



# Denver's RiteWorks

March 2021 vol. 14-#3



**Denver Consistory Marketplace**

<https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/>

Allows you to reserve dinners/events and to pay online (for example: Dues, Stated Meeting Dinners, Annual Summer Dinner, Oktoberfest, etc.)

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### Membership Statistics

February 2020: 1798	January 2021: 1650
February 2021: 1626	February 2021: 1626
Net: <b>172 loss</b>	Net: <b>24 Loss</b>

## Front Door Security System

A security system has been installed on the sliding door entrance to the building. The door is no longer left unlocked during business hours allowing anyone to enter the building unannounced and take the elevator to the third floor offices. The system was installed to provide much-needed protection for the office staff.

To gain admission, a visitor must push the intercom button on the outside of the door and request to be admitted. Denver Consistory members may be admitted by scanning their dues card in the card reader and are not required to push the intercom button and request admission.

### HOWEVER ...

Your dues card **MUST** be scanned into the system before it will work as your key card. Come to the office and see Illustrious Brother Tom Thompson to get your dues card scanned.

# PLANNING CALENDAR - **Subject to Change**

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, and the reduction in the number of persons who can meet indoors in the Denver City/County area, **Friday lunches are cancelled until further notice. No meetings will be allowed in the building until further notice.**

## March 2021 Subject to Change as necessary

Mon, Mar 1                      7:00 p.m. KSA Virtual Meeting—Election of Officers  
 Wed, Mar 10                  7:00 p.m. Virtual Degree Council Meeting  
 Mon, Mar 15                  7:00 p.m. Virtual Stated Meeting  
     Masonic Education - 14° Prolog & Discussion

## April 2021 Subject to Change as necessary

Mon, Apr 5                      7:00 p.m. KSA Virtual Meeting  
 Mon, Apr 19                  7:00 p.m. Virtual Stated Meeting

## May 2021 Subject to Change as necessary

Mon, May 3                      7:00 p.m. KSA Virtual Meeting  
 Mon, May 17                  7:00 p.m. Virtual Stated Meeting (Feast of the Consistory)  
     Masonic Education: 30° Prolog & Discussion  
 Sun, May 30                  9:00 a.m. Flags for Vets - Fort Logan  
 Mon, May 31                      **Consistory Closed for Memorial Day Holiday**

## June 2021 Subject to Change as necessary

Fri, Jun 4                      11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (Fried Chicken)  
 Sat, Jun 5                      11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Ladies Lunch - **Parking Garage Available**  
 Mon, Jun 7                      7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room  
 Fri, June 11                  11:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Consistory Lunch  
 Fri, Jun 18                  11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Consistory Lunch  
 Mon, Jun 21                      Stated Meeting - **Parking Garage Available**  
     **Hawaiian Shirt Night**  
     5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting  
     6:00 p.m. Dinner  
     7:00 p.m. Awards and Announcements, Blue Lodge Recognition Night  
     Entertainment  
     7:30 p.m. Split Meeting - 5 min oration by Orator of Rocky Mountain  
     Chapter of Rose Croix, Masonic Education  
 Fri, Jun 25                  11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Consistory Lunch  
 Sat, Jun 26                      6:45 p.m. KSA Burns Supper (rescheduled) **Parking Garage Available**

# EDITOR'S RESTLEBOARD



BY: **BILL HICKEY, 33°**  
EMAIL: [WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:WA3H@HOTMAIL.COM)



## THE CONSPIRACY OF DARK

You know, we often speak of wanting more “light” and spreading “light” to others around us. While this piece is a bit whimsical, it serves to show us that sometimes, “sucking dark” is what we really need to do sometimes. Be that “dark sucker” that goes around eliminating the dark.

For years the electrical utility companies have led the public to believe they were in business to supply electricity to the consumer, a service for which they charge a substantial rate. The recent accidental acquisition of secret records from a well-known power company has led to a massive research campaign which positively explodes several myths and exposes the massive hoax which has been perpetrated upon the public by the power companies.

The most common hoax promoted the false concept that light bulbs emitted light; in actuality, these “light” bulbs actually absorb DARK which is then transported back to the power generation stations via wire networks. A more descriptive name has now been coined: the new scientific name for the devices is “DARKSUCKER.”

This paper introduces a brief synopsis of the darksucker theory, which proves the existence of dark and establishes the fact that dark has great mass, and further that dark particles (anti-photons) are the fastest known particles in the universe. Apparently, even the celebrated Dr. Albert Einstein did not suspect the truth, that just as COLD is the absence of heat, LIGHT is actually the absence of DARK.

Scientists have now proven that light does not really exist! The basis of the darksucker theory is that electric light bulbs suck dark. Take, for example, the darksuckers in the room where you are right now. There is much less dark right next to the darksuckers than there is elsewhere, demonstrating their limited range. The larger the darksucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Darksuckers in a parking lot or on a football field have a much greater capacity than the ones used in the home, for example.

It may come as a surprise to learn that darksuckers also operate on a celestial scale—witness the Sun. Our Sun makes use of dense dark, sucking it in from all the planets and intervening dark space. Naturally, the Sun is better able to suck dark from the planets which are situated closer to it, thus explaining why those planets appear brighter than do those which are further distant from the sun.

Occasionally, the Sun actually oversucks; under those conditions, dark spots appear on the



surface of the Sun. Scientists have long studied these 'sunspots' and are only recently beginning to realize that the dark spots represent leaks of high pressure dark because the Sun has oversucked dark to such an extent that some dark actually leaks back into space. This leakage of high pressure dark frequently causes problems with radio communications here on Earth due to collisions between the dark particles as they stream out into space at high velocity via the black 'holes' in the surface of the Sun.

As with all manmade devices, darksuckers have a finite lifetime caused by the fact that they are not 100% efficient at transmitting collected dark back to the power company via the wires from your home, causing dark to build up slowly within the device. Once they are full of accumulated dark, they can no longer suck. This condition can be observed by looking for the black spot on a full darksucker when it has reached maximum capacity of untransmitted dark - you have surely noticed that dark completely surrounds a full darksucker because it no longer has the capacity to suck any dark at all.

