



SCOTTISH RITE **Bulletin**

VALLEY OF TAMPA – ORIENT OF FLORIDA

Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway • Tampa, FL 33634 • (813) 886-0578
Meets 2nd Monday of Each Month

Volume 44 No. 6 • November - December 2021

www.tampascottishrite.org

Worshipful Master Recognition Night

by Stephen B. Jacobson, 33°

An open meeting will be held at the Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center Monday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. Please read notice on page 5 that will explain everything.

The Symbolic Degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry are the foundations and cornerstone on which all Appendant bodies, clubs and Masonic organizations are based. In recognition of the outstanding work done by the particular lodges, the Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa, is sponsoring a **Worshipful Master “Recognition Night.”** All sitting Worshipful Masters will be individually recognized. All officers and members of the Worshipful Master’s Lodge will also be recognized.

This will be an open meeting. Bring friends, family and Brothers of your Lodge to support these Worshipful Masters. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. This recognition will begin at 7:00 p.m.

As usual, our monthly dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person.

Please allow us to accommodate you, your guests and members of your lodge, by making reservations no later than October 28 by calling Trish at the Scottish Rite office, (813) 886-0578.

My Brothers, with your help, we will make this a memorable evening for **Your Worshipful Master.** 🐾

Executive Committee

OFFICERS

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°
Chairman

Charles R. Jordan, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh - Tampa Consistory

Richard A. Vogt, 32° KCCH
Commander - Council of Kadosh

Kenneth A. Carolan, 32° KCCH
Wise Master - Chapter of Rose Croix

Douglas W. Dobbs, 32°
Venerable Master - Lodge of Perfection

Petar Sibinkic, 32°
Prior

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°
Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

John Wermann, 32° KCCH

A. Gary Cavanaugh, 33°

Glen Bishop 32°

John N. Dragneff, 32°

VALLEY OF TAMPA CONTACTS

Scottish Rite Office

(813) 886-0578

info@srtampa.org

Russell B. Glendinning, 33°

Personal Representative (941) 356-7209

personalrepresentative@srtampa.org

Scott McAlister, 32° KCCH

General Secretary (813) 886-0578

generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org

Trish Warhul

Administrative Assistant (813) 886-0578

info@srtampa.org

Michael R. Pender, Jr., 33°

Treasurer

treasurer@srtampa.org

Charles D. Walter, 32° KCCH

Almoner

almoner@srtampa.org

Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Director of Work - Member Education

dow@srtampa.org

A. Gary Cavanaugh, 33°

Prelate

drhydro02@gmail.com

Brian D. Campbell, 32° KCCH

Webmaster

webmaster@srtampa.org

Gary C. Schweinhaupt, 32° KCCH

Bulletin Editor

bulletin@srtampa.org



Personal Representative

by Ill. : Russell B. Glendinning, 33°

Brethren: Here we are, quickly approaching the end of another year. As in previous years, we had some pluses and some minuses. We continue to have brothers earning Double Eagle points and either being knighted and receiving their medallions or earning points to receive bars or new ribbons. It takes work to advance in the program and brothers are stepping up to the challenge. I hope everyone will wear their Double Eagle award with pride. We have continued to impart Masonic knowledge to our members through our monthly Masonic education presentations by very learned brothers. These have been well received and we look forward to that continuing in 2022. From a financial standpoint, through September, we continue to face challenges. Your Scottish Rite is watching every penny that we spend. In 2017 we formed the Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa Charitable Foundation, Inc. to allow our members to make tax deductible donations (please consult your tax advisor) so as to provide some of the funds needed to maintain our two buildings. If you would like more information on the Foundation, please contact the General Secretary. The Foundation was also established to help with the good work of our Almoner's Fund. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Even with this Foundation, we still need to do what we can to increase revenue and decrease expenses where we can. All of the accomplishments were the result of many brethren stepping up and agreeing to do what was necessary for us to be successful.

