

THE VALLEY OF PHILADELPHIA

# the Double Eagle

*the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*



*in the Cradle of Liberty since 1857*

Honorable Mention- "Brother Franklin Award" – 2005-06-11-13

October 2017

*Fall Communication, Convocation & Assembly  
Friday, October 27, 2017*



**Pennsylvania Freemasonry's Best Kept Secret**



*Our October Meeting is on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>?*

*Not the 20<sup>th</sup>? Wait a minute!*

*That's the FOURTH Friday, we meet on the THIRD Friday!*

*What gives?*

*Due to a scheduling conflict on the part of the Masonic Temple, we've been asked to move our October meeting night. Not to worry. We'll still have all that great Scottish Rite fellowship you know and love. We still have a Class of Candidates, and we're still presenting some best ritualistic work in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Just be sure to get your dinner reservation in by the October 19<sup>th</sup> deadline! Also happening this Fall. . .*



*The historic Joint Rendezvous with the Valley of Chicago! It happens on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Officers, Members and Fall Class of the Valley of Chicago will be traveling here to gather with us. The Officers of Benjamin Franklin and other members of the Cast, will present the 32<sup>o</sup>, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret. Previous to that, a Cast of Brethren from the Valley of Chicago will present the 19<sup>o</sup>, Brothers of the Trail.*

*We are expecting a number of visitors from other Valleys attending this meeting in addition to our own Brethren and Ladies and those visiting from Chicago. It will be very important to be sure that everyone gets their reservations in by the November 9<sup>th</sup> deadline. Priority will be given to Valley of Philadelphia and Valley of Chicago members, but, we've already had inquiries from Brethren from other surrounding area Valleys. Be sure to get in as soon as you are able; following our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.*



**Philadelphia Lodge  
of Perfection, 14°**

**Ill. Michael D. McKee, 33°  
Thrice Potent Master**

**DeJoinville Council,  
Princes of Jerusalem, 16°**

**Yasser A. Al-Khatib, 32° MSA  
Sovereign Prince**



Dear Brothers in the Craft:

I hope this message finds you well.

The Valley of Philadelphia has allowed us to meet new friends as in some cases form a lifelong bond.

In memory of one such Freemason, Illustrious Charles "Chuck" Myers, I have a request for all our members.

Come out and enjoy the brotherhood of the Valley of Philadelphia and make a positive impact by learning the lessons of the degrees.

The reason I mention Brother Chuck is because he was a great man who always had a kind word and a smile. He was the embodiment of the AASR values.

If you see someone sitting alone be a good Brother, sit with him and welcome him.

If you are new to the Valley, come up and introduce yourself to any of the Valley officers and begin that friendship.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Michael D. McKee  
Thrice Potent Master

Dear Illustrious Sirs and Brethren,

I am looking forward to greet you, your ladies and our new candidates at the October 2017 reunion. I look forward to this for two reasons. First, the family atmosphere is a signature quality of our Valley. It has been the driving force behind attendance at our reunions and became even more evident at our last Valley picnic. The tremendous support that our Council received from the brethren and ladies has left a mark on me. Your help has made this event enjoyable in many different ways that I cannot simply explain with words. I can say however that your kindness, dedication, and service have further fueled my passion for the Scottish Rite. Once again, I am grateful to all those who assisted and joined us at the Valley Picnic. Thank you!

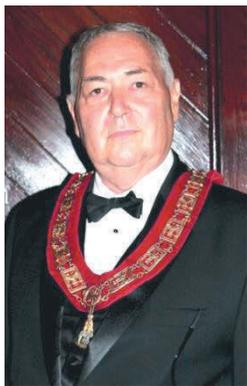
Second, our Valley's rich tradition and enormous history has always ignited a sense of pride and loyalty in me. The name of our Princes of Jerusalem Council has always intrigued me. Our Council was named after a very special man and Mason, Brother Chaillon de Jonville. In an ancient Scottish Rite certification dating back to October 26, 1764, Brother Chaillon is described as the Substitute General of the Royal Art, and Grand Master of the Lodges of the Grand Elect Perfect and Sublime Scottish Masons, under the Grand Orient of Paris. He received his appointment in 1762 from Louis of Bourbon, Count of Clermont, and Perpetual Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France, Stephen Morin, the founder of Scottish Rite in America, received his dispensation and patent from this Grand Orient of Paris in 1780. It is evident from the certification referenced above that Stephen Morin and Chaillon de Jonville collaborated on spreading the Scottish Rite in the New World. Imagine these two Brothers, 3705 miles apart in an internet-free world collaborating for the betterment of Freemasonry. Imagine the barriers and difficulties. Now look around and inside you and see the result.

