



**Feast of the Pascal Lamb**

**March 9, 2024**

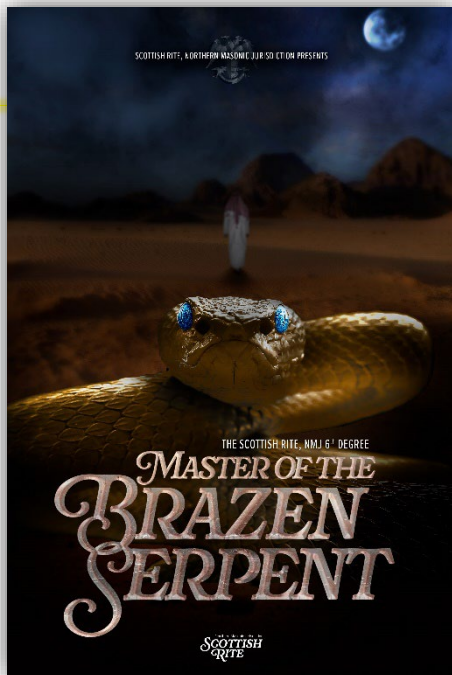
**VOLD Chapter of Rose Croix**

# Reunion Number 5 & Gala

The Valley of Wilmington holds its fifth reunion of the 2023 – 24 Scottish Rite calendar scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Modern Maturity Center; 1121 Forrest Avenue; Dover, DE 19904. This is our biennial 32<sup>nd</sup> degree and Gala event. A light lunch with our ladies starts at 12:00 noon and then at 1:00 our ladies will be bussed to the Casino for the afternoon while the men conduct the 6<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> degrees. Everyone reconvenes back at the Modern Maturity Center for the attitude adjustment hour ahead of our dinner dance. Attire is jacket and tie for members and tuxedos for officers. Caps and jewels for those who have them. The degrees presented will be the 6<sup>th</sup> degree (Master of the Brazen Serpent) via video and the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree (Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret) on stage.

**Master of the Brazen Serpent:** The sixth degree is a drama of the human spirit, caught between its own discouragement and fear, and the will and purpose of Almighty God. As you witness the Drama of the Brazen Serpent, you will realize that there are desert-stretches in every human life and in the history of every nation. Learn that a willing and courageous acceptance of life's disciplines and loyal obedience to lawful authority make us strong and secure. We must have Faith — faith in ourselves, faith in each other, Faith in God.

**Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret:** 32<sup>nd</sup> and Last Degree of the AASR of Freemasonry.



**SCOTTISH RITE SCHEDULE 2023-2024**

DATE	EVENT	TIME	MEAL	LOCATION
4/6/2024	Dinner Theater	6:00 PM	YES	Candlelight Theater, Wilmington
4/18/2024	Annual Business meeting	7:30 PM	NO	Newport
4/21-26/2024	Committee Week	----	YES	Lexington, MA
4/27/2024	<b>REUNION #5 (6th &amp; 32nd) and Gala</b>	12:00 PM	YES	Modern Maturity Center
5/6/2024	<b>VOLD Meeting</b>	7:30 PM	YES (6PM)	Endeavor Lodge
5/11/2024	<b>VOLD Reunion 5th, 10th, 25th</b>	7:00 AM	BRKFST	Temple Lodge, Milford
5/11/2024	Worker's Dinner	2:00 PM	YES	Clayton Fire Hall
5/17/2024	Charity Golf Outing	10:00 AM	YES	Odessa National Golf Course
5/18/2024	Council of Deliberation	10:00 AM	LUNCH	Clayton Fire Hall
8/19-23/2024	Supreme Council Executive Sessions	----	YES	Lexington, MA

“Lost time is never found again.”

- - - Ill. Bro. Benjamin Franklin

“There is a time to let things happen and a time to make things happen.”

- - - Hugh Prather

“Sometimes the bad things that happen in our lives put us directly on the path to the most wonderful things that will ever happen to us.”

- - - Nicole Reed

Remember to bring your Membership Card to all events as we will be scanning them into Journey 365 to help build your portfolio and that of our Valleys.

## LEON M. ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIPS

“Helping those who most need it strive for greater heights”

The Supreme Council is pleased to announce an expansion of the eligibility criteria for Abbott Scholarship awards. Named for Leon M. Abbott, Sovereign Grand Commander from 1921 to 1932, the Abbott Scholarship Program provides financial support for the continuing undergraduate and graduate education of Scottish Rite Masons, young men and women from Scottish Rite families, and Masonic related youth groups.

