

JANUARY – MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: SCOT SAGESER, KCCH



VALLEY OF BREMERTON, SCOTTISH RITE, AASR

Here we go AGAIN!!

Let the Degree's Begin



IF YOU HAVE INTEREST WORKING ON THE NEWLETTER OR HAVE INTERESTING CONTENT FOR THE NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE OR SCOT SAGESER ssageser@gmail.com 360-692-6550



Dates to remember:



BOBBY BURNS NIGHT !!

Saturday January 14th 6:30 pm

**Don't miss this Event!!
Music, Entertainment, Food and Fun!**

FEBRUARY STATED MEETING

February 1, 2016

Dinner 6:30 pm LOP 7:30 pm

SPRING REUNION 2017

The Terminal Degrees will be conferred on the following
Saturdays:

Saturday February 4th, 2017 4th and 14th Degrees

Saturday February 11th, 2017 18th Degree

Saturday February 18th, 2017 30th and 32nd Degree

MARCH STATED MEETING

MARCH 1, 2017

6:30 PM DINNER 7:30 PM LOP



PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR AT WWW.BREMERTONVALLEYSR.ORG



WILL YOU JOIN US?

**WE ARE STILL LOOKING
FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!!**

**The Spring Reunion
Starts in February!!!**

Want to know more??

**Contact membership Chair: Bill Hubbard 360-316-9237 visit
www.bremertonvalleysr.org**

**Take the Scottish
Rite Degree's**

(It's the further light in Masonry you've heard about)



WELCOME ABOARD!!
**THE VALLEY OF BREMER TON WELCOMES 3 NEW 32ND DEGREE
MASTERS OF THE ROYAL SECRET AT OUR**

CAP AND RING CEREMONY! NOVEMBER 2016



FALL CLASS OF 2016

WELL DONE BROTHERS!! FALL CLASS OF 2016

The Degree description below is reprinted with the permission of the Scottish Rite Journal.

Chapter of Rose Croix
Degree Descriptions
Fifteenth Degree



Photo: Oil painting by Bro. Robert H. White, 32°

Knights Of The East, Of The Sword, Or Of The Eagle

Jim Tresner, 33°, Grand Cross

Green predominates in the regalia of the Fifteenth Degree. The cordon is of green watered silk. The apron is lined and bordered in green, and the regalia includes green kid gloves and a green plume in a black, broad-brimmed hat (photo right). Green symbolizes the immortality of the human soul and the transcendent nature of Masonry.

The apron is red velvet. On the flap of the apron is a head upon two crossed swords. The image represents the duty of the Scottish Rite Mason to oppose and defeat arbitrary limitations on intellectual, spiritual, and political freedom. On the apron are three triangles, one inside the other, formed of chains with triangular links. They represent the three great limitations on or enemies of the human intellect—tyranny, privilege, and superstition. Those three enemies of humanity are opposed by the three great virtues, represented by the three nested gold triangles on the jewel of the Degree. The triangles represent liberty, fraternity, and equality as well as law, order, and subordination.

The regalia also includes a sash, edged and fringed with gold. At the end of the sash is embroidered an arched bridge on which are the letters L.D.P. The original meaning of the letters is *Liberté de Passer* (Liberty of Passage) and Pike adds *Liberté de Penser* (Liberty of Thought). To be true and complete, liberty must include both the body and the mind—one must be free to move, to do, and to think.

That liberty must be fought for, and the battle is not always obvious. It's clear in those rare instances, such as World War II, where political aggression and abominable disregard of humanity are blatant. But impositions on liberty are seldom so obvious. They frequently disguise themselves in noble-sounding motives. A school board removes *Romeo and Juliet*, or *The Wizard of Oz*, or *Huckleberry Finn* from the school library because they offend one group or another. (And isn't it noble not to give offense?) An employer attempts to control the activities of its employees outside the workplace. (Surely it's a noble thing to preserve the "right image"?) A state passes legislation to make people do "what's good for them." (Because, left to their own devices, they would do what they wanted, not what's best.) Few things seem so typical of society as its desire to take

decisions out of the hands of individuals. But if a man cannot make meaningful decisions, he is not free.

From the sash hangs a silver trowel, symbolic of the legend that the operative masons who rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem worked with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. It is, as well, a powerful warning that we must always be ready to defend what has already been built, even as we try to build further.

Two great lessons are taught by the Degree. The first is that liberty is achieved slowly and by painful steps. It comes no more quickly than a nation or an individual is ready for it. Even then, it is a constant struggle to maintain it. The second is that honor and integrity are absolute, not relative or convenient. The world has often approved of dishonorable acts. Governments have even required dishonorable acts (consider the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850). The Mason must hold himself to a higher standard.

