



voice of the orient

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE SCOTTISH RITE, ORIENT OF ARKANSAS

Merry Christmas:
HOLIDAYS AT THE TEMPLE

DECEMBER 2024

Candlelight

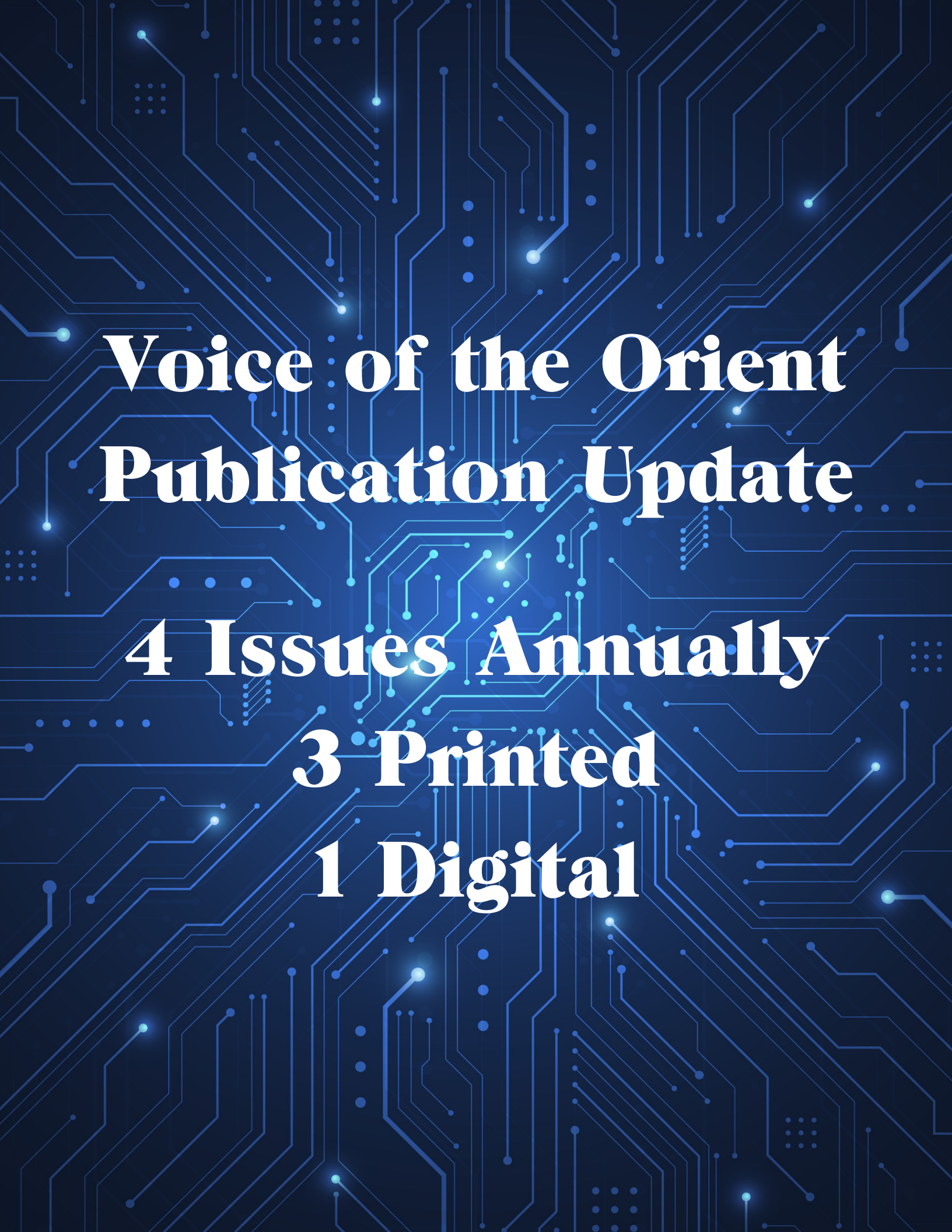
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Voice of the Orient

