



# THE RITE LIGHT



Valley of Albany  
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, N.M.J., U.S.A.  
67 Corning Place  
Albany, NY 12207  
<http://valleyofalbany.aasmasonry.us/>

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Vol. XXXVIII

SPRING 2012

No.3

## Spring Reunion

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**The Norray Farm  
708 Pleasant Valley Road  
Berne, NY 12023**

Ladies and children are welcome to come to the farm and enjoy the afternoon. The Valley of Albany and their families will enjoy a picnic with hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and desserts. After the picnic, the Degrees, open to Candidates and AASR Members only, will take place up on the mountain. Family and friends can enjoy the donkeys, pond, and fresh mountain air. The picnic area is tented so this is a rain or shine event. If you need something special to eat, please bring your own. Also, please bring chairs.

Registration	12:00 p.m.
Picnic for family and friends	12:30 p.m.
4 <sup>th</sup> Degree	2:30 p.m.
22 <sup>nd</sup> Degree	3:00 p.m.
24 <sup>th</sup> Degree	3:30 p.m.

Reservations please to: John Scott at [Scottydawg2000@aol.com](mailto:Scottydawg2000@aol.com) or (518) 283-1168

Please see page 7 for directions to the farm.

## NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION

The bodies of the Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Albany, State of New York acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose officers are:

**III John William McNaughton, 33°**  
Sovereign Grand Commander

**III Jim S. Deyo, 33°**  
Grand Lieutenant Commander

**III Robert F. Ogg, Jr., 33°**  
Grand Minister of State

**III Peter J. Samiec, 33°**  
Deputy for New York State

### ACTIVE MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK

- III Harold L. Aldrich, 33°  
Past Deputy for New York
- III David P. Spencer, 33°
- III Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°
- III P. Michael Nielsen, 33°
- III G. Michael Morris, 33°

### ACTIVE EMERITUS MEMBERS

- III James F. Niehoff, 33°
- III Bruce Widger, 33°  
Past Deputy for New York
- III Richard H. Welkley, 33°
- III Gary A. Henningsen, 33°
- III Frederick D. Greene, 33°
- III Edward R. Trosin, 33°

### DEPUTY'S REPRESENTATIVE VALLEY OF ALBANY

III Michael D. Derry, 33°

### VALLEY OF TROY

Michael G. Angiolillo, 32°, MSA

**Editor: THE RITE LITE**  
S. Kelly  
[thekellys@nycap.rr.com](mailto:thekellys@nycap.rr.com)  
518-758-1778

## Communicate

Please communicate sickness and distress and/or glad tidings. We will not be able to share in your joy or give support in your sorrow to our Brothers, their widows and orphans, unless we communicate. Harmony is the support of all institutions, especially this of ours.

Please send all communications to: John W. Scott, Secretary, Albany Masonic Hall, 67 Corning Place, Albany, NY 12207 or [Scottydawg2000@aol.com](mailto:Scottydawg2000@aol.com) or call (518) 283-1168



### Editor's Note:

The deadline for the Summer Issue of The Rite Light is **June 1, 2012**. Please send letters and articles to the Secretary for review by **May 27, 2012** or directly to the Editor by June 1, 2012 at [thekellys@nycap.rr.com](mailto:thekellys@nycap.rr.com)

## Consistory



### A Message from your Commander-in-Chief

Dear Brothers of the Valley of Albany,

Almost all of us, including me, were very late in getting our letters to our editor. Regretfully, we were so late that we could not get this to you before the Feast of the Paschal Lamb. It was a wonderful ceremony, a great meal, and good company for all attendees. Thank you Steve Conant for a job well done!

Looking ahead, we have a general meeting on **April 19** at the Albany Masonic Temple. We will be discussing our next reunion on **April 28** to take place at the Norray Farm in Berne. We will show the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, and then witness the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The 22<sup>nd</sup> is new, so don't miss out on getting your passports signed. Before the degrees, we will have a family picnic of hot dogs, hamburgers, assorted salads, beer, and soda. See the cover of this issue for more details. And bring the family!

Please note that our **annual meeting** for election of officers is **May 17, 2012**. This is a change in the original date, so please adjust your calendars.

Why did you join Scottish Rite? Was it the drama in our degrees? Was it you wanted to be part of the cast? Was it to help setting up the props? Or just being a member? Whatever your reason, we are glad to have you with us!

