



Quill & Scroll

Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)



1150 Panorama Drive
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October 2020

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Br. Bob Cook, 33°
Valley Personal Representative

Let us continue to move forward

We have completed our first “real” Zoom monthly meeting. Things went well – attendance was small, but I expect as we publicize the meetings and assist brothers that are still struggling with the technology, we will continue to grow our attendance. Our September meeting had a presentation on the Blue Lodge outreach program – not Scottish Rite recruiting, but an honest effort to offer the lodges programs to meet the Grand Lodge requirements for education at each meeting. The goal is to have some presentations ready by the November time frame.

An interesting side note – a brother (member of Southern Colorado Consistory) that lives in New Mexico attended the monthly meeting. It is clear to me that even after we can get back to face to face meetings in the Temple, we now have a way to include our brothers that either live too far away to attend or are otherwise restricted to their homes. We do not have a way to present a stated meeting, but several brothers are working on how to accomplish this. Certainly, the education parts of the meeting can be broadcast. Brothers from the Supreme Council have been helpful in giving us guidance and best practices for holding Masonic education meetings. Just a reminder – the Grand Lodge of Colorado also has a monthly meeting with interesting and varied presentations and discussions. Check out the Grand Lodge site and look for the information from the Education Committee.

The Lodge of Perfection will be leading the October meeting and has plans to include a Feast of Tishri presentation. I have seen the preliminary slides, and this looks like it will be informative, and we hope for good attendance and participation. We are working on how to accomplish the elections, etc. for the end of the year and installation of officers in January. We are still shooting for a regular 3-day reunion in April next year. The dates have been set for April 22 – 24, 2021. We will continue to plan knowing that the COVID-19 problems could upset that effort. Degree teams are starting to work on rebuilding their casts.

Just a reminder – November is election for our US government. Colorado has been using mail in balloting for a couple of years and seems to be working well. We all need to remember our commitments as Masons to participate in the election process. This is part of the freedom we have as American citizens and we can only protect it by participating.

Br. John Weed, 32°

Orator, Chapter of Rose Croix

An Interpretation of 18th degree, Knight Rose Croix

The Rose Croix degree teaches three things: 1) the unity, immutability, and goodness of God; 2) the immortality of the soul; 3) the ultimate defeat and extinction of evil, wrong, and sorrow by the Redeemer or Messiah. Pike explains that it replaces the three pillars of the old Temple – Faith, Hope, and Charity. To be trustful, hopeful, and indulgent are important Masonic virtues. For he only is wise who judges others charitably; he only is strong who is hopeful, and there is no beauty like a firm faith in God.

In the second section, the columns of the Temple are shattered and represents the world under the tyranny of the Principle of Evil. This is where virtue is persecuted and vice rewarded. The righteous starve for bread, and the wicked live sumptuously and dress in purple and fine linen.

In the third section, the degree presents consequences of sin and vice, and the hell made of the human heart, with its fiery passions.

In the fourth section, the degree represents the Universe, freed from dominion and tyranny of the Principle of Evil, accompanied by the true Light that flows from the Supreme Deity. As such, sin and wrong, pain and sorrow, remorse and misery shall be no more. To all of us, they typify the universal rule of Masonry – its three chief virtues – Faith, Hope, and Charity, of brotherly love and universal benevolence. We labor here to no other end.

The obligations of our Rose Croix brethren are to fulfill all the duties of friendship, cheerfulness, charity, peace, liberality, temperance and chastity. We are taught to avoid impurity, haughtiness, hatred, anger, and every other kind of vice.

Source: Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma, Chapter 18, pages 361-363, verses 53-58.



Br. Michael Mabbit, 32°

Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

Human progress is our cause...

It is the first phrase in the Scottish Rite Creed. The English dictionary defines progress as “advancement to a further or higher stage, or to further or higher stages successively; growth; development, usually to a better state or condition; improvement... applied especially to manifestations of social and economic change or reform.”

Today, we are constantly bombarded with bad news so it can sometimes be difficult to think of “progress” and “humanity” in the same sentence. After all, there are people out of work, going hungry, women being abused, and mass poverty around the world.

Throughout human history, life has been difficult for most people. So as Scottish Rite Masons, how can we fulfill our requirement to uphold the first phrase of our creed...“Human progress is our cause”. In order to do this, the first thing we need to do is figure out what “human progress” means to each of us. Some may say that progress can be defined as

any path of learning. Others that it is any action that moves in the direction of reducing threats/missed opportunities or simply increasing our capacity to deal with them.

