

# C HATTIESBURG VALLEY COMMUNICATOR

January 2023

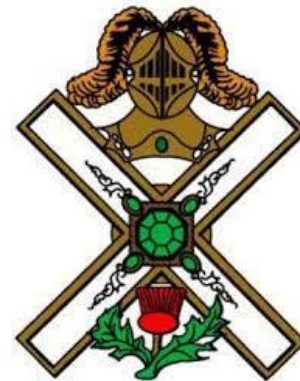
## Master Calendar

- 1.6.23 KSA Meeting #1/ Ex. Bd**
- 2.3.23 Robert Burns Dinner / Meeting of 33rds
- 3.3.23 Gordian Knot
- 4.1.23 Gulfport Spring Reunion
- 4.7.23 Cerm. of Rem. and Renewal
- 4.9.23 Sunrise Academy of Reflection
- 5.5.23 Black Hat Ceremony / KSA Meeting #2
- 6.2.23 Fst. of Consist / Ex. Bd
- 7.7.23 Gordian Knott Bus. Meeting / KSA Meeting #3
- 8.4.23 Fst. of Manifesto
- 8.21-23.23 Biennial Session – Washington DC
- 9.1.23 Guest Speaker / Proposition Night
- 9.8-9.23 Honors Weekend - Tupelo
- 10.6.23 Feast of Tishri / KSA Meeting #4
- 10.7.23 Gulfport Fall Reunion
- 11.3.23 Election / Black Hat / Annual Awards
- 12.1.23 Installation / Christmas

## Sickness and Distress

Bro. Freddie Zehner - arthritis, pain, and covid  
 Bo. Michael Baker – wife recently hospitalized for fluid  
 Unspoken Bro. - undergoing cancer treatment

*Please contact Chaplain Gerald Griffin with any reports. 601-543-7219*



## Lost in the Quarry

We have not seen or heard from you and miss you! If you have any information about these Brethren, please contact the Secretary.

David Bassett	Stacey Williams
Ryan Boyd	Victor Mann
Wayde Byrd	Joe Parkman
Brian Childs	Bodhi Ronin
Mark Forte	David Schwandt
Joseph Galey	Tim Schwandt
Russell Hembree	David Earl Stewart
Michael Hilbun	Harold Whiteman
Paul Jones	

## Birthdays

William Stacy Collins	1-Jan
Bobby Reece Hebert	3-Jan
James Mark Mc Carver	6-Jan
Ricky Leonard Kestner	8-Jan
David Eugene Eubanks	8-Jan
Danny Leo Smith	12-Jan
Edward Glynn Holland	15-Jan
Earl Dempsey Seals	15-Jan
Arange Grice	16-Jan
Robert Carl Harrington	21-Jan
Alex Daniel Dye	23-Jan
Johnny Wayne Reid	25-Jan
Marcos Machado	25-Jan
David Leland Lee	28-Jan
Bobby Ralph Ainsworth	29-Jan
James Lamar Gandy	29-Jan

### Online Educational Fellowship

\*\*\* Updates pending in the New Year



### Degree Practices

\*\*\* Updates pending in the New Year

### Education Volunteers

January	Lamar Sullivan
February	Matthew Clark
March	Christopher Rounsevell
April	None - Other Activities
May	Lester Ivy
June	Arthur Patrick
July	Mike McKenzie
August	Gabe Churchwell
September	Lane Dossett
October	Rex Hasty
November	Open
December	Open



### Message from the Venerable Master

#### A NEW YEAR, A NEW OPPORTUNITY

To all members and your families. I trust you welcomed in the New Year with your own family tradition and made those New Year Resolutions. I wish each and every one a successful, prosperous and joyous New Year.

Brethren we have a new year before us, and it is filled with numerous opportunities. In fact, we have 365 new opportunities. We can look upon the past 12 months and ask ourselves, did we accomplish anything? Did we achieve our goals? Did we make improvements? Did we make a difference?

