

# Richmond Double Eagle

April 2018



Chapter Rose Croix



Knights Kadosh



Consistory



Lodge of Perfection



KSA



KCCH



33° IGH



**Brethren and All,**

At our February Stated we had a special treat when WRVA radio personality—and Brother—Jeff Katz was our after-dinner speaker. He shared his journey through radio, life and family with honesty, warmth and humor. If you weren't there you missed a great time. Brother Jeff told us a very touching story about his daughter Julia and a letter he had written to her on her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. He read the letter on the air and from there it went viral. Children are close to the heart of Scottish Rite Masons so in this edition of the Double Eagle I hope you will enjoy reading this special story about Brother Jeff's daughter, Julia.

And as you read the letter, think about the mission and work of the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center. Think about your Blue Lodge friends and Brothers who aren't Scottish Rite Masons and consider asking them to join us in our journey of serving children with speech and language difficulties. And as you think about extending the invitation, remember the rare and unique opportunity we will have this fall to confer the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree at the House of the Temple in Washington DC.



## Here's the full text of radio host Jeff Katz's heartrending letter to his daughter, as posted on Facebook March 7, 2018

Dear Julia:

I'm writing you this note on March 7, 2018. Today is the day that you turn 15 years old. It's an interesting day for me and for Mom, but it's another day for you. You're not like other kids, my sweet. You've never made a big deal of your birthday; you've never asked us for any type of a special gift. Not for your birthday, not for Chanukah not for Christmas. You've treated each and every day in the same way. Mom will wake you up and you'll have a smile on your face when you see her. She'll play some of your music and you'll smile even more. You may laugh or giggle or squeal but there will not be any words. You won't complain about having to go to school. You won't be happy to hear that it is a snow day. You won't celebrate the fact that today is fifteen years since you were born.

Most fifteen year old girls would be thinking about clothing, college or a car. By fifteen, many Dads have already had to warn their daughters about some dopey boy. But today, you'll watch your favorite episode of Jack's Big Music Show, enjoy your cereal and be on the lookout for cookies wherever you can find them. Mom and I know that you will be with us as long as we're alive, but we worry about what happens after we're gone. You have two wonderful brothers and I pray every day that we have raised them well enough to know that they will need to look after you some day. You may be our middle child, but you'll always be the baby. Even as you get older according to the calendar, as Mom told me yesterday you are timeless. You'll always be my pipsqueak despite the fact that the years are flying by.

No, we're not exploring potential careers or making plans for your wedding. We're still hoping that we'll be able to help you move from diapers to the potty some day. You live today the same way you did when you were about 18 months old. You don't speak and you only recognize a few words but oh the words that you know. Kisses and cookies! No matter how filled up you are, there's always room for a cookie or two. You don't understand when I ask you how your day was, but you become laser beam focused when you hear the crinkle of the wrapper on a package of something sweet. No matter how sweet that candy, it's still eclipsed by your genuinely sweet smile.

So many people live their lives asking for things, demanding things, accumulating things. Most people never take the time to stop and savor a piece of cake or breathe deeply to appreciate a gentle breeze like you do. I hear people in this world use horrible insulting language to describe kids like you and I want to shake them and yell at them. Some mock disabled kiddos like you and I feel like crying. You don't understand their words, but I do. Sometimes, I really wish I did not.

We never thought you would crawl let alone walk, but you showed us. Your situation and challenges and disabilities have caused me to question my belief in God on some days and have served to strengthen it on others. You don't speak but somehow you are able to brighten my days in ways that I never imagined. Without a single solitary word, you've made me a better man and touched countless people. Hearing you cry ties my stomach in to knots but your giggle is truly the happiest sound that I have ever heard.

I know you'll never read this nor would you understand this if I were to read it to you. So let me just say kisses and cookies, Jules Bagools. I tell you today what I have told you on every March 7 since 2003, Daddy loves you more than you will ever know.



**Heslam: Radio host Jeff Katz feels pride, fear for developmentally disabled daughter**

Jessica Heslam Thursday, March 8, 2018

That day nearly three years ago, when Julia Katz walked to the school bus in Swampscott with her dad for the first time without a wheelchair, was one of the proudest of her father's life — and at the same time terrifying.