A candle is a primitive darksucker. A new candle has a white wick. You will notice that after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all the dark which has been sucked into it. If you hold a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, the tip will turn black because it got in the way of the dark flowing into the candle. It is of no use to plug a candle into an electrical outlet; it can only collect dark - it has no transmission capabilities. Unfortunately, these primitive darksuckers have a very limited range and are hazardous to operate because of the intense heat produced.

There are also portable darksuckers called flashlights. The bulbs in these devices collect dark which is passed to a dark storage unit called a battery. When the dark storage unit is full, it must be either emptied (a process called 'recharging') or replaced before the portable darksucker can continue to operate. If you break open a battery, you will find dense black dark inside, evidence that it is actually a compact dark storage unit.

The darksuckers on your automobile are high capacity units with great range, thus they require much larger dark storage units mounted under the hood of the vehicle. Since there is far more dark available in the winter season, automobile dark storage units reach capacity more frequently than they do in the summer, requiring 'recharging,' or in severe cases, total replacement.

Dark has great mass. When dark is drawn into a darksucker, friction caused by the speed and mass of the dark particles (called anti-photons) actually generates substantial heat, thus it is unwise to touch an operating darksucker. Candles represent a special problem, as the dark must travel into a solid wick instead of through clear glass. This generates a great amount of heat, making it very dangerous to touch an operating candle.

Because dark has such great mass, it is very heavy. If you swim just below the surface of a lake, you see a lot of 'light,' (absence of dark, to be more precise). As you go deeper and deeper beneath the surface, you will notice that it gets darker and darker. When you reach a depth of approximately fifty feet, you are in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake, making it appear 'lighter' near the surface.

The power companies have learned to use the dark which has settled to the bottom of lakes and rivers by pushing it through turbines, which generates the electricity used to pump

the dark toward the ocean where it may be safely stored for their devious purposes.

Prior to the development of turbines, it was much more difficult to get the dark from the rivers and lakes to the ocean. The Indians recognized this problem, and developed means to assist the flow of dark on its long journey to the ocean. When on a river in a canoe travelling in the same direction as the flow of dark, they paddled slowly, so as not to impede the flow of dark; but when they travelled against the flow of dark, they paddled vigorously to help propel the dark along its way.

Scientists are working feverishly to develop exotic new instrumentation with which to measure the actual speed and energy level of dark. While such instrumentation is beyond the capabilities of the average layman, you can actually perform a test to demonstrate the unbelievable speed of dark, right in your own home.

All that is required for the simple test is a closed desk drawer situated in a bright room. You know from past experience that the tightly shut drawer is FULL of dark. Now, place your hand firmly on the drawer's handle. Quickly yank the drawer open - the dark immediately disappears, demonstrating the blinding speed with which the dark travels to the nearest dark-sucker!

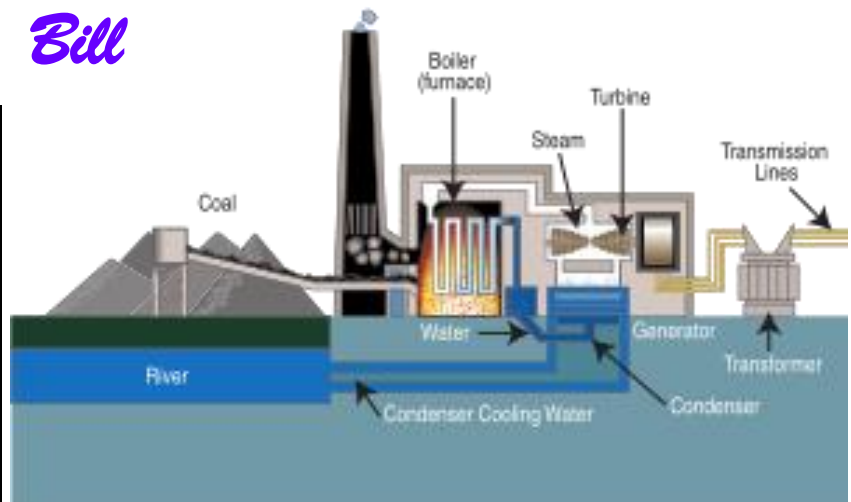
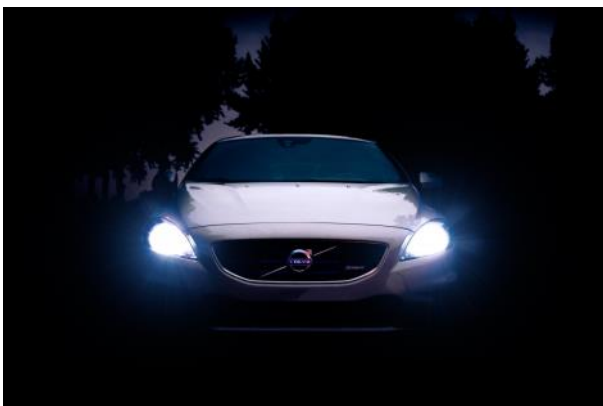
The secrets of dark are, at present, known only to the power companies. Dark must be very valuable, since they go to such lengths to collect it in vast quantities. By some well-hidden method, more modern power 'generation' facilities have devised methods to hide their collection of dark. The older facilities, however, usually have gargantuan piles of solidified dark in huge fenced-in areas. Visitors to these facilities are told that the huge black piles of material are supplies of coal, but such is NOT the case.

The power companies have long used secret acronyms to disguise their activities. 'D.C.' stands for 'Dark Conspiracy,' while 'A.C.' is suspected to represent the 'Alternate Conspiracy' which will most likely be used exclusively once the secrets of D.C are totally understood. D.C. is rapidly yielding its secrets to the probing eyes and instruments of honest scientists around the world.

The U. S. Attorney General is considering action to be taken against the power companies for the theft and stockpiling of dark from 'consumers.' New developments are being announced every day and we promise to keep the public informed of these announcements as they occur via this newsletter.

- Les Dark, Editor

*Bill*





# From the Secretary's Desk

[Matt Raia, 33°](#)



March 2021

**February 15<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting** - Our February virtual stated meeting featured the prolog to the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree followed by a discussion of the lessons of the degree facilitated by our Director of Education, **Brother Bill Achbach, 32°**.

The annual report of the Almoner and the annual report of the Life Membership fund were also given.

We had 90 members log on to view the meeting and enjoy the social time prior to and after the meeting. Each month participation in our virtual meetings increases. Thank you, my Brothers, for your support. It is difficult not meeting in person, but doing so virtually is better than not meeting at all.

