



# Denver's RiteWorks

MAY 2025 vol. 18 #5



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**(Be sure to check these out so you know what is happening!!!)**

**BUILDING SECURITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!** We ask that you be mindful of who you let into the lobby through the glass doors and also be aware of who follows you into the building. We have many "street people" waiting for an opportunity to slip into the building. **Do not let anyone in who you do not know to be a member of Denver Consistory.**

**Parking Permit Required** - A Denver Consistory parking permit **MUST** be displayed on the lower left of your vehicle windshield. (Where the emission certificate is located.) Do not place the permit in a location other than the lower left of the windshield. If you park in the garage without a properly displayed parking permit you will receive a ticket. Denver Consistory cannot dismiss the ticket and we will not pay it. We do not own the garage; we do not control the parking, and we do not issue the tickets. Parking permits for members are available in the Consistory office.

## PLANNING CALENDAR

### MAY 2025

Thu-Sat, MAY 1-3	Grand Junction Consistory Reunion
Fri, MAY 2	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13) - Fried Chicken
Mon, MAY 5	5:30 p.m. Special Officers' ZOOM Meeting to read Petitions
	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Wed, MAY 7	5:15 p.m. Children's Hospital Rite Care presentation (invitation only)
Thu-Sat, MAY 8-10	7:00 a.m. Spring Reunion (63 <sup>rd</sup> ) <b>Parking Garage Available</b>
Sat, MAY 10	5:30 p.m. Banquet; 25 and 50 year membership presentations
Fri, MAY 16	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13) - Lasagna
Mon, MAY 19	<b>Stated Meeting - Parking Garage Available</b>
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Dinner (\$25 reservations only) Honey Baked Chicken
	7:00 p.m. Awards and Announcements, Entertainment, Memorial Day
	7:30 p.m. Split Meeting; 5 minute oration—Orator, Colorado Council of Kadosh
Fri, MAY 23	<b>NO CONSISTORY LUNCH (Holiday Weekend)</b>
	1:00 p.m. SRMC Sporting Clays Competition (See flyer)
Sun, MAY 25	9:00 a.m. Flags for Vets - Fort Logan National Cemetery (See flyer)
Mon, MAY 26	<b>Consistory CLOSED for Memorial Day Observance</b>
Fri, MAY 30	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13) - Hot Dogs and Mac 'n' Cheese

### June 2025

Mon, JUN 2	7:00 p.m. KSA Meeting in Lodge Room
Fri, JUN 6, 13, 20, 27	11:30 a.m. Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken on JUNE 6)
Mon, JUN 16	Stated Meeting - <b>Parking Garage Available</b>
	<u>Hawaiian Shirt Night</u>
	5:30 p.m. Red Room Business Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Dinner
	7:00 p.m. Entertainment
Sat, JUN 21	11:30 a.m. <b>Ladies Luncheon at Denver Botanic Gardens</b>

### July 2025

FRI, JUL 4	<b>Consistory CLOSED (NO LUNCH) in observance of Independence Day Holiday</b>
Fri, JUL 11, 18, 25	11:30 a.m. Consistory Lunch (\$13 - Fried Chicken on 11JUL)
Sat, JUL 19	6:00 p.m. Summer Dinner <b>Parking Garage Available</b>



# EDITOR'S WRESTLEBOARD



**BY: BILL HICKEY, 33°**

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## A Little Sand In The Gears



Last month, I regaled you with a story about the Blue-Forget-Me-Not published in the Scottish Magazine *The Ashlar* from 1999 when it began appearing. Pulling yet another tidbit of interesting history, the March 1999 issue published a paper entitled "A Little Sand In the Gears" by our late Illustrious Brother Jim Tresner of the Oklahoma Scottish Rite. I was fortunate and privileged to have the opportunity to meet and speak with Illustrious Brother Tresner before he died, and we discussed this particular article that originally appeared in the Scottish Rite Journal. Jim indicated that he had no problem with anyone republishing so long as appropriate credit was acknowledged. So, without further ado, herewith is that article. I don't believe much has changed with the world or Freemasonry since he wrote it - sadly.

'Sand,' resistance, may be a saving factor when applied to the smooth working 'gears' of any organization including Freemasonry.

'Remember, son, dying organizations love rules. Groups that are living and vital and growing don't have time to make rules - they're too busy doing things. That's my greatest fear for Masonry.'

My father, Jack N. Tresner, Snr. 33°, loved Masonry with a passion and was especially active in the Scottish Rite. He was, among other things, Chairman of the Advisory Conference, Wise Master of Rose Croix, Director of the 33 Conferral Team where he took the role of Grand Commander. The welfare of Masonry was much on his mind in his final days. He had been very active in business as the president of an insurance company and in the church where he served on the International Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church, but his family and Masonry were his two great loves.

Not long before his death, we had the last of many conversations about Masonry. He was deeply worried about the future of the fraternity. He had watched it decline from the most active, energetic, positive organization in the community, attracting so many good men each year that it was difficult to find time to perform the Degrees, to an organization which, each year, lost so many men that it had only half its former membership. I had learned long ago that he was a man of extraordinary insight and wisdom, and I listened carefully to what he had to say.

'Why does that happen?' I asked.

Continued on next page

'Dying organizations turn inward,' he said.

'When I joined Masonry, our rules, our Constitution and Code filled a little booklet, about 3" by 5" and about 20 pages long. Now the pages are 8½" x 11", and they fill a three-ring binder. And there are so many new rules each year that it takes a three-ring binder to keep current. Other states are the same way.'

'When I joined Masonry in 1941, I was really impressed by how the leadership kept finding new things for Masons to do. I watched that change.'

'Why,' I asked, 'what happened?'

'Old men,' he answered. 'I don't mean age. Some men are old and crotchety at 20, some are young and vital at 80. You want to watch that, by the way. You can tend a little to the crotchety side yourself if you're not careful. But the fraternity fell into the hands of these old men, of whatever age. All they wanted to do was control others - tell others what they had to do and what they could not do. There's something they didn't like, so they made another rule. They're the moss-backs, like the old turtles that hide under the logs in the stream and snap at everything that goes by. I've spent the last 20 years trying to scrape a little moss and carry a little sand.'