Brother Teddy Roosevelt commented - "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."

Let us look at the New Year from that perspective. Let's look at the past year and answer those questions above. If we are not satisfied with the answers or results let us put forth the effort to make positive contributions to our Valley this year.

Working together we will make a difference.

Arthur Patrick  
Venerable Master



### News & Announcements

Our Supreme Council commemorative tiler's sword is in hand! Our beautiful limited edition sword is the fifth one in the nation. Thank you to our donors who helped raise \$1,500 for the rebuilding of the temple campaign: Art Patrick, Lane Dossett, Rex Hasty, Joe Vawters, Larry Robinson, Lester Ivy, Noel Rogers, Christopher Rounsaville, Gabe Churchwell, Leon Rackley, Lamar Sullivan, Tom Cumberland, Jason Jefcoat, and Michael Baker. A donor's plaque is being made, and wall mounting hardware to display the sword has been ordered.

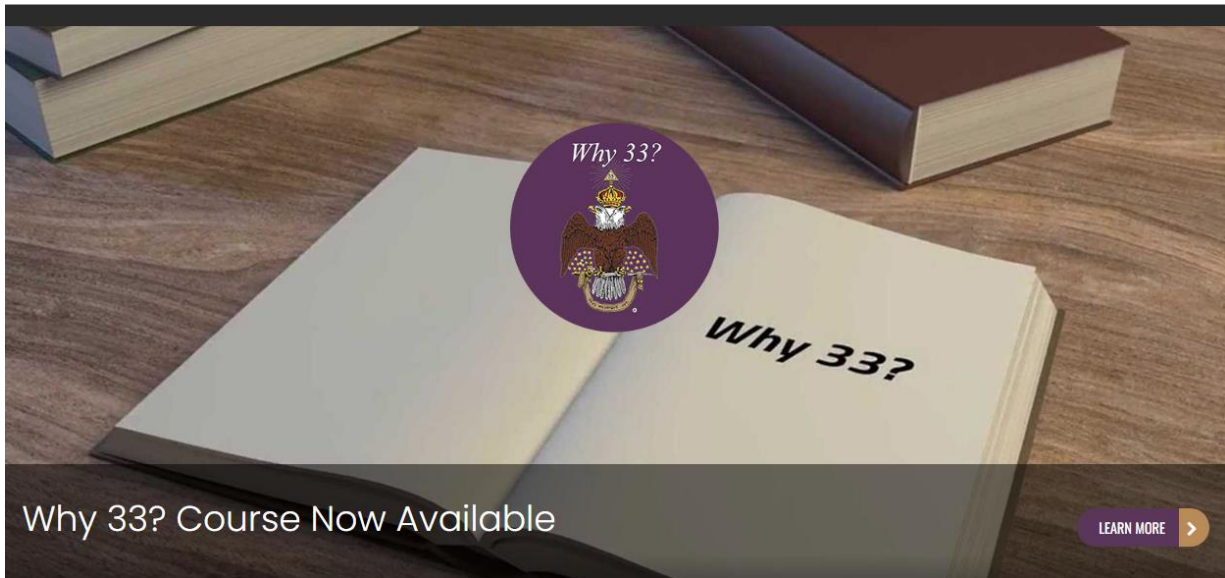


## News & Announcements

The Supreme Council's new online learning platform, Master Craftsman Online College & Leadership Academy, is up and running with two new courses available, which are in addition to the prior three courses. The Master's Steps is a free introductory course, and Why 33? is a \$5 mini course that covers our organization's history and answers commonly asked questions. Both are great introductory courses for new Scottish Rite Masons. However, you do not have to be a Scottish Rite Mason to enroll in any of the classes; encourage all Master Masons to seek further light and understanding of our great work.



Master Craftsman Online College & Leadership Academy



### Why 33?

Why 33?

