This article is an outgrowth of a presentation I prepared to give to my Lodge. I’ve often thought that the Fellowcraft Lecture is the most interesting of our lectures. Many subjects are covered especially in jurisdictions where each of the steps is explained. When you receive this lecture you feel like you have learned things you didn’t know before. As is usual in Freemasonry, there are layers of meaning to the simple explanations we receive in the lecture. I’ve spent a month of periodic study of the many layers of hidden meanings in this lecture. I have a bibliography at the end of this article to give you the sources I used for this article.

To start, there is but one scriptural reference to a winding staircase in the description of the building of King Solomon’s Temple in I Kings 6:8. My New American Standard Bible says "The doorway for the lowest side chamber was on the right side of the house; and they would go up by winding stairs to the middle story, and from the middle to the third." A positive connection with King Solomon’s Temple has not been found. Hence, Freemasonry’s Middle Chamber is completely symbolic. But, oh what symbolism it has.

Let’s begin with a pictorial of the Winding Staircase. You will notice that the five steps show both the five orders of architecture and the five human senses. Think also about the three orders of architecture and the three human senses most revered by Masons. At the top of the seven steps you will note the depiction of the Middle Chamber with the reward for reaching the Middle Chamber being Divine Truth.

The Winding Staircase has 15 steps. It was not always 15 steps. In the early 1700s the number was five or seven. I have a copy of Pritchard’s "Masonry Dissected," circa 1730, that used seven steps. Preston’s "Illustrations of Masonry" were published between 1772 and 1812 and used 36 steps consisting of 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11. This violated the principles of those who followed the teachings of Pythagoras. They considered odd numbers to be the symbol of perfection. The Hemming Lectures used at the time of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) corrected this error by deleting the use of the number 11 in Preston’s lectures. I have been unable to discover where, when, and by whom the number nine was discarded, but it appears that perhaps the changes made by Thomas Webb who published "The Freemason’s Monitor or Illustrations of Freemasonry" in 1797 included that change. Webb condensed and rearranged the order of Preston’s lectures for more practical use. A second edition was published in 1802. Why was 15 selected you might ask? Our early ritualists knew that the number 15 was a sacred number among the Orientals. Numerologists will tell you that the numerical value of the letters in the holy name JAH (Jahweh or Jehovah: Psalm 68:4) equals 15. In fact, the number 15 was so revered that a Talisman of the number 15 was invented. It is shown on the right. This Talisman has the unique property that the sum of each column, each row, and each diagonal is 15. It is comparable to the Christian Cross as a talisman. You can see that this could be made into a key fob.
CHANGE?

Why do we need to change?

Over the years I have learned that for many Masons change is something to be avoided, to be counseled against, and ultimately to be opposed. This is understandable because change is unsettling, and change for change sake is not particularly wise. There is a quote sourced to Petronius the Arbiter dating back to 210 BC that exemplifies this concern.

“We trained very hard...but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into a team we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization."

Many of us can bring to mind more recent examples of change and reorganization that didn’t solve any problems or work very well. Moreover, from a Masonic perspective, we would not want to see changes in the bedrock principles and enduring values which are at the heart of Freemasonry – think of the three cardinal virtues, the tenets of Freemasonry, and the timeless lessons in the 29 Scottish Rite degrees. Neither do we want to change how we deal with our neighbors and co-workers – with courtesy, civility, and fairness – nor how we interact with our fellow Masons which is grounded on the obligations we have taken to aid and assist each other.

So it is clear that in many ways, Freemasons are a conservative bunch who remain faithful to the high moral and ethical standards taught in our ritual and exemplified in our Lodges. This is a good thing.

But having said this, it also is true that Freemasonry is not a backwards looking organization. It has always sought to be relevant and embrace the world and its problems. It espoused the enlightenment values against the old regime and it championed the principles of liberty and human dignity. Masons were agents of change in Europe, prominent in the formation of the United States, and played an important role in anti-colonial efforts in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Freemasonry continues to do its part today, helping in times of crisis and natural disaster, helping our Brethren in times of illness and grief, and providing emergency assistance when that is needed. More immediately, our own Valley has significantly expanded its scholarship activities to help our youth, and will again participate on 17 May in the “Celebrating the Craft” webcast originating from the Supreme Council. This event will help raise funds for the restoration of the iconic House of the Temple building, and also to assist the Orient RiteCare charity that helps children with language disabilities. If you cannot attend the CTC event at the Valley or at the House of the Temple, you can watch it from home at www.scottishrite.org. I hope that you will be able to contribute to both of these endeavors.

