of Investigation by Lt. Colonel, Henry C. Clausen, JAGD, for the Secretary of War, Supplementary to Proceedings of the Army Pearl Harbor Board* in 1945. For years there were a number additional theories about what happened at Pearl Harbor. SGC Clausen decided to write *Pearl Harbor: Final Judgement* in 1991 (published in 1992) in opposition to what he described as “inaccurate conspiracy theories” of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Upcoming Major Events

August 14 - Knights of Saint Andrew Knighting Ceremony - Dinner at 6, ceremony at 6:30.

September 4 - Rite Nite, information on being a Freemason, Scottish and York Rite Mason, Dinner at 6, program to follow.

September 18 - Fall Degree Class - Candidate check-in 5, Dinner at 5:45, 4th Degree at 6:30.

October 16 - Feast of Tishri - Lost Spur Event Center, social at 5:30, dinner at 6:30

Masonic Education - Essay #01

By Chris Posel 32°, Education Chair

Masonic education within the Scottish Rite tradition embodies a profound journey of enlightenment, exploration, and transformation for its members. Rooted in a rich tapestry of history and symbolism, Scottish Rite Masonry offers a unique perspective on Freemasonry, emphasizing philosophical teachings, esoteric knowledge, and spiritual growth.

Central to Scottish Rite Masonic education is the exploration of moral and ethical principles through allegory and symbolism. The degrees of the Scottish Rite are structured to impart profound lessons on virtue, duty, and the search for truth. Each degree unfolds a narrative that challenges members to reflect deeply on the complexities of human nature and the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment. Through these allegorical teachings, Scottish Rite Masonry encourages members to apply universal truths in their daily lives, fostering personal integrity and moral clarity.

Philosophical inquiry is another cornerstone of Scottish Rite Masonic education. Members are encouraged to delve into subjects such as metaphysics, ethics, and the nature of existence, expanding their understanding of the world and their place within it. This intellectual exploration is guided by the belief that knowledge is a pathway to enlightenment, empowering members to cultivate wisdom and discernment in their personal and Masonic endeavors.

In addition to its philosophical teachings, Scottish Rite Masonic education places a strong emphasis on degrees and their symbolic significance. Degrees serve as transformative experiences, allowing members to participate in symbolic journeys of self-discovery and spiritual awakening. Each degree within the Scottish Rite is designed to convey profound truths through symbolic actions, gestures, and words, reinforcing the fraternity's core values and principles.

Practical instruction is also integral to Scottish Rite Masonic education. Members receive (even if we may not initially see it) training in organizational leadership, governance, and ritualistic protocols, equipping them with the skills needed to contribute effectively to the fraternity's activities and governance. This practical knowledge ensures that Scottish Rite Masons not only understand the philosophical underpinnings of Freemasonry but also possess the capability to uphold its traditions and values in practical, everyday situations.

Furthermore, Scottish Rite Masonic education fosters a sense of fraternity and camaraderie among its members. Through shared experiences of learning, ritual, and fellowship, individuals from diverse backgrounds forge lasting bonds of friendship and mutual respect. This sense of brotherhood extends beyond local lodges to encompass the broader Scottish Rite community, creating a supportive network of like-minded individuals dedicated to personal growth and the advancement of Masonic principles.

In conclusion, Scottish Rite Masonic education offers a transformative journey of intellectual inquiry, moral reflection, and fraternal bonding. By engaging deeply with philosophical teachings, symbolic rituals, and practical skills, members of the Scottish Rite cultivate a profound understanding of Freemasonry's principles and their application in both personal and collective contexts. As we explore further aspects of Scottish Rite Masonic education in subsequent essays, we will delve into specific degrees, rituals, and their profound implications for spiritual and moral development within the fraternity.

“It is most true, that Truth is a Divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be true, and to seek to find and learn the Truth, are the great objects of every good Mason.”

Albert Pike

Real Life Application of Rose Croix

By Himanshu Sharma 32° K.C.C.H., Wise Master, Rose Croix

Going back in time, more than a few decades ago, a fourth-grade student came to his father after a regular school day. Dad could see that he was bothered by something. "Son, what's troubling you?", asked Father. The son said, "Dad, I worked very hard for this test. Still, I came in second. One of my classmates got a better score than me. That is not fair." His father replied, "Son, there will always be someone who will be better than you in all aspects of life. But you worked hard. I saw you giving it your best by putting in your effort. You did better than last time, even though last time no one scored more than you that time. You improved since then. I am really proud of you. I could not have asked for more." The son said, "Thanks Dad. That makes me feel a lot better." That statement helped the son a lot.

