



# Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

VALLEY OF WASHINGTON, ORIENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, S.J.



## SGIG MESSAGE


**W**e miss seeing you at the Rite. Our refectory is noiseless, our upstairs Lodge room dark, and the auditorium silent as our building is closed. Masonry is quiet in and around the DMV per Grand Masters' edicts/decisions in these unprecedented times.

These are indeed unprecedented times. My heart and thoughts go out to all our 2600 plus members. We are spread across the Southern Jurisdiction, Europe and the Middle East. Most of us are now sheltering in place, some with family and some by ourselves. No doubt that some of you reading this may be ill and many more may be wondering if you or a love one could be a carrier of the coronavirus. Many of our brethren may be furloughed from their jobs and are worried about paying bills over the coming months. We worry about our parents, our children, our spouses, significant others, and other loved ones; and when we have the time to stop and take a breath—we remember to worry about ourselves. And we are all wondering how long this is going to last and what our lives and society will look like on the other side of this crisis.


However, we have hope. Hope that our leaders will make the right decisions. Hope that from the lessons learned in the past weeks and months, we will be able to create a more equitable society. I personally hope to better value the things that are really important and let go of those things that need to be set aside. I think that having someone to talk to at a time like this can help sustain hope. If you need to talk to someone, please know that you can talk to me or one of the Scottish Rite staff.



**Illustrious Leonard Proden, 33<sup>rd</sup>**  
SGIG in the District of Columbia

Check our website or our phone app for the latest information. Email and phone contacts are welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you and I thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason, 

## Construction Update

**W**e are pleased to report that construction of the Silva at 1630 Columbia Road is continuing unabated at a breakneck pace. Excellent planning and the good luck of fair weather have enabled the project to proceed well ahead of schedule. The ground up development will include 10 stories, 172 apartment units and 70 parking spaces in two levels below grade. The building is considered an addition to the historic DC Scottish Rite Temple, so will be connected to the historic building by an at-grade connection. The new building will feature best-in-class European-inspired unit finishes. The amenities will include a rooftop with a large infinity swimming pool, grilling stations and fire pits, a fitness center, a lounge with food and beverages and private dining rooms, and a lush private courtyard. The project will be built to LEED v4 high-performance green standards. 



### Here is the timeline from start to completion:

Construction Start	July 26, 2019
Demolition Complete	September 26, 2019
Excavation Complete	December 10, 2019
Top Out Concrete	July 30, 2020
Weather Tight	October 15, 2020
First Turnover	June 2, 2021
Substantial Completion	August 6, 2021
Final Completion	September 3, 2021

# DCSR Sesquicentennial News: Let Us Stay Resilient

In these times of crisis and uncertainty, it is quite easy for stress, anxiety and fear to slowly take a hold on our daily lives. Our daily life routine has been disrupted by constraints on mobility and physical socializing deemed necessary for our health, safety and security. Each one of us needs to redraw his own trestle (or tracing) board. Take for example the challenge of structuring our daily use of time when we spend that time almost entirely at home. How do we divide our time? What are the priorities?

As Entered Apprentice Freemasons, we were told to make use of the 24-inch gauge and Common Gavel. How do we put them to use in these disruptive and challenging times? The Scottish Rite's Exceptionalism in Masonic teachings becomes ever more essential to a Master Mason to help him answer those types of questions and better navigate today's rough waters as a Free Man and an Enlightened Builder. I therefore encourage you to incorporate in your daily routine a fixed amount of time for studying and meditating on the teachings of the Scottish Rite Degrees.

On our end, armed with the Masonic virtues of Fortitude and Prudence, and guided by our SGIG's Vision for the strategic repositioning of the DC Scottish Rite, we are forging ahead with our plans for the 150th Anniversary and have made the following adjustments:




The **Gala Sesquicentennial Banquet** at the Library of Congress has been rescheduled for **October 3, 2020**, and has become our new kickoff event under the theme "*Enlightened Knowledge, Evermore Needed in an Age of Information and Accelerations*" featuring a facilitated conversation with Gen. David Petraeus and to which a select number of Members of the United States Congress have been invited.

The **Reunion of the Elements**, a premiere show that takes the audience on a groove-centric journey through Fire, Earth, Air, and Water will be held as originally scheduled on **November 14, 2020** at the DC Scottish Rite.