Moreover, without changing the principles upon which we are based, we are open to changing the way we do things. For example, we considered a proposal to move our meeting night from the 2nd Friday to the 4th Thursday. This latter date was suggested because it conflicted with the fewest other Masonic meetings. We provided a number of months for the Brethren to comment on this proposal and we found that it did not meet with much support at all, and so we will continue with our current meeting night – but we can revisit the issue in a couple of years.

A second proposed change relates to how we communicate with our members and the public. Our children and grandchildren are called “digital natives” because they are growing up in our new
electronic environment. They live on the Internet, interact with their friends via social media, play games on line, and do much of their reading and research electronically rather than on paper.

Most of the rest of us are called “digital immigrants” because we have largely migrated from paper to this electronic milieu. Many of us still like paper, at least for some things, but we find that our business lives center around the computer, and we interact by email, at least as much as by phone. Indeed, many of us find that we draft and edit better on the computer, and given the atrocious penmanship some of us have, we can read what we have typed better than what we have written.

Moreover, while we tend to lose paper, we can quickly find what we need if it is on the computer because it is so easy to search our email and electronic documents. In this context, with the help of Brothers AJ Fasono and Neil Marple, KCCH, we are working to make our Valley website more user-friendly and easier to change. I hope that by the next issue we will be able to have our new site operational and ready for your comments and review.

We also are considering ways to streamline the way we open and close, particularly when more than one of our bodies is meeting.

The point of all of this is to make it clear that we are receptive to your thoughts about how we can improve your Scottish Rite experience. Your suggestions will be reviewed, carefully considered by our Executive Council, and then discussed and voted upon by the membership at a Valley meeting. We really want your input and comments and need your participation in our Valley activities.

Fraternally,

Ed Cohen

Commander’s Message
Keith R. Butler, KCCH, Commander, Council of Kadosh

We have two very important events coming up in May and June, and we would like to have as large an attendance as possible. The Alexandria Scottish Rite will be sponsoring our annual Ladies Appreciation and Widows Recognition Dinner on May 9. If it is within your cable tow, it would be helpful if you could personally contact a widow and plan on bringing her to the dinner along with your significant other. I also would note that as Master Masons we took on an obligation to take care of the widows of Brothers who have gone to the Celestial Lodge. As a small part of that obligation, the Valley invites our widows to be our guests at the dinner. It would be great if you would help us by personally contacting a widow and providing transportation to and from the dinner.

Before our meeting on June 13, the Valley of Alexandria hosts some of the outstanding teachers in our area. We give them a framed certificate and a check. This is one of our community outreach programs, and we hope you and your lady will attend the dinner where we will be honoring three very special teachers. These teachers, their principals, and guests, often return to their schools and talk about their experience at the Alexandria Scottish Rite and with you, my Brethren. We look forward to having you with us. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events and contact our Secretary, Ill. Dave Morris for reservations at (703) 998-9044.

I thank all of you for electing me as the Commander of the Council of Kadosh. This year, we have an opportunity to enhance our work as well as to build friendships and teamwork among the Officers of the Council and our members at large. In particular, I will be planning an Officer’s Dinner to be held sometime this summer, and the purpose of this effort is to help solidify the work of the Council and to move our efforts forward. Furthermore, we plan to support our membership drives and to align the work of the Council of Kadosh with those committees that are involved with membership recruitment and retention. Lastly, I encourage all members of our Valley to attend each and every meeting of the Council of Kadosh. Our next two meetings are in May and November, and we hope to see you soon!

Keith
Biography of Keith R. A. Butler, KCCH
Commander of the Council of Kadosh

Brother Butler was initiated in January 2003, passed (in April), and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22 on June 16th, 2003. He became a Life Member of the Lodge on October 14, 2004. He became a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in April 2004. Keith was named a Fellow of the Scottish Rite in April, 2010, and became a Life Member of the Alexandria Valley of the Scottish Rite on June 11, 2010. He was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH) on September 24, 2011. He is currently the Commander of the Alexandria Council of Kadosh.