A few decades later, that son had the privilege to join the line of officers of the "Rose Croix Chapter" in Scottish Rite Masonry. He was handed the script for the Eighteenth degree - Knight of Rose Croix. He did not just read the whole script but understood it very well. It was full of wonderful life lessons. Amongst those messages, one line really echoed with the son. It reminded him of the above message from his father again and again.

That precious line was- **Your duty is not to be better than your brethren, but better than yourself.**

This statement has been so helpful in my life and brought wonderful childhood memories of my parents and other mentors. This was helpful in every aspect of life. That includes work, interaction with other people in all aspects of life, during periods of self-doubts. This always helped me in getting better and better in all aspects in life, and continues my passion in day-to-day activities, encouraging me to continue to work hard all the time. That leads to another statement - May peace be with you always. This statement brings inner peace all the time. It provides lifelong learning.

There are so many wonderful and true real-life teachings and words of wisdom in each Masonic degree. I am proud to be a mason and wanted to share this with everyone.

Leadership of the Lodge of Perfection

By Neil Clymer, 32° K.C.C.H Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection

I would like to start off with introducing myself. I became a Master of the Royal Secret in April of 2015 and became a 32° K.C.C.H in October of 2023. I am also a Past Master of Kadosh. I was elected to Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection at the June 2024 Stated Meeting. I look forward to this and hope that I can do as good a job as previous Venerable Masters.

The name of the Lodge of Perfection refers to the belief of Scottish Rite Masons that while they know they are not perfect there is a path to perfection. The Lodge of Perfection is responsible for conferring the Ineffable degrees. The 4th through the 14th degrees. The word Ineffable comes from the Latin word Ineffabilis which means something that should not be spoken.

The degree cycle starts on September 18th when the 4th degree, Secret Master, will be conferred at 6:30pm. The duties of this degree are to practice silence, obedience, and fidelity. Duties are not to be performed expecting reward, but expecting personal satisfaction

If you are a regular at degrees or haven't attended in a while I encourage everyone to attend. The 4th degree is an excellent degree with a wonderful cast that does a great presentation. It is also great to attend to support the new candidates and to have fellowship with your brethren.

My goal as Venerable Master is to increase attendance and participation at degrees and at stated meetings. I find degree nights to be rewarding, educational, and calming. I hope to see you there!

The Consistory Degrees of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction

By Chris Posel 32°, Master of Kadosh

The term "consistory" originates from the Latin word "consistorium," which means "a place of assembly" or "council chamber." Historically, a consistory referred to a gathering of officials or advisors, often within religious contexts. In the Roman Catholic Church, a consistory is a formal meeting of the College of Cardinals summoned by the Pope. This concept of assembly and counsel has evolved over time and has been adopted by various organizations, including Freemasonry.

Within Freemasonry, the Consistory represents the culmination of the Scottish Rite journey, particularly in the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. The Consistory degrees, which include the 31st and 32nd degrees, are some of the most profound degrees within this Masonic framework. These degrees encapsulate a wealth of moral, ethical, and philosophical teachings designed to guide Masons toward personal and communal betterment.

The 31st Degree: Inspector Inquisitor

The 31st degree, known as the Inspector Inquisitor, emphasizes introspection and the pursuit of truth. This degree is characterized by its focus on self-examination and judgment, encouraging Masons to scrutinize their own actions and motives. It teaches that before one can judge others, one must first judge oneself. The rituals of this degree are designed to foster a sense of inner discipline and moral fortitude.

Masons are reminded of the importance of fairness and impartiality in their dealings with others. The degree also delves into the concept of justice as a divine principle, urging members to align their actions with this higher standard.

The teachings of the 31st degree are particularly relevant in a world where personal integrity is often challenged. By encouraging members to look within and address their own shortcomings, the Inspector Inquisitor degree lays the foundation for ethical leadership and personal growth.