**Calling Committee** - We have a cadre of volunteers who make calls to our members each quarter. The volunteers are not required to come to the office on a specific day to make the calls. Instead, they make the calls at their leisure. Every quarter I give each volunteer a new list of members to call. The goal is for every Denver Consistory member to receive at least one phone call during the year. The purpose of the call is to let the member know that we have not forgotten about them; that they are important to us; to find out how they are doing; and to offer assistance if needed.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the Calling Committee members for volunteering to reach out to our Brothers. The recipients of the call really appreciate the call. You are a vital link between Denver Consistory and our members. As a result of the calls, we have discovered some brothers who are in poor health, some who are experiencing financial difficulty and need assistance (and have been referred to our Almoner) and, unfortunately, some who have passed on and we were not notified by the family of their passing.

If you would like to be a Calling Committee Volunteer, let me know and I will add you to the list of volunteers and send you a list of brothers to call.

**Donate Your Car** - We have a donation plan in place to give you a receipt for a tax-deductible donation to the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Donate your car, truck, RV, or boat. Go to [www.carsforcharity.net](http://www.carsforcharity.net) to donate for the benefit of the Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

**Your 2021 Dues were payable December 31, 2020.** Dues notices were mailed by the Supreme Council in September of 2020. If you have not yet paid your 2021 dues, please do so and not set aside the dues notice and forget about it and become delinquent. \$110 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. Just \$0.30 per day WOW! That's less than the cost of one cup of coffee. Isn't your membership in the Scottish Rite worth more to you than a cup of coffee? Please do your part to help sustain the operation of Denver Consistory by paying your dues.

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**If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to pay your dues, PLEASE CONTACT ME.** We have programs available to assist you so that you are not suspended for non-payment of dues. But, you MUST contact me. We can't help you if you don't ask.

**Monthly Dues Payment Plan is available.** Are you tired of paying dues at the end of the year to all of the Masonic bodies you are a member? You may pay your annual Denver Consistory dues in eleven easy monthly payments rather than one lump sum, eliminating one more year-end bill to pay. By authorizing an automatic credit card payment each month at the end of eleven months, your dues for the ensuing year will be paid. Contact the office to set up a payment plan.

#### **Automatic Dues Renewal Program**

Supreme Council created and installed an auto-renewal program to pay annual dues. This is a completely voluntary program that gives our members the option to have their dues automatically deducted using a credit or debit card through the online membership portal.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS** are an ideal way to avoid paying future dues increases. A Life membership guarantees that you will never be suspended for non-payment of dues should your future financial situation change. It also ensures that should you no longer be able to take care of your finances, you will not be suspended for non-payment of dues because your Scottish Rite Membership is of no significance to the individual handling your finances. By purchasing a Life membership you leave a continuing legacy to Denver Consistory after your death.

#### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE**

75 YEARS OLD AND OLDER - a single payment of \$1,000

62-74 years old - a single payment of \$1,500

Younger than 62 years old - a single payment of \$2,500

Extended payment terms may be arranged. Contact the office for details.

### **COMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM will be the Virtual Degree Council meeting. Brother Phil Hause, 32° KCCH, our Director General, requests that all degree directors and committee chairmen attend this meeting. He needs your input on planning the Consistory Reopening Reunion in October.

**Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** our Virtual Stated Meeting will be *"Wear your favorite sports team shirt night."* When we meet in person this is the meeting in which we have the Past Presiding officer Recognition. Since we will be having a virtual meeting and not meeting in person, it is unknown if we will have the Past Presiding Officer program, and if so how we will accomplish it. Join us on March 15<sup>th</sup> and be just as surprised as we are as to what takes place. **Brother Bill Achbach, 32°**, Director of Education, will lead a discussion on the symbolism of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree.

**Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** - KSA Spring Cleanup is cancelled due to COVID-19 Continued on next page



**Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**—Virtual KSA meeting.


**Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM - Flags for Fallen Vets** - Denver Consistory will participate in this community involvement project at Ft. Logan National Cemetery by placing American flags on the graves. You, your family, and friends, are invited to join us. Please see the flyer in this issue for details.

**Denver Scottish Rite Charity Golf Tournament** - Denver Consistory will host the first annual charity golf tournament on August 20, 2021 at Willis Case golf Course. The proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Children's Hospital of Colorado, the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado, and the Denver Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

This is YOUR golf tournament Brethren. It is not the Executive Committee's tournament. It is not the Scottish Rite Masonic Center's tournament. It is not the Golf Committee's tournament. It is YOUR tournament. Your support of the tournament is vital to its success. Each of you are asked to help secure sponsors, big and small. Ask businesses you frequent to be a sponsor or make a contribution. Ask your Blue Lodge to be a sponsor or make a contribution. Degree team members, ask your fellow cast members to make a combined contribution to the tournament by becoming a Pin Flag sponsor, or Hole sponsor, or Tee box sponsor. Visit the web site [www.scottishritegolf.org](http://www.scottishritegolf.org) for sponsorship details and refer to the flyer in this edition of the Rite Works.

### **I leave you with a VERY important lesson I learned.**

*One of the quickest ways to meet new people is to pick up the wrong ball on the golf course.*

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1. The score (or handicap) a player reports should always be regarded as his opening offer.
  2. All vows taken on a golf course shall be valid only until the sunset.
  3. A "Gimme" is defined as an agreement between two golfers, that can't putt very well.
  4. The term "mulligan" is a contraction of the phrase "maul it again."
  5. The statute of limitations on forgotten strokes is two holes.
  6. Nonchalant putts count the same as chalant putts.
  7. A golf match is a test of your skill against your opponent's luck.
  8. Never subtract so many strokes on a hole that you wind up with the honor on the next hole.
  9. It's not a Gimme if you're still away.
  10. A stroke does not occur unless it is observed by more than one golfer.
  11. A two-foot putt counts the same as a two-foot drive.
  12. Unlike baseball. In golf, you have to play your foul balls.
  13. Leaf rule - used in certain parts of America during Autumn allowing a golfer to play another ball without penalty when his previous shot is lost and assumed covered by leaves, or in your case,,, pocketed...



