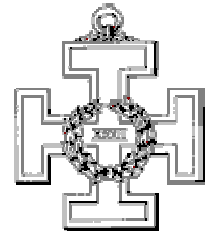
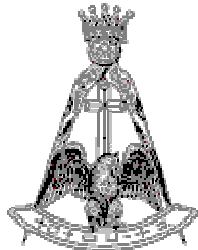
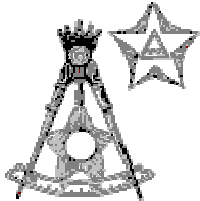


Tri Cities Valley Scottish Rite News

November 2005
Volume 2 Number 1



News from the Learning Center

In the work that the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation Learning Centers has been doing since we began our new program in four years ago we have accomplished much for children with dyslexia all across Alabama. We have tested more than 1500 students, provided dyslexia materials to more than 80 school systems, and provided professional development workshops for more than 8,000 teachers.

In the Tri-Cities area, workshops have been provided for teachers in Sheffield City Schools, Colbert County Schools, Lauderdale County Schools, Tuscumbia City Schools, Muscle Shoals City Schools, and most recently at Belgreen School in Franklin County. The Lauderdale County Schools are using the Dyslexia Training Program in all of the elementary schools in the county with some excellent results. Dr. Gibbs visited all of the schools in Lauderdale County this school year helping the teachers with a new test which we are recommending that they give to measure progress in the program.

The Alabama Scottish Rite program helping schools has been so successful that a presentation describing our work will be given at this year's annual conference of the International Dyslexia Association in Denver in November. There will be four individuals who have worked with the programs in school systems across the state who will be joining Dr. Gibbs for this presentation. Dr. Donna Henry, from Lauderdale County, Karen Hitt, from Lawrence County, Georganna Comeens from Winston County, and Paula Williams from Madison County will be discussing how the program has been implemented in their schools.

Dr. Denise Gibbs

ACHIEVEMENT

By: Orvil E. Mything, PGM, GL of Saskatchewan;
Published in THE TRACING BOARD, GRS; March 1987

When do we become a Mason? After the First Degree?
When do we become Fellowcrafts? We cannot fully enjoy visiting until we are duly qualified as a M.M., and even then, are we practicing Masons, or just members on the roll?

As individual Masons we are insignificant in such a great fraternal organization. Examine Masonry, which began as a small idea and evolved into what we have today. We must do many little things to accomplish a big thing. Think about it! Every tile in the mosaic pavement serves its purpose. The void which would be present if one is missing makes each sector indispensable.

You've heard the saying, "It's only a drop in the bucket". A drop in the bucket may appear insignificant, but, you know, a drop of water placed in the ocean does raise its level, even though imperceptibly.

Because a deed or event is small is no reason to ignore it. So it is with our Lodges. Be they small, appear insignificant, or be unimpressive; be they only a drop in the bucket, their contributions to Freemasonry can be measured.

Some ideas take a long time to prove and develop into something fruitful. So it is with Masonry. Our Ancient Landmarks, the backbone of our fraternity, have survived the pressures of time. A seed needs to be planted, cultivated and harvested. But, being a farmer, I am fully aware that the same planting does not always reap the same harvest.

We talk about our organization needing modernization. Much is said about keeping an open mind. This virtue is worthy of praise, but it should not stop there. Our minds should be always enquiring, not simply accepting new ideas,

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**Lodge of Perfection, Ned Cox, 32°, KCCH,
Venerable Master**

**Chapter of Rose Croix, Herbert R. Evans, 32°,
KCCH, Wise Master**

**Council of Kadosh, Carmel Olive, 33°,
Commander**

**Consistory, Roy Taylor, 32°, KCCH
Master of Kadosh**

Allegiance: The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of the Tri Cities, Orient of Alabama, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the SUPREME COUNCIL (Mother Council of the World) of The Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty Third and Last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose see is in Charleston in the state of South Carolina now sitting at Washington, D.C. of which

**ILL. Ronald A. Seale, 33° is Sovereign Grand
Commander, and**

**ILL. Karl F. Reed, II, 33° is Sovereign Grand
Inspector General in Alabama, and**

**ILL. John H. Hicks, Sr, 33° is Personal
Representative of the S.G.I.G. Valley of the Tri
Cities, Orient of Alabama.**

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<http://www.butchtucker.com/tcsr>

ACHIEVEMENT Continued from Page 1

but exploring them, establishing their credibility, helping the good ones to become implanted and nourishing them.

