

1910, 1925, & TODAY



THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY FOR THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE IN THE ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA

THE RITE WORD

January 2014

Volume 8, Issue 1



From the Personal Rep

Well, another year has ended, a new corps of officers is soon to be installed, and it is time to look ahead to another wonderful year in the Valley of San Jose. There were many accomplishments this past year and I am so proud of all we have achieved.

Let me first start this article by congratulating Most Worshipful and Illustrious Frank Loui on his selection as "Sovereign Grand Inspector General" for California; the honor bestowed upon him at the Annual Sessions of Supreme Council last fall. Frank, the Valley of San Jose pledges our continued support for your success as SGIG. Congratulations!

Also from Supreme Council, I am pleased to again congratulate Ill Dick Meyers and Ill Herschel Amos, both elevated to the rank of Inspector General Honorary or 33rd Degree. There were only 25 men in all of California who received the honor. As well, congratulations are again sent to Brothers Alan Spalding, Gerry Best and Del Bleiler who were bestowed the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour or KCCH. Well done to all!

Our Installation is just around the corner (Tuesday, Jan. 28th) and I thank and congratulate all the officers for taking leadership roles within our Valley. Last Installation was disappointing in how few of our members were in attendance. I hope this year, many more of you will attend. It is our annual celebration of the new corps of officers and the time to celebrate the New Year. Over the last couple of years, our Valley has taken steps to grow in membership and in holding events that are meaningful for the Valley and its members. If you have not been to a Scottish Rite event for a while, I ask that you come see what is taking place. I think you will be pleased.

I am pleased with what has already been scheduled for this year and I look forward to new suggestions from our leadership team. This year for example, we will hold our 4th Annual Grand Master recognition "Festive Board" where we will honor our Grand Master, his lady and his special project. We look forward to having Most Worshipful John L. Cooper III and Lady Heather join with us for a great evening. We will again hold two "Nights of Instruction" banquets chaired by Bro. Chuck Cowden. Bro. Richard Fisher is again chairing our Scholarship Committee, as we will honor another graduating senior on their way to college. In December this next year, we will again honor the Masters of our lodges as they complete their term sitting in the East of their particular lodge. We exist only because our Craft Lodges are strong and we wish to honor the men who have held our lodges together.

We will continue some traditional events like our Maundy Thursday Celebration, Sweethearts Night, as well as 25 year and 50 year membership celebrations. And naturally, we will hold our Semi-Annual Reunions for new members this Spring and Fall. I am particularly pleased on our progression of adding new degree teams for our Reunions. Besides the five mandatory degrees, we have added six additional degrees (9th, 10th, 12th, 19th, 22nd, 29th), and this year we are adding at least two more. Now, we only need more candidates to witness the beautiful work being performed by our degree teams. This past year, we brought in only a dozen new members. This year will hopefully be better.

There are 25 lodges that make up our Valley's geographic area. Now, I know that every one of you know at least one member of your lodge that is not a member of the Scottish Rite. Wouldn't it be wonderful, if we had a candidate from every one of those 25 lodges that make up our Valley? Do I dare hope for two? You can help our Valley grow. Don't be afraid to expound on the great work of our Valley and invite that one member of your lodge to join with us.

The Masters of our four bodies have promised an exciting year, including a few social events to be sprinkled throughout the year. Just as an example, I am pleased to announce that our Grand Commander, Ill Ronald Seale has accepted our invitation to join with us

(Continued on page 11)



A SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE PUBLICATION

HOME OF THE ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE

Nollaig chridheil agus bliadhna mhath ùr

(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year- Scots-Gaelic)

Christmas continues into January with the celebration of "The Three Wise Men" on January 6th; celebrated in many Latin American countries, including Puerto Rico.

January is the 1st month of the Julian and Gregorian calendars. January (in Latin, *Januarius*) is named after *Janus*, the god of the doorway; the name has its beginnings in *Roman mythology*, coming from the *Latin* word for door (*ianua*) since January is the door to the year. January 1st or New Year's day is often thought of as the day of new beginnings, hence new year's resolutions, new goals and courses of action.



eye peeled for new prospects for the Scottish Rite. The future of Freemasonry rests in the hands of Craft Lodge Masons. Continue to support the meetings and conferrals of degrees and other Scottish Rite programs with your attendance. Remember that reservations are a requirement for the Stated Meeting Dinners.

