



The Rite Word

From the Venerable Master

We just passed through the time of Lent and Easter. Life may seem dark, but we are looking forward to resurrection of social life, and ascendance to better times.

Technology brings people, friends, brethren together in these difficult times. Google Hangouts, Skype, Webex, Zoom, they all have a way for us to see each other on a computer monitor, tablet or your phone, in either full or for private use a somewhat limited free form. We have had lodges conducting virtual meetings to approve the bills, and we had a few social hang-outs, trying to cheer up Brandon that holds the lonely station over at the Masonic Center, and kindly also here.

We will leverage technology more and more, and as we explore it for social and valley business usage, creativity for "virtual" events will spark. If you need help getting you going on these technologies, please reach out to us.

"From the ice they are freed, the stream and brook,



By the Spring's enlivening, lovely look;
The valley's green with joys of hope."

Brother Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (Amalia Lodge, Weimar, Germany) wrote these lines back in 1808, while Europe was in turmoil in the Napoleonic wars, after the official dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire. Let us all keep our hope, and help each others, as much as possible.

We all will learn from this current situation: Learn about how to use technology and be efficient in our ways of communication. Save time previously spent on commutes on the road, and use that time for recreation, or maybe to read up in the Master Craftsman Program.

While the future seems uncertain, we are looking forward to seeing you all, virtually, via technology, and fingers crossed, in person soon.

Reminder (we will waive this if the prohibition is lifted between the 9th and the 11th)

Reservations for Stated Meeting Dinner are due by Friday May 8th. If you do not make your reservation by that date, Dinner will cost \$20 if there is enough

2020 Honor Roll

Bro. Art Pasquinelli 32°
Hon. Virgilio Quina 32° KCCH
Bro. Jim Ward 32°
Bro. Jonas Pauliukonis 32°
Hon. Dell Bleiler 32° KCCH
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°
Bro. John Absalon 32°
Hon. John Unger 32°
Bro Ion Vasilescu 32°
Bro TJ Jackson 32°
Bro. Estil Johnson 32°
Ill. Dee Ayre 33°

Make an annual Donation to the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies in the amount of \$100 or more and have your name included on the "Honor Roll" Your gift allows the San Jose Bodies to provide the quality events that you deserve.

Donations

In Memory of Ill. Glen MacBride 33°

Ill. Richard Fisher 33°
Kathrine Runcie
(for Clinic Teaching Supplies)

Called From Labor

No Deaths Reported
This month



Sick or Distressed

Ill. Leo B. Mark 33°
408-838-4764
Calls/Visitors Welcome

2020 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822
Senior Warden	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	831-373-1094
Junior Warden	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Naresh Rampershad 32°	408-660-0121
Captain of the Host	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805

2020 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Bro. Art Pasquinelli, 32°	408-483-9361
Senior Warden	Hon. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903
Junior Warden	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Master of Ceremonies	Ill. Randy Downey 33°	408-674-8341
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Laurentiu Murgu, 32°	408-755-0079

2020- Council of Kadosh

Commander	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
1st Lt Commander	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
2nd Lt Commander	Ill. Jack Harris 33°	408-275-6326
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Toby Vanderbeck 32°	650-722-1669
Lt of the Guard	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978

2020 San Jose Consistory

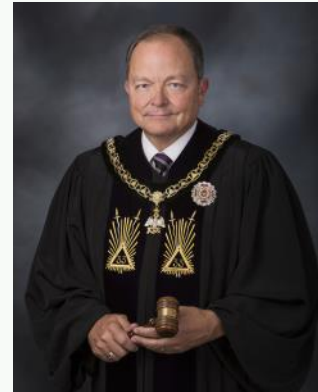
Master of Kadosh	Hon. Cordell Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Prior	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Preceptor	Hon. John Unger 32° KCCH	408-489-8128
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
Captain of the Guard	Bro. TJ Jackson, 32°	408-230-6088

2020- General Officers

Personal Representative	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
General Secretary	Hon. Gregg Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Treasurer	Bro. Carey Atwood, 32°	408-832-1867
Prelate	Bro. Mark McEuen, 32°	408-251-3086
Almoner	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423
Orator/Librarian	Hon. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Hon. Tom Tefft, 32° KCCH	408-465-2585
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Assist. DoC	Hon. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Chief Knight KSA	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423

Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Secretary	Hon. Gregg Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Treasurer	Bro. Carey Atwood, 32°	408-832-1867
Director (exp 2022)	Bro. Garrett Burrow, 32°	408-891-6746
Director (exp 2022)	Hon. Jeffory Toone, 32° KCCH	408-390-5016
Director (exp 2020)	Ill. Randy Downey 33°	408-674-8341
Director (exp 2020)	Bro. Toby Vanderbeck 32°	650-722-1669
Director (exp 2021)	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
Director (exp 2021)	Hon. Brandon Duenas 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Venerable Master	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822
Wise Master	Bro. Art Pasquinelli, 32°	408-483-9361
Commander	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Master of Kadosh	Hon. Cordell Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730



Ill. James Cole 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council A.A.S.R.
Washington, D.C.



Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General in California,
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of San Jose, in the Orient of California, acknowledge and yield all 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 Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

From the Wise Master

As I sit at my desk pondering what to write for May's Rite Word, I find myself reflecting on April's Rite Word in which I requested your attendance for the Maundy Thursday celebration as well as the stated meeting on April 14. Unfortunately, as you now know, both events were cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus. So as I sit here, my thoughts and prayers turn to all my brethren, their families, and their loved ones.



We know that everyone is affected by this virus. Being "sheltered in place" is not fun. Working from home can be tiresome, you can only walk so many times a day, read so many books, watch so much tv, and so forth. But it is our responsibility to cooperate with those who have data and information on what causes this virus to be so devastating.

All Masonic functions are at a standstill. So, as we move forward, our next scheduled event is our stated meeting and dinner on May 12. My hope is that this virus will have subsided enough so that we can hold both functions as planned.

We will prevail over this virus in time, and my earnest hope is that none of our loved ones will have contracted this disease.

May you always have love to share, health to spare, and friends who care. May you be blessed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Art Pasquonelli".

From the Commander of Kadosh

The 1996 history of the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies included the name of Ill. Edwin A. Sherman, 33rd Degree, Grand Cross. During my travels for the State of California I also came across his grave in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland.



The San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies started when Sovereign Grand Commander Albert Pike came to San Jose and communicated the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection to a class in 1883. Brother Sherman came in 1885, as the special deputy of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General and organized the Albert G. MacKay Lodge of Perfection No. 13.

The inscription of Brother Sherman's grave said he was the father of the Oakland Scottish Rite Bodies and had given 60 of service to the craft. His connection to both the Oakland and San Jose Scottish Rite made me want to find out more about him.

He was born in Massachusetts and became a newspaper reporter in his early adult life. With the prospect of a war with Mexico looming, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1845. During the war he assisted in having an Army newspaper printed in a Mexican government printing office. He was wounded during the war by the windage of a cannon-shot that passed between his knees.

In 1849, after the discovery of gold in California, he traveled to San Francisco. After a number of business ventures and adventures he returned to Boston in 1854. He came back to California in 1855 and became Sacramento County's surveyor later moving to Nevada, in 1860, where he returned to journalism.

With the Civil War looming, he received a commission with the rank of Major in the California National Guard from then Governor Leland Stanford. During the 1860s

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From the Master of Kadosh

In the January Rite Word, I wrote, that the Great California Central Valley in historical times was originally covered with a constant six feet of water due to precipitation, sedimentation and evaporation. The streams in the Northern Delta area had not yet as carved their way thru to San Francisco and The Golden Gate Bay and to the ocean because of the hard-intervening rocky cliff impediments.



There was once an outlet in the south near the Paso Robles San Luis Obispo area but it eventually became clogged due to ground uplifting in that area. This slowly allowed for higher water levels in the central area and further stream erosion in river/bay area development in the north. I had never visited that southern area and this really kept jiggling around in my head for the past years.

Wow! Fast forward to August 2019 with the Ken Nagel announcement that he was going to lead a group to visit the Paso Robles area and Masonic Lodge for the purpose of presenting the Masonic Legion of Merit award to Wor. Brother P.M. Willard J. Strong of Paso Robles Lodge no. 286. There had only been five such awards previously presented in all of California and Willard graciously accepted this presentation and mad a fine historical type “thank you” speech. His book “Backwoods and Forwards” is in the library.