Eligibility: Those meeting any of the following criteria are eligible to apply for the Abbott Scholarship program:

- 🏛️ A Scottish Rite Mason of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction who is in good standing.
- 🏛️ A student directly related (bloodline or by legal means) to a current or deceased Scottish Rite Mason in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.
- 🏛️ A member of a Masonic sponsored youth group located in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

In addition, the applicant must be either:







- 🏛️ A high school senior, currently accepted at an accredited trade school or college or university who has attained a minimum grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale OR
- 🏛️ An undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled at an accredited trade school or college or university.

To apply, applicants should print the form, complete it, and mail it to the appropriate Valley secretary (Jack McDuff – VOLD or Jim Brady VOW) received by April 15, 2024. Applicants should submit their application to the Valley of the sponsor of the applicant.

To apply, please visit our [Abbott Scholarships](#) page.



# Be Part of our Dramatics Group

 Director of Work	Open position
 Director of Reunions	Bro. Mark Button
 Asst. Director of Reunions	Bro. Greg Correll
 Staging & Props	Ill. Bro. Jack Foreaker
 Costumes	Ill. Bro. Art Loveless
 Sound & Lighting	Bro. Dave Gamble

One of the growth opportunities fairly unique to the Scottish Rite is the experience of performing on stage to teach our core values: Reverence for God, Integrity, Devotion to Country, Justice, Tolerance, and Service to Humanity. There are various levels through which one can participate. Of course, there is the obvious role of learning a part and performing it on stage. These come in all sizes from a few lines to major roles. There are also those supporting roles which require no lines to memorize, only positioning and interacting on stage. Then there are those behind the scenes roles such as props, lighting, sound, and stage managing. Whichever level might interest you, know that all roles are important and come together at every Reunion to make Scottish Rite Masonry a truly memorable experience.

Contact [Bro. Greg Correll](#) and let him know your interest in joining in on the fun. Whether it is a non-speaking part, a few lines, a major roll, or behind the scenes, it is as they say, “there are no minor rolls in theater”. This is one of those “Making Good Men Better opportunities that masonry is all about. Come on out and make new friends.

## **April Reunion – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Our fifth reunion of the year finds the Valley of Wilmington presenting the 6<sup>th</sup> degree – *Master of the Brazen Serpent* and the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree – *Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret*. The educational exchange after the degrees will highlight the lessons and applications taught through the degrees to our lives. Mark your calendars and join us on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

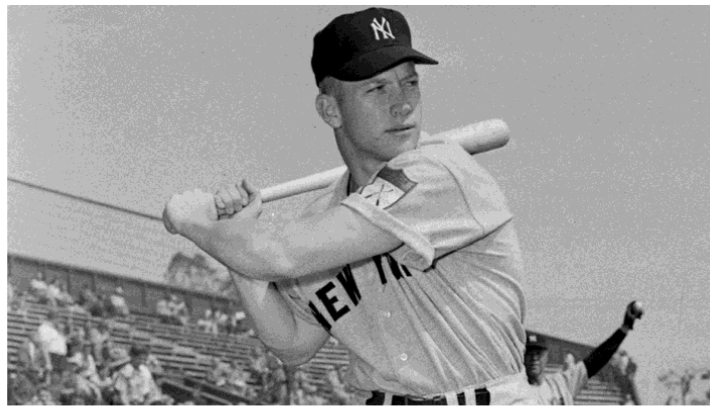


## A MASONIC MOMENT

(*Chips Off the Ashlar*) March 2024

R.W. Bro Richard Lacoursiere

## BOYS OF SUMMER



[https://i.cbc.ca/1.6564866.1661697556!/fileImage/httpImage/image.jpg\\_gen/derivatives/original\\_1180/mantle-mickey-510321-1180.jpg](https://i.cbc.ca/1.6564866.1661697556!/fileImage/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/original_1180/mantle-mickey-510321-1180.jpg)

The boys of summer are back, and the Grapefruit league is in full swing, pardon the pun. The following article is from an article I had saved from the internet, unfortunately I don't know the author or the internet address from when it came. But an interesting read none the less.

It's difficult to deny America's status as a state profoundly influenced by esotericism, and specifically Masonry, from its very inception. From the number of influential Masons in American history, to the Masonic design of Washington D.C. and many other capital monuments of individual states, and the blatant esoteric symbolism on the American dollar itself – not believing it is simply being either ignorant of the extent of the evidence, or in denial.

