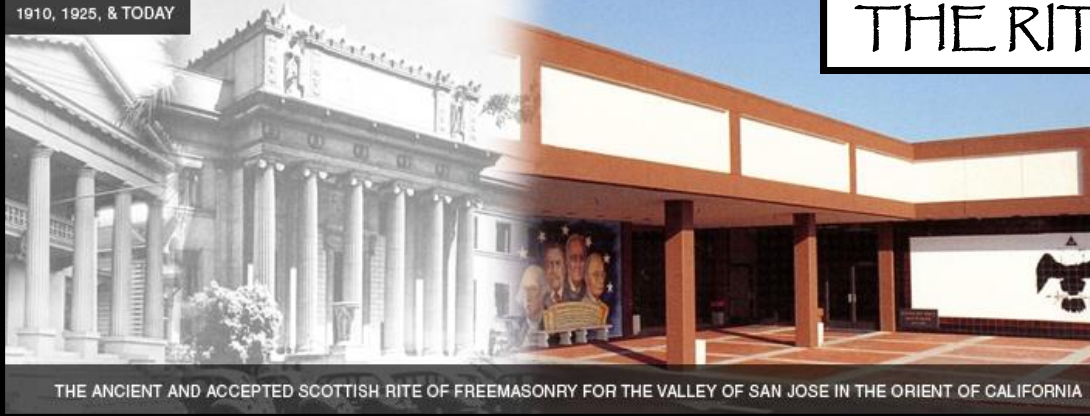


1910, 1925, & TODAY



THE RITE WORD

July 2013

Volume 7, Issue 7



Slainte' from the Lodge of Perfection

Independence Day, the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It was a declaration of independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. The written declaration of Independence was modeled after the Scottish Declaration of Arbroath in 1320. Please remember the meaning behind this national holiday and those who fought to ensure our freedom.

South Valley Lodge 187 hosted an Outdoor 3rd Degree conferral, Masons in the Grove, for a member of Three Great Lights 651 in Menlo Park. The Brother to be raised is Brother Ryan Micheletti, a Sergeant and Squad Leader for Alpha Company, 2nd Special Troop Battalion, Regional Support Command North, National Guard. He Cross trains in the area of Search & Rescue, Emergency Communications, and Security Force Protection for Moffett Field. Brother Micheletti indicated an interest in the Scottish Rite after he has toiled for a time in the Craft Lodge.

Members of the CA Masonic Posse will confer the sublime degree for San Jose # 10 on July 15 for Brother & Officer Doug Vincent. All Master Masons are invited to attend.

A reminder of the Grand Master's reception and Festive Board on July 11th. A walk through practice was conducted on Tuesday June 25 to prepare for this annual event. Again, you are asked to make reservations with Angela ! 408-978-7483 IF you plan to eat with us. Please make your reservations by July 5th.

Have you noticed the Knights of St. Andrew, at the front door, when you arrive at the Scottish Rite Temple? They are an important service unit within the Scottish Rite. Their resplendent Scottish Highland Kilts should attract your attention. The kilts are not "costumes". The Tartan (Plaid) is peculiar to each Scottish Clan and is hereditary. Our thanks for the KSA's service.

Have you met Angela and thanked her for her service to the Scottish Rite? She is responsible for decorations in the dining room as well as the coordinator for the enjoyable dinners. Being the rental agent is just a small part of her service. Notice that she always has a glowing smile for everyone. Thanks Angela.

Brethren, Please remember to attend and support your Blue Lodge. Those members are the future of the Scottish Rite.

Fraternally,

B.J. McCuiston 32° KCCH

Venerable Master



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



With July comes the celebration of our Independence...the legal separation of our 13 colonies from Great Britain. And the result was the formation of an amazing nation, which led to a new form of government, similar to and different from any other. Of the committee set up to draft the Declaration of Independence, two were certainly Freemasons. Although there's no evidence to my knowledge that Thomas Jefferson, who actually wrote the declaration, was a Freemason, there's a great deal of "circumstantial evidence" that points to his at least having Masonic connections. Benjamin Franklin, made several small draft changes in the copy sent to him by Jefferson, and was certainly a well know Freemason. Brother Franklin served as Grand Master of the province of Pennsylvania in 1749. Robert Livingston is the other member of the committee who was a Freemason and went on to become the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1785.

Over the years, times have changed, values have changed, and moral values have corroded. As Scottish Rite Masons, by living the values that we teach, we can demonstrate by example how men should live...how men be. It helps when we continually come together to reinforce the lessons and to be with "like minded" individuals that live to a higher standard.

So please get in the habit of attending Scottish Rite.

