



The Rite Word

From The Personal Representative

Happy New Years to all and welcome to 2024.

For many, Covid 19 is a distant past and we are back in full swing to where we were prior to 2019. I hope each of you that has stayed away from the Rite for a while, will come back to experience what the Rite has to offer.



2023 was a very successful year for us. The attendance at our meetings has been increasing, we had two very successful Reunions and brought in 15 new members during the year, and financially we ended the year well ahead of budget. Although our investments were flat this past year, probably like yours, we see a future with positive growth. But, now on to 2024. By the time you read this, we will only be a few days from installing our new officers for the year. Help me congratulate them and wish them well as they lead our organization.

Some of our highlights and successes:

Our clinicians continue to give valuable care to our children in their speech therapy. We continue to treat our kids both in person and through video therapy. The decision on whether to treat in person or through teletherapy is one made jointly by the parents and clinicians alike. But however they are treated, kids ARE being treated, and we could not be more proud of what is being accomplished in their treatment. We did

lose one of our clinicians late in the year, but we hope to have a replacement sometime during the coming months.

This past year, with two Reunions, we were able to initiate 15 new members. We had set a goal to have the ability to confer all 11 of the degrees in the Lodge of Perfection. Although, we weren't completely successful, the last class we held in the Fall, we did confer 6 of the degrees. We also have identified cast members for building the other five degree teams. So, if you can help, Please volunteer to take on a part or two in the new degree teams. On the last weekend in April 2024, there will be another statewide Reunion with participants from all 20 Valleys in the state. If you have not seen some of the non-mandatory degrees, now is the time you can experience them all. More info will follow as we near the date.

We recognized another graduating senior and again awarded a \$10,000 four-year scholarship to her. We feel good that we are able to help effect lives with our Foundation dollars.

We renewed our contract with Amazon for another year, leasing our parking lot to them for their delivery vans and employee parking. The half million dollars derived from this contract is almost 2 1/2 times what we can bring in with our normal rental program in the building. And we don't need extra manpower, janitorial supplies or wear and tear on the building. We just stay out of their way and

2023 Honor Roll

Bro. David Pratt 32°
Bro. John Kirk 32°
Hon. David Driesbach 32° KCCH
Bro. Peter Biggam 32°
Ill. Bennie Cooper 33°
Bro. Bobbie Byers 32°
Bro. Douglass Picard 32°
Bro. John Kirk 32°
Bro. Mark McEuen 32°
Bro. Neofito Santos 32°
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°
Hon. Virgilio Quina 32° KCCH
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32° KCCH
Ill. Chuck Cowden 33°
Bro. John Bannister 32°
Bro. Jason Fagan 32°

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

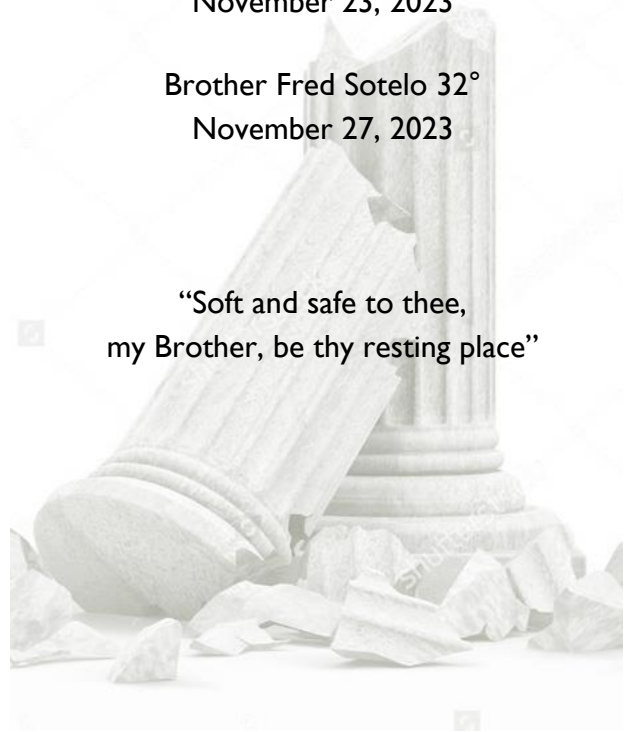
Bro. Chris Boyes 32°
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32° KCCH
Bro. Ceaser Otero 32°
Bro. John Bannister 32°
Bro. Jason Fagan 32°

