



# Quill & Scroll

## Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)



1150 Panorama Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-1715

May 2021

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**Email:** [socolorcoscott@qwestoffice.net](mailto:socolorcoscott@qwestoffice.net)

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**Ill Bob Cook, 33°**  
Valley Personal Representative

### **And Now For Something Completely Different (Monte Python)**

The Southern Colorado Consistory completed our first (maybe only) virtual Reunion on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We should all welcome our 4 newest Masters of the Royal Secret – Br. Aaron Celaya, Br. John Cummings, Br. Steven Dustrude and Br. Nicholas Ruybalid. All of our newest members contributed to the education discussion of the degrees that were communicated. Great job by Ill Barry Nightingale's team: Br. Jerry Underwood, 32° KCCH, Br. Craig Fabec (conducted almost all the discussion material), and Br. Jason Bunch (in absentia). Thanks to our Deputy, Ill Karl Hinkle, 33° for his support and carrying the obligations and other critical material in the obligatory degrees. Also, great job from Br. Vince Johnson, 32° KCCH for the technical support via Zoom.

Our May stated meeting will again be a virtual meeting, although we are looking at a possible in-person and virtual meeting in June. Our success with a demonstration of the Zoom platform at the Renewal, Remembrance and Commitment ceremony at the San Luis Valley Association of Scottish Rite Masons convinces me that we are on the right track to be able to bring our stated meetings to our brothers who are too far away or otherwise unable to attend in person. Br. Vince Johnson, Secretary/Recorder has been handling the Zoom meetings by himself. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to assist with the logistics of the meetings in the future. If you are interested, please contact Br. Vince or myself so we can explain where we are and what we need to do for the future.

Initial planning has started for an in-person Reunion in November. If you are on a degree team or in the crew (or both) make sure you are checking in with your leaders for practices, etc. Several of the degree casts have suffered attrition. Our goal is to get as many of the degrees beyond our obligatory ones in great shape by November. We need to also assist the crews – they also suffered a lot of attrition in this pandemic layoff. We had a couple of inquiries about the November Reunion. There is an incentive for members to get at least 3 petitions for the Reunions this year. More about the details at the Stated Meeting in May.



**Vincent T. Johnson, 32° KCCH**  
Secretary/Recorder/Registrar

Here is the latest membership data, which is showing continued improvement, but we still have about 42 Brothers still in arrears. I encourage those of you in this category, to take a few moments to take care of this matter as soon as possible. We all understand that we are in some trying times, but are you ready to stop or pause your pursuit of Masonic Light? If you are having issues paying your dues or want to setup a schedule to pay, please don't hesitate to contact me, we will do all we can to work with you. As of 4/14 we have 464, down from a beginning year total of 503, which breaks down like below:

Active Members with dues paid in full	210
Active Members with dues unpaid	42
Active Members that are Exempt or Life	212
Total:	464

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*Note: Most of the losses are attributed to NPD's, others are to demits, and deaths.*

We have received several calls asking where their dues card are. This past year the Grand Commander made the decision to include the membership card with the dues notice. If some of you treat the dues notice as I do, (it's a bill, I know what it is, I'll just go online a pay it). If that, was you, you probably did the same thing I did, right in the shred pile. This has caused some confusion within the Craft, and just to give you all a heads up, expect the same thing this year. But if you would like to have a replacement membership card, email me. I cannot tell you what the process is for processing a single card request or how long it takes to receive one, but we'll get you one if you want it.

This is also that time of the year where we are recognizing the JROTC Cadets from around the Southern Colorado area High Schools, and although the schools are continuing to slowly return to normal, most are conducting their awards ceremonies virtually or with minimal attendees. There are a couple of schools that are having in-person ceremonies and if any of you would be interested in being a presenter, please drop me a line.



**Br. Clifton Snow, 32° KCCH**  
Treasurer

Brethren,

The following are balances as of 3/31/21:

Investments \$630,312.30

Cash \$27,766.05

All bills through 3/31/21 have been paid and are within budget.



**Br. Bob Harper 32° KCCH**  
Commander, Council of Kadosh

My Brethren,

I want to share an article I read which serves as a good reminder to us all. The article was written by a Brother Jos. S. McIntyre.

The Plumblines

While Freemasonry is not a religion or a substitute for religion, there is much in our creed that is akin to religion.

A plumbline is a small instrument. It consists of a length of string, rope or chain with a weight at the end. That is a plumbline and it is used to test a wall. We use the expression :

"Is the wall plumb as tested by a plumbline?" The plumbline is always true to the law of gravity; it is infallible to the center of the earth. If the wall is plumb as tested by the plumbline, the structure is safe and the building will stand. If not, and the wall is untrue to this standard, whether it be convex or concave, whether it bulge in or out, it is unsafe, and when the superstructure is built upon it, it will not stand the test of time.