I would argue that everyone's individual upbringing, values, morals and beliefs influence how they define human progress. As this is the case, everyone's definition will be a bit different. Does that make one person's definition better or more relevant than the others? Or, in realizing that someone else's definition of progress may be as correct as yours be progress in itself?

So when you contemplate the phrase "Human progress is our cause" and try to fulfill that part of our creed, be careful that your influence on others is for the benefit of all humans. I end with the quote "the needs of the many outweigh the need of the few, or the one."



Br. Craig Fabec, 32°
Prior, Consistory

Growth Through Discussion and Sharing Ideas

The goal of Freemasonry, especially that of the Scottish Rite, is growth. This growth can be attributed to areas such as intellectual, spiritual, or the emotional aspect of a Mason's life. Our degrees are the foundation of growth among us as brothers. Everyone sees different lessons, focuses on different aspects within a degree, and interprets them based on their own experiences. When we sit around the lodge and discuss our interpretations, beliefs, and the lessons that we learned from a degree; we see them from a different point of view. We look at them through different lenses, learn from one another, and sometimes even change our own opinion because on this new view that has been brought to light.

Sometimes we may feel uncomfortable because our personal beliefs may be challenged or pushed based on a viewpoint, yet we never argue or become violent because of our differences. Imagine how much the world would benefit from that aspect of Masonry, listening to and discussing different opinions without becoming violent or aggressive at the slightest disagreement. It seems most do not want to hear any point of view but their own. If people surround themselves with an echo chamber or "yes men" they never have the chance to learn or grow. This can be seen represented when the young squire deems anything other than his religion is blasphemous, and wants it torn down to build a church. Yet the wise, older knight knows there are lessons to be learned from every encounter and teaches the young squire this lesson. These new viewpoints may seem foreign or wrong initially, yet with further investigation we may adopt them to be our own. We are not forced to accept someone else's explanation, and we do not force our own on them. These interactions and discussions with different experiences, opinions, and beliefs help us to learn and grow as men and Masons.



Br. Paul Harrison, 32°
Denver Consistory

EQUILIBRIUM

The whole of the teachings of Freemasonry, particularly the teachings of the Scottish Rite, are based upon Aristotle's idea of Virtue. Therein: in order to act virtuously, the act taken would be that of a virtuous man. While Aristotle knew that this is an axiomatic thought, he did give instruction that the virtues were to be inculcated and would come out of the virtuous man in the times of need and in the proper proportion. Aristotle considered the proper proportion of a virtue to be the Golden mean, and that the goal of a well-lived life was to act virtuously.

These are rather tightly packed ideas, so the remainder of this brief examination will be to unpack those ideas in terms of the Degrees of the Scottish Rite and, in particular, the teaching of the thirty-second degree: EQUILIBRIUM. Equilibrium is not a point of balance. Balance is a static point, whereas equilibrium is a dynamic balance. Similar to a pendulum passing the midpoint when swinging from side to side, equilibrium is a constant course correction as conditions change. Aristotle's Golden Mean is the right proportion of any given virtue to the situation.

For example, in Ancient Greece—the time of Aristotle (384 BC to 322 BC) - one of the virtues that was important for men of Athens to possess was Courage. The Golden Mean of Courage is to have enough of it when warranted, but not too much of it when not. For too much of a good thing is no longer good; just as too little of a good thing is not good enough. Too much courage, being brash or rash, would lead one into battles that could not be won—where a strategic withdrawal is the right thing to do; Too little courage, and one would be a coward and be subjected to the will of others. From Aristotle's time to today, many expressions have tried to capture this idea succinctly: "Choose your battles wisely," "Don't run away from a fight," and several examples in the children's story of Goldilocks—finding what is "just right." So many of the virtues are expressed in the Degrees of Freemasonry, it is far beyond the scope of this simple article to categorize and analyze them all. Many books have attempted to illuminate those virtues, such as Pike's *Morals and Dogma* and Hutchens' *Bridge to Light*, which many Scottish Rite Masons receive upon their initiation. One of the biggest challenges with all of the allegory that we, as Masters of the Royal Secret, learn is how to apply these ideas to our modern day lives. I write to give some idea of how the concept of equilibrium might be applied in a modern context. Combining the idea of the Golden Mean with the division of time that we, as Entered Apprentices, learn about the twenty-four inch gauge. This is a good example of striving for equilibrium. While it would be wonderful to have eight hours for the service of God and a distressed, worthy Brother; eight for our usual vocations; and eight for refreshment and sleep, no day I have ever had has fallen neatly into those divisions. Therefore, instead of seeking this static balance between eight-hour activities, a more dynamic approach is necessary. Every time that I sense I need to "catch-up" on something, it is recognition that a course correction is necessary to get closer to equilibrium. Whether it is catching-up on work over the weekend or sleep by going to bed a little bit earlier than usual, that is when we Scottish Rite Masons are steering back to an equilibrium.