Called From Labor

Illustrious Jack Harris 33°
November 23, 2023

Brother Fred Sotelo 32°
November 27, 2023

"Soft and safe to thee,
my Brother, be thy resting place"



From the Venerable

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection within the San Jose Scottish Rite Valley. It has been an honor to lead and contribute to the esteemed traditions of our Valley.



The support and camaraderie I have experienced during my tenure have been truly remarkable. I am grateful for the trust you and the members of our Valley have placed in me. The journey has been enriching, and I am thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated and inspiring individuals.

As I reflect on my time as Venerable Master, I am filled with a sense of pride for what we have accomplished together. The bonds forged and the lessons learned will undoubtedly stay with me throughout my Masonic journey.

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2023 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
Senior Warden	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
Junior Warden	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
Master of Ceremonies	Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32° KCCH	650-494-8792
Captain of the Host	Bro. John Absalon 32°	909-660-9983

2023 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Senior Warden	Hon. Mark Burger, 32° KCCH	831-373-1094
Junior Warden	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Chris Mays 32°	650-773-7995
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Oscar Arguello, Jr 32°	408-834-6671

2023- Council of Kadosh

Commander	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Peter Cardilla 32°	831-214-9012
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Max Mora 32°	408-259-8306
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Mike Dremel 32°	831-383-9971
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Andrew Litfin 32°	408-832-5846

2023 San Jose Consistory

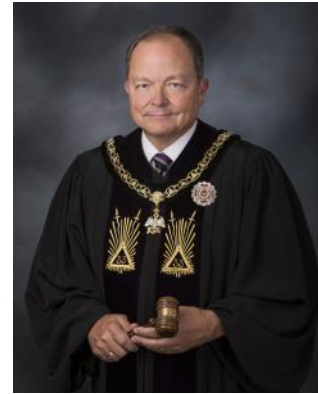
Master of Kadosh	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Prior	Bro. Helmuth Litfin 32°	408-421-9381
Preceptor	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
Marshal of Ceremonies	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Captain of the Guard		

2023- 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	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
Treasurer	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447
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
Director of Ceremonies	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Chief Knight KSA	Bro. Timothy Lynch, 32°	408-386-2746

Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Secretary	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
Treasurer	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447
Director (exp 2025)	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
Director (exp 2025)	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Director (exp 2023)	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Director (exp 2023)	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
Director (exp 2024)	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
Director (exp 2024)	TBD	
Venerable Master	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
Wise Master	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Commander	Bro David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
Master of Kadosh	Ill. Richard Fisher 33°	408-779-4088
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

Here we are with the start of a new year. I've had the privilege of leading the Knights Rose Croix for the better part of two years now and it has been a great experience. Reflecting on that and Ill Ken's questions to our Valley on how we can do better has been my recent focus. Specifically, how can we better reach out to our members and potential members? How can we bring more members in and bring back some of the members we have? How can we make our events more tangible, enticing, or compelling to have people come and participate?

I don't have the answers <yet> although I expect we will all be doing some homework in the coming year to find some solutions together. Many of our blue lodges have been asking similar questions and many have started coming back to life post-pandemic. Many have started focusing more on the social pieces of our fraternity and building those bonds which results in better lodge strength. Some have started looking at the current membership more closely to understand what they may find interesting which has required some changes to their historic norm. Even our Grand Lodge has seen the need to take different approaches in order to retain and attract members to participate in more activities. In the end, the rising tide raises all ships and I look forward to working on these questions with the next set of officers and leaders in our Valley.

