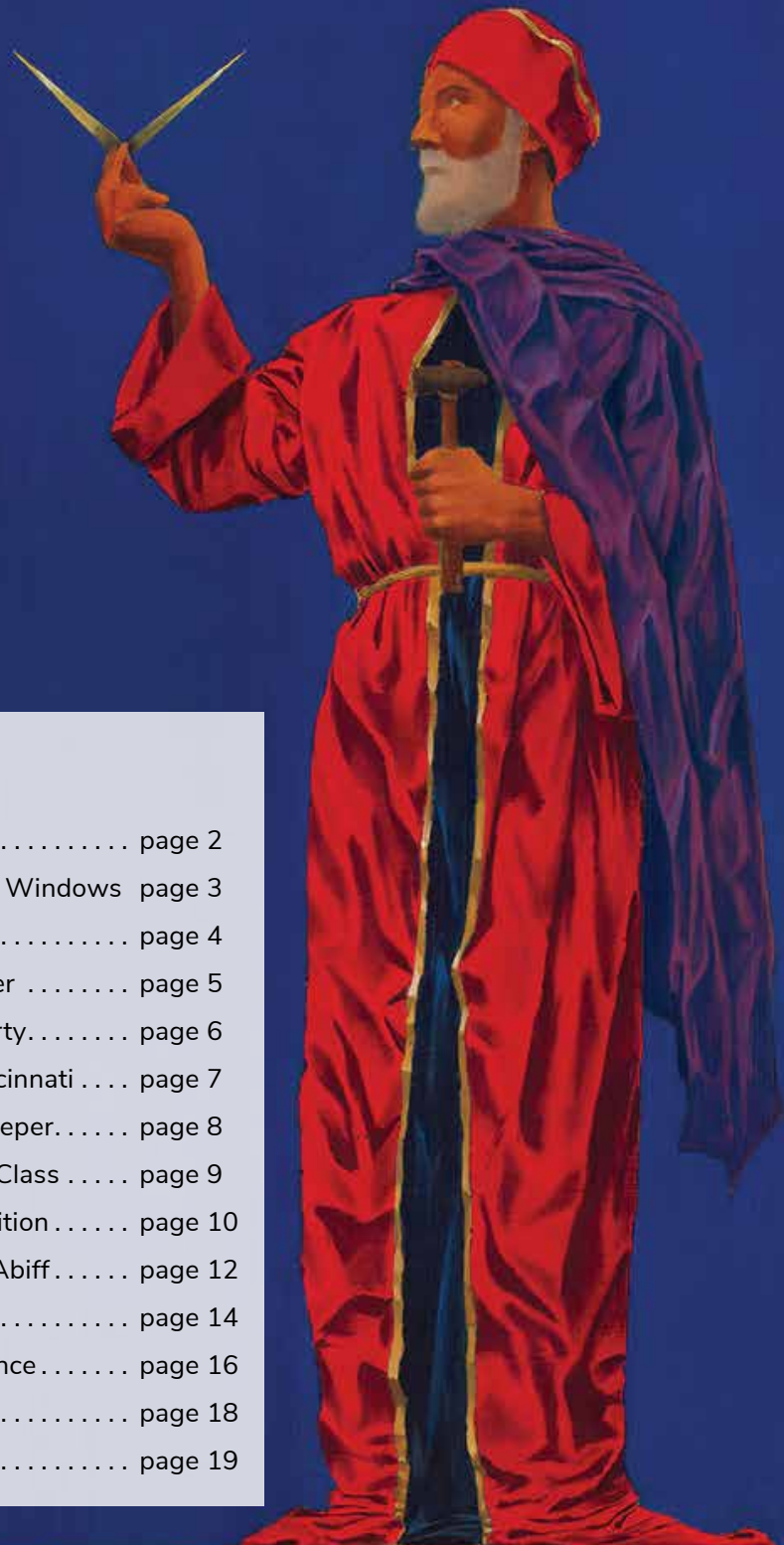


ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
Valley of Indianapolis

The Double Eagle

Volume 73, Number 4

Winter 2024



IN THIS ISSUE

- Letter from the Executive Director..... page 2
- Our Cherished Cathedral Windows page 3
- Purse BINGO..... page 4
- Children's Dyslexia Center..... page 5
- Children's Halloween Party..... page 6
- Visiting the Valley of Cincinnati.... page 7
- We Are Our Brother's Keeper..... page 8
- J. Robert Wortman, 33°, Class..... page 9
- Vintage Postcard Acquisition..... page 10
- Artistic Addition-HIram Abiff..... page 12
- Robert Burns Night..... page 14
- Sweetheart Dinner & Dance..... page 16
- Signature Cocktail..... page 18
- The Mousetrap..... page 19



From the Northeast Corner
**TNR at the
 Valley of Indianapolis**

Tom Fallis, 33° – Executive Director

Thursday Night at the Rite has been a mainstay of the Winter months for five years. This year, things will be a little different. The Valley of Indianapolis will be featured the night of February 13, 2025.

During the weekend of October 11, a film crew from Supreme Council was at the Valley to film the 12th degree. A few issues back, I wrote about Joseph and his coat of many colors and of how he showed forgiveness to his jealous brothers who sold him into slavery. Joseph found favor with Pharaoh and became his second in command. This is my favorite Bible story and subsequently, my favorite musical, and Scottish Rite Degree.