To that effect, I urge you to join me in embracing the duty of preserving and passing the gift of Scottish Rite to other Freemasons. Imagine what would have happened if Thomas Edison or Christopher Columbus did not share their discoveries. Let us take on the mission of the Scottish Rite and the future of our Valley. A dear Brother once told me that Freemasonry is not good because it is old. Freemasonry is old because it is good.

Fraternaly,

Yasser Al-Khatib, 32° MSA  
Sovereign Prince





**Kilwinning Chapter  
of Rose Croix, 18°**

**Jon S. Solheim, 32°  
Most Wise Master**

*Across My Desk*



*Ill. Steven A. Morrison, 33°  
Valley Secretary*



I am not only proud but greatly honored to serve as Most Wise Master of the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree. Words cannot express my feelings at being recently nominated to receive the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree. It stands as the best moment of my Masonic career. Those feelings are elevated by my being found worthy by my peers, whom I regard as the most honorable group of men I have had the privilege to meet. There are so many individuals who work tirelessly to assure that our Valley and members flourish.

The Valley of Philadelphia makes every effort to organize our Reunions, Annual Elections, multiple Family Events, the Memorial Service, Workers Night, Mentoring Programs, placing birthday greeting calls, wellness calls and follow ups and much more to elevate the fellowship and experience of the Valley members.

In the hope that more can enjoy the great parts and people of our Valley I would like to propose a method to those that have the interest to re-unite or increase their involvement with our Valley. All you have to do is reach out and voice your interest to me or one of the many other brethren in our Valley. Email me at [solheimj@prodigy.net](mailto:solheimj@prodigy.net) and I promise you I will do all that I can to communicate with you, meet with you either individually or as a group or find someone closer to your home or home Lodge to open discussions on improving your involvement in our great Valley.

Finally, welcome to the new Fall Class of 2017 and thank you to our Fall Class Honoree: Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, Ill, Mark Haines, 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree.

My Dear Brethren:

I recently observed my 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Freemason; and in these past 30 years, I can honestly say that I've never lost interest in the fraternity. One of the things that has been a constant in my years in the Craft has been our painful issue of declining membership. We're not alone here folks. I belong to a church and to the VFW too and guess what? Same problem. I've lost count of how many articles I've read over the years whether it is in the *Short Talk Bulletin* or the last issue of the *VFW* magazine on the subject of what needs to happen to increase membership. Grand Lodges, including our own have established programs to try to reduce suspensions or increase membership through recruitment efforts like, one day classes for instance.

While I cannot argue with these issues as they are very real, I sometimes think that we're so preoccupied with them to the point causing of depression to the fraternity itself. I often wonder why we don't just enjoy what we have. Seriously. We have a great product. Remember my church and VFW post I talked about? Well, we still have services every Sunday and the Post canteen is open pretty much every day. Same thing in Freemasonry; we're still holding our meetings and other activities. Ask any member. They pay their dues because they want to belong. They attend the meetings because they want to be there. They go through chairs because they want to serve. They're enjoying their Freemasonry. I think that's the very thing we need to capitalize on. If we as Freemasons let the outside world know that we're having fun, building friendships, enjoying family activities and serving the community through any one of our charities, then perhaps people are going to say, 'Freemasonry? I need to look into that.' Desperation has never been a way to sell a product. But that's what we're doing. Think about it. 'Step right up. Fill out the petition. You can become a Mason, a 32° Mason and a Shriner, ALL IN THE SAME DAY!! We might as well add to that: 'Because we need you too!' or worse, 'Hurry! Before we're gone!' Now I have to ask you. Would you purchase something that wasn't worth the money or didn't work? No, no you wouldn't. We have a great product. We don't have to make Freemasonry great again. It always has been, still is today, and it is that greatness that should be carrying us onward. All we need do is let its 'Light' shine. I'm not saying devalue our principles or soften our philosophy. I'm saying we have something here that if we allow it to speak for itself through all of us that love and enjoy it so much; it can't help but prosper. We need to get the word out. Be more open about what we're doing and how much we enjoy being a part of it. How to do that is a discussion to be explored, and should be.