Now, I am asking you to pass your reason along to your Blue Lodge Brothers. Tell them what we do. Encourage them to take a good look at who we are. Brothers, we need new members. They will not just walk in and ask to join. They need someone to ask them to join. Will it be you?

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Daniel J. Kelly, MSA  
Commander-in-Chief  
Valley of Albany

The Rite Lite

## Rose Croix



### A Message from your Most Wise Master

My Brothers,

Our Scottish Rite year has continued on with a string of quality programs. The Robert Burns Celebration in January was a well-attended, top-notch event. I had the pleasure of participating in the seldom seen 17<sup>th</sup> degree that day. Brother Aaron Harrell did a great job directing the degree and it was well received. The evening was topped off by a very enjoyable dinner that was filled with much merriment.

The February meeting featured a presentation on ex-Brother Benedict Arnold by local author Will Martin. Will's presentation was informative and, judging by the interaction with his audience, very engaging. The meeting was followed by an excellent collation catered by Chef Ray Gaul.

The annual Feast of the Paschal Lamb was held on April 1, 2012 at the Troy Masonic Temple. The observance started with a ceremony honoring our brethren who have completed the cycle of earthly existence and was followed by a catered dinner. RW James Sullivan, Deputy Grand Master for the State of New York, was our guest speaker for the event. As usual, he was entertaining and informative.

As the spring season arrives with its hope of renewal, let us all renew our commitment to Scottish Rite Masonry by attending and participating in as many of the upcoming meetings and reunions as possible. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Steve Conant  
Most Wise Master

## Rose Croix



### A Message from your Junior Warden

My Road to the Rite

Well, it's been a little over a year now since I have been raised out of the dark garden as a Master Mason, like millions before me. Although that time has been short, it's been a journey filled with lessons that serve to remind me to live according to the Plumb, on the Level, and by the Square. I will admit it has not been a road without scenic overlooks that delayed and rough patches that jostled. So I offer just a few of the interesting tidbits I picked up along the way.

Being raised in Noah Lodge #754, I wanted to know why that name was chosen. Whilst searching, I learned that at one time in Masonry, there were two versions of the ritual, one with Hiram and another with Noah as central figures. Along those lines, many, many versions of where Masonry's roots began lie and I'm still searching for the sources on the Lodge in the city of York that was the Masonic authority in England in the decades prior to the formation of the London Lodge.

I was told that the Scottish Rite didn't begin in Scotland but in France, but now through reading, it seems that it just may have gotten its start in Scotland and only came to France after the House of Hanover became the rulers of England. This change led several failed invasions by the Stuart Loyalists or "Jacobites" as they were called that launched from Scotland. The Jacobites were forced to flee and live in France in exile. It is here that our Rite is rumored to have got its start. The political maneuverings of the exiles to return the House of Stuart to the throne are alleged to be embedded in the degree system that our degrees come from. In some circles, that connection has led to our moniker to be Stuart Masons, in recognition of those alluded ties between our Fraternity and the Jacobites.

These are just some of the byways, bumps, and scenic overlooks that have led me to becoming an The Rite Lite

active Scottish Rite member. With so much to see, learn and share, and the opportunity for fellowship with good Brethren, choosing Ancient American Scottish Rite was a no-brainer. I will be directing some degrees over the next year and would welcome Brothers to take a role, lend a hand, or provide guidance as we walk to this road together.

Aaron Harrell 32°  
Junior Warden  
Chapter Rose Croix

### Council, Princes of Jerusalem



### A Message from your Sovereign Prince

My Brothers:

Don't we learn something new or gain a new perspective or insight every time we see a degree? No matter how many times we have seen it? Every degree we attend is effectively unique, either because of the varying cast or presentation, or just because we are different based on where we are in our lives at any particular point in time. Degrees are one of the joys of our Rite and Masonry in general.

But we have an obligation to share them with those who have yet to experience them and, maybe more importantly, encourage members who have not attended in a while to get re-involved. Better yet, pick them up and car-pool, lock the doors when they get in, and hit the gas before they change their mind. Make every effort to attend the next reunion.