On the downside, we continue to see losses in membership in the Valley. At the time that I am writing this article we have had 62 brothers enter the Celestial Lodge above. Add to that, we have had 8 brothers demit and at this point, we have 41 brothers who have not yet paid their 2020 and 2021 dues. On the plus side of the equation, we have 55 candidates for our Fall Reunion, 5 brothers affiliated with the Valley of Tampa and 15 were reinstated.

As I have done in the November/December issue of The Bulletin in previous years, I would like to take a look at our membership and where our members are coming from. At this time last year, I reported that Masonic membership in the six Masonic Districts in the jurisdiction of the Valley of Tampa, stood at 8,171 members in the Particular Lodges in those Districts. Of that number, 1,735 were Tampa Scottish Rite members, or 21.23%. As of October 2021, Masonic membership is at 7,675 members with 1,751 being members of the Valley of Tampa

This publication acknowledges authority and yields allegiance to the Supreme Council A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of which Ill. : Richard G. Hoover, 33° is Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida.

or 24.52%. If we had a goal of a penetration rate of 25% that would mean another 56 Scottish Rite members. With the number of candidates for our Fall Reunion, we should meet that 25% goal and I congratulate those who have been responsible for encouraging those 55 brothers to take that next step by joining the Scottish Rite. That being said, this is not the time to sit back and rest on our laurels. Each one of us needs to continue talking about the Scottish Rite to our brothers. There are currently 59 Blue Lodges that we draw the majority of our membership from. A few of those Lodges we share jurisdiction with as they are located in our Districts but some brothers are closer to the Valleys of Ocala and Ft. Myers. While we are losing members in total, we have increased the percentage of members in our local Blue Lodges. If any brother would like to know the “numbers” for your Particular Lodge or District, please let me know and I will be happy to provide them to you.

Many brothers work hard year after year for the benefit of the Valley of Tampa. I am talking of course about our Valley officers, Reunion committees and our various committees. Four brothers, however, have been elected by their peers to manage the business of the four organizations within the Valley. A special thank you to Brother Richard A. Vogt, 32° KCCH, Commander of the KCCH Organization; Brother Robert L. Addison, 32°, Commander of the Scottish Rite Guard; Brother Paul J. Noller, 32°, Venerable Master of the Knights of St. Andrew; and Brother Kenneth A. Carolan, 32° KCCH, President of the Past Masters Organization. Each of these organizations has contributed greatly to the Valley of Tampa this year. If you are not a member of one of these organizations, I encourage you to get involved with them in 2022.

Brethren, this is the time of the year that we not only give thanks for everything that we have, but we also celebrate various religious holidays. Whatever your faith, I encourage you to celebrate the appropriate holiday with family and friends and be thankful for everything that we as human beings have been afforded throughout our lives. 🍷



General Secretary

by Scott McAlister, 32°
KCCH

Brethren: Do you want to find out what's happening in the Valley of Tampa? Do you want to know when our Reunions are being held or read the latest edition of

the Scottish Rite Bulletin? Do you want to pay your dues or make dinner reservations? You can do all that and more on our Webpage at <https://tampascottishrite.org>. Our Webmaster, Brian Campbell, 32° KCCH, does a good job of keeping the Webpage updated with the latest information. If you haven't visited our Webpage in a while, I urge you to do so. It's a great resource.

Speaking of dues, if you haven't already paid your 2021 dues, it's not too late. You have until December 31 to do so. Dues for 2021 are \$120.00 and will increase to \$122.00 next year (due to a \$2.00 increase in per capita to the Supreme Council.) You can pay by check or call the office and charge it to your credit card. You can also pay online at <https://tampascottishrite.org/payments-and-contributions/>. If you need assistance paying your dues, please contact the office and we will do what we can to help you.

