

SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN

VALLEY OF TAMPA—ORIENT OF FLORIDA

TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER

5500 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

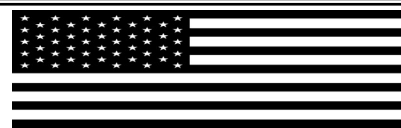
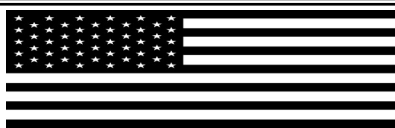
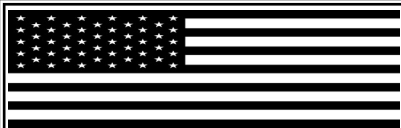
TAMPA, FL 33634

(813) 886-0578

MEETS 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

VOLUME 48 No. 3 - MAY-JUNE 2025

WWW.TAMPASCOTTISHRITE.ORG



JOIN THE TAMPA SCOTTISH RITE'S ANNUAL FLAG DAY CELEBRATION!

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

5500 MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, TAMPA

5:30 p.m. Smoked Sausage with Peppers & Onions or Sauerkraut,
Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, and Apple Pie à la Mode

No cost for the meal, **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Reservations may be made by contacting the Scottish Rite office at
(813) 886-0578 on or before NOON on Thursday, June 5th



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Charles Cullen Osborne, 33°

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John N. Dragneff, 32°

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Rick Wendling, 32° KCCH

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Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH

Bulletin Editor

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PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Illustrious Charles C. Osborne, 33°

Last month, the Valley of Tampa once again presented the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. I appreciate the Degree Master, Gregory L. Wynn, 32° KCCH and Assistant Degree Master, Stephen J. Silvers, 32° KCCH for their leadership. I want to thank and recognize the degree team for their dedication and hard work.

Wise Master
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Senior Deacon
Orator
Almoner
Master of Ceremonies
Guardian of the Temple
Secretary
Prelate
Soloist
Lighting & Sound

Stephen J. Silvers, 32° KCCH
Billy D. Scott, III, 32°
Walter Schoepf, 32° KCCH
Billy D. Schmidt, 32°
William C. Sunquist, 32° KCCH
Richard A. Kratochvil, 32°
Scott McAlister, 33°
Reginald J. Guier, 32° KCCH
Michael J. St-Laurent, 32° KCCH
Gary R. Roane, 32°
Brian Campbell, 33°
Paul D. Barber, 32° KCCH
Chairman
Dino Tsontzos, 32°
John D. Vogt, 32°
Lynn Raposa, 33°

Stage

Our Spring Reunion in memory of Ill. Russel B. Glendinning, 33° will be held on Saturday, May 3rd and Saturday, May 10th. This will be the first time in a couple of years that we will be conferring 12 of our 29 Degrees. Please plan on attending these Degrees in support of our Degree Teams and Candidates.

Also at the end of May, the Grand Lodge of Florida will once again be holding their Annual Communication in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza. This is always an important gathering as we once again elect the Brothers that will lead our Fraternity for the coming year.

Finally, on Monday, June 9th we will once again observe Flag Day. This year Chuck Bailey, 32° KCCH is in charge of the program and I'm confident the program he and the National Sojourners are putting together will be very informative and entertaining.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your continued support of the Valley of Tampa. Your participation is not taken for granted and is necessary for our Valley to grow and thrive. Please remember to support your Blue Lodge and I look forward to seeing you at our Scottish Rite functions.





Online Petition QR Code
\$4.77 Additional Fee
By Supreme Council

SCOTTISH RITE CLUBS

NORTH PINELLAS

IHOP
40489 US 19N
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Phone: (727) 403-6511
2nd Tuesday every month at 11:30 a.m.

PINELLAS PARK

Masonic Home of Florida
3201 1st St. NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Phone: (727)243-7355
2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

SARASOTA

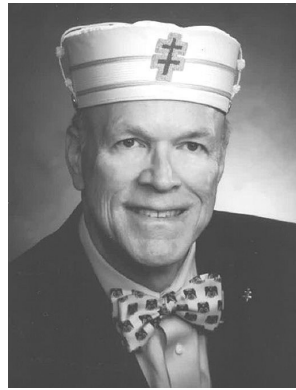
Sahib Shriners - Sahara Room
(July location TBA)
600 N. Beneva Road
Sarasota, FL 34232
2nd Friday every month at 11:30 a.m.
Scottish Rite Club Building
240 S. Tuttle Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34237
1st Wednesday in Feb., April, Oct. & Nov. at 6:00 p.m.

TAMPA

Village Inn
215 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.
Tampa, FL 33609
Phone: (813) 368-3878
4th Wednesday every month at 12:00 p.m.

TRI-COUNTY

Lake Wales Masonic Lodge No. 242
660 S. 9th St.
Lake Wales, FL 33853
Phone: (863) 528-6191
4th Wed. Jan. Mar., May, July, Sept. Nov. at 7:00 p.m.



