

The Double Eagle

ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
Valley of Indianapolis



Volume 57, Number 1

e-mail: doubleeagle@aastr-indy.org Web: www.aastr-indy.org

Jan 2007

Acacia Society Greens Up the Cathedral

Last year the Cathedral Foundation offered the opportunity to join the Ashlar Society by purchasing a brick in honor or memory of someone special. This project has been a huge success and is prominently displayed on the West parking lot by the new entrance. Another opportunity to consider in memorializing someone close to your heart would be to join the Acacia Society by purchasing a tree on the Cathedral grounds. This would be a meaningful way to recognize someone who has impacted your life and a wonderful way to pay a lasting tribute.



Mark Dill
Director of Major Gifts

The Acacia is a symbol of tender sympathy and undying affection and also serves as an emblem to mark the last resting place of the distinguished dead. The sprig of Acacia symbolizes Freemasonry's steadfast faith in the immortality of the soul. For a donation of \$1,000, a tree on the Cathedral grounds will memorialize an individual in perpetuity. This contribution needs to be made in cash, stocks, or some other

Campaign for the Cathedral

property. A three year pledge would be acceptable as well and recognition will be made upon completion of the pledge. Each tree will be assigned a number and a plaque. A bronze plaque is located in the Cathedral's Hall of Donors listing those who have already made contributions and the pictures below illustrate an example.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please call the Foundation Office at 317-262-3121. This would be an excellent way to memorialize a loved one and also help ensure the preservation of the Scottish Rite Cathedral at the same time.



How to Build a Membership

Renewing Our Principles

I always enjoy attending the semi-annual Convocation and Reunion. It gives me a chance to see friends and interact with so many of our members. But just as importantly, experiencing the degrees renews my commitment to the Fraternity. I found the following item in the archives published by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. Perhaps these principles will re-connect you to the teachings we hold so dear. Masonry teaches that:

- Since God is the Creator, all men and women are the children of God. Because of that, all men and women are brothers and sisters, entitled to dignity, respect for their opinions, and consideration of their feelings.

- Each person must take responsibility for his/her own life and actions. Neither wealth nor poverty, education nor ignorance, health nor sickness excuses any person from doing the best he or she can do or being the best person possible under the circumstances.

- No one has the right to tell another person what he or she must think or believe. Each man and woman has an absolute right to intellectual, spiritual, economic, and political freedom. This is the right given by God, not by man.

- All tyranny, in every form, is illegitimate.

- Each person must learn and practice self-control.

Each person must make sure his spiritual nature triumphs over his animal nature. Another way to say the same thing is that even when we are tempted to anger, we must not be violent. Even when we are tempted to selfishness, we must be charitable. Even when we want to "write someone off," we must remember that he or she is a human and entitled to our respect. Even when we want to give up, we must go on. Even when we are hated, we must return love, or, at a minimum, we must not hate back. It isn't easy.

- Faith must be in the center of our lives. We find that faith in our houses of worship, not in Freemasonry, but Masonry constantly teaches that a person's faith, whatever it may be, is central to a good life.

- Each person has a responsibility to be a good citizen, obeying the law. That doesn't mean we can't try to change things, but change must take place in legal ways.

- It is important to work to make this world better for all who live in it. Masonry teaches the importance of doing good, not because it assures a person's entrance into heaven -- that's a question for a religion, not a fraternity -- but because we have a duty to all other men and women to make their lives as fulfilling as they can be.



•Honor and integrity are essential to life. Life, without honor and integrity, is without meaning.

Share this list, or perhaps your own, with a friend, relative or associate and ask him to join Freemasonry. It is your obligation and your legacy.

Jeffrey K. Saunders
Executive Director

The Double Eagle

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Two Great Leaders Pass

With all the media coverage of the life of President Gerald R. Ford that his Masonic Record was omitted ... so we will stand witness, with gratitude, for the principles with which he stood.

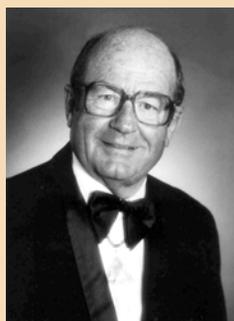
Initiated: September 30, 1949, Malta Lodge No 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan, along with his half-brothers Thomas Gardner Ford (1918-1995), Richard Addison Ford (1924-) and James Francis Ford (1927-).



The Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees were Conferred by Columbia Lodge No 3, Washington, DC, on April 20 and May 18, 1951, as a courtesy to Malta Lodge. Brother Ford was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, and Honorary Member, Supreme Council AASR Northern Jurisdiction at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, on September 26, 1962, for which he served as Exemplar (Representative) for his

Class. Brother and President Ford was unanimously elected an Active Member of the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay and its Honorary Grand Master, at its Annual Session held at Orlando, Florida, April 6-9, 1975; Brother Ford held this post until January 1977, at which time he became a Past Honorary Grand Master, receiving his Collar and Jewel on October 24, 1978 in Topeka, Kansas, from the Hon Thomas C Raum, Jr, Grand Master, Order of DeMolay.

Donald D Davis, 33° passed on to be with our Lord on August 26, 2006. He was a leader in the Valley of Indianapolis serving as Presiding Officer, Hospitaler, and Trustee. He was employed by General Motors Corporation for 35 years in Purchasing and received degrees in engineering from Kansas State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



He began his Masonic journey in Millersville Lodge No 126 in Indianapolis in 1957, and joined Indianapolis Valley of Scottish Rite in March 1961. He was Sovereign Prince of Saraiah Council, Princes of Jerusalem in 1974-76 and served for 6 years as a Trustee of the Valley in addition to several years as

Valley Hospitaler. He received the 33rd Degree on September 28, 1977 in Pittsburgh. He was also a member of the Murat Shrine, a Past Sovereign of St. James Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, and member of the Rosecrucians.

Don served in the US Navy during World War II as a lieutenant junior grade in the Pacific Theater submarine service. Our Illustrious Brother was active in Second Presbyterian Church for over 50 years and served that congregation as a Deacon and Elder.

1986 'Challenges' Still True Today

by *Richard D Purcell, 33°*
Director of Membership Services

Brethren, while doing some research recently, I happened upon this article in the Fall 1986 issue of the *Double Eagle*:
Sovereign Grand Commander Cites Challenges



“Freemasonry is facing many challenges, from within and from without. The key to meeting those challenges, and converting them to opportunities, is plain, hard work.”

This was the message Ill Francis G Paul, 33°, sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the USA, gave recently to the twin-Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries in Washington, DC, “The twin Masonic problems of membership loss and attendance decline spell only one thing – lethargy, and that’s dangerous.”

He asked, “What kind of man should be a Mason,” and then went on to answer his own question:

“Sociologists call that man a stabilizer. Stabilizers are people who succeed at whatever they chose to do, because they work at it. Stabilizers choose careers and then pursue those careers with vigor throughout their lives. They get married, and stay married; they get involved and they stay involved. They don’t quit, they don’t stop trying, they don’t drop out.”

He said that stabilizers built Freemasonry, they built our Temples, and they wrote our rituals.

Today, too many Masons are content to simply maintain the status quo; “you know, don’t rock the boat.” Even many Masonic leaders are waiting, hoping that fate will be kind to Freemasonry.

“If Freemasonry is to remain a vital force in the lives of men, we must ‘wage war’ on membership loss.”