Brother Butler was knighted by the Royal Order of Scotland, and received the degrees of Heredom of Kilwinning and Knight of the Rosy Cross on September 28, 2013, in Dallas, Texas (and became a Life Member on the same date). He is Past High Priest of Mount. Vernon Royal Arch Chapter #14, Past Sovereign Master of Perfect Ashlar Council #349, Allied Masonic Degrees, and Past Commander of Old Dominion Commandery #11.

Keith works for the MITRE Corporation in Tysons Corner, and serves as a consultant to Federal government executives regarding the creation and execution of strategic plans, governance entities, performance measures, investment management initiatives, and compliance with legislative mandates such as the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010. Prior to joining MITRE in 2010, he worked for over seven years as a professional staff employee with the United States Postal Service. His last three years with the USPS were in the Office of Strategic Planning, where he worked in a GS-15 equivalent position to support strategic forecasting and reporting initiatives. He worked closely from 2009 to 2010 with the Postmaster General and many other USPS executives in the successful formulation and publication of a ten-year assessment of USPS financial performance for 2010-2020 (which was validated by Accenture, the Boston Consulting Group, and McKinsey).

Brother Butler holds an MBA in International Business, Strategic Management and Public Policy from the George Washington University, an MA in National Security Studies, and a BA in History. He is a member of several professional societies including the Atlantic Council, Business Executives for National Security, the Club of Rome (USA Association), the Federation of American Scientists, the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the World Future Society. Keith is also the Founder and CEO of Future States Entertainment, LLC, a startup computer game company in Northern Virginia (where he has lived since 1999). He is married to the former Melissa Cicotello.

Alexandria Scottish Rite Scholarship Program
Howard M. Sobel, KCCH

Brethren all,

Scottish Rite cares about our youth. I do not have to remind you of the wonderful work we are doing through our RiteCare charity to help children with language disabilities, and you also know that each year we have been helping our youth with scholarships.

For many years we have worked with the Grand Lodge of Virginia (GLVA) scholarship committee and have provided $1,000 scholarships to between six and ten youths each year. Last year your hard-working Scholarship Committee read over 80 applications and selected ten recipients and we will be doing this again this year. You can more information about these scholarships from the GLVA website.

We now also have begun our own Alexandria Scholarship program and will be able to award an additional ten $1,000 David and Martha Glass scholarships. These scholarships are open to any graduating High School senior who is either related to a member (living or deceased) of the Alexandria Scottish Rite, or is a member of one of our Masonic Youth Groups (DeMolay, Job’s Daughters, or Rainbow for Girls), or is related to a Master Mason (living or deceased) in the Commonwealth of Virginia and has a minimum grade point average of 3.0. These scholarships can be used for college, trade school, or professional certification.

(Continued on Page 7.)
The fact that the Winding Staircase's 15 steps are divided into 3, 5, and 7 steps holds great meaning. The number three alludes to the three degrees of Freemasonry, the three stationed officers of the lodge, our three Most Excellent Grand Masters, the three great lights, the three lesser lights, the three burning tapers, three immovable jewels, three movable jewels, the three tenets of Freemasonry, the Trinity, and the triangle – an emblem of deity. The number five alludes to the five human senses, the five orders of architecture, the fifth science of geometry, the five pointed star in the Entered Apprentice degree, five members required to hold a Fellowcraft Lodge, and the five points of fellowship in the Master Mason degree. The number seven was regarded as a perfect number by the Pythagoreans. It is made up of three and four; two perfect figures - the triangle and the square. It is also a virgin number: multiplication by any number more than one produces no number under 10 as can be done with 2X2, 2X3, 2X4, and 3X3. The number seven alludes to the seven ancient planets, the seven Wise Men of the East (Sages), the seven wonders of the ancient world, seven golden candlesticks, seven years to build King Solomon's Temple, seven years of famine, and the seven Sabbatical Years. More on this later.

On your right is a photograph of the Winding Staircase in the Colonial Lodge Room of the Salt Lake City, Utah Masonic Temple. At the top of the stairs is a room with a door on each side of the room. The Junior Warden stands inside the first door and the Senior Warden stands outside the second door. The usual alarms are given at each door and the token of the pass and pass of a Fellowcraft are given at the first door while the true grip and word of a Fellowcraft are given at the second door. The Wardens then resume their stations in the Lodge room (representing the Middle Chamber) and the candidate is conducted to the East where he receives the Middle Chamber lecture. It is quite impressive.