Publication Update

4 Issues Annually

3 Printed

1 Digital

The Light of the World

SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

I am writing this a few days before Christmas. As a Christian, this holiday celebrates God sending his light into the world for us. As Scottish Rite Masons, we do not practice religion nor do we require that any member be of the Christian faith. As we are taught in the 18th degree, it is up to each to interpret the symbols of the fraternity as they will. So, for our non-Christian brethren, the symbol of light is still very powerful and relevant to us as Masons. Even from the first degree, the juxtaposition of light and darkness as contending symbols is repeatedly reinforced. Light can have many meanings: knowledge, intellect, goodness, mercy, justice, insight, and even for some, salvation. Again, each interprets the symbol for himself, but the coming of light into the world and into our lives is dramatically on display in our 18th degree.

I am also reminded that we are taught that we should do all we can to bring light into our world. I was really touched when I saw the pictures on Facebook last week of brethren taking three truckloads of toys to Arkansas Children's Hospital for the kids who are hospitalized during the holiday. Thanks to all the brethren who donated and to those who loaded and took the toys to Children's. There is only one example of what we can do to bring a little light into the lives of others less fortunate. So, I wish all of you a beautiful holiday season. If you are a Christian, then I say Merry Christmas to you and yours. But to all brethren, wishing you light and goodness and happiness!



Bros. Brad Kohanke, 32° KCCH, Tyler Van Brunt, 32° KSA, Will Teeter, 32° KSA, and Tim Mistic, 32° KCCH delivering toys



Gymnasium at Children's Hospital full of toys that were delivered from all around Arkansas



**Ill. C. James, Graham, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Orient of Arkansas**



Fraternal Greetings

GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN ARKANSAS

Greetings my Brethren,

With the holiday season all but here, Mrs. Lisa and I want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us in our efforts in spreading friendship, morality and brotherly love across our fraternity. I don't mean just here in Arkansas, but across the entire Southeast region of our great country. We are so thankful for the opportunities we have been given to travel and represent Arkansas.

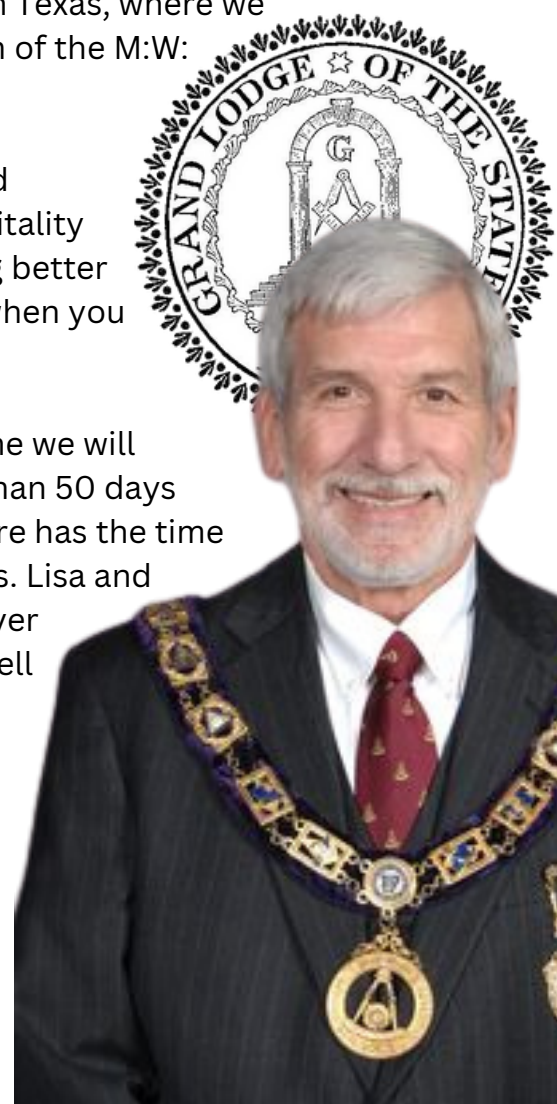
We started our journey this year with the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America held in Seattle, Washington. And continued our travels to the Grand Lodge sessions of Tennessee, Florida, South Carolina, Louisiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Alabama. We also traveled to the Missouri and Oklahoma Grand Lodge sessions as well. We will end our out of state travels next month in Texas, where we will be honored at Milam Lodge #2 and the annual communication of the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas.

