

LAKE WORTH SCOTTISH RITE
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BULLETIN
September 2026



Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the Month, 6:30pm meal and 7:30pm Consistory Meeting
Location: 1896 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Ste. 200, West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Dress: Business attire (dress shirts, dress pants, jacket and tie) – please have your dues card

Sovereign Grand Commander Supreme
Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction of the United
States

Ill. James D. Cole, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General In
The Orient of Florida

Ill. Richard Hoover, 33°

Personal Representative to SGIG

Ill. Garry M. Paxinos, 33°

General Secretary

Ill. Roy D. Strohacker, 33°

Valley Treasurer

Ill. Ramon Voils, 33°

Administrative Assistant

Ill. Nat Smith, 33°

VALLEY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Master of Kadosh: Hon. Stephen Nelson, 32°, KCCH
Prior of Consistory: Hon. Gerald Strohacker 32°, KCCH
Commander of Kadosh: Hon. Evan Sobel, 32°, KCCH
Wise Master Chapter of Rose Croix: Hon. J Reeve Bright, 32°, KCCH
Ven. Master Lodge of Perfection: Hon. Al Flores, 32°, KCCH
Members at Large: Ill. Neil Stegall, 33°
Hon. C Grant Simmons, 32°, KCCH



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S DESK:

Brothers,

First, thank you to all the Brothers who helped make our annual picnic a success. Despite the less-than-ideal weather, we enjoyed lively conversations and had a great time. Many of our ladies also attended and readily helped wherever needed. The facility at John Prince Park was spacious, and the grill and work area was separated from the eating area, two different pavilions. I feel it would be worth using again.

The Reunion is right around the corner and the degree teams, I understand, are working hard and getting ready. Brothers who have travelled to other Valleys and those who have visited our reunions say our work stands out. I have not heard from the chef and kitchen crew as to the menu but I have no doubt the food will be plentiful and tasty.

The Feast of Tishri is coming up on September 24, 2026 and is an open consistory meeting. We really need everyone to make dinner reservations. Hon. Al Flores, 32°, KCCH, is handling the Feast this year and has assigned parts for the programs. Brothers, for those who don't recall, this Feast was mandatory that all Brothers attend. This is not followed as much as it used to be, but you should try and attend.

Supreme Council has mailed out due's notices, please pay and don't forget, if possible, to contribute the \$10 to the Children's Language program we have supported for years. Remember that Charity is on the top of the list for Masonry. So please donate to the Scottish Rite Children's Language Clinic when paying your dues or contribute when you can to this very worthy cause. By the way, this Charity is a 501C(3) and donations are tax deductible. Thank you for those who have included support in their dues payments.

DINNER RESERVATIONS:

My brothers, **REMEMBER YOU MUST, YOU MUST, YOU MUST** make reservations for all dinners being held. This has been a problem since I took over as General Secretary and some months we get a lot of calls and some months, we only get a few. The kitchen crew and I thank you in advance for calling or sending an e-mail.

BULLETIN BOOSTERS:

Roy Strohacker
Caroline Strohacker
Jerry Strohacker

Rob Gibbons
Robert Eustice
Scott Schwartzberg

Garry Kilby
Nat Smith
J. Reeve Bright

Gary Van Horn
Stephen Nelson
Garry Paxinos

Kristen Strohacker
Evan Sobel
Marla Jury
Larry Choman

Roy Hernandez, Jr.
Michael Gauger
Joel Case

Roy Hernandez, II
David Felty
Matthew Reuther

Bill Paxton
Samuel Berger
Michael Choman

Thanks Brothers and friends. Want to be a booster? Send the Valley \$10 and your name and we will add you to our list for the year.

A BROTHER NEVER WALKS ALONE,



ON EARTH OR IN THE CELESTIAL HOME ABOVE

ALL VALLEY DEATHS FOR 2026

Gene Veninga 12/31/25 Edwin Sprowl 04/2026 Ronald Geipel 07/20/26
Demetrious Kirkiles 07/28/26 Robert A. Maddox 06/24/26

“We cherish his memory here. We commend his spirit to God, who gave it. We consign his body to the earth.”

The * indicates this Brother’s death was reported since the last Bulletin.

SICKNESS AND/OR DISTRESS:

Brother David Felty and Bro. Kevin Gilbert have both had some hospital visits so please keep them in your prayers. Also, those who attended the picnic got to see Sister Caroline Strohacker who is out of the hospital after seven months. This proves prayers work and God listens.