Congratulations again to our newly elected and appointed officers!



From the Commander

Greetings

As the new year is upon us, new officers have been elected and soon will be installed.

I wish to take this time to thank my core of officers and the valley for supporting me during my term.

I ask that you support them as you did me and my officers.

It is a time for renewal and new starts.

Our fraternity teaches us that we must strive continuously to improve and to learn.

We have had a great year, and as we look back we have 14 new members to assist in growing our valley.

Next year we will have a state-wide reunion with it starting in San Jose.

I encourage all of you to attend and support the degree teams as they do their work for the good of the valley.

With effort and cooperation on our part, and the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., we can choose to open our eyes to that light, the light of Brotherly love. Brotherly Love is being positive and expecting the best life has to offer. Brotherly Love is knowing that, although our human frailties will result in disagreement, where there is hope and understanding there can also be peace and harmony for all of us to work together towards a common goal.

This is my last article and with it, I bid you a hearty farewell until next time brethren.



Annual Dinner Ticket Books

You can now buy an Annual Dinner Ticket Book, which gives you 11 Stated Meeting Dinners and 1 Grand Masters Banquet. For a cost of \$150. This saves you \$40 off of the annual price or over 21%. There is no time limit to use them,

From the Master of Kadosh

I sit here looking at my screen and writing my last Rite Word article. January will see me finishing the journey of having been Master of all four of the San Jose Scottish Rite's Bodies. This completes a journey started in the 1980s.

I encourage everyone to read the Master's articles in our Rite Word. The consistent quality of these articles is amazing especially if you read the publications from other Valleys we have in our library and compare their articles to ours.

It is said Scottish Rite is the College of Freemasonry. Between the Master's articles and the monthly contributions of Ill. Brother Dan Dornbos, 33rd Degree, there is a wealth of knowledge both philosophical and historic in those writings. Our web site has an archive of past issues. I encourage you to wander into those back issues, maybe starting in 2018, and read what those past masters wrote.

In my wanderings on line I have found a number of interesting and educational sites. One in particular is

The Small Town Texas Mason's E-Magazine. Not all the issues are still available but some in 2011 and 2012 are. Interesting reading. Here is one of my favorites:

IMAGINING THE GRAND LODGE ABOVE

"Over the centuries, many well known men have belonged to our Craft. For a few moments, allow your imagination to run wild and consider what may take place at the Installation of "The Celestial Lodge", known as the Grand Lodge Above. Gathered in the lodge refectory are Brothers Henry Ford, Ransom Olds, Walter Chrysler, and Andre Citroen. The only Mason absent today is Hart Massey with his tractor. Greeting members in the entrance hall are Brother Cliff Arquette of Charley Weaver fame and Brother Ed Wynn. In the boardroom, a group of senior Masons are gathered including Brothers Walt Disney, Chet Huntley, Wendell Corey, Van Johnson, Robert Cummings, John Steinbeck, Fred MacMurray and John Cameron Swayze. King Gillette, razor in hand, passes the lodge caretaker who is having a minor problem with his vacuum cleaner, which is quickly cleared up with the help of its inventor, Brother Hoover. At the other end of the hallway Brothers Emmett Kelly, Clyde Beatty, and all seven of the Ringling Brothers are discussing the Shrine Circus."

I guess we can add, looking into the lounge, Brothers Winston Churchill and Mark Twain comparing the relative merits of their cigars.

I close by thanking all the Brethren who have advised, aided and assisted me in this journey, over the years, through the Chairs.



From the Chief Knight

Calling all 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons! And I am reaching out in particular to all of our newly capped Brothers who were able to complete their degrees during the recent Reunion. Our chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) is doing a lot of cool things and we want to share it with you.