Please don't forget to make dinner reservations before our monthly meetings. This helps us know how many are coming so that we can plan how many meals to serve. You can RSVP by either calling the office or going online at <https://tampascottishrite.org/members/reservations/>. In closing, I wish you and yours the happiest of holidays and all the best in the New Year! 🍷

Email Addresses

We want you to receive our regular communications, please make sure that the General Secretary's office has your most current email address. Send updates to generalsecretary@tampascottishrite.org 🍷

Scottish Rite Clubs

Nature Coast Scottish Rite Club

Brooksville Elk's Lodge 2582
13383 County Line Road,
Spring Hill, FL 34609
Phone: (352) 678-1019

4th Wednesday every month at 6:00 p.m.
(Dark during November & December)

North Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

IHOP
30200 US Hwy. 19 N.,
Clearwater, FL 33761
Phone: (727) 937-2649

2nd Tuesday every month at 11:30 a.m.

Pinellas Scottish Rite Club

Denny's Restaurant
4999 34th St. & 50th Ave., N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
(727) 475-9188 to make reservations
1st Friday of the Month at 10:00 a.m.

Sarasota Scottish Rite Club

Sahib Shriners - Sahara Room
(July location TBA)
600 N. Beneva Road,
Sarasota, FL 34232
2nd Friday every month at 11:30 a.m.

Scottish Rite Club Building
240 S. Tuttle Ave.,
Sarasota, FL 34237

1st Wednesday in Feb., April, Oct. & Nov. at 6:00 p.m.

Sun City Center Scottish Rite Club

Freedom Plaza Club
1010 American Eagle Blvd.,
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Phone: (813) 758-2787
3rd Monday every month at 11:30 a.m.
(Dark June, July, August & September)

Tampa Scottish Rite Club

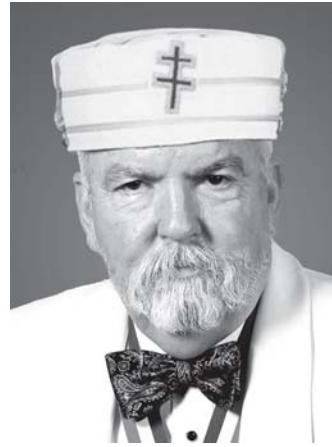
Tampa Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Hwy.,
Tampa, FL 33634
Phone: (813) 368-3878
4th Wednesday every month at 12:00 p.m.

Tri-County Scottish Rite Club

Lake Wales Masonic Lodge No. 242
660 S. 9th St.,
Lake Wales, FL 33853
Phone: (863) 528-6191

4th Thursday Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.

Support your Scottish Rite Club



Masonic Digest

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

The 19th through the 30th Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite are classed as the “Council of Kadosh.” These degrees are chivalric, philosophical, and religious in nature.

The Hebrew word Kadosh is usually translated as “holy.” However, Masonically, the word “Kadosh” might better be translated as “separated.”

Freemasonry does not endeavor to create holy men, but rather it seeks to set apart or separate from the profane the exemplary men who practice virtue and pursue Truth.

Within the Council degrees are four degrees that were styled the “religious degrees” by Albert Pike. They search for commonalty within the Abrahamic faiths.

The 23rd Degree, Chief of the Tabernacle, is an introduction into the mysteries.

The 24th Degree, Prince of the Tabernacle, is derived from the Hebrew faith.

The 25th Degree, Knight of the Brazen Serpent or Sufi Master, draws upon the Islamic faith.

The 26th Degree, Prince of Mercy or Scottish Trinitarian, explores the Christian faith.

No religious system is given preference in Freemasonry. The presence of these four degrees simply challenges us to consider the teachings, myths, origins, and traditions of different belief systems to identify what they may have in common. The degrees thus are best considered as a whole—with each receiving equal study. Their purpose is not to teach Scripture nor are they an endeavor to convert anyone.