It's interesting to speculate as to why the Temple of Zerubbabel enters into the Scottish Rite system. After all, the story of the building of the Temple is complete—the symbolism that the building of the Temple represents the building both of our individual lives and of the society around us has played out nicely. Why this intrusion of the Second Temple? It may be merely a matter of moving us forward through history. But Pike was seldom concerned with chronology in the Degrees—his pattern of organization was mythic, not chronological.

Perhaps the purpose is to warn us that, no matter how carefully and skillfully we build, nor how holy or altruistic our intention, we are still building in the world, and the world has a habit of tearing down what others build. It may be a warning that the task of building our lives is never simple and straightforward. There are setbacks. Each of us can experience frustration and emotional exhaustion. Each of us may have all our plans changed by forces we cannot foresee or control. More than once, we may have to start building again from the ground up. The death of a loved one, changing economic conditions, wars, even our own continuing maturation and growing insight may send us back to the drawing board.

But we have the assurance that we can always rebuild. In the words of the American poet Oliver Wendell Holmes from "The Chambered Nautilus," "Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul." And we can build better than before.

The Scottish Rite Journal - March 2000



Jim Tresner is Director of the Masonic Leadership Institute and Editor of The Oklahoma Mason. A frequent contributor to the Scottish Rite Journal and its book review editor, Illustrious Brother Tresner is also a volunteer writer for The Oklahoma Scottish Rite Mason and a video script consultant for the National Masonic Renewal Committee. He is the Director of the Thirty-third Degree Conferral Team and Director of Work at the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as well as a life member of the Scottish Rite Research Society, author of the popular anecdotal biography Albert Pike, The Man Beyond the Monument, and a member of the steering committee of the Masonic Information Center. Ill. Tresner was awarded the Grand Cross, the Scottish Rite's highest honor, during the Supreme Council's October 1997 Biennial Session.





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CONTACT RICHARD MASCH 360-471-7972



Contact Brother Scot Sageser: 360-525-0029
or
visit www.srsfwa.org

DID YOU KNOW??? SRSFWA GRANTS OVER \$400,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS ANNUALLY!!!

Master Craftsman Program



SCOTTISH+RITE MASTER+CRAFTSMAN

Overview

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman (SRMC) program is an exciting, by-mail correspondence course designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. Upon completion of each program listed below, the participant will be rewarded with a medal or pins to denote multiple completions. Currently, there are three programs that are meant to be taken in the following order:

- **Program I: *The Symbolic Lodge*** will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the “High Degrees” began to develop soon after formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike’s book, *Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*, along with Arturo de Hoyos’s *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* (3d ed.) will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.
- **Program II: *Scottish Rite Ritual and History*** consists of six lessons, utilizing the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, and *A Bridge to Light* (4th ed.) by Rex Hutchens, 33°, Grand Cross, as its textbooks.
- **Program III: *Scottish Rite Philosophy*** uses *Albert Pike’s Morals & Dogma, Annotated Edition*, by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross and returns to the ritual of the Scottish Rite to re-explore it on a deeper level, by looking for the moral lesson imparted in each degree and then applying that lesson to one’s everyday life. The course consists of 33 quizzes, grouped into 10 sections

Suggested Order of Programs and Their Associated Texts

1. **Master Craftsman: The Symbolic Lodge**
(1°, 2°, 3°, using *Albert Pike's Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*)
2. **Master Craftsman: Scottish Rite History and Ritual**
(4°–32°, using the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* and *A Bridge to Light*)
3. **Master Craftsman: Scottish Rite Philosophy**
(1°–32°, using *Morals and Dogma* and *A Bridge to Light*)

Master Craftsman Group Study

A group setting is far and away the best way to learn and experience all that these programs have to offer. This is simply because Freemasonry is not a solitary pursuit, but rather a social experience — we gather in Lodges together for a reason! In fact, social engagement while finding more light in Masonry can be (and often is) more rewarding than simply answering some questions about a reading assignment. This is because you are learning not only about yourself through the ritual and its symbolism, but about others and their unique relationship to the deep philosophies and mysteries that are contained in the material, too. A group can be as big or as small as you like. There are no minimum requirements to start a study group, and anyone can be the catalyst that starts one up. You also set the pace. Go as fast, or as slow as you would like. You can meet once a week or once a month. Your schedules will dictate the best calendar. It can also be as formal or as casual as you'd like. Does there need to be set meeting dates, or will you meet whenever everyone has finished the next reading assignment/quiz? Your meeting place can be someone's house, a conference room, or a comfortable booth in the neighborhood diner or tavern. The key with all of this is to have fun, and to engage each other about the meanings of Freemasonry and life itself. In fact, using that goal, finishing the programs becomes a distant second to connecting with other people who have similar interests and learning through more about each other through the shared experience of conversation and fellowship.