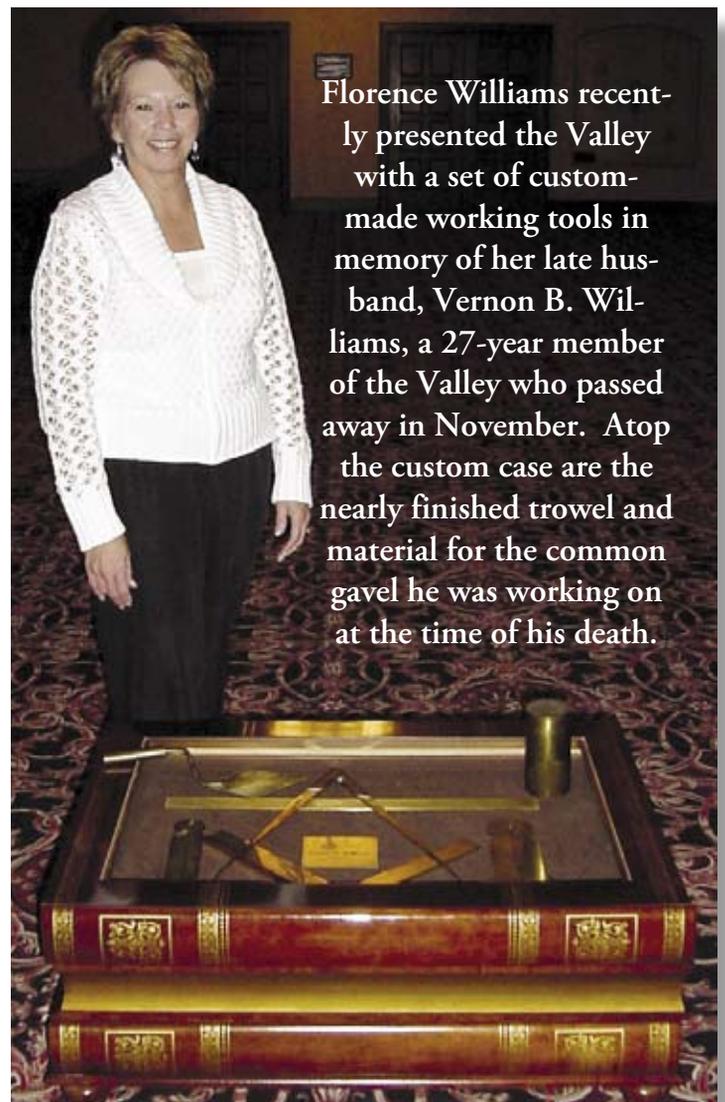
“I would not have accepted the job as your Sovereign Grand Commander if I did not have the hope that we could win that war.”

“We Masons, whatever Body we count as most important, absolutely must communicate between and among ourselves.

Communication fosters cooperation, and cooperation brings unity of purpose. The highest Masonic purpose today is our Masonic survival.”

It is now 2007 and the Fraternity still faces the same problems and issues of yesteryear. You may wonder, what can I, as an individual, do to ensure our survival? My suggestion to you is very simple. Find that one individual who you believe will benefit most from Scottish Rite Masonry and ask him. It is that simple. All you have to do is ASK.

Williams' Gift



Florence Williams recently presented the Valley with a set of custom-made working tools in memory of her late husband, Vernon B. Williams, a 27-year member of the Valley who passed away in November. Atop the custom case are the nearly finished trowel and material for the common gavel he was working on at the time of his death.



Our Valley maintenance supervisor, James Litel illuminates the Holiday decorations in the Banquet Hall for this year's Children's Christmas Party. Each year James volunteers to make this his personal project to the delight of the 300 children who attend. Great Job, James!

32° Masonic Learning Center for Children

Tutor Training Important LC Mission

by Martha Robinson, Learning Center Director

The Masonic Learning Center is in the midst of another active year. Forty students are accompanied twice a week after school by parents who wait patiently while their children receive a fifty minute Orton-Gillingham session. Orton-Gillingham is an approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling simultaneously. This is taught through a series of carefully crafted drills and exercises that allow a child to build a solid understand of the language and in doing so recognize sounds and their spellings well enough to read them, spell them and write them into sequences of words and sentences.

It is a privilege to share this process with a child whether they are six and just starting in school or sixteen and they are finally "getting it." The joy of this process is seen in the face of a tutor when a parent happily shares that their child is getting an A in reading and spelling for the first time. It is there when a child, who began reluctantly, finally says, "Thank You, this is really helpful." It is also a privilege for the Center Director to see a newly trained tutor hear such words and reply, "yes it does."



The work of the Center is focused on the children but it relies on the dedication of adults who are also willing to learn. The Tutor Education program of the Center is vital not only to serve as tutors of the Center but to provide the community with skilled Orton-Gillingham practitioners. To become a tutor one only needs to have a bachelor's degree, determination and time. While most of the tutors are experienced teachers, that is not a requirement. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in becoming a tutor we encourage you to explore it further.