The Valley Officers are scheduling a watch party on the evening of February 13. We will assemble in the J. Robert Wortman, 33° Auditorium inside the Scottish Rite Cathedral at 7:00 pm to begin the festivities. We will show the 4th degree for anyone wanting to join the Rite that evening. At the conclusion of the 12th degree, we will open Washington's Retreat for food and fellowship.

The cost of the evening is free, but we need to know how many of you are coming.

**Looking forward to seeing you
 all around the Rite.**

**WE NEED YOUR
 EMAIL ADDRESS.**

To communicate more quickly and effectively, we need your email address. If you have not registered on the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction website, please do so at:

<https://scottishritenmj.org/login>

If you have any questions please contact Tom Fallis at: tom@aastr-indy.org

Thursday - Feb. 13, 2025

Location: . . . J. Robert Wortman, 33° Auditorium

Time 7:00 pm

Cost **FREE** to members



To sign up, scan the QR code or use the following weblink:

<https://12thdegree.eventbrite.com>

ON THE COVER

A new addition to our Members' Lounge in the Washington Room—a custom-commissioned oil painting on wood of Hiram Abiff by artist Shannon Stamey.

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website: www.aastr-indy.org



Help Preserve Our Cherished Cathedral Windows

Randy Seipel, 33° MSA -
Director of Fraternal Development

Blessed be those who see life through a different window, and those who understand their view.

The beautiful art glass windows in our Cathedral hold a place near and dear to our hearts. They are as magnificent as they are awe-inspiring. As the sun shines through them, different details can be viewed. I could spend hours just looking at each one, seeking the symbolism in each and admiring their beauty. I often will listen in as our learned tour guides explain them and their symbolism to the Scottish Rite and to our Blue Lodge. For me, they are one of the highlights of a tour of the Cathedral. Even the plain leaded glass windows hold a significant place in my heart as some have a tiny pane of red or blue glass, signifying that all in life is not perfect, but as Masons, we should strive for perfection.

I could wax poetic about each window, the symbolism of the stories they tell, who the original donor was, and so on. I will, however, leave that to the experts. Make it a point to come in for a tour and spend some time examining the windows. Get to know them and appreciate them.

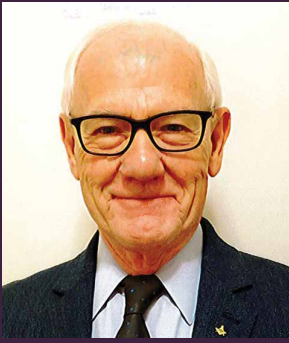
As with all things of artistic and architectural design, the ravages of time and the inclemency of the seasons take their toll on many of our Masonic antiquities. It is now time to take on the valiant effort of restoring our beloved windows. As with most of the architectural pieces within the Cathedral, it takes special craftsmen to perform the needed work. It will undoubtedly take time. Patience, perseverance, and the help of each of our Scottish Rite brothers will accomplish this daunting task.

As we begin the capital campaign to raise the funds to restore our windows, please search within yourself as you consider donating to this project. Each one of the art glass windows found in the south lounge and main stairway will cost \$6,500 to repair and restore. Standard and leaded glass windows will be less. We will be offering specific windows for adoption by a brother, group of brothers, blue lodges or other organizations. We are in the process of producing a booklet of each window to present to the craft. Window sponsorships may also be split at \$3,250 each. A suitable plaque will be placed at each window recognizing its sponsor.

Feel free to contact me personally if you would like to discuss this project, would like a tour of the windows, or would like a presentation for your lodge or other group. Always remember that we are preserving the past to prepare for the future.



Artglass windows on the west side of the South Reception room.
Photo Credit: Glenn Blackwood, 32°.



Purse BINGO

James R. Keating, 33°

The Children's Dyslexia Center of Indianapolis is happy to announce the date for its next Purse Bingo to be held April 25, 2025 at the Murat Shrine – 510 North New Jersey Street, in Indianapolis. Once again there will be a dinner, purse bingo, raffles, auctions, and prizes available for all to win! It will be a fun-filled and joyous evening!

This is one of the big events the dyslexia center depends upon to raise funds for helping children overcome the difficulties they have with reading. Dyslexia affects about 1 in 5 people in the United States; and when young people do not receive timely remediation, it can cause problems for life. It is entirely possible you know someone who has dyslexia.

The Children's Dyslexia Center is proud to have remarkable success with the children we serve. The center is open to all children with dyslexia regardless of race, religion, or school district. In truly Masonic fashion, the families never receive a bill from us because the Center provides tutoring without charge. We are proud of this service to the community.

It is costly to operate this program and to continue to provide this service to children. We must raise

funds to operate the center. We need to pay our tutors, and also pay for rent, accounting services, insurance, supplies, and for all of the costs a normal business has for operations. Since we do not charge parents for the service, we depend on donors and fund-raising. The Bingo is one of our biggest celebrations. Please be a part of it!

Mark your calendar for April 25, 2025 at the Murat Shrine. Go to www.cdcoi.org/bingo for information and tickets. Watch for more information as we get closer to the event!

