The Valley of Bloomington Welcomes our newest members into the Scottish Rite fellowship!

Our 213th Reunion was held at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts March 2 & 3rd. Three degrees were performed “Bloomington - style” on Friday evening and seven more degrees were performed on Saturday. Two Active Members for Illinois were in attendance: Illustrious James L. Tungate, 33° and Illustrious Benny L. Grisham, 33°. CiC Robert Trefzger, 33°, culminated the excellent program by leading the 32nd degree, which concluded our Spring Reunion event.

Inside this Issue

Commander-in-Chief 2
Feast of the Paschal Lamb 3
Valentine’s Dinner Celebration 4
Spring Reunion Photos 4 & 5
Valley Newsbriefs; Events, Deaths 6
Gregory L. Clark Dinner Reception 7
Annual Meeting & Election of Officers 8
As I sit at my computer to write my article this month, I am gloved, gowned and masked in my grandson’s hospital room in Chicago. He is only four months old, sleeping just now, and remains on a ventilator after being revived from a cardiac arrest about a week ago. We hope he can be weaned off this device soon so he can survive and grow. We barely dare to dream and pray that someday he might be able to grow up to run and play like other children.

In times like this, life comes to us day by day, moment by moment. We peel away all the various levels of abstraction in which we blanket ourselves every day – that abstraction which keeps out of mind the stark reality of our own mortality, and that of our loved ones, which might otherwise paralyze us from living. We realize how our belief that we are in control is but a porous mirage. We come to understand anew our ultimate dependence on God. We see life through a new lens.

What lens have you been looking at life through lately? I suspect that many of us have gotten into the habit of seeing life almost exclusively as a set of daily tasks to “check off the list.” Getting through those checklists can be important, and even give us a temporary sense of direction and accomplishment, but does it really advance the meaning of our life?

Likewise, during times of problems, trials or conflicts, do you find yourself thinking, “Oh, if I could just get past this next week...”? This is yet another view through the lens of a life lived at the surface. We rush past the important to deal with the urgent. And in the midst of our struggles, we focus on getting through them quickly at all costs, to the exclusion of finding meaning along the way or of experiencing the people that surround us during those moments. If we are not careful, we end up wishing our lives away.

It takes a special discipline to see within our daily lives the people we are to touch and serve, and to relate to those who intersect our path regardless of where we are or what we are doing. This is to be our lens as Scottish Rite Masons: to be men in the world who seek to enter life in depth, servants of God who actively listen and critically see so that we might perceive the need, and in turn, extend ourselves in uncommon ways in service to God, family, country, and people we encounter each day.

Does your life have sufficient depth so that even if you left this world tonight, your life would have been meaningful and rich in relationships? Have you made a priority of touching family, friends, neighbors and strangers for the better? Is the world a better place for you having lived? Who in your daily walk is God placing within the range of your cabletow?

May God bless you in your life, and in your Scottish Rite adventure, as you ever seek to be His faithful servant and advance real meaning in your life!

_Fraternally,
Robert T. Trefzger, 33°
Commander-in-Chief_
The 2012 Memorial Observance of the Feast of the Paschal Lamb and the ceremony of Extinguishing and Relighting the Lights was held at Bloomington Masonic Temple, Sunday, April 1st at 2:00 PM

The ceremony was presented by Mount Calvary Chapter of Rose Croix, AASR, with assistance of DeMolay Commandery No. 24, who are lighting the candle in front of Most Wise Master Daniel S. Yandel

Kenneth Smith, 33°, event director and Ron Lowery, 33°, MSA who was responsible for staging and props for the event

Scottish Rite Night at the Ballpark
by Bob Erwin

Set aside the evening of Wednesday June 27th for a night of fun and entertainment at the Normal Cornbelder’s Ballpark. The Cornbelters take on Schaumburg in what looks to be an exciting night of baseball. Our selected seating, located down the first base line, near the home team dugout, will provide excellent viewing. The first pitch is scheduled for 6:30 pm so arrive in time for a beverage and a dog before the game.

Ticket prices are $10 per Scottish Rite member or $20 per couple. (Significant others are welcome) Now, for those who want to help their Valley or Lodge with membership: any Scottish Rite member accompanied by a Blue Lodge Mason who's interested in joining the Scottish Rite, both will be admitted FREE! And for the Lodge, any Scottish Rite member accompanied by a potential new Blue Lodge member, both will also be admitted FREE!