1 Sections 1 Videos 0 Assignments 4 Handouts 1 Tests

This course is designed to give a Scottish Rite Mason a deeper understanding of basic history and a working knowledge of the organizational structure of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction-Mother Supreme Council of the World. The course will also answer many frequently asked questions about the Scottish Rite, giving a Scottish Rite Mason a broader grasp of the fraternity. Though the course is designed with a newer Scottish Rite Mason in mind, it can also be considered a review or refresher course for experienced Scottish Rite Masons.

[VIEW DETAILS](#) [ENROLL NOW](#)



### The Master's Steps

The Master's Steps: A free mini-course that will help Master Masons get started on their path to Masonic education.

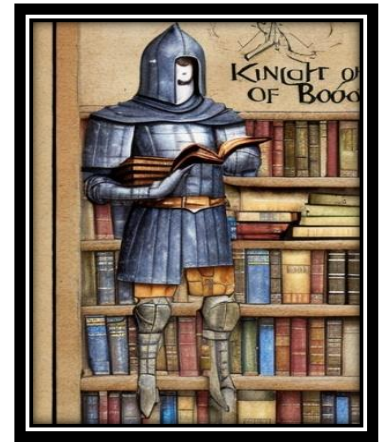
3 Sections 1 Videos 0 Assignments 17 Handouts 3 Tests

As a Master Mason, how much do you know about the basic teachings of your Blue Lodge? In this mini-course, Master Masons will be quizzed on their existing knowledge of basic Masonic History, Ritual and Symbolism. Whether you have been newly raised or are a Mason with decades of experience, this course will test what you know about Freemasonry already. It will also determine if you are ready to proceed to some of the more advanced courses in the Master Craftsman Online College.

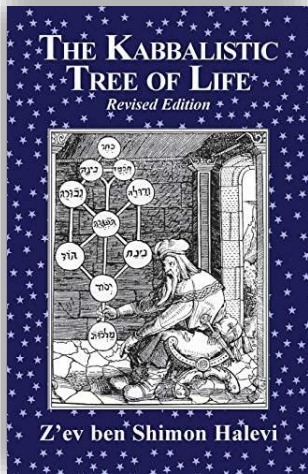
[VIEW DETAILS](#) [ENROLL NOW](#)



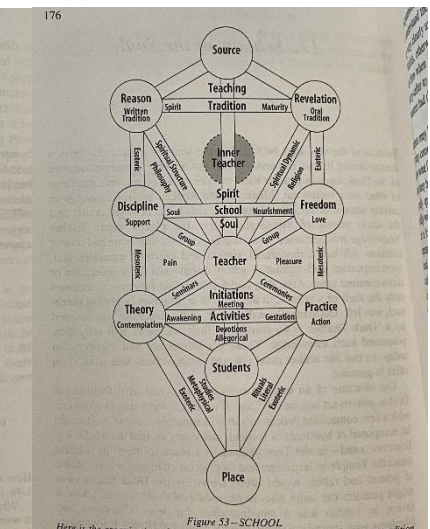
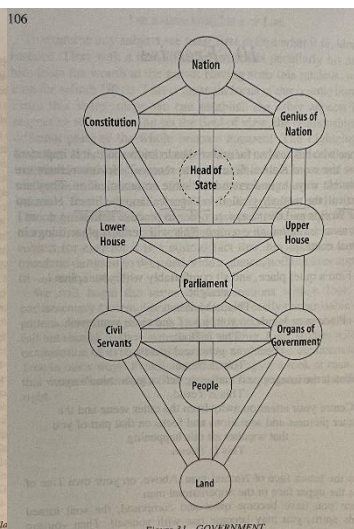
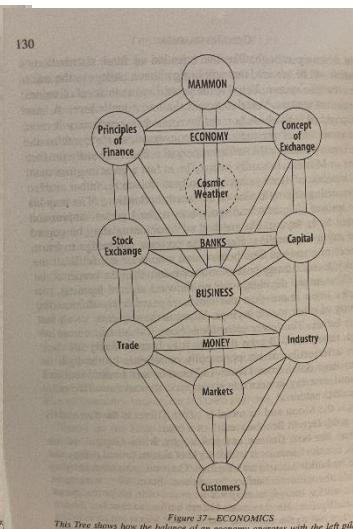
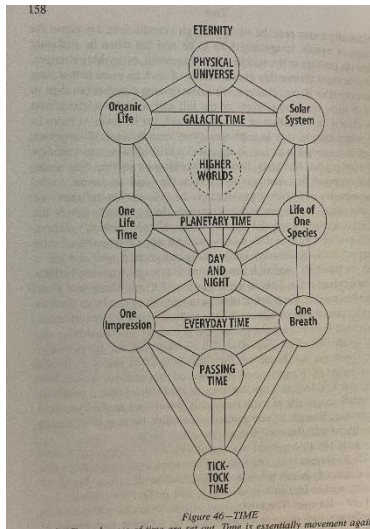
**Knights of the Bookcase**  
by  
**Lane Dossett, 33° P.R.**



