

OTSENINGO BODIES A.A.S.R.

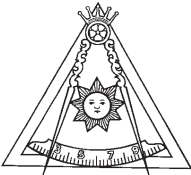
VALLEY OF BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

Second Quarter, 2008

2008 Spring Reunion to Honor Distinguished Brother G. Bernard Freer 32°MSA!

Saturday,
April 19,
2008

Kalurah Shrine



LODGE

Lodge of Perfection

8:30 AM..... Candidates Report

4° Master Traveler

10° Master Elect of Fifteen

14° Grand Elect Mason

Lunch following the first three Degrees.
Reservation Form on Page-11.

Saturday,
April 19,
2008

Kalurah Shrine



COUNCIL

Council of Princes of Jerusalem

16° Prince of Jerusalem

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Do You Feel Neglected?

Many times, I hear a brother say that they don't participate because they haven't been asked to do anything. Masonry is a VOLUNTEER organization. The Officers spend tremendous amounts of time asking people to take a part in a degree or to assist with a project and most of the time it feels like a thankless job. If we know a brother would like to participate, even if it is in a small manner, we would jump at the opportunity. I cannot call every member on our membership list to try to get help. If you are willing to help, please send me a note or e-mail, telling me what type of things that you are willing to assist with. I would love to hear from you.

Commander in Chief Dutch Magill
2284 Farm to Market Road, Johnson City,
NY 13790
or e-mail: Dutch744@aol.com

Notices

Valley of Binghamton Office:

625 Dickson Street
Endicott, NY 13760-4527
Hours - Tues. - Fri. 9:00 AM - Noon
Phone: (607) 786-3627

Valley Secretary:

Alan P. Zdimal, 32°
Res. Phone: (607) 754-7830
Valley Office: (607) 786-3627
e-Mail: aasrbgm@sny.rr.com

Valley Beacon Editor

James M. Taylor, 32°
Phone: (607) 748-4253
e-Mail: taylorjm@aol.com

The *Otsenigo Beacon* is published quarterly and distributed in January, April, July and October in the interest of promoting Scottish Rite Masonry in the Southern Tier.

Please send all material for *Beacon* articles or Letters to the Editor by e-Mail, or by mail to the Valley Office at the above address marked "Attention - Beacon Editor."

Inform the Valley Secretary of all Address Corrections.

Thank you for your cooperation.
DATES *BEACON* MATERIALS
DUE TO EDITOR

NOW PUBLISHED QUARTERLY!

Your submissions for articles are due to the Beacon editor by the **10th of December, March, June and September** to be delivered during the first week of January, April, July and October.

Photos submitted may not be returned.

Material should be submitted in writing, preferably typed, addressed to *Beacon Editor* c/o the Secretary of the Valley by these dates to be included in the next issue. E-mail preferred. The mailing address for the articles is 625 Dickson Street, Endicott, NY 13760-4527.

Allegiance

The Bodies of Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Binghamton, State of New York, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose Grand East is in Lexington Massachusetts and whose officers are:

Ill.·John William McNaughton, 33°,
Sovereign Grand Commander

-

Ill.·Jim S. Deyo, 33°,
Grand Lieutenant Commander

-

Ill.·Norman L. Christensen, 33°,
Grand Minister of State

-

Ill.·Harold L. Aldrich, 33°,
Deputy for New York State

Active Members for New York

Ill.·Frederick D. Greene, 33°

Ill.·Peter J. Samiec, 33°

Ill.·David P. Spencer, 33°

Ill.·Edward R. Trosin Jr., 33°

Active Emeriti Members

Ill.·James F. Neihoff, 33°

Ill.·Bruce W. Widger, 33°,
Past Deputy for New York State

Ill.·Richard H. Welkley, 33°

Ill.·Gary A. Henningsen, 33°

Deputy's Representative

Ill.·Gary A. Brenchley, 33°

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Purple Apron Presentation to José Valencia!

Contributed by Gary Brenchley 33°

A Purple Apron Presentation was made to Right Worshipful Brother José Valencia, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, Sunday Afternoon, March 30, 2008 at the Round Hill Masonic Temple in Endicott. The Apron Presentation was made by our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Neal I. Bidnick and was open to the public. The Grand Master was accompanied by several Grands Line officers.

There was an excellent turnout for our Distinguished Brother! José is a very dedicated Mason and has supported our Valley well for many years, most notably as our Hospitaler from 1989 to 2006!