Well, that's just one Mason's opinion and you might not agree with me and that's okay. But from what I've seen in 30 years, crying about our issues and making desperation moves doesn't seem to work. I welcome your opinion.

**We're Here for You**



'We will strive to be a fraternity that fulfills our Masonic Obligation to care for our members.' Those aren't just words Brethren. We mean it.

If you are, or if you know of any Valley Brother, Valley Lady, or Widow that is hospitalized, shut-in or in some other distress; please contact our Valley Hospitaler, Bro. Norman R. Greene, III, 32nd MSA at: 610-275-1468 or at [nrgreene3@comcast.net](mailto:nrgreene3@comcast.net).

Our Valley Hospitaler is always ready and willing to assist our worthy distressed Brethren and your families!

## Meeting Notice

Friday, October 27, 2017

Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection, 14°

**Ill. Michael D. McKee, 33°, Thrice Potent Master**  
DeJoinville Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°

**Bro. Yasser A. Al-Khatib, 32° MSA, Sovereign Prince**  
Kilwinning Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°  
**Bro. Jon S. Solheim, 32°, Most Wise Master**

### The Evening's Agenda

6:00 P.M. – Dinner in the Grand Banquet Room

7:15 P.M. – Candidate Orientation in the Benjamin Franklin Room

### Fall Communication

7:30 P.M. – Open Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection, 14°

7:40 P.M. – Presentation of the 4°, *Master Traveler*

8:15 P.M.- Close Philadelphia Lodge of Perfection, 14°

### Fall Convocation

8:16 P.M. – Open DeJoinville Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°

8:20 P.M.- Presentation of the 16°, *Prince of Jerusalem*

9:05 P.M.- Close DeJoinville Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°

### Fall Assembly

9:10 P.M.- Open Kilwinning Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°

9:11 P.M.- Presentation of the 18°, *Knight of Rose Croix*

10:00 P.M.- Close Kilwinning Chapter of Rose Croix, 18°

*All times are approximate*

### Dinner Menu

Friday, October 27, 2017

Served Buffet Style

Caesar Salad

Chicken Piccata

Grilled Pork Chops with Apple Chutney

Linguine & Clams in White Sauce

Rice Pilaf

Vegetable Medley

Lemon Cake



**\$20 per person**

*Thank you for making your reservation prior to the Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> deadline. Reservations can be made by mail, by calling 215-563-1814, by email to [valleyofphiladelphia@outlook.com](mailto:valleyofphiladelphia@outlook.com) or on the Valley's Facebook group, 'Valley of Philadelphia Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite-Members Only.' Recommenders are reminded to check with your Candidate to be sure he called in to register his attendance. Your cooperation is expected and appreciated.*

*No reservations will be accepted past the Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> deadline. No Exceptions!*

## Ladies of the Valley

### Calling all Hip Chicks!

If you aren't feeling like one now, you will be after the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting!

Join the ladies for a night unlike any other as Beth Allen and her toilet join us and she helps us to "Flush the Fear!"

As Beth says:

Flush the Fear is a poignant and cleansing message. It is a movement about letting go of the fear, anxiety and negative stuff. Eliminate the lies and stories we tell ourselves about not being worthy, loveable or simply enough! This universal tale of toilets and fear reminds us all that we deserve to feel happy, awesome and fulfilled.

It's interactive. Funny and inspiring as I bring a real toilet to the stage for a little Potty Talk. It's clean enough for grandma but raw enough to make an impact on groups of any age.

It begins with Flushing the Fear and ends with you feeling smart, capable and confident!