This event offers us the opportunity not only for an entertaining evening, but the time and setting to strengthen our personal relationships with all our brothers, new and seasoned.

To purchase tickets contact your Office staff - Barry, Nellie or Bob at the Valley office. 309-828-6077

L-R: Jeffrey L. Estes, Generalissimo, Roger F. Aukerman, MSA, 33°, and Norman L. Meade, KYCH, 33°, enjoying fellowship before the ceremony began.

The message was delivered by Dr. Richard C. Trefzger, (right) Pastoral Assistant First Christian Church. Robert H. Wright, KYCH, 33°, (upper left) and Tom Kiper (lower left) are pictured.

The Rainbow Girls, as they have done for so many years, served refreshments following the Observance Ceremony. Above Most Wise Master Daniel S. Yandel is being served punch. Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies appreciate all the service work performed by the Local Rainbow Chapter.
Annual Valentine Dinner Celebration
The Valley of Bloomington’s annual Valentines Dinner was held at Ozark House on February 11th in honor of our ladies. Our group enjoyed their food as well as fellowship with friends who were there.

On July 4, 2011 the American Flag encased above was flown over the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq at the request of Brother Andrew Richard Erickson, SCI U.S. Army. Andrew presented the Flag & Certificate of Authenticity to Commander in Chief, Robert Trefzger, 33° at Spring Reunion. The Flag symbolizes the fighting spirit of America and her service members. The troops appreciate our dedication and support to the men and women of the 310th ESC and Subordinate Units who serve to defend freedom and American values and thank us for our patriotism to our nation. And we Thank our troops!
During 2012 and 2013 we will be celebrating 200 years as the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Northern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A.. During this celebration period, Jan. 1, 2012 thru Dec. 31, 2013, there will be two membership incentive programs offered by the Supreme Council.

Valley Incentives: The Scottish Rite member with the largest number of top line signing petitions will receive a $500 gift card and the runner-up a $100 card. Eligible petitions must be dated during the incentive period and the candidate must complete the 32nd Degree before the end of the incentive period, Dec. 31, 2013.

Jurisdiction-wide Incentive: All top line signers during the incentive period will be entered in a drawing. First prize is a Holland America 14 day land/cruise tour to Alaska for two, a $7,500 value, second prize $2,500, and third prize $500.

For all new initiates, there will be a special 200th Anniversary pocket jewel to be given to candidates receiving the 32nd Degree in the Northern Jurisdiction during the incentive period. Extra pocket jewels will be available to any member at a cost of $25.

Winners will be notified in Feb. 2014 and published in The Northern Light.
Valley Newsbriefs

Scottish Rite Recreation Area 2012 Rates
Pad Fees $200
Nightly Camping Fees - Camping Club Member $8
Nightly Camping Fees - Guest $13
AC Fees $2
Winter Storage $85
Lodge Daily (per person) $3
Lodge Overnight (per person) $5
Lodge Daily Minimum $40
Lodge Overnight Minimum $50
Please contact Barry Carney if there are questions or reservations to schedule. SRRA@barrycar.com or 309-827-8866.

Yard Sale
Wade Barney’s annual Masonic Yard Sale to benefit the Burn Unit at Mohammed Shrine will be held Friday June 8th & Saturday June 9th at the Bloomington Masonic Temple.

Contact Bernie Maharg at 309-706-5117 to donate items or to arrange for pick-up of items.

Coming “Rite” Up

| Apr. | 20 | Past Sovereign Prince Dinner, Ozark House, 6PM |
| 7, 14, 21 | Rantoul Lodge IL Chip events |
| 21 | SRRA Camp Clean-up. Start at 8:00 AM on Saturday |

| May | 1 | Trustee Meeting, 6 PM |
| 1 | Annual Meeting & Election of Officers - 7:00 PM, All Preside |
| 5 | Brother Gregory Clark Reception, Normal Marriott, 6:30 PM |
| 7 | Peace Meals delivery - Rose Croix sponsor |
| 18 | SRRA Pool Opens |
| 25 - 28 | Campout - 26th - 5PM Pot Luck at SRRA (meat provided) |

| June | 4 | Peace Meals delivery - Rose Croix sponsor |
| 5 | Trustee Mtg - 6 PM / Stated 7:00 - Consistory Line |
| 9 | Scottish Rite Family Picnic at SRRA picnic shelter, 12 Noon |
| 27 | Evening at Cornbeltier ball park; 1st pitch at 6:30 PM |
| 29 & 30 | IL Council of Deliberation at Valley of Chicago, Bloomington |
| 29 & 30 | Campout - Ice Cream Social at SRRA on June 30 at 2 PM |

| July | 2 | Peace Meals delivery - Rose Croix sponsor |
| 3 | Trustee Meeting, 5:30 PM, SRRA Community Room |

Annual Scottish Rite Picnic
The Scottish Rite picnic will be Saturday, June 9 at 12:00 noon at the Scottish Rite Recreation Area. All families are invited! The pool will be available as well as lawn games for everyone to enjoy. All food is provided. Cost is $5 for children and $10 for adults.