Thanks to all who came out to show your appreciation to this dedicated Brother!

ATTEND YOUR



BLUE LODGE

Your Hospitaler



Letters to the Editor

If you have a comment, a good word, or a problem, you may submit it to be considered for publication in the *Beacon*. Each letter must be signed by a member in good standing in the Valley, and the letter must be judged against a standard which holds that printed material must not be destructive of the Valley or its membership. The *Beacon* editor and Valley Secretary reserve the right to refrain from publishing materials deemed not to be in the best interest of the Valley or its members. There is no appeal.

Dues' Cards

To Enter our Tiled meetings, you must show your A.A.S.R. current dues card, as well as your paid up Lodge dues card. Please remember to bring them with you!

IN MEMORIAM

(Deaths which have occurred or of which we were informed since our last editorial closeout.)

Henry R. Bennett	2/14/2008
Bryon W. Bramer	2/6/2008
Durwood L. Dennis	12/16/2007
Andrew M. Fiddes	9/6/2007
Harold Greenberger	5/11/2005
Louis M. Greenblott	8/30/2007
Earl S. Gregory	2/20/2008
H. Neil Holmes	1/28/2007
Charles Lenish	11/23/2007
Leonard J. Levine	1/31/2008
Louis Levine	2/25/2008
Philip D. Levy	10/8/2006
Paul W. Mittan	11/16/2007
Joseph W. Prosch	2/15/2008
Donald H. Saxton	11/20/2006
Richard W. Schaub	1/1/2000
Frank J. Sedlar	7/21/2006
William J. Wardrop	4/19/2007

2008 Spring Reunion to Honor Distinguished Brother G. Bernard Freer, 32°, MSA!

Contributed by Gary Brenchley, 33°



G. Bernard Freer

The Officers of Otseningo Bodies A.A.S.R. in the Valley of Binghamton are pleased to name the 2008 Spring Reunion in honor of Distinguished Brother G. Bernard Freer 32°, MSA! Distinguished

Brother Freer has been a dedicated Mason for many years. Soon after he was raised a Master Mason in St. Marks-Philetus Lodge #1001, Bernie became an Officer and he continued 'through the chairs' to serve as Worshipful Master in 1976. After serving in the East, Bernie's dedication to Masonry did not fade. He continued to serve his Lodge by holding various Offices, and in 1992 he returned to the East to serve as Worshipful Master until 1994! Bernie's dedication to Masonry was recognized in 1993 when he was awarded the Dedicated Service Award by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York.

In 1995 Distinguished Brother Bernie became a member of Otseningo Bodies A.A.S.R., in the Valley of Binghamton. Since becoming a member, Bernie has given unselfishly of his time and talents to our Valley. He has served continuously every year as an Officer, and he has demonstrated a real devotion to Scottish Rite Masonry by serving as the Presiding Officer of all four Bodies of the Valley of Binghamton! A very impressive and important service to our Valley!

Bernie has also served our Valley in a number of other ways. He has served as the Chairman of our Annual Scottish Rite Family Life Program and as the Chairman of our Valley's Annual Johnson City Field Day Fund Raiser. He implemented the Annual Masonic Information Day held at the Oakdale Mall, and he served as its Chairman for a period of four years. He also served as the Chairman of our Valley's Telephone Committee and he has served on our Membership and Long Range Planning Committees as well.

Distinguished Brother Bernie has also played an important role in many of our degrees by either taking a part or by serving as a Producer. He has also taken an active role in our Annual Feast of the Pascal Lamb, held on Palm Sunday.

In 2002, Bernie was awarded the Meritorious Service Award at the New York State Council of Deliberation. Bernie is also a member of the Vallonia Chapter No. 80, Royal Arch Masons and a member of Kalurah Shriners. He is a member and a past presiding Officer of the Knights of Mecca. Distinguished Brother Bernie is a member of the First Presbyterian Church and he serves as an Elder and a Deacon. He also has taught Sunday School for several years. Bernie is a retired High School Science Teacher and he enjoys working with the Boy Scouts and the local YMCA in his spare time.

It is the Valley of Binghamton's honor to have this Distinguished Brother as one of our own and to name our 2008 Spring Reunion in his honor!

From the Commander-in-Chief

Contributed by Donald R. Magill, 32°, Commander-in-Chief

Dear Brethren:



Donald R. Magill

First, I would like to apologize to the membership. The reason for the Beacon not been published on time is totally my fault. I could give you many reasons why I did not get articles done on time but the reasons are not important.