This is where research becomes so important. Research, in essence, is an organized way of discovering the truths and merits of an idea.

Nearly all of us, (I'm no exception) waste more valuable time alibiing ourselves with "not having the time" than with any other excuse for our lack of achievement. Small amounts soon build into large amounts. A few minutes a day soon add up to hours of wasted time and finally we realize that 'time' has passed us by.

Each of us, in looking at life, seeks to make the best of our place in it. Life is a succession of challenges and a realization of basic values. It is up to us as individuals, to pick and choose that which is important to us, and to mankind.

In short, to live, we must act. To act, we must make choices. To make choices, we must consider values and values are determined by little things. In life, we have two paths to follow: to the one side - fear, hatred, envy; to the other side - confidence, love, sharing. Let us follow the Masonic path.

(Article Reprinted with permission of the Author. Article reflects the ideas/views of the Author and not those of the Valley of the Tri Cities. Editor)

Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation

The Mission of the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of dyslexic children in Alabama by assisting them in achieving their highest potential.

On October 1, 2005, the Brethren of the Tri Cities Valley held their annual Pancake Breakfast. This year \$1,836.24 were raised. The expenses for the breakfast were \$723.62. This brings the total monies raised to \$1,112.62. All monies raised above the cost of the Breakfast are donated to the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation.

The Valley has set a goal of \$3,000.00 each year to support the Foundation.

To help raise the remainder of our pledge, Brother Robert Chard, 32°, has agreed to Chair a Chicken Stew to be held on November 12, 2005.

Brother Chard will need 20 persons to assist him on Friday November 11 starting at 1:00 PM in preparing the ingredients and 15 persons at 5:00 AM Saturday to help with the distribution.

Cost: \$5.00 per Quart and \$18.00 per Gallon. Bring your own containers.

Truth and Masonic Toleration

W.: B.: S. E. Alderete
St. Bernard - St. John AMD Council #100

Brethren,

As Masons, we live our lives relying on the belief that Objective Truth exists. If only we can find it. We attempt to gather evidence for our beliefs whether they are political, religions or simply a moral belief. We weigh the credibility and truthfulness of each of fact or belief we hold. We make difficult judgments and in the end, we arrive at a close proximity to truth, hopefully an Objective Truth. The Masonic principle of Truth also teaches a man to search for wisdom and understanding. The pursuit of knowledge is at the very heart of our purpose. Freemasons strive for truth, requiring high moral standards and aiming to achieve them in their own lives.

Most Masons I'm sure can agree on these principles as set out by Paul Copan:

Truth is true—even if no one knows it.

Truth is true—even if no one admits it.

Truth is true—even if no one agrees what it is.

Truth is true—even if no one follows it.

Truth is true—even if no one but God grasps it fully

Yet we have now entered an age or the "relativist". To the relativist, no "fact" is in all times and places true. He argues that because everyone's point of view is different, we should believe that one fact is equally correct as another. In fact, the hard-core relativist says that given the slippery nature of what the rest of us mistakenly call "truth," we can't even settle on the fact that there is a single truth at all.

Today objective Truth is increasingly pushed aside by secularizing influences such as the university, the media, and politics. Rather than being a matter of truth, it is all just opinion. If we follow relativism to its illogical end we imply that the pursuit of any truth is an exercise in futility. It clearly entails the obliteration of all knowledge, including scientific, moral, and historical truth in favor of a subjective reality. This subjective reality as we are now told by society is called progress and the practice of this is the modern definition of tolerance.

So what kind of tolerance is "Masonic Tolerance"? As Masons we are committed to being honest and truthful with other people. The Masonic Fraternity teaches a man to be faithful to his responsibilities to God, his Country, his fellow man, his family and himself. As Masons we are taught these two principles: one, Truth is divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. Secondly, Justice is that standard of boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man his just due, without distinction.