In this prophecy of the Old Testament, the prophet sees the coming of the Savior. He sees the plumbline set among the people of Israel by the Lord. He sees the test to which the people must put themselves if they would live uprightly according to the plumbline which the Lord has set among his people.

Freemasonry sets the plumbline in the community; it sets a plumbline that is known and respected by those who are not foes to Freemasonry. It sets a closer standard, a more severe plumbline in those teachings, to those who know its inner workings. The plumbline of Freemasonry, briefly expressed is a just and upright life.

And the question we should put to ourselves, brethren, not only for the public gaze but in our inner lives is : " Are we living by the plumbline of Freemasonry?" Are we always ready to assist the fallen brother? If we cannot speak well of a brother Mason, are we always silent? Are we always ready to relieve the distressed? And to assist the widows and orphans? Are we always a peaceable, and law-abiding citizen? And is our call at all times, Justice and Right?

These are the plumblines of Freemasonry which are set to the world at large and to the members of the Craft in particular.

I know we all are aware of these principles but, it does no harm to have an occasional reminder.

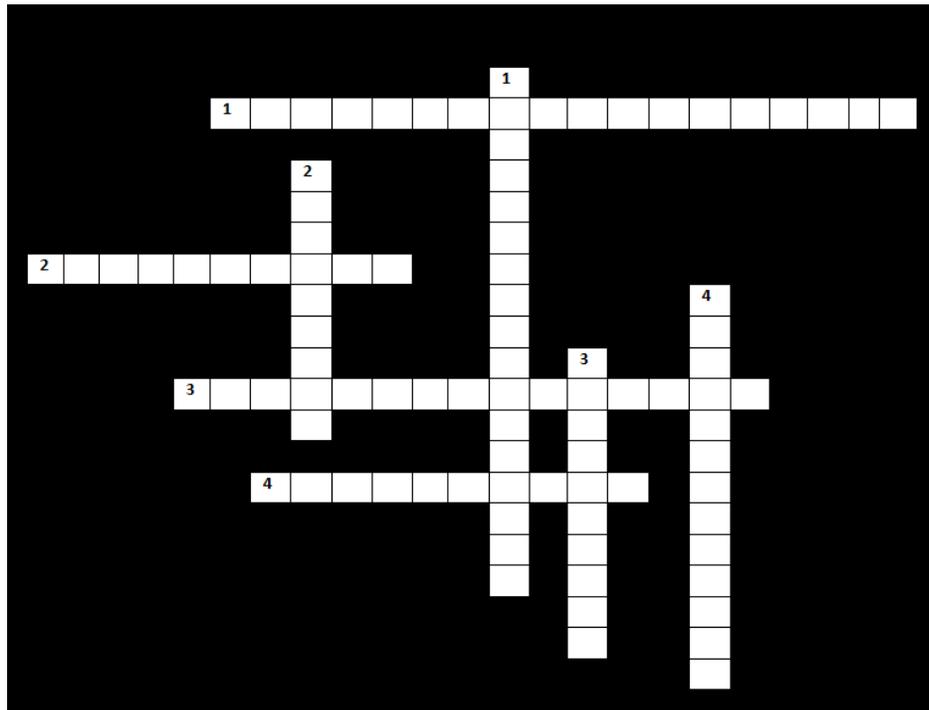
Fraternally,

Br. Bob Harper



**Br. Michael Mabbitt, 32°**  
 Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

“וְיָרַד אֵלָיו מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם”  
 “וְיָרַד אֵלָיו מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם”

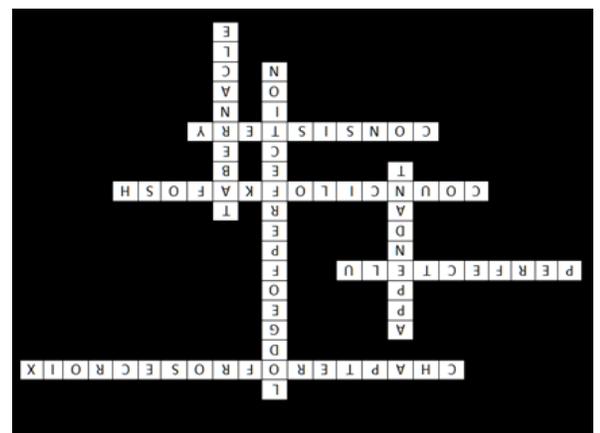


Across

1. This body invests the candidate with a deeper understanding of religion, philosophy, ethics, and history.
2. וְיָרַד אֵלָיו מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם are both bound and free: bound by their obligation and free from prejudice, ignorance and envy.
3. This body contains the most degrees.
4. This body teaches us that the path to immortality is more than the mere outward appearance of piety, and contains the chivalric degrees.

