

MINNEAPOLIS VALLEY SUN

In a free country, human speech must be free

November December 2020

BRETHREN LOST AS OF OCTOBER 2020

- * Philip W. Bemis
- * Thomas D. Campbell
- * Wilfred M. Cox, Jr.
- * Junior E. Fern
- * Erling B. Jaeger
- * William F. McMillan II
- * Bertil G. Nelson
- * Donald A. Nelson
- * Jon W. Papas
- * Jeffrey A. Schackor
- * Dennis L. Sorensen
- * Thomas A. Thompson



FROM THE DESK OF
MARK EVAN PREWETT, 32° M.:R.:S.:
EDITOR FOR THE SUN

We at the SUN Newsletter are hoping that all of you are safe and healthy during these uncertain times. As we look ahead to 2021, we are working on finding ways to continue to provide ritual and education to the Valley.

Keep an eye out for forthcoming news in your inbox, on the Scottish Rite website, and wherever else you may receive your Scottish Rite news digitally for more information!

Would you like to work on or contribute to the newsletter? Feel free to reach out to sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org

TRANSITION TO DIGITAL

Greetings Scottish Rite Brethren!

I hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy as we close out the year. The pandemic has certainly put a strain on all of us, but it is the strength of our profession that helps us pull through.

The fall class was a success, even though we had to end the Reunion at the conclusion of the 18th Degree. Brothers respected the new restrictions that ensured that we could continue the events. The class members were engaged and active and the teams behind putting on the degrees ensured that they were performed in a careful

and safe manner.

It is hard to say what will occur in 2021. As we adapt and respect new pandemic guidelines, please keep an eye out for more news from the Valley on how we shall proceed.

Last issue, we announced that the SUN newsletter is **Transitioning to Digital**. Some Brothers do not currently have an e-mail address on file and other Brothers have specifically requested a print edition. Therefore, we will continue to provide a print copy for those members.

Be aware, soon the print edition will lack most of the content that will be available on the online edi-

tion. In 2021, the SUN will take advantage of the new, digital medium to provide an overall more accessible newsletter that leverages content that could only be possible through an online experience.

If you would like to receive a print copy of the newsletter or update your e-mail address to receive the new digital newsletter, please contact the office at 612-871-1500.

Sincerely,

Mark Evan Prewett, 32° M.:R.:S.:
Editor for the SUN



Precautions were taken in performing the 4th Degree during the special Fall Reunion. All Brethren wore masks and respected social distancing. No physical contact was made and the candidate was a stand-in provided by the Lodge of Perfection.

RITUAL CORNER

Greetings Scottish Rite Brethren.

I hope you are all keeping safe and healthy. The Fall Reunion has been a great success! I want to extend a big thank you to all of the Committees, Directors, and Brothers who made the Reunion degrees possible. It has been nice to meet again and see Brothers at the Reunion. Even with masks and social distancing, the opportunity to help our new Scottish Rite Brothers on their Masonic journey has been wonderful.

As the Reunion comes to a close, let us look into the teachings of the 6th degree – Intimate Secretary. In this degree we learn the lessons that zeal and fidelity to duty are always rewarded. We are taught the duties to be zealous, faithful,

disinterested and benevolent, and to act the peacemaker.

Albert Pike states, “Duty is the moral magnetism which controls and guides the true Mason’s course over the tumultuous sea of life.” Albert Pike, *6^o Intimate Secretary*, MORALS & DOGMA 195. He further

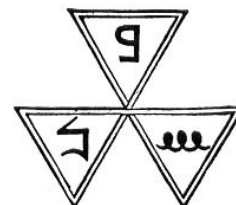
Duty is the moral magnetism which controls and guides the true Mason’s course over the tumultuous sea of life.

states, “To perform that duty, whether the performance be rewarded or unrewarded, is the Mason’s sole care. And it doth not matter, though of this performance there may be no witnesses, and though what he does will be forever unknown to all mankind.” *Id.*

All the lessons taught in the 6th degree can be applied to make us better men and better Masons. Hear again the lessons that each degree teaches. These lessons are what make us Scottish Rite Masons, and they can be a powerful force to help us all live in peace and harmony. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to when we can meet again in the New Year.

Fraternally,

Lee E. Kielblock, 33^o I.:G.:H.:
Ritual Director, Minneapolis Valley





Education continues to be one of the hallmarks of our Valley despite the pandemic. Over the fall, the Education Committee held successful virtual presentations and continue to provide meaningful programming to the Valley.

THE CHARGE OF OUR DEGREES

As we approach the end of 2020, many of us would like to put this year behind us and get back to normal. Unfortunately, ongoing events are forcing us to the harsh realization that we may still be a long way away from any “return to normal”. The past few months have subjected all of us to issues and challenges that we never expected. Countless Brothers are facing difficulties unlike anything they have faced in their lives.

Our Degree work has been severely limited, and we have no idea when we will be able to return to a regular schedule. As Scottish Rite Masons, we need to recognize that if we want to survive and continue as a fraternity, we need to adapt and find ways to move forward in this new environment. At the Minneapolis Valley, our Education Committee has been hosting a series of outstanding educational programs. Feedback from, even our most experienced members, has been extremely positive and everyone is learning something from these programs. I strongly encourage everyone to participate in these programs whenever you can. If you

have a certain subject of special interest that you would like to see covered, feel free to contact the Education Committee. You may even be able to do a presentation of your own.

In addition to the challenges of the current pandemic, the current social/political environment has been adding to the unprecedented stress and tension among Brothers. Many of us are having natural anxiety and have strong feelings about current events. One of the challenges for all of us is to channel those feelings into something constructive. Unfortunately, too many Brothers have forgotten their Masonic obligation to subdue their passions and continue to tear each other down, especially on social media. Perhaps more of us need to be reminded of a lesson taught in the 20th Degree Ritual:

“No man has the right to dictate to another in matters of belief or faith. No man can say that he has possession of truth, as he has of a chattel. When man persecutes for opinion’s sake, he usurps the prerogative of God.”

“Man should judge others as he

judges himself; believe others honest and sincere as he believes himself; find for their actions the excuses that he finds for his own; and look always for a good rather than a bad motive. Justice and equity are like the light and air, God made them common to all; and he who denies justice to his brother, or wrongs him in his estate, his affections, or his reputation, is a bad man and a worse Mason.”

Rather than tearing each other down, perhaps we should all remember our obligations, especially when we promised: **“That I will assist every worthy brother of this rite in his poverty, distress or need without humiliating him or boasting thereof; will help him in danger, stand by him in ill report and slander, advise him when he errs or is about to be wronged, and comfort him in sorrow and misfortune as a brother should.”**

Something to think about. Stay positive, stay safe and stay well.

See you at the Rite!

Donald J. Nolley, 33° I.:G.:H.:
Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection