

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

MARCH 2016

Volume 10, Issue 3



From the Venerable Master

My Brothers,

I must say I was a bit nervous sitting in the East for the San Jose Scottish Rite for the first time. Hopefully, I didn't make too many mistakes. I have another eleven tries to get it right. I received some goods bits of advice afterward that I'll be sure to take to heart.

The Masters of the Lodges have not been able to get together yet to discuss our plans for 2016. The intent is to keep the social activities going as we did last year. Each lodge will host a couple of events. Let us know if there is something in particular you'd like to do. I keep hearing that the murder mystery dinner was a blast and might be worth trying again this year.

It was great seeing the turn out for dinner in February. We had quite a number of sweethearts to honor that evening. The theme for March is Saint Patrick, of course. I did a little bit of reading on who he was and his relationship to Freemasonry. He's not all about green beer and driving the snakes from Ireland. Be sure to read the article from our Master of Kadosh, JR McGovert.

Finally, dinner reservations are a must to ensure the proper amount of food is prepared. I'd hate to come up short and have folks miss out.

Tom Bergevin

Venerable Master



IMPORTANT REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Brethren,

We earnestly need and request the help of all of you! We have had a policy for a long time that reservations for the Stated Meeting Dinner must be in at least 24 hours before the dinner. Unfortunately, several Brothers have continued to call in the day of the meeting, or, worse yet, have showed up that night and wanted to have dinner without having made a reservation. This causes us great problems in not having enough tables set up, and the caterer not having prepared enough food. This must stop. Effective today, the cut off for Stated Meeting Dinner reservations is NOON on the Monday before the Stated Meeting. NO EXCEPTIONS! Stated Meetings are ALWAYS the 2nd Tuesday of the month, as you are all aware. You know by then if you will be attending or not. Please have the courtesy to call or email the office in advance and make your reservation. This includes those of you who purchased an Annual Card. Your help in this will insure that our dinners are full of peace and fellowship, and not confusion. Thank You!

A SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE PUBLICATION

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**Many thanks to all who
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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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Make your contribution to the **San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies** and have your name included on the "**Honor Roll**".

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2016

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Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

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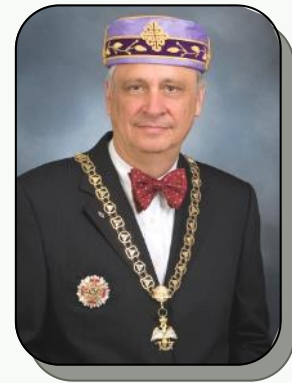
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2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Cordell Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
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**Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.
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Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.**

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Wise Master	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Commander	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Master of Kadosh	Bro. JR McGovert, 32°	408-258-3700
Assist. To the Personal Representative	Ill. Richard A. Meyers, 33°	408-264-0277

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 Secretary's Table....



My Brothers,

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful weather. Wish I were on the golf course every day! There are several important events coming up in the next several months. The first is our Annual Maundy Thursday Observance on March 24. There is an article about this elsewhere in the Rite Word. As Scottish Rite Masons, we are called to attend this Solemn event. I hope many of you will attend.

Looking ahead, we have our Annual Grand Master's Reception for MW David Perry on Tuesday, July 12. This will be in conjunction with our July Stated Meeting. We will be having a special dinner that night to honor the Grand Master. Please put this on your calendar NOW and plan to attend. Its also not to early to make reservations!

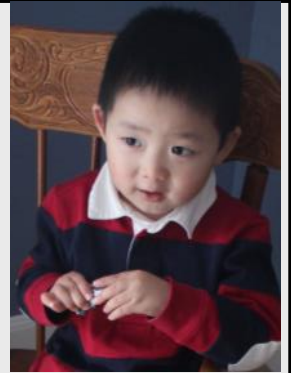
You have read our dinner reservation policy on the front page. Enough said. Call & make you March reservations.

There are still over 100 Brothers who have yet to pay your 2016 dues. If you are one who hasn't yet paid, PLEASE contact **OUR** office (not Supreme: costs us transaction fees) and pay by credit card (EASIEST!) or mail a check.

Fraternally, **HANK VLCEK, General Secretary**



From the Clinic



Easton is a delightful 4 year old boy who visits our clinic once a week for speech and language treatment. He comes through the door with a smile on his face and walks straight back to the treatment room, ready to work! Easton lives at home with his parents and big brother. Some of his favorite activities include going to parks, bike riding, hiking, puzzles, play cars and taking baths. The family was referred to our clinic by family friends who had previously attended.