To help the interested group seeker or leader, we have put together a short Group Leader Guide that helps navigate the logistics and details of forming a study group. If you are interested in this, please contact us and we will be happy to share it with you free of charge, and to assist you in any way we can with the formation and operation of your own study group.

Questions about the Program?

Contact Brother Hank Carman 360-731-6620

IN Brief

We are still looking for a good, clean picture or clipart of the 32nd Degree Camp. Please forward to Scot Sageser @ ssageser@gmail.com if you have such.

MASTERCRAFTSMAN COURSE: MASTER CRAFTSMAN COURSE IS UP AND RUNNING. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE SYMBOLIC LODGE PROGRAM: CONTACT BR. HANK CARMAN 360-731-6620

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF A DEGREE TEAM FOR THE UPCOMING REUNION PLEASE CONTACT TOM DANGELO 360-271-2055 OR CORTEZIT@REAGAN.COM

*WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR INTERESTED BROTHERS FOR DEGREE PARTS. PLEASE REMEMBER THERE ARE MANY "NON SPEAKING" PARTS THAT NEED TO BE FILLED THAT DON'T REQUIRE A TON OF MEMORY WORK. THIS MAY BE A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE TO START OUT.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES SHIVER 32ND, MASTER OF THE ROYAL SECRET, FOR COMPLETING THE MC III PROGRAM. JIM IS THE FIRST OF OUR BROTHERS TO COMPLETE THIS COURSE, WHICH ILLUMINATES THE CRAFT DEGREE'S. WE ARE ALSO GLAD TO HEAR THE BROTHER SHIVER IS OFF OF SWING SHIFT AND ABLE TO ATTEND MORE OF OUR FUNCTIONS!

(BROTHERS WE NEED YOU TO SUBMIT INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE VALLEY AND THE SCOTTISH RITE FOR THIS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER, YES!!! THAT MEANS YOU!!!)

VALLEY CONTACTS:

VALLEY ADDRESS: 878 5TH AVE. BREMERTON WA. 98337- WEBSITE
WWW.BREMERTONVALLEYSR.ORG

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VMAP PROGRAM CHAIR: SCOT SAGESER, SSAGESER@GMAIL.COM , 360-525-0029

VMAP: HERE'S THE BEEF.....

VMAP Participating Valleys – 2016



Below is a listing of Valleys who have enrolled in the Supreme Council, 33°, SJ's **Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP)** for 2016.

These Valleys have demonstrated their commitment to improve the fraternal experience of its members through enhanced recruitment, new member engagement, degree proficiency, education, philanthropy, and administration.

Thank you, Brethren!

ORIENT/VALLEY(S)	ORIENT/VALLEY(S)
Alabama	Montana
Birmingham	Billings
Dothan	Butte
Huntsville	Great Falls
Mobile	Helena

Montgomery	Livingston
Shoals Valley	Western Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Anchorage	Alliance
Juneau	Hastings
Ketchikan	Lincoln
	Omaha
Arizona	Nevada
Phoenix	Las Vegas
	Reno
Arkansas	New Mexico
Fayetteville	Las Cruces
Jonesboro	Santa Fe
Little Rock	
California	North Carolina
Bakersfield	Asheville
Burlingame	Charlotte
Fresno	Greensboro
Long Beach	New Bern
Los Angeles	Raleigh
Oakland	Wilmington
Orange County	Winston-Salem
Palm Springs	
Pasadena	North Dakota
Sacramento	Bismarck
San Bernardino	Fargo
San Diego	Grand Forks
San Francisco	Langdon
San Jose	
Santa Barbara	Oklahoma
Santa Rosa	