THE WEAR:

NO KILT IS NEEDED! Some folks have avoided joining KSA because they thought they had to wear a kilt and Price Charlie jacket. While many of our members do wear these, there are many who do not. We often have members in suit or tux wear a tartan sash with the glengarry or balmoral hat without a kilt.

THE WORK:

KSA is a great way to get involved and be of service while not overcommitting yourself to a new and unknown body. While the Lodge of Perfection, Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh, and Consistory perform most of the work during our Stated Meetings, KSA supports these bodies by running sound, providing door greeters, receiving moneys for the Stated Meeting dinners, and running the bar during dinner. We also provide Flag details and the Arch of Steel honor guards for dignitaries and events.

THE CONNECTION:

While members in the four bodies mingle and work together, KSA members form strong bonds through doing the service work which leads to a lot more social time and stronger bonds. Many of us spend time together outside of SJSR or KSA events and have become closer friends.

THE GOAL:

While we are providing these services to support the SJSR in general, the activities for the Stated meetings, and the Reunions, we get to take a step back and see the degrees and ritual work being performed. For folks who just finished their degrees, this is a great way to refresh a lot of the material you just had come at you in a rapid pace. For folks who have been around a while, it is a cool way to stay current on the degree work and the messages.

Come be a part of this unique group within our Scottish Rite organization! For more information, please contact me or anyone else you see wearing a glengarry or balmoral cap.



Tim August

Philosophical Implications of the New Kabbalah — Part 3

This essay, written by Dr. Sanford L. Drob, focuses on 19 aspects of the Kabbalah that are most readily understood in theological and philosophical terms. In the previous issue of the *Rite Word*, we discussed aspects 5 through 12.

13. The need for world redemption.

The contemporary Kabbalist, Adin Steinsaltz has said that the world we live in is the worst of all possible worlds in which there is yet hope, and that paradoxically such a world is the best of all possible worlds. This is because, according to Steinsaltz, it is only a world on the brink of disaster and in need of radical repair that can lead humankind to maximize the spiritual, ethical, aesthetic and intellectual acts that not only bring about the world's redemption, but realize the very elements of the cosmos itself.

Our world is constructed from the shards of broken and displaced values; love, justice, beauty, etc. that were the original constituents of an ideal world that is both impossible and forever lost. It is for this reason, according to the 16th century Kabbalist, Chayyim Vital, that our world is in its majority evil. It is, according to Luria and Vital, the charge of humanity to reassemble and reconstruct these broken shards into a new, redeemed world.

Since the world as it is constituted by God and man is a world in need of redemption and repair, each human act, event and encounter either facilitates or hinders this redemptive/repair ideal. Another way of understanding the Kabbalist's theory of world-redemption is that all being is in exile from itself and that overcoming this exile and alienation is the fundamental task of humankind via Tikkun ha-Olam.

14. Redemption consists in highlighting and fulfilling the values (raising the sparks of divinity) that are inherent in all things.

The Hasidim held that there is a spark in divinity in all things. This spark is at once the true reality of the things it informs, and an exiled aspect of the one true God. Humanity's task, and the purpose and meaning of individual existence, is to raise (highlight, understand, develop) the divine sparks in all people and all things.

An individual, as he or she proceeds through life, encounters objects, people and events that are uniquely suited to aid him/her in raising the sparks within his/her own soul. Conversely, each encounter provides the individual a unique opportunity to raise the sparks in those people, things and events, which he/she encounters on life's path. The events in an individual's life constitute the unique opportunities for Tikkun for that individual, defining that individual's potential identity in the process.

The doctrine of the "raising of the sparks" can be understood as a metaphor for a philosophy of value. For the Jewish mystics, the holy sparks inherent in all things derive from the ten Sefirot, each of which is said to instantiate a divine value. Amongst these are the values of wisdom, understanding, loving-kindness, beauty, glory, and so on.

Thus, the processes of Tikkun ha-Olam and the raising of the sparks amount to the realization of intellectual, spiritual, and ethical values in each of one's encounters. The realization of these values constitute both the *raison d'être* and redemption of the world, and the meaning of an individual's life. The realization of these values is also constitutive of Ein-sof.

15. Humanity is the vehicle of God's and the world's completion.

For the Kabbalists, God is not simply a transcendent creator or point of origin nor simply an ultimate value or end, but is rather embedded within an evolving creative process, which includes humanity as the vehicle for both the world's and God's completion.

16. The Divine as equivalent to the creative process.

The Lurianic theosophy can be profitably understood as a symbolic account of the creative (or epistemological) process, a process that the Kabbalists equate with divinity itself. This process begins with Ayin (nothingness), an empty field of creation or inquiry, which, by virtue of its indeterminateness, encompasses infinite (Ein-sof) possibilities. These possibilities are radically constricted in the Tzimtzum (contraction), the next phase of creation or inquiry, which narrows the field and selects a subject matter, intention and value, which is symbolized in the Sefirot, the value archetypes or elements of creation.

The initial creative effort proves inadequate and shatters (Shevirat ha-kelim, the Breaking of the Vessels), leading to emendation, Tikkun, and a more perfect creation or knowledge. By equating Ein-sof, with the creative process, the Kabbalistic "God" remains indeterminate and "yet-to-be", conforming to the biblical description of God as Ehyeh asher ehyeh, "I will be that which I will be" (Exodus 3:14).

According to the Kabbalists, God evolves dialectically along with humanity and the world. Ein-sof is both the entirety of this evolution and each point along the way. (See: S. Drob: *The Lurianic Metaphors, Creativity, and the Structure of Language*.)

17. In philosophy and theology we must produce a system that is not a system.

The Kabbalists recognized the transitory nature of all things, including their own conceptions of the Torah, the world, humankind and God, yet they were unwilling to abandon the ideal of a comprehensive account of reality and humanity's role within it.

While the later Kabbalists, for example, regarded the Lurianic dynamic of Ein-sof (the Infinite), Tzimtzum (contraction), Sefirot (value archetypes), Shevirah (rupture) and Tikkun (emendation/restoration) as a synoptic theological/philosophical system capable of accounting for creation and humanity's role within it, the very nature of their system was such as to remain completely open to its own deconstruction and transformation.

Such an "a-systematic" theology is inherent to the dialectical nature of the Lurianic "system", which is itself subject to the emendations of Shevirah and Tikkun.

The Kabbalistic "system" (like the world itself) has its origin and support in a continually shifting series of foundations. There is not one anchoring point or foundation for metaphysics, epistemology and theology, but a whole series, each of which are (depending upon one's point of view, base or superstructure, cause or effect).

The notion that the world or our knowledge about it has a single foundation and support is grounded in a linear form of thought that is completely alien to the dialectics of Kabbalah and

mysticism in general. Indeed, the very notion that the world could have its foundation in certain definite structural elements goes against the grain of Kabbalistic thought. This is because, for the Kabbalists, the structural elements of the world, the Sefirot and the Otiyot Yesod (foundational letters) are themselves in constant transition, comprehensible only from an indefinite series of perspectives, continually breaking apart and being reassembled, through the cognitive, ethical and spiritual activities of humanity.

18. The Against Method.

There is much in Kabbalistic texts that pushes the bounds of sense and appears to the modern reader as mythological non-sense. However, a Kabbalistic view suggests that theological, philosophical and psychological inquiry cannot always proceed according to a prescribed plan or method, governed by strict rules of sense and rationality

Indeed, it is arguable that the purpose of these pursuits is not to clearly demarcate the boundary between sense and nonsense, but rather to push the bounds of sense by violating the so-called rules of significant discourse through the creation of new metaphors and forms of expression, thereby opening up new horizons of experience. The purpose of Kabbalistic inquiry and creativity is not to arrive at ultimate knowledge, but rather to expand experiential and interpretive possibilities.