That last allusion escaped me.

'That was one of your grandfather's expressions. When an organization, any organization, is alive and vital, its leaders judge their success by how much gets done. When an organization is dying, they judge their success by how smoothly things go. I actually heard the Worshipful Master of our Lodge say that he had a good year - nothing happened.'

'Jim, the only smooth ride in the world is the ride down when you fall off a cliff. It's as smooth and easy as anyone could want, until you get to the bottom. Then it's fatal. It's natural for leaders to want a smooth ride - and the cruelest thing you can do is to give it to them. Every now and then you need to spread a little sand in the gears. I know you always wondered why I appointed ' — he named an individual 'to the company Board of Directors.'

'I certainly have wondered!' I said. 'He does nothing but challenge you.'

'That's why! I don't dare let the ride get too smooth, even for me. He is my sandman. I've tried to do the same for Masonry but I can't do it any longer. If you love Masonry as much as I think you do, you've got to sprinkle the sand, now.'

'You don't have to cause problems. I don't mean that. Sometimes the most effective sand you can use is just to ask Why? Why do we have that rule? Why does it have to be that way? We promise to whisper good counsel in the ear of an erring Brother - why do we try to find a way to throw him out of the fraternity? We say that Masonry has some of the greatest lessons the world has ever known - why don't our people even take the trouble to learn the meanings of the words of the ritual so they know what those lessons really are? We say that Masonry is important - why won't we set the dues high enough to really support the Lodge and its activities?'

'I'm not asking for a promise, because there's a price. The moss-backs won't love you. You won't win any popularity contests. But maybe Masonry will wake up and decide to live again.'

And even though he did not ask for a promise, I promised.

Continued on next page

All this went through my mind again during the recent Scottish Rite Leadership Conferences. I listened to many younger Scottish Rite Masons, especially the Scottish Rite Fellows, talk about changes - some fair among of sand was tossed around. Some of the ideas bothered me a little. (Dad was right, I do tend toward the crotchety.) But that's all right. They were thinking, they raised questions and addressed issues, they challenged us. God bless them all!

One of the suggestions was that the Scottish Rite Journal publish some controversial articles - articles which raise issues and eyebrows. And the leadership agreed! It is almost certain that there will be articles which will annoy me, and possibly you. But (not indulging in the temptation to point out it is only the irritated oyster which produces a pearl!) that annoyance is good for us. Brethren whose articles do a service by making us think, by sprinkling a little sand in our mental gears.

The fall off the cliff, while smooth, really isn't comfortable. And a few bumps on the way are a lot better than that sudden stop.

As you can see, Illustrious Brother Jim actually "got it." Do we? *Bill*

He who practices what he preaches may have to put in some overtime.

Most folks need higher wages to pay the higher prices caused by higher wages.

Modesty is the art of enhancing your charm by pretending not to be aware of it.

"The Scots are a very tough people. They have drive-by headbuttings. In Glasgow, a sweat-band is considered a silencer." - EMO PHILIPS

"Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes. After that, who cares? He's a mile away and you have his shoes." - BILLY CONNOLLY

"Twelve highlanders and a bagpipe make a rebellion." - SIR WALTER SCOTT

"I know lads of twenty who are ninety and men of ninety who are twenty." - A. S. NEILL

"It's fine Scottish weather we're having. The rain is falling straight down and kind of to the side like." - SIR WILLIAM WALLACE (in BRAVEHEART—1995)

"There are two seasons in Scotland - June and Winter." - BILLY CONNOLLY

"England have got the best fans in the world - and Scotland's fans are undoubtedly second to none ..." - KEVIN KEEGAN

"Of all the small nations on this earth, perhaps only the ancient Greeks surpass the Scots in their contributions to mankind." - WINSTON CHURCHILL



# From the Secretary's Desk

Matt Raia, 33°



## CONSISTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

***ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES OF LIFE IS HOW THE IDIOT YOUR DAUGHTER MARRIED CAN BE THE FATHER OF THE SMARTEST GRANDCHILDREN IN THE WHOLE WORLD.***

### Scottish Rite Masonic Center Endowment Fund Contributions

The SRMC wishes to acknowledge those who donated to the Endowment fund this past month and began or added to a Cathedral Club membership.

Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33°; Illustrious Brother Grover Sardeson, 33°; Brother Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH; Brother Jerry Edwards, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike Tims, 32° KCCH; Brother Mike McMinimee, 32°; Brother Donnie Duff, 32°; Brother James Yabrove, 32°.

**Transportation Available** – Brethren, if you need a ride to a stated meeting, the reunion, or one of our events, call the office and let us know. We will send a ride-share service (Lyft or Uber) to pick you up and bring you back home, **at no expense to you.** The Consistory will pay the bill. You do not have to miss out on participating in Denver Consistory events because you need a ride.

**Easter Sunrise Service** - The Colorado Knights Templar Association held the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Sunrise Service at Denver Consistory, April 20, 2025. It is the oldest Easter Sunrise Service in Colorado.

**April 21<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting** - The Rocky Mountain Chapter Rose Croix conducted the Remembrance, Renewal, and Commitment Ceremony. Thank you **Brother Dillon Brickhouse, 32° KCCH**, Wise Master, and the officers of the Chapter of Rose Croix for a beautiful ceremony.

**Spring Reunion May 8, 9, 10, 2025** - **We need petitions!** Use the Electronic Petition to expedite the process. When the candidate completes the electronic petition, it is automatically sent to the Denver Consistory office. If you have a paper petition, turn it in as soon as you receive it. Petitions **MUST** be in the office by 1:00 p.m. Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>.

DENVER CONSISTORY PETITION FOR MEMBERSHIP -->



**First Line Signer Incentive Program:** **THREE** petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership fee for a year. If you are a life member, it entitles you to receive stated meeting dinners for a year.

**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.

**2025 Membership fee was payable December 31, 2024.** If you have not yet paid your 2025 membership fee, please do so and do not become delinquent. \$140 is a real bargain for membership in Denver Consistory. Just \$0.38 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 membership fee in a timely manner.