## From the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix

By Scott E. Olson, 32° KCCH  
Wise Master



In my mere six years as a member of the Denver Consistory, I have noticed a concerning pattern around the Rose Croix Funeral Service and its implementation. Perhaps you have noticed this as well. Too often, we hear the numerous names read from the Memorial Scroll at each of our meetings. And yet, for all the names read, a very small percentage actually receive the Rose Croix Funeral Service. This service is one of the most profound of the few rituals that can be performed in a public setting, serves to honor our fallen Brethren with a final tribute of respect and love. It openly celebrates the individual's deep connection to the brotherhood, its rigorous work, and commitment to supporting the man's strong values. It exemplifies and celebrates the true, lasting, and inherent value of the Masonic journey. It serves as a most profound ritualistic send-off of love, honor, and respect to the deceased by the Masonic community, but also as an opportunity to show others what it truly means to be a Mason.

The question remains then ... WHY? Why are so many Brethren passing on to the Celestial Lodge above without requesting or receiving the Rose Croix Funeral Service to which they are entitled? The full answer may never be known, but I'm sure we can all posit some theories. I know I have a few. I'm sure some are no longer residing in the area. Certainly, a fair point. Perhaps some others just aren't as active anymore and haven't really considered it as an option. For others, their families may not be as supportive of the fraternity and don't want any masonic service included in the regular funeral or memorial service. Or, maybe the Brother himself doesn't want it. And, I'm sure that all of you who have participated in Masonic funerals before have encountered the resistance that comes from a few of the churches and clergy in the area. These are all viable possibilities.

However, I'm guessing a far more likely scenario is that, in many cases, the family doesn't even know to request the service. That information was never conveyed orally by the Brother to his family, or most likely, never written down formally. It's one thing to tell your spouse or family that the service is something you desire and quite another to have it written down with clear contact information and instructions so they can follow up when they are in a time of intense grief. Can you imagine going through the death of your spouse, father, brother, son, and on top of all that all the other arrangements to be made, trying to figure out who to contact from some organization of which you've never been a part? That, of course, implies that you know that you are supposed to contact that organization. Some aren't even aware that they should reach out to inform the Lodge or Consistory about a Brother's passing until the next dues notice comes in the mail.

For that reason, over the next few months, I will be rolling out a campaign to promote the

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**From Rose Croix East** - Continued from previous page

Rose Croix service through announcements, emails, and postcards to every single member providing a quick, simple method to inform the Consistory of your desire for the Rose Croix service (or not). Each member who participates will be provided with a printable or downloadable page that can be filed with your final paperwork outlining contact information and clear instructions for your family to follow upon your passing. Be on the lookout. Once the information is sent, I urge all members to take just a few minutes of your time, fill out the online form, and secure your right to receive the Rose Croix Funeral Service. Most importantly, make sure your family has all the information they need to make it happen. This is your right, and our obligation.

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## The Season of Lent

We are in the season of lent, which is important to Christians. It lasts for 40 days, excluding Sundays, and it marks the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. It ends on the Saturday before Easter. The season is a time of preparation for Easter. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten" which means "Spring." March 20, is the first day of Spring. Many Christians give up something for Lent, such as sweets, while others add something to their daily lives such as reading the Bible every morning or doing a good deed every day. Before the pandemic, the Scottish Rite hosted an Easter Sunrise service conducted by the Knights Templar Association.





## Breaking News with Master Craftsman **PART OF A BALANCED DIET**

By: Bill Achbach, 32°



Remember the cereal commercials that ran during Saturday morning cartoons when you were a kid?

The advertisers informed us, following the pitch to have Mom procure their wonderful (typically sugar-laden) product on her next trip to the market, that what was in that box was “part of a complete breakfast.” There’d be a quick pan across the breakfast table, where we’d catch a glimpse of the orange juice and toast alongside the cereal bowl. Well, okay: carbs + carbs + carbs + milk and maybe butter to include dairy + a nod to fruits and veggies with the juice (though usually with “sugar added” in those days).

“Complete?” Well, perhaps as in “That’s all you’re getting until lunch!” ... sort of a truncated “food pyramid” actually! But, we managed and even thrived, as we began the day with something likely short of a “balanced” meal. Most of the carbs probably got burned off by noon anyway!

So, I was thinking about that idea of a balanced diet, after our recent Master Craftsman session. Yes, I know: here goes Bill’s runaway mind again ... but, seriously, I was!

It was a good session. Well attended, by recent standards, with a discussion on a topic from the Symbolic Lodge course, fellowship, participation, and over before it became tedious (I hope!). In my estimation, a fruitful meeting ... but only “part of a balanced diet,” in terms of Masonic education.

I like Master Craftsman. I enjoy promoting it, helping with enrollment, and advising on the procurement of materials. I even find it satisfying to assist with problems that arise (especially when they’re solved), though I’d maybe stop short of “enjoy” on that one. The program is a hugely helpful, dynamic offering by Supreme Council for all Masons, and **ALL** Masons ought seriously to consider making a commitment to complete the courses.

But, considering the broad possibilities of our “university of Freemasonry,” Master Craftsman is only the “core curriculum” ... well, maybe a baccalaureate degree ... but certainly not a PhD! “Graduate Programs” are largely something we must assemble and execute for ourselves, although there is assistance available. Consider ...

### **BOOKS**

There is a very serviceable recommended reading list, assembled by Arturo de Hoyos, 33° GC, KYCH, in the back of **Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide**. That list can also be accessed on the Supreme Council website:

<https://members.scottishrite.org/other-resources/suggested-reading/>

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You will have to log-on to the site to see the page: a good time to create an account, if you haven't done it already!

Masonic Supply Houses: (J. P. Luther, Macoy, George Lauterer ...) typically off a selection of titles to choose from.

You can borrow from the Consistory Library.

If you're an e-book reader, Amazon.com offers a plethora of legitimate Masonic titles (and junk too) as Kindle-editions: generally priced at a fraction of print edition (which are also available) prices. Be discriminating, however, and read the customer reviews, not least because digital formatting can be ragged, even with a good title. To start? If you're in your Blue Lodge line, try [\*The Master's Book\*](#). Looking for inspiration? Maybe [\*Contemplative Freemasonry\*](#) or [\*365 Level Steps\*](#). Masonic history & current events? Perhaps [\*Recognizing Prince Hall\*](#). The Kindle app is free and there's a version for tablets, smartphones & desktops.