Year after year they have been making their car trips north with all their wood-working equipment to San Jose Scottish Rite to perform the “Woodman’s Degree” at our annual S.R. Reunions. About twenty of our members attended the presentation. We had a fine meal and a real good time.

On our way back home (Paso Robles is at 1,000 ft. in altitude) and going downhill to the bottom/there it was-out of our car windows, “that little stream”. The remnant of what used to be the big river that once emptied the southern end of the Great Inland Central Valley. At last, the missing piece of the puzzle was in place and I could sleep in peace again. I’m glad I did not miss that trip.

Dell Bleiler

From the Chief Knight

Greeting from the realm of San Jose, This months topic for discussion was going to be on the origin of the Knights of St. Andrew, but with the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the mandatory shelter in place I thought it be necessary to talk on the subject of faith.



In the online Oxford Dictionary, the word “faith” has a few definitions. One definition that stood out to me, defines *faith* as a “Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.”

As I sit in the confines of my home for the past four weeks, I have to admit that my faith has been tested. I am constantly questioning the “Why” on everything. Why is this happening to us? Why are my friends sick and dying? Why did I temporarily close my business? Why? Why? Why?

Then one afternoon I was sitting by myself, and it hit me; I need to change my thoughts. I needed to believe things happen for a reason, and that is when my negative mindset switched. I started to focus on the positive things in my life; my husband, my masonic brothers, family and close friends, but most importantly my faith in my higher power.

This change in my own mindset gave me the faith to believe that some negative situations happen for a specific reason. For me personally, it has given me the ability appreciate all that I have, and it has reminded me to be grateful for the simple things in life. I am grateful that I have all of you.

If you need anything from me, please never hesitate to give me a call. I will always be there for you. I have the faith we will get through these trying times together. Please stay safe and healthy.

Kaleo Hagne

The Council of Kadosh

The Hebrew word (קדוש) *ka DōSH*) means holy, dedicated, or consecrated. On the High Priest's crown are engraved the words (יהוה קדוש ליהוה) *Kadosh la-Adonai*) meaning dedicated to God.

"You shall be holy to me; for I the Lord am holy, and I have separated you from the other peoples to be mine", says Leviticus 20:26 NRSV.

In the Council of Kadosh Degrees we explore various concepts of Deity and mankind's search to discover Him.

19th Degree — Grand Pontiff

The true Mason labors for the benefit of those who are to come after him. We no longer speak of building the Temple but of building the New City. A pontiff is a bridge builder — able to help others to navigate the labyrinth of life.

Significant features of a Chapter of Grand Pontiffs are a set of 12 white columns and the tracing board. The design on the tracing board consists of a painting. At the top of the painting a beautiful golden city is descending from a clear blue sky. At the bottom is the old city of Jerusalem in ruins. The focus is on the new city. It has walls of jasper, foundations of precious stones, and buildings made of gold. The city is a square and has three gates of pearl on each side, making 12 in all. Most notably, the city has no Temple. A light of glory at the center of the city illuminates everything. If this sounds familiar, you might have read about it in the Bible, Book of Revelation, chapter 21.

There are 12 white columns, two each in the East and West, four each in the North and in the South. Each column has inscribed a name or title of Deity, the initial of the name of one of the Tribes of Israel, and one of the signs of the zodiac. The zodiac is not discussed in this degree.

The presiding officer is the Venerable Pontiff. You address him as "Venerable". He wears a white satin robe, carries a scepter, on one his chest is a representation of the breastplate worn by the Jewish High Priest. You might recognize its rectangular shape and the twelve stones mounted on it.

All other members are addressed as "Brother". They also wear white satin robes and a blue fillet (a headband, pronounced FILL let) with 12 gold stars embroidered on it. Everybody wears a crimson cordon (sash) over the left shoulder, with 12 stars and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega.

The ceremony begins with a six raps, followed by one rap at the door. The Venerable Pontiff asks, "Who hails?". The Master of Ceremonies replies, "A Knight Rose Croix, who desires to attain the Degree of Grand Pontiff." The Venerable Pontiff directs the Master of Ceremonies to conduct the

Candidate around the columns and to explain their meaning.