Come...and bring a friend!!! Whatever you do, don't miss this wonderful evening!

(Top) Director, Julie Bohannon, with some of the purses at the last Purse Bingo.
(Bottom) raffle table



The Children's Dyslexia Center – Do You Know Who We Are?



James R. Keating, 33°

Do you know who we are? That is, do you know about the Children's Dyslexia Center of Indianapolis? Our incumbent Scottish Rite members probably know about us. But if you are a newer member it might be that you are not sure about the work we do. And, of course, we want everyone to know our mission, our work, and our accomplishments that make such a difference in the lives of young people in Central Indiana.

So, what is our story? What do we do? And why do we do what we do?

As Scottish Rite Masons we are always aware of the need to make the world a better place. Probably every single one of us can point to an event or program that we supported that made our community stronger. This is what being a member of a Lodge is all about. Whether it is in a large city or small community, we know that people are important and we care about them. We always want to be a part of making things better. Isn't that right?

Here at the Scottish Rite in Indianapolis we have a special charity that is important to all of us. It is the Children's Dyslexia Center of Indianapolis. There are 46 Dyslexia Centers in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. This area encompasses much of the Northeastern quadrant of the United States. In terms of all those Dyslexia Centers, one of the best of them all is right here in our Scottish Rite Cathedral. On the lower level of the Cathedral building our center operates a dynamic and highly successful program to help children read. We are so proud of this program!

Dyslexia--oh my goodness! What is it? It is a reading difficulty that has an impact on about 1 in 5 people in the United States. Yes, 20% of us suffer at one level or another with this reading problem. At our center, we like to stress that this is not because people lack intelligence...not at all. Nor does it mean they lack motivation or drive to be successful. That is not the case either. Many who suffer from dyslexia are highly competent in their fields of expertise. But, they lack the ability to read well and this limits their opportunities. For young people in school, it can be particularly devastating. Students who cannot read effectively often face social and academic challenges that haunt them in school and beyond. It does not have to be that way.

Our program has been remarkably successful. Indeed, our graduates have gone on to finish junior high school, high school, and university studies. This happened even after many people felt they could not accomplish any of those things because they "couldn't read."

That accusation was not true. Students CAN learn to read, even though they often need different approaches to success. And they need understanding and encouragement... and practice. That's where we come in. Our Children's Dyslexia Center has helped students achieve those things many felt they could never hope to do.

Therefore, we are really proud of our tutors, director, and all of those volunteers and supporters who help us do what we do. We follow a well-researched and well-developed curriculum that is designed specifically to help children with dyslexia. We use the Orton-Gillingham method wherein tutors help students learn through a multisensory approach. That might sound complicated, but our tutors go through extensive training to learn how to do it...working one-on-one with our students.

As you can tell, this is not something schools (neither public nor private) can easily do. But we CAN do it. This isn't easy, of course, and it is costly. Parents have to bring students to our center 2 times each week. And we ask them to encourage and work with their students at home. (They are happy to do so.) It is expensive for us to provide the academic space in the Center, cover administrative costs, and to pay our teachers and staff so they can do this work. But we do it...and it works! We have a number of fund-raisers, including our fall pie-sales, golf outing, Widow's Sons Motorcycle rides, and our spring Bingo. Our Board of Governors looks for grant opportunities, and many Scottish Rite members and Masonic lodges, Eastern Star chapters and others support our work, for which we are so grateful. If you are not familiar with the Children's Dyslexia Center of Indianapolis, please know the Scottish Rite Valley is committed to this tremendous program helping students succeed. As Scottish Rite Masons, we can make the world a better place one student at a time. This is our story.

Contact us if you have any questions. We are happy to talk about what we do.



Children's Halloween Party

Ernst Buckingham, 32°
Master of Ceremonies, Adoniram Lodge of Perfection

The Indianapolis Valley held its annual Children's Halloween Party, Sunday, October 27 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Much fun was had by all in attendance. The children enjoyed games staffed by members of Indiana DeMolay where tickets could be won to exchange for prizes. There were several refreshments available including a decorate-your-own cookie bar and Tom's famous chili.

Halloween-themed music was provided by the Scottish Rite Orchestra. The children had a great time, including my grandson, who proved he's a better golfer than his grandpa. Children and adults alike were in costume which featured witches, goblins and various other ghouls. There was

even an Egyptian Pharaoh wandering around the building. Several Batmen and Spidermen were also in attendance.

It's always a joy to see the children enjoying themselves with their families and we hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.



Families enjoying the Halloween party.





Valley of Indianapolis Visits Valley of Cincinnati

**J. Edward Brandon, 32°
Sovereign Prince of the
Saraiah Council Princes of Jerusalem**

Four Brothers embarked on a journey to the Valley of Cincinnati, Saturday November 16th. We had learned that the Valley of Cincinnati was hosting a Rose Croix Day, to present both the 17th and 18th degrees. When I took this news to our Most Wise Master, I was informed that it was too bad that Cincinnati only had one Rose Croix Day, where every day is a Rose Croix Day in the Valley of Indianapolis!!! Be that as it may, we set out to have a great time and meet new brothers. None of us had ever been to the Valley of Cincinnati. We didn't know what to expect. Upon arriving, we were greeted with open arms and that was just the beginning of their hospitality. We were treated like kings throughout the day. The conferring of the 17th and 18th degrees was outstanding. We also learned that they had sold their beautiful building.