The **Evening with Nobel Laureate Astrophysicist Dr. Adam Riess** has been rescheduled to **March 20, 2021 (next year)** at the Cosmos Club.

It goes without saying, that we will continue to closely monitor the evolving pandemic situation and make all necessary adjustments accordingly.

In the meantime, stay safe and work on improving yourself in Scottish Rite Freemasonry. 



III. Akram R. Elias, 33°  
Chairman, Sesquicentennial  
of D.C. Scottish Rite


## Our Temple May be Closed, but Our Great Brotherhood is Open

The great American author, Herman Melville, said: "*We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.*" And so it is with our own community. Although the members of our DC Scottish Rite community are as likely to be living across the continent or across oceans as they are to be residing within the DC Beltway, still we are all connected by the myriad tendrils of brotherhood, friendship, and of course the Mystic Tie. As the DCSR community, like everyone, has been asked to adapt to new realities, it is our brotherly love that will sustain us and help us to be even stronger on the other side of this health crisis. Our practice of brotherly love even while being apart is keeping us together.

Many of us have been reaching out and staying virtually connected to one another while remaining at a physical distance in accordance with the directives of local authorities. We are learning new ways to foster and preserve our deep connections with brethren, family and friends. Keep up the good work! As we all innovate a virtual DCSR experience to stay connected during this challenging time, we are supporting each other through practicing brotherly love.



While we support each other, let's also strive to identify and recruit our fellow Master Masons to become Scottish Rite Masons so they too may enjoy the privileges of this great brotherhood. The Valley is receiving petitions now for our Fall Reunion (November 6 & 7). Petitions are available online at [dcsr.org](http://dcsr.org). I invite all members (and potential members) to contact me anytime at [membership@dcsr.org](mailto:membership@dcsr.org) with your membership questions. While the "brick and mortar" DC Scottish Temple may be closed for the time being, our Valley – our great brotherhood – is open for the duration.

*"Above all things let us never forget that mankind constitutes one great brotherhood; all born to encounter suffering and sorrow, and therefore bound to sympathize with each other."* - Albert Pike 



III. Walter R. Hoenes, 33°  
Director of  
Membership Services

### Sign 3, get 1-year FREE annual dues! Also, Opportunity to Earn a Life Membership!

**HERE'S THE DEAL:** Any member of the Valley who signs as top-line signer on three (3) petitions in any calendar year, then for the following year the top-line signer's dues are FREE. Also, any member who signs as top-line signer for ten (10) petitions over the course of two consecutive Reunions will be rewarded with a DCSR Life Membership.



# We Must Be Resourceful: Love in a Time of Pandemic

I have the privilege of being part time rabbi to a small congregation in southern Maryland. Because of the pandemic, we, like other houses of worship, held a “virtual” service, our first ever. Relying on technology to bring us together in cyberspace when we were unable to meet in physical space.

At that time, I mentioned that the Torah portion for the week was *Vayakel*, “And Moses assembled the congregation of the children of Israel” (Exodus 35-40:38). Moses “assembled” the people, just as we were assembling. In that portion, we read about the building of the tabernacle. That Friday night we were figuratively building a new tabernacle, not out of linen or animal skin, like the tabernacle in the desert, nor of stone, like the far grander Temple in Jerusalem, but of electrons. Something new and very different.

There are inhibitions among traditional Jews about using electricity on our Sabbath. There were questions about whether we can constitute a proper *minyana* (prayer quorum) needed to say certain prayers under such circumstances where we were not all in the same room. Were we together? Were we apart?

“Social distancing,” really means physical distancing. Using technology, we are in many ways more social with one another than in normal times. “Social distancing” need not mean social isolation. But again, are we really together? Are we apart?

I suspect the current crisis have a long term, permanent impact on the way we work. Telecommuting might become the rule and not the exception, saving us commuting time, gasoline, addressing some childcare issues and helping the environment. But is not something lost by physical proximity? Part of

our inhibition against saying certain public prayers using *Zoom* is that we really aren't hearing a human voice at all, just an electronic reproduction of one. Our sages taught us that a person who hears only an *echo* of a shofar, has not fulfilled the commandment. An echo is sound waves. An electronic reproduction *isn't* a shofar blast, or even an echo of one, just something that sounds like it. Sometimes second best isn't good enough, but sometimes, it's all we have.