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

**Monthly membership fee payment plan is available** - Are you tired of paying fees at the end of the year for all the Masonic bodies to which you belong? You may pay your Denver Consistory annual membership fee 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 membership fee for the ensuing year will be paid. Contact the office to set up a payment plan.

#### **Automatic Membership Fee Renewal Program**

Supreme Council created and installed an auto-renewal program to pay membership fees. This is a completely voluntary program that gives members the OPTION to have their membership fees automatically deducted using a credit or debit card through the online Membership Portal.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** is an ideal way to avoid paying future membership fee increases. A Life Membership guarantees that you will never be suspended for non-payment of membership fees 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 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 that will endure after your death.

#### **2025 Life Membership Fee Structure**

75 years old and older - a single payment of \$1,250

62-74 years old - a single payment of \$1,750

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

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



## COMING EVENTS

### May 8, 9, 10, 2025 - Spring Reunion

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting** - Memorial Day Program, 5 minute oration - Orator, Colorado Council of Kadosh.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> Sporting Clays Tournament** - This tournament is a fund-raising event for the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and Judi's House. Invite your family and friends to join you for a fun tournament. Go to the tournament web site at [www.scottishritesportingclays.com](http://www.scottishritesportingclays.com) to sign up. Invite your business associates to become sponsors.

**Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> - NO LUNCH** - This is the Friday before a holiday and attendance at lunch is very poor on the Friday before a holiday. It is also the day of the Sporting Clays Tournament.

**May 25<sup>th</sup> Flags for Fallen Vets** - Denver Consistory will participate in this community involvement project at Fort Logan National Cemetery by placing American Flags on the graves. You, your family members, and friends, are all invited to join us.

**May 26<sup>th</sup> Office is closed** - in observance of Memorial Day Holiday.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> KSA Meeting** - In the lodge room. All Scottish Rite members are invited to attend.

**June 16<sup>th</sup> Masonic Author Illustrious Brother Chris Hodapp, 33°, will be the guest speaker. This event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> Ladies Luncheon** - This year the Ladies Luncheon will be held at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Attendance is limited to 75 guests. **Please RSVP ASAP.**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rite Golf Classic** - The Scottish Rite Masonic Center golf tournament to benefit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and the Scottish Rite Foundation will be held at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen. Go to the tournament website [www.scottishritegolf.org](http://www.scottishritegolf.org) to sign up. Sponsorship opportunities are available.



Was William F. Cody a Freemason?

Cody, known as "Buffalo Bill," became a Master Mason on March 5, 1870 in Platte Valley Lodge #32 of Nebraska. After a distinguished career as a federal scout during the Civil War, a pony express rider, Indian fighter in the battle of Wounded Knee, and owner of a wild west show, he was buried with Masonic Rites on Lookout Mountain, Colorado, on January 10, 1917.

[Excerpted from Masonic Trivia (and Facts) by the late Brother Allen E. Roberts]



## **Robert Russell Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Center**

The Board of Trustees would like to give a short update on the ESMRC situation.

We first want to Thank everyone for the support and donations given to help the residents immediately after the explosion. We also Thank you for your donations to help the campus as we move forward. The golf tournament will still be held and all funds raised will be used for immediate needs of the campus.

The Board has made the decision to not reopen the Robert Russell Building and not to lease any of the Star Vista units, until a complete evaluation of the future can be determined.

The investigation into the explosion is ongoing and is expected to be 2 to 3 weeks before it is completed.

We have been advised that it could be 2 to 3 months before any cost estimates are available.

The residents personal items are being cleaned, packed and delivered locally, and it is estimated to be completed by May 1, 2025.

There are many more questions than answers currently, that is why we give more “I don’t know” responses. This is a long-term project.

# Companions and Knights



**Thursday, June 12, 2025**

Golden Chapter No. 5 Royal Arch Masons, Jefferson Cryptic Council No. 24, and Jefferson-Highlands Commandery No. 30 invite you to attend a special evening to celebrate the history of the York Rite in Golden, Colorado.

Time has taken its toll on our beloved local York Rite. With great regret, the Golden York Rite entities will roll up our banners and merge with the Georgetown bodies over the summer months. June 12, 2025 will be the final gathering of Companions and Knights in Golden.

The evening will begin with dinner at 6:00 pm hosted by Mt. Zion Chapter No. 133, Order of the Eastern Star. Dinner will be followed by a full opening of Chapter, Council and Commandery. After opening each body, there will be a very brief lesson on the history of that body in Golden, a short word from M.E. Grand High Priest / M.I. Grand Master Lee Miller (Grand Chapter and Grand Council) and R.I. Grand Commander Rick Benish (Grand Commandery). Each body will be closed in ample form and there will be a very short break for Companions/Knights to change clothes.

Brethren, it is our hope and desire to fill Golden's Lodge room to capacity to pay homage to a Golden institution. Please join us in celebration to mark this shared history

Please RSVP to Mike Tims at [miketims@me.com](mailto:miketims@me.com) or 303-888-2851.



## Bill Achbach, 32° KCCH

Master of Kadosh  
Director of Education

### Nine Great Truths - Part 2



#### One quick piece of housekeeping:

Once again, I refer you to the flyers toward the end (and to the program and calendar notations elsewhere) in *RiteWorks*, that provide information about Valley and other Masonic events and activities. Attendance at and participation in these worthy causes and events—including the June 16 appearance by Chris Hodapp, sponsored by my own Consistory line—are ways to show your support for what the organization is doing and for the work leaders are putting forth on your behalf. And, of course, they're great ways to enjoy fellowship both inside and outside these walls. The [dinner reservation link](#) is now active for both May and June Stated Meeting Dinners, BTW, so why not take a moment to get that done and plan on joining us?

#### Nine Great Truths - Part 2

This month we'll continue to examine Albert Pike's *Nine Great Truths of Masonry*: our Past SGC's exposition upon the guiding principles of the Craft. Once again, the entire list may be found elsewhere in this issue of *Rite Works*, and the original text lies within Pike's commentary on the 26<sup>th</sup> Degree, in *Morals and Dogma*.