While we could hear sadness in everyone's voice as they told the story, we also sensed their optimism for their new building, which has already been purchased and where renovations have started.

Afterward we were invited to go across the Ohio River to a great pub, the Wooden Cask Brewing Company, where new friends were made. Invitations were given to Cincinnati brothers to come visit us and they invited us to return.

On our way home we reminisced about the day, wrote notes of ideas that were shared, and we were very happy we took the trip. Mark your calendars for May 3, 2025, which will be the Valley of Cincinnati's final Spring reunion in their current building. We will be going back to support them! More information will come later.

This has sparked a fire with the four brothers who went on the journey to go more often to visit other Valleys.

(Top L-R) Thomas Cooper, Most Wise Master; Tyler Whittaker, Captain of the Guard Rose Croix; Sam Davis, Master of Entrances, Saraiah Council; Ed Brandon, Sovereign Prince, Saraiah Council.

(Bottom L-R) Ed Brandon and Tom Cooper.





We Are Our Brother's Keeper

Troy Clements, 32°

We say we are our brother's keeper, but what does it mean? Does it mean we take care of a brother in need? Do we render aid when needed? Do we offer gentle counsel when needed? Basically, it's all of these and so much more. Sometimes we have to be our own keeper as well to rebuild when life throws us heartbreaking moments and trials.

Our Illustrious Brother Thomas Fallis 33°, is our Valley Executive. In so many ways he embodies Freemasonry, but moreover Scottish Rite Freemasonry. I have had the honor to know him since 2012. During that time, I've learned how much he truly loves all things Masonic. But more importantly, he loves all Masons and their families. Many times, he is the one passing out awards and honors, but on a recent night of degree practice, he earned a new level of respect from so many of us who were here.

In September, 2024 our illustrious brother lost the love of his life, Stacy. Yet, he was honoring her by attending our practice. He has endured so much heartache in the last few months, yet he still perseveres.

While we were up on stage, fumbling through our lines, and I am sure not being the best actors, I found our Illustrious Brother honoring Freemasonry and who he truly is. While our Past Sovereign Prince was rehearsing, Tom was babysitting and playing with Josie. For that moment in time, for those few minutes, I saw a truly happy smile. He didn't have a care in the world. He was exhibiting the most powerful gift the Supreme Architect gives us, and that is love.

Our Illustrious Brother Tom has been there for many a Mason. He was there for me when I truly

*He truly loves all things Masonic.
But more importantly, he loves all
Masons and their families.*

needed it. But this night, he was there for his brother Mason, but more importantly himself as he pushed Josie around the auditorium. The joy that I noticed truly stopped time while we were rehearsing.

Thanks for setting the example for so many of us, Illustrious Brother Tom.

Tom Fallis babysitting during Degtee Practice.





The J. Robert Wortman, 33° Class

Daniel L. Purkey, 32°
Deputy Master,
Adoniram Lodge of Perfection

(Top L-R) Tom Fallis and Steve Sonafank
with Brother Wortman

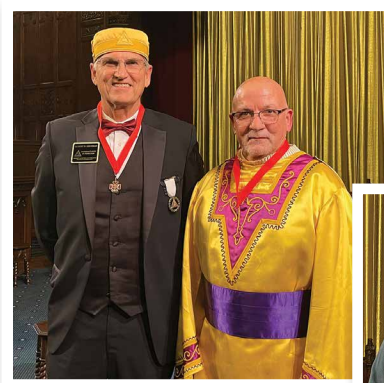
The Valley of Indianapolis welcomed 32 new members during the 2024 Fall Convocation and Reunion November 8-9 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. These new Scottish Rite brethren witnessed excellent degree work presented by talented officers and members. Their portrayals, along with the dedicated efforts of many brethren who also worked behind the scenes, afforded our new brethren a memorable day. The important Masonic lessons our new members witnessed will no doubt remain with them as they continue their Masonic journeys.

The weekend began with a ceremony unveiling a plaque honoring the beneficence of Ill. J. Robert Wortman, 33°, for whom the Fall 2024 class is named. Henceforth, the auditorium will be known as The J. Robert Wortman, 33° Auditorium. Ill. Brother Wortman's generous gift will ensure the maintenance and preservation of our beloved auditorium for generations to come. The Valley is deeply grateful to Ill. Brother Wortman for his foresight, wisdom, and generosity!

The Patron Knight program is a means by which brothers are honored for signing petitions. Each brother receives a beautiful jewel to wear signifying he has signed a petition. The more petitions a brother signs, the further he advances in the program. Each level attained is represented by a different color ribbon to be worn with the jewel. This year many brethren moved up in levels, while many received the jewel for their first level of participation.

60 brothers and their family members attended the reunion during the convocation weekend. They were honored for their years of membership ranging from 5 to 70 years. Following the reunion ceremony, they joined the rest of the convocation participants for lunch in the ballroom.

Thank you to all who either attended or assisted with this great and important undertaking! It was an exciting, inspiring, and unforgettable weekend in the life of the Valley of Indianapolis.