Easton's mother stated " Our son was a 4 year old who could speak about 100 word approximations which could only be understood by our immediate family. The breadth of his vocabulary was limited as he was adopted from China and had only been exposed to English for 18 months. He was able to say some 2 word phrases."

In November of 2015, Easton was seen for his first treatment session and in 3 1/2 months, his progress has been tremendous. When he started, Easton had a very limited sound repertoire. He was using about 8-10 consonant sounds. His speech consisted mainly of syllables marked by vowel sounds with the occasional consonant mixed in. In addition to speech that was quite difficult to understand, Easton also demonstrated receptive and expressive language skills that were low for his age.

"What a difference it has made," Easton's mom reports, " He can now say well over 150 word approximations, uses 4-5 word phrases and sentences and is developing syntax pairing subjects with verbs and his confidence has grown. He can communicate more of his needs and desires with greater ease and less frustration, which makes for less guessing on our part. He finds joy in successfully communicating something new, which brings delight to everyone."

Soon after treatment was initiated, Easton began to use new consonants and with greater frequency. It didn't take him long to develop understanding that communication gives him power, allows him to make choices, requests and have fun with those around him. He is a very interactive little boy and was right from the start. He just need a more reliable way to communicate to the world.

Treatment has focused on forming words with different consonant-vowel patterns and to increase the amount and types of words he can use, to form phrases of increasing length.

Thanks in great part to Easton's loving and supportive family, he is quickly meeting his goals and is becoming ready to move on to more difficult language based goals, in addition to his articulation work. Easton's mother reported, "My husband and I feel so blessed to have found this clinic for our son as he greatly needs speech services and private therapy is so expensive. We can't believe we found such a professional and caring speech clinic close to our home, where Easton can receive the help he needs."

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Shut Ins

<u>Raymond Ruhland</u>	5068 Trenary Way, San Jose, CA. 95118-2626	408-267-5569 Visitors most welcome!
<u>Franklin Wong</u>	439 Dardanelli Lane Los Gatos, CA. 95032	408-656-5572 Calls/visitors Welcome!
<u>Jack Harris</u>	1066 Camino Ramon San Jose, CA. 95125	408-314-6124 Calls/visitors Welcome!



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

“Called from Labor:
Bro. Frank Archer 32°
December 9, 2015
Bro. Everett Shrewsbury 32°
January 16, 2016

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.





May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
come through your door





Tuesday, March 8th, 2016

Assorted Appetizers

~Penne Marinara~

-Meatballs~

~Assorted Vegetables~

~Caesar Salad~

~Garlic Bread~

Dessert

\$15.00 per person

Reservations Required!!!

Vegetarian Entrée must be requested in advance !

**Be sure to
make your
reservations!!!
408-978-7483
or Email Angela !
adathans@gmail.com
or Call
Angela
(408)561-0129**



Masonic Humor.....

A man had been convicted of murder and was about to be hanged.

Just before the death sentence was about to be carried out, the hangman asked the man if he had any last words.

"Yes" came his reply, "I hate Masons!"

"Why do you hate Masons?" asked the hangman.

"The man I killed was a Mason," explained the murderer,

"the sheriff who hunted me down was a Mason,

the Prosecutor who tried my case was a Mason,

the Judge who presided at the trial was a Mason,

and all of the men on the jury who found me guilty and said I should be hanged were Masons!"

"Is that all?" asked the hangman.

"Yes" replied the convicted murder.

"Then you will advance one step with your left foot....."



MASTER CRAFTSMAN PROGRAM

We will try once again to get the Master Craftsman Study Group going. We are going to be going though the Master Craftsman Philosophy with Morals and Dogma. This is actually the 3rd installment of the program, but you can work on it along with the group regardless of having completed the others. This group is open to any Master Mason as Morals and Dogma is a publicly available book. So, if you know someone at your lodge that may be interested — have them come down.

We will meet on the Third Tuesday of the Month at 7pm, starting on March 15.

**Please contact Gregg Hall at: 408-656-2459 or greggahall@gmail.com
if you are interested and he will give you all the details.**



Greetings Brethren,

March is the month we raise a glass of warm green beer to a fine fellow, the Irishman who didn't rid the land of snakes, didn't compare the Trinity to the shamrock, and wasn't even Irish. St. Patrick, who died 1,509, 1,541, or 1,542 years ago—depending on which unreliable source you want to believe—has been adorned with centuries of Irish blarney. Innumerable folk tales recount how he faced down kings, negotiated with God, and tricked and slaughtered Ireland's reptiles.