Please remind your home lodges that the Valley of San Jose Scottish Rite has a certified Fellowcraft Ritual Team that is eager to Confer the Second Degree of Masonry for your Lodge. The Degree team dresses in formal Scottish Highland Kilt, the equivalent of the White or Black Tie Tuxedo. The Master wears the Glengarry in lieu of a top hat. The ritual team was started to be an advertisement for the Scottish Rite.

Thank you all for your support during my term as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection. As with any venture I have undertaken, it was a learning experience. A special thanks to Angela for her assistance during my term and for agreeing to be my escort for the 2013 installation.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year.

Slainte Mhath

B.J. McCuiston, ROS, KCCH, Venerable Master

San Jose Lodge of Perfection, Past CMDR Kadosh,

Past Chief Knight SJ KSA 2005

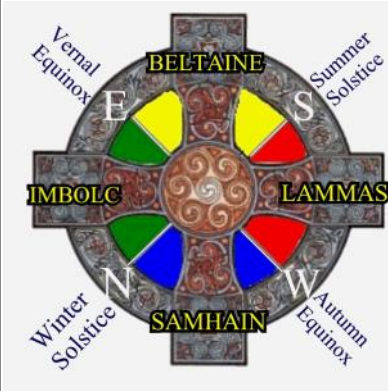
billiejo@garlic.com

PO Box 2193

Gilroy, CA 95021-2193

So is it with the Scottish Rite in January. Our year begins with the Stated Meeting on January 14 where the Election of Officers for the four bodies will decide who is to lead the valley after the Installation of Officers on January 28.

I encourage members to continue to support their Craft Lodge and keep an



DECEMBER DONATIONS

FOR THE CLINIC

- * BY: BRO. MRS. RICHARD & MARY FISHER
- * BY: MRS. KATHIE RUNCIE

FOR THE PURCHASE OF TEACHING MATERIALS

- BY: BRO. MRS. RICHARD & MARY FISHER
- KINLEY RICHARD

TO THE FOUNDATION

- * BY: BRO. ALEX TEODORO
- TEODORO FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

Special Thanks go to those members who have made donations included with their dues payments. Without your participation, our various philanthropies would not exist.

The new year is here.....

Put your name on the 2014 Honor Board!

Make your contribution to the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies and have your name included on the "Honor Roll".

Your annual gift of \$100.00 or more will help the San Jose Lodge of Perfection, Chapter Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh and Consistory reach the level necessary to provide quality events for our future success.

Rite Word Support for 2014

Your donations for the Rite Word are Instrumental in helping make a meaningful communication!

Limited Advertising is now available.

Call the Secretary for information.

*Bro. Robert Rowan
(408) 978-7483*

San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

2013 ~ Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Bro. BJ McCuiston, 32° KCCH	408-842-8927
Senior Warden	Bro. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Junior Warden	Bro. Jack Harris, 32° KCCH	408-314-6124
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Tom Bergevin, 32°	408-985-5996
Captain of the Host	Bro. Hank Vlcek, 32°	408-578-6208
2013 ~ Chapter of Rose Croix		
Wise Master	Bro. Bud Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-224-9431
Senior Warden	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner 32°	408-505-1822
Junior Warden	Bro. Cordell H. Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
2013~ Council of Kadosh		
Commander	Ill. Daniel Doornbos, 33°	408-263-2165
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Will Montoya, 32°	408-274-1137
Marshal of Ceremonies	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Jose Pulido, 32°	408-205-6432
2013 San Jose Consistory		
Master of Kadosh	Bro. Gerald Best, 32° KCCH	408-559-3102
Prior	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32°	408-656-2459
Preceptor	Bro. Steve Munyon, 32°	408-313-0762
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Richard Rosenberg, 32°	650-494-8792
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Martin Maxey, 32°	831-402-4903
2013- General Officers		
Personal Representative	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Assist. to the Personal Representative	Ill. Richard A. Meyers, 33°	408-264-0277
Treasurer	Bro. James Arnold, 32°	408-859-7523
General Secretary	Bro. Robert Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
Prelate	Bro. Mike Sloan, 32°	408-365-8266
Almoner	Bro. Alan Spalding, 32° KCCH	408-259-2523
Orator/Librarian	Bro. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Bro. Bryant Day, 32°	408-256-2766
Clinic Director	Bro. Robert D. Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
Club Liaison	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Harold Leister, 32° KCCH	408-846-9788
Assist. Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Charles Cowden, 32° KCCH	831-685-3416