The list clearly represents the author's sense of a moral imperative for all of humanity, and Illustrious Brother Arturo De Hoyos points out that it is not derived "...from any ancient source, but rather expresses Pike's contemporary [i.e., mid-19<sup>th</sup> century] personal notions."<sup>1</sup> The catalogue, I would add, is "Masonic" not in the sense that it has meaning only within the Brotherhood, representing, as we would say, the boundaries of a "well-founded hope and a well spent-life." It is that also, of course, but its Masonic character more significantly lies in the belief that the Craft, insofar as we express these truths in our lives, is (or should be) the great example and standard of moral rectitude for all people. That said, it is my purpose here to accompany whatever explanation is offered for each of the truths with an attempt to address the issue of why each is important in Masonry.

To say that the Craft should provide a standard of morality for mankind, is to place a hefty responsibility upon those who assume the obligations of Freemasonry, but, as was so well expressed by Robert Browning, in his poem [Andrea del Sarto](#): "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?" So, it is with that humbling realization that we pick up this study with the second of Pikes Great Truths ... The soul of man is immortal.

#### THE SOUL OF MAN IS IMMORTAL.

At least two necessary lessons immediately follow from this proposition. Masonic philosophy doesn't normally argue against the existing beliefs of potential initiates, but this statement seems to do so (more on that in a moment), as it precludes the neces-



sity to believe in any particular religious system to achieve or “earn” immortality! In this assertion there is a complete separation of the issue of eternal reward or punishment or even salvation (right down to the fundamental issue of a need for it) from the question of man’s spiritual nature.

If man has an immortal soul, then all men share a profound basis upon which to have fellowship and to call one another “Brother.” Think about it! Isn’t this the ultimate expression of our declaration that “we meet upon the level!” How “well” (...how morally...how ethically) we choose to live our lives is still a legitimate question (as is the issue of reward or punishment), but the Craft accepts that the immortality of the soul itself is a “given” and is not determined by confessing a particular creed: Masonic or otherwise. Pike’s focus upon this point may well have offended (and may still offend) certain religious points of view, but it is an attitude completely compatible with most established theology. It is the basis for our position that, among Brothers, each of our religious convictions are a private matter and take a subordinate place to our common spiritual identity.

The second lesson that follows from this concept of immortality—and one perhaps practically of greater significance in Pike’s time than in our own—is that it applies both to the righteous and to the unrighteous. This shows the SGC’s rejection of a religious doctrine (and is what sparked my reference above to ‘arguing against existing beliefs’) which had regained some popularity in the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a belief still embraced by some theological systems today: annihilationism. Admittedly oversimplifying the concept, annihilationism is the belief that only the souls of the redeemed (“saved,” “elect,” “chosen” ... there are many doctrinal terms) are granted immortality; those falling short being, ultimately, destroyed ... annihilated.

Beyond providing a distinction between Masonic thinking and that of a few religious sects, Pike’s acceptance of the fundamental immortality of the soul, as a hallmark of the Craft, places anyone who confesses a belief in some form of eternal existence in a position to feel “at home” in Freemasonry. In this we discover a basic reason we may find the Books of Sacred Law of such a variety of faiths upon Masonic Altars.<sup>2</sup> We share not only a common belief in divinity but also in a common “spiritual DNA,” which makes us, yes, creatures ... but creatures with a divine spark “which pervades and animates all nature and can never—no, never—die.”

### **THE MORAL SENSE OF MAN DERIVES FROM GOD ...**

Pike’s Third Great Truth is that *The Moral Sense of man derives from God and therefore has a divine source and is a divine imperative*. I am of the opinion that, in this statement, we have the single most significant practical reason why Freemasons (at least those in the Anglo-American tradition) must profess a belief in Deity!

Beyond the simple assertion that God exists (a vital truth, in and of itself), Freemasonry is rooted in the notion that morality is derived from divine law...indeed (as we’ll see in discussing the next truth) from divine character. As Freemasonry is well-described as a “system of

moral philosophy,” the origin of that moral focus is critical to all that follows. I’ll go out on a limb to say that it is absurd to suppose that anyone who does not recognize the divine origin of moral truth can be counted upon to accept and to abide by the authority of moral law!

Now wait just a minute, Bill! Do you mean to say that a non-believer cannot be a moral individual? No, I am absolutely NOT saying that at all! What I am saying, however, is that a non-believer cannot (at least not in the same sense as a believer) accept the absolute authority of any moral code. If the origin of the moral standard is human reason and human authority alone, then the standard is, as Pike would put it, “mutable” ...subject to change and therefore not really a “standard” at all. “Relativity” and “mutability” are an inescapable characteristic of all that is human in origin. To put it another way, the depth of one’s moral commitment can never be deeper than the origin of one’s moral standard!

If I may offer a parallel example from civil society - in western civilization we make much of the notion of the “rule of law” as a protection against authoritarian or dictatorial régimes. But this “protection” is only as good as the good faith of those who make and administer the laws that govern us, making the concept really more of a “buffer” (i.e., between popular government and dictatorship) than an actual protection. If those who make the laws (or those who elect those who do, for that matter) are of “intemperate mind,” as [Edmund Burke](#) put it, then there can be no ultimate protection against authoritarian rule.

So too it is with moral authority. Society is rife with examples of behaviors, now accepted, which were once not only discouraged but absolutely proscribed. Many of these, of course, were actions that simply didn’t meet the standard of one or another group of people who’d had the power to set the rules for a time—i.e., rules not necessarily supported by a consensus within society. Many of these rules were arbitrary and self-serving (even as the claim of “God’s Law” was used to rationalize them), and their revision was progressive, in the best sense of that term. But, when laws reflecting only human reason and priorities are made by men, men may ultimately change those laws ...all or any of them ...even those the most vital for civilized existence! In contrast, if there’s a consensus that there are certain laws which are, in truth, “God’s Laws,” then while men may resent them or violate them—perhaps even with impunity—they cannot change them.

This then is what SGC Pike means in his reasoning on moral authority. The “divine imperative” he refers to is simply the belief that moral behavior is demanded by an authority beyond man’s capacity to question... even as he possesses, via his own free will, the ability to violate it.