Beth is a prophetess of Do-It-Yourself and has been seen on local and national TV. She has a lot to share and you can get a taste at her blog <http://www.bethallendiy.com/blog/> which she sends to her "Hip Chicks" followers. So come join us for dinner and then see Beth and her toilet and we'll all be flushed with excitement!

Maureen Greene  
President



### Parking

**Remember Brethren:** The parking validations sold at our Reunion meetings are for the Convention Center Parking Facility, 1324 Arch Street only. The validations are active from 3:00 P.M. until midnight.

We have a number of Brethren that park at the Parkway garage at 13<sup>th</sup> and Filbert Streets. If you park in Parkway garage you will not be able to take advantage of the parking discount offered by the Valley.

Share in the Spirit of the Holiday Season with your  
Valley of Philadelphia Family



Valley Holiday Party  
6 to 10 P.M.  
Saturday, December 2, 2017



At the Canstatter Volksfest-Verein  
9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114

Merry  
Christmas

The evening begins with a complimentary two drink Social Hour featuring hors d'oeuvres at 6PM with a buffet dinner and cash bar beginning at 7PM. DJ music will provide the background for the evening and if you want to 'jingle bell rock' the dance floor after dinner. The party will conclude at 10PM.

HAPPY  
HANUKKAH

No tickets will be sold at the door! Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Scottish Rite Office. The cost per person is \$35. Make your check payable to 'Scottish Rite Bodies' and send it to the Scottish Rite Office, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520.

Order your tickets now and avoid the Holiday Rush! We hope to see you and your significant other there!

Ill. Bro. Morrison: Please send me \_\_\_ tickets in my name for the Valley's Holiday Party at the Canstatter on Saturday, December 2, 2017. My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_ made payable to 'Scottish Rite Bodies' is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail promptly to the  
Scottish Rite Office, Masonic Temple  
One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520

The Valley's most popular Family Life Event is  
back for 2017



You pick the date you want to go!  
Check the Park's website at  
www.hersheypark.com or call 1-800-242-4236  
for dates and times

Cost Per Person

Tickets are \$12 per person. This event is subsidized for you and your family (spouse, children and grandchildren) by your Valley. These tickets are sold on a first come, first sold basis. Once they're gone, they're gone.



You Pick The Date That Works Best For Your Family

These tickets are good for any date during the promotion. You pick the day you and your family prefer to go. Some dates have different times regarding the Park opening and closing. To be sure of when and how long the Park will be open, check with the Park or their website regarding the date you plan to go.

Happy Holidays!



Ill. Bro. Morrison: Please find enclosed my check, made payable 'Scottish Rite Bodies' in the amount of \$\_\_\_ for \_\_\_ tickets to the Hershey Park Christmas Candylane Family Life Event.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and mail promptly to the  
Scottish Rite Office, Masonic Temple  
One North Broad Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520

*The Valley of Philadelphia is proud to recognize our members of the Supreme Council Class of 2019*



*Congratulations to Bros. Yasser A. Al-Khatib, 32° MSA, Sovereign Prince, Norman R. Greene III, 32° MSA, Senior Warden of Kilwinning Chapter, Douglass W. Hocker, 32°, Past Thrice Potent Master and Jon S. Solheim, 32°, Most Wise Master, on their election and nominations to receive the 33° at the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council to held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 24-27, 2019.*

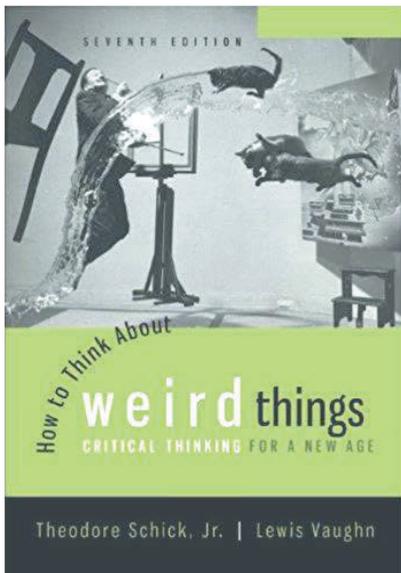




## Scottish Rite Education Committee

**Yasser A. Al-Khatib, 32° MSA  
Book Reviewer**

Carl E. Sagan, the famous astronomer and author, once said that “Skeptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep thoughts can be winnowed from deep nonsense.” *How to Think About Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age* – 7<sup>th</sup> edition, is a book written by Lewis Vaughan and no other than our own Pennsylvania Brother and Professor Theodore Schick Jr. It is published by McGraw-Hill in 352 pages (ISBN 978-0078038365). It is a must read of every