If there are any of you that are showing up and feel as though you're sitting on the sidelines but would like to be more involved, let me know. There's a multitude of simple but important tasks that we can use help with. (Okay...and there's some not-so-simple too but I don't want to scare you off. J) So if you're willing, please give me a call. We can use your individual talents and gifts. I know most of you have heard of Confucius and have heard so many of his wise sayings, but one of the things he said that's appropriate for how we're living and what we're doing is, "It is true that we shall not be able to reach perfection, but in our struggle toward it we shall strengthen our characters and give stability to our ideas, so that, whilst ever advancing calmly in the same direction, we shall be rendered capable of applying the faculties with which we have been gifted to the best possible account." So come, strengthen your character and join us in giving stability to our ideals for the benefit of our Chapter in general and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in particular. We'll all gain from it.

It's busy, a lot has been happening, a lot of people are helping, and good things are taking place. But I realize that occasionally we could still miss something or let something fall through the cracks. If you think this is the case, please don't hesitate to call it to my attention. This is your Chapter and you certainly have a voice in what we're doing and how we're doing it. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Bud Ramsey

Wise Master



The Lighter Side - Happy Fourth of July to Everyone! - Be safe!



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

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Junior Warden	Bro. Cordell H. Bleiler, 32°	650-948-1400
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2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Will Montoya, 32°	408-274-1137
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Preceptor	Bro. Steve Munyon, 32°	408-313-0762
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**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.**

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Secretary	Bro. Robert Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
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Director (exp 9/30/2013)	Bro. Hal Leister 32° KCCH	408-846-9788
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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
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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°	408-559-3102
Assist. Personal Representative	Bro. Richard A. Meyers, 32° KCCH	408-264-0277

Rite Word Support for 2013

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
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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.



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By: * Bro. Mrs. Richard Fisher

To The Foundation

♥ ~ In Memory of Ill. Maury Dunbar ~ ♥

By: * Bro. Robert D. Rowan

By: * Ill. Robert Winter

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.*

'2013' Honor Board Members

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.

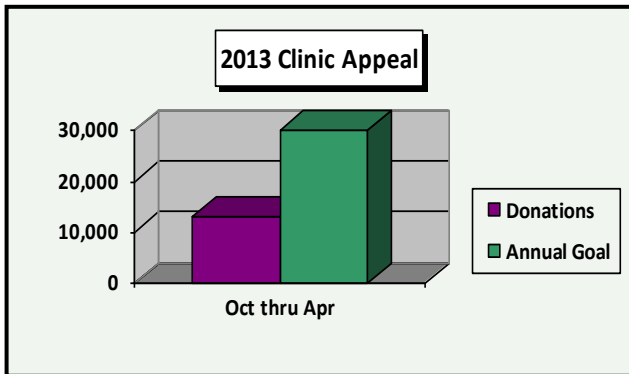
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* BRO. RICHARD FISHER *

* BRO. ROBERT LAWS *

* BRO. ESTIL JOHNSON *

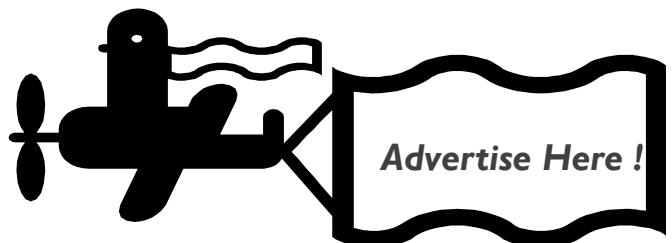
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Full Page - \$160 per month / \$1600 per year





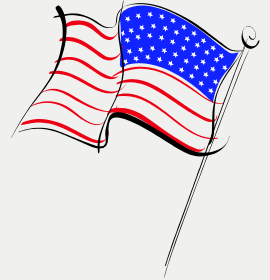
Written by Lee Greenwood and first released as a single in 1984, **"God bless the USA"** reached No. 7 on the country charts.

Here is the chorus:
**"And I'm proud to be an American,
 where at least I know I'm free.
 And I won't forget the men who died,
 who gave that right to me.**

**"And I gladly stand up,
 next to you and defend her still to-**

day.

**'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,
 God bless the USA."**



I first heard that song at the California International Air Show in Salinas California in 1992 or 1993.

The Russians were the center attraction of the show. The show happened shortly after the dissolution of the Soviet Union (December 1991), and the newly reinstated country of Russia was represented by a sleek Sukhoi Su-33 prototype fighter plane that looked an awful lot like a US Navy F-14 Tomcat. And an enormous Anaton AN-225 cargo plane, which had a navigator station below the cockpit with a big front window.

Russian aircraft sported the traditional red star emblem but also the Russian "Tricolor," the new flag with its three horizontal stripes in white, blue, and red. I liked their choice of colors.

Attendees could climb a ladder and look into the cockpit of the Sukhoi but not take any pictures. Since there was a lot more room in the expansive Anaton, you could climb on board and walk around. As I stepped up, a Russian aviator smiled, took my hand, and said in decent English, "Welcome to Russia!" to which I responded with equal cheer, "Welcome to the United States!"