RAFFLE:

Our raffle will be closing coming up at our October Consistory meeting. A few tickets are available for this fantastic ‘BIG’ flag that holds challenge coins. It even holds them upright, not falling forward in the slot. Thanks to Hon. Rob Gibbons, 32°, KCCH for coming up with this fundraising idea. All profit goes to the Children Language Clinic since the flag was donated.



REUNION CANDIDATES:

The Valley is processing two additional applications, and the names will be sent out in a separate e-mail of all candidates very soon.

JOKES OF THE MONTH:

My GPS told me to follow my dreams—now I'm lost twice.

I tried to lose weight, but it keeps finding me.

My wallet is like an onion—opening it makes me cry.

What is the best thing to put into a pie?
Your teeth.



SCOTTISH RITE QUOTES BY ALBERT PIKE:

That which causes us trials shall yield us triumph: and that which makes our hearts ache shall fill us with gladness. The only true happiness is to learn, to advance, and to improve: which could not happen unless we had commenced with error, ignorance, and imperfection. We must pass through the darkness, to reach the light.

Albert Pike

DEGREE DIRECTORS CORNER:

Still looking for Brothers to participate in the upcoming and future Reunions. Get some acting experience before you go to Hollywood (lol), call Ill. Ramon Voils, 33°, the Degree Director at 561- 797-5133

VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

If you are still not getting the Bulletin by e-mail contact the Valley Office and let us check your e-mail address or add yours to our list. We have added all new Brothers from the 208th Reunion currently to the list.

EDUCATION SECTION:

The Feast of Tishri is a central Scottish Rite Masonic celebration commemorating the dedication of King Solomon's Temple, the Israelites' wilderness journey, and a time of thanksgiving and fraternal unity.

Historical and Symbolic Significance

The Feast of Tishri, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles or Sukkot in Jewish tradition, occurs on the 15th day of Tishri, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. It commemorates three key events: the forty-year wandering of the Israelites in the wilderness, the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple, and the harvest season as a time of thanksgiving. Scottish Rite Masonry adopted this feast in 1866 as the Feast Day of the Lodge of Perfection, emphasizing moral reflection, brotherhood, and gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe.

Masonic Observance

In the Scottish Rite, the Feast of Tishri is closely tied to the Fourteenth Degree, symbolizing the spiritual and moral construction of the Temple within the hearts of Masons. The celebration includes ceremonial readings, prayers, and a banquet where members reaffirm their commitment to fraternity, equality, and unity. The feast also serves as a Masonic Thanksgiving, allowing members to express gratitude for personal and communal blessings.

Rituals and Traditions

The observance often begins with the opening of the Lodge, followed by readings that explain the significance of the Feast and the obligations of the Fourteenth Degree. Members participate in symbolic acts reflecting the dedication of Solomon's Temple, including the allegorical construction and furnishing of the Temple as a metaphor for personal and communal moral development. The event concludes with a banquet, traditional toasts, and fellowship, reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood.

Contemporary Celebrations

Scottish Rite Valleys across the United States, including Washington, DC, Mobile, Long Beach, Honolulu, and Baltimore, host annual Feast of Tishri events. These gatherings feature formal attire, family-style meals, keynote speakers, and opportunities for reflection on Masonic principles such as peace, harmony, and service to humanity. Attendance is typically restricted to Scottish Rite Masons with advance reservations, emphasizing the ceremonial and fraternal nature of the feast.

Spiritual and Ethical Lessons

The Feast of Tishri encourages introspection, moral accountability, and the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. It draws parallels to Jewish observances of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, highlighting themes of repentance, forgiveness, and renewal. Through this celebration, Masons are reminded to cultivate human concord, uphold justice, and contribute positively to society, reflecting the enduring values of Freemasonry.

In summary, the Feast of Tishri in the Scottish Rite is a rich blend of historical commemoration, spiritual reflection, and fraternal fellowship, making it one of the most significant and symbolic events in the Masonic calendar.

***** VALLEY ACTIVITY CALENDAR *****

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 – Feast of Tishri, open meeting. Degree Director is Hon. Al Flores, 32°, KCCH. Hon. Flores will assign all parts.

Saturday & Sunday, October 17 and 18, 2026 – 209th Reunion at Bykota Lodge

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 – Consecration of class at open Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Election of Officers for 2027

No November Consistory meeting due to Thanksgiving

No December Consistory meeting due to Christmas

NOTE: Any additional Valley activities will be sent out on Mail Chimp and if you like something added, call the office with the information.