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

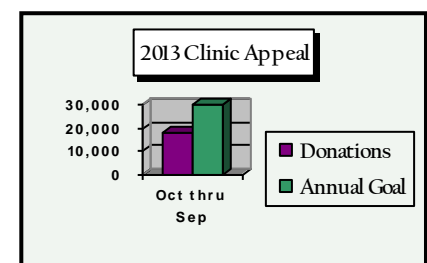


Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.
Deputy of the Supreme Council in California,
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

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.

Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Treasurer	Bro. James Arnold, 32°	408-859-7523
Secretary	Bro. Robert Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Bro. Hal Leister 32° KCCH	408-846-9788
Director (exp 9/30/2014)	Bro. David Knapp, 32°	408-298-3838
Director (exp 9/30/2014)	Bro. H. "Bud" Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-264-0277
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Jack Harris, 32° KCCH	408-314-6124
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Venerable Master	Bro. BJ McCuiston, 32° KCCH	408-842-8927
Wise Master	Bro. Bud Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-224-9431
Commander	Ill. Daniel Doornbos, 33°	408-263-2165
Master of Kadosh	Bro. Gerald Best, 32° KCCH	408-559-3102
Assist. To the Personal Representative	Bro. Richard A. Meyers, 32° KCCH	408-264-0277



We can do better in 2014

"2013" Annual Clinic Party!



Happy
New
Year!



Alexander and Jonathan are fun-loving and energetic brothers who are both being seen at the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic.

Alexander is six and receives speech therapy once per week in order to work on his articulation and language skills. Alexander is currently working on producing /s/ and /s/-blends in all

word positions of sentences without a frontal lisp. He also needs assistance with sentence length and formulation when describing and event, picture or story. Prior to receiving services at our Clinic Alexander was diagnosed with severe apraxia and his speech was limited to only a few words by the time he was three years old. In addition, he had a difficult time being understood when he communicated in his daily conversation. According to his mother, "Alexander has made huge progress since he started speech therapy. He is truly getting the help that he needs. We as a family, along with non-family members can fully understand his speech now. Speech therapy at the Scottish Rite Clinic has made a huge impact on his social skills in school because now both children and teachers can understand him and he does not feel he has to be the quiet kid anymore. He now can communicate with everyone."

Jonathan is four years old and is being seen twice a week secondary to being diagnosed with an articulation delay and mild-moderate disfluencies. His mother brought him to our clinic because his stuttering was occurring on a daily basis. She realizes that although his articulation and fluency are, "slightly improving, it is still a long challenging road ahead of him." She reported, "The Scottish Rite clinicians gave us some useful tips on what to do and what not to do to in the home environment such as reducing demands and pressure on his speech in order to increase his fluency. Jonathan's mother reported that recently when they went to the park with his preschool teacher, classmates and parents he did not even stutter one time! She was happy to report this progress to his clinician."

Alexander and Jonathan's mother describes their experience at the Scottish Rite Clinic as, "Very positive for both my two sons. Even though they have two different diagnoses, Sharon and Jenna have done a great job working to improve their speech. The Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic and their SLP's are all dedicated to improve the lives of children who have different issues when it comes to their speech and language. A huge thank you to the Clinic, Sharon and Jenna for helping my two sons with their speech and improving their lives."