Down

1. This bodies principal purpose is the investigation and contemplation of the ineffable name of Deity”.
2. The Scottish Rite is one of the וְיָרַד אֵלָיו מִן הַשָּׁמַיִם bodies of Freemasonry.
3. The Feast of Tishri is also known as the Feast of the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This annual Scottish Rite event celebrates the completion and dedication of King Solomon’s Temple.





**Br. Blake Simmons 32°**  
Wise Master, Chapter Rose Croix

### **April Ceremony of Remembrance, Renewal and Commitment**

This month in April, we as Scottish Rite Masons take time to remember our dear departed Brothers who have been called from labor here to the Celestial Lodge above. As Scottish Rite Masons, we come together to offer our last tribute of affection and esteem to the memory of our departed brothers and our steady attachment to the principles of our Order.

May we all make sure to take time to reflect not only on the examples left us by the ‘Good and True Knights’ who leave us these as legacies, but to also look to ourselves and consider if we are also being the living examples we are all called to be as Scottish Rite Masons and Knights of Rose Croix.

It is of interest that April is considered a time of celebration and consideration not only by Masons, but also in the Christian faith with Palm Sunday, Holy week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally Easter Sunday. The Hindu faith celebrates Rama Navami ‘the birthday of Lord Rama’ and Hanuman Jayanti ‘the birth of Hanuman the monkey-warrior’, the Jewish faith celebrates Fast of the Firstborn and Passover, the Buddhists celebrate Hana Matsuri ‘Buddha Shakyamuni’s birthday’, and the Sikhs celebrate Baisakhi ‘the harvest festival’. What a special time.

Brothers, let us all celebrate the lives and examples of our brothers who have gone before us, but also a renewal of our commitment to be the ‘Living Examples’ of Scottish Rite Masonry through Faith, Hope, Charity, Morality, Virtue, and Brotherly love for all mankind and more especially our brothers in Masonry.

*“Remember that it is better to love than it is to hate and that our duty as Scottish Rite Masons is not to be better than others, but to be better than ourselves.”*



Bill Hickey, 33°

### Masonic DON'Ts

- **DON'T LET** the moss grow on your Lodge's back.
- **DON'T IMAGINE** that you will advance on your popularity and good looks alone.
- **DON'T BECOME** inflated and dream about what a wonderful WM or GM you will make. Re-member the fable of the toad.
- **DON'T FORGET** that it is **YOUR DUTY** to make **ALL** members and visitors welcome in your lodge.
- **DON'T FORGET** that a few well-chosen words of praise in public will offset many words of gossip spoken behind someone's back.
- **DON'T FORGET** that it is as much **YOUR DUTY** to be present at every meeting as that of any other member.
- **DON'T FORGET** that because you have been elected or appointed to a position, it does not confer the title of "Lord" of the Order.
- **DON'T FORGET** that the **TRUE MARK** of leadership is a willingness to serve, even though the position may be subordinate.
- **DON'T FORGET** to bring a recommended solution to the table when you bring a problem.
- **DON'T FORGET** that **YOUR JOB IS TO ENABLE** members of the Lodge, not to tell them why they can't do something.

[With apologies to: *The Herald of Masonry (NY)* reprinted in the *Canadian Craftsman*, June 1891 under the title of "Masonic Don'ts."]



**Br. Larry Weed, 32° KCCH**  
Prior, Consistory

## **The Building and Rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple**

Early in the Covid Pandemic, the Scottish Rite Journal published an article by Dr. Robert J.F. Elsner, entitled "Bible Study for Freemasons: The Building of King Solomon's Temple"<sup>1</sup>. In this article, Dr. Elsner elaborated scripture from 1 Kings 5, 6, and 7, regarding the text on the Masonic theme of building King Solomon's Temple. Dr. Elsner points out that the labor and details of the building of the temple reflect the enormity of the effort and the impact on the inhabitants of the land at that time. Further study of these scriptures and identified in the article crafted by Br. Blake Simmons in our March 2021 Quill and Scroll, Southern Colorado Consistory (SCC)<sup>2</sup> show that the temple took about seven years to complete. Dr. Elsner's article concludes with the challenge to look at how these "biblical words, lines, and ideas from Scripture make our lives more fit for the Builders purpose as Masons". Blake's article brings out the historicity as it relates to the role in degrees of the Chapter of Rose Croix.

This magnificent temple (Hebrew – Beit haMikdash<sup>3</sup>) in the capital city of Jerusalem, was built as a resting place for the Ark of the Covenant. The first one, built by Solomon on the 10<sup>th</sup> Century, as Blake mentioned, was destroyed after the Babylons captured the city in about 516 B.C.E., and then rebuilt after the release and return of the 42+ thousand captives to Jerusalem under the direction of Zerubbabel, taking two to five decades to complete<sup>3</sup>. Blake goes on to say that a remodeling was then accomplished in 20 B.C.E., and then rebuilt in 70AD, and eventually destroyed by fire under the siege of Titus.