Often in prioritizing one activity over another, work over family, or family over Masonry, we have the tendency to upset those who do not or will not see our choice as a temporary difference—the Golden Mean—of our time. This has certainly been the situation in my life this past year. The calls upon my time have not made me as many friends as I would like. However, perhaps the secret part that I was missing was to adequately communicate my priorities in a larger sense. In effect, saying that what I was being asked is both important to me and will be attended to, but it is not the first thing on the to-do list. Setting expectations of others and reminding them of those expectations is the part where I completely fell flat.

Perhaps this is ultimately why we, as Scottish Rite Masons, keep returning to the Degree work during Reunions: each time we are able to see the part of the virtue expressed that we most need in our daily lives. Being an active Scottish Rite Mason and Master of the Royal Secret is the inspiration to help each one of us live a virtuous life and find our equilibrium. *Reprinted with permission from the Denver Consistory.*



Bro. Bud Gressett 32

1st Lt. Commander, Council of Kadosh

Why do I have to listen to lectures when I've already graduated?

Brother, I've already went through the degrees. So why should I go through them again all the time?

A similar question was asked a pioneering preacher in our nation when it concerned a constant devotion to praying for the Spirit to fill his life. His answer was, "I leak."

My brother, we are men not gods. And we leak. Our memories leak, our convictions leak, our tenacity leaks, spirituality leaks, our moral character leaks. WE LEAK.

The whole reason for maintaining our fraternal association with Freemasonry is to remember. Do you remember when the tools of a Fellowcraft were bestowed upon you? Do you remember what it said about "remembering we are traveling that level of time"? Do you remember our first charge where we are told not to quickly accuse our brothers, but to quietly take them aside for correction and admonishment?

Let's take it a step further. Do you remember any of your Scottish Rite obligations? In my humble opinion, two of the most important obligations in the Scottish Rite are the 18th and 32nd degree obligations. Do you remember those? Can you still say them word-for-word? Have you ever said them word-for-word after you took them? By remembering just those two obligations and living by them you will exemplify what it means to be a Freemason to everyone you meet without even trying. And I don't know about you, but I believe there's no use in being a Freemason whatsoever unless we exemplify what it means to be one.

In a recent open Zoom meeting with our lodge, we discussed what kind of fruit Colorado Masonry should be bearing in order to thrive. No one said it was membership or funds or even disseminating information. Only two things were mentioned. The fruit of charity and the fruit of walking upright before God and men. All agreed that a moral standard was the most important.

Some time back I was having a beer with a group of brothers. Our table attendant was wearing a very short dress showing an impressive set of legs. Two of the brothers bent over in their chairs and stared unashamed at the young woman as she walked away. Well I was looking around the room to see what others were doing at other tables. They were looking at us, not the woman. We were known there as Freemasons and without saying now whether this is morally correct or not, It was obvious of the reputation just two brothers had made for us all. Sometimes social

decency as accepted in the culture we live in plays into our standard of morality. To me that social decency is what it means to walk upright before men. Whether we agree or not on our moral boundaries, we will be judged by others based upon the common moral boundaries of this nation's culture. Let us not let our good be evil spoken of.

Without a clear and common standard of morality among us, saying that we should make good men better is not only hypocrisy but sadly comical. Now on the subject of morality, none of us think that enforcing "fundamentalist" dogma is something we as masons want to exemplify. Each of us have an idea of what right and wrong mean and can follow those without some other brother telling us what his version of right and wrong is. That is if we are wise. But all of our degrees inculcate specific memes of morality and demand of us that we live by them as our standard. Could walking uprightly before God and men mean that we do what we believe God thinks is right and behave ourselves before men properly? Just say'n.

I have to say that since that time, the two I have noted here have grown in character by great strides. I don't believe the behavior they exhibited then would happen now. And such growth is a true sign that good men have become better. I also have to mention my own guilt in such things in my past and hope that I also have grown by degree on such matters.