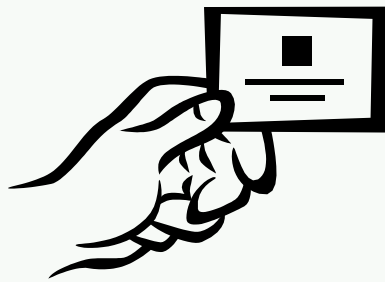


Would you like to
advertise your Business?

Contact the General Secretary :
Robert Rowan - 408-978-7483



Business Card - \$20 per month / \$200 per year
1/4 Page - \$40 per month / \$400 per year
1/2 Page - \$80 per month / \$800 per year
Full Page - \$160 per month / \$1600 per year



VALIANT PRIVATE SECURITY

"Superior Security
for any event or property.
It is our honor and
pleasure to protect
the San Jose Scottish Rite Center.



PPO 16608

We are pleased to offer our services
to your event hall, too!"



www.ValiantPrivateSecurity.com

TEL: 408-649-8386

FAX: 831-607-5013

Independent, Inspired, Empowered



ENJOY A VIBRANT MASONIC RETIREMENT AT ACACIA CREEK

Our mission is to enrich the independence, well-being, and security
of our residents through exceptional amenities, services and care.



ACACIA CREEK
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

IMAGINE LIVING THE DREAM

Shut Ins

THE RITE WORD

Raymond Ruhland

5068 Trenary Way,
San Jose, CA. 95118-2626

408-224-4335
Visitors most
welcome!

Gene Bassett

16088 Balfour Lane
Salinas, CA. 93908-1233

831-455-2007

Jack Harris

1066 Camino Ramon
San Jose, CA. 95125

408-314-6124
Calls/visitors
Welcome!

Greg LaFavor

6700 Buggywhip Ct.
San Jose, CA 95120

408-268-5847

Orville Hanel

800 Blossom Hill Rd.
San Jose , CA. 95032-3575

408/365-0805
Would like
visitors please!



Permanent Shut Ins

Alvin Wong

1163 Carolyn Ave.
San Jose, CA. 95125-3223

408-293-6583
Visitors welcome !

Robert Gass

c/o : VA Nursing Home Care
Rm.258
4951 Arroyo Rd.
Livermore, CA 94550-9650



Please remember those brothers that are shut in. A friendly call or note from a fellow brother would be a warm and appreciated gesture. Though, they cannot always be present , they are certainly not out of mind. We wish them all the best. God Bless.

Called from Labor

Bro. William J. Scheler III 32 - Dec. 8, 2013
Bro. John Eastus—April 7, 2012



Treasured thoughts of one so dear
Often bring a silent tear
Thoughts of scenes long past
Years roll on but memories last.



Please remember to notify us when a fellow Brother is ill, in need,
or has passed to the other shore.
We are not always contacted in a timely manner. Scottish Rite is here to assist!
Please feel free to call anytime! (408) 978-7483



New Year's celebrations are definitely not "new". Festivals marking the beginning of the calendar have existed for millennia, and a few are still actively observed by millions of people around the world.

After the first new moon after the vernal equinox in March, the Babylonians of ancient Mesopotamia honored the rebirth of the natural world with the multi-day festival of Akitu, an early New Year's celebration dating back to around 2000 B.C., which was deeply intertwined with religion and mythology.

The Roman New Year also originally corresponded with the vernal equinox, but years of tampering with the solar calendar resulted in the holiday being established on its current date of January 1. The name was derived from the two-faced deity Janus, the god of change and beginnings, symbolically looking back at the old and ahead to the new, thus facilitating the transition of one year to the next.



Ancient Egyptian culture, closely tied to the Nile River, saw their New Year tied with its annual flood which helped ensure that farmlands remained fertile for the coming year. It was predicted when Sirius—the brightest star in the night sky—first became visible after a 70-day absence, usually in mid-July. This new beginning was celebrated with a festival and was seen as a time of rebirth and rejuvenation, honored with feasts and special religious rites. One of the oldest traditions still celebrated today is Chinese New Year, which is believed to have originated over 3,000 years ago during the Shang Dynasty. The holiday began as a way of celebrating the new beginnings of the spring planting season, but it later became entangled with myth and legend. According to one popular tale, there was once a bloodthirsty creature called Nian, that preyed on villages every New Year. In order to frighten the hungry beast, the villagers took to decorating their homes with red trimmings, burning bamboo and making loud noises. The ruse worked. The bright colors & lights associated with scaring off Nian eventually became integrated into the celebration.