Scripture and Masonic lessons tell us that there is yet indeed another temple building, not built with hands, a spiritual temple. Albert Pike describes this reference to a personal temple (see *Morals and Dogma*, p. 827<sup>4</sup>).

So, will the temple be rebuilt again? Many postulate that a rebuilding of the temple is described in Jeremiah 33, and is part of a promised future. "Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she shall be called: the LORD is our righteousness.' For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to prepare sacrifices continually"<sup>5</sup>.

Since 1987, a Jewish Temple Movement has begun preparations for a rebuilding again of the temple<sup>6</sup>. This third temple rebuilding was forecast by physicist Sir Isaac Newton, in his writings in the early 1700's<sup>7</sup>, projecting at that time, that the biblical prophecy would come to pass in about the year 2060. All this may be worthy indeed of further investigation and exploration, but for the time being, it might be better if we focus on the spiritual temple, and then look at the future as we examine ourselves.

References:

1. May-June 2020 – Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., USA, p.8.  
(<https://scottishrite.org/blog/journals/may-june-2020/>)
2. Blake Simmons, March 2021, Quill and Scroll, p.6.
3. See <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-jewish-temple-beit-hamikdash>
4. Pike says, "...it is time for you to set in order your own temple, or else you wear in vain the name and insignia of a Mason, while yet invested with the Masonic nature (p. 827)" as extracted from "A Bridge to Light", Rex Hutchens, 1995, p.307.
5. Jeremiah 33:14–18, NASB
6. See <https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/article/update-building-third-temple>
7. See [The little known fascination Newton had with the Jewish Temple - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](https://www.jpost.com)

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Promotion Of Masonry: [www.beafreemason.org](http://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:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Lumen Artis #190, 7pm. Contact Russ Mason, [secretary@lumenartislodge.com](mailto:secretary@lumenartislodge.com)

Colorado Springs York Rite, David Reynolds, [davidd1@comcast.com](mailto:davidd1@comcast.com)

Thursday

G L Education Committee, 7pm, Dave Williams, David Reynolds, [davidd1@comcast.com](mailto:davidd1@comcast.com)

Friday

Virtual Happy Hour, 6pm, Michael-Ryan Fletchall, [manitoulodge68@gmail.com](mailto:manitoulodge68@gmail.com)



**MAY**  
**BIRTHDAYS!**

George Estep

Alexander Pettigrew

Leon Sonksen

James Tatum

Warren Jones

Charles Tedrow

James Hauck

Dexter Koons

Clifford Wieger

Robert McCormick

James Ross

Alva Adams

Larry Smith

Gerald Campbell

David Bowling

Roger Tigner

Darrel Phelan

Brian Neuhauser

Kurt Zimmermann

Travis Ashley

Jason Bunch

Gerald Underwood

Christopher Rodriguez



Notices received from March 24, 2021

#### 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.



## Southern Colorado Consistory Quill & Scroll Guidelines and Staff

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This publication is produced monthly by and for the benefit of members, staff, and interested parties associated with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and more particularly the Southern Colorado Consistory in the Valley of Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Orient of Colorado. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Southern Colorado Consistory or its officers.

Deadline for article submission is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Notice of publication is provided to members of the Southern Colorado Consistory who have provided a valid email address.

This publication is published on the web site as an Adobe .pdf file. It requires the free Adobe Reader program to read. (A copy of this program can be found at <http://www.adobe.com>). Current and past issues (subject to available storage space) are available for viewing on the Southern Colorado Consistory Website.

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 compressed Adobe format, period) are due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, period. Compilation of the document and approval before review by the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month. Publication on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Pueblo/Colorado Springs



**James D. Cole, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Commander



**Karl J. Hinkle, 33°**  
Deputy of the Supreme Council  
Orient of Colorado



**Robert R. Cook, 33°**  
Personal Representative  
Valley of Colorado Springs - Pueblo



**Michael Mabbit, 32°**  
Venerable Master  
Lodge of Perfection



**Blake Simmons, 32°**  
Wise Master  
Chapter of Rose Croix



**Robert Harper, 32°**  
Commander  
Council of Kadosh



**Craig Fabec, 32°**  
Master of Kadosh  
Consistory



**Michael L. McMillan, 33°**  
Almoner



**Charles E. Lewis, 32°**  
Prelate



**Clifton Snow, 32° KCCH**  
Treasurer



**Vincent T. Johnson, 32° KCCH**  
Secretary/Recorder/Registrar

# Support your

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877-471-7966  
719-635-1560

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!*