The three steps represent the three stationed officers of the lodge, they also represent the three great pillars that support the Lodge; wisdom, strength and beauty. The pillar of wisdom was dedicated to King Solomon and is an Ionic column. The pillar of strength was dedicated to Hiram, King of Tyre, and is a Doric column. The pillar of beauty was dedicated to Hiram Abiff and is Corinthian column. The three steps also represent the youth stage of human life. After passing through the two pillars at the entrance on the porch of King Solomon's Temple and ascending the three steps, a Fellowcraft passes from the youth of an Entered Apprentice to the entrance to manhood. The five steps represent the five orders of architecture as well as the five human senses. The five orders of architecture are paired with the five human senses as follows: the Doric is paired with hearing, the Ionic is paired with seeing, the Corinthian is paired with feeling, the Tuscan is paired with tasting, and the Composite is paired with smelling. The three human senses most revered by Masons, hearing, seeing, and feeling, represent the mental, physical, and spiritual aspects of our being. After ascending the five steps, the Fellowcraft attains and applies the useful knowledge he needs to discharge his respective duties to God, his neighbor, his family, and himself. Having ascended the five steps, he arrives at the entrance to Masonic Old Age. But he still has much effort to exert before he can stand at the top of the winding staircase to enjoy the happy reflections of a well spent life. In the seventh century, the seven steps represented the attainment of all useful knowledge. The seven steps — grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy were broken into two parts: “the Trivium; grammar rhetoric, and logic, and the Quadrivium; arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. The Trivium was revealed to only a few of those who applied. The Quadrivium was revealed to an even fewer subset of those who had received the Trivium. Those who possessed both the Trivium and the Quadrivium were deemed to be philosophers.
Candlesticks represented the seven churches; Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. It took seven years to build King Solomon's Temple as described in 1 Kings 6-9 and II Chronicles 2-5. The Seven Years of Famine, followed by seven years of plenty, are described in Genesis Chapter 41, verses 14-37. The seven Sabbatical Years are described in Leviticus Chapter 25, verses 20-22, wherein crops are planted for each of six years, and no crops are planted in the seventh year. However, the plenty of the sixth year harvest is such that it lasts until the crop from the eighth year is harvested at the beginning of the ninth year.

Taken together, the symbology of the Winding Staircase shows the progress of our intellectual education; from youth, through manhood, to old age. It provides character to our "Moral and Masonic Edifice" we learned about in the Northeast Corner of the Lodge. Climbing the staircase implies faith. It is a symbol of the growth of our mental and spiritual life, a symbol of learning, study, and enlarging horizons, and symbol of the courage of Masonic character. Climbing the staircase requires a courageous ascent, for since it is winding, we are unable to see what lies ahead. It teaches us to face life with courage. And finally, climbing the staircase leads us to the Middle Chamber where we receive our wages long sought; Divine Truth.

**Bibliography**

**XXVI The Legend of the Winding Stairs.**


**A Basic Masonic Education Course, FELLOWCRAFT, “Tier Two,”**


**LEGEND OF THE WINDING STAIRS,** ALBERT G. MACKEY, M. D.,


We already have awarded three of these scholarships this year and thanks to the efforts of Wor. William Baumbach will have applications for the 2015 scholarships available on our new website which Brother A. J. Fasano has designed and which we will have up in a couple of months.

So the take-away from all this is first, let me know if you want to be part of our Valley Scholarship Committee and work on this very worthwhile project. Second, help us to advertise these scholarships to our Scottish Rite and Blue Lodge Brethren. And third, I want to renew my challenge to all of you to match my donation of $1,000 to the Scholarship Fund over a five year period. The more new donors we can get (at whatever giving level) will help us to grow our scholarship funds more rapidly and help us to help more of our children. Please make your checks payable to the Alexandria Scottish Rite and write in the memo section “Scholarship Fund.”

Howard Sobel
703.946.2788 cell, Potentate09@gmail.com

New 50-Year Members
Ill. David H. Smith, Sr., 33°

Congratulations to our new 50-Year members who have reached this historic achievement and milestone. We celebrated with three of these Brethren who were able to attend our formal recognition with Ill. Ed Cohen, Personal Representative of the SGIG, presenting the Supreme Council Certificate and their new Blue Cap.