Stockton	Guthrie
Ventura	McAlester
Colorado	Tulsa
Colorado Springs/Pueblo	Oregon
Denver	Baker
Grand Junction	Coos Bay
District of Columbia	Eugene
Washington	Klamath Falls
Florida	Medford
Jacksonville	Pendleton
Key West	Portland
Lake Worth	Roseburg
Miami	Salem
Ocala	Puerto Rico
Orlando	Arecibo
Panama City	Caguas
Pensacola	Cayey
Tallahassee	Humacao
Tampa	Mayaguez
Georgia	Ponce
Albany	San Juan
Atlanta	South Carolina
Augusta	Aiken
Columbus	Charleston
Macon	Columbia
Savannah	Greenville
Hawaii	Rock Hill
Honolulu	Spartanburg
Kahului	South Dakota
	Aberdeen
	Deadwood

Idaho	Sioux Falls
Boise	Yankton
Coeur d'Alene	Taiwan & China
Lewiston	Taipei
Pocatello	
Iowa	Tennessee
Cedar Rapids	Chattanooga
Clinton	Knoxville
Davenport	Memphis
	Nashville
Japan & Korea	Texas
Kitanakagusuku	Austin
Seoul	Dallas
Tokyo	El Paso
Kansas	Fort Worth
Fort Leavenworth	Galveston
Fort Scott	Houston
Northeast Kansas	Lubbock
Salina	Rio Grande Valley
Topeka	San Antonio
Wichita	Waco
Kentucky	Utah
Covington	Salt Lake City
Lexington	
Louisville	Virginia
Madisonville	Alexandria
	Danville
Louisiana	Lynchburg
Baton Rouge	Newport News
Lake Charles	Norfolk
Monroe	Portsmouth

New Orleans	Richmond
Shreveport	Roanoke
Maryland	Washington
Baltimore	Bellingham
Cumberland	Bremerton
Frederick	Everett
Salisbury	Kelso
Southern Maryland	Kennewick
Susquehanna	Olympia
Minnesota	Seattle
Duluth	Spokane
Hibbing	Tacoma
Minneapolis	Vancouver
Rochester	Walla Walla
St. Paul	Wenatchee
Mississippi	Yakima
Corinth	West Virginia
Gulfport	Charleston
Hattiesburg	Clarksburg
Jackson	Huntington
Meridian	Logan
Missouri	Martinsburg
Columbia	Morgantown
Joplin	Parkersburg
Kansas City	Wheeling
St. Joseph	Wyoming
Saint Louis	Cheyenne
	Lander

Questions about this list or VMAP in general?

**CONTACT VMAP CHAIR- REPRESENTATIVE: SCOT SAGESER
360-692-6550 OR SSAGESER@GMAIL.COM**

THE BEST OF US.....

Born and raised in Enid, Oklahoma, Jim Tresner holds Ph.D. in communications.

He is a perpetual member of Garfield Lodge #501 in Enid, Oklahoma, Past Master and perpetual member of Albert Pike Lodge #162 in Guthrie, Oklahoma, a member of the Oklahoma Lodge of Research, a member of Oklahoma College, Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederalis and Past Sovereign Master of Father Murrow Chapter, Allied Masonic Degrees, and is Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.



He was awarded the Medal of Honor by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, has served as the Grand Lodge Official Spokesman on matters of Freemasonry and Religion since 1993, and has served on numerous Grand Lodge Committees. He is the Publications Editor for the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and the editor of the state Masonic magazine. He is an honorary Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas and was awarded the Grand Master's Medal of Honor by the Grand Lodge of Kansas.

In the Scottish Rite, Brother Tresner holds the 33rd, the Supreme Council Certificate of Honor, and the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor. He is Director of the Work for the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple, and the book review editor for the Scottish Rite Journal.

A member of the York Rite, he was made a Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment. He was the 1995 Anson Jones Lecturer for the Texas Lodge of Research, the 1995 Pires Lecturer for the Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies, and the 1996 Lecturer for the Iowa Lodge of Research. In 1997 he delivered the Jack Ball Lecture for Albert Pike Lodge #1169, San Antonio. In 1999 he was elected to membership in the Society of Blue Friars, an international organization of Masonic writers and researchers. In 2001 he was awarded the Mackey Medal for Excellence in Masonic Research by the Scottish Rite Research Society.

In 2005, he received the Duane E. Anderson Medal for Excellence in Masonic Education from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. He serves on the Steering Committee and the Task Force of the Masonic Information Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

His books include *Vested in Glory: The Regalia of the Scottish Rite*; *Albert Pike: The Man Beyond the Monument*; *From Sacrifice to Symbol: The Story of Cornerstones and Stability Rites*; *The Craft's Noyse: Composers who were Freemasons*; *Further Light*; and, with Robert G. Davis, *A Shared Spirit: Freemasonry and the Native American Tradition*.

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE KANSAS CITY, MO.



WWW.SRKC.ORG