Each year a new class of up to 15 trainees begins with a five week summer course. This course, which can earn 5 graduate credits from Butler Universities Education Workshop program, begins this year on June 25, 2007. During the five week summer program classes are two mornings a week and tutoring occurs on two mornings a week. In the fall tutoring begins again, two days a week after school. The training to become a tutor is free and results in a certificate that is nationally recognized. It also results in your being able to change lives. If you might be interested, please request information by contacting the Center (317-262-3115) or stop by and visit.

"A Word With You"



New Year Resolutions

by Michael W Klepper,
Master of Ceremonies
Indianapolis Rose Croix



Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and had the chance to spend time with your loved ones and friends.

As we begin yet another New Year in our lives it has become customary to make resolutions for the coming year. Many resolve to lose weight, quit smoking, eat healthier and exercise.

All of these will lead to a healthier life and perhaps a better life, but I believe we, as Masons, should resolve to be better Masons.



We should resolve to apply the lessons and morals taught in our fraternity to our own lives and become better. Better men, better husbands, better fathers, better Brothers, better citizens and better Masons.

Resolve to prove your love for your mate, by showering them with the affection and tenderness that they deserve and by always reminding them with, "I love you."

Resolve to apply the lessons and moral taught in our fraternity.

Resolve to give your children all the love and guidance that a parent can give.

Resolve to give them the tools to build a righteous life.

Resolve to be a better Brother by reaching out to a Brother that you have not seen or talked to for quite some time. Visit or call them to let them know that you care for them and their families. Visit or call a deceased Brother's widow to let her know that her husband



is missed and that you still care for her welfare and happiness.

Resolve to attend your Lodge and your Rite more frequently. Renew the acquaintances that prompted you to join our beloved fraternity and resolve to build new friendships that will last for years to come.

Resolve to become a better citizen by doing what is right in the eyes of the law. Be the man that takes the high road of morality when others might take the easier route. Act right, be right and do right so that others may want to associate with you. Display the truths of our fraternity to this world in all its majestic beauty.

Resolve to become a better Mason by strengthening your relationship with God. Live according to His laws and principles. Follow His teachings and guidance, for it is through the Word of God that all of our Masonic truths are unveiled and by God's

command all things happen in this life.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." Matthew 5:16 KJV

Renew the acquaintances that prompted you to join our fraternity . . .



Internationally Known Membership Expert Coming to the Rite

On March 24, 2007, Mark Levin, CAE (Certified Association Executive), internationally-known and respected membership development expert, will lead a fun, interactive symposium designed to help all of Indiana Masonry to turn up the heat on membership recruitment and retention.



All Masons – Lodge Masters, Wardens, and brethren; Scottish Rite; York Rite; and Shrine members – share a common bond of challenges associated with a solid membership recruitment and retention strategy. Here at the Scottish Rite, we're tired of hearing reports of declining membership trends in fraternal societies like ours...so we're bringing you this terrific opportunity to learn to set positive trends. Any Mason interested in growing the Fraternity will be irrevocably changed by this rare opportunity and experience.

Here's just a sample of what we'll be taking away from this exciting day: The importance of membership recruitment and retention to an organization's success won't change in the new century -- but the members and potential members will! How well Masons deal with this new generation of members and prospects will determine if, and how much, the Fraternity can grow. Mark will help your leaders:

- learn how to identify the "new marketplace"
- find ways to use technology to recruit and retain members
- determine how to enhance your organization's image
- understand the need to create a membership "experience"
- Identifying reasons to join
- Targeting the best prospects
- Delivering the message
- Putting the member back into membership
- Overcoming objections and closing the sale
- The 5-step approach to keeping the members you've worked so hard to obtain

In this interactive, fast-moving program, Mark talks about the characteristics of each generation and how that impacts their desire to join and participate in voluntary organizations. He then gives specific suggestions on what leaders and organizations can do to reach this multi-generational target market.

