

# MINNEAPOLIS SUN

DIGITAL EDITION  
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 11 8TH AND 9TH DEGREES  
SATURDAY 25 14TH DEGREE FEAST OF TISHTRI

## OCTOBER

SATURDAY 30 COUNCIL FEAST

\*Every first Tuesday of the month is the Heads of Bodies and Knights of Saint Andrew meetings

\*\*Unless otherwise stated, every Thursday is Rite night!

\*\*\*RSVPs for Thursday dinner must be made to [jackie@aasrmn.org](mailto:jackie@aasrmn.org) by Tuesday of that week

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE FULL CALENDAR

## BROTHERS LOST AS OF AUGUST 2021

John Edward Peterson



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WE'RE BACK!	pg. 1
TRIBUTE TO WILLEY SMITH	pg. 4
KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW	pg. 6
HISTORY OF THE FEAST OF TISHRI	pg. 7
RITUAL CORNER	pg. 8
SOVEREIGN VISITATION	pg. 11
RE-INTRODUCTION	pg. 13
LONELINESS	pg. 14



VALLEY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
ORIENT OF MINNESOTA

VALUED MEMBER SINCE

MEMBER NO.



2021

## COMING TO VISIT?

## DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD!



## WE'RE BACK!

If you have not heard, [“We’re back!”](#) On August 26 we kicked off our fall degree class with a social event with catering by Jerry Oliver, 33° Past Sovereign Grand Inspector General’s BBQ and alcohol provided by the Lowry. The delicious food and promising drink was provided to all Scottish Rite Masons, Master Masons, and any other men interested in becoming masons or continuing their masonic journey.

For eighteen long months, the building had been dark. We were unable to meet in person with two classes cut short by pandemic lockdowns when covid infection rates surged. It seemed as though just when we were about to build our momentum back up, our hopes were dashed short.

In the darkness, however, there was light. Brother Brent Reichow, 33° Inspector General Honorary, hosted weekly toasts to the craft via Zoom. While the attendance varied from packed to just a few regulars, it was comforting to know that, like clockwork, our brotherhood continued even when we were physically unable to meet. Led by Justin Thompson, 32° Master of the Royal Secret, the education committee worked hard to provide educational webinar series on a wide variety of esoteric topics. Even the lamp of knowledge could not be snuffed out by the times we faced!

We should be grateful for the initiative our Valley has taken. In early 2021,

we held a special reunion for all of the brothers of 2020 that need to complete their journey. Taking notes from other Valleys and the Supreme Council, we communicated some of our degrees virtually, preparing our candidates and leading them through the journey of the terminal degrees so that they could become Masters of the Royal Secret.

These decisions kept the lifeblood of our Valley pulsing. In a time when men are at their most lonely, we found ways to continue interacting. We found ways to check in with each other and continue that sense of brotherly love, relief, and truth that epitomize what it means to be a Mason.

But now WE ARE BACK. Our degree cycle is in full swing with a new, excited class of candidates and eager Scottish Rite Masons to put on these degrees for them.

Brent Reichow put it best in his speech on the night:

When I joined the Rite, I had been a Mason for about 5 minutes and didn't know anyone. I sat at my first dinner and heard stories from men I didn't know about events I wasn't around for. After a few years those stories were about things I WAS here for. A few years later, those stories involved things I did (sometimes they weren't even embarrassing!) and now I'm one of those guys telling the stories. But we can't tell the stories about you if you aren't a part of them, and that's why I want to see you all here as often as possible.

Brother, we want to see you! Every Thursday is Scottish Rite night and we want you to be there!

Mark Evan Prewett, 32° Master of the Royal Secret  
Editor for the SUN  
[sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org](mailto:sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org)

## **WRITERS WANTED!**

Have an article idea?

Send all submissions to [sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org](mailto:sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org)!

Want to join the Scottish Rite communications committee?

Contact WB Stephen Kesler, 32° KCCH at [communications@aasrmn.org](mailto:communications@aasrmn.org)

# FEAST OF TISHRI

The Officers of the Minneapolis Lodge of Perfection request the pleasure of your company for dining, toasts, and a celebration of the annual Feast of Tishri. As always, the celebration is open to all.

The Feast of Tishri includes the presentation of 50-Year Membership Awards. The Ring Ceremony program will follow dinner.