We have met, and are now good friends with, so many great Grand Masters, brothers and ladies everywhere we have been. The hospitality we have received has just been amazing! There's just not anything better than a good Masonic handshake, a big smile and a friendly word when you are hundreds even thousands of miles away from home.

Being your Grand Master has been an INCREDIBLE experience! One we will forever cherish! It is beyond my comprehension that I have less than 50 days left to serve the Brethren of Arkansas as their Grand Master. Where has the time gone? I can still hold onto all the good memories knowing that Mrs. Lisa and I did our very best to make a difference, which is all that I really ever hoped to accomplish. I have upheld all the laws in the Digest as well as all of our obligations and teachings.

With that update I will simply say Merry Christmas to all! We wish everyone a very blessed, safe and prosperous Happy New Year in 2025! God bless you all!

M.:W.: Darrell Gifford, 32° KCCH
Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas



Valley of Little Rock

BY TOBY CROW, 32° KCCH ✚

My dear Brethren, let us all be thankful for our gentle craft and the time spent in fellowship during 2024. Masonic work intertwines us creating the mystic cable tow that pulls our Scottish Rite into longevity and permanence. We occupy the third Scottish Rite temple which happened to have turned 100 years old this year. Huzzah!

FALL REUNION

Our Little Rock Valley Fall reunion on October 25th

and 26th was a success due to many brethren working for the good of the craft thereby keeping important life lessons inculcated through out degrees. Every time there is a reunion it is a labor of love with, I dare say, over 200 man hours collectively. These reunions, I have come to find out, means more to me each year. Reuniting with brethren we may have seen little over the year but again when together again take up like no time had passed. Huzzah! The Little

Rock Valley Reunion included; The 4th Secret Master, 14th Perfect Elu, 18th Knight Rose Croix, 28th Knight Commander of the Temple, 30th Knight Kadosh with 1st , 2nd , 3rd and 4th apartments, and 32nd Master of the Royal Secret. The Goddess of Liberty was played by Rachel Justice, daughter of Brother Ernest Justice, 32°. It was a great reunion and next Spring we will gather all together again to meet, work, sweat, fellowship, and enjoy our gentle craft.



Brethren of the Fall 2024 class and Scottish Rite officials



Goddess of Liberty played by Ms. Rachel Justice, daughter of Bro. Ernest Justice, 32°



Arkansas Consistory #1 Camp Guard preparing for the 32nd Degree

LITTLE ROCK VALLEY REPORT CONT.

IN AND ABOUT THE TEMPLE

Since the last edition there have been improvements to the building thanks to Bro. Don Schutt and his talented crew. Our Temple is a precious jewel that is unlike many facilities and we are so lucky to have it. Among some improvements there has been a cleaning and re-finishing of the large dining room floor. The small dining room floor will be having the same care and

attention coming up. The roof has been receiving a new coating to protect from the elements. New outdoor lighting has been installed. Our wonderful facility has attracted booking of many celebrations, meetings, theatrical performances (i.e. Edgar Allan Poe stories come to life) and even a string quartet with “flameless” candles all aglow surrounding the musicians. The candles

were too numerous to count and imagine the well and the stage in the large auditorium alight with high quality string quartet musicians performing in a sea of candles. We had such a good turnout that night music night they will be back for another round of performances. Stay tuned if this Candle Light music becomes a “thing” in our city of Little Rock at the Albert Pike Masonic Center.



Candlight performance at the Albert Pike Memorial Temple auditorium

Before and after pictures of improvements to the ladies north powder room.