Repeating our obligations and going over our lectures in all our degrees will indeed impress them into our character and thus we are self-admonished to behave accordingly, letting ALL of our thoughts, words, and actions be in accordance with our professions as Masons. But WE LEAK. If we do not purposefully study to show ourselves approved in such things, we will forget them and ourselves at the most embarrassing moments.

Why do we have to listen to the same degree lectures when we've already graduated? We leak. And we don't want to become whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones. We don't want to be known as just having a form of godliness while denying the power of godliness in our own lives.

Why do we have to listen to the same degree lectures? We want to remember, we want to improve, we want to thrive and grow mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Laziness in this matter will spoil the fruit. Diligence, on the other hand, will make the fruit nourishing, refreshing, and give us joy. (sound familiar? If it doesn't then we've leaked)

Remember this. If we are not thriving... if we are not growing... then we are dying. The next time we speak of our lodges failing, let us remember that the true landmarks of masonry are made obvious to us in our degrees. Those landmarks speak of charity, character, and morality. Let us strive to be keeping those landmarks alive in us by remembering our degrees through repetition. Honestly, I don't see where we have any choice if we are going to remain Freemasons.



Rev./Br. James Harris, 33°
Denver Consistory

Darkness

I have never liked the phrase, “our lodge is going dark for the next few months.” In my opinion, a Masonic Lodge is never dark—there is ALWAYS light. Each Mason is asked, “What is it you seek?” We all know the answer. We are led by the Light; the Light guides us and shows the way. The sun provides light for us in the daytime and the moon gives us light at night. God, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, is always with us as our guiding light. I recently read the script for the 20th degree. The phrase, “The Light Shines” is repeated over and over in this degree. More than three thousand years ago, Zoroaster said: “Be good, be kind, be human and charitable; love your fellows, console the afflicted; pardon those who have done you wrong.” Jesus said, “Let your light shine, do not hide it under a bushel, you are the light of the world.”

The Lodge is never dark as there are always things happening in the Lodge and in the lives of its members. Last Saturday I had breakfast at Weston Lodge and over ten brothers were in the kitchen. Our Consistory has been active this summer. Our world needs light today as we continue to read of all the darkness happening around us. Currently, our country is in a state of turmoil, the world is in conflict, and even we Americans have resorted to name-calling and even violence. Currently, my church faces an uncertain future as a split looms on the horizon. Lonesome Dove is one of my favorite westerns. Former Texas Ranger Jake Spoon joins a group of cattle rustlers that have killed several men. Captain Call and Gus McCrae capture the men and are preparing to hang them. Jake appeals to his friend Gus to spare him. Gus explains, “Sorry, Jake, you crossed the line.” Jake looks up at Gus and says, “I never seen no line, Gus.” In many ways, today’s society sees no line, and if we do see it, we step over it in spite of the consequences.

The Masonic Lodge is a light in our world. We have values, we believe in a Supreme Being, and our demeanor is marked by courtesy and kindness. We are men of integrity - we look after our Brothers and one day we pray for acceptance in the Grand Lodge above. No, our light NEVER goes out. Many of you have been a light for me. Remember the song, “You Raised Me Up?” We lift each other up, we are there for each other, and we even spread the light through all the things we do. We make the world a better place. I remember last year I took one of those tests when you lay down on a table that moves into a tube. As I came out, my arms were on the table beside me. The nurse said, “Oh my, you are one of the good guys” as she pointed to my Masonic ring. Always remember who you are. Always remember to fulfill your membership responsibilities, especially you officers. If you have said yes to being an officer, then fulfill your responsibilities. It is a singular honor. *Reprinted with permission from the Denver Consistory.*

REMEMBER:
“MEMBERSHIP IS A CONTACT SPORT”



Send us your content & visit your website for the latest updates!
www.sococonsistory.org

Grand Lodge Members: <http://members.grandlodgeofcolorado.org/>
Promotion Of Masonry: www.beafreemason.org

...and with our Grand Master's edict a number of online "Fraternal Gatherings" now meet regularly. The response has been very positive with the ability for Brothers to make the stay-at-home order a bit less lonely and keep in touch with one another and share Masonic education. All is public information, nothing tiled.

The following is a schedule of those gatherings as of this letter. If you're aware of others please let us know.