GENERAL SECRETARY

Illustrious Scott McAlister, 33°

The Valley of Tampa has once again distinguished itself by receiving recognition for the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) for 2024. This accomplishment is commendable. Our Valley is one of 70 out of 110 participating Valleys that successfully met its goals in recruitment, restoration, or retention. We extend our gratitude to Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°, for his leadership of the VMAP committee last year. The 2025 program is currently underway, and our new VMAP Chairman, Glen B. Bishop, 32° KCCH, is expected to continue achieving success.

The Tampa Scottish Rite has a new caterer, Mr. Davidson Brinez. Mr. Brinez owns the Casa 21 Restaurant Bar and Grill and has been cooking for our monthly meetings since January of this year. His dinners have been well received.

Speaking of our monthly dinners, please make your reservation with the office no later than the Thursday by NOON before the monthly meeting so that we can give our caterer a head count. We hope to have the ability to make online dinner reservations/ payments via our website soon.

We extend a hearty welcome and a warm hand of fellowship to this Master of the Royal Secret who has joined us as a Dual Member since publication of our last bulletin. Scottish Rite Freemasonry welcomes all its members and visitors within its portal—visit us as often as time permits; we guarantee good fellowship, new friends, and an opportunity to work with us for the benefit of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite in particular.

Dual Member
Dana K. Oldenburg, 32° KCCH



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





MEMBER EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF WORK

Illustrious Richard A. Vogt, 33°

Last month we talked about the Lodge of Perfection. This month we'll discuss the Chapter of Rose Croix. The Degrees in the Chapter are religious, historical, moral and philosophical. Pike believes that which is easily learned is little appreciated. Therefore, these Degrees, the 14th through the 18th, are imbued with startling imagery and sublime morality. He utilizes the Pythagorean Tetractys, and, from Hebrew mysticism, the Kabbalah, both of which give many of our Masonic symbols. Hebrew history and Christian doctrine are compared and contrasted with other religions of the ancient world with a special emphasis on the Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse.

These Degrees cover the time period from the destruction of King Solomon's Temple in 588 B.C. through the writing of the Book of Revelation in approximately 100 A.D. The 15th and 16th Degrees are concerned with the trials of the Hebrew captives in Babylon and their efforts to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and the city. Zerubbabel comes to the forefront as the champion for the Hebrews and convinces Cyrus, King of Persia to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. God punished the Israelites for their apostasy, but the time of punishment is over. Cyrus granted their request to return but then reneged. Darius, the successor to Cyrus, finally agrees to let the Israelites leave after finding the original degree from Cyrus. Zerubbabel leads the Israelites in rebuilding the Temple which is completed in 535 B.C. This is the background for the 15th and 16th Degrees. The Hebrews had a history of being close to God and then turning away from Him creating a distance at which time God would punish them, e.g., sending them into Babylonian captivity.

The cycle of closeness to and distance from God found expression in the deeply symbolic mysticism expressed in the Kabbalah. A name was given to distinguish the Kabbalistic concept of God from that of conventional Judaism: Ainsoph, the inexpressible, incomprehensible, ineffable divine Source of all things. The creators of the Kabbalah wanted a way to describe God within the framework of human language. To do this, they used numerological symbolism. The Hebrew letters were given number equivalents, and the sum of the word gave its value. Numerology is prevalent throughout the remainder of our Scottish Rite Degrees.

In these Degrees, you will also find the concept of a Messiah. The purpose is to point out its near universality in the religions of the world. There are references to Dionysus of the Greeks, Sosiosch of the Persians, Krishna of the Hindus, Osiris of the Egyptians, and Jesus of the Christians. The purpose of these varying cultures was to find in human form a source for the intercession with Deity; in particular one who, as human, had been tempted and suffered the daily trials of life and so would possess sympathy and understanding. He would give us Hope!

The 15th and 16th Degrees illustrate the renewal of virtue which brought the Hebrews back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the House of the Lord. They anticipate the coming of the Messiah in the 17th Degree which expounds the messianic doctrine of love, its importance is taught in the 18th Degree.

Degrees Prior to Consistory

May

26th Degree

Prince of Mercy
Scottish Trinitarian

July

13th Degree

Royal Lodge of
Solomon

August

25th Degree

Knight of the
Brazen Serpent

November

6th Degree

Confidential
Secretary

December

7th Degree

Provost and Judge



PRELATE

Steven Silvers, 32° KCCH

Greetings my Brothers. If you have been to a Scottish Rite meeting in the past two months, you will already know that Ill. Richard Vogt, 33° has been named the new Chairman of Member Education/Director of Work and has moved on to new responsibilities in our Valley. I would like to congratulate him and wish him all the best in his new role. With his previous position left available, I was asked to step in and become the new Prelate for our Valley and humbly accepted. This is a great honor for me and I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Valley. As a member of the Tampa Scottish Rite for many years, I believe that I have come to know so many of our members and have made some close friends. But with new members added to our roles every year, there are still many that I have not had the opportunity to get to know, or who may not know me. I look forward to furthering my relationships and getting to know you all much better.