Rabbi Ken Cohen, 32° KCCH

We masons can meet electronically, but is that really a meeting? What about pass grips? That requires physical presence. A pat on the back, a shared meal are part of who we are, and I can't see that changing.

There is an alarm at the door and the master has instructed us to take due notice thereof and govern ourselves accordingly. But the tyler is reluctant to open the door. He fears his sword might not be effective against the intruder. He turns to the East for further instructions. The master reminds him that *masons must be resourceful*.

For all the marvels of technology, electrons cannot replace bricks and mortar, flesh and blood. Our computer screens are two dimensional, but we are three dimensional. At least. The lodge meeting will return. But in the meanwhile, we must be resourceful.

I found a poem which spells out the opportunities presented by our challenge.

## PANDEMIC


What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times? Cease from travel. Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart. Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely, that has come clear.) Do not reach out your hands. Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

— Lynn Ungar 3/11/20, author of *Bread and Other Miracles* 

## No Gym Required: How to Get Fit at Home

## Your Good Health Tip

Many fitness centers and gyms have closed their doors in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. But the shutdowns have prompted both instructors and gymgoers to come up with creative ways to stay fit during the pandemic. Here are some tips on how to stay on top of your workouts while the gyms are closed.

Working out is not only beneficial for your physical health but for improving your mental well-being, too. Studies suggest that regular physical activity has positive effects on our overall well-being, including mental health. If we choose a form of exercise we enjoy, we can also experience a sense of pleasure. Having something positive to “do” for our health, such as exercise — in addition to washing our hands and practicing physical distancing — could be psychologically beneficial.



kind of pushing, pulling, squatting, hinging and lunging motions to get a full-body workout. If you're doing all this stuff, you're covering a lot of fundamental movement basics, especially if you add locomotion, which could be anything from walking to running.

You can also integrate exercise into daily activities like getting water or warming up food in the microwave. As you wait, you can do calf raises, jumping jacks or squats. If you are looking to purchase workout equipment for your home, bands and gliding disc sliders are affordable and accessible options. But no matter what you use or don't use while working out at home during the coronavirus outbreak, simply moving your body is enough.

Exercise increases our overall health and sense of well-being, which puts more pep in our step every day.

Whether you don't want to spend the money, or you don't have the space, you can still break a sweat without equipment. You just need to incorporate some


Excerpted from article by Amanda Pope in *Global News*. 




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# SCOTTISH RITE CALENDAR

## JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER 2020

JUNE	
2	*Mithras Lodge of Perfection 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
9	*An Evening with Ms. Betsy Ross @ DCSR 
16	*Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
23	*Albert Pike Consistory 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
JULY	
2	Independence Day Holiday Observance DCSR offices closed
Summer Break No Meetings	
AUGUST	
Summer Break No Meetings	
SEPTEMBER	
1	Mithras Lodge of Perfection 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
7	Labor Day DCSR offices closed
8	Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
15	Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
22	Albert Pike Consistory 7:30 p.m. (Members only)

\* Event contingent on official Masonic return to labor

 Family and friends are welcome to event






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Please text DCSR to 80123 to join our SMS group.

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 Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.,  
 Orient of the District of Columbia, Valley of Washington

OCTOBER	
3	"Enlightened Knowledge: Evermore Needed in an Age of Information" The DCSR Sesquicentennial Gala with General David H. Petraeus (US Army-Ret.) @ The Library of Congress  <i>Celebrating 150 YEARS</i>
6	Mithras Lodge of Perfection 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
13	Feast of Tishri @ DCSR 7:00 p.m. (S.R. Masons only)
20	Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
27	Albert Pike Consistory 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
NOVEMBER	
3	Mithras Lodge of Perfection 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
6-7	Fall 2020 Reunion @ DCSR (S.R. Masons only)
10	Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
14	"Music Speaks to the Soul" World Premiere of <i>Reunion of the Elements</i> by Marshall Wilner and Ralph Raymond Hays performed with the Orchid Quartet @ DCSR  <i>Celebrating 150 YEARS</i>
17	Robert de Bruce Council of Kadosh 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
24	DCSR Scholarships and Community Service Awards Program 
26	Thanksgiving Day DCSR offices closed
DECEMBER	
1	Mithras Lodge of Perfection 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
8	Evangelist Chapter of Rose Croix 7:30 p.m. (Members only)
15	Founders' Day Membership Banquet @ DCSR (Members only)
Dec 24 - Jan 3	Holiday Break DCSR offices closed