19. The spontaneous symbolic productions of the human psyche in myth, art, poetry and literature provide the raw material to satisfy our philosophical and theological cravings, and the application of critical thought to the symbolic productions of the unconscious is as viable a method in philosophy and theology as it is in psychology.

Much of the Kabbalah is highly symbolic and mythical, and appears to the modern reader as a nonsensical dream or product of a freely flowing imagination. Such productions, however, can, like the dreams expressed in the psychoanalytic hour, provide the raw material for rational insights, not only insights that are psychological, but those that are philosophical or theological as well.

The reason for this is, according to the Jewish mystics is that both God and the universe are mirrored in the human mind. For example:

Azriel of Gerona (early 13th century), held that the human soul derives its energy from the heavenly Sefirot, each of which is equivalent to a physical organ or psychological power in man.

The 13th century ecstatic Kabbalist, Abraham Abulafia also held that the Sefirot (thought, wisdom, understanding, mercy, fear, beauty, victory, splendor, etc.) refer to human psychical processes and that it is possible to attach oneself to the divine Sefirot through proper meditation.

R. Meir ibn Gabbay (1480-1540) even went so far as to hold that the divine structure is copied from a human original!

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichov (1740-1809) and the Apter Rebbe, Rabbi Yehoshua Heschel (1745-1825) who held that man is a microcosm, a miniature universe.

Rabbi Dov Baer, the Maggid of Mezrich (1704-1772) held that divine thought is actually dependent upon thought in the mind of man, a viewpoint which is surprisingly premonitory of the 20th century psychologist, C.G. Jung.

About the author

Sanford L. Drob received a PhD in Philosophy from Boston University in

1981, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Long Island University in 1987. He is a practicing licensed Psychologist in the state of New York and Director of the Forensic Psychology Concentration at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California. Dr. Drob is also an artist, author, lecturer, and workshop leader. You are encouraged to visit his New Kabbalah website at <http://www.newkabbalah.com/>.

From the Venerable Master Continued

Thank you once again for entrusting me with this responsibility. I am committed to continuing my service to the San Jose Scottish Rite Valley.

Freemasonry's Enduring Legacy: A Brief Exploration of Its Principles and Vitality

Freemasonry, with its rich history and enduring existence, has defied the test of time. Contrary to misconceptions, it thrives not as a secret society but as a private one, founded on brotherly love, relief, and truth. While it possesses modes of recognition and secret rituals, its constitutions, charges, and regulations are open for public inspection. Freemasonry has endured persecution, including condemnations from the popes and opposition from kings and emperors, yet it remains steadfast. Its longevity can be attributed to its commitment to teaching the moral law and maintaining principles that transcend political intrigues.

The essence of Freemasonry lies in its universal language and its alignment with the moral and philosophical aspects of a shared belief in the existence of a Supreme Ruler and the immortality of the soul. It distinguishes itself by avoiding political entanglements, ensuring its endurance even amidst the rise and fall of empires and revolutions in thought. Its timeless principles, ceremonial practices, and unaltered esoteric teachings contribute to its lasting influence.

At the core of Freemasonry are its Landmarks, which are described as indestructible. These enduring characteristics have been maintained for generations, never succumbing to change. The fraternity's principles, esoteric teachings, ceremonial practices, and traditions have stood the test of time, with the devotion of its members as fervent today as at its inception.

Freemasonry's historical resilience becomes apparent when considering the challenges faced by societies over the ages. The Craft has endured societal transformations, political upheavals, and changes in governance while steadfastly adhering to its principles. The Craftsmen, even in the

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continue to collect rent checks. The current lease ends the end of May. Hopefully, they will extend the lease for another year. A real financial boon for our Foundation. And, we have started seeing more outside rentals as the pandemic fades away, but we are still far away from where we were prior to the onset of the pandemic.