In a Portrait Studio, Worn with Pride: Prince Hall Freemasonry, Order of Eastern Star

Sarah Shepherd, Archivist, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

A striking new acquisition of a real photo postcard at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library highlights the long history of Prince Hall Freemasonry. The photo on the postcard is of a black man standing between two black women, with all three wearing Masonic regalia. The man wears a dark suit with a jewel of office pinned on his chest and a Past Master's apron – identifiable by the common motif of a square and compass with the legs of the compass connected by an arc. The two women are in white dresses, white high heeled shoes, and white stockings. The younger woman, to the right of the man, wears two sashes, one on either shoulder. The one on the left shoulder is more visible, with a band of color running through it, a cockade on the top. The other sash is less visible, although the darker colored folds are clear to see by her waist near the hem of her dress.

The family's clear pride in their Masonic brotherhood and sisterhood shines through the small photograph

Any identifying features of the regalia are difficult to discern. Do these sashes mark her as a member of the Order of Eastern Star? The older woman, to the left of the man, was clearly a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, as evidenced by her five-color star apron. Though the picture is black and white, the red, blue, yellow, green, and white in the star are easy to visualize. With her proudly displayed apron, she also wears a necklace, earrings, and a white pin in her hair.

The postcard has no date, no location, nor any hint to the identities of the three people in the photograph. Was this a man and his wife and mother or daughter? Was this a family

demonstrating their Masonic pride? The postcard was never sent and was likely kept as a keepsake or handed physically to its intended audience. Postcards were widely popular at the end of the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century in America. In 1913, almost one billion postcards were in sent in the United States, almost ten times the population at that time. Real photo postcards, like the one seen here, were produced on photographic paper with postcard backs. This postcard is undoubtedly a studio portrait—the upper right-hand corner gives a glimpse of the hanging backdrop—that was then printed on photographic postcard stock.

Using the Real Photo Postcard Guide: The People's Photography, by Robert Bogdan and Todd Weseloh, we were able to estimate the age of the postcard using the distinct design on the back. Bogdan and Weseloh studied thousands of postcard backs to determine the earliest known date and years that the design of the back was in use by manufacturers. This postcard was manufactured by Eastman Kodak Company, which you can tell by the letters AZO surrounding the area for the stamp. The back of the postcard is divided between correspondence and address, which the United States Postal Service allowed after 1907, and the small black squares on the corner of the stamp box are all signifiers that this style of postcard was produced mainly in the 1930s by Eastman Kodak Company.

Though not much is known about the three people in the postcard, the family's clear pride in their Masonic brotherhood and sisterhood shines through the small photograph and gives a glimpse into Prince Hall Freemasonry and Order of Eastern Star in the early twentieth century.



Postcard portraying African American Freemason and two women with regalia, 1930-1939, Museum purchase, A2023/168/001.





A Reflection on Hiram Abiff: Our Newest Artistic Addition

L. Thomas Cooper, 32°
Most Wise Master, Indianapolis Chapter of Rose Croix

With great pride and purpose, we unveil a striking new addition to our Members' Lounge in the Washington Room – a custom-commissioned painting of Hiram Abiff. This extraordinary piece serves not merely as a work of art but as a symbolic reminder to all who pass through the doors of our revitalized space. It calls us to be ever mindful of transforming our moments of refreshment into opportunities for growth and reflection, avoiding intemperance and excess. The origins of this piece are rooted in our own tradition. The inspiration was a depiction of Hiram Abiff found in our artisan glasswork along the west stairs – a figure rich in symbolism and meaning for all Masons. This portrayal has long stood as a reminder of the lessons and values espoused by our preeminent Junior Warden and Grand Master. Through this new painting, we see those timeless lessons brought to life once more, encouraging us to reflect on the path of temperance and responsibility in all things.

The creation process of this painting further emphasizes its timeless quality. Rendered in oil on wood, the artist began by sanding the wood and applying a few thin coats of clear gesso. To lend an antique effect, a transparent wash of yellow ochre oil paint was applied. The painting then took form with an ultramarine blue underpainting, over which transparent layers of color were added, creating depth and vibrancy that mirror the historical gravitas of the subject. The artist's meticulous approach results in a work that is both modern and steeped in Masonic tradition.

The symbolism woven into the painting is particularly profound, as noted by the artist, Shannon Stamey of Hickory, North Carolina, formerly of Indianapolis where he often passed by

and revered the grandeur of our Cathedral. In a heartfelt note accompanying the piece, he shared: "I hope Hiram has made it home safely and that he adorns those hallowed walls with reverence and space. I wanted to give you a piece of work that's reflective of the space within the space. Something that serves as a piece of art but also a landmark for the space you're creating, a Golden Age pub sign with the vibrance of the stained glass around it. The outer border represents Solomon's Temple and the Royal Arch. There's a passage on the back of the panel that I used to build the composition around. It served as the blueprint for the work.