The Candidate is led by each column in the following order: Column 4, initial J for the tribe of Judah. The Master of Ceremonies recites a brief prediction of Judah's future. Then comes Column 3, I for Issachar; Column 9, Z for Zebulon; Column 10, R for Reuben; Column 11, S for Simeon; Column 12, G for Gad; Column 1, E for Ephraim; Column 8, M for Manasseh; Column 2, B for Benjamin; Column 7, D for Dan; Column 6, A for Asher; and finally Column 5, N for Naphtali.

The predictions for each tribe deal with reconciliation, homecoming, triumph, redemption, and the need to wait patiently. A comparable pattern is found in the Book of Genesis, chapter 49, where Jacob makes a prediction of the future of his 12 sons, whose descendants will become the tribes of Israel. Jacob gives the predictions to his sons in order of their birth. Jacob's predictions in the Bible are completely different from those given in the Grand Pontiff Degree.

After contemplating each of the pillars and predictions, several Brothers suddenly seize the Candidate, cover his head with a thick cloth, and sit him down in the center of the Chapter room. The Brothers retire and leave the Candidate alone in solitude and silence.

Voices from the Book of Revelation

The silence is suddenly interrupted by a flash of light and a message recited by one of the Brothers. The first message describes the "mark of the beast" from Revelation 13:15-18. That's the mark you have to get on your right hand or forehead that authorizes you to buy and sell. The number of the beast is 666. Will you receive his mark that you may emerge to light? That is both a rhetorical and a trick question.

Immediately, another brother responds: Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of judgement has come. This comes from Revelation 14:7 and 9. If any man worships the beast and his image and receives his mark, he shall drink the wine of God's indignation... and have no rest. In other words, no, do not receive that mark. Enticing as it may seem, the mark will not help you emerge into light.

A third brother continues with a statement from Revelation 14:13. He says, "...have patience, you who, though in darkness, are still our brother! Keep the commandments of God, and your faith in His justice and infinite goodness! Just as the candidate's hope is

building, the third brother continues, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. They rest from their labors and their influence lives after them.

Who is the beast and what is his mark?

Letters of both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets also represented numerical values. In the Book of Revelation, the name is written: $\chi\xi\varsigma$ (χ [chi] = 600, ξ [exe] = 60, and ς [sigma] = 6). If you prefer Hebrew, the name is נרון קסר [nron qsr], (נ [nun] = 50, ר [resh] = 200, ו [vav] = 6, נ [nun] = 50, ק [qoph] = 100, ס [samech] = 60, and ר [resh] = 200), which add up to 666.

Either way, the numbers give you the letters "Neron Caesar", referring to Emperor Nero, who ruled the Roman empire from 54 to 68 CE. Much of the city of Rome was destroyed in a fire in 64 CE. Nero reportedly set the fire and then blamed it on the Christians, which ignited the practice of arresting, torturing, and killing Christians that lasted until the early 4th Century. The Book of Revelation, was thought to be written in the 90s CE, during the time the early persecutions of Christians took place.

The Greek word $\chi\acute{\alpha}\rho\alpha\gamma\mu\alpha$ (haragma) is translated as "mark" (of the beast) in Revelation 13:16. Haragma means any mark engraved, imprinted, or branded; such as on a document or coin. It likely refers to the stamped image of the emperor's head on every coin of the Roman Empire. If you wanted to buy or sell, you had to use a coin with the emperor's mark or image.

Of course, there are many other interpretations of the identity of the beast, including a number of nefarious world leaders, and the method of his mark, such as implanted RFID chips. For our purposes, we will stick with basic textual analysis.

Back to the Degree

After a period of silence, the brothers speak about the seven angels who pour out the wrath of God in different forms. These come from Revelation chapter 16.

As soon as the angels finish their assignments, there are claps of thunder, flashes of lightning, and the sounds of crashing a city being destroyed in an earthquake, along with the cries of its terrified inhabitants. The brothers resume speaking in turns.