**✓ Oh, and don't forget to set up your account with Amazon Smile and designate our Scottish Rite Masonic Center to receive a donation for your purchases!**

## PERIODICALS

There are not so many Masonic-themed "magazines" as one might expect, but there are some good ones ... and some not-so-much; be discerning! In addition to publications of research societies (see below), two places to start are, of course ...

1. Our very own *The Scottish Rite Journal* has worthwhile articles & features in every issue.
2. [\*Rocky Mountain Mason\*](#) is a quarterly publication "...containing articles of interest to Freemasons in general as well as Masonic history, philosophy, esoterica, and current events." RMM also has a [podcast](#) (live every Wednesday), also available via Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts, or Spotify.

## RESEARCH LODGES

Just about every Masonic Jurisdiction has a research lodge. Some are more active than others, but most promote the production of scholarly papers and essays on Masonic topics, and they are typically open to membership by Masons outside their jurisdictions. [\*Research Lodge of Colorado\*](#) is a chartered Lodge (#999), under the jurisdiction of the MW Grand Lodge of Colorado, and has recently published *Transactions, vol. 1* (papers presented before the Grand Lodge 1953-1959). Their quarterly newsletter is [\*Lucerna\*](#).

## RESEARCH SOCIETIES

There are a number of excellent organizations dedicated to discussion and scholarly work on Masonic topics & themes ... and a few not-so-excellent ones too, so be circumspect. A few of the better known are ...

[\*The Masonic Society\*](#) has as its stated purpose , "... to foster the intellectual, spiritual and social growth of the modern Masonic fraternity." The *Journal* is an excellent quarterly publication, and the website's *Forum* (for members) is a great place to find discussion of Masonic subjects.

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[Philaethes Society](#) is “devoted to the promotion of the highest quality masonic education and research. Its major publication, *Philaethes: The Journal of Masonic Research & Letters*, has long served as the de facto magazine for North American Freemasonry.

[Scottish Rite Research Society](#) is a scholarly adjunct to our own Supreme Council, S.J., and a membership subscription may be had from its Online Store: <https://www.scottishritestore.org/> the same place, BTW, where you can purchase *Master Craftsman!* The SRRS publishes *The Plumline* (its quarterly bulletin) and *Heredom*, (a volume of its annual transactions). Both of the publications, along with an annual “surprise” book and a discount on many Supreme Council publications, are included with membership.

## BLOGS & PODCASTS

In addition to The Masonic Society’s *Forum* and Research Lodge of Colorado’s weekly blog, you might want to check out Supreme Council’s [Tyler’s Place podcast](#) (this one from August of 2020), Chris Hodapp’s [Freemasons for Dummies](#) blogspot, or the virtual fellowship and education sessions coming soon from our own MW Grand Lodge of Colorado. Watch for updates on when the latter will begin, slated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

## TV & MOVIES

*Secret Societies* on **The History Channel** anyone? Uh, ... no thanks! Films based on Dan Brown’s novels? No ... well ... not as Masonic education! Unfortunately, I’m aware of nothing worthy, of a dramatic nature ... nothing on par with *Downton Abbey* anyway. But, for documentary devotees ...

*Inside the Freemasons*, a 2017 project of Netflix, is a five-part series that focuses on Masonry “across the pond” follows candidates progressing through the Craft Degrees and features some info on how Masonry operates under the United Grand Lodge of England. There’s some interesting perspective on Masonic involvement in England too!

*Terra Masonica: Around the World in 80 Lodges* (2017 by Nexus Factory on DVD) was the creation of producer Tristan Bourlard for the tricentenary of modern Freemasonry. It is literally a trip around the “Masonic World” and dishes out a healthy sample of the variety (if not nearly the entirety) of our global Fraternity. Last I checked, it is “out of print,” though you may find it available for streaming. If you can locate a copy, the two hours’ viewing time is well spent.

I hope that’s helpful and serves as a hint of what’s out there to be gathered, gleaned, plucked and mined to enrich our Masonic travels. In coming months, I’ll try to present something you might enjoy along the way in your own journey.

Our next Master Craftsman Zoom session will be on Tuesday, March 15 @ 7PM. Go to: [Master Craftsman Zoom Registration](#), if you’ve lost the link or need to register. I hope you can join us.

*Bill*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Illustrious Brother John A. Moreno, 33°



By: Danny Tomlinson, 32° KCCH  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander,  
Colorado Council of Kadosh



#### ***“Do you wish to proceed?” Do you wish to proceed?”***

We have all been asked that question. Each one of us as we have received the 30<sup>th</sup> Degree has been asked that very question by the Preceptor—the Plague Doctor. As well, we have each heard Moses give us the Ten Commandments in the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree. And, I believe every one of us has had our picture taken on several occasions by Moses, or the Preceptor, or the Brother that is the subject of this month’s Member Spotlight - Ill. Brother John Moreno.

It has been a real pleasure to know and to work with Brother John for the past few years and I really enjoyed our time together during the several hours that we spent on the phone last week preparing this article. He is certainly one of the most interesting people I have ever met—and fun to talk with! One of the first things John said to me when we began our conversation was that he ***always wanted to be a principled and good man.*** His success in achieving this goal became more and more apparent as we talked.

Ill. Brother John was born at Presbyterian Hospital in Denver on March 25, 1947. (Hint: his birthday is coming up soon!) John graduated from Wheat Ridge High School after being raised by his single mother. He scored very high on an IQ test, but was put in a remedial reading class basically because he was bored. John wanted to be a mineralogist and had a rock collection weighing more than 300 pounds that moved with him and his mother as they moved around in the western part of the Denver suburbs and up into the mountains. John’s uncle Paul had been a “powder monkey,” or dynamite specialist when the tunnels were being built in Clear Creek Canyon. When John and his mother lived in Jamestown a local mineralogist took John under his wing and between that man and his Uncle Paul, John’s love for rocks grew and he wanted to attend the Colorado School of Mines in Golden after high school. However, John had a serious “boogey man” to overcome. He struggled mightily with mathematics, specifically geometry, and his career as a rock man was not to be.