From the beginning, this all might sound a bit like conspiracy theorizing, even if it's not particularly conspiratorial per se, if we didn't first acknowledge the well-known fact that one of the central figures of early baseball coming into its modern form, Abner Doubleday, was a Theosophist, and another important figure in its early days was a Freemason by the name of Alexander Cartwright. Whether Abner or Alexander were truly the sole or primary forebears of the game is heavily debated, but even if it arose as more of a gradual evolution from its recreational ancestor Rounders, the many esoteric symbols and numbers are difficult to explain away.

For starters, there's the diamond shape of the baseball field itself. While most major sports are played in bipolar rectangles (think soccer, football, hockey, basketball, etc.), baseball is the only one to take place on a diamond, which strongly resembles a square and compass, especially when viewed from the perspective of behind second base, which would make home plate the circular apex of the compass. Whether inverted or not, there's clearly a resemblance, and the fact that the square end is in dirt may also be related to the earthly qualities said to be represented by right angles.

To take it even further, many baseball fields have recently begun to be mowed in a checkerboard fashion, perhaps unwittingly adding to the Masonic overtones.

All Freemasons will also begin to recognize some similarities of the shape of the field, placement of the bases, and journey of the batter to elements of a Lodge, which I won't allude to here very concretely. Many may also be surprised and interested to find that the journey of the batter around the bases, in the historical origins of the game, was in reverse of the direction it runs now. The shape of home plate, where the player both begins and ends, may strike a cord.

Three is a number with mystical significance to many esoteric teachings, and Freemasonry is no exception. The 3° being the pivotal point at which a Mason becomes a Master Mason, and the 33° being the penultimate achievement of Masonry, and many other instances of 3 in Masonic Life and Lodge are themselves, of course, symbolic allusions to the deeper significance of the number three. As it so happens, baseball is a game entirely based on 3, and multiples thereof.

The scoring of baseball occurs in threes: 3 strikes, 3 outs, 9 innings, 9 positions, 27 total outs, and 81 each of either at home games or away games. Of course, 3 and 9 have quite interesting mathematical properties in and of themselves, which is partly why they are considered sacred by so many traditions. Nine times any other number equals something which is numerologically nine, and also which divides the ten fingers into it's product, to name just a couple of it's "mathemagical" properties.

Some have also read even further symbolic significance into the nature of how baseball is played, as a metaphor for the soul's gnostic journey. By such an account, the pitcher is seen as the demiurge throwing obstacles at the batter, who is the individual soul, who must use exact timing and precision to attempt to hit the ball out of the park, representing the soul leaving the limited world of physicality, and allowing the individual to run through the bases without obstruction, as well as allowing any others on the path to pass through as well, representing what happens when a soul becomes illumined, and is able to illumine others. On the other hand, if they "strike out" by not being successful at least 1/3 of the time, then they must go back into the ancestral realm until they're "called up to bat" at another incarnation.

Did baseball's founders intend this extent of esoteric meaning? It's difficult to say, perhaps we could expect something like that from Abner Doubleday, as a Theosophist, or Alexander Cartwright, a Freemason; but again, the claim of who originated the modern version of the

game is hotly contested. If I'm being honest, aspects of it seem to me like a bit of a reach. It's possible that the way baseball is played actually is a much more mundane metaphor of meeting life's challenges. Perhaps it's both.

Ultimately, it's up to each individual to decide what they think about all that, but it's nevertheless interesting Masonic food for thought while I sit here thinking of summer nights, hot dogs, spitz, and a good ole ballpark ale.

Lastly, if any of you have papers, ideas for a Masonic moment do not hesitate to email me at [rpal5655@gmail.com](mailto:rpal5655@gmail.com).

Yours in the Craft

RPAL ☉

Remember,

**FREEMASONRY = YOURS TO DISCOVER**

*The opinions and thoughts written here are not of any Grand Lodge, but rather those of my own.*

# Annual Meeting and Elections

April 18, 2024

Newport Masonic Hall

@ 7:00 P.M.



## FROM THE SOUTH . . .

It has been almost a year since the Valley of Lower Delaware has received its very own chapter of the Knights of St.

Andrew. Together with the Valley of Wilmington, we serve as the service organization not only for the Scottish Rite, but for all Masonic groups that request our assistance. Although the first year for the VOLD has been somewhat tentative, we are holding our own and continue to make progress, especially in trying to attract new members. Anyone who wishes to join our ranks as squires or knights, and get to wear those distinguish looking glengarries (caps), please contact me and I'll be glad to sign you up.