**Bill**

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, de Hoyos Annotated Edition, p.638, footnote

<sup>2</sup> Even in this, it’s important to point out that Freemasonry does **not** dictate what a man can believe and be a member of the Craft. A belief in Deity being the **only** standard, a man who is a member of a faith which professes a belief in annihilationism is still an independent moral agent. It is his responsibility, **not the Fraternity’s**, to reconcile (or not) his beliefs and the teachings of his faith with the teachings of the Craft.

Continued on next page

**Last Month's Trivia Question:** Each year we are presented with the annual reports of entities within the Valley of Denver, whose function is to plan and oversee the Valley's financial affairs. What are these entities, and what is the purpose of each?

**Answer:** These entities include...

Centennial Lodge of Perfection (CLOP) - Oversees the overall business activities of the Valley,  
Finance Committee (FC) - Reviews and makes recommendations on the finances of the Valley,  
Scottish Rite Cathedral Association (SRCA) - Advisory board responsible for overseeing facility repairs, income, and expenses,  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center (SRMC) - Manages endowment funds and other fund-raising activities to sustain the operations and maintenance of the SRMC,  
Scottish Rite Properties (SRP) - Responsible for managing income from the land lease of our adjoining property south of the SRMC, and  
Almoner's Fund (AF) - Coordinates provision of relief for the distressed.

Note: CLOP, SRCA, SRMC and SRP are Consistory Corporations; FC and the AF are committees operating under the authority of CLOP. My thanks to Ill. Matt Raia for confirming and clarifying this information.

**This Month's Trivia Question (answer in next month's Rite Works):**

How does a member of Denver Consistory go about becoming involved in presentation of the degrees at our semi-annual Reunions?

### Pike's Nine Great Truths of Masonry

1. No man has seen God at any time; that is, God is only spiritual.
2. The soul of man is immortal.
3. The Moral Sense of man derives from God and therefore has a divine source and is a divine imperative.
4. Moral truths are as real as physical truths. They are not created by God but are a part of His nature; therefore, morality is not an arbitrary law of God but a part of that goodness which constitutes His essence.
5. The distinction between good and evil is essential. Having the ability to make the distinction is a unique quality of man whose ability to do good is only made meaningful by his ability to do that which is not good.
6. There are no degrees in the practice of moral obligations; it is neither variable nor contingent. No excuse can justify one's failure to exercise the moral imperatives of a just life.
7. The immutable law of God requires, that besides respecting the absolute rights of others, and being just, we should do good, be charitable, and obey the dictates of the generous and noble sentiments of the soul. We are but the almoners of God's riches and thus charity can know neither rule nor limit. It is the most sacred of all Masonic obligations.
8. The laws which control and regulate the universe are those of motion and harmony. Evil is merely apparent, and all is, in reality, good and perfect. The existence of misfortune and adversity provides the opportunity for the expression of those virtues which ennoble the soul and elevate the spirit of man; thus is the evil of this world but part of the great plan of God for the betterment of man.
9. The last Great Truth of Masonry is the paradox of the equipoise of the infinite justice and infinite mercy of God; the former alone would call for man's utter destruction, the latter alone would permit the most offensive hedonism. Together they provide man with both retribution and forgiveness.



**Member in the Spotlight**  
**By Jeremy DeBard, 32° KCCH**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Commander**  
**Colorado Council of Kadosh**

**Jeffrey Louis Gowin, 32°**



Brother Jeffrey Gowin is a dedicated resident of Thornton, Colorado, born and raised in Walsh, Colorado. At 49 years old, Jeffrey has built a life rooted in service, family, and personal growth. He graduated from Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins in 2000 with a degree in Sociology, a milestone achieved after exploring various paths in the seven years following high school. During that time, he attended Kansas Wesleyan University on a football scholarship and was accepted at Arizona State University, all while pursuing his dream of competing in the NCA and UCA championships - dreams he ultimately realized at CSU.

Athletics played a significant role in Jeffrey's early years. Coming out of high school, where he wore jersey number 53 as a lineman, he attracted attention from armed forces recruiters. However, Kansas Wesleyan's football scholarship offer set his course. In college, his smaller frame shifted him from the line to linebacker and fullback positions, where he donned jersey numbers 30 and 36. It was during this time that he developed an affinity for the number "3," a preference that persists today - evident on the license plate of his Colorado State Patrol car.

Jeffrey's career with the Colorado State Patrol began in 2002 in Vail, and he continues to serve with distinction as a Corporal in the 3D Limon Troop. His roles within the Patrol are diverse: he is a Member of the Honor Guard, and IPMBA Instructor (bicycle patrol), and Arrest Control Instructor, and the Livestock Liaison. In 2008, while stationed with the Boulder Troop, he forged a deep friendship with Trooper Cody Donahue, who later transferred to Castle Rock in 2014. Donahue was present for two of Jeffrey's greatest joys - his marriage to Alana and the birth of their daughter, Tenley—before his tragic death in November 2016, when he was struck and killed by a semi-truck.

Jeffrey's personal life is equally rich. He married Alana in 2014, the same year he was initiated into East Denver Lodge #160, where he has since been passed and raised. The couple welcomed their daughter, Tenley - named after the 1953 Olympic figure skater Tenley Albright - in 2015. Within his lodge, Jeffrey has served as both Senior Steward and Junior Deacon. His Masonic journey continued with his entry into the Denver Consistory during the Spring Reunion of 2019, where he joined the Knights of St. Andrew. In 2022, he was appointed Master of Ceremonies for the Council of Kadosh, and in 2025, he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander of the Council of Kadosh.