The Cold War was finally over and two nations who had been enemies for half a century were becoming friends. And it happened not because we Americans compromised, or because we beat the tar out of the Soviets, but because the Russians finally shook off Soviet rule and took back their country. Kudos to Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsen, and their courageous comrades who ushered that long-needed reformation. A reformation that is still in progress, as we note from ongoing news reports.

Now, back to the song.

"And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free."

A counter point to that is the song, "Me And Bobby McGee," written by Johnny Cash and Charlie Williams, sung by Kris Kristofferson:

"Freedom's just another word for nothin' left to lose, And nothin' ain't worth nothin' but it's free..."

Freedom is a priceless gift, especially in today's world, so compromised by human failings. To that I would like to add the word "opportunity." All that I have achieved or gained in my life, such as it is, came from the opportunities that I recognized and exploited. I put in the work, but the opportunity itself came as a gift. Of course, I receive no credit or benefit from the opportunities that I missed.

Lee Greenwood continues,

**"And I won't forget the men who died,
 who gave that right to me."**

Here I go again with another counterpoint. The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence says:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Here we may substitute the word "liberty" for "freedom." More importantly, consider this definition of unalienable rights:

"You cannot surrender, sell or transfer unalienable rights, they are a gift from the creator to the individual and cannot under any circumstances be surrendered or taken. All individual's have unalienable rights." From Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, page 1523.

It is not the government nor the soldier who gives those rights. However, it is the purpose and duty of the government and the soldier to secure and protect them. In the course of our history, we have lost close to one million American men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and opportunity.

In light of these gifts and sacrifices, I feel too humbled to use the word "proud." Here is my version of the refrain, "I'm thankful to be an American."

Daniel Doornbos

From the Commander, Council of Kadosh

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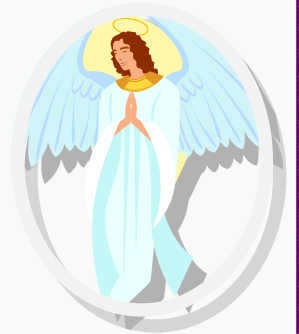
~ Called From Labor...

Bro. Robert Stillwagon 32° June 1st, 2013

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



Roger Baird 50 year Celebration



Gregg Hall Master Craftsman



Ryan is a kind and friendly five and a half year old boy who was seen for the last seven months in order to remediate his articulation skills at our clinic. He needed assistance learning how to produce many sounds such as /s, z, sh, ch, and th/ in isolation through the conversational level including three syllable words. With a great attitude he came once a week ready to work hard. Ryan's supportive parents worked consistently with him at home each day to support his gains made here in the clinic. He had shown so much progress and met all his speech goals that he was able to graduate from speech last week!



Ryan's parents had a few remarks for our clinic and staff;

"My son used to lisp all the time. Although we found his speech adorable, we knew we had to do something about it before he started school, so he wouldn't be teased by others. We heard about the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic through a neighbor. Since treatment began Ryan has made excellent improvement. He speaks without any problems. We are amazed at his progress and Ms. Jenna's professionalism! His sister can't tease him anymore! We are tremendously happy that he can speak clearly. He will be helped for life! We feel very fortunate to have found the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic! Our experience at the Clinic is beyond what we could have ever imagined! This is a great service to our community. Thank you to Ms. Jenna and the Clinic from the bottom of our hearts for the work you have done. We will be grateful forever!"

REGIONAL ORIENT MEMBERSHIP AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE July 2013



The phrase "To err is human" is as true today as when it was penned by English poet Alexander Pope in the 18th century. When we make mistakes, we are each reminded that we are not perfect. Yet, error is a vital part of how we learn to change. Furthermore, when we recognize how we think and feel about our mistakes, we learn more about who we really are.

When we err, we need to have the self-confidence and honesty to admit our mistakes, rather than blaming others, rationalizing our errors or denying them. We should take responsibility for our actions - mistakes included - and not shrug them off. We must also learn to forgive ourselves and use our mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.

As we learn to practice acceptance of and grow from our mistakes, we should help our fellow Scottish Rite Masons to do the same. When a Brother errs, we can model kindness, compassion and forgiveness. We can be slow to anger and do our best to counsel our Brothers privately, rather than publicly correcting, reprimanding or embarrassing them.

As Scottish Rite Masons we need to remember that each of us is on a lifelong journey of self-discovery to become a better man. Words to live by:

"All men make mistakes, but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only crime is pride." - Sophocles

Durward C. Ayre

Durward C. Ayre 32° KCCH, MC,

Regional Orient Membership Ambassador for the Valleys of San Jose, Fresno
and San Francisco in California

From the Master of Kadosh



Points to consider as we celebrate another anniversary of the founding of our country...