See you in the quarries.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Jerry Dievendorf  
Sovereign Prince of Jerusalem

## Lodge of Perfection



### A Message from your Thrice Potent Master

My Brothers,

The Valley of Albany is in the midst of a most successful year. We've brought in many new members. We've been able to present degrees that are not in the normal rotation in many places, thereby hosting many sojourners from outside the Valley who are looking to add these events to their Scottish Rite passports. We've also sponsored a number of extraordinary events: The Feast of St. Andrew and the Robert Burns Night in January were some of the best attended events to be held in the Albany Temple in many years. I'm hopeful we can maintain this momentum as we move through the remainder of the year. We have two more reunions and the Feast of the Pascal Lamb. They are publicized more fully elsewhere in *The Rite Lite*. If your presiding officers ask for your help in any of these, either as a cast member or as volunteers in any other capacity, I hope your answer is a resounding "Yes!"

I know plans are underway to finalize our Annual 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Banquet, where we'll celebrate the Scottish Rite journeys of our newest members and present them with their hats. In the past, this has been a great success. It's a tradition that, to our knowledge, isn't shared by any other Valley. If you've been rationing your time to attend just one event, please make it this one. Our newest members deserve nothing less than our unqualified fellowship and a hearty "Congratulations!"

I look forward to seeing you all as we continue the work of this great Valley.

I remain cordially and fraternally yours,

Steve King, MSA  
Thrice Potent Master

## Important Notice Change of Date

*Annual Meeting  
May 17, 2012*

**Albany Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m.**

Due to several conflicts, the date of the Annual Meeting has been changed to Thursday, May 17, 2012. Please take out your calendars and make this change NOW. It is very important that all members of the Valley attend this meeting. We will be electing and installing officers for the coming year as well as attending to other critical business.

Dan Kelly, CIC

*Summer Reunion  
Saturday, June 16, 2012*

**Albany Masonic Hall at 2:00 p.m.**

We will present the 4th, 19th, 27th, 31st and 32nd degrees. The 19th is NEW so you won't want to miss it. They will be followed with the 32<sup>o</sup> banquet by the Valleys of Albany and Troy. Although we realize there are some conflicts with this date, no other dates in June are available without conflict either. Please watch your mail and emails for more information about the times and the banquet.

Dan Kelly, CIC

# 2011-2012 AASR OFFICERS—VALLEY of ALBANY

## Ineffable & Sublime Grand Lodge of Perfection

Thrice Potent Master	Stephen S. King	489-1341	sking1@nycap.rr.com
Deputy Master	Paul B. Rosenblatt, Sr.	943-6804/669-3460	pepy33@aol.com
Senior Warden	John N. Polydouris	783-6240	
Junior Warden	Brandon J. Lachterman	851-7303	

## Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem

Sovereign Prince	Gerald R. Dievendorf	439-6684/312-6277	jdievendorf@gmail.com
High Priest	Martin W. Leukhardt	785-9697	martinwleukh@yahoo.com
Senior Warden	R. Victor Stewart	869-6200/421-1725	vicstewart@verizon.com
Junior Warden	Robert W. Dunn	767-2347	racerbobd@yahoo.com

## Albany Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix

Most Wise Master	Steven M. Conant	598-1388	sconant2@nycap.rr.com
Senior Warden	Kenneth M. White	439-3749/527-1962	kmwhite02@verizon.net
Junior Warden	Aaron B. Harrell, Jr	937-6761	ndsg02@yahoo.com

## Albany Sovereign Consistory

Commander-In-Chief	Daniel J. Kelly	758-1778/657-9403	thekellys@nycap.rr.com
1st Lt. Commander	Eric J. Benson	506-1143	ejbenson1@gmail.com
2nd Lt. Commander	Gary E. Smith	729-4582/810-6440	step12@nycap.rr.com

## Officers of All Bodies

Treasurer	William M. Korn	456-4704/265-6710	kornwm@nycap.rr.com
Secretary	John W. Scott	283-1168/301-3264	scottydawg2000@aol.com