Still celebrated in Iran and other parts of the Middle East and Asia, and often called the "Persian New Year", the roots of Nowruz (or "New Day") reach far back into antiquity. Ancient observances of Nowruz focused on the rebirth that accompanied the return of spring. This 13-day spring festival falls on or around the vernal equinox in March. It originated as part of the Zoroastrian religion in Iran. Its celebration dates back to the 6th century B.C. and has survived numerous cultural changes. Monarchs would use the holiday to host lavish banquets, dispense gifts and hold audiences with their subjects.

In our modern era and in connection with a Scottish background if not the Rite itself, **Hogmanay** is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner. However, it is normally only the start of a celebration that lasts through the night until the morning of New Year's Day, January 1.

There are many customs, both national and local, associated with Hogmanay. The most widespread national custom is the practice of *first-footing*, which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbor and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts, intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder. Food and drink (as the gifts) are then given to the guests. The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year.

The Hogmanay custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne" has become common in many countries. "**Auld Lang Syne**" is a Scots poem reinterpreted by Robert Burns in 1788 and later set to the tune of a traditional folk song (Roud # 6294). Burns sent a copy of the original song to the Scots Musical Museum with the remark, "The following song, an old song, of the olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript until I took it down from an old man." Some of the lyrics were indeed "collected" rather than composed by the poet; the ballad "Old Long Syne" shown below, was printed in 1711 by James Watson and shows considerable similarity in the first verse and the chorus to Burns' later poem, and is almost certainly derived from the same "old song".

Should Old Acquaintance be forgot, and never thought upon;
The flames of Love extinguished, and fully past and gone:
Is thy sweet Heart now grown so cold, that loving Breast of thine;
That thou canst never once reflect On Old long syne.

CHORUS:

On Old long syne my Jo, On Old long syne, That thou canst never once reflect, On Old long syne.

It is a fair supposition to attribute the rest of the poem to Burns himself.

There is some doubt as to whether the melody used today is the same one Burns originally intended, but it is widely used in Scotland and in the rest of the world. Singing the song on Hogmanay or New Year's Eve very quickly became a Scots custom that soon spread to other parts of the British Isles. As Scots (not to mention English, Welsh and Irish people) emigrated around the world, they took the song with them. A manuscript of "Auld Lang Syne" is held in the permanent collection of The Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

Thanks for reading this far and now I would like to leave you with a bit of dry humor. Though not originated by me, I like it and it is also somewhat germane to the discussion of New Years' celebrations. This was given to me by my daughter Wyndie for our use and enjoyment.

What happened when Past, Present and Future walked into a bar?

It was tense!

I sincerely hope each of you and your families had and/or will have a happy and safe New Years Eve, Day and on throughout the coming months.

Gerald R. Best 32nd KCCH — *Master of Kadosh*

Portions of the body of this article have been excerpted and/or edited from articles in Wikipedia and other sources not cited. I gratefully acknowledge those authors and their work.



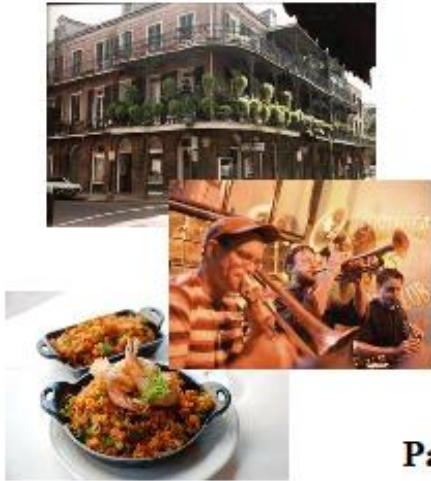
The Masters of 2014 for the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies

invite you to

New Orleans

September 20-27, 2014

Come along with fellow members of the Scottish Rite and their families, as we explore the sights and sounds of New Orleans. Stroll the world famous French Quarter, enjoy the beautiful plantations, take in the incredible jazz and zydeco music, be amazed at the variety of life on a swamp tour, cruise along on a jazz/dinner cruise aboard the steamboat Natchez, and enjoy some of the most incredible food anywhere on the planet. We want you with us. So join us in "The Big Easy".