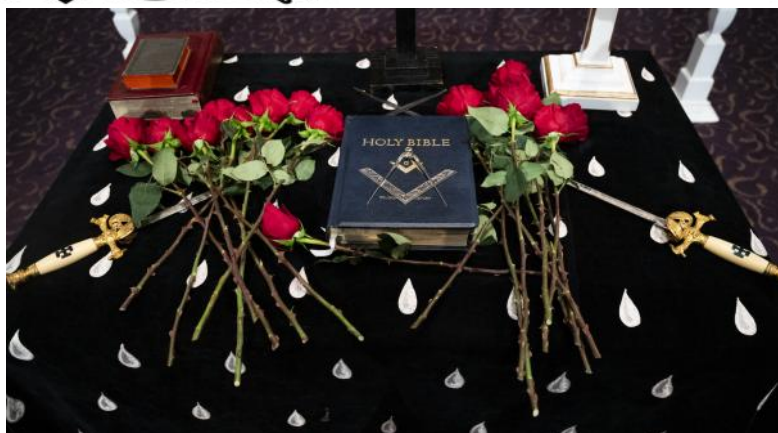
Beyond his professional and fraternal commitments, Jeffrey treasures time with Alana and Tenley, enjoying Colorado's outdoor offerings - hiking, biking, camping, snowmobiling, horse-

Continued on next page



back riding, and skiing - as well as local festivals. With Alana's family spread across the globe, the Gowins travel frequently to maintain those connections. Jeffrey's community involvement is extensive: he volunteers with his church, serves as a 4-H Leader, and sits on the Board of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), an organization supporting families and coworkers affected by line-of-duty deaths.

In his limited "spare time," Jeffrey pursues an array of hobbies: woodworking, leathercraft, weightlifting, CrossFit, shooting, restoring a 1963 Volkswagen Bug, and rocketry with Tenley. Guided by the belief that "you become like those you hang around with," he credits Masonry for shaping his values and inspiring continuous self-improvement. As his police career nears its end, Jeffrey looks forward to devoting more time to the fraternity and its teachings.





## Special Birthdays

### 90 Years "YOUNG"

Elmer Eugene King  
Jimmy Gerald Norris

### 80 Years "YOUNG"

Horace Sylvester Benbow, Jr.  
David Alan Jorgensen  
Glenn Alfred Monroe

### 70 Years "YOUNG"

William Michael Gear  
Christopher Earl Mann  
Terence Alan Percy  
Barton Samuel Rivkin

### 60 Years "OLD"

Gregory Alan Campbell  
Shaun Patrick Case  
Ronald Rodie Kammerzell  
Matthew Lynn Miller  
James Wendell Stark

### 50 Years "OLD"

Jered Elson Minter

### Our May Youngster

Mason Monroe Sellars (26)

## Interesting Facts about MAY

May is named after the Roman goddess Maia, associated with fertility and growth.

The birthstones of May are emerald and chrysoprase. Both of them are green-shaded gems associated with love, success, happiness, and creativity.

The birth flower for September is the lily of the valley.

May's full moon is called the Flower Moon because of the abundance of flowers that bloom during the month of May. In some regions, the Flower Moon is also known as the Corn Planting Moon or the Milk Moon, reflecting the planting and growth of crops during the spring season. If you have the time, try looking for the full moon sometime.

If you're a Star Wars fan, then the Fourth of May should not be a mystery to you. Most of us recognize that May 4th is Star Wars Day, where fans of the movie franchise celebrate with "May the Fourth Be With You" puns and Star Wars-themed parties.

The Kentucky Derby, a famous horse race that takes place in Louisville, Kentucky, is always held on the first Saturday in May. This is one of the oldest horse races in the world since 1875. The only two times where this event did not take place — the war in 1945 and in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

May is National Barbecue Month, National Hamburger Month, National Bike Month, and National Pet Month.



# MEMORIAL SCROLL

Ira Charles Brenner, 32°  
John Crosby Dollarhide, 32°  
Glenn Elgin Fishel, 32°  
Leonard Martin Jenkyns, 32°  
William Ronald MacDougall, 32°

04/09/2025  
04/01/2025  
04/07/2025  
04/03/2025  
02/14/2025



**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: Keith M. Anderson, 33° - Chairman; Thomas W. Adair, 32°; Scott A. Bates, 33°; John H. Buchanan, 33°; Pablo Columban, 32° KCCH; Jerry L. Fenimore, 33° GC; Gregory F. Harris, 32° KCCH; M. Edward Johnson, 33° (emeritus); Richard W. Mitchell, 33°; Scott E. Olson, 32° KCCH; Matthew A. Raia, 33°; 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 Illustrious Brother Keith Anderson, 33° for more information.**





# SCOTTISH RITE SPRING REUNION

---

**Denver Consistory**  
**May 8, 9, 10, 2025**

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO REUNITE WITH YOUR BROTHERS**  
**REVISIT THE TEACHINGS**



**Preparation**



**Organization**



**Having Fun**

**First Line Signer Incentive Program:** **THREE** petitions in a calendar year will pay your membership for a year. If you are a life member it entitles you to receive stated meeting dinners for a year.



**Denver Consistory 1370 Grant Street Denver, CO 80203**  
**denverconsistory@denverconsistory.org**  
**303-861-4261**



**63<sup>rd</sup> Reunion  
Spring 2025  
May 8 – 10, 2025**

**Thursday May 8, 2025**

7:30 AM Registration/Welcome  
**8:26 AM Exemplify 4°**  
**9:25 AM Exemplify 5°**  
**10:23 AM Exemplify 6°**  
**10:43 AM Exemplify 7°**  
**11:31 AM Exemplify 8°**  
11:56 AM Lunch  
12:50 PM Committee Tours  
1:38 PM Communicate 9° & 10°  
1:45 PM Communicate 11°  
1:57 PM Communicate 12°  
2:04 PM Communicate 13°  
**2:15 PM Exemplify 14°**  
3:26 PM Communicate 15°  
**3:37 PM Exemplify 16°**  
**4:18 PM Shrine Presentation**  
**4:43 PM Exemplify 17°**  
5:28 PM Adjourn

**Friday May 9, 2025**

8:00 AM Class Convenes  
**8:19 AM Exemplify 18° First & Second  
Apartment**  
**9:11 AM Exemplify 18° Third  
Apartment**  
10:00 AM Knights of St. Andrew  
Presentation  
**10:26 AM Exemplify 19°**  
11:11 AM Communicate 20°  
11:18 AM Communicate 21°  
**11:27 PM Exemplify 22°**  
**12:12 PM Grand Master's Address**  
12:32 PM Lunch  
1:24 PM Communicate 23°  
1:31 PM Communicate 24°  
**1:45 PM Exemplify 25°**