I'm sorry for this lack of communication.

Much has happened since the last issue of the Beacon. We had a very delightful New Year Dinner. The meal was very enjoyable and it was a good time to share some time with our fellow brethren and their wives. The MSA's and 33° brethren sponsor this dinner and it is always enjoyable. One thing that we need to stress is even though we advertise this meal as the MSA and 33rd degree brethren dinner that it is not just for them. It is open for the entire membership and we would love to see more people come out for it.

Our Business meeting was scheduled for February 1, 2008 but the snow storm interrupted our plans and we had to cancel it. There was business that we needed to do but the safety of our membership is more important. When we do have a meeting, **please keep in mind that attendance is important. Please support your Valley by attending.**

The Annual President's Day Dinner was held on February 15, 2008. Sublime Prince Gene Graves was responsible for this dinner and he did a wonderful job. The program was Ill. Tom Wooden (PHA) who gave a very interesting and informative talk

on the Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania. He is the Treasurer for the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies. My wife, Pat and I were very surprised with some of the facts that he told us about

Another significant event occurred on **Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008.** The Chapter of the Rose Croix of Otsenigo Bodies A.A.S.R. observed the beautiful and symbolic celebration of the **Feast of the Pascal Lamb as a memorial service to our departed Brethren of the preceding Year.** The audience was full on that day and it was a very nice service. I do have to commend Sublime Prince and Rev. Allen Lang. The speaker had a last minute problem and could not make it. Rev. Lang said he would give the message literally three minutes before the service started and when you listened to it, you would have thought that he worked on it for more than the whole preceding week. It was an inspiring and moving message.

Let's talk about some of the things that are coming up in the near future. On **April 19, 2008,** we are going to hold the Spring Reunion at Kalurah Shrine Center. We will be staging the 4th degree, the 10th degree, the 14th degree and the 18th degree. We are making every effort that all parts will be done without the aid of notes or books. Distinguished Brother Tim McMullin is producing the 4th degree. This is a new revision of the degree and no one has seen this new version yet. The cast is a very capable group of brothers and we are trying some new ideas to make it interesting. We do have candidates for these degrees so we would like to have people in the audience to show our support for the Valley. Distinguished Brother Dwight Jemison has taken over the producing the 14th degree.

Continued on Page-7

Continued from Page-6

The Reunion is being named for Distinguished Brother Bernard Freer. Distinguished Brother Freer has been the head of all four bodies of our valley. He has plans to move from this area and relocate to the State of Kentucky. We would like to honor him before he leaves. Please come out and show you appreciation for him.

A very important date to remember is Wednesday, April 23, 2008. This is the official visit of New York Active member, Ill. Ed Trosin. We want to put our best foot forward and show the progress that our Valley is making. We will have a Social hour from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Russ of Orlando's will be preparing the meal and if you have had any of the recent meals that he has prepared, you will know that you don't want to miss this one. This event includes our ladies. They are an important part of our organization. We couldn't do many of the things we do if we didn't have the support of our ladies. At 7:30 PM, the men will conduct our meeting while our ladies will have an enjoyable presentation. Pat's brother, Marty, who is a former chef in the Poconos, will be preparing the dessert for the evening and then he will show the ladies how they can make the same delicious dish.

If any of the ladies remember the presentation that Marty did when I was Potentate, they will know that this will be an enjoyable and fun filled evening.

The members will get a chance to see the 4th degree again and it should be even better the second time that we present it. The business meeting will be kept very short so that we don't keep our ladies waiting very long.

To help with communications, I have assembled an e-mail distribution list. Right now, I have about 81 userids on the list. I am sending out messages about up coming events and I am also using it to get short notices to members. If you are not receiving my messages, please send me your userid. Send them to Dutch744@aol.com.

We have to change our annual meeting because of a conflict with the Kalurah Shrine Circus. I hope to get the following Friday, May 16, 2008, approved for our meeting and election.

As we go forward into our year, my Brothers, please remember that participation and membership is essential to our Valley's success. I look forward to seeing you at our coming events.