By uniting these two principles with other precepts of Freemasonry we see that tolerance can not be an "it true for you but not for me" mindset. We are taught that as Master Masons, we are to correct the irregularities of our less informed brethren, to fortify their minds with resolution against snares of the insidious and guard them... Just think through the implications of this new type of "relativistic tolerance" and apply it rigorously to real life. As we do we see the hidden dangers of being so "accommodating." As Alister McGrath writes,

"It is utterly wrongheaded to say that something is "true for you but not for me." For example, what if I think fascism is true and you think liberal democracy is equally true? Should the fascist's repression be tolerated by the believer in liberal democracy? If not, on what grounds? Why not permit Stalinism or Satanism or Nazism? Without criteria to determine truth, this relativism fails miserably".

Most of us I believe would not want to live in a world of this type "relativistic tolerance". And it isn't this type of tolerance that Masons should be referring to as we speak of tolerance in general. How could it be, since again as Masons we are taught that, " We are to regard the Sacred Volume of Law as the Great Light in our profession and to consider it as our unerring standard of Truth and justice. Just as we are taught of our duty we owe to God".

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Truth and Masonic Toleration (Continued from Page 3)

Having this unerring Standard of Truth would in and of itself conflict with a "relative tolerance" mind set perhaps as it regards to Masons. And is best explained: In the absence of the objective truth, absolute power rules the day. That is, once truth is whatever we say it is, asserting power over others is a natural next step. The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche wrote "that the obliteration of God—and therefore all objective standards for truth and morality—would usher in an age of nihilism, the rejection of all objective meaning and value. All that is left is the will to power, by which only the fittest survive".

So what is it we mean when we speak of tolerance as Masons? Oddly it is relatively easy for us as Masons to practice Tolerance. It is a bit more difficult for us to actually define what exactly it is what we mean, without falling into the trap of "Modern relativism". Tolerance does not mean, by any stretch of imagination, that one belief is as good as another, or is as true as another, or is as valuable as another. Freemasonry does not advocate a general indifference to all beliefs; nor does it hold that all differences of opinion should be watered down into a faulty compromise. We may as individuals believe that one belief is truer than another, that one opinion is better grounded than another; or one fact better supported than another but in the final analysis we want the truth to prevail.

The fact is that because Masonic philosophy encourages men to search for personal enlightenment, situations are created in that each Mason may see Truth in a different light. And yet since 1717, when the first Speculative Grand Lodge was formed in England, Masons, both operative and speculative, have been taught tolerance of religion politics and other ideals. Thusly we have been condemned by extremists on all sides of the many struggles. The lesson of tolerance learned through long years of experience has made an indelible impression on the philosophy of the Masonic Lodge, and this philosophy was and is an important motivation for men of every country sect and opinion to join our Fraternity.

Freemasonry's attitude is even more definite than this. Masonic Tolerance teaches that every mason should espouse brotherly love, and truth. It is this type of tolerance that forms the principle of Brotherly love in the sense that all men are created equal. It is this principle Freemasonry unites men of all nationalities and religious beliefs and conciliates true friendships amongst those who might otherwise remain at a perpetual distance.

Temperance, Justice and reason have evolved the precepts that defining the Masonic Fraternity's idea of Tolerance. Reason dictates that we search through the various "universal truths" and "common beliefs" which have existed throughout the history of mankind to find each Truth. Though "Perfect truth is unattainable; we as Masons press on ever trying approaching it.

We could say Freemasonry teaches universal toleration or the right of every man to abide by his own faith and beliefs without interference or fearing retaliation or to the right of a man to hold views that are not judged unjustly simple because they differ from our own. Thus Masonic Tolerance has been a stabilizing agent in many a personal relationship. Such toleration has been inspired by Freemasonry's most valuable tenets: friendship, morality and brotherly love. There is no principle in the ancient teachings of Freemasonry that has been more prominently advocated than the doctrine of toleration. "Thou shalt not persecute a man for simply differing from thee in opinion" has been a foremost Masonic charge for hundreds of years.

