

SCOTTISH RITE

VALLEY OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

October 1st, 2016—Reunion 10th & 14th Degrees—818 N. Market St.
November 12th, 2016— SCOTTISH RITE DAY!!! —Location Dover Downs

2016—IMPORTANT DATES

August 6 (Saturday) Valley Trip! We are off the Camden Aquarium and The U.S.S. New Jersey. We will leave Dawson's Bus Company at 7:00 AM then depart from NUR Shrine at 8:45 AM

September 22nd (Thursday) Business Meeting #1 7:30PM under the direction of the Lodge of Perfection.
(Members only) Dress: Coat, tie, hat, and jewel as appropriate. Location 818 N Market St. 4th floor

October 1st (Saturday)—REUNION #1 10th and 14th Degrees. 818 N. Market St 3rd & 4th floors. Ceremony starts at 9:00 AM (candidates report 45 minutes earlier) and continues through lunch. Dress for officers & 33rds—tux, hat and jewels; all others—coat, tie, hat and jewel (as applicable). Free parking at 8th & Orange Streets ground level parking lot.
4th Degree video for those that need to “catch up” will be shown at 8:30 AM.

October 13th (Thursday) Grand Lodge Installation III.: Dale T. Irwin 33° MSA to be installed as Grand Master
Location Clayton Firehouse 212 Railroad Ave. Clayton De 19938 7:00PM-10:00PM

November 12th Reunion #2 SCOTTISH RITE DAY!!! Location Dover Downs starts 11:00AM 31° and 32° to be conferred.
*****Your check is your insurance of a reservation *****

Hotel reservations can be made through Dover Downs at a special rate.
Ladies and members group luncheon. High Tea for the Ladies during the Degrees.
Formal Dinner for all will start at 6:00

******MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH SECRETARY IN ORDER TO ATTEND******

January 26th (Thursday) 7:00PM Business Meeting#2 Dinner Meeting with the Ladies
Under the direction of the WCPJ (Location to be determined) **WE MUST HAVE AN RSVP FOR DINNER!**

February 4th (Saturday) Reunion #3 25th and 27th Degrees done on stage 818 N. Market St 3rd & 4th floors. Ceremony starts at 9:00 AM (candidates report 45 minutes earlier) and continues through lunch. Dress for officers & 33rds—tux, hat and jewels; all others—coat, tie, hat and jewel (as applicable). Free parking at 8th & Orange Streets ground level parking lot.





If a man empties his purse into his head,
no man can take it away from him.
An investment in knowledge
always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
IN YOUR MASONIC PRAYERS**

Daniel S. Bloxom
III. Warren F Schueler, Sr. 33°
III. Benjamin F Lloyd Jr. 33°
III. William J Shaw 33° MSA
George D Johnson MSA
Wayne T Slack MSA
John J Nuss
Bruce O Bent
Thomas I Moore Jr.



**If you know of anyone who is in need of prayers, please
contact the Secretary as indicated.**

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives. Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?"

"Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,.... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth.

The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."



BROTHER MOZART

THE MAGIC FLUTE

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was twenty-eight years of age when, in the autumn of 1784, he joined a Masonic Lodge. As a pianist, little Wolfgang had been an infant prodigy, exhibited by his father throughout Europe, but he was now a recognized and admired composer living in Vienna. The very year of his initiation his first great opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, had been produced in Paris. This was, however, before the days of copyright law and the earnings of genius were meager.

During the eighteenth century, Freemasonry in Vienna had a political as well as a benevolent side. It counted as its members many highly placed politicians and ecclesiastics whose ideal was the regeneration of humanity by moral means. It was hated by the Catholic Church and certain despotic political authorities who deemed it dangerous, both to religion and the well being of the state. The Church, however, even as today in certain Latin countries, did not consider it expedient to challenge high-placed persons nominally its members but also of the Fraternity.

The Empress Maria Theresa had been one who was opposed to Masonry and, in 1743, had ordered a Viennese Lodge raided, forcing its Master and her husband, Francis I, to make his escape by a secret staircase. The Emperor Joseph II (1780-90) was favorably inclined to the Fraternity, although the clergy did their best to get the Lodges suppressed.