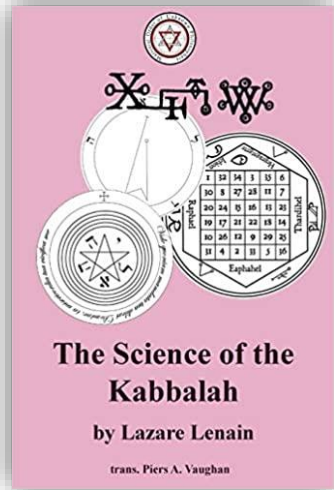
If you've read a Masonic-related book recently, send us a review! In the Fourth Degree we are introduced to the Kabbalah as a system of mystical thought with a note that its influences may be learned only by study, and that a full understanding of Freemasonry is impossible without familiarity with the Kabbalah. This rings true to me after recently finishing an article for the *Tresleboard* on the Brazen Pillars. Unfortunately, it's such a large topic that it is almost impenetrable for beginners. I remember many years ago finding it difficult to locate anyone to guide me, but such is not the case today, as educational materials have become more accessible, almost to the point of choice overload. Here is a review of a few books that I've recently read on the subject and my thoughts. When considering Kabbalist texts, it is important to consider that there are three basic types of literature, the theoretical, the meditative, and the magical.



The Kabbalistic Tree of Life by Z'ev ben Shimon Halevi is an excellent place to start for beginners. It is written from a Masonic point of view and considers the wider application of Kabbalistic thought to everyday life. I would award it one thumb up. It begins with a basic overview of the sefirot and their application to man. The book excels, in my view, for its wider application beyond theological concepts, and extends to life in general and the universal application of the Tree of Life, which I believe is the Scottish Rite's general purpose for introducing the Kabbalah. Examples include an explanation of time, economics, forms of government, and schools, just to name a few, as shown by the sample graphs below.



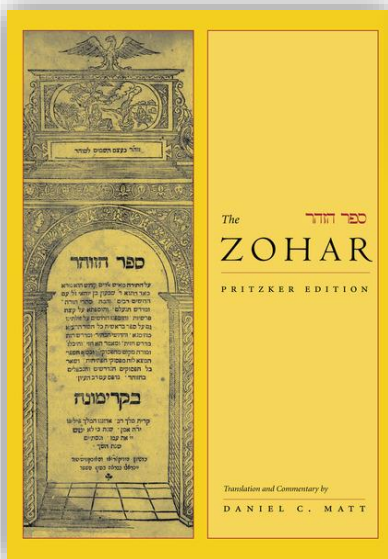
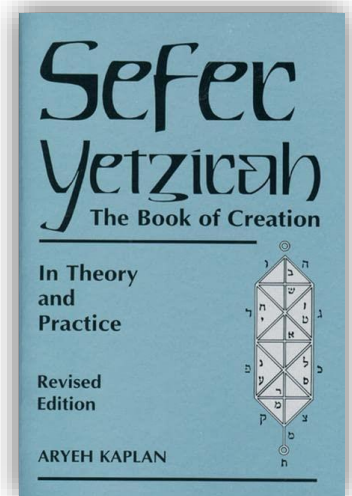
Knights of the Bookcase Continued...