The facts about St. Patrick are few. Most derive from the two documents he probably wrote, the autobiographical *Confession* and the indignant *Letter* to a slave-taking marauder named Coroticus. Patrick was born in Britain, probably in Wales, around 385 A.D. His father was a Roman official. When Patrick was 16, seafaring raiders captured him, carried him to Ireland, and sold him into slavery. The Christian Patrick spent six lonely years herding sheep and, according to him, praying 100 times a day. In a dream, God told him to escape. He returned home, where he had another vision in which the Irish people begged him to return and minister to them: "We ask thee, boy, come and walk among us once more," he recalls in the *Confession*. He studied for the priesthood in France, then made his way back to Ireland.



He spent his last 30 years there, baptizing pagans, ordaining priests, and founding churches and monasteries. His persuasive powers must have been astounding: Ireland fully converted to Christianity within 200 years and was the only country in Europe to Christianize peacefully. Patrick's Christian conversion ended slavery, human sacrifice, and most intertribal warfare in Ireland. However, despite common beliefs, he did not banish the snakes: Ireland never had any. Scholars now consider the snakes a metaphor for the serpent of paganism. Nor did he invent the Shamrock Trinity. That was an 18th-century fabrication.

According to Thomas Cahill, author of *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Paddy's influence extended far beyond his adopted land. Cahill's book, which could just as well be titled *How St. Patrick Saved Civilization*, contends that Patrick's conversion of Ireland allowed Western learning to survive the Dark Ages. Ireland pacified and churchified as the rest of Europe crumbled. Patrick's monasteries copied and preserved classical texts. Later, Irish monks returned this knowledge to Europe by establishing monasteries in England, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Italy.

The Irish have celebrated their patron saint with a quiet religious holiday for centuries, perhaps more than 1,000 years. It took the United States to turn St. Patrick's Day into a boozy spectacle. Irish immigrants first celebrated it in Boston in 1737 and first paraded in New York in 1762. By the late 19th century, the St. Patrick's Day parade had become a way for Irish-Americans to flaunt their numerical and political might. It retains this role today.

The scarcity of facts about St. Patrick's life has made him a dress-up doll: Anyone can create his own St. Patrick. Ireland's Catholics and Protestants, who have long feuded over him, each have built a St. Patrick in their own image. Catholics cherish Paddy as the father of Catholic Ireland. They say that Patrick was consecrated as a bishop and that the pope himself sent him to convert the heathen Irish. (Evidence is sketchy about both the bishop and pope claims.) One of the most popular Irish Catholic stories holds that Patrick bargained with God and got Him to promise that Ireland would remain Catholic and free.

Ireland's Protestant minority, by contrast, denies that Patrick was a bishop or that he was sent by Rome. They depict him as anti-Roman Catholic and credit him with inventing a distinctly Celtic church, with its own homegrown symbols and practices. He is an Irish hero, not a Catholic one.

Outside Ireland, too, Patrick has been freely reinterpreted. Evangelical Protestants claim him as one of their own. After all, he read his Bible, and his faith came to him in visions. Biblical inspiration and personal revelation are Protestant hallmarks. Utah newspapers emphasize that Patrick was a missionary sent overseas to convert the ungodly, an image that resonates in Mormon country. New Age Christians revere Patrick as a virtual patron saint. Patrick co-opted Druid symbols in order to undermine the rival religion, fusing nature and magic with Christian practice. The Irish placed a sun at the center of their cross. "St. Patrick's Breastplate," Patrick's famous prayer (which he certainly did not write) invokes the power of the sun, moon, rocks, and wind, as well as God. (This is what is called "Erin go hoo-ha.")

Patrick has even been enlisted in the gay rights cause. For over a decade, gay and lesbian Irish-Americans sought permission to march in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade, and for a over decade they have lost in court until being allowed to march in both the New York and Boston parades last year. Cahill, among others, has allied Patrick with gays and lesbians. Cahill's Patrick is a muscular progressive. He was a proto-feminist who valued women in an age when the church ignored them. He always sided with the downtrodden and the excluded, whether they were slaves or the pagan Irish. If Patrick were here today, Cahill says, he would join the gay marchers.