I have recently been tasked to take over as the Delaware adviser for the Pathfinder program from Dave Walters. I know I have big shoes to fill, but I feel confident that I am up to the task. When Dave informed me that only four brothers have completed the program, I was astonished. For those that are unaware of the program, Pathfinder is intended to help acquaint brothers with the Scottish Rite, NMJ through participation and completion of a variety of activities across all areas of our fraternity. Most of the categories represent things we do normally by attending reunions, business meetings and social gatherings. There are a few tasks that may require a little more effort and investigative work to complete, but the end result is a lot more insight and information into our fraternity. My goal is to increase the completion rate by at least 100%, which should not be too difficult, but I need everyone's help. Once again, feel free to contact me with any questions, and I'd be happy to help you in any way I can. My plan is to have a little display set up at the registration table at our reunions. Stop by and say "hi" and let's get started on your path!!

The VOLD's third annual presentation of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb on Saturday, March 9th just concluded, and by all accounts, it was our most successful yet. There were a few widows who have been attending for the past three years, and have expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the annual event, and promised to return again next year.

It takes a whole team to put this on, and a great big word of thanks to all the cast and brothers who have worked so diligently to make this event such a success. Special thank you's go out to our photographer Greg Correll who also printed the program, our guest speaker Reverend William Downing, our organist Barbara Lott, Maurice Little for the support of Temple Lodge #7, and finally, Carolyn VanHeckle and her amazing crew from the Eastern Star who was responsible for the absolutely delicious meal, which has garnered rave reviews.

It gives me a sense of pride to be associated with such an amazing fraternity, working together to achieve common goals and shared values, and providing an environment of personal and spiritual growth throughout our Scottish Rite journey.

Journey on, my brothers!!

Love, Light, and Service,

Greg Vernicek, VOLD KSA Chief

917-816-1042

[dolphinchef@aol.com](mailto:dolphinchef@aol.com)

[PathfinderDE1@srmj.org](mailto:PathfinderDE1@srmj.org)

**Council of Deliberations**

**May 18, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**Clayton Fire Hall**



## Episode 4

**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

**8:00 PM ET**

*Prince of Jerusalem.*

The court of King Darius contemplates what motivates man. Core value explored is Reverence for God.

*Presented by Valley of Michigan*

## Episode 5

**Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**8:00 PM ET**

*Master of the Ninth Arch.*

The degree dramatizes the dangers encountered as men search for the lost word. Core value explored is Reverence for God..

*Presented by Valley of Ft. Wayne*



## 50th Anniversary of Cornerstone Laying of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

This March marks the fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the [Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library](#) in Lexington, Massachusetts. The ceremony took place just a little more than a year before the museum opened to the public. Much to our delight, a 15-minute film of the March 10, 1974 event was made and still exists today in our Library & Archives collection.



The Museum & Library recently had this 16mm film of the event digitized and you can now [watch the entire 15-minute film here](#).

The 1974 Proceedings of the Supreme Council, 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, included a description of the ceremony:

*A little more than a year after the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Museum and Library complex occurred, the gray granite cornerstone, gift of the Scottish Rite Masons of New Hampshire, was placed officially with ancient ceremonies conducted by the officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, with Grand Master Donald W. Vose presiding.*

*Some 400 participants and spectators were on hand on a clear but blustery Sunday afternoon for these traditional cornerstone exercises. Active and Emeriti Members of the Supreme Council, who had been in Boston on the preceding days for the Mid-winter Executive Session, served as hosts for the occasion...*

In addition to Masonic dignitaries, the ceremony also included representatives of the Town of Lexington, as well as Hugh Shepley from the architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, and Walter Creelman from Turner Construction Company.



# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware Scottish Rite Charity Golf Tournament



*Proudly Supporting*



FRIDAY, MAY 17th, 2024

Odessa National Golf Club  
1131 Fieldsboro Rd.  
Townsend, DE 19734

*\$125 per golfer  
Open to EVERYONE!!*

*Grand Master's Trophy*

To qualify, you must be a four-member team composed of Masons from any jurisdiction



**Sign up or Sponsor Online!!**

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/scottishritegolf>

For brochures or information, contact us at [delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com](mailto:delawareaasrgolf@gmail.com)

Prizes !!  
Games !!  
Contests !!  
Breakfast & Lunch !!