An award winning author, Mark's first book "Membership Development: 101 Ways to Get and Keep Your Members" has been a hit on five continents. His second book, "The Gift of Leadership," has won universal acclaim for its ability to train -- and inspire -- volunteer leaders in virtually every type of organization. Mark's latest book is "Millennium Membership: How to Attract and Keep Members in the New Marketplace." Published by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) this book is destined to be the guide that all organizations need to recruit and retain members in the 21st century.



Mark's reputation isn't just based on experience --- it's based on his talent, too. He's served for over 20 years on the faculty of the Institutes for Organization Management, a continuing education program sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Tens of thousands of volunteer and staff leaders have attended his programs worldwide, and they all can attest to his ability to present his topics in a unique, humorous, and interactive style.

WHO: ALL Masonic Leaders & those involved in Membership Development

WHERE: Scottish Rite Cathedral, Indianapolis

WHEN: March 24, 2007, 9 am – 3 pm

COST: No Charge – advance registration required

Lunch will be available by prepaid reservation only. The cost is only \$10. Contact Rick Purcell, 650 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 800-489-3579, ext. 244 317-262-3122 rpurcell@aasr-indy.org for registration or more information



*This is a program no Mason can afford to miss!
Join your Scottish Rite brethren in setting the trends of excellence
for the next century.*

Memorial & Honor Gifts

10-1-2006 to 11-30-2006

In memory of John Milnor

Jess Ann Logsdon

In memory of Tom Williams

Howard C. Caldwell, Jr.

Jonn W. Duncan

Rex Fleenor

Sally King

McIlvaine Kothe Post 153

Robert J. Moore

Richard D. Muir

Russ Murphy

Thomas Shrock

Harry A. Sjolun

Stevens & Associates

The Service Club of Indpls.

In memory of Newton Day

Charles F. Butler

In memory of Paul Miller

Ralph E. Bowermaster

Margaret A. Carter

Joseph H. Clark

David R. Curtchfield

Morris L. V. French

Friday Night Golf Group

Suzanne Kraft

Robert S. Lukemeyer

Richard F. Madden

Lucy L. Miller

Nancy Mitchell

North Central Softball Club

Stewart D. Tompkins

Tammy Tompkins

In memory of Raymond Stickle

John C. Ellis

In memory of Doreotha Mae Hall

Thomas Shrock

In memory of Kenneth G. Hill

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Robert H. Stone

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Earl S. Brown

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Herbert A. Newman

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Robert A. Konkle

Rex Fleenor

In memory of John L. Price

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Ivan C. Frakes, Jr.

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Hugh E. Wheatley

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Robert M. McClain

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Robert H. Shoemaker

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Neil C. King, Jr.

Rex Fleenor

In memory of James B. Calvert

Rex Fleenor

In memory of Donald D. Davis

Rex Fleenor

Ashlar Society

In Memory/Honor of Donor

In memory of Delbert O. Detmer

Betty Detmer

In honor of John Duncan

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Smith

Rex Fleenor

Rex Fleenor, 33° Sovereign Prince

In memory of Paul T. Wells

Frances Wells

In memory of John H. Smale

Mrs. Ruth L. Smale

In memory of Neil C. Norrick

Nancy K. Norrick

Great Parents Bud & Monica Mosby

Monica Dill

In honor of James Litel

Anonymous

Kimberly, Patrick, John A. Holden, II

Jonathan A. Holden

In memory of Melvin C. Setz

Melvin C. Setz

William H. Wimmenauer

William H. Wimmenauer, Jr.

In memory of Thomas Williams, Jr.

George Proctor

James R. Acher, Franklin Indiana

Mrs. Margaret R. Acher

Howard D. Rice, Franklin Indiana

Mrs. Margaret R. Acher

In Memory/Honor of Donor

In memory of Donald L. Ludlow

Nancy C. Ludlow

In loving memory of my wife

Ruth L. Bullions

Robert J. Bullions, Jr.

Fredrick RASP Garver, Class of 1919

Donald H. Garver

Marty & Julie Klaper

Marty Klaper

Robert M. Steirwalt

Alice Coate

In honor of Cal V. Rhodes

Gloria M. Rhodes



Estate Planning

For those of you in the gift planning stages of life, Congress enacted the IRA Charitable Rollover Law this past August. If you are age 70.5 or older you may make a gift up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to charity without any tax implication! This law will expire December 31, 2007. If you are looking for ways to ease your estate tax burden, this could be an opportunity you might want to explore with your financial advisor.