## Degree Directors

Director 4th	Daniel J. Kelly	758-1778/657-9403	thekellys@nycap.rr.com
Director 6th & 10th	William M. Korn	456-4704/265-6710	kornwm@nycap.rr.com
Director 14th	John W. Scott	283-1168/301-3264	scottydawg2000@aol.com
Director 15th	Gerald F. Irwin	872-0672	girwin@nycap.rr.com
Director 16th	Byron D. Moak	235-5868	
Director 17th	Aaron B. Harrell, Jr.	937-6761	ndsg02@yahoo.com
Director 18th	Drew A. Millier	885-4323/605-8084	drewmillier@msn.com
Director 22nd	Daniel J. Kelly	758-1778/657-9403	thekellys@nycap.rr.com
Director 24th	Eric J. Benson	506-1143	ejbenson1@gmail.com
Director 26th	John W. Scott	283-1168/301-3264	scottydawg2000@aol.com
Director 27th	Allison L. Aumick	482-6370	aaumick@nycap.rr.com
Director 29th	Drew A. Millier	885-4323/605-8084	drewmillier@msn.com
Director 31st & 32nd	William M. Korn	456-4704/265-6710	kornwm@nycap.rr.com

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## Secretary's Note

Sublime Princes, Brothers:

Our Supreme Council and our Council of Deliberation have emphasized the premium they place on membership development by launching three new programs. The first is the Bookend Degrees. Through this program, a Brother becomes a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason when he has conferred upon him the 4<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> degrees plus a minimum of three additional degrees that reflect the core values of the Rite. These are selected by the Valley. The core values are: reverence for God, justice, toleration, devotion to country, service to humanity, and integrity. The beauty of this program is that it allows the Valleys to try new degrees that are not traditionally performed at Reunions. This will be good for membership development and membership retention. After all, every one of us should strive to fill our Passports.

The second innovation involves celebration of our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from August 5, 2012 through December 31, 2013. There will not be one single event or Anniversary Class but a series of events driven by each individual Valley. The Valley of Albany is the oldest Scottish Rite Valley in North America. Take pride in this distinction and let your officers know if you are interested in helping to celebrate this significant milestone of 200 Years of Brotherhood. All ideas for Valley events will be gratefully received and considered.

Finally, our Supreme Council has challenged each Valley to increase membership by 6% over the next two years. As an incentive to achieve this modest goal, the top first line signers, top Valley Secretaries, and top Valley Membership Development Chairmen are eligible for prizes. Reach out to your Brothers and invite them to receive more Light in Masonry by membership in Scottish Rite Masonry. Your enthusiasm will be contagious. All new members who become 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Masons between January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 will receive a beautiful pocket jewel created to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Other members can purchase the

medal from Supreme Council for \$25.00 each. (See a black/white replica on page 2.)

I hope you feel the excitement. Scottish Rite Masonry in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction is living up to its distinction of being the premiere concordant Masonic body by encouraging all of us to strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic obligation to care for our members. If you have any questions or if you want further information on any of these programs, please contact me or go to: <http://www.scottishritenmj.org/> and <http://www.nyscottishritemasons.org./>

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
John W. Scott, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree, MSA, Secretary  
[Scottydawg2000@aol.com](mailto:Scottydawg2000@aol.com)  
(518) 283-1168

### **Directions to the Norray Farm from Albany**

Take **US-20 W/Western Ave**  
4.3 mi from end of Northway  
Turn left onto **NY-146 W**  
6.0 mi  
Continue onto **Main St**  
0.6 mi  
Continue onto **NY-156 W/  
Berne-Altamont Rd**  
7.6 mi  
Turn left onto **Co Rd 254  
Pleasant Valley Rd**  
0.6 mi  
Destination will be on the right.

Watch for *Norray Farm* sign and go up the dirt drive to the parking area.

708 Pleasant Valley Rd  
Berne, NY 12023

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, N.M.J., U.S.A.  
 VALLEY OF ALBANY  
 John W. Scott, Secretary  
 Albany Masonic Hall  
 67 Corning Place  
 Albany, NY 12207

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### Valley of Albany—Spring 2012 Meeting Dates

\* Opens and Closes Meeting

<b>April 1, 2012</b>	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>F.O.P.L. Troy Masonic Hall</b>	June 7, 2012	Thurs.	Executive Board
April 5, 2012	Thurs.	Executive Board	<b>June 16, 2012</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Reunion: 4°, 27°, 31°, 32° at Albany Masonic Hall followed by Valleys of Albany and Troy 32° Banquet</b>
April 19, 2012	Thurs.	Lodge, Council, Chapter, <b>Consistory*</b>			
<b>April 28, 2012</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Reunion: 4°, 22°, 24° in Berne at Noon</b> <b>Norray Farm</b> 708 Pleasant Valley Road Berne, NY			
<b>May 17, 2012</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Annual Meeting—Election and Installation—All four bodies</b>			