Masons were surely involved in the early central development of the United States. Masons today can take pride in the fact that our special brotherhood had much to do with the establishment of the United States of America, when it came to developing an organized military force in/around the thirteen separate colonies. It is well known that Brother George Washington made many visits to the various state lodges preceding the Revolutionary War, looking for support from his fellow Fraternity members. George Washington called on his Masonic comrades in establishing the first adhesive resistance to the British government. If it had not been for Freemasonry in the early 1700s, then perhaps the Revolution would not have taken place.

Not because Masons lead the movement, but because the Masonic lodge structure of that time allowed for the implementation of free thought for the development of an organized military.

Freemasonry in 1770, much as it is today, was far more of a social organization than a political order. It is reasonable to think that many of its members were not aware of the organization's political influences in the 1700s. If this was not so, then surely our current history books would have placed Freemasonry as a political force in America in the late eighteenth century. Publicity was not their way to a means, but rather secrecy and organization around certain beliefs.

The key thing to remember about Freemasonry is that it was, as it is today, an *International Organization* in the 1700s,

definitely not just an American Organization. In the eighteenth century, the main governing bodies of Freemasonry were in Scotland, France, and England. The man taking credit for planning Washington, D.C. was a Frenchman. It is ironic to think that the rebellious colonies that separated themselves from England, were developed around the beliefs of Freemason supporters with mother lodges from England and Scotland. If, as is often surmised, Washington, D.C. was laid out to

perform some sort of Freemasonry function or to commemorate this organization, then it commemorates an International Organization.

Among the several portraits of George Washington on display in the White House is one which shows the double headed eagle of modern Scottish Rite Freemasonry carved on the leg of a table next to Washington. The same double eagle can be found on the flag in a second portrait of Washington. This tends to confirm George Washington's affiliation with

Freemasonry and the precursors of the modern *Scottish Rite*.

The connections seem obvious and allow us to be proud of our Fraternity's place in the founding of our Country.

This article was compiled and edited from information found using Internet Searches on Freemasonry in the United States in the 1700's. This notice/disclaimer is intended to recognize those sources and the use of their content and any editing that was done.

The wording contained in this article is meant to be informative but not specifically instructional.

Jerry Best 32°

Master of Kadosh

Brethren all:

You are cordially invited to attend a reception and Festive Board Banquet
honoring our Grand Master of Masons in California,

M.W. John Lowe

To be held following our Stated Meeting on July 9th, 2012

Attire:

Officers and Members: Formal Dress

Ladies: Tea-Length dress, formal or suit

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From the Secretary's Table:

Brethren all,

This message may not set well with all but I prepare it heartfelt and ask your indulgence.

In thinking about Independence Day, I am reminded of several occurrences that have affected us over the last 20 years. In fact, I prepared a commentary that I intended to publish, but never got around to it. I called it "Independence, Violence and the Media" and here is part of it:

Over two hundred years ago we declared our independence from a form a government that gave us little, if any choice in the way our founders lived and acted. We objected, in a large part, to the way we received our information and the makeup of the way the actions of government were imparted to us. Do you recall the phrase "taxation without representation"?

Some very similar verbiage can be said be said today. Do you remember when Nancy Kerrigan was attacked in an Olympic trial event and the media commentator said "...something good will come of this." How about listening to the first reports after the bombing in Oklahoma City when we were told that "we don't know yet why this has happened. Similar mindless, inane comments have been fed to us after every terrorist attack ever since. Not once have I heard from any media type any sense of outrage for actions directed toward us.

I believe that the very instant we, as a society, seek to find any reason at all for senseless violence, we begin to lose our rightful feeling of independence.

I therefore suggest that we, as Masons, adopt several new commandments:

- We must not listen to the "mindless rhetoric" which comes from "know nothing" entertainers.
- We must always realize that it is acceptable to be outraged and perpetually angry with any senseless act of violence.
- We must not be supportive of those who would attempt to anesthetize our minds with sympathies for the perpetrators of moral outrage.
- We must remain vocally outspoken against any who would attempt to defend the actions of any terrorist.

Fraternally yours,

Bob Rowan - General Secretary



RE-you-NION

Replace the 'U' with 'YOU'!

Join with your Brothers at the Fall Reunion!

Support San Jose Membership by sponsoring a new member!

PROPOSITION/PETITION

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Present Blue Lodge: _____ Approx. Date Raised: _____

Location: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Occupation (If retired, previous occupation): _____

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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: _____



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Future Scottish Rite Events

Thursday July 4th ~ Independence Day (Scottish Rite Office Closed)

Tuesday July 9th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Followed by Festive Board and Reception of the Grand Master at @ 7:00 PM

Reservations are required!

Tuesday August 13th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Followed by Annual BBQ (Informal Dress)

"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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