When: Saturday September 25, 2021

14th Degree: 3:00 p.m.

Social Gathering: 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar

Dinner: 6:15 p.m.

Program to follow dinner

Meal Choice: Steak or Pan-fried Walleye

Cost per ticket is \$45

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED  
PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16**

Call (612.871.1500) or email ([jackie@aastrmn.org](mailto:jackie@aastrmn.org))

**RSVP NOW**



## TRIBUTE TO WILLEY SMITH

In the Prologue of the 32nd Degree we are asked several questions. Among these are “Will you be content to prefer ease over exertion?” “Or wealth in money over wealth of knowledge and truth.” We have all heard it, most believe it, a few take it to heart.

Illustrious Brother Willey Smith will be receiving his 50-year pin that celebrates 50 years of Scottish Rite Membership. In Wiley’s case it is not just a benchmark of longevity, it is to thank him for his incredible service and devotion to the Craft.

Some belong, some serve, some lead. In every phase of Freemasonry, he has been a leader, Blue Lodge, Grand Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite, The Shrine and many other affiliated bodies. In each, his Masonic History does not reveal membership, it reveals leadership at the highest levels.

In reference to Willey’s history, the Acorn truly falls close to the tree. One of his Great, Great Grandfathers, Elias Hill, a Mason, fell in Combat in 1864. His Grandfather Morton W. Smith received his 50-year cap in 1966 and his Father John T. Smith was raised in 1917 and his Father-in-Law was also a Mason.

Worshipful Brother Willey’s long history of achievement in Blue Lodge Freemasonry includes Grand Orator in 2002-03, four times as Grand Chaplain

and the Recipient of the Hiram Award in 2004.

His service in Scottish Rite includes being Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection, President of the 33rd Council and Director and Sovereign Commander of the 33rd Degree. In honor of his service to the Rite he was awarded Knight Commander of the Court of Honor and Coroneted Inspector General Honorary in 1993.

All this while pursuing a Career in Education, where his service in many Associations and Committees equal his commitment to Freemasonry.

All this while being a devoted husband and father while also taking a leadership role in his church and politics. In life there are the ten percenters who do most of the work, the one percenters who take leadership roles, and the Willey Smiths who dedicate themselves to all whose lives they touch.

Thank you, Willey, for all that you have done and continue to do!





## MESSAGE FROM THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT ANDREW

It certainly feels great to have the Minneapolis Valley back to a full degree schedule. Although this is a welcome and long awaited development, putting on all 29 degrees twice a year, along with the feasts and other Scottish Rite activities, requires a lot of work. It can be difficult at times to find enough volunteers to cover all of the tasks needed for degrees and other events. Fortunately, the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) is standing by to help.

The KSA was founded at the Tulsa Valley in Oklahoma almost thirty years ago to provide volunteers whenever needed to support the Rite. The KSA is run by the “Black cap” members of the Scottish Rite. Those KSA members who have been honored with white and red caps are still welcome to participate and volunteer but only those with black caps can serve as officers.

Here at the Minneapolis Valley, you will see KSA members providing assistance with everything from selling dinner tickets to helping out with the lighting, sound and properties committees when additional help is needed for degree nights. Upon request, the KSA may also assist the Tylers, help with new candidate check-in and any other tasks that help support the Minneapolis Valley.

As we come out of the COVID-19 disruptions and edge closer to normalcy this year, the KSA’s help will be needed to support the Minneapolis Valley more than ever. We are beginning to plan new initiatives, including improved

methods for requesting assistance or obtaining more information about the KSA (more to follow on that). If you are not a member and want to give back to the Scottish Rite as a volunteer, the KSA is an ideal place to start. It's a great opportunity to explore the many different roles that go into keeping our Minneapolis Valley functioning. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in joining.

Fraternally,  
Paul Hodnefield, 32° Master of the Royal Secret  
Senior Warden  
Knights of Saint Andrew

## HISTORY OF THE FEAST OF TISHRI

**T**he Feast of Tishri (or Feast of Succoth) is thus a symbol of Freedom. The Feast of Tishri was utilized in dedicating the newly completed King Solomon's Temple, and this association led to its adoption by Scottish Rite Masonry to symbolize our dedication to brotherly love and human accord in a peaceful world. Association of the Feast of Tishri with the dedication of the Temple of Solomon led to its third name – "The Feast of the Tabernacle". The Feast of Tishri thus epitomized the character, principles, and purposes of Scottish Rite Masonry, all being consistent with the dictates of the God who spoke it into existence.