Your 7-day journey includes all of the following:

- 7 nights accommodations at a first-class hotel in the heart of the French Quarter
- Hosted "Welcome" cocktail party with food
- Full breakfast daily
- 3 Dinners
- 2 Lunches
- Plantation and Swamp Tours
- City and French Quarter Tours
- Museum Visits
- Dinner cruise on the Steamboat Natchez
- Much, much more

Package Price (land only)

\$1,689.⁰⁰ per person

Price based on double occupancy. Single Price: \$2,338.00. Airfare is not included in package price. Air arrangements may be made through Star & Compass Travel, or on your own. Additional costs include airfare, travel insurance (highly recommended), meals not noted in itinerary, tour guide gratuities, personal purchases.

To see all trip details, visit: www.starandcompass.com

For further information, or to book this trip, contact:



Photos courtesy of New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau

Randy Downey
Star & Compass Travel
(408) 674-8341
randy@starandcompass.com
cst #2081830-40



**STAR & COMPASS
TRAVEL**

**Randy Downey
Travel Specialist**

1084 Windsor Street
San Jose, CA 95129
e-mail: randy@starandcompass.com

Ph: (408) 674-8341
FAX: (408) 777-8160

website: www.starandcompass.com

cst #2081830-40

Group and individual travel for the Masonic Family



JANUARY MENU

Assorted Appetizers

Old Fashion Braised Pot Roast

Mashed Potatos

Vegetable

Caesar Salad

Assorted Rolls & butter

Dessert

(Vegetarian Dish-upon request)

RESERVATIONS A MUST !!

Call Angela or email:

adathans@gmail.com

or

aathans@sanjosescottishrite.org

(408) 978-7483 office

How many?



To my Scottish Rite Family –

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!! May the Great Architect grant you love, friendship, and joy. It's hard to believe that my year as Wise Master of the San Jose Chapter of Rose Croix is coming to an end. The old axiom that *time sure flies when you're having fun* is absolutely true. And I have had a lot of fun this year. It's been a great year for me and I am extremely grateful for the support you've given me during this time. And now that year is coming to an end, and it's time to pass the baton, it's good to be able to pass it in to capable hands. I'm sure Wolfgang will do a great job. I hope all of you can make it to our Installation of Officers on January 28th. And once I'm out of the East, I'm not going anywhere...I'll still be in attendance at our dinners, events, and meetings. I am 100% sincere when I refer to you as part of my Masonic Family. Thank you!



We have a good core of officers coming in for the ensuing year and I know that you'll provide them with the same support and enthusiasm that you've been showing all year. And we've been able to add new members this year and it's clear that there are more on the way. We're growing and this is good news.



I encourage all of our members, especially those who may not have been here for awhile, to come down and participate. The more you put into it, the more you get out of it...a universal truth that has made itself clear to me this term. So I encourage you to step up and be involved. You can and do make a difference. Cardinal John Henry Newman said, "*A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with what he has done.*" Come down and help. Henry van Dyke said, "*Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.*" And if it's been awhile and you're afraid no one will know you or that you won't remember what you need to, to participate, set those fears aside. We are "family" and you're welcome here. With this assurance on my part, will you come down???

And if you still have fears, call me. (408) 224-9431. Brother Mark Twain once said, "*To get the full value of a joy you must have someone to divide it with.*" Come let us divide joy with each other.

Thank you for those that helped with and participated in the Clinic's Holiday Party. We should all be very proud of the difference that our clinic makes in the lives of so many young people and their families. I want to extend a special thank you to Angela for all she does to make our events a success. We are lucky to have her!