Such was the Masonic milieu when Wolfgang Mozart became a Master Mason. He must have been greatly moved and inspired by his experience. Almost immediately he composed his Freemasons Funeral Music and his music for the opening and closing of a Lodge. He now composed his opera, *Don Giovanni*, and his three great symphonies - the E flat, the G minor and the C major, as well as a great number of concertos and chamber-music works.

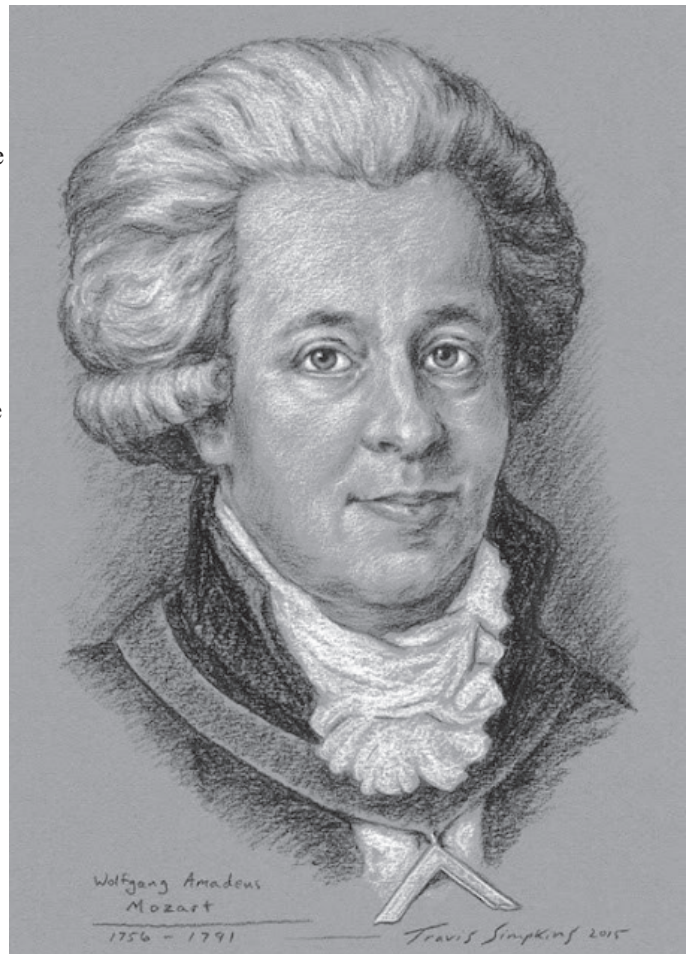
His last great opera, *The Magic Flute*, opened in Vienna on the evening of September 30, 1791. Mozart conducted the first two performances, when he was overtaken by his last illness. He lingered on while the opera had an unprecedented run of more than one hundred consecutive performances. It is said that in his sick bed, watch in hand, he would follow in imagination the performance of *The Magic Flute* in the theatre. Then he died after its 67th performance.

The Magic Flute makes no mention of Freemasonry as such, but it has always been accepted as a Masonic opera. Musicians assert that even the music has much Craft significance, beginning in the overture with its three solemn chords in the brass.

In keeping with the fashion of the time, the plot is half-serious, half-comic, a fantasy of magic and mystery laid in a never-never land called Egypt. It depicts the ancient mysteries and presents much Craft symbolism. To the Viennese of that day, the Queen of the night was clearly the unfriendly Empress Maria Theresa; the good Sarasto was Ignas von Born, an eminent scientist and Masonic leader; the hero Tamino was the good Emperor Joseph and the heroine Pamina, the Austrian people themselves.

The first program credited the libretto to the actor-producer, Schikaneder, but it is now thought that it was written by Giesecke, the friend and intimate of Goethe and Schiller, who probably desired to remain anonymous for political reasons.