2023 was a quiet year for upgrades to the building. But that is about to change as we have made a decision to fully upgrade our HVAC system. Equipment has been purchased and we are awaiting its arrival. Once the equipment is on site, we will commence with the heating side first, followed immediately with the air conditioning side. We secured a low interest rate building loan as we estimate the entire project will cost around \$800,000.

In 2023, it being an odd-numbered year, we had the opportunity to recognize two of our brothers for their outstanding support to the valley. We were honored to elevate Wor. Bennie Cooper to the rank of Inspector General Honorary or 33°, as well as bestowing the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour or KCCH on Wor. Naresh Ramparshad. Congratulations to both of them. Supreme Council held its Biennial Sessions in the Fall. The sessions were very successful and we see great things happening for all our Valleys.

Finally, I want to recognize the work accomplished by our fabulous staff. In reality, they are not just staff, but a huge part of our family. Ill Gregg, Angela and Monica are truly the ones who see that everything is accomplished for our members, that the building is in top shape and that our Valley thrives. We added a new member to the team, Noe Escamilla who has been a huge asset

for us picking up varied many tasks around the building. Through all their hard work and efforts, no matter the obstacle, things just get done, and without a lot of fanfare. I can not thank them enough for their efforts and accomplishments. They make me and our entire Valley look good. Thanks for everything you do.

And a huge thank-you to our four outgoing Masters, Honorable Naresh Ramparshad, 32° KCCH (Venerable Master), Wor. Tim Lynch (Wise Master), Wor. David Kamschafer (Commander of Kadosh), and Illustrious Richard Fisher 33° (Master of Kadosh of the Consistory). They can all be very proud of how they helped lead our Valley.

With 2023 behind us, we look forward to a more prosperous new year, and a new corps of officers who will write a new chapter in our history. Please come out and show your support for the new leadership team.

Always remember, YOU are a valued member of our valley and we need your support. Please come out and help make the Valley as successful as it can be!

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





Meet Theresa! She was a previous client at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Jose nearly 10 years ago! We are so honored that she reached out recently to interview her former Speech Language Pathologist, Rachel. Theresa was inspired by her therapy at our clinic to study the field of Communication Disorders and become a Speech Language Pathologist herself! Theresa will be graduating with her Bachelor's degree in the field of Speech and Hearing Sciences within the coming weeks and is in the process of applying to graduate schools. She sat with Rachel in the clinic a few weeks ago and asked insightful questions about diagnostics and therapy and discussed her strong interest in working with children who have hearing issues. Theresa and her family were a pleasure to work with and it is a treat to see her finding her own path in the world of Speech and Hearing Sciences. Theresa's story is an encouraging narrative about the legacy our clinic creates for the children and families that we get to work with each year. What a wonderful opportunity to show the incredible philanthropy of the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Jose! We wish each of you a beautiful holiday season! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The following is an updated list of books that the Clinic would like to have to help the kids. If so inclined you can order from Amazon and have shipped to the SR, or buy and bring it in. Thanks for your Consideration

List of Requested Books for Clinic Library – Updated 12/19/23

Book Titles from Social Thinking.com

Superflex – Superflex takes on Rock Brain and the Team of Unthinkables

Superflex takes on Brain Eater and the Team of Unthinkables

Superflex takes on Glassman and the Team of Unthinkables

Superflex takes on One-Sided Sid, Un-Wonderer and the Team of Unthinkables

Superflex and Focus Tron to the Rescue!

Superflex and Kook Q. Cumber to the Rescue!

You are a Social Detective!