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season. As we begin the new year, I will remind you that, with the new year, comes a whole new set of possibilities. I find that this is something to be excited about!

Again, I would like to say that it's been an awesome year and that it's been an honor and privilege to serve this Chapter. Thanks...and may the holiday season bring to you more blessings than you ever thought possible. Peace be with you.

Bud Ramsey

Wise Master

Next January 28th, I step down as Commander of the San Jose Council of Kadosh. And also finish a term of 15 years in the Scottish Rite officer lines, where I also served as Venerable Master and Master of Kadosh. Becoming Venerable Master filled me with great anxiety...the other two, not so much. How well I served is for you to judge. I witnessed many good examples along the way. I did what I could to emulate them. And I enjoyed excellent support along the way. For those gifts, I thank you, my brothers, those living and those called home.



I remember when the Consistory line had nine offices. Then we reduced the number of offices to five per body. And I recall when we added duties for the lower officers, who simply waited for their turn to sit in the East. Today the bodies take turns opening and closing Stated Meetings and hosting at the dinners. Those changes have increased both enthusiasm and participation. The meetings start right on time, too. If you are on the wrong side of the door, you must wait to enter.

The Lodge of Perfection conducts business for all four Scottish Rite bodies and supports the ineffable degrees (4 thru 14). The Chapter of Rose Croix provides the Maundy Thursday service and supports the religious and ethical degrees (15 thru 18). The Council of Kadosh supports the chivalric and philosophical degrees (19 thru 30). And the Consistory supports the capstone degrees (31 and 32). While the bodies each support a specific set of degrees, the officers and members of those bodies participate in all of the degree conferrals and communications.

So what does it mean to support degrees? Because Freemasonry is, among other things, a fraternal order, there must be an organization to support what Freemasons do. Some people are shocked to hear the purpose of a Masonic Lodge is to make Master Masons.

Once, when I made that comment, an old timer exclaimed, "BU****IT!" Then I got a lecture about community involvement and charitable giving. Yet those are the same things any worthwhile social organization does. We are not just another social organization, however.

There are many self-made men. You might be one of them. But there are no self-made Masons. You are not one of those.

A man cannot confer a Masonic degree upon himself. That job requires a degree team... and a Lodge to join. And hopefully a generous collection of sideliners to watch the ceremonies and demonstrate their support of new member. Think of Freemasonry as a package deal.

With that idea in mind, we wonder why Lodges and other Masonic groups confer degrees and orders on many candidates but only a few of those candidates become active. We have all heard it, and said it, "We brought in five men this year. Where are they? What happened to them?" In some cases, something happened or failed to happen leaving the new member disappointed and unmotivated. But in the majority of cases, the new members simply have other things to do. Job and family are frequently mentioned as reasons for not attending Lodge. Or for showing up late. That is not so much a problem as it is a circumstance. Consider: You have a Mason, instructed in Masonic teachings, contributing to the work environment. Or you have a Mason, influenced by Masonic values, raising the next generation. Are those not good things? Should Masonry not benefit a man in all aspects of his life? Are these things not the object of our support?

~*Daniel Doornbos—Commander, Council of Kadosh*

Regional Orient Membership Chairman's Message January 2014

The degrees of the Scottish Rite Consistory require each of us to take a hard look at our own characters in order to assess our strengths and weaknesses. However, such self-examination should not cease with the conferral of the 31st and 32nd degrees, but rather continue as a lifelong ambition. The objective to "Know thyself" requires continuous self-examination and reflection.



The central idea expressed by the 31st degree is that he who is most free and most empowered must be truly the servant of all. The lives of great men - and great Masons - teach that each one of us can and must make a difference in this world. Therefore, we are encouraged to make our lives useful in the service of our fellow human beings.