The first brother says, "...Intolerance is no more...The chains imposed by fraud upon the human mind, the manacles and fetters fastened by force upon free thought, have fallen... Power, fraud, and falsehood, [once] thought impregnable, have also fallen."

The second brother continues, "Salvation, glory, honor, and

power to the eternal God and infinite Father! Blessed are they that obey his law, and trust in his goodness, that they may have the right to pluck the fruit of the Tree of Life..." See Revelation 19:1-2, and 22:14.

The candidate is still in darkness with the cloth over his head. The second brother asks the candidate, "Will you obey that (God's) law, trust in the infinite goodness, and be patient, though the appointed time seem far in the future...?"

The candidate agrees. The second brother continues, "Will you be neither weary nor discouraged; satisfied to sow the seed, which those who come after you may reap, if God so wills it?"

The candidate agrees once again. The brothers stand him up and remove the cloth so he can see.

The Orator recites a revised portion from Revelation 21:1 and 4, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth... I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven... He will wipe the tears from all eyes, there shall be no more death, nor fraud, nor falsehood... for the ancient wrong and evil have passed away forever."

The Warden recites a revised portion from Revelation 21:5 and 7, "The Almighty sits upon the throne and says: I will make all things new... He that overcomes shall inherit all things. I will be his Father and will love my child."

The Venerable Pontiff recites revised portions of Revelation 21:6 and Revelation 22. "In the heavenly city there shall be no temple since the Lord God Almighty and the Redeemer are its Temple... The light everlasting life, and truth of God shall reign there forever. He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end... from whom all things come and to whom all return."

He then goes on to describe Melchizedek, King of Salem (later called Jerusalem), and a priest of the Most High God (El or El Elyon), to whom Abram (later renamed Abraham) paid tithes of the spoils of war.

Who was Melchizedek?

According to the account in Genesis 14, an alliance of four "eastern" Shemite kings, led by one Chedorlamer, had conquered a group five Canaanite kings that lived around the Dead Sea. After 12 years, the five captive Canaanite kings rebelled, so the four Shemite kings crushed their revolt, and in the process took Abram's nephew Lot into captivity. Abram and 318 of his friends defeated the Shemite kings and rescued Lot.

Stated Meeting Menu

Tuesday

May 12 2020

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY,
by May 8th)

Call the Office **NOW** at 408-978-7483 &
make your reservations!

Cinco De Mayo

If possible we will have a Taco Truck
Otherwise we will have Mexican fare to be
determined

THE SCOTTISH RITE MYSTERIES
AN ESOTERIC JOURNEY



September 12, 2020

Sacramento Scottish Rite
6151 H Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Cost: \$25.00 in advance or \$45.00 which includes commemorative coin and lapel pin.
Cost: \$30.00 at the door or \$50.00 which includes commemorative coin and lapel pin.

We accept Master Card, Visa, American Express, Discover and PayPal

Information: 916-452-5881 or E-mail Mario Balbiani:
MBALBIANI@SACRAMENTOSCOTTISHRITE.ORG



Continued from Page 4

and 1870s he supervised a Nevada silver mine and, for a time, was town surveyor of Gold Hill, Nevada.

Brother Sherman moved to Oakland in 1883 and spent his remaining years as a mining expert, author and writer for San Francisco newspapers and magazines as well as a number of Masonic orient-ed books. These books included: "50 years of Masonry in California" (1898); The Life of the late Rear Admiral John Drake Sloat" (1902); the "New Edition of the Brief History of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry" (1890). The full text of these and several of his other writings can be read at Online Books. Try Goog-ling his full name with books at the end. The link is Online Books.

One final note about Brother Sherman's grave. On one end of the stone tablet covering the grave is written: "*under the foundation stone is deposited the heart of Dr. Ygnacia Herrera Y Cairo Ex-Gov. State of Jalisco, Mexico murdered May 21, 1858 a martyr to the cause of Freemasonry*". This is a story for another issue of the Rite Word.

Bill M. Fiel



I have been thinking about how to write the article for the newsletter this month. So much has changed in the last five weeks with the onset of a world pandemic and COVID-19. It has touched each

and every one of us in some fashion or another. Our clinic started Teletherapy the week of March 16 and we successfully transitioned nearly all of the clinic's caseload to Teletherapy, all without skipping one week of therapy for the children we service. We have been busy researching evidence based practices and how to best provide services to the families and the children we are dedicated to help, like David.