Donald "Dutch" Magill, 32°,
Commander in Chief

BUSINESS MEETING NOTICE

The scheduled BUSINESS MEETING of the four coordinate bodies of the Valley of Binghamton, New York, will be held on **Saturday, April 19 at 8:30 AM** at the Kalurah Shrine Center, 625 Dickson Street, Endicott, New York for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before it. Note that your 2008 Blue Lodge dues card and 2008 Scottish Rite dues card are required and must be shown to the Tiler for proper admittance.

Having due notice thereof, govern yourself accordingly.



ATTEST: Alan P. Zdimal, 32°,
Secretary

Brethren:

A few thoughts for the New Year, which appeared in a recent issue of the Valley of Scranton's *Courier*, I thought that it was worth sharing with you:

ONE DAY AT A TIME

- The most useless thing to do Worry
- The greatest Joy Giving
- The greatest loss Loss of self-respect
- The Most satisfying work Helping others
- The ugliest personality trait Selfishness
- The most endangered species Dedicated leaders of mind
- The most crippling failure disease..... Excuses
- The greatest 'shot in the arm' Encouragement
- The greatest problem to overcome Fear
- The most effective sleeping pill Peace
- The most powerful force in life Love
- The most dangerous pariah A gossip
- The world's most incredible computer The brain
- The worst thing to be without..... Hope
- The deadliest weapon The tongue
- The two most power-filled words I can
- The greatest asset..... Faith
- The most prized possession Integrity
- The most beautiful attire A smile
- The most powerful channel of communication Prayer
- The most contagious spirit Enthusiasm
- The most important thing in life God

Gary Brenchley, 33°

Official Visit of State Active

The Governing body of Scottish Rite Masonry in New York State is the Council of Deliberation. The top officers are the five 33° Active members of Supreme Council. Once a year, every Scottish Rite Valley is visited by one of the State Active members of Supreme Council. This is similar to a District Deputy Grand Master's visit to a lodge. The Active will review the records of the Valley and talk with the Officers of each of the Bodies of our Valley.

This year, the official visitor is Illustrious Edward R. Trosin, 33° Active. The Visit will take place on April 23, 2008. We have what should be a very enjoyable evening planned for that evening. There will be a dinner opened to members and their spouses and guests. The meal is being prepared by Orlando's Catering so the dinner should be very delicious. There will be a special dessert served. After the Dinner, the members will adjourn to their meeting. We will be eliminating most of the business and the main item on the agenda will be the presentation of the 4th degree. Brother Tim McMullin 32°, MSA, has been working very hard to have this new version of the degree presented in a very professional manner.

While the members will be conducting their business, the ladies will be entertained by Chef Marty Coughlin, who was one of the best chefs who has worked in the Poconos resorts. He is very entertaining in his presentations and will show how he prepared the special dessert that we have for the meal that night. Brother McMullin is trying to arrange a special deal where the members of the cast will receive their meal and will only have to pay for their spouse or guest. Please come out and join us for a special evening.

OFFICIAL VISIT DINNER & MEETING

Kalurah Shrine Center

April 23, 2008 (Wednesday)

Social Hour starting at 5:30 PM

(Cash Bar)

Dinner at 6:30 PM

Meeting at 7:30 PM

Entertainment for the wives and guests starting at 7:30 PM

Cost: \$17.00 per person

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please contact the Scottish Rite Office by telephone (786-3627)

or by E-mail (AASRBGM@STNY.RR.COM)

We need the following information:

Name _____

Number of Meals: _____ x \$17.00 = _____

Telephone Contact Number: _____

Notes from the Secretary's Desk

Contributed by Alan P. Zdimal, 32°, Valley Secretary

Well it looks like the weather is taking a turn for the better – I see a lot of people out and about either walking or starting to get their spring cleaning yard work started. So it seems like it is time to put the snow shovel away and get out the golf clubs.

The Scottish Rite office would like to thank the members who have sent in their 2008 dues. The office would like to remind the members what their dues are used for - paying the Supreme Council and Council of Deliberation assessments, publishing and distributing the Beacon, office rental and supporting the Valley's various projects and activities.

Again, there are some members who are in arrears with their dues for a period of more than two years. These people will be contacted in the near future as to their desire to maintain their membership in the Scottish Rite fraternity. It should be noted that the Valley cannot continue to pay the members assessments and the costs associated with maintaining the Scottish Rite activities without collecting the member's dues. The dues are the only way we can maintain a balanced budget.