The 1963 Awardees are: Brothers Everett E. Bierman, Lester W. Bolton, Robert M Cohen, James E. Coffey, Oliver B. Crockett, Jr., Jack S. Daniels, Kenneth L. Hall, KCCH, Robert A. Sublett, Donald R. Williams and William E. Williamson, Jr.

“Wisdom to contrive, Strength to support, and Beauty to adorn all great and important undertakings.”
What is Your Job in the Scottish Rite?
Ill. Norman L. Hoff, 33º, Chairman, Membership Development Committee

We hear a number of reasons why our Lodge Brothers choose to join us as members of the Scottish Rite. The four primary reasons are:

- **Enlightenment**: They are continuing their search for additional light in Masonry and expect the Scottish Rite to live up to its promise of advanced Masonic education. They have been told of the printed and online educational materials as well as the formal correspondence coursework and Valley meeting educational presentations. They hope to use these resources to attain a better understanding of the philosophies and moral principles of the ages that have led to the tenets and teachings of our Fraternity. They may even be aware of the Scottish Rite Research Society’s periodic publications that provide the books and papers of our most distinguished Masonic scholars.

- **Degrees**: They appreciate the value of the dramatic presentations of the ritual and degrees of the Symbolic Lodge and can anticipate that they will learn even more through the additional degrees of the Scottish Rite. They know that as a cast member they not only will come to better understand the degree’s lessons, but also that they will become a vital part of the Masonic education of others. Just as they learned in the Symbolic Lodge degrees, they anticipate that the stories and symbolism of the Scottish Rite degrees will provide for many years of quiet contemplation and introspection.

- **Service**: They are looking for ways to serve their fellow man through their gifts of time and financial support and appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Scottish Rite’s many efforts in support of our youth through combating childhood language disorders and awarding scholarships for college and post-graduate education.

- **Brotherhood**: They enjoy the opportunity to meet and associate with a greatly expanded circle of friends and Brothers that results from the Valley’s far-reaching geographical range of its membership as well as the opportunity to further expand that range through Scottish Rite regional workshops and leadership conferences.

There are undoubtedly many more personal reasons known only to each individual Brother who petitions for membership in our Rite, but the four listed here have a common thread: each provides an opportunity for active participation. Ours is not a “spectator sport.” It is not appropriate to pride ourselves on being part of a worthy organization if we do not take an active role in making it so – nor do we gain the true satisfaction of personal growth or achievement, or more importantly, of realizing that our gifts of time, talent, or financial resources have benefitted someone else.

Knowing this, we must not disappoint, and our Valley is structured to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to its operations and activities. There are over 650 opportunities to participate in our Valley’s Reunion operations, degree casts, committee activities and leadership positions. Today, over 450 of those jobs are filled, but it is important to note that only about 200 of our Brothers are currently performing those 450 activities - some serving in as many as six or seven positions - and the assistance of more Brothers would be greatly appreciated. An additional 200 positions are open and waiting for someone to step into them. There is no shortage of opportunity to get involved and to share in the many rewards of the performance of duty.

To see the many opportunities for participation, see the “Help Wanted” listing on our web site at [http://alexandriascottishrite.org/members/committees/membership_development/](http://alexandriascottishrite.org/members/committees/membership_development/).

Each job entry includes the name and contact information of a Brother who can discuss the activities and individual responsibilities of each position. There is a job for every Brother but it is up to each to step forward, get involved and become a truly active member.
Preserving our Future by Celebrating our Craft
Ill. Matthew T. Szramoski, 33\°

The Supreme Council will host the 3rd Annual CTC on Saturday, May 17, to raise money for the Rebuilding the Temple Campaign and Orient 501(c)3 charities so what are you doing on May 17, 2014?

Perhaps you should watch the “Celebrating the Craft” live-streamed through the Supreme Council web site (scottishrite.org) from 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 Midnight EST.

The CTC is designed to provide you and your friends an opportunity to learn more about the Scottish Rite and the importance of the House of the Temple, its artifacts, museum, and library. It will feature musical artists, stage performers, and Masonic scholars Art De Hoyos and Brent Morris, and many others who will educate and entertain you throughout the evening. The event will be hosted by Illustrious Brother Norm Crosby, 33\° and radio personality Jim Bohannon.