“I never thought that Julia would ever be mobile in any way except in a wheelchair,” said Jeff Katz, a former Boston radio host now on the air in Virginia on WRVA. “It was one of the proudest days of my life, one of the happiest days of my life.”

**BASEBALL and Celebrating The Craft**

May 19, 2018

This is shaping up to be a great event for our Richmond Valley.

We already have over 50 people signed up, but our target is 100 Masons, their families and friends who want to attend the Game and Support our Childhood Language Center.

Please see the poster below and call Charles or Terry to sign up.

ALSO, please remember to bring your checkbook to the Stated meeting to support this very worthy cause.

All checks for the CTC will be split between the House of the Temple and our own CLC.

I look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support!

Terry Hilton

**SCOTTISH RITE AND MASONIC FRATERNITY NIGHT  
YOU ARE INVITED!  
Richmond Flying Squirrels**



**When:** May 19, 2018      **Time:** 6:05 p.m.  
**Location:** The Diamond      **Game Tickets:** \$8

**ALL MASONS, wives, families, neighbors, friends, and  
EVERYONE is welcome.**

**Picnic Dinner for ONLY \$5 at Shrine Picnic Pavilion at 4 p.m.**

- 2 Nathan's hot dogs
- Bag of chips
- Can of soda
- Bag of cookies

**Plenty of parking is available at Shrine  
Carpooling is a possibility to save parking fees**

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**For additional information, contact:**

**Terry Hilton  
347-1993**

**Charles Robinson  
432-3053**



## **VMAP Committee - Lin Spears and Whit Hanscom**

**Our Valley committed to being awarded the VMAP Program again this year. The program information can be found on [Scottish Rite.org](http://ScottishRite.org). VMAP gives our Valley a checklist to self-evaluate the many areas that are necessary for our success. The Valley officers would appreciate your input.**

**Lin Spears, 32 ° KCCH and Whit Hanscom, 32 ° VMAP Committee**

Brethren,

We have decided to have one, larger and very special reunion this year instead of the usual two. This year's reunion will be a two-day event with the first day, October 6, covering the 4th through the 31st Degrees. We have added three videos we think everyone will enjoy.

Then on October 27th, we will take the class to Washington, DC. for a tour of The House of The Temple, Lunch, and the 32nd Degree conferred in The House of The Temple. What a great experience this will be for anyone wanting to become a Scottish Rite Mason.

Let's get the word, and petitions out for what promises to be a memorable experience.

Charles Robinson, 32° KCCH, Membership Chair

### ***Scottish Rite Woman's Club***

Scottish Rite Woman's Club,

We welcome any ladies to our meeting in the library.

I hope to see you there.

Valerie Layman, President

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Bob Carpenter, Jr., 33°

The April meeting will be our Ceremony of Remembrance presented by the Chapter of Rose Croix. Bro. Kevin Rudd, Wise Master, has been hard at work to prepare the program for your enjoyment. Please honor him, his officers, and the memory of our departed brethren by being in attendance on April 23.

We will not be hosting a Spring Reunion this year. Instead, we have a special treat for our Fall Reunion Class. Degrees 4 through 31 will be presented on Saturday, October 6. Then, on Saturday October 27, we will take the Fall Class, and those interested brethren of the Valley, to the House of the Temple in Washington, DC for the presentation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree in the Temple Room. Arrangements are well under way. There will be tours of the House of the Temple, a luncheon and the degree. Petitions are available NOW in the office and on our website. We are looking for at least 100 new Masters of the Royal Secret. Get your Petitions in and make your own reservations. More details will be available shortly.

Looking ahead, the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May falls on Memorial Day this year. Our Stated Meeting in May will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, May 21, not on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. Please schedule accordingly, and **do not forget to make your DINNER RESERVATIONS!**

## RICHMOND VALLEY COMING EVENTS

**2018**

**APRIL**

Sunday 1 – Easter

Monday 2 – Office Closed for Easter Monday

Wednesday 11 – Honour Court Meeting

Monday 23 – Stated Meeting

## MAY

Sunday 13 – Mother’s Day

Monday 21 – Stated Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

Monday 28 – Office Closed for Memorial Day

## JUNE

Sunday 17 – Father’s Day

Monday 25 – Stated Meeting

*Richmond Double Eagle* is produced by;  
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Richmond Scottish Rite Valley web site <http://www.richmondscottishrite.org/>