Luckily, another uncle, Tony Shearer was an artist and began teaching John to draw and sculpt. By the time he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, John was drawing in perspective, meaning in 3-dimensions. He turned his interest towards the arts in high school—specifically sculpting, drawing, and painting. John had obtained his first camera when he was about seven years old and photography was a natural extension of his interest in the arts and he began taking many, many photographs. His mother also encouraged John to take drama classes to help him overcome his introverted nature and shyness. He developed as an accomplished actor, but with “no rhythm,” he was not to become a dancer. He was accepted for admission to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, but unfortunately was unable to attend because his mother developed serious cancer issues and at the same time some mental health issues. John chose to stay and care for his mother.

Because of his superb acting skills, John received a full-ride scholarship to the Denver Academy of Dramatic Arts. During his three years there, he built a strong reputation as an actor, often appearing in productions at the Bonfils Theater—the forerunner to the Denver Center for the Performing Arts—and in the period from 1965-73, he became the “Toast of the Town.” In addition to his dramatic acting roles, John also worked as a newspaper copy boy, a dental technician, a plastic fabricator, and as a precision sheet metal fabricator. Truly a man of many talents. In 1968, John married his first wife and they had two daughters - Anastasia and Desiree, both of whom still live in Arvada.

Let’s go to John’s *desire to be a principled and good man* for a moment. John had been playing opposite Morgan Fairchild (yes, THAT Morgan Fairchild!) in Neil Simon’s *Plaza Suite* at the Country Dinner Playhouse on Arapahoe road, just off I-25. They were a great pair and often went “off script” and ad-libbed their lines very successfully. John was also working tech regularly at the old Taylor’s Supper Club in Lakewood about this time.

In 1973, John and Morgan got a contract for a new television series - probably “My Favorite Alien,” although they never were given the name of the series. Their Denver talent agent told them that they were “too big” for him to handle and that they needed an agent from Hollywood or New York. The new agent came to town, John and his ex-wife had dinner with the new agent, and they discussed the future. John’s impression of the man was that the agent was rude, impolite, and not pleasant to spend the evening with having dinner. The next day, the agent called John to tell him to “get rid of the wife.” The agent would arrange all the details for the media to begin to recognize and identify John and Morgan as “a thing.” At that point, John asked himself if he was an artist or a commodity? We all know how he answered, and his decision was to NOT divorce his wife, to break the contract and to remain in Denver, performing in community theater. Unfortunately, because of his honesty, integrity, and scruples, John was “blackballed” in the theater business, and his career as a paid actor was essentially finished. Note that I said “paid actor.” We are still treated to his wonderful and outstanding performances as a volunteer actor in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Degrees. And, he and his first wife did divorce, but not because of his acting career.

Now, to another part of Brother John’s story. He became interested in occultism, spiritualism, and religion because of being around several influential native Americans as he was growing up. Flying Horse, a Lakota Sioux elder, became like a grandfather to John. In high school, John began reading Tarot cards—the Book of Toth. Uncle Tony—the artist—also greatly influenced John in these areas. Tony spent many years in Mezzo-America after leaving home at seven years old to become a lumberjack. Uncle Tony was instrumental in unlocking the key to the Aztec calendar.

John had become a prolific Tarot card reader, primarily at the Sign of the Tarot Coffee House, using the Waite-Rider pictorial deck. The Book of Tarot goes back to ancient Egyptian times. In 1983, John unfortunately predicted a death in a Tarot card reading and that death came to be shortly after. John has not done Tarot readings since that unfortunate incident.

While working as a precision sheet metal machinist in 1973, John had the opportunity to buy a Nikon F2 camera with a Nikkor lens for \$125. A great bargain, but a huge investment for a newly divorced man with two daughters. John took the leap, though, and bought the

camera. The camera became a part of our basically introverted Brother and he started taking hundreds and thousands of photos. Mainly nature and landscape photos and not people. He had always been a hiker and took many photos near Charm Springs on Bald Mountain in Clear Creek Canyon. Charm Springs is a sacred spring and is John's spiritual center that he always returns to when he needs to be re-energized. A family friend of John's, a descendant of General George Armstrong Custer, owned land on Mount Vernon, near the Beaver Brook Trail leading to Charm Springs.

On one of his many hikes to Charm Springs, John took some photos of his daughters. They were fantastic! Friends began asking him to photograph them, their families, their weddings, and other special events. Lost Image Photography was born in 1975. The name Lost Image Photography comes from John's statement that "every picture not taken is a lost image." John became a full-time photographer in about 1980 after suffering a severe back injury at work in 1979. Being divorced, he had bought a home in Edgewater with his mother. After an industrial accident, he was off work for nearly two years and decided then to go into photography full-time. John achieved great success with his photography business and became a well-recognized portrait photographer of note. He ultimately had three photographers working for him.

In 1987, John married the girl next door. He and June have been happily married and business partners for more than 34 years. She ran the business and John took the photos. June has a daughter—Nikki Lester in Colorado Springs and a son - Frank Strunk in Los Angeles. Her other son Kenneth unfortunately passed from leukemia.

June had been active in Edgewater City politics for several years, serving on the Parks & Recreation Board. John had served on two City Charter Commissions and ultimately decided to run for Edgewater City Council. He lost by one vote in that election but continued to stay somewhat active in local politics. After a short while, the woman that won the election resigned because of her move to another area. John was appointed to serve the balance of the term. He became very involved with the Colorado Municipal League (CML), an advocacy group for the state's cities and towns at the state LEGISLATURE. John was very concerned with openness and transparency in local government bodies and was instrumental in drafting and passage of the "Sunshine Law" for local governments as well as rewriting the law governing the Home Rule Charter process. Many less-than-pleasant experiences he had were personal in nature, and as he became more and more disillusioned with some local government officials, he made the decision to resign from the City Council. Again, John's ***desire and commitment to be a principled and good man*** were evident.

In 1994, Brother John's Masonic journey began. Brother Jim Kelly of Edgewater Lodge #159 carried John's petition and he was initiated, passed, and raised in Edgewater #159. John served as the Worshipful Master of Edgewater #159 in 1999, prior to it merging with Liberty Lodge #134 in 2002. A later merger created New Frontier Lodge #134. Worshipful Brother John's Secretary in 1999 was none other than Ill. Brother Matt Raia.