While you and your friends are being entertained, you can also help our philanthropic efforts by calling in and making a donation, or contributing on-line directly at our website.

Please mark May 17 on your calendar and plan on watching at the Valley or at home. Let all of your Masonic friends know about the Web-a-thon and its importance and make that gift to show the Rite how much you care! If every member made just a $5 contribution we would raise more than $1 million!

SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

To foster a closer connection and participation with the Alexandria Valley, Scottish Rite brethren residing in distant areas from the Temple sought approval to establish Scottish Rite Clubs in their geographical areas. This was done in the Shenandoah Valley area in 1979, and in the Blue Ridge area in 1990. We in the Alexandria area support these clubs by attending their monthly dinner/meetings, and broadening our and their friendships. In turn, they help spread an interest in the Scottish Rite. We encourage Alexandria area brethren (and their ladies) to join in on these monthly gatherings.

The Blue Ridge Club’s Monday, May 19th, meeting will begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the IHOP Restaurant in Culpeper (15271 Montanus Drive) and on June 16th, they will meet at the same time and place. Reservations are not required.

The Shenandoah Valley Club will meet on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at the Lodge in Woodstock, VA. Reservations are required – dinner at 6:30 p.m., and a brief meeting thereafter. And, the Club will meet on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at the Butcher Block Restaurant, Stephens City. Reservations are not required.

Contact either Ill. Walter Downs (703-768-7903; walterdowns@verizon.net); Ill. David Smith (703-866-0345; dhsmith33@gmail.com), or Ill. Dave Morris, (703-998-9044; secretary@alexandriascottishrite.org) to make reservations or for additional information.
Memorial Day
remembers those who died serving the United States military.

Background
Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers, who died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women, who died in any war or military action.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II. Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends. This meant that, from 1971, Memorial Day holiday has been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date.

(http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/memorial-day)

2014 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference Spring Workshop
Ill. William “Larry” Alexander, 33°, Vice President - Scottish Rite Conference

I know not everyone in the Valley was able to be at the 2013 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference Spring Workshop was held on Saturday, March 22, at the Richmond Scottish Rite Temple but you missed an exception program.

First, the Grand Archivist and Grand Historian, Ill. Arturo de Hoyos, 33° GC, gave a fascinating presentation on the history and current state of the Archives of the Supreme Council. I was surprised to learn that the archives rooms were built first and the House of the Temple virtually erected around them. This indicated the importance of the archives to the builders and designers of the House of the Temple. These archives contain millions of pages of the history of the Rite and many exceptionally rare books and manuscripts, one of which Brother de Hoyos brought with him. He suggested that the value to the Scottish Rite of the documents and artifacts in this archive is comparable to the value to the United States of the documents in the National Archives and Smithsonian Museums. Those of wishing to do scholarly research should contact Ill. De Hoyos at adehoyas@scottishrite.org.

We were amazed and entertained by Art de Hoyos presentation and then charmed by the talk given by Dr. Richels, the liaison of the Tidewater Scottish Rite Foundation and Old Dominion University. She spoke on a personal level about the impact of donations from Virginia’s Scottish Rite Masons. She noted she had been a recipient of a Scottish Rite Fellowship as a graduate student at James Madison University, and now works at the Old Dominion University Clinic where her children are also clients. Dr. Richels described the impact on every student she trained and each patient she and her students then helped as ever expanding ripples in a pond. It was a very uplifting and motivating presentation and clearly helped us understand how our support for the RiteCare program in our Orient has and is helping many thousands of children – and their families.

The Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, M\W\ Wayne Sawyer Flora, KCCH, addressed the workshop on the value of Freemasonry and the need for membership involvement and membership growth. He noted that Freemasonry was a commitment to a way of life and suggested that we all need to have a vision of growing Freemasonry and be motivated to make that vision a reality. The Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Ill. & M\W James D. Cole, 33°, continued with that theme explaining that while Scottish Rite in Virginia was doing better on average than many other Orient, we still had a great deal of work to do to grow the Rite. He also reminded the Brethren to enjoy the 2014 edition of Celebrate the Craft on May 17, 2014, and to help as far as our circumstances allow in raising the funds needed to restore our iconic House of the Temple. He also spoke about plans for the 2014 Virginia Scottish Rite Conference to be held in Virginia Beach on September 27 & 28. More to follow.