The Science of the Kabbalah by Lazare Lenain, translated by Piers A. Vaughn, is a currently trending book in esoteric circles. Originally published in 1823, it has been recently made available in English. It is devoted almost exclusively to magic/magick aspects of the Shem Ha-Mephorash, angelic

sigils, and astrology. I would rate this book one thumb down. While the book contains a very detailed description of these items, in my view, it does little if anything to add to a general knowledge of actual Kabbalah, as intended by the Scottish Rite. Approximately 50% of the book consists of tables and graphs related to the Shem.

The Sefer Yetzirah extends back into antiquity, perhaps beyond the written era into oral Hebraic tradition. While there are numerous versions and interpretations of this text, this version by Kaplan appears to be the current favored edition, as it provides a good, comprehensive analysis of the multiple versions of the text. I would rate it one thumbs up. This book falls into the meditative group, and is principally focused on the symbolism of the Hebrew letters and gematria. This is very much a scholarly book on linguistics, and should be approached only by those interested in the Hebrew language and its mystical significance. I would not consider this a beginner book.



Like the Sefer Yetzirah, there are numerous interpretations of the Zohar, ranging from a single book to a twenty-three volume encyclopedic set. As a foundational

Kabbalistic text, I embarked on this journey by first travelling to the University of Southern Mississippi library to compare the various texts. The 12 Volume Stanford University Pritzker Edition immediately stood out as the most recent, comprehensive and easy to work with edition (left to right reading vs. Hebraic right to left, back to front). The Pritzker edition is heavily annotated and oriented for the English reader. The Zohar is considered an early mystic Hebraic commentary on the Torah, and the volumes of this text are accordingly organized in this way. In the Kabbalah, there are considered to be four meanings of biblical texts, which are the literal, allusive, allegorical, and mystical. These books, based on the Old Testament, are anything but a

literal commentary. While I have not yet completed the whole set (which can be purchased in individual volumes), it is among the most meaningful books I have ever read. As a lifelong biblical student, this has dramatically increased my appreciation of the Old Testament and the depth of Hebraic mystic thought. I would rate this as two thumbs up, with the caveat that it is a very academic, expensive work for an advanced reader. You can spend weeks on the simple phrase "In the beginning." The first volume will forever change your view of the Masonic initiatic experience of bringing a candidate to Light..



## 2023 Officers

Scottish Rite



Hattiesburg Valley

### Lodge of Perfection 4° – 14°

Venerable Master	Art Patrick, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	Chris Rounsaville, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Jay Morris, 32°
Expert	Lester Ivy, 32° KCCH
Captain of the Host	Xerxes Herrington, 32° KCCH
Tiler	Wayne Barrow, 32°

### Chapter of Rose Croix 15° – 18°

Wise Master	Rex Hasty, 32° KCCH
Senior Warden	Michael McKenzie, 32°
Junior Warden	Dewayne Mitchell, 32°

### Council of Kadosh 19° – 30°

Commander	Shelton Dickerson, 32° KCCH
1st Lt. Commander	Lamar Sullivan, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander	LaDean Byrd, 32°

### Consistory 31° – 32°

Master of Kadosh	Michael Baker, 32° KCCH
Preceptor	Nick Verner, 32°
Prior	Matthew Clark, 32°

### Executive Board Members

<b>Personal Rep.</b>	Lane Dossett, 33°
<b>Personal Rep. Emeritus</b>	Joe Vawters, 33° GC
<b>Treasurer</b>	Xerxes Herrington, 32° KCCH
<b>Secretary</b>	Larry Robinson, 32° KCCH