Masonic researcher and seeker of the truth. The truth, as the authors point, is a variable conviction that depends on supportive evidence and public perceptions.

In their own words the authors point that we all have built-in bias that prevents us from seeing alternatives and accepting new truths in the light of new evidence. The authors profess exploring why science is our most reliable means of establishing an empirical proposition

beyond a reasonable doubt and helps us understand the underlying reasons for the rise of irrational thinking. This allows the truth to change when the supportive premises for its existence are altered or cease to exist. It can be strengthened or weakened when subjected to the scientific method and by asking ‘why’ at every step of proofing the hypothesis. The authors have skillfully supported their argument by examining a long list of long-held beliefs, perceptions, and convictions. They also show case studies that prove the falsity of some commonly held convictions.

In using the scientific method the reader and researcher are empowered to conclude the validity of the theories understudy. The book examines in some cases fully realized truths and in other cases elements of these so-called truths. Examples range between the abilities to read minds, connect with spirits, know the future, and the healing powers of herbs and vitamins among many others. It truly urges the reader to examine and decipher for themselves providing a practical tool for this purpose. The tool, acronym SEARCH, is meant to engage the seeker in their pursuit but does not limit their choice of framework.

This book is important for all Masonic researchers and students of both the esoteric and exoteric domains in Freemasonry. It allows them to

support or nullify previously held convictions about the history, ritual and organization of our fraternity. It also presents us with a unique opportunity to put the Masonic legends to the scientific text and to verify their elements. The book never ceases to entertain and is decorated with relevant quotes on the margins of its pages force the reader to contemplate. I would recommend this book in a self-reflective manner that allows you to absorb and learn from its generous content. This is one book that you not want to fast read.

*Fiat Lux!*

Yasser Al-Khatib, 32° MSA  
Sovereign Prince  
DeJoinville Council, Princes of Jerusalem, 16°

*How to Think About Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age* -7<sup>th</sup> edition is available from Amazon in both the eTextbook (\$16.62 - \$51.21) or in paperback (\$52.64) versions.

### Thank You Brethren!

The following Brethren are thanked for their contributions to our Valley’s three funds: Almoner, Equipment and the Learning Center Endowment; when they paid their Valley dues. This is the updated list since the September issue of *The Double Eagle*. Any incoming donations will be recognized in future issues.

#### All Three Funds

Robert J. Adams, 32°  
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#### Equipment Fund