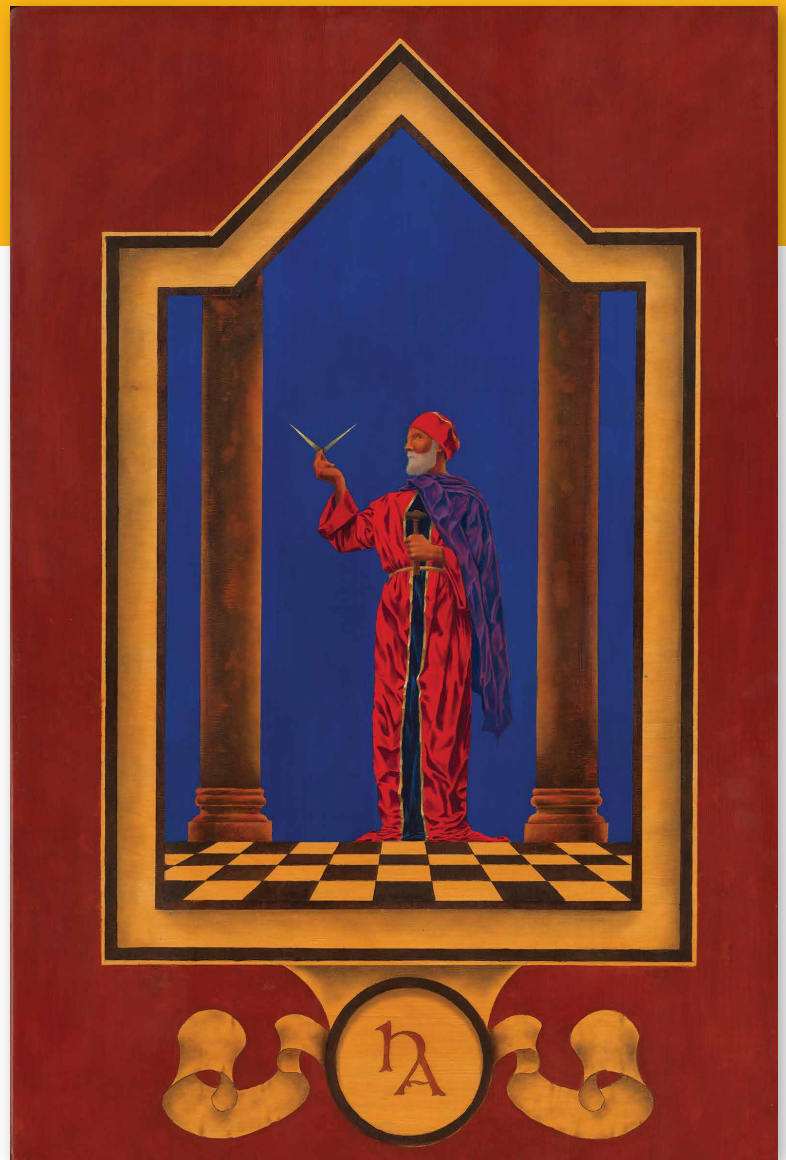
It has been a true and great honor to create this piece of art for you and that sacred building. With immeasurable gratitude, Shannon Stamey." The passage, from 2 Chronicles 2:7, reads, "Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem..." This scripture served as a guiding light for the artist's vision and the symbolic core around which the painting was created, further embedding the work with layers of Masonic significance.

Of special note is the story behind the creation of this painting. The artist who brought our vision to life is not a Mason. Yet, so deep was his commitment to this project—and his awe and admiration for our Scottish Rite Cathedral—that he undertook extensive research and dedicated profound thought to his work. The result is nothing short of a masterpiece: a complete and beautiful representation of Hiram Abiff that resonates with authenticity and devotion.

We are also pleased to announce that a very limited number of prints, including a select few signed by the artist, will be available for purchase. All proceeds from these prints will benefit the Cathedral, furthering its mission and enhancing our shared Masonic experience.

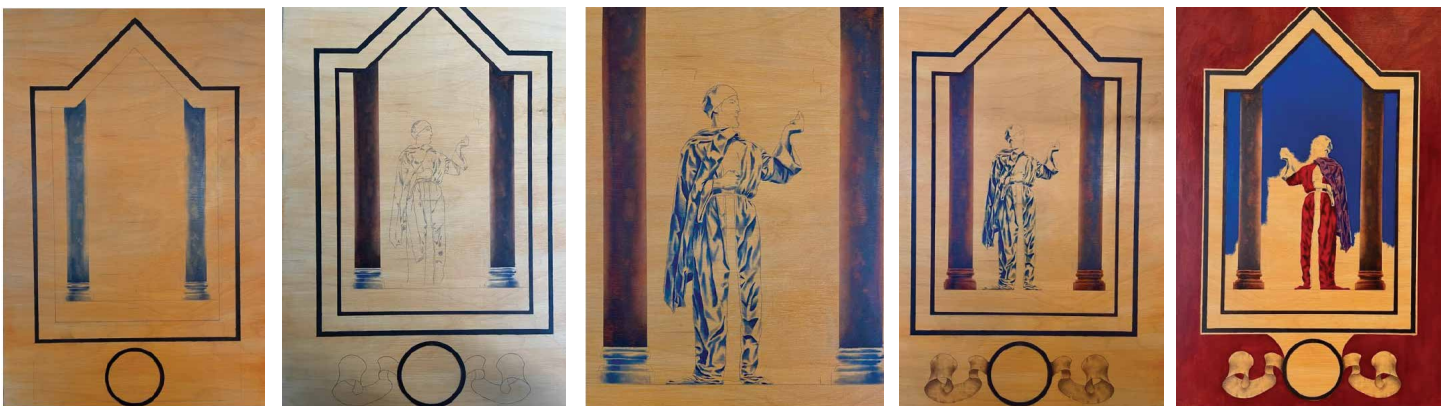
It is our hope that this new addition will not only beautify our members' lounge but also inspire each of us to embody the principles our craft holds dear. In every gathering and moment of fellowship, may we be guided by the example of Hiram Abiff, ensuring our steps remain ever vigilant, true, and honorable.