This festival was instituted by Moses to commemorate the years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after their Exodus departure from Egypt. It is celebrated still today by living outdoors in booths or tents through the festive period. It is thus a festival of cultural and historical meaning. This celebration is during sometime in September –October.

The Minneapolis Scottish Rite Valley celebrates this event the following Saturday after the 14th degree of the Lodge of Perfection or "Perfect Elu". During this celebration the new members are presented with their 14th degree ring.

Terry Henthorn, 33° Inspector General Honorary  
Venerable Master  
Lodge of Perfection



## RITUAL CORNER

The Fall Class began on September 2, 2021 and the Sovereign Grand Commander visited the Minneapolis Valley on Thursday, September 9, 2021!

Do you have a favorite degree? If so, come and see it during the Fall Class. Have you always wanted to have a part in a degree? [Contact me](#) or the [Valley Secretary](#), and we will get your name and contact information to the Degree Directors. Many times, you just need to ask about a part. The Directors are always looking for more and new actors for the degrees. Not an actor, but still want to be involved in the degrees? [Contact me](#) or the [Valley Secretary](#) to get in touch with the Lighting, Sound, Properties, Education, or Dining committees. All are happy to get new members to help with degree nights.

One of the things that keeps bringing me and others to the Scottish Rite is our dedication to fulfill the creed of the Scottish Rite.

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

Scottish Rite Creed

The degrees teach the lessons we need to improve ourselves, and what we need to incorporate these ideas in ourselves, our families, our communities, and the world.

There is a new class of candidates continuing their journey toward Masonic Light. It is a great honor to help them understand the lessons of the Scottish Rite Creed through the degrees. I urge you to join the members of your Blue Lodge in the Fall Class or come and make new friends in the Fall Class and at the Rite. I look forward to seeing you during the degrees!

Fraternally,

Lee E. Kielblock, 33°, Inspector General Honorary  
Ritual Director, Minneapolis Valley

## HELP WANTED!

Interested in meeting the brothers of the Valley? Be the first person the brothers see when they enter the building!

The Tyler Committee is asking for assistance from all Scottish Rite Masons to Tyle the Valley during degree nights.

For more details, please contact Ken Hill at [secretary@aasrmn.org](mailto:secretary@aasrmn.org)





# ANNUAL COUNCIL OF KADOSH FEAST

October 30, 2021

5:30 PM - Social hour

6:00 PM - Dinner/Award Presentations

Dinner is \$45 per person

\*All proceeds will go to the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Building and Museum Foundation

7:30 PM - Entertainment

The Legend of King Arthur. A Masonic Tale.

Reservations are due into the Scottish Rite office by October 26, 2021

Call (612.871.1500) or email ([jackie@aasrmn.org](mailto:jackie@aasrmn.org))

**RSVP NOW**



## SOVEREIGN VISITATION

For the first time in 19 years, Minneapolis Valley had the honor of hosting a visiting Sovereign Grand Commander. SGC James Cole visited with us on Thursday September 9 to see the 7th Degree “Provost and Judge” and field questions in a townhall style meet-and-greet. Grand Commander Cole was most impressed with our portrayal of the degree the work of our esteemed education team.

The Provost and Judge degree went off without a hitch. Not only were our actors perfect in their portrayal of the lesson, but this was the first time that our degree team was about to utilize the new lighting system and the return of our splendid backdrops! The new set breathed fresh life into the degree and allowed our actors to demonstrate the tale of the Provost and Judge in a new, interesting way. For the SGC, we were happy demonstrate a degree that most Valleys do not regularly perform.

The Grand Commander particularly pointed out our education committee. Sitting in with our candidates, he was able to see the amount of work and diligence our education team puts into each degree. In his own words, the SGC would rank our “education among the best in the southern jurisdiction.” If you have not done so already, make sure to sit in on one of the next class discussions to see what the SGC is talking about!