The opera has remained popular through the years and is included in the present repertoire of the Metropolitan Opera Company.



As you know, to discuss the mission of the degrees of the Scottish Rite is a fairly lofty undertaking. It is a philosophical system that journeys deeper than the other systems of Freemasonry. It has many parallels in the myths of religion and ancient philosophy. It is not so easy to sit down and pen a simple answer to any inquiry regarding its overall themes. But it is important to understand these themes when one approaches it from the view of serious study.

Generally speaking, the degrees of the Scottish Rite are a series of lessons which have a time context, an overall grouping (Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Consistory.), a historical association, a set of ideas which are explored, an overall theme (religion, knighthood, etc.), and a guidepost, or marker that gives a person information about his own Masonic journey.

Of course, not all degrees have all these elements, but most do. And it is important to know that these elements are seldom ever stated, and each individual is free to disagree on the interpretation. We are dealing here with a quest; and that journey may be different for each person, depending on his level of insight. And, as in most all of Masonry, there is no right answer; although there are some which are clearly wrong.

As a rather simplified overall statement concerning the Rite, I believe the instruction takes the form of four Quests (or one Great Quest, with four phases), and each Body concerns itself primarily with only one of the quests. None of the quests ever really end--they continue for the reason that we can never know perfection, or perfect insight, until after we have passed to the great beyond; yet our task is to be engaged in the journey all along.

Generally, these Quests can be seen as follows:

Lodge of Perfection--the Quest for Light and the awakening of one's personal spirituality.

Chapter of Rose Croix--the Quest to purify and strengthen that spark, once awakened, and to make it the guiding force in the person's life.

Princes of Jerusalem--the Quest to find ways to express that strengthened spark in the matters and affairs of the world.

Consistory--the Quest for self-examination and empowerment which completes the process.

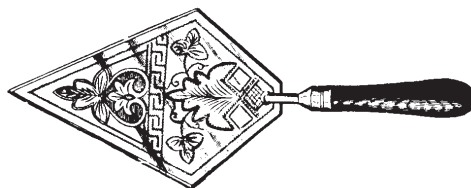
The 32° is the end of the Quest, so far as instruction in the Rite is concerned. But be aware that we must constantly strive for improvement in all areas reviewed by the Rite.

We must serve Truth, Faith, the People, Honor, our Scottish Rite teachings, and our own destiny. The great secret of the universe is equilibrium. There is an ultimate and universal equilibrium in all things since we are all part of the same Source of All That Is. In Truth, all things work in balance. When that balance is upset, it is our task to help set it right.

Our duty in the world is the duty to understand and maintain balance and equilibrium in our life.

The Scottish Rite is clearly a school of ethical and philosophical instruction. We are engaged in the business of teaching men about the quest of this life. We seek to prove that there is a synthesis in religion, or between religion and spirituality. There is indeed a level of perfection that exists for us in another place, or state of being. Our lessons are aimed at a greater hope which comes from our faith in that which cannot be fully understood, but which still requires that we know how to love unconditionally.

The Scottish Rite is engaged in recognizing there is a quest in life and our aim lies in working out this quest in a way that is right in the world. But it does not deny that man must have a faith that there is a plan associated with this quest which leads to eternal life. There is a divine Truth which provides for our own eternal bliss.



Social Media

Only a few grand lodges currently have social media policies in place for their members. This leaves over a 150 other grand lodges that don't have such a policy in place. If your grand lodge is one of these few, you should of course defer to their rules on the matter. But in the absence of such, here are some common sense pointers that should help keep you out of trouble.

The downfall of privacy. Each and every single thing you type into a computer becomes a matter of permanent record. You cannot take things back, you cannot remove them 100%, you cannot go back fix the damage once it is done. Think before you act, don't out other brethren as masons without their consent. Don't tag people in photos without their consent. Does Facebook allow you to? Of course it does but if you think Facebook is acting in your best interests, then you need substantially further education on the topic. Facebook is a free service, that means you are the product. You are bought and sold like any other open market commodity based on your age, location and interests. When you mention, tag, photograph, link to or in any other way identify online a man as being a brother, without their consent, you are making them the product and you have no right to do this.