### **Heads of the Bodies**

<i>Venerable Master</i>	Art Patrick, 32° KCCH
<i>Wise Master</i>	Rex Hasty, 32° KCCH
<i>Comm.</i>	Shelton Dickerson, 32° KCCH
<i>Master of Kadosh</i>	Michael Baker, 32° KCCH

### **Almoner**

Jiles Grice, 33°

### **Directors of the Work**

<i>4th</i>	Jason Jefcoat, 32° KCCH
<i>14th</i>	Michael Baker, 32° KCCH
<i>18th</i>	Jay Morris, 32°

### **Membership**

Rex Hasty, 32° KCCH

### **VMAP Chairman**

Chris Rounsaville, 32° KCCH

### **Education Chairman**

Art Patrick, 32° KCCH

### **Kn. of St. A. Chiefton**

Michael McKenzie, 32°

### **Chaplain/Prelate**

Gerald Griffin, 32°

### Valley Ambassadors

Beaumont	Art Patrick	601-508-2978
Bowie	Xerxes Herrington	703-341-9588
Bunker Hill	Larry Robinson	601-603-0139
Carly	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Ellisville	Duane Mitchell	601-433-5229
Enon	Shane White	601-689-7784
Fairmont	Lester Ivy	601-466-0678
Hattiesburg	Rex Hasty	601-658-2048
Hub City	Rex Hasty	601-658-2048
JM Bradley	Jason Jefcoat	601-580-4857
Leakesville	Chris Rounsaville	601-525-7697
Liberty	Kenny Willingham	601-600-5122
Lucedale	Dickey Dickerson	601-947-2293
Moses Cook	Joe Vawters	601-798-1501
Mt. Carmal	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Mystic Tie	Jay Morris	901-247-8028
Ovett	Jason Jefcoat	601-580-4857
Petal	Lane Dossett	601-543-5273
Richton	Shane White	601-689-7784
Sanford	Bobby Hebert	601-517-3261
Sherrard Byrd	Tom Cumberland	601-463-2485
St. Alban	Jiles Grice	601-731-2295
Summit	Kenny Willingham	601-600-5122

### Links

GroupMe Group Texting:

[https://groupme.com/join\\_group/68986319/O14jIKX2](https://groupme.com/join_group/68986319/O14jIKX2)

Valley Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hattiesburgsr>

Orient Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/msscottishrite>

Orient Website

<https://scottishriteitems.org/>

Online Petition

<https://scottishrite.jotform.com/212843415672961>

### Volunteer Help Wanted

Social Media Manager / Content Creators

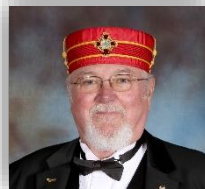
### Candidate Proposals

SEC. 7. Any qualified person residing within the territorial jurisdiction of this Supreme Council may be **proposed** at any Stated Meeting of a Body under its jurisdiction by proposition in writing, signed by one member and seconded by another, also in writing. Such proposition may be made without the knowledge of the person proposed. A Body may, by its bylaws, require candidates to apply for Degrees by petition in writing.

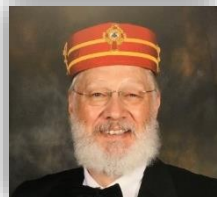
### Officers



Art Patrick, 32° KCCH  
Venerable Master  
601-508-2978



Larry Robinson, 32° KCCH  
General Secretary  
601-603-0139



Rex Hasty, 32° KCCH  
Wise Master  
601-658-2048



Lane Dossett, 33°  
Personal Representative  
601-543-5273

Dickie Dickerson, 32° KCCH  
Commander  
601-947-2293



Michael Baker, 32° KCCH  
Master of Kadosh  
601-323-6303



Xerxes Herrington, 32° KCCH  
Treasurer  
703-341-9588