The SGC fielded a wide variety of questions from candidates and Scottish Rite Masons alike. Our members did not pull punches while the Grand Commander fielded questions about recognition of Prince Hall, the importance of quality degree performances, and how the Supreme Council can support Valleys with the decline of membership that the entire jurisdiction is facing. SGC Cole did take the opportunity to mention our masonic museum at the heritage center. In this he took the opportunity to mention that we were “missing a hat” from our collection of Scottish Rite headgear and donated his own SGC cap so that it may be put in display in the museum.

Not only did we have the Sovereign Grand Commander present, but we also had cause for celebration! Since we have newly appointed brethren selected to receive their red hats this fall, it is the tradition of our Valley to select one brother among the few to receive the “Past Sovereign Grand Inspector General Lewis K. Thompson’s 32° Jewel.” With the Sovereign Grand Commander present, the Valley was pleased to bestow this jewel to Craig Kamman, who will receive this Knight Commander Court of Honor this October. Congratulations and well-deserved Craig!

Mark Evan Prewett, 32° Master of the Royal Secret  
Editor for the SUN





## RE-INTRODUCTION

I'm sure I'm joining a chorus of articles saying how excited they are to be back at the Minneapolis Valley, and with good reason. After 18 months of uncertainty, it feels very good to be back in the normal swing of things. The building has been cleaned from top to bottom, and many additional improvements have been made, including new lighting and the return of the stage drops to our degree performances (something I as a fairly new member have never seen). Indeed, Scottish Rite masonry is back and in good form!

Beyond the many physical improvements made to your experience, there is another reason you should be excited to visit the Minneapolis Valley: our education program. Three years ago, my predecessor began expanding the size and scope of the Valley's education committee, and this team of dedicated brothers took on a serious effort to re-approach and revamp our program. This took a lot of time and research, as well some trial-and-error, but we believe we have created a program that enlightens and informs our new brothers and entices them to think critically and practically about the degrees presented. Our surveying of the few classes we have had, shows an improvement in their understanding of these degrees, as well as their overall experience. Indeed, better education creates a better valley.

So, let me personally invite you to come revisit the improved Minneapolis Valley. Have a meal with your brothers, see a degree and then sit-in with the

class for continuing education. Even though you have already been through the degrees there is so much more to learn. Every new opinion added to our discussions betters our understanding and broadens all our horizons. After all, as Albert Pike said, “the true object of your studies in Masonry ... is to add to your estate of wisdom.”

M. Justin Thompson, 32° Master of the Royal Secret  
Education Committee  
Minneapolis Valley

## LONELINESS

Over the summer, [studies](#) have come out revealing that Americans—and men in particular—[are losing male friends](#). Middle-aged men report that they are [lonely](#), even in a time when the world is [more connected than ever](#). In Billy Baker’s [We Need To Hang Out: A Memoir of Making Friends](#), he notes that while one may have hundreds of *friends* on social media, have active conversations—via social media—with close friends all over the world, the fact remains that he could not count a single male friend that he could call at a moments notice to have a beer with.

This phenomenon has really taken notice. In fact, before sitting down to proofread this article, I watched a new episode of NBC’s [A.P. Bio](#) featured an episode on this very subject. The protagonist (portrayed by Glenn Howerton of [It’s Always Sunny In Philadelphia](#) fame) comedically proves that he, in fact, DOES have male friends he can call on at a moment’s notice for a Friday night game night, but only after realizing that he had never attempted something like that before.

It is easy to be defensive. When Billy Baker was put on assignment to write [his article which later turned into a novel](#), he could name his best friends from high school with ease, yet “*never really saw [them] anymore.*” I have friends like that as well and I am sure you do too. As Billy would put it, “[t]hey were the definition of friends for life. But I needed friends for my daily life.”

We are fortunate as Masons. While travelling, eager, friendly faces are behind the closest tyled door. When at home, there is nothing quite as heart-warming

as the recognition of a fellow brother. The worst that can happen when you visit a Lodge or a Valley is that you may be put to work! But is that really so bad when the reward is friendship and camaraderie?

It does not matter if it has been days or years since your last visit. Stop by and have dinner, partake in a conversation, and watch or participate in a degree! We want to see you and we miss you!

Mark Evan Prewett, 32° Master of the Royal Secret  
Editor for the SUN  
[sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org](mailto:sun@scottish-rite-mpls.org)



**KNOW A MASON READY TO JOIN?**

**PETITION FOR DEGREES**