Christmas at



the Temple



In the Spirit of Christmas the Little Rock Valley had a toy drive going on that wound down at the at the Scottish Rite Christmas Party on December 10, 2024. It was open to wives, family and friends with the cost of admission being one new unwrapped toy per person. Father Christmas was there to take pictures and Brother Paul Wilson read *The Night Before Christmas*. The kids present that evening choose a toy for their own. The remainder of all the toys was delivered to Arkansas Children's Hospital. - *Hon. Toby Crow, 32° KCCH*

The Beehive

BY HON. JAMES KRING, 32°, KCCH ✚



Zerubbabel for Darius, Jan Luyken, Pieter Mortier, 1704

Every spring and summer, you see them. Their presence is the surest sign of life begun anew, and efforts are made to continue their existence because if they disappear, human life will degrade. I speak of the Western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*.

The Western honey bee was introduced to America by European settlers, and is now considered synonymous with life in this country. Honey bees live in hives, either natural or man-made. In Masonry, the Beehive symbol is considered an emblem of industry which encourages us to be active in the world around us (Arkansas Masonic Monitor, pp. 62). This emblem also carries a

warning that becoming a drone – mindless wandering, never contributing to the benefit of anyone, simply walking your own path with no beneficent actions towards another – will cause you to be cast away from the protections of Masonry. The Beehive, as explained in the Master's degree, tells us of the benefits of contributing to life as a whole. With this philosophical background in mind, what can a beehive teach us from the entomological perspective? My father, Dr. Timothy Kring, is an entomologist, and while his primary focuses are cotton, wheat, and biological vs. chemical pest control, he has knowledge

of bees and other pollinators because they are essential to the proliferation of all crops in the world. Honey bees live their lives as a unified, mostly harmonious collective. There are many individuals, but all act with one purpose: the continued existence of their community. Each hive has a single fertile queen, who is tended to and protected by several male bees called drones, though these drones are not idle and can be vicious in their defense of the queen. Outside of these groups, the majority population of a beehive is workers. They begin life with simple tasks – tending the internal structure of the hive – then proceed to more complex

and more community-focused tasks such as tending the young and eventually proceeding outside the hive to forage for nectar and pollen to serve all of the hive. All of which is a fitting parallel to humans as we live and grow in life. As children, the things we are capable of are simpler, but as we grow in knowledge, the tasks we undertake become more complex and can eventually affect the community around us. But what if we proceed without guidance?

Honey bee queens facilitate communication with their hives through pheromones, and the workers in turn exude pheromones of their own whether inside or outside the hive. A most fascinating example is when members of a hive are collecting nectar and pollen from a flowering bush. Multiple hives will service the same bush, but members of the same hive will move in tandem. As soon as one set of flowers is finished, a pulse of wings or a twitch

of legs will tell the hive members to switch flowers, and the entire group will move, whether it is two or twenty.

What a beautiful visualization of unity. Imagine an entire community, working towards a unified purpose, and all without regard to what someone may have been doing minutes before. What I see – and I hope others see – is a parallel between the pheromones of a honey bee queen and the voice of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

The Beehive teaches Masons that the Creator made us as a communal being. We could have been created as essentially gods unto ourselves with no need for others, but we were not. Striking out on our own, not being “tied down,” living our own hyper-individual lives – that is the life of the drone we are warned about. In beehives of nature, workers that ignore pheromone instructions are pushed out of the hive,

and these workers quickly perish once separated from their community. That same fate awaits those who claim that other humans are not to be trusted and that living a solitary life is the fate for all of us. Solitary “lone wolves” of human society claim humans are fickle and selfish, and it is far better to live alone away from such filth. These are not wolves, but human drones. The life of a drone, bound to and answerable to none, is not the intention of our Creator. Community is essential to our advancement in knowledge and virtue. Industry generally means our vocation, but there is also the industry of knowledge and charity.

We are all workers, and the Supreme Architect is the center of our hive. Call upon His voice, and work to benefit those around you, no matter who they are or where they came from.