David is an 11 year old boy who is such a pleasure to work with. He plays the cello, enjoys challenging board games like Othello, and makes people laugh with his quick witted humor and easy-going attitude. David has been coming to the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Clinic for stuttering therapy. He has been learning how to use specific stuttering modification and fluency-shaping tools. Therapy has also focused on attitudes and emotions that surround stuttering to help educate David, his family, and others in David's community about stuttering. Therapy has incorporated his family into therapy, such as his mom, dad and older brother so they can learn how to use the tools too. He has also participated in a fluency therapy group with another peer to discuss feelings, gain perspective, and practice tools. Rose, David's mom, has noted that she "understands David's feelings and struggles better" since he started therapy. She stated that the "Most rewarding thing for me is to be able to focus on what he is trying to say rather than how he says it. Also, I can be the safe person for David because he knows that I will never judge him [about] his stuttering." Rose sees the value of our clinic and what we do, "I can never express how grateful I am to have Ms. Sense to be David's speech pathologist. She shows her understanding and compassion for David, she educates me and [gives] me lots of support... This clinic is truly a gracious gift to our community."

It is a gracious gift and we are so thankful to continue helping our families. Research from our national governing association, The American Speech and Hearing Association, has shown that Teletherapy for speech and language treatment is just as beneficial as that of in-person therapy. While not as widely used prior to the onset of COVID-19, Teletherapy has become the only way to provide therapy since the shelter-at-home orders were given. Families are tremendously thankful that our clinic can continue to provide services, especially because many families are not receiving any therapy at this time due to the pandemic. We are continuing with our mission to help children in our community in need; we are forging a new way of accomplishing our goal, and it is amazing to see how our clinic is still making a significant impact. We are thankful for your continued support and the children and their families are grateful for the ongoing help during such a tumultuous time. God bless our clinic, the families we help, and each of you and your families.

Editors note:

We at the San Jose Scottish Rite are so lucky to have Rachel and Alisha working to help our kids. They adapted and found a solution to continue helping our kids without missing a beat. All of the other clinics in California had to stop treating the kids for a week or more to make the transition, where we never had to do so because of the dedication of these ladies.

Rachel and Alisha, thank you for all you do for us and our kids.

After the victory, Melchizedek set out bread and wine and blessed Abram.

Melchizedek, whose name means "king (melek) of righteousness (tsedek)", is a mysterious figure — little is known about him. Traditionally, he is said to have formed an order of royal priesthood, which resurfaced in the First Century CE, according to the Letter to the Hebrews, chapters 5 and 7. Jesus of Nazareth is said to have been designated by God as a high priest in the Melchizedek order. In a few Christian traditions even today, ministers are ordained "priests forever after the order of Melchizedek".

Back to the Degree

Next, the Venerable Pontiff vests the candidate in the white linen robe, crimson cordon, and blue fillet with 12 gold stars. He explains that the number 12 represents the 12 gates of the New City (which descends from heaven), 12 signs of the zodiac (shown on the 12 pillars), the 12 fruits of the Tree of Life (see Revelation 22:2), the 12 tribes of Israel (their names shown on the 12 pillars), and the 12 Apostles (disciples of Jesus). The Venerable Pontiff refers to those symbols as shown on the Tracing Board, and explains each in detail.

The final symbol he describes is a three-headed serpent writhing in bronze chains. It refers to the Garden of Eden story, where God says to the deceitful talking snake, "I will place enmity between you the woman, and between your offspring and hers, he (Eve's descendants) will strike your head, and you (the serpent's descendants) will bruise his heel." Have you ever been bitten by a snake? Think of that while you read Genesis 3:15. The identity of the serpent is not given in Genesis. But in Revelation, the serpent is identified with a dragon, Satan, and the Devil. Chaining that troublemaker for one thousand years, leading to his final defeat, is discussed in Revelation chapter 20.

In the Grand Pontiff Degree, we again notice a recurring theme: The struggle to make a better world begins with you making yourself a better person. When you look back on your life, ten, twenty, or thirty years ago, do you a pattern of improvement? Hopefully you can see a rising trend.