The members should be congratulated for supporting the Valleys Family Life Programs and events associated with the 32° Masonic Learning Center. Last year the Valley contributed over \$6,000.00 to the Frank and Bette Paul Masonic Learning Center in Rochester, NY from the money generated from our 10th annual golf tournament and 4th Annual Walk-A-Thon. Please keep these events in mind again this year (golf – August 17th and Walk-A-Thon ~ October 12th).

Last weekend I found the old adage about it being a small world to still be true. My wife and I went to St. Augustine, Florida to visit our son and his family and I got invited to play cards at his neighbor's house. I found out that the player next to me is a member of the Scottish Rite – Valley of Binghamton. The members name is Richard Burke and it was a pleasure talking to him even though he now has some additional northern money in his pocket.

Again, thank you for this year's support and I look forward to working with the Valley and its members in the ensuing year.

Dist. José Valencia, 32°, MSA, to Receive Other Honors

In addition to receiving the office and title of Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Brother José Valencia has several other honors being bestowed upon him. On Friday Evening, April 11th, Queen May Court, Order of the Amaranth, will install him as Royal Patron. Then, on May 10th, Brother Valencia will again be given another high honor in Masonry. He will be the Grand Royal Patron for the State of New York Order of the Amaranth. When you see José extend to him your best wishes, as we are all very proud of what he does for Masonry.

Walk-A-Thon 2007 Review

Contributed by Craig M. Oakley, 32°

Brethren:

Another year has gone by and once again due to the efforts and dedication of many our Walk-A-Thon was a success this year.

We enjoyed a bright, cherry and warm walk this past October. Well...okay, so the weather was a bit "cool" but the smiles were bright, the fellowship cherry and the food was warm. My thanks to those who braved the elements to make our Walk happen.

I'd like to thank everyone for all that they did to make our Walk successful. For our financial success my thanks to our Trail Marker Sponsors, to those who donated to the Walk, to our Walkers and their Sponsors. Our Walk raised over \$6,700.00 this year. Now this is due to a substantial donation by Bette Paul. Her \$5,000.00 contribution is a clear example of her dedication to our Learning Center for Children. Thank you Bette Paul, you are an inspiration to us all!

In our "blue collar" division we thank Alice Oakley for her efforts to support our Walk-A-Thon. Entirely through individual walk sponsorships she raised over \$900.00 to help our cause. Thank you Alice, you encourage us all by the realization of what can be accomplished.

As for the Walk itself, I'd like to thank the walkers and the workers for their expertise,

time and efforts. First up is Alan Zdimal, whose countless hours of hard work are greatly appreciated. Thank you Alan, without you this event just wouldn't happen. To Sam Bogart, who not only cooked the hot dogs but surprised us with chili for them too. A warm meal after the walk was just the ticket. Sam also brought a couple of portable heaters. Thank you Sam, you really "warmed up" our after walk fellowship. To the walkers, for your time getting pledges and for coming out that Sunday. (Sam helped here too, his family accounted for 25% of our walkers). Thank you, for without you we don't have an event.

My thanks to my wife for typing my articles, as I am computer illiterate. I write them longhand (scribble); she deciphers them, types them and sends them to Jim Taylor. Thank you Alice!

Alan makes the Walk happen.

Bette's inspiration, Alice's encouragement and the support of our members make the Walk a financial success.

Sam makes the walk enjoyable.

But those who come out ARE the Walk. Remember to set October 12, 2008 aside for this year's Walk-A-Thon!

A Grateful thank you to all,

Craig M. Oakley,
Walk Chairman

REUNION REUNION REUNION

SPRING REUNION MEAL - April 19, 2008

Saturday, April 19, 2008 Lunch: \$10.00 How Many? _____

Name: _____

Call the Valley Office with your reservation (607-786-3627).

Make Checks payable to: **Otseningo Bodies, AASR**

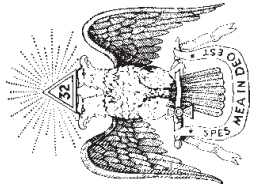
THANK YOU FOR MAKING RESERVATIONS PROMPTLY!

Otseningo Bodies, AASR
625 Dickson Street
Endicott, NY 13760-4527

Have You Invited
A Master Mason
To Join
The Scottish Rite?

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PAID
Binghamton, NY
Permit No. 171

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



INFORMATION FOR THE FAMILY

In the event that the Scottish Rite Mason whose name appears on the mailing list goes to the hospital, a nursing home, or is incapacitated in any way, please notify the Secretary with this information. Also, please report all address changes immediately.