Photos

This isn't a game. This is a serious problem with real life consequences. Today's technology allows anyone online to upload a photograph of someone and immediately see all the other photographs online that have that same face appearing in them. So what you ask? Keep reading.

Example (Fictional): A few years ago there was a member of my lodge, let's call him John and he was very enthusiastic not just about being a freemason but also about posting everything related to his masonic career on his business website, his business card, his email footer, his Facebook page and basically anywhere else that had a post or upload button. This was all well and good until one day Brother John posted a photograph of all the officers. This photograph tragically included another brother named Rakesh, our senior warden at the time. Rakesh did not even realize that his photo had been posted online. It was not until one day he flew back to his home country for a funeral that this unfortunate fact would become known to him. Now for those of you who have not been to the Middle East, when an American steps off the plane at customs, particularly a younger one, the first thing they do is type that persons name into google or Facebook and see what comes up. On this sad day in a nameless theocratic nation, Rakesh's identity as a freemason was finally revealed and because freemasonry is outlawed in that country, Rakesh was immediately taken into custody for crimes against the state and sits in a jail cell to this day. There is no trial, no release date, no nothing, just our brother, gone. Snatched away from us ultimately by the indirect hand of another brother. Next time you go to click the upload button with a photograph of any mason other than yourself, perhaps you should think twice about doing so.



Be sure to Check out and “Like” the Valley of Wilmington's Facebook page for daily posts. We will also be keeping all the Brothers up to date with events and happenings for the valley using this helpful tool.

<https://www.facebook.com/Scottish-Rite-of-Delaware-AASR-Valley-of-Wilmington-1517575941888449/>

DEATHS REPORTED SINCE LAST BULLETIN

Date Born	Brothers Name	Date Died
11/18/1943	Brother John L Bielicki	2/17/2016
10/12/1937	Brother Raymond L BurtonSr.	5/07/2016
10/26/1929	Brother Andrew S.Crossley	6/18/2016
1/25/1931	Brother George D Craig	5/30/2016
4/1/1932	Brother Robert G Donnigan	4/29/2016
6/14/1931	Brother Thomas B Johnson	5/14/2016
12/18/1925	Brother Irving Nathaniel Morris	6/28/2016
12/15/1929	Brother William F Peterson Sr.	6/03/2016
8/18/1926	Brother Paul L Reynier	4/17/2016
10/12/1932	Brother Maynard Earl Ritter	7/28/2016
10/31/1937	Brother Charles C Simmermon Jr.	4/16/2016

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From the Desk of the Secretary ...

As we begin a new Scottish Rite year we have many activities planned for your enjoyment. You all should have received your dues notice. Some people may notice a past due amount. If you have questions in regards to this please call me at the office to discuss. We urge you to return your notice ASAP with your dues so we can continue to offer the activities and programs your have enjoyed. I wish you and your family a wonderful and safe Summer and I look forward to seeing each of you in the fall.

*** Please contact me if you are missing your plastic dues card. ***

Information to the family: Should the Scottish Rite Mason whose name appears on the mailing label be admitted into the Hospital, Nursing Home, or is incapacitated in any way, **Please notify the Secretary of the Scottish Rite.**

(302) 998-6475

or

valleyofwilm098@verizon.net

**ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
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To commemorate the milestone of two centuries of Scottish Rite Freemasonry and to firmly recommit the fraternity to the values that defined its founding, Sovereign Grand Commander John Wm. McNaughton, 33 °, has commissioned a special honor that will recognize its most generous Brothers. The Commander's Circle will recognize supporters of the Grand Almoner's Fund.

If you wish to learn more about the commanders circle please ask the secretary for a link to the brochure.

The Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation, a qualified charity under section 501c3 of the Federal Tax Code. All donations are fully deductible to the extent allowed under law.

*But for Scottish Rite...
 Win - Win*

The Scottish Rite Grand Almoner's Campaign