While the 32nd degree is the end of the quest in the context of Scottish Rite instruction, conferral of Master of the Royal Secret in no way relieves us of our responsibility to strive for improvement in all areas exemplified by the degrees of both Freemasonry and Scottish Rite. We must serve mankind by practicing and serving the principles of truth, honor, charity and love, among others. By doing so, we find and maintain our own personal balance and are, therefore, better able to help our fellow men. Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and *reflective* 2014,

Durward C. Ayre 33° ≠



RE-you-NION

Replace the 'U' with 'YOU'!

Join with your Brothers at the Spring Reunion!

Support San Jose Membership by sponsoring a new member!

Application can be downloaded from our website.

Sanjosescottishrite.org

PROPOSITION/PETITION

ORIENT OF SAN JOSE
 ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE BODIES
 Office of the Secretary (408) 978-7483
 2455 Masonic Drive - PO Box 18220, San Jose, CA. 95158-8220

Fee: \$150.00 (must accompany this petition)

(Please print or type)

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-Mail address: _____

Mailing Address (If different from above): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth : _____

Present Blue Lodge: _____ Approx. Date Raised: _____

Location: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Occupation (If retired, previous occupation): _____

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Have you ever petitioned for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees?: _____

I believe in the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order and undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, the entire separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America. Wholeheartedly believing in the foregoing, I respectfully apply for membership with San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommended by: _____

1: _____ 2: _____

(Continued from page 1)

on June 10th. He is a great speaker and a wonderful voice for all of Scottish Rite Masonry. Please come out and meet our Grand Commander. Thanks to Bro. Gregg Hall for making it happen. Also scheduled is a one week trip to New Orleans for late September. Bro. Randy Downey has put together a great week of activities including a meeting with our Brothers from the Valley of New Orleans who will treat us to some good food and fellowship as well as exemplifying their Scottish Rite version of the First Degree. While the men are in Scottish Rite, the ladies will be hosted to their own activity. Don't miss out on this wonderful adventure to the South. Seats are limited for the trip, so get your registration in early. Thanks Randy for all your efforts. So watch for the latest edition of "The Rite Word". Find something that intrigues you and come out and see what is happening in YOUR Valley.

Our Foundation is still very strong, but we can always use a new contribution here or there to continue our work. Our clinic continues to do amazing things with our kids and I am very proud of what is being accomplished. For the past couple of years we have also made sizable contributions to the Grand Master's project (Raising a Reader), Masons 4 Mitts, recognition of our DeMolay leadership at their Annual Conclave as well as our Scholarship program to which I have previously spoken.

The last item I would like to speak to is communication. I can only know if we are heading in the right direction if I hear from you. As I stated earlier, I was disappointed in the attendance at our last Installation. I would think it would naturally be one of the larger events of the year. Please give me your thoughts about where we are headed, or what we might not be providing that you would like to see, regarding our Valley? What would excite you to return to an active role? Our Valley is here to support you, but I need to know your thoughts and desires. Please contact me when you think we are failing, but most importantly communicate. You are a valued member and we value your input. The Valley is only successful if you think we have done right. Let us know!

I look forward to seeing each of you over this coming year. Come on out and help make a difference!

Ken Nagel

Personal Rep



SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES
OF THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE

PO Box 18220
San Jose, CA 95158-8220

Phone: 408-978-7483
Fax: 408-265-4578
e-mail: mail@sanjosescottishrite.org

Periodicals
Postage

PAID

Future Scottish Rite Events

Wednesday January 1, 2014 - New Years Day—Office Closed

Tuesday January 14th ~ Stated Meeting (Election of Officers) @ 6:00 PM

Followed by Dinner Honoring Blue Lodge 2013 Masters

Tuesday January 21st - All Officers' Council @ 7:00 PM

Installation Rehearsal

Tuesday January 28th - Scottish Rite Installation of Officers for 2014—7:00PM

Tuesday February 11th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Followed by Dinner Honoring our Sweethearts

Tuesday February 25th ~ SJSR Foundation Board Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Tuesday February 25th - All Officers' Council @ 7:00 PM

“The Rite Word (USPS #3043) is published monthly by the San Jose Scottish Rite at 2455 Masonic Dr., San Jose, CA 95125.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA. 95125

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Rite Word, PO Box 18220, San Jose CA 95158.”