Larry
CONGRATULATIONS to the SPRING 2014 REUNION CLASS
We hope to have your rings, patents, caps & boxes, that you ordered by the July Stated meeting. Please try to attend.

Reunion Class Members – Previous years
I still have a few of you, who have not picked up your order, if you are out of the area, I will arrange to send to you. I try to be in the office M-F 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call first.

For our 50 year members.
If you are not also a Life Member, your dues will continue to be $20.00; which is what we pay the Supreme Council per member.

KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREW NOW FORMING
The Alexandria Valley is supporting the formation of a NEW Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew. This organization is only open to 32° Masons. If you interested in joining and help form this group, please contact Brother Jim Mowry at; jim.mowry@yahoo.com or call 703 407-3796.

DO YOU KNOW A BROTHER WHO HAS BEEN SUSPENDED?
Until June 30th we have a Program to assist in bringing these brothers back to “Active Status”, contact the Valley office or Philip Rhodes at pnresq@aol.com for details.

PLANS for the FRIENDS and FAMILY DINNER and SILENT AUCTION

We are quite proud of the community outreach and charitable activities conducted by our Valley, but this takes money, so we periodically need to solicit contributions – and we try to make it fun. One of the fun events is our Friends and Family Dinner and Silent Auction. We have a really top-notch dinner, some musical entertainment, and lots of interesting items for our silent and live auction. These items are great to purchase for ourselves, and many of them make great gifts. Your donations and contributions are tax deductible, and all of the money we collect, after meeting our expenses, goes to our charities.

To make this event a success for our charities and a memorable evening out for us and our ladies, Howard Sobel, KCCH, has agreed to chair our Friends and Family Event Committee. He has a whole raft of ideas to improve the event but needs your help. We have scheduled this dinner and auction for March of 2015 to give us ample time to make it a great event. Right now he needs at least six Brethren to join him on his committee to do the planning and to solicit community support for the event, and he will need a larger number to assist at the event itself. Please get in touch with Howard at (703) 946-2788 or potentate09@gmail.com and become a part of our primary charitable fund raiser for 2015.
Calendar of Upcoming Events

**MAY 2014**

May 3rd – 8:00 a.m.
**SPRING REUNION**
Second Day of the Reunion

May 8th - 7:00 p.m.
**Master Craftsman 1 Study Group**

May 9th – 6:30 p.m.
**Pre-meeting Dinner—Ladies Night**
(Reservations by May 6th)
**Valley Meeting - 7:30 p.m.**
(Council of Kadosh, Chapter Rose Croix & Lodge of Perfection)

May 17th - 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight
**CELEBRATING the CRAFT**
Supreme Council and Alexandria Valley

May 19th - 6:30 p.m.
**Blue Ridge Club Meeting**—Culpeper
Meets at the IHOP Restaurant
(No reservations required.)

May 28th - 6:30 p.m.
**Shenandoah Valley Club Meeting**
Meets in Woodstock
(Reservations required by May 23rd.)

May 29th - 7:00 p.m.
**Master Craftsman 1 Study Group**

**JUNE 2014**

June 13th – 6:00 p.m
**Pre-meeting Dinner – Teachers Night**
(Reservations by the 10th)
**Valley Meeting — 7:30 p.m.**
(Consistory, & Lodge of Perfection)

June 16th – 6:30 p.m.
**Blue Ridge Club Meeting**—Culpeper
Meets at the IHOP
(No reservations required.)

June 25th - 6:30 p.m.
**Shenandoah Club Meeting**—
Meets at the Butcher Block Restaurant
(No reservations required.)

**JULY 2014**

July 4th
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

July 11th – 6:00 p.m.
**Executive Council Meeting**
Valley Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(Lodge of Perfection)

July 23rd - 6:30 p.m.
**Shenandoah Valley Club Meeting**
(Meets in Woodstock)
(Reservations required by July 18th)

July 26th – 11:30 – 3:00 p.m.
**Annual Valley Picnic**
Grounds of the Alexandria S.R.

**REMINDER:** Club information on Page 9.