Birthday Auction for Charity
March stated meeting - $115.00
April stated meeting - $200.00

Past Sovereign Prince Dinner
The Past Sovereign dinner will be at the Ozark House April 20th at 6 PM. Please call Larry Raglan, Sovereign Prince, at 309-473-3353 or 309-826-9971 to confirm your attendance.

SRAA Camp & Clean-Up
The first camp out of the Scottish Rite Recreation Area season begins April 21-22. Again this year, we are about the job of getting the campgrounds ready.

We have three sets of bath-rooms, two bunk houses, the porch of the lodge and the kitchen to get ready. This year we have painting and repair work as well as sprucing up our facilities. Please consider joining us to help.

We will begin about 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. The Campers’ Club will be supplying breakfast, lunch and beverages that day.

Please mark your calendars for this weekend. We are hoping for good weather and seeing all of our members, family and friends again.

Eternal Reward
James F. Adams, Bloomington, IL 03-27-12
Vernon B. Randall, Abingdon, IL 03-24-12
Gary W. Scott, Clinton, IL 03-07-12
Lloyd A. Falck, Melvin, IL 03-04-12
Richard R. Maitland, Sr., Bloomington, IL 02-16-12
Norman H. Nelson, Bloomington, IL 02-12-12
Joe E. Harbison, LeRoy, IL 01-30-12
Charles J. Erbes, Mendota, IL 08-22-11
Richard K. Nielsen, Orland Park, IL 02-09-07
The Officers and Members of
Bloomington Lodge No. 43
Cordially invite you to a
Dinner Reception honoring
Brother Gregory L. Clark
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden

Saturday May 5th, 2012

Marriott
Bloomington-Normal Hotel
and Conference Center
201 Broadway Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761

Social Time & Cash Bar 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Menu
Entrée: Chicken Saltimbocca with
Scampi style Shrimp Orzo Risotto
Bread, Salad, Desert, Ice Tea, and Coffee

Special dietary considerations available
please note on reservation slip

Meal Tickets will be available at the door

Overnight accommodations at reduced rate of $119.00
Call Marriott Reservations 888-236-2427
Mention Grand Lodge of Illinois Group — Deadline April 15th, 2012

Questions / Contact: Barry D. Weer, Secretary  309 838-0230   weerXXXIII@aol.com

Please make __________ dinner reservations @ $40.00 each person for the Junior Grand Warden's Reception
May 5th, 2012, at the Marriott, Normal, Illinois    Enclosed is my payment of $ __________

Make Checks payable to: Bloomington Lodge No. 43, A.F. & A.M.

Name ________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________

City/State/ZIP __________________________________________

Special Dietary Requests __________________________________

Return to:   JGW’s Reception
Bloomington Lodge No. 43
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
P.O. Box 44
Bloomington, IL  61702

Cathedral News
Conforming to Article 1, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Coordinate Bodies, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Bloomington, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bloomington Masonic Temple, 302 E. Jefferson Street, Bloomington, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Pursuant to Article III, Bloomington Consistory, 32°, Bloomington Lodge of Perfection, 14°, Zerubbabel Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°, and Mt. Calvary Chapter Rose Croix, 18°, will conduct election of officers and appointments will be made.

The Annual Reports of the offices will be made along with other business which may properly be considered and acted upon at the meeting. All members in good standing of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Bloomington are entitled to attend and vote on matters before the bodies.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers - May 1, 2012

Jeffery J. Fox
Thrice Potent Master
Bloomington Lodge of Perfection

Larry E. Raglan
Sovereign Prince
Zerubbabel Council, Princes of Jerusalem

Daniel S. Yandel
Most Wise Master
Mt. Calvary Chapter, Rose Croix

Robert T. Trefzger, 33°
Commander-in-Chief
Bloomington Consistory

Attest:
Barry D. Weer 33°
Executive Secretary