John joined the Scottish Rite in 1999 at the urging of Brother Raia. He had served as the 1<sup>st</sup> ruffian in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and was the candidate in his class for the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree. He became

the Assistant Director of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, then became Moses In that degree and later the Preceptor in the 30<sup>th</sup> Degree. Not the “grim Reaper,” but someone who is close to death but certainly not dead yet. Think about your own reaction to the 30<sup>th</sup> Degree. **“Do you wish to proceed?”** Brother John’s professionalism as an actor really stands out as he removes his mask, in order to speak frankly with the candidate. And his *“Ring around the Rosie”* and *“All fall down”* are strong lessons to be studied and learned.

In 2003, John became the “unofficial official” photographer for the Grand Lodge, the Consistory, Band Camp, and numerous other Masonic bodies and activities. He continues in that role today, even though he has closed his business and moved to Colorado Springs. He is a plural member of the Colorado Springs Consistory and Manitou Lodge #68. John is a Past Commander of the Colorado Council of Kadosh and has been very instrumental in the Consistory’s Blue Lodge Ambassador Program.

John’s advice to his Brother Masons—

- As Worshipful Master, The Lodge is yours. But, only for the year. Carry on the work that began before you and prepare for the future.
- Trust your Secretary. He’s the most important person in helping your Lodge to have a good and successful year.
- Masonry is a big world. It’s universal. You will learn lessons when the Creator reveals the meaning of symbols. The guidance will be there. Be patient.
- Manage your expectations and govern your actions accordingly.

As you might expect, John’s list of most influential men in his Masonic journey reads like a “Who’s Who?” of Colorado Masonry:

- Ill. Brother Matt Raia—John’s Secretary at Edgewater #159 when John was in the East;
- Vern DuBois, John’s poster;
- MWGM Keith Milheim, a Past Master of Edgewater #159;
- Ill. Brother Ron Birely;
- Ill. Brother Steve Munsinger; and
- Ill. Brother Karl Hinkle.

Illustrious Brother John is truly and genuinely an interesting man, and I am so thankful to be able to call him “friend.” As you visit with John, you soon realize that his commitment to “do the right thing” is what makes his strength of character so solid. In his own words, he is somewhat introverted, but he is always anxious to share his wisdom and guidance with his Brothers. I urge you to reach out and get to know John better. You will be a better man and Mason from being his friend.





# Memorial Scroll

Edward John Domenico, 32°	11/28/2020
Jacob Fredrick Herr, 32°	12/25/2020
John Henry Hotchkiss, 32°	10/22/2020
Donald Dean Hunter, 32°	12/30/2020
Karl Walter Koenig, 32° KCCH	02/08/2021
Donald Kent Norgren, 32°	05/12/2020
Willard Steven Tucker, Jr, 32°	02/06/2021
Edward Charles Younker, 32°	01/19/2021



All Scottish Rite Masons in good standing are entitled to have a Rose Croix Funeral Service at the time of their passing. Members should advise their families of their wishes to have this beautiful service. It is a very dignified service intended to help bring comfort to the family.

The current members of the Denver Consistory Rose Croix Funeral Team are: Scott E. Olson, 32° KCCH - Chairman; Scott A. Bates, 32° KCCH; John H. Buchanan, 33°; Jerry L. Fenimore, 33° GC; Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH; M. Edward Johnson, 33°; Joseph Magoffin, 32° KCCH; Richard W. Mitchell, 33°; Matthew A. Raia, 33°; Thomas R. Repp, 32°; Daniel A. Rivers, 32° KCCH; John A. Warren, 33°; Richard M. Wenzel, III, 32° KCCH; and Benjamin F. Williams, 32° KCCH.

If you are interested in joining the Rose Croix Funeral Team and helping them, contact the office or Scott Olson, 32° KCCH for more information.



# The Prelate's Pulpit

Rev. James H. Harris, 33°

Prelate for All Scottish Rite Bodies



Things have really been different during these months of COVID restrictions. Among other things, I have attended my first of many ZOOM meetings. I have had to wear a mask when I go into many businesses, and I have not been able to find certain items at the grocery store. And then, I have had to meet with my doctor at a virtual appointment. Now, the company which does my taxes sent me a packet to fill out and mail in to them. I cannot meet in person unless there is a serious problem. I went to a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, drove into the church parking lot and was handed a box of pancakes. WHAT NEXT?

During these times I tend to get a little down. However, I thought we had a good Monday night stated meeting and was encouraged to see us discuss the word "toleration." We had a great discussion. It was good to talk with each other. I have missed being able to talk to people at our gatherings, meetings, and events. ZOOM meetings are okay, but I have missed our in-person meetings.

Whenever I start getting down, I turn to the Bible and some positive readings and sayings. I would like to share a few of them with you.

**There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so.—William Shakespeare**

**The Beatitudes in Matthew 11:1-5**

**I am with you always.—Jesus Christ**

**If God is with us, who is against us? - Romans 8:31**

**With the Lord on my side, I do not fear. - Psalm 18.7**

**Do not fear; for I am with you. Do not be afraid for I am you. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. - Isaiah 41:10**

**There has not been a single day since the world began when the sun was not shining. The trouble has been our vision. Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.—Helen Keller**

**Have PMA (positive mental attitude) - Doc Powell**

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Then, I know I can call a friend, a brother, someone to talk with. It helps. I know I can always talk to God.**

**My brothers, yes we do need each other. How can YOU spread the Light?**

In Brotherly Love,  
Ill. Br. Rev. Jim Harris, 33°



## SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

### 100+ Years Young!

Vernon Maurice Foster (104)  
Harold Eugene Cook (100)  
Thomas Randolph Moss (100)

### 90 Years Young

Harold Udell Littrell  
Charles Lucien Martell  
Robert Frederic Reid, Sr.  
Richard Walter Schmidt  
Duane Gustav Vikman

### 80 Years Young

Duane Ronald Armstrong  
Joseph Herbert Golinsky  
Anton Kary  
Robert Allen Torgler

### 70 Years Young

Malcolm Scott Nicholson

### 60 Years Young

Richard Cline Shyrigh, Jr.