Ladies Luncheons

Spend the afternoon having lunch with the ladies of the Scottish Rite, then enjoy a wonderful program to complete the afternoon. Luncheons are open to members' ladies & their guests. Reserved tickets may be purchased at the Scottish Rite office after August 1st. A book of tickets, one for each of the four (4) luncheons may be purchased for \$50.00. Single ticket \$15.00. There will be no cancellations or refunds of tickets after purchase.

Tuesday, February 20, 2006 – Quilts: The Stories they Tell. A visual program about quilts and quilt making both past and present. This program is presented by Quilt Quarters in Indianapolis.



Polar Bear Run

WHAT: The Polar Bear Run and Walk is a 5-Mile Run, a 5K Competitive Walk and a 5K Family Fitness Walk open to people of all ages and abilities. Last year there were 1200 participants and it was 9 degrees outside.

WHEN: Saturday, February 24, 2007

WHERE: Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N Meridian

START & FINISH: The Run starts at 9 am and the Walks start at 9:20 am. \$20 to run or walk.

COURSE: SCENIC - FAST - FLAT! Volunteers are needed to pass out water along the route.

For more info go to www.kenlongassoc.com

Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis

Activity Schedule

Jan 2007 through Aug 2007

Sat Jan 13 - **Ballroom Dancing Night** - 7 pm

Tim Mullinix Band - FREE

Wed Feb 7 - **Stated Meeting** - 7 pm

Sat Feb 10 - **Sweetheart Fest** - 6 pm

Tickets - FREE

Fri Feb 16 - **Purdue Glee Club** - 7:30 pm

Tickets - \$10 (balcony) and \$12 (lower level)

Sat Feb 17 - **Racin' at the Rite** - 4 pm

Get Your \$5 Kit by Jan 26 - FREE

Tue Feb 20 - **Ladies Luncheon** - 12:15 pm

"Quilts: The Stories They Tell"

Sat Feb 24 - **Polar Bear Run** - 9 am

Join 1200 Indpls runners at the Rite

Wed Mar 1 - **Stated Meeting** - 7 pm

Sat Mar 10 - **Rush Party** - 5 pm

Bring your prospective Candidates

Wed Apr 5 - **Stated Meeting** - 7 pm

Sat Apr 7 - **Cathedral Hour** - 7:30 pm

Tue Apr 17 - **Ladies Luncheon** - 12:15 pm

"Indianapolis Japanese Minyo Dancers"

Fri Apr 20 - **Spring Convocation** - 1 pm

4°, 10°, 14°, 15°, 16°, 18°

Sat Apr 21 - **Spring Convocation** - 9 am

19°, 21°, 20°, 31°, 32°

Call 262-3100 in Indpls or 1-800-489-3579
for more information and reservations.

** Notice: All Reservations Due 5 days in Advance **

Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis

Activity Schedule

Jan 2007 through Aug 2007

- Mon Apr 30 - **Spring Golf Outing** - 8 am
Saddlebrook GC - Indianapolis - \$60
- Wed May 2 - **Annual Elections/Meeting** - 7 pm
- Sat May 5 - **Orchestra/Organ/Chorus** - 7:30 pm
Spring Concert - FREE
- May 15-16 - **Grand Lodge**
- Sat May 26 - **500 Festival Parade** - Noon
Reserved parking, seating, and box lunch - \$12.50
Limit of 6 tickets per member. Reserve Early.
- Wed Jun 6 - **Stated Meeting** - 7 pm
- Jun 21-23 - **Council of Deliberation**
West Lafayette, Indiana
- Wed Jul 4 - **Fireworks Party** - 6:30 pm
Picnic outside - \$10 tickets, Kids - \$5.

Masonic Fellowship Day
Belle of Louisville
Children FREE
12 & under
TBA

We've chartered an historic paddlewheel steamboat with Bluegrass/Country family entertainment for a 3-hour cruise on the Ohio River

Only 650 seats available & tickets must be purchased in advance.