When we endeavor to make the world better, sometimes we labor for years and don't notice any change. Here is a second recurring theme: We don't try to make the world better for ourselves but for those who come after us. That's good because we cannot always see the effect of our daily contributions toward the future of humanity.

Notes on the Book of Revelation

We were introduced the to Book of Revelation in the 17th Degree. As mentioned previously, the Book of Revelation was written in the late First Century to the seven churches

in Asia, whose members were deemed social outcasts and a threat to the established order. So they were harassed, imprisoned, tortured, and executed. Understandably, they looked forward to a divinely directed apocalyptic change, fixing everything that was wrong in the world, which the Book of Revelation attempts to describe.

For a different take on the Book of Revelation, go to <https://www.academia.edu/> and download the paper, *The Apocalypse Deception*, by the prolific British non-fiction author, Fred Harding

Ill. Daniel Doornbos 33°

*The Personal Representative
and
The Venerable Master
of the
Valley of San Jose*

Invite all
Scottish Rite Freemasons and all other Freemasons to

A Night of Scottish Rite Instruction and Agape Dinner

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
6:30 PM to 9:00PM

Honorable Jordan Yelinek 32 Degree
Knight Commander of the Court of Honor
Scottish Rite Valley of San Francisco
Will present his paper

Our Ritual as a SacredText

Schedule of Events
6:30 PM - Social Gathering
7:00 PM - Speaker
7:30 PM - Festive Agape/Dinner

Cost \$25.00

Requested dress is white tie & tails, tux or dark suit & tie with SR Cap

NOTE:
Reservations are required
Please call the SJ Scottish Rite @ 408-978-7483 or visit the office to make your reservations
Payment must accompany reservation. Reservations not cancelled by June 12 must be honored.
Cash, personal check or credit card

III. Roger Bibb 33° Class

Oct 13, 23,24, and Nov 3, 2020



ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY,
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

Petition for Degrees

(Full) Name: _____
FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME DATE

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Month, Day, and Year of Birth: _____

City, State, Country of Birth: _____

Are you a US Citizen? YES NO If "No", where are you a citizen? _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Wife/Partner's Name: _____

Years as M.M.: ____ Blue Lodge Name _____ No. _____

Lodge City and State: _____

Date and Place Raised: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer Name: _____

Have you ever previously petitioned for any Scottish Rite Degrees? YES NO

Hat Size: ____ (example: "7 1/8")

"I, the above named and below signed, confirm a belief in a Supreme Being, the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, and an undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the forbearance of a state sponsored religion, principles embodied by the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. I respectfully petition to receive the 4th through 32nd Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. I am currently a Master Mason in good standing."

_____		Spring	Fall
<i>Candidate's Signature</i>	Degree Fee	\$150	\$150
_____	Annual Dues	\$50	\$0 (For Current Year)
1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME	Total Due:	\$200	\$150

<i>1st Sponsor Signature</i>			

2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME _____ I hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ _____
to Credit Card # _____ CVC _____
2nd Sponsor Signature _____ Expiration Date ____ / ____

(Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office)

Signature of authorized card holder



THE RITE WORD

2455 Masonic Drive
San Jose, CA 95125-2036

Phone: 408-978-7483

e-mail: mail@sanjosescottishrite.org

Periodicals
Postage

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We, the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation(TIN 94-2541623), hereby certify that all funds received on the behalf of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation, The Children's Language Disorders Clinic, and/or the San Jose Scottish Rite Scholarship funds are used for charitable purposes only and the donor receives no goods or services in return for their donation.*

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Future Scottish Rite and Masonic Events

Tuesday May 12th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Consistory Opens

Wednesday May 27th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Willow Glen Fraternity Lodge #399

Tuesday June 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 5:45 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens - Grand Masters Reception

Thursday June 11th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Mt Moriah #292

Tuesday June 16th ~ Night of Instruction 6:30 pm

Tuesday July 14th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Consistory Opens

Tuesday July ?? ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Palo Alto Lodge #346

Saturday September 12th ~ The Scottish Rite Mysteries

Sacramento Scottish Rite

Tuesday November 10th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Grand Commander's Visit