It is never too early to plan for a golf outing. Building upon the success of last year, your Scottish Rite returns to Odessa National Golf Club for its 16<sup>th</sup> annual charity golf tournament. As in the past, all proceeds will go to help support the 436th Force Support Squadron at Dover Air Force Base in providing combat support, community and family services, counseling, and social events for the families and children of our active military men and women who are deployed and serving our Country. Here are some pictures from events our support provided last year.

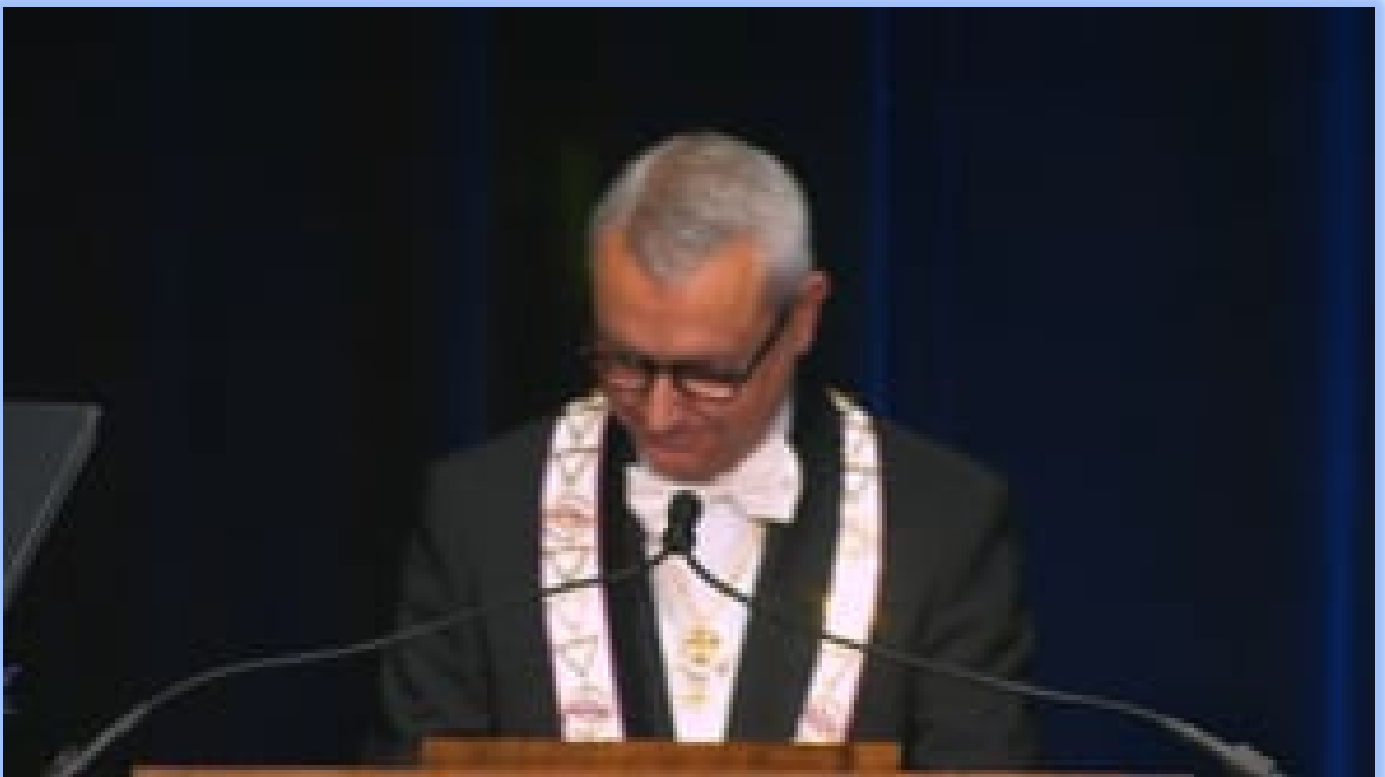


A Message from Sovereign Grand Commander of Germany,  
Alexander Ludwig, 33<sup>o</sup>

August 28, 2023

Louisville, KY

Supreme Council Bi-Annual Meeting



Click on the video image above to hear one of the most inspirational messages I have ever heard. Every school child ought to hear this presentation about America and who we are and what we stand for around the world. Sit back and be proud to be an American. We don't hear this sort of message too often these days.

WE BRING VETERANS TOGETHER USING HUMOR AND  
CAMARADERIE TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND  
PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE.



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**VETERANS  
ACTIVE DUTY  
GUARD & RESERVES**

**29  
JUNE  
2024**

**7:30 AM  
6:00 PM  
EDT**

Don't  
Wait...  
Register  
Now