PS. You can find this piece, along with his thousands of other of Shannon's creations on his instagram page: @OctoberIllustrations.



(Top) A custom-commissioned painting of Hiram Abiff by artist, Shannon Stamey of Hickory, North Carolina.

(Bottom) Series of photos showing the artist's progression of work.





Robert Burns Night: A Celebration of Scotland's Bard

David G. Kirschman, 32°
Chancellor, Indiana Consistory

Robert Burns Night, celebrated annually on January 25th, honors the life and legacy of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. Born in 1759, Burns is widely regarded as one of the greatest poets in Scottish literature, known for works that blend the lyrical beauty of the Scots language with universal themes of love, nature, and human equality. The night dedicated to him has grown into a festive tradition, filled with poetry, music, and culinary delights. Burns Night is not only a homage to the poet but also a celebration of Scottish culture and heritage.

At the heart of Burns Night is the Burns Supper, a friendly and lively gathering of friends to celebrate his work and life. The first Burns Supper was held in 1801, just five years after his death, by a group of his close friends in his birthplace, Alloway. Today, these suppers range from informal gatherings in homes to grand events in community halls and restaurants. The structure of a Burns Supper follows a set order, blending formality with warmth and camaraderie, ensuring that the essence of Burns' legacy is preserved.

The evening typically begins with a welcoming speech by the host, followed by the recital of Burns' famous Selkirk Grace. This short prayer, written in Scots dialect, reflects Burns' egalitarian values, emphasizing gratitude and the universal right to sustenance. The grace sets the tone for the event, embodying a spirit of humility and shared humanity. Following this, the supper's centerpiece – the haggis – is introduced with great ceremony.

The haggis, a traditional Scottish dish made of sheep's offal, oatmeal, and spices encased in a sheep's stomach, is an essential part of Burns Night. Its arrival is accompanied by a dramatic piping in, where a bagpiper leads the procession to the dining table. The host then recites Burns' iconic poem Address to a Haggis, a humorous ode to the dish, during which the host dramatically recites the poem in honor of the dish while ceremoniously slicing it open. Accompanying the haggis are traditional Scottish sides, such as neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes), paired with a dram of whiskey. This ritual not only pays tribute to Scotland's culinary heritage but also emphasizes the communal spirit of the occasion.

After the meal, the evening transitions into a series of toasts, beginning with the Immortal Memory. This speech is the focal point of the evening, as it reflects on Burns' life, his contributions to literature, and his enduring relevance. The speaker often highlights Burns' championing of democratic ideals, as seen in poems like A Man's a Man for A' That, which celebrates human dignity and equality. The toast to Burns is both a tribute to his genius and a reminder of the universal truths his work espouses.

Another integral toast is the Toast to the Lassies, a humorous and often lighthearted speech that acknowledges the role of women in society, often referencing Burns' romantic poetry. This is followed by a Reply to the Toast to the Lassies, where a woman offers a witty rejoinder.

Music and poetry are woven throughout the evening, with guests taking turns reciting Burns' poems or singing songs he composed, such as Auld Lang Syne. These performances bring Burns' words to life and underscore the emotional depth of his works. They also create a lively, interactive atmosphere, keeping the spirit of the bard alive.

Burns Night is not just about paying tribute to the poet; it is also a celebration of Scottish identity. The night's customs, from the haggis and whiskey to the kilts and bagpipes, serve as a testament to Scotland's rich cultural heritage.

The event's traditions, from wearing tartan to playing bagpipes, symbolize Scotland's rich history and enduring cultural identity. Burns Night celebrations extend beyond Scotland, with events held across the globe by Scottish expatriates and admirers of Burns' work. These global celebrations showcase the universal appeal of Burns' work, as his themes of love, equality, and social justice resonate across cultures and generations.

Ultimately, Robert Burns Night is a time of reflection, celebration, and connection. It honors a poet whose works continue to inspire and uplift, while fostering a sense of community among those who gather to remember him. In doing so, it ensures that Burns' legacy remains vibrant and relevant, not only as Scotland's bard but as a voice for humanity.



Deputy Representative, Ed Christy



Jim Strauss, Thrice Potent Master and wife Kris.

Robert Burns' Masonic history

Robert Burns was deeply involved in Freemasonry, a connection that significantly influenced his life and work. Initiated into the Lodge St. David, Tarbolton, in 1781, Burns quickly rose within the Masonic ranks, becoming Deputy Master of Lodge St. James, Tarbolton, by 1784. Freemasonry provided Burns not only with a supportive social network but also a philosophical framework that aligned with his egalitarian ideals, emphasizing fraternity, equality, and the betterment of mankind. The values of Freemasonry are evident in his poetry, notably in works like *A Man's a Man for a' That*, which champions human dignity over social status. His Masonic connections also facilitated his literary success, with fellow Freemasons aiding in the publication of his first collection, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. Burns' enduring legacy as a poet and humanist is deeply entwined with the camaraderie and principles he found in Freemasonry.