Within these degrees is seen the sanctity of a single idea, that of a Deity—a Deity often explained with symbolism. Each belief system senses the

Deadline for Jan./Feb. Bulletin

December 6 - Contributor deadline

December 15 - Office contributor deadline

December 17 - Transmit print file to our printer

existence of Deity through the harmonies of nature. Each seeks understanding by the use of metaphor, allegory, and symbolism.

For example, the symbol of the 25th Degree is a serpent and refers to Numbers 21 in the Hebrew Bible. We are instructed, as Masons, that the serpent can be a “symbol of eternity and immortality, [for] in shedding its skin, it was thought to renew” itself.

The study of comparative religion is within the scope of our work as Freemasons. Despite the many differences in dogma, creeds, and doctrine, all belief systems search for some meaning in life, some way to understand the nature of Deity, some way to connect with that Deity.

Pike wrote that all belief systems “clothe the Truth with symbols and metaphors” as a teaching device. Masonic symbolism calls upon the wisdom and teaching of many sages and cultures—not simply the three Abrahamic faiths; it also considers the belief systems of the Brahims, Hindus, Druse, Persian, and Zoroastrians.

Somewhere along this journey in the study of comparative religion we may become Knights of Kadosh—not in the sense of becoming Holy, but in the sense of being “set apart” or separated. We might just become exemplary men who practice virtue in the search for Light and Truth.

See you in Lodge!

Note: This article was written in October 2021 to include in regional Shriner’s magazines. 🐾

November Monthly Meeting

We are again this year, continuing our Worshipful Master and Masonic Youth Appreciation Program at our November meeting. At this meeting we will be honoring our Masonic Youth Groups and the sitting Worshipful Masters of the 59 Lodges within the Valley of Tampa. We encourage you to attend and show your support for our youth groups and our hard-working Worshipful Masters.

As in the past, we ask that if you or your lady were members of the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow or Job’s Daughters you are encouraged to wear any regalia from those organizations to this meeting.

It is also the Official Visit of Ill.:. Richard Hoover, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida. Please make your plans to be with us on November 8 as we receive Ill.:. Hoover. 🐾

Memorial Highway Property Update

As was voted on at our October Consistory meeting, we have reached an agreement with Onicx Development Company to purchase all but 1½ acres of our property on Memorial Highway. Onicx will build us a 25,000 square foot building, replacing our existing 50,000 square foot building. The rest of the property will be developed by Onicx as residential apartments. The Valley will have no interest in the residential development.

Work will begin in several months and there will be a lot of work to be done in getting prepared to vacate our building and move to a temporary location to conduct the business of the Valley and to hold our monthly meetings. As these plans progress, we will keep you informed.

I want to thank the members of the Temple Association for their work in getting this agreement in a form that is the best for the Valley. A special thanks to Brother Chas Jordan, 32° KCCH, President of the Temple Association for the hours he has spent this year in seeing that this initiative come to fruition and Brother Jon Coats, 32° for his assistance in providing the legal services that the Association has requested. 🐾

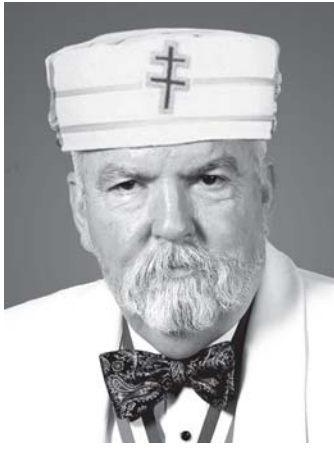
Ill.:. Gary Cavanaugh, 33° Retires as Valley Prelate

It is with regret that we announce the retirement of Ill.:. Gary Cavanaugh, 33° as Prelate in the Valley of Tampa. Brother Cavanaugh and his wife are moving to Wisconsin to be closer to family. Our Illustrious brother has served as Prelate since 2018. He was coroneted a Thirty-third Degree Scottish Rite Mason on November 19, 2019.