### 40 Years Young

Craig Lee Thighe

### Our MARCH "Youngster"

Eric Dale Lowery (37)








### Some Notable Masons in History

1. George Washington - 1st President of the USA
2. James Monroe - 5th President of the USA
3. Andrew Jackson - 7th President of the USA
4. James K. Polk - 11th President of the USA
5. James Buchanan - 15th President of the USA
6. Andrew Johnson - 17th President of the USA
7. James A. Garfield - 20th President of the USA
8. Theodore Roosevelt - 26th President of the USA
9. William H. Taft - 27th President of the USA
10. Warren G. Harding - 29th President of the USA
11. Franklin D. Roosevelt - 32nd President of the USA
12. Harry S. Truman - 33rd President of the USA
13. Lyndon B. Johnson (1<sup>o</sup>)- 36th President of the USA
14. Gerald R. Ford - 38th President of the USA
15. Benjamin Franklin
16. Senator Barry Goldwater
17. Sam Houston
18. GEN Mark Clark, USA
19. Omar Bradley, General of the Army
20. John Paul Jones
21. GEN Douglas MacArthur, USA
22. GEN John Pershing, USA
23. ADM Richard Byrd, USN
24. Brigadier General Charles Lindbergh
25. Col Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, USAF
26. Col L. Gordon Cooper, USAF
27. Col Donn F. Eisele, USAF
28. Col John Glenn, USMC
29. Lt Col Virgil I. Grissom, USAF
30. CAPT Edgar D. Mitchell, USN
31. CAPT Walter M. Schirra, USN
32. Lt Gen Thomas P. Stafford, USAF
33. Robert Burns
34. Wolfgang von Goethe
35. Alexander Pushkin
36. Dean Jonathan Swift
37. Voltaire
38. Oscar Wilde
39. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
40. John Philip Sousa



## Scottish Rite Fund Raising Auction

The following examples of items that have already been identified for donation for the on-line auction. What do you have that can be donated for the Scottish Rite Fund Raising Auction? Please contact Tom Lincoln, 32° KCCH at [tolin68@gmail.com](mailto:tolin68@gmail.com) We plan on an on-line auction sometime late Spring or early Summer this year.

Picture	Description	Estimated Value
	<p>1930's Coca Cola Cooler - This cooler was filled with ice to keep the beverages cold. It is of museum quality and it has been displayed an Adams County Museum. Note, underneath the cooler was where they stored Coke products before sale.</p>	<p>\$1,500.00</p>
	<p>"Gone With The Wind" Dollhouse. This house comes completely furnished with furniture, lighting, and Scarlett O'Hara and others figures.</p>	<p>\$1,000.00</p>
	<p>Sterling Silver Butterfly broach, with sleeping beauty stones in the body.</p>	<p>\$55.00</p>
	<p>Antique (Circ 1900's) Indian had carved Teak wooden printing stamp used for textile printing. This stamp has been modified for use as a jewelry box. Note the beautiful teak interior.</p>	<p>\$85.00</p>
	<p>Black Serpentine Frog Fetish with back pack. Artist: Chose Weeohkee, Zuni Tribe</p>	<p>\$63.00</p>
	<p>Dell computer monitor</p>	<p>\$100.00</p>
	<p>Chris Cummings "Evening Roundup" Framed – Cowboy.</p>	<p>\$250.00</p>



# Flags for Fallen Vets

Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix and the  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Colorado

Sunday May 30 at 0900

Fort Logan National Cemetery

Everyone must register at [www.flagsforfallenvets.com](http://www.flagsforfallenvets.com)

Select Fort Logan – Area = Any – **Group = Mason**

Registered persons will receive 40 flags to place upon arrival

Bring your own ruler, mallet and screwdriver

All Masons, family and friends are welcome – Kid friendly

Additional Questions – Joe Magoffin

720.371.7224 or [joe@milehighsf.com](mailto:joe@milehighsf.com)





# EASTERN STAR MASONIC RETIREMENT CAMPUS GOLF TOURNAMENT



## 12TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2021

  
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**FRIDAY**  
July 9th, 2021

**at Hyland Hills Golf Course**  
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**7:30am**

Shotgun Start or Tee Times  
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# Scottish Rite Golf Classic

Benefiting Children's Hospital of Colorado, Scottish Rite Foundation  
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"A Fund Raising/COVID Recovery/Networking Event"

August 20, 2021 - Willis Case Golf Course, Denver, CO



Sponsorships sign up now at  
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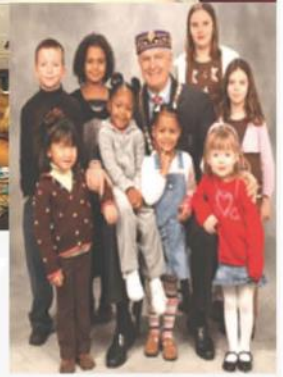
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Forget the boring, all day long 4-person scramble! This truly unique event will feature:

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This is an important fundraiser for our organization, so your participation and sponsorship will be much appreciated. Teams are \$500, each.



For registration and sponsorships information visit:

[www.ScottishRiteGolf.Org](http://www.ScottishRiteGolf.Org)



We expect a full field so register now!

To learn more, contact: Bartley Corfee [bart@corfeassociates.com](mailto:bart@corfeassociates.com), Gene Hardy [conohardy@gmail.com](mailto:conohardy@gmail.com), Mike Brewer (Sponsorships), [mike.brewer@allurdata.com](mailto:mike.brewer@allurdata.com), Rick Spoor (Marketing Promotion) [rwspeer@yahoo.com](mailto:rwspeer@yahoo.com), Randy Penn (Volunteers) [pennjr@comcast.com](mailto:pennjr@comcast.com)



# SRMC—Scottish Rite Masonic Center Charity Golf 2021

Willis Case Shrine Golf Course—August 20th 2021

Benefiting

Scottish Rite Masonic Center + Children’s Hospital Foundation of Colorado + Rite Care Foundation

## Donor Fact Sheet

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Golf Cart/Scorecard Sponsor	2	\$	1,500	_____
Golf Ball Sponsor	2	\$	1,500	_____
Hole in One Sponsor	18	\$	500	_____
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Pin Flag Sponsor	18	\$	250	_____
Hole Sponsor	36	\$	150	_____

Scottish Rite Masonic Center

Scottish Rite Foundation





# OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE



Denver Consistory Web Page

<http://www.denverconsistory.org>

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: [Dan Conway, 32° KCCH](#)



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QUESTIONS: [Bryant Harris, 32° KCCH](#)

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# DENVER CONSISTORY RITEWORKS STAFF

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