Gloria Dei est celare verbum.

M.W. Bro. Jacob Trieber

BY BRO. JOHN KYLE DAY, 32°, KSA 

Amongst the most consequential Freemasons in Arkansas History is M. W. Bro. Jacob Trieber. Trieber served as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Arkansas in 1906. A native of the Kingdom of Prussia, Trieber was born in 1853. His family moved to Saint Louis, Missouri in 1866, and then to Helena, Arkansas in 1868. Trieber passed the bar examination and began the practice of law in his adopted hometown in 1876. He ultimately served as president of the Arkansas Bar Association. He was active in Republican Party politics, serving in local offices, then on the Republican State Committee, and numerous times as a delegate to the Republican National Conventions. In 1897, Trieber's fellow Freemason and President of the United States, William F. McKinley (William F. McKinley Lodge No. 431, F. & A.M. of Ohio) appointed Trieber as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Three years later,

Sir Knight McKinley (who was active in the York Rite) elevated his fraternity brother to the district's presiding officer, making the Arkansas Carpetbagger Republican Freemason the first Jew to serve as a Federal Judge in American History. From the bench, Trieber quickly emerged as among the greatest champions of human rights of his generation, establishing in a number of important judicial decisions a bedrock of legal precedent that both recognized and protected the civil rights of black Americans. During his nearly three-decade career on the Federal bench before his death in 1927, Trieber's rulings became the basis of the modern broad interpretation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as Federal migratory bird and conservation policy. Trieber was a devout adherent to Reform Judaism, an active congregant of the synagogues of both Helena and Little Rock.



M.W. Bro. Jacob Trieber, Past Grand Master of Masons



Postcard of the old masonic temple in Little Rock, c. 1910, which housed the Grand Lodge offices.

Valley of Jonesboro

BY HON. JON WALTER, 32°, KCCH 

Patent Presentations

Cody Davis and Mark Pease were recently presented their Scottish Rite patents. Cody, a proud 4th-generation Arkansas Scottish Rite Mason, was accompanied by his father, Brent Davis, and his grandfather, Steve Davis, for the occasion. Mark is pictured with Ill. Brad Phillips, 33°.

Feast of Tishri

The Valley of Jonesboro gathered to celebrate the Feast of Tishri at its September meeting, with a great turnout of attendees. After a delicious meal prepared by Miss K, Ross Rainwater delivered an insightful program on the significance of the Feast of Tishri. The evening continued with a lively auction featuring various items and baked goods.

Thanks to the generosity of all involved, we were able to raise \$815. Of this, \$500 will be directed to our 2025 College Scholarship Fund, and \$315 will support our Homeless Veterans Fund.

100th Reunion in Spring

Our summer reunion, which was meant to mark our 100th, unfortunately had to be canceled due to a lack of candidates. However, we are excited to celebrate our 100th reunion on March 1st. Let's spread the word and encourage potential candidates to submit their petitions for the spring, so we can make this a memorable and successful reunion.

Veterans Day

Our November meeting coincided with Veterans Day this year. We were

honored to recognize the following veterans for their service: (L-R) Jon Walter, Randy Gilliss, Colin Miller, Jim Cary, Jackie Thompson, and Rufus Ray.

Announcements

The 23rd Degree will be presented at our February 10th stated meeting.

The Knights of St. Andrew have been preparing the meals for our stated meetings over the past few months, and their efforts have been nothing short of delicious. For just \$10, you'll never find a better meal.

If it's been a while since you've attended a stated meeting, make 2025 the year you reconnect and get involved again.



Voice of the Orient is the official publication of the Scottish Rite, Orient of Arkansas. Any article or views expressed in this publication are those only of the writer and do not reflect the official position of the Scottish Rite in Arkansas. The editorial policy of this publication grants free reign of the Editor, within the lines of Masonic principles and teachings. Articles and pictures submitted become the property of this publication. Permission is granted to the contents of this publication for Masonic purposes, as long as credit is given to the original source.

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