As for me, I was born in Miami Beach, FL on May 28, 1963. I spent most of my life in Miami Beach, graduating Miami Beach Senior High School in 1981. I attended Miami Dade College, Florida State University and graduated with a degree in Business/Hospitality Management from Florida International University. After several years managing restaurants in Los Angeles, I moved back to Florida. Upon moving home, I went to work as the Operations Manager for a large restaurant supply company. It was not long after that when I met Joy, the woman of my dreams. Four months later, we were engaged and this June, we will celebrate our 36th wedding anniversary. We have two adult children, Jenna (33) and Eric (30). After several years working in Miami, we made a life changing move to Tampa in 1998 to open a large-scale Children's Preschool in Westchase, which we opened in September, 1999. Joy and I operated our school together for many years and following the pandemic, we built back our business and decided that it was time to sell in 2022 when we both retired.

I began my Masonic journey being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in October, 2008 at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 in Tampa and served as its Worshipful Master in 2013. I was honored in 2015 to become the District Instructor for the 22nd Masonic District (now the 19th) and then appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 2016. I joined the Scottish Rite and became a Master of the Royal Secret in May 2009, not long after earning my white leather apron. I spent several years working in the cast of the 29th and 32nd degree teams and was the Degree Master for the 29th Degree for several years until I received the honor of Knight Commander Court of Honor in November 2019. Also in 2019, I was honored to serve as the Wise Master for the Chapter of Rose Croix. My last position of leadership for the Valley was last year, serving as the Commander for the KCCH.

Although this is the May/June issue, I would be remiss if I did not include the recent celebrations of Passover and Easter in this month's article. In these two celebrations, we find profound opportunities to reflect on historical significance within the context of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Passover, commencing in April, serves as a testament to liberation and faith. It commemorates the Israelites' escape from Egyptian bondage, a powerful narrative of resilience that mirrors our journey toward personal and collective enlightenment. Easter, celebrated in April or May, marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event embodies themes of renewal and hope, echoing the Scottish Rite's dedication to spiritual rebirth and moral fortitude. As we navigate the teachings of these springtime traditions, we reaffirm our commitment to building our inner temples, reflecting on the past to illuminate our path forward as Masons.

Again, it's a great honor to have been asked to take this position and I look forward to meaningful service to the Valley of Tampa, Scottish Rite.



2025 FLAG DAY PROGRAM

At 7:00 pm Monday, June 9th the Valley of Tampa Scottish Rite will welcome the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Sojourners, Inc. who will provide a patriotic program for our Annual Flag Day observance in lieu of our Regular Tyled Meeting. The program this year is being chaired by Brother Charles Bailey, 32° KCCH, who is confident it will be both interesting and enlightening. The program theme is titled, “Star Spangled Banner.”

A meal consisting of Smoked Sausage with Peppers & Onions or Sauerkraut, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans, and Apple Pie à la Mode will be served starting at 5:30 pm. There will not be a charge for the meal, but it is imperative that you make reservations with the office by NOON on Thursday, June 5th so we can be assured that we have sufficient food for everyone. Call the Scottish Rite Office at: (813) 886-0578 or email: adminassistant@tampascottishrite.org

As in the past our Flag Day Program is open to all, family and friends and we encourage you to invite your Blue Lodge brethren, your neighbors and all who may wish to celebrate our Flag.

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 Foundation of Florida Fundraising Cruise

Join the Illustrious **Richard G. Hoover 33°**, SGIG in the Orient of Florida, & **First Lady Bobby Hoover** for another fun-filled fundraising cruise!



ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS

5 NIGHT CRUISE • MARCH 28 – APRIL 2, 2026






DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1	TAMPA, FLORIDA	Day 4	COZUMEL, MEXICO
Day 2	CRUISING	Day 5	CRUISING
Day 3	PUERTO COSTA MAYA, MEXICO	Day 6	TAMPA, FLORIDA

BALCONY	OCEANVIEW	INTERIOR
\$2,799.20 for 2 Guests	\$1,447.20 for 2 Guests	\$997.20 for 2 Guests

* Call for pricing for other categories or single occupancy

- Refundable Deposit: \$200/cabin due upon booking
- Final payment due: December 28, 2025
- Book early to get best cabin selection

 JEN JACKSON
  (408) 250-5826
  Jen@AllVistaTravel.com

Tampa Scottish Rite Office
5500 Memorial Highway
Tampa, FL 33634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Scottish Rite Bulletin
Volume 48 No. 3
May - June 2025

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Manasota, FL

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

Kenneth D. Balsley, 33°
02/13/25 age 93
Tampa, FL

Robert H. Cook, 32°
11/22/24 age 91
Boone, NC

Wiley R. Gillespie, 32°
09/17/24 age 89
Plant City, FL

Richard E. Kennedy, 32°
01/09/25 age 74
Zephyrhills, FL

David B. Millendorf, 32°
01/25/25 age 82
Spring Hill, FL

Donald O. Nettles, 32°
04/16/25 age 90
Tampa, FL

Roque B. Pastorius, 32°
01/31/25 age 61
Bradenton, FL