**2:07 PM Exemplify 26°**

**3:04 PM Exemplify 27°**

**4:14 PM Exemplify 28°**

5:04 PM Communicate 29°

5:11 PM Adjourn

**Saturday May 9, 2025**

8:00 AM Class Convenes  
8:10 AM Class Photos  
**9:10 AM 30° First Apartment**  
**9:30 AM 30° Second Apartment**  
**9:50 AM 30° Third Apartment**  
10:22 AM Secretary's Presentation  
**10:44 AM Exemplify 30° Fourth  
Apartment**  
11:20 AM Deputy Address to Class  
11:40 AM Lunch  
**12:35 PM Exemplify 31°**  
**1:55 PM Exemplify 32° First Section**  
**2:49 PM Exemplify 32° Second Section**  
3:45 PM Closing Ceremony  
4:05 PM Adjourn  
5:30 PM Ring Ceremony (Dining Room)  
**6:00 PM Banquet**  
25 & 50-Year Membership Awards  
8:30 PM Adjourn



Registration is now open for the 4th annual Scottish Rite Sporting Clays Classic on  
**May 23rd, 2025**

Join us for a fun time and a great cause in support of the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and benefiting



at **Colorado Clays**  
13600 Lanewood St, Brighton, CO 80603

**Door Prizes, Meal, Awards and More!!**



Scan the QR code or  
Register online at:

**[www.scottishriteclays.com](http://www.scottishriteclays.com)**

**Single Shooter - \$150**  
**Team of 4 - \$600**

**Sponsorship opportunities include:**

Ammunition Sponsor - \$4,000  
Dinner Sponsor - \$1,500  
Station Sponsors - \$250  
Golf Cart Sponsor - \$160

**Premium Sponsorship Packages**

Platinum - \$10,000  
includes 12 shooters

Gold - \$5,000  
includes 8 shooters

Silver - \$2,500  
includes 4 shooters

**Trophies for**

1st Place- 2nd Place - 3rd Place  
Best Woman - Best Team - Worst Shot



# FLAGS FOR FALLEN VETS

**SUNDAY – 25MAY2025 – 0900 HOURS (9AM)  
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**



Flags for Fallen Vets is a national program that annually takes place at a number of national, or military cemeteries across the country. The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix of the Scottish Rite and Masons throughout Colorado have proudly supported and participated in the event for the past several years. The mission is to ensure that an American flag is placed at the grave of every veteran resting in these cemeteries.

This year's family-oriented event will take place on Sunday, May 25 at 9am at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. We need volunteers to assist with placing the flags on May 25 and then with the retrieval of the flags on Saturday, May 31. Volunteering is very easy - just follow these steps:

- Go to <https://flagsforfallenvets.com/> and click on 2025 Volunteer Form
- Select Fort Logan National Cemetery - Denver in the drop-down menu and then enter your email address
- In the "Group" menu, select "Mason" or "Masonic" and Section "S"
- Add the number of volunteers you will be bringing with you that day
- **Plan to arrive by 8 am on Sunday, May 25, 2025**

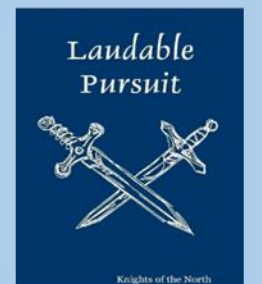
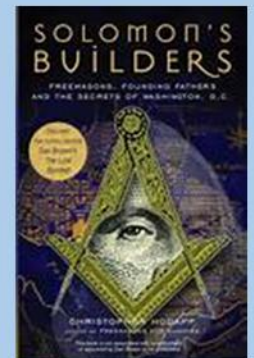
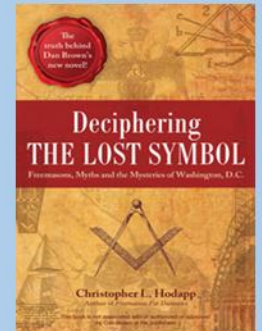
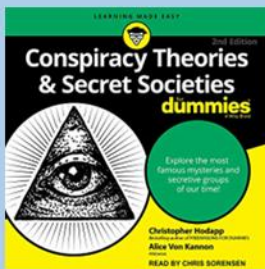
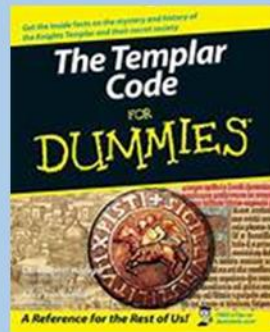
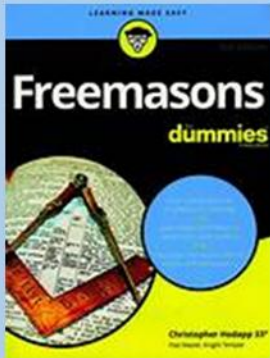