For more info call 800-489-3579 or www.aasr-indy.org
Sponsored by the Indianapolis Valley Scottish Rite



- Aug 26-28 - **Supreme Council**
Joint Meeting of Northern & Southern Jurisdictions
Washington, DC

Call 262-3100 in Indpls or 1-800-489-3579 for more information and reservations.

Coming "

Sweetheart Fest



Plan for a great evening with entertainment for all ages. You are invited to "Put on your dancin' shoes" in the Ballroom on **Saturday, February 10th at 6 pm** and dance the night away. A free buffet will be available throughout the evening. This is open to members and their guests only for -- FREE. Call the ticket office to reserve your place for this outstanding event.

Purdue Glee Club



Our most popular entertainment of the year returns to the beautiful Scottish Rite Theater for their annual performance. The Purdue Glee Club has been performing at the Scottish Rite Cathedral for more than 50 years and will return on **Friday, February 16th for one performance at 7:30 pm**. Tickets are available at the Scottish Rite ticket office – all Seats are reserved. Members \$12 Lower Level, \$10 Balcony. General Public \$20 Lower Level, \$15 Balcony. Dinner will be available from 5 to 7 pm. Enjoy the show! *Reserve early for this popular event.*

** Notice: All Reservations Due 5 days in Advance **

Rite" Up - Winter 2007 Events

Rush Party

Bring your prospects to the Valley of Indianapolis Rush Party on Saturday, March 10th at 5 pm. We will greet potential new members and discuss all the opportunities that membership offers. Your prospects will be given a tour of the Cathedral.

The Spring Convocation will run for two days on April 20th and April 21st. Please bring your candidates and questions to the Rite on March 10th. The program will begin at 5 pm with refreshments to follow.

Please RSVP to Rick Purcell, Director of Membership Services, by calling 262-3100, ext 244. Rick can also answer any questions you have regarding the evening or membership benefits in general.

We look forward to seeing you on March 10th!

Honor Guard Forming



The Valley of Indianapolis is forming a Military Honor Guard Committee. The purpose of this committee is to provide military honor guards for the 32nd degree and other Valley functions where requested. If you are interested in being a part of this uniformed group, please call the office at 317-262-3100 for more information. Brother Rex Sohn, committee chairman, will be in touch with each interested member with details.