All meeting are weekly gatherings:

1st & 3rd Wednesday

Lumen Artis #190, 7pm. Contact Russ Mason, secretary@lumenartislodge.com

Colorado Springs York Rite, David Reynolds, davidd1@comcast.com

Thursday

G L Education Committee, 7pm, Dave Williams, David Reynolds, davidd1@comcast.com

Friday

Virtual Happy Hour, 6pm, Michael-Ryan Fletchall, manitoulodge68@gmail.com



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

1	D Duane Esarey	16	Harley L Thompson	22	Wray S Pedro
3	Joseph K Clendaniel	17	Robert W Harper	22	James C Warren, III
5	Sumner W Pressey, III	17	Stephen G Pease	23	Nathan Stuart Rolofson
6	Arthur D Jones	18	Eric L Ellithorpe	24	Albert Wetmore
7	Eloy C Cordova	18	Jerry D McGill	25	Charles C Martin
8	Christopher B. Simmons	20	George S Cann, Jr	25	Russell H Smith, III
10	Donald R Clowers	20	Michael T Perez	26	Larry J Neu
10	Jack I Stivers	20	Thomas J Scheulen	28	Jededia V Ellithorpe
13	Douglas F Smith	21	Joseph E Hadad	29	Todd E Gould
14	Chad I Chaddick	21	Otis E Littlepage	31	Arthur S Hagan, Jr
15	Brian E. Bate				



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Charles C Brown	12/21/2009
Walter R Jorgenson	1/2/2018
Billie L Evans	3/31/2018
John Morrison, Jr	11/1/2018
Rex Reid	9/16/2020

ROSE CROIX FUNERAL TEAM

All Scottish Rite Masons in good standing are entitled to have a Rose Croix Funeral service at the time of their passing. Members should advise their families of their wishes to have this beautiful service. It is a very dignified service intended to help bring comfort to the family. The current members of the Southern Colorado Consistory Rose Croix Funeral Team are: Wise Master, Ronald Smith, 32° KCCH; Senior/Junior Warden, Charles Lewis, 32°; Junior Wardens, Blake Simmons, 32° and John Weed, 32°. If you are interested in joining the Rose Croix Funeral Team and helping them, contact the office or Jason Bunch 32° for more information.



*You will never be forgotten,
we pledge to you today,
a hallowed place within our hearts,
is where you'll always stay.*

Southern Colorado Consistory Quill & Scroll Guidelines and Staff

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Deadline for article submission is the 3rd Wednesday of the month prior to the stated meeting (first Wednesday). Articles should be approximately 250-1000 words long. Where appropriate, relevant high-resolution images with proper copyright permissions may be included with your submission. Articles may be submitted in electronic format via email to the editor. All articles are subject to editing and are published without restrictions unless clearly marked as copyrighted. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

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Questions pertaining to this publication should be forwarded to the Editor or the Consistory Office.

If you have comments, constructive criticisms, recommendations, or articles for submission, please send them to the EDITOR, *Quill & Scroll*.

THIS IS YOUR PUBLICATION!!! Let us know how we're doing and provide us your Masonic wisdom and content! We need to know if you want to see something of particular interest that we haven't published previously. If you are receiving this e-newsletter, it is because we have a valid email address for you. If you know of a Brother who has email but is not receiving these notices, PLEASE have him contact the Consistory Office and get his email updated or added to our database.

Publishing schedule: Submissions (in Word format) are due by the 3rd Wednesday each month, period. Compilation of the document and approval before review by the 4th Tuesday each month. Publication on the 4th Wednesday.

ALLEGIANCE

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Orient of Colorado, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon.

Southern Colorado Consistory Valley of Colorado Springs - Pueblo



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We aspire to *inspire* our Members
We constantly work to *develop* meaningful Degrees and Programs
We endeavor to *create* opportunities for our Members
We *believe* in Fellowship
We *encourage* in Personal Growth
We *care* for our Members
We strongly *support our charity* RiteCare
(Speech and language therapy for children in need)

We *cherish* in our Historical Presence
We *honor, respect and promote* Patriotism and support our Troops / Veterans

All of this requires strong and dedicated members to accomplish our goals and tasks. And, unfortunately, ever increasing financial support. Please consider SCC in your estate planning. Planned gifts, also known as legacy gifts, are the result of financial planning often involving a future estate. These gifts include bequests in wills, trusts, life insurance, personal property, and annuities. Such gifts would allow SCC to continue Scottish Rite activities. Thank you in advance for any and all support!