America invented yet another St. Patrick. A few years ago, the Fox Family Channel aired the made-for-TV movie *St. Patrick*. Fox's Patrick is mostly drawn from the historical record, but the producers added one new storyline. The English parent church demands that Patrick collect its church taxes in Ireland. Patrick rebels and risks excommunication by the British bishop. The fearless colonist leads a tax revolt against the villainous English. We Americans, like everyone else, think St. Patrick is one of us.

J.R. McGovern, Master of Kadosh

Our "SWEETHEARTS" at our February Dinner



'The info found in this article is taken from the SCOTTISH RITE RITUAL MONITOR and GUIDE.'

The San Jose Council of Kadosh is the Body responsible for the 19th through the 30th Scottish Rite Degrees, known as the “Philosophical and Chivalric Degrees.”

The Council Degrees exemplify various philosophical and religious traditions, as well as our Orders of Knighthood, as embodying principles and ideas promulgated by our Rite. Their precepts, teachings and ideas illustrate what must be encountered, understood and employed on the path to greater Truth and Knowledge.



The 20th Degree is named THE MASTER of the SYMBOLIC LODGE—Truth, Justice Toleration as the rule of Life, Conduct and Conversation.

The lessons of this Degree include the admonition to make your life count! You are introduced to the great Law Givers—men who have learned great truths and devoted their lives to the betterment of all Mankind.

You are given advanced teachings on how one should conduct one’s self in dealing with your fellowman. In all ways maintain dignity, listen patiently, weigh all things deliberately and dispassionately, and decide impartially. Live knowing that you represent the Fraternity at all times.

Regarding the January 26, 2016 san Jose Scottish Rite Bodies Officer’s Installation:

Thanks to our Personal Representative—Ill. And Most Worshipful Kenneth G. Nagel, 33rd Degree, for performing the Officer’s Installation. The Installed Officers were also honored by a visit from Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Ill. And Most Worshipful Frank Loui, 33rd Degree, and his wife.

Thanks to Secretary of all Bodies, Hank Vlcek, 32nd Degree, for assisting in planning and preparing the Officer’s Installation.

And special thanks to Angela Athans for after-the-installation-food-preparation. All in attendance at the Installation were treated to an impressively decorated dining room where the food was served. Kudos to you, Angela, for your impressive talents and service!!

Fraternally,

ILL. ROGER BIBB, 33°, COMMANDER

MAUNDY THURSDAY OBSERVANCE

Our Annual Maundy Thursday Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal will be on March 24th. By Authority of the Supreme Council, you are summoned to participate with your Brethren in observing Maundy Thursday, a Solemn Ceremonial and Feast Obligatory. In the United States, Maundy Thursday is a religious observance, falling on the day before Good Friday. It commemorates Jesus Christ’s last supper and the initiation of the Eucharist, which is observed in many Christian churches.

For Scottish Rite Masons, this day has more important connotations. The Chapter of Rose Croix in the 18th Degree provides for the extinguishing of lights until Easter Sunday, at which time the Chapter will be reassembled. We also celebrate the memory of Freemasonry’s 2 Patron Saints—St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist. Please call and make your reservations and join us in this Solemn Observance. There will be a simple supper at 6:30pm, followed by the Ceremony. Open to all Brothers, Families and Friends. We hope many of you will join us.



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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: _____



**SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES
OF THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE**

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Future Scottish Rite Events

Tuesday, March 1st ~ *QUARTERLY SJSR FOUNDATION MEETING - 5:30pm*

Tuesday, March 1st ~ *MONTHLY ALL OFFICER COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00pm*

Tuesday, March 8th ~ *Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm*

6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner & Presentation of Patents to the Fall 2015 Class

Thursday, March 10th ~ *MONTHLY OAM MEETING - Host: South Valley #187*

6:30pm ~ Chicken Feed Dinner 7:30pm ~ Grand Master Visitation

Tuesday, March 15th ~ *Master Craftsman Course- 7:00pm*

Tuesday, March 22nd ~ *MONTHLY ALL OFFICER COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00pm*

Thursday, March 24th ~ *MAUNDY THURSDAY CEREMONY*

6:30pm - Dinner ~ 7:00pm - Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal

Tuesday, April 12th ~ *Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm*

6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner ~ Program—"TBA"

Tuesday, April 19th ~ *MONTHLY OAM MEETING - Host: Palo Alto Lodge #346*

6:30pm ~ Dinner 7:30pm ~ Ritual of the 2nd Degree

Tuesday, April 26th ~ *MONTHLY ALL OFFICER COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00pm*

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

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