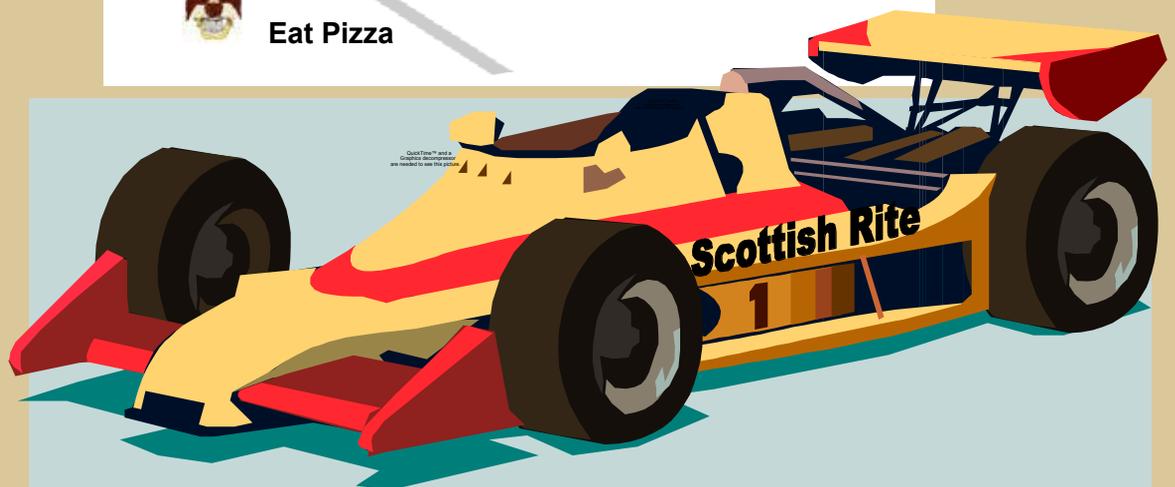
Racin' At the Rite

February 17th 4 - 8pm

Cold weather has set in, and what better way to keep warm than to build a race car for yourself or help your children or grandchildren build one for the new event "Racin' at the Rite". Join us on February 17th beginning at 4:00 pm in the Banquet Hall and race your pine box derby car against other families for prizes. Meet our very own Paul Page, the former voice of the Indianapolis 500 and a special guest IRL driver. There will be prizes and refreshments for you to enjoy. Afterwards sit back, relax and watch the Busch race from Daytona on the big screen. You must register to receive your official kit for \$5.00 the deadline is January 26, 2007 so don't delay. Call 317-262-3100 for info.



- Pine Box Car Derby with Paul Page**
- A Surprise INDY Car Driver Speaker**
- Watch the NASCAR Busch Race on the Big Screen**
- Eat Pizza**



Purchase a Pine Box Car Kit (in advance for \$5) and construct a winning car.

Through the Cathedral Window

New Resolution: Do Nothing in 2007

by Jerry B. Collins, Editor

Happy New Year! Now, everyone be honest . . . by show of hands, how many have broken their resolutions already? How many of you didn't even make resolutions to break? It's a funny thing this concept of a New Year, a new leaf, a new beginning -- a chance to wipe the board clean and 'start over' again anew.

I come to the beginning of a year with conflicted feelings. On one hand, I wonder why we make such a fuss over the New Year. The end of one calendar year and the beginning of another is simply a human measurement imposed on time.

Human beings have used all sorts of calendars to record the passage of time. According to the Gregorian calendar, the New Year starts on January 1st, but it could start at any time. If we followed the Mayan calendar or the old Chinese calendar, we wouldn't be talking about the end or the beginning of the year. Even the church calendar does not see today as the beginning of anything new. In the liturgical calendar, the church year begins each year on the First Sunday of Advent and ends on Christ the King Sunday in late November. It wasn't until 1752 that the American colonies switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Therefore in 1752, Wednesday, September 2, 1752, was followed by Thursday, September 14, 1752. Eleven days simply vanished - at least as the calendar records them. Today, the Gregorian is the most universally accepted calendar in the world.

In many ways, one day is like another. From one perspective, it doesn't mean anything except a good excuse to make some lists of famous people, favorite songs, notable deaths and newsworthy events. It's a good excuse to throw an extravagant party, get weepy and sentimental, kiss a near stranger and make some resolutions that we are unlikely to keep.

At the onset of this new year, take time to rake through your experiences of the past year like you might rake up a pile of leaves. The

leaves might represent all of the people whose lives intersected with yours during the past 12 months. To some, the leaves may be unimportant, they may be damp and troublesome, they may take too many bags to fill and cause too many blisters and too much back pain. On the other hand, you might enjoy the rhythmic sound of the rake pulling through the grass, to catch sight of the leaves as they are lifted by the rake and the air, to see their deep autumnal colors and varied shapes, to feel their texture in our hands. It is God who makes our lives beautiful by filling them with truth and grace and beautiful friendships.



As Masons, we are charged with the tenets of our profession: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. In focusing on 'Relief' we are taught to relieve the distress of a worthy brother, widow, or orphan. But I would add perhaps a new dimension to that word by asking you to consider giving relief to yourself during the ensuing year. Relief to yourself? Another way of stating this is to simply take more time this year --- to doing nothing.

Doing nothing: take an hour out of the middle of each day and get away from your routine. Daydream. It's a little like detoxifying the mind. Doing nothing is a way of flushing the old stuff out so new stuff can come in. Just like a cup of tea, if the cup is full, you can't put any more in. Doing nothing can help reset the mind's internal workings and affect psychological reactions. Scientific studies dating back to the 1970's have shown that certain states of not doing, such as meditation, can reduce heart and breathing rates which can positively influence neurological activity and human perception. Literally, it can wake up -- even spark -- your creativity.

This New Year resolve to do nothing and then out of the nothingness can perhaps come the energy and creativity to add something new, something positive to another person's life. It is our mission as Masons, after all, we are all God's children.

(Thanks to Dr. Lewis Galloway and Craig Cox for the inspiration.)

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