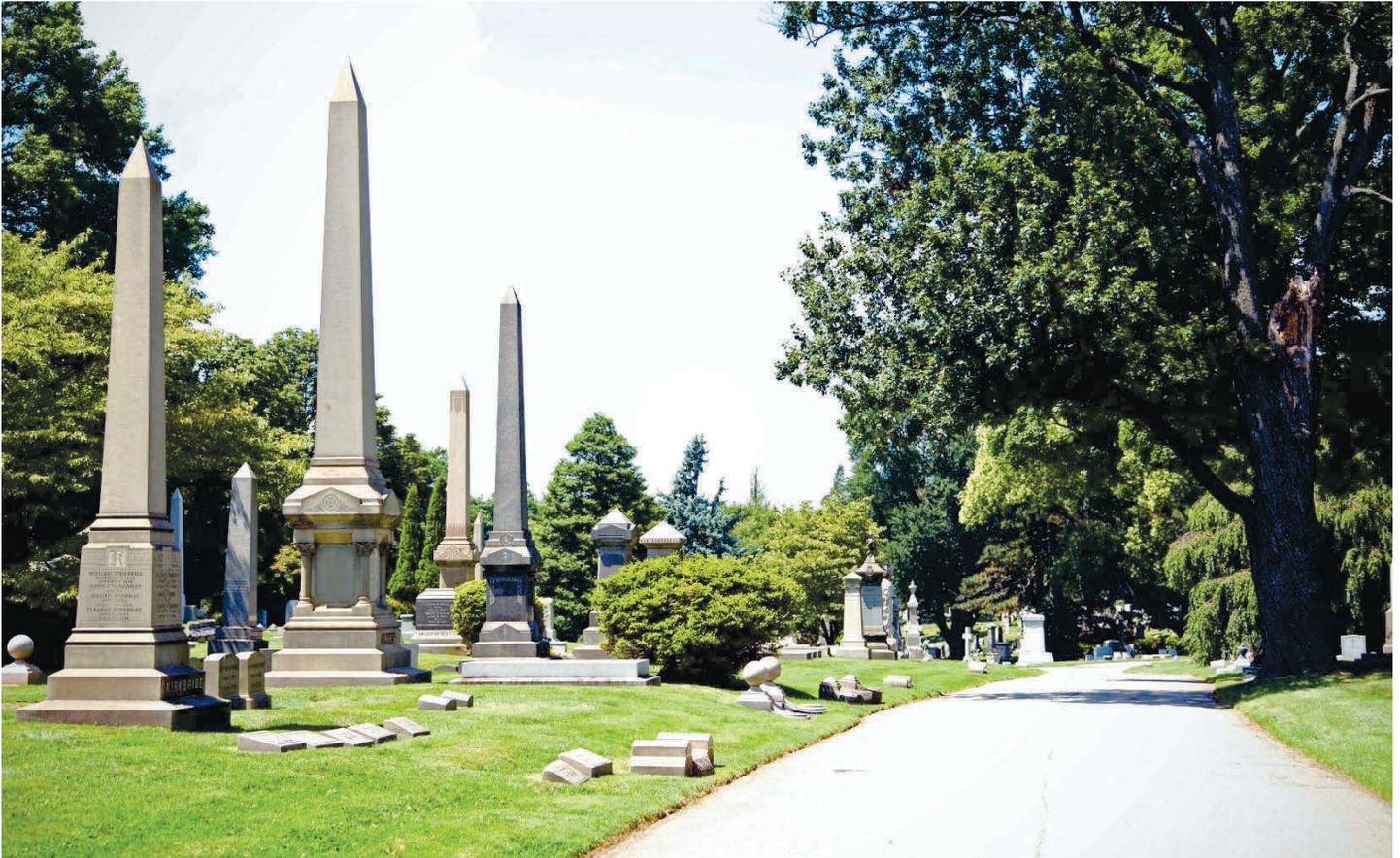
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## *The Valley of Philadelphia*

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www.valleyofphiladelphia@outlook.com

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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III. Michael D. McKee, 33°

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#### MOST WISE MASTER

Jon S. Solheim, 32°

#### COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

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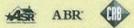
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### ALLEGIANCE

The Bodies of the Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, Thirty-third Degree, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington, Massachusetts and whose Officers include:

ILL.: DAVID A. GLATTLY, 33°  
*Sovereign Grand Commander*

ILL.: THOMAS K. STURGEON, 33° RWPGM  
*Deputy for Pennsylvania*

ILL.: ROBERT J. BATEMAN, 33° RWPGM  
*Active Member for Pennsylvania*  
[www.scottishritenmj.org](http://www.scottishritenmj.org)      [www.pacod.us](http://www.pacod.us)

### ***The Double Eagle***

Valley of Philadelphia, A.A.S.R.

Ill.: Steven A. Morrison, 33°, Editor

Unless otherwise stated, The Double Eagle will be published 6 times per year; March, April, May, September, October and November. Articles to be included in The Double Eagle, are always welcome, and should be typed, or written legibly, signed and dated by the author with proper credits, if applicable, and sent to the following address no later than the first day of the month preceding the month of publication.

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Tel. 215-563-1814 Toll Free: 866-834-3432  
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