Ill.:. Cavanaugh received his Scottish Rite Degrees in the Valley of Columbus (OH) in 1984 and affiliated with the Valley of Tampa in 2001. He has served in many capacities in the Valley including being a member of the Valley's Executive Committee.

An active member of the Fraternity, he has served as Grand Marshall in 2005, DDGM in 2004, various Grand Lodge Committees and is currently serving as the Chairman of the Committee On Work.

We wish Ill.:. Gary and his wife the best in their move and will miss his articles in each issue of our Bulletin. 🐾



Member Education & Director of Work

by Casey A. Fletcher, 33°

Secrecy and Silence

At our September 13 Consistory meeting the program examined the four “religious degrees” of the Council of

Kadosh. The degrees are the:

- 23rd Chief of the Tabernacle, which is an introduction into the religious mysteries; it was last conferred in the spring of 2019,
- 24th Prince of the Tabernacle, derived from the Hebrew faith and scheduled for the October, 2021 Reunion,
- 25th Knight of the Brazen Serpent or Sufi Master, which alludes to the Islamic faith and was conferred at the September meeting, and
- the 26th Degree Prince of Mercy or Scottish Trinitarian, which explores the Christian faith; it was conferred in May, 2021.

One message of the program was that, because these four degrees are not conferred consecutively, it is worthwhile to pause and consider their meaning as a collective whole. Otherwise, potential lessons can be glossed over and opportunities for growth missed.

No religious system is given preference in Freemasonry. The presence of these four degrees challenges us to consider the teachings, myths, origins, and traditions of different belief systems to identify what they may have in common. Each of the degrees allude to someone else’s Scripture. Their purpose is not to teach Scripture nor is it an endeavor to convert anyone.

They present the notion that a study of comparative religion is within the scope of our work as Freemasons and that such a pursuit is worthwhile and laudable. We may recognize that despite all the differences in dogma, tenets, creeds, and doctrine, all belief systems search for meaning in life, a path to understand the nature of Deity, some process to connect with that Deity—some way to conduct ourselves today, right now.

All belief systems and religions, Albert Pike observed, “clothe the Truth with symbols and metaphors” as a teaching device. So, in the pursuit of learning, studying other religions is fair game for the thoughtful Mason.

Mahmud of Ghazni ruled Persia from 997 to 1030. During his reign, he launched seventeen military campaigns into India.

In his regular excursions, he took with him a respected Persian intellectual named Al-Biruni (973-1048). Renowned for his scholarship, Al-Biruni wrote some 146 books on astronomy, geography, mathematics, medicine, history, philosophy, and other topics.

Al-Biruni set out to understand this “new” world. He wanted to understand Indian and Hindu culture and record for history its ideas. He endeavored to get things right and was adept at comparing and contrasting his particular ideas with those of Islam, the Greeks, Zoroastrianism and Manichaeism. He made no attempt to defend the new customs, practices or religious beliefs he encountered, neither did he try to refute them—he just wrote about what he discovered.

In his quest to understand this different world and other belief systems, Al-Biruni employed a three-pronged process that can be useful today and applied to our study of the four Masonic religious degrees. First, to understand and learn about a different culture or religion, consult its adherents rather than its enemies. Secondly, don’t compare the best of “our” belief systems to the worst of “theirs.” Finally, leave room for “holy envy,” discover practices and traditions that should be admired, adopted, and respected by any faith and culture—search for a common ground. These three suggestions provide a good syllabus for learning and a good primer for religious tolerance.

The 18th Degree, Knight of Rose Croix, reminds us that our own particular religious beliefs are seldom informed by the “impartial weighing of evidence.” They usually are the consequence of “accident of birthplace, education and circumstance...”