The 32nd Degree: Master of the Royal Secret

The 32nd degree, or the Master of the Royal Secret, is the culmination of the Scottish Rite journey. This degree synthesizes the lessons of all the preceding degrees, emphasizing the values of wisdom, truth, and service. The central theme of the 32nd degree is the Royal Secret, which is not a literal secret but rather the profound realization of one's duty to humanity and the divine.

The rituals of the 32nd degree are elaborate and symbolic, often involving dramatic representations of historical and mythical events. These rituals are designed to impress upon candidates the importance of moral courage and the pursuit of enlightenment. The degree encourages Masons to be leaders in their communities, exemplifying the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

The degree also explores the idea of the 'Royal Secret' as a metaphor for the ultimate understanding of one's place in the universe and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Significance and Impact

The Consistory degrees of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction serve as a capstone to the Masonic journey, providing a comprehensive framework for personal and moral development. They challenge members to embody the highest ideals of Freemasonry in their daily lives, promoting a sense of duty and service to others.

(Continued on next page)

To our Ladies: if your husband, or man, is not a better husband, a better boyfriend, a better father, or better son because of Freemasonry, then lean over and tap him on the shoulder, and tell him he must have forgotten something... because Freemasonry guides you to that result!

Ill. James D. Cole, 33° S.G.C.

(continuation of Consistory Degree)

In addition to their philosophical teachings, the 31st and 32nd degrees also play a crucial role in building a sense of community among Masons. The shared experience of these degrees fosters deep bonds of brotherhood and mutual support. This camaraderie is an essential aspect of the Scottish Rite, reinforcing the values of fellowship and collective progress.

The impact of the Consistory degrees extends beyond individual Masons to the broader society. By instilling principles of justice, integrity, and service, these degrees contribute to the cultivation of ethical leaders and responsible citizens. In a world increasingly in need of moral guidance, the teachings of the Scottish Rite offer a timeless blueprint for building a better future.

In conclusion, the Consistory degrees of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction represent the zenith of Masonic education, blending rich symbolism with profound ethical teachings. Through the 31st and 32nd degrees, Masons are called to introspection, personal growth, and a lifelong commitment to the betterment of humanity.

“Be prudent, diligent, temperate and discreet. Remember that every human being has a claim upon your kind offices.”

Albert Pike

The Kadosh Degrees of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction

By Lloyd Cheney 32° Commander, Council of Kadosh

I look forward to our coming year and a new degree cycle. In this first article for our newsletter, I would like to give you some meaning and lessons from what I feel is at the heart of the Council of Kadosh and its degrees.

The following is paraphrased from *The Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*:

The word "Kadosh" is an adjective from the ancient Hebraic root verb Kadash meaning holy, to sanctify or to be made holy/consecrated. The adjective "Kadosh" further describes someone or something that is inherently sacred. With the definite article it means "Holy Place" and "makadosh" means "the temple". The term "Knight Kadosh" may be taken as "Knight of the Temple".

In the context of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the degrees, within the Council of Kadosh, represent the pursuit of the sacred truth, virtue, and enlightenment. In the Council degrees we are tried, tempted and tested many times to test and ensure our worth before entering the several Orders of Knighthood. These trials of honor and virtue help us learn and identify self-truths and that we learn lessons of duty and honor. Along with the representation of these physical trials we are also informed of several regional mysteries about the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. These mysteries are in more of a Gnostic or spiritual focus rather than a dogmatic nature. All these lessons and trials culminate in the lessons in the 30th Degree - The Order of Knight Kadosh. In the Lodge of Perfection, we learn why the Word was lost. In the Chapter of Rose Croix, we learn how the Word was found. In the Council of Kadosh, we are sworn to be defenders of the Word.

What are the duties of a true Knight Kadosh? Those duties are stated in the Legend of the degree: to War against Ignorance, Spiritual Tyranny, Despotism, and Vice. A Knight Kadosh also must not be quick to act hastily toward seeking vengeance when wronged, and to remember the motto of the Knight Kadosh: Nekam Adonai! "Vengeance is Thine, O Lord!" Always remember the meaning of the word Kadosh and that a Knight Kadosh is to be a warrior of all that is Holy or Sacred.

Spes mea in Deo est! (My hope is in God!)