Annual Valentine's Sweetheart Dinner and Dance

James Strauss, 32°
Thrice Potent Master

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 8, 2025. The Indianapolis Valley Scottish Rite will again be hosting their annual Sweetheart Dinner and Dance.

This is your chance to impress your sweetheart with dinner and dancing in the most beautiful ballroom in Indianapolis! Wear your best suit as the ladies will "dress to impress".

Music will be provided by Coner Berry Music and a wonderful buffet will be provided by Kahn's Catering. A cash bar will be available all evening.

This event usually sells out, so don't wait to make your reservations! Register today using the QR code with a direct link to Eventbrite.

Coner Berry Music playing at last year's Sweetheart Dance.



Saturday - Feb. 8, 2025

Location: Scottish Rite Ballroom
Dinner:6:00 pm
Music and Dancing: 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Tickets: \$60.00 per person



To sign up, scan the QR code:

INDIANAPOLIS SCOTTISH RITE
& MURAT SHRINE

SWEETHEART DINNER & DANCE

FEBRUARY

8

6:00 - 10:00 PM

\$60/PERSON

~ INCLUDES BUFFET DINNER & DANCING ~

SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL ~ 650 N. MERIDIAN STREET

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS





Introducing Our Signature Cocktail: The Cathedral

L. Thomas Cooper, 32°
Most Wise Master, Indianapolis Chapter of Rose Croix

In the spirit of fellowship and tradition, we are proud to unveil the Indianapolis Valley's new signature cocktail: The Cathedral. Crafted with care and designed to elevate our gatherings, this cocktail blends a touch of elegance, bold flavors, and a nod to timeless craftsmanship—qualities we hold dear.

The Cathedral features a rich, bourbon-forward base that symbolizes strength and warmth. Orange and Angostura bitters infuse depth and complexity, creating a balanced canvas that invites thoughtful reflection and spirited conversation. The addition of Demerara simple syrup introduces a hint of sweet richness, reminiscent of camaraderie's many layers.

The Cathedral is more than a cocktail; it is a tribute to our heritage, designed to be savored slowly in moments of reflection and connection. Each element, from the sturdy rock base to the aromatic bitters, mirrors our foundation, our resilience, and our shared journey.

Available in the Members' Lounge at the Washington Room, the Cathedral cocktail is waiting to be enjoyed. Raise your glass with us and toast to tradition, brotherhood, and new memories made in the glow of our gatherings.

Cheers!

Crafting The Cathedral:


- Start with a big rock to keep your drink chilled without diluting the essence of our chosen bourbon.
- Add 6-8 dashes each of orange and Angostura bitters to awaken and accentuate the flavors.
- Pour in 3 oz of bourbon, adjusting to taste for a more potent or subtler profile.
- Balance it with 1.5-2 oz of Demerara simple syrup, ensuring a harmonious mix that suits your palate.
- Stir with care, paying homage to the precision that underpins our rituals.
- Garnish with two Luxardo cherries—symbols of the sweetness shared in our bonds—and express a lemon peel over the rim to impart brightness and freshness to the experience.
- Finally, add 3-4 drops of Woodford chocolate bitters for a smooth, finishing touch, like the perfect closing remark at a gathering.



*THE SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF INDIANAPOLIS
AND BETTY RAGE PRODUCTIONS*

PROUDLY PRESENT

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

M  **THE**
MOUSETRAP

MARCH 6-9, 2025



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\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION
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UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC
WEDNESDAY
04
STATED MEETING
Wednesday, December 4
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Ugly Christmas Sweater Night
& SR Chorus
7:00 pm

DEC
SATURDAY
07
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday, December 7
Scottish Rite Cathedral
2:00 pm



DEC
SUNDAY
15
ORCHESTRA, CHORUS AND ORGAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sunday, December 15
Scottish Rite Cathedral
3:00 pm

DEC
TUESDAY
31
NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA "PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ"
Tuesday, December 31
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Doors Open at 6:30 pm

JAN
WEDNESDAY
08
STATED MEETING
Wednesday, January 8
Scottish Rite Cathedral
7:00 pm - No Degree

JAN
FRIDAY
24
ROBERT BURNS NIGHT
Friday, January 24
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Time - TBD

FEB
WEDNESDAY
05
STATED MEETING
Wednesday, February 5
Scottish Rite Cathedral
7:00 pm - 27th Degree Live

FEB
SATURDAY
08
SWEETHEART DINNER & DANCE
Saturday, February 8
Scottish Rite Cathedral
6:00 pm

MAR
SUNDAY
02
ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Sunday, March 2
Scottish Rite Cathedral
3:00 pm

MAR
WEDNESDAY
05
STATED MEETING - TABLE LODGE
Wednesday, March 5
Scottish Rite Cathedral
7:00 pm

MAR
THUR-SUN
06-09
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "THE MOUSETRAP"
Thursday thru Sunday, March 6-9
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Time - TBD

Additional Scottish Rite Fraternal news and events can be found at: aasr-indy.org