Eye Power/Learning to Use the Power of your Eyes Volume 1

Eye Power/Learning to Use the Power of your Eyes Volume 2

We Thinkers! Series Volume 2 Social Problem Solvers (5 books in series) Hidden Rules and Expected and Unexpected Behaviors\

Smart Guess

Flexible and Stuck Thinking

Size of the Problem

Sharing an Imagination

We Thinkers! Series Volume 1 Social Explorers Curriculum (5 books in series)

Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings

Body in the Group

Thinking with Your Eyes

Whole Body Listening

The Group Plan

Other Book Titles (found on Amazon)

A Birthday for Cow by Jan Thomas

A Pest in the Garden by Jan Thomas

What Is Chasing Duck? By Jan Thomas

My Friends Make Me Happy by Jan Thomas

The Apple Pie Tree

Sheep in a Shop

Stated Meeting Menu

Tuesday

January 9th 2024

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by Jan 5th)

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

Soup de jour

Tri Tip

Potatoes

Mixed Veggies

Dessert

From the Venable Master Continued

face of adversity, met in caves and on mountain tops, preserving the teachings they held dear. Their unwavering faith in God and commitment to duty guided them, ensuring the survival of Freemasonry through the ages.

The strength of Freemasonry, rooted in its history and principles, is evident in the unwavering courage of its members. Their faith in the indestructible organization, inherited from the past, served as a guiding light. Freemasons, despite being few in number at times, drew strength from their history, making their association potent and resilient.

Freemasonry's heritage is a legacy of courage, faith, and devotion to principles that have stood the test of time. The obligation to adhere to these principles remains a solemn commitment for members. As Freemasons, they are entrusted with preserving and upholding the glorious inheritance passed down through generations.

In conclusion, the enduring existence of Freemasonry can be attributed to its commitment to timeless principles, avoidance of political entanglements, and a universal language that transcends societal changes. Its Landmarks, described as indestructible, serve as the foundation upon which the fraternity has thrived for generations. Freemasonry's legacy is one of unwavering devotion to duty, faith in God, and an abiding commitment to principles that define true Freemasonry.



From the Secretary

If you will notice on the 2nd page, we lost 2 brothers since our last Rite Word. Ill. Jack Harris and Bro. Fred Setello. The passed within 4 days of each other. Something that would normally be fairly random.

But in this case these two brothers were initiated into Liberty Lodge on the exact same evening over 60 years ago. Their paths in Masonry were very different, one was a Past Master and 33° the other was never an officer in either group, but they shared a bond for all those years.

Just like these brothers, your path in Masonry is an individual journey taken with brothers. No path is right or wrong, it is just the one you are currently on. So the question is, is it the path that is making you happy and being fulfilled by your masonic experience, or is it time for you to seek a fork in the road and set off on a new path?

Masonry has much to offer, but it will not spoon feed anyone, you have to actually put in the effort to sow, what you wish to reap. Are you doing so right now? Is it time for you to make a new commitment to some new aspect of the craft, so you can once again feel that same joy you had when you first knelt at the altar? Only you have that answer. But even as before, if you are seeking something, all you have to do is ask and you will be assisted in achieving that which you seek.

This is the first month of a New Year in your life, is it the life you want or is this a great opportunity to make some changes.



State Wide II Reunion Class

April 26th (in San Jose), 27th and 28th (in Oakland), 2024 (all 29 to be conferred)



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	\$200	\$200
_____	Annual Dues	\$90	\$0 (For Current Year)
1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME	Total Due:	\$290	\$200

<i>1st Sponsor Signature</i>			

2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME			

<i>2nd Sponsor Signature</i>			

I hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ _____
to Credit Card # _____ CVC _____
Expiration Date ____ / ____

(Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office)

Signature of authorized card holder



THE RITE WORD

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San Jose, CA 95125-2036

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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 Jan 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 5:30 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Installation of Officers

Thursday Jan 25th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Liberty Lodge

Tuesday Feb 13th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens

SweetHearts Dinner

Mardi Gras (Actual Date)

Tuesday Feb 20th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

San Jose 10 Lodge

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

Chapter Rose Croix Opens

Tuesday March 14th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

South Valley #187 Chicken Feed

Tuesday March 28th ~ Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm

Night of Remembrance and Renewal

Light dinner followed by the Ceremony