**June 16, 2025, 7PM  
@ Denver Consistory**

**Save the Date...and Spread the Word!**

**The Consistory Education & Entertainment Group Presents:**

**Christopher Hodapp, 33°**



**Acclaimed Masonic author, editor, blogger and  
commentator will speak (topic TBD) and sign books!**

**All Masons and Their Guests Are Welcome!**

**Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
1370 Grant St, Denver**

**Dinner Reservations (6PM) @ <https://centennial-lodge-of-perfection.square.site/>**





# Save the Date

June 21, 2025

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Denver Scottish Rite**

## LADIES SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

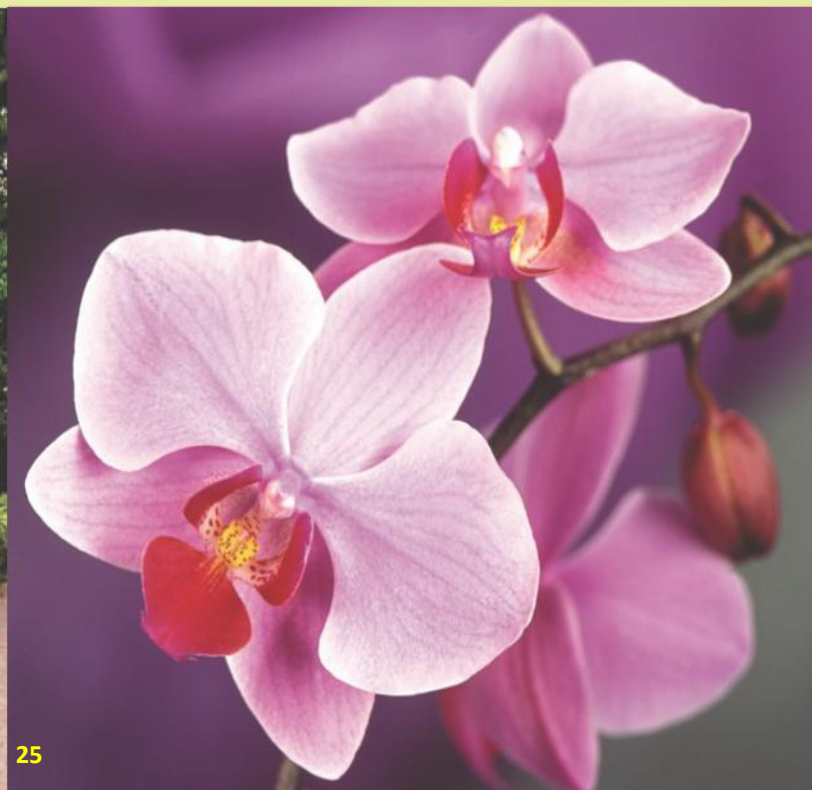
**Denver Botanic Gardens**

**Woodland Mosaic Garden and Pavilion**

Food, Beverage, Music, Full Access to the Gardens  
Parking Provided and Rides Available Upon Request

**RSVP to (303) 861-4261 by June 11, 2025**

Attendance limited to 75 guests. Please RSVP ASAP.







**Come enjoy the Consistory Summer Luau.**

**We will have some traditional Luau foods along with Kona Shaved Ice.**

**Entertainment will be provided by Tehani's Hula Colorado.**

**Evening starts at 6:00PM on July 19th 2025 at the Denver Consistory.**

**Tickets can be found on the Centennial Lodge of Perfection payment website.**

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

**Look for the Summer Luau entry.**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scottish Rite Golf Classic

At the exclusive Hiwan Golf Club  
In Evergreen, Colorado



Monday, August 11, 2025—shotgun start at 1:30 pm

Check-in at noon

Format will be 4-golfer scramble

Golfer fees are All-inclusive –

- lunch at 12:30
- Awards Reception
- Player “goodie bag”

**Proceeds will benefit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, the Scottish Rite Foundation and RiteCare (juvenile speech and hearing therapy and treatment)**

Register now at [www.scottishritegolf.com](http://www.scottishritegolf.com)





*judi's house* JAG Institute  
For Grieving Children and Families



Please drop items off in the bin located in the building.  
Supplies they need will be listed on a flyer above the bin.

They need things like art supplies, toys, non-perishable snacks, and  
everyday household supplies.

Any questions? Contact Pablo Colomban  
[pablocolomban@yahoo.com](mailto:pablocolomban@yahoo.com) • 720-284-4304

Scan the QR code for a  
complete list.



SCAN ME





**Denver's Scottish Rite Masonic Center** earns funds through King Soopers charitable Community giving program. Depending on how much you shop at King Soopers and get gas at King Soopers or Loaf 'n Jug, you can earn a little or a lot for the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

### **Create a digital account**

A digital account is needed to participate in King Soopers Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

### **Search for your organization [here](#).**

**Link your Card** to Scottish Rite Masonic Center (of Denver) and click "Save".

Scottish Rite Masonic Center (of Denver) will also display in the King Soopers Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account.

If you do not have a King Soopers Loyalty Card, you can get one at your local store. Then just follow the instructions above.

**Thank you for supporting the Scottish Rite Center**

# *MEDIA PRESENCE*



Denver Consistory Web Page

<http://www.denverconsistory.org>

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** [Pablo Colomban, 32° KCCH](#)



find us on

**Facebook**

Look for (search):

Denver Scottish Rite Consistory

<http://www.facebook.com>

You need to “LIKE” us to see what is going on.

**QUESTIONS:** [Randy Penn, 32° KCCH](#)



THE  
SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY  
SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°  SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

<https://scottishrite.org>

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This publication is produced monthly by and for the benefit of members, staff, and interested parties associated with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and more particularly the Denver Consistory in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Denver Consistory or its officers.

Deadline for article submission is two (2) days after the monthly stated meeting (third Monday). Articles should be approximately 250-1000 words long. Where appropriate, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits may be included with your submission. Articles may be submitted in hard copy to the office or by electronic format via email to the editor. All articles are subject to editing and are published without restrictions unless clearly marked as copyrighted. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

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Questions pertaining to this publication should be forwarded to the Editor or the Consistory Office.

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**Bill Hickey, 33° - Chairman**

If you have comments, constructive criticisms, recommendations, or **articles for submission**, please send them to the EDITOR, RiteWorks.

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER !!!** Let us know how we're doing. We need to know if you want to see something in particular that we haven't published previously. If you are receiving this e-newsletter, it is because we have a valid email address for you. If you know of a Brother who has email but is not receiving these notices, PLEASE have him contact the Consistory Office and get his email updated or added to our database.

Contact:

[cathy@denverconsistory.org](mailto:cathy@denverconsistory.org)

or

[alex@denverconsistory.org](mailto:alex@denverconsistory.org)

## ALLEGIANCE

*The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the **Supreme Council** (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon.*



**James D. Cole, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Commander



**Karl J. Hinkle, 33°**  
Deputy of the Supreme Council  
in Colorado



**Ronald D. Birely, 33°**  
Personal Representative of the  
Deputy of the Supreme Council in Colorado



**Jered Minter, 32° KCCH**  
Venerable Master  
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



**Dillon Brickhouse, 32° KCCH**  
Wise Master  
Rocky Mountain Chapter, Rose Croix



**Lee Miller, 32° KCCH**  
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Colorado Council of Kadosh



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Denver Consistory



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