The 18th Degree and Al-Biruni’s guidance encourage us to suffer the humility of questioning the infallibility of our own opinions and beliefs. We

... continued on page 7

Prelate

by A. Gary
Cavanaugh, 33°

**Thanksgiving: God's Goodness**

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from

the hand of the foe, ³those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

⁴Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. ⁵They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

⁶Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Psalms 107: 1-6 (NIV)

As we enter into this Holiday Season sometimes it's hard to believe in the goodness of God. For many, holidays like Thanksgiving are not a time of truly giving thanks, but a painful reminder of what is not. Families aren't always the safe place they were created to be. Maybe someone is sick or maybe someone is missing. Maybe the economic crisis has hit close to home. The busyness and chaos of the holiday season officially kicks off, adding even more stress. There are countless reasons why this "bountiful feast" can feel more like an "unbearable beast."

For all that Thanksgiving brings with it, there is one fact that remains unchanged year in and year out: God's goodness. The Greek word for goodness is agathosune and it describes a kind of active goodness. God seeks to do good things because it is in his very nature to do so. He wants to bless us, embrace us and care for us. He longs to show his goodness to us.

Whatever your circumstances this season, do not doubt God's goodness towards you. Sometimes he allows us to go through difficulties, but he does not leave you alone in them and his promises never fail. As the passage above states, he is good and he will bring you through. At times I am overwhelmed that we serve an all powerful God whose goodness overflows into our lives every day. Even in the

midst of trials, God is seeking our good, to teach us something and draw us closer to him.

So ask you this Thanksgiving, in the midst of turkey, pie, football and parties, don't forget to take some time treasuring God's goodness to you. Thank him, praise him, and "let those delivered by the Lord speak out."

Spend time thanking God throughout this Holiday Season for all his goodness he has granted to you, asking him to bring to mind specific situations you might have over looked. 🙏

Coming Masonic Events

Please note ALL Scottish Rite Masons may attend the Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee Meetings start at 4:30 p.m., Dinner time is 5:45 p.m. and regular meetings at 7:00 p.m. and cost is \$10 unless otherwise noted. Be sure to make your dinner reservations Thursday prior to the Monday Meeting. Visit the Valley of Tampa Website for the latest information on meetings and events.

November 8, 2021:

Executive Committee Meeting

Dinner and Open Meeting

Official Visit Ill.: Richard G. Hoover, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in the Orient of Florida

Worshipful Masters and Youth Recognition Night
House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Roasted Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Apple Pie, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

December 13, 2021:

Executive Committee Meeting

Dinner and Closed Meeting

Election of Officers

House Salad, Dinner Rolls, Chef's Choice. 🙏

...continued from Page 6 – Member Education

may grow wiser when other religions and belief systems are impartially examined.

At the December 13, 2021 meeting the 7th Degree, Provost and Judge, will be conferred at 5:50 p.m., before the regular meeting. 🙏

Scottish Rite Masonic Center
5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33634-7336

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Scottish Rite Bulletin
Volume 44 No. 6
November - December 2021

In Memoriam

“Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea, but such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound and foam, when that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home. Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark; for tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.” – Tennyson



Roy E. Age, 32°
08/18/21 age 94
Land O'Lakes, FL

Terry L. Garner, 32°
03/21/21 age 74
Venice, FL

Charles L. Meadows, 32°
08/03/21 age 85
Sparks, GA

John W. Baier, 32°
02/01/21 age 83
Fredericksburg, VA

Oliver L. Green Jr., 33°
08/25/21 age 88
Lakeland, FL

John C. Tsacrios, 32°
05/13/21 age 73
Clearwater, FL

Drayfus Barfield, 32°
08/13/21 age 84
Kenansville, FL

Wallace E. Lacey, 32° KCCH
08/13/21 age 87
Sarasota, FL

Clyde J. Walters Jr., 32°
08/16/21 age 93
St. Petersburg, FL

Robert J. Bishop, 32°
08/16/21 age 96
Easton, MD

Gary L. McKnight, 32° KCCH
08/14/21 age 78
Lakeland, FL

Edward Burnsed, 32°
07/24/21 age 98
Lakeland, FL

Donald V. McLeod, 32°
06/08/21 age 91
Sarasota, FL