What is Masonic Tolerance then? It could be defined as reason and understanding tempered by tolerance and respect. These principles being inspired by the Masonic Tenants of friendship, morality and brotherly love. What Tolerance does not on the other hand mean as I have shown is that "everything and anything goes", nor does not assert or does it teach that one fact or belief is as good as another. In short every true Freemason will show tolerance by respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow man and his opinions. As Masons the limit of our influence upon others should be persuasion, not punishment, and difference in our individual beliefs should not prevent Brotherly Love to prevail. To respect the differences of every man and still feel you are his friend and brother is a fundamental of Masonic teaching. Tolerance, therefore, is a positive and constructive thing. It encourages each man to think for himself, and not follow blindly and unthinking. As such Masonry is indeed the "Mother of Tolerance" and we can honestly say that Freemasonry is simply the current evolution of a brotherhood formed at the dawn of humanity.

Congratulation to the following on being Elected to receive Honors:

Roy Taylor 33 (elect)
Cameron Olive 33 (elect)
Lloyd Llewellyn 33 (elect)

Foy James, KCCH (elect)
Robert Dixon, KCCH (elect)
Robert Potts, KCCH (elect)
Charles Lamar, KCCH (elect)
Daniel Rosser, KCCH (elect)
Robert Chard, KCCH (elect)

The conferrals will be in Montgomery December 10, 2005.

Valley Elections and Installations

On November 15 the Valley will hold Elections for Officers. Nomination Committee members are: Lloyd Llewellyn, Robert Dixon, Ned Cox, and Robert Chard. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

On December 20 the Valley will hold an Installation Ceremony for those elected to serve in 2006.

Please come out for these two very important events.

From the Editor,

Our Valley continues to grow in numbers, but, we need you to attend the meetings as often as possible. These days everyone has a lot to do and time is short, but remember what we are here to do...assist those in need. The Tri Cities Valley has committed itself (and you) to support the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation Learning Center and together we can make dreams come true for those children suffering with Dyslexia.

Remember to submit any information you would like to see in the Valley Newsletter to the Editor.

We are always looking for articles from our Brethren.

In the next issue we will begin reviewing the History of Freemasonry in Alabama and the histories of our local Lodges. If your Lodge has its history ready, send a copy. If your Lodge has not written its history for publication, now is the time. If you need help, let me know as I have a template that will make the task easier.

Butch Tucker, Editor

From the Secretaries Desk,

Congratulations to our new members,

Michael Carwile
Freddie Fell,
Lloyd McCarley Sr.
Charles Smith
Kenneth Bailey
Milton Garrison
Richard Laxson

The fall reunion was held in Huntsville Scottish Rite Temple Oct 8, 2005. Our sincere thanks to the Huntsville Scottish Rite members and cast for a very successful reunion.

Pancake day was Oct. 1, 2005 at the Muscle Shoals Shrine Building. The profits were \$1,112.62. This is somewhat successful, but we must sell more tickets next time as this amount is not enough to meet our commitments to the Foundation. Remember that all profits are to support the Scottish Rite Foundation Dyslexia program for schools in Alabama and the funds you contribute are tax deductible. (501-C-3).

Sincere thanks to all those who gathered up the supplies and to the cooks who did an outstanding job in the kitchen.

2006 dues statements will soon be mailed and are due by Dec 31, 2005. As of now there are a few members who have not paid their 2005 dues. This amount will be added to your dues statement.

Lloyd Llewellyn
General Secretary

A Note from Doug Harper, 32°

Ticket takers at Fair Gates 2005:

I want to express my sincere appreciation to each Brother and Lady of our Valley who helped take up the tickets at the Fair this year. Your commitment and dedication made my job almost effortless. Everyone arrived on time with a smile and a happy attitude.

I also want to thank Brother Charles Lamar and the Fair Board for allowing us to do this task. The contribution they make to our Valley is very much appreciated. I hope our Valley can continue to perform this job in the future.

Again, thanks and God Bless.

