## August 2020

## Volume 14 Issue 8



## The Rite Word

## From the Venerable Master

Brethren,

August, the "august" month, the distinguished, the respected, the venerable month. It is the eighth month of the year. But wait, it used to be called Sextilis, i.e the

sixth month of the old Roman ten month calendar. Well, about 300 BC two months were added after better understanding of the world's control over time, and then some adjustments were made on days of the months. The Roman Emperor Augustus claimed the month for him, having had good luck in battles fought that month. It's good to be the King!

August is a also month that many of us associate with travel. Well, right now we need to rediscover the art of "stay-cation". If you have a backyard, for kicks and giggles, get your tent out over the weekend and dust off that Weber camping grill that you may have. The rules have been tightened up again, so that cooler next to your tent will be safer than a beer at the out-door burger joint, and in handy



distance. No mask required, unless your grill fire gets too smoky.

We will get over this, it is a matter of time, and this situation actually makes time available for projects, and for some people to do them. I have seen some amazing pictures of the improvements and renovations in our Scottish Rite Center. Many thanks to all that have been contributing thus far, by labor, or by donations. There are plenty of projects left, so if you can help in one way or the other, please contact our Secretary, Gregg.

I wish you all a happy August,

As per current instructions from both our Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Inspector General, it is highly unlikely that we will have a meeting before October or November of this

## 2020 Honor Roll

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

For Clinic Teaching Supplies Mrs. Kathy Runcie

## **Called From Labor**

Bro.William Jones 32° December 9, 2013 Bro. Charles L. Myers 32° April 20, 2020 Bro. Robert | Moore 32° June 22, 2020 Bro. Charles Gilbert Slayer December 26, 2017 Bro. Charles Sidebotham 32° August 10, 2015 Bro. Walter A Carter 32° September 3, 2010 Bro. George Kaplan 32° May 22, 2013 Bro. Henry Ebertshauser Jr. 32° July 6, 2020 Bro. Everette Clark 32° June 13, 2018

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

## **Sick or Distressed**

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

### 2020 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Senior Warden Junior Warden Master of Ceremonies Captain of the Host

Wise Master Senior Warden Junior Warden Master of Ceremonies Guardian of the Temple

Commander Ist Lt Commander 2nd Lt Commander Marshal of Ceremonies Lt of the Guard

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III. Jack Harris 33°
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Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°
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408-779-4088 831-685-3416 408-275-6326 650-722-1669 408-568-0978

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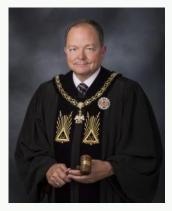
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III. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M. Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

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

Well my Brethren, Jul y Stated Meeting and Dinner has come and gone without us getting together. The Covid 19 issues still in effect. Hopefully by August 11th Stated and Dinner we will be able to meet.



In the May/June 2020 California Freemason Magazine, there was a photo of 8 Brothers displaying their Masonic Rings, which was to emphasize the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund. I found a poem that is called "The Masonic Ring"

Those men who help my dad each day, They wear those Mason rings. A Square and Compass set in gold, The praise of which I sing.

My dad, he hurt his back you know, One cold and wintry day. He slipped and fell upon the ice. The insurance would not pay.

And since that time those rings I see, on hands that heip us much. With mowing lawns and hauling trash, Each day my heart they touch.

My Mom she cried from happiness, The time the Masons came. To aid our family in distress, Without a thought of gain.

And when I'm big, just like my dad,of this it must be told. I want to wear a ring like his, A square and Compass Gold.

Long years have passed since when, My dad was in that plaster cast. And since I swore that Solemn Oath, Which unites us to the last.

But more than that I'm proud to say, I wear his Mason ring. The one dad wore for many years. Until his death this spring.

And one last time his comrades came, To aid my weeping mother. They praised and bid a fond farewell, To our fallen Brother. From the Commander of Kadosh

Brother Alexander K. Coney, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree (1844-1897) was the husband of Rosalina de Coney who brought the heart of her murdered brother, Jose Cairo, to Oakland for burial. Cairo was a Mexican Masonic martyr.



Brother Coney was the Mexican

Consul General to the United States. How he received that appointment is guite a story.

In 1976, Brother Coney was the purser on the steamship, City of Havana. While in the Gulf of Mexico, a Mexican national boarded the ship under a false name. His real name was Porfinio Diaz, a former General who, at the time, had lead a failed revolt against the Mexican government.

The ship stopped at a port and some Mexican soldiers boarded. Diaz tried to escape by jumping overboard but was saved by Coney. Coney and Diaz determined they were Masons. At that time Masonic membership was important in Mexican high society. Coney was able to save Diaz from the Mexican Government again during the voyage.

Soon after this episode, Diaz became President of Mexico and rewarded Coney with the position of Consul General to France and later made Coney the new Consul General to the United States based in San Francisco.

Unlike his wife who is buried in Oakland, Brother Coney is buried in Colma. The Coneys had a son, Joseph who later made his mark in the Bay Area.

Rill m. Fil

Continued on Page 10

### From the Master of Kadosh

### Continued from last month

I mentioned that it was hotter in the summer up here in Penn Valley and now it is getting to 102 deg. At mid day. My sister said she needs A?C on most of the time at her house close by. Well I'm from Boston and the Bay Area and I thought I didn't need any A?C up here.. But



after the fist two weeks of summer I now leave the A?C on until sunset.

The ocean influence down in the Bay can't be beat, but here at 2000 ft altitude there is slightly less oxygen and it is much brighter, you really have to shield your eyes from the daytime brightness. Also, the pollen of the farming that comes across the great Central Valley and mixes with pollen from all the trees in the hills takes some getting used to, especially in the nose and eyes. And I can tell you, there are many, many trees here.

There are two Masonic lodges near-by; One in Grass Valley (Madison #32); and (Nevada #13) in Nevada City about 4 miles further up. Both are very nice Lodges in older buildings in the center of each town. This year MW John Trauner is Grand Master Of CA and is a member of Grass Valley lodge. His ancestors and family have lived on their ranch in the nearby town of Rough and Ready initially since around 1845. A real old Gold Rush Family tree history.

About 20 miles down lower from Penn Valley in the Great Central Valley there are Masonic Lodges in both Marysville and Yuba City and the Beale US Airbase is also located there. Beal A>B> is a military home for the older Lockheed U@ and SR71 spy planes. The are on exhibit there along with other aircraft and several times each year they hold an event for the public by security reservation only. I had hoped that our SJSR group would be able to come up and visit the Gold mine and the Airbase, but it can be scheduled for next year if our new Master so desires. If so, I would like to help.

I want to mention that the northern most major facility for Scottish Rite Bodies in CA is located in Sacramento and I plan to attend the SR mysteries even there on Saturday September 12. Sacramento is about 60 miles south of my home.

## From the Secretary

We are now under contract to rent a large portion of the parking lot to Amazon, so when you come please make sure you get a spot that is marked for SJSR Only.



Work continues around the building to make it more beautiful and useful. At the next all officers/ foundation meeting we are going to discuss building the wall which will separate off our Auditorium and allow us to build it out as a more intimate area. If approved it will also include some storage rooms and a preparation/chamber of reflection room.

The new stage lighting is soon to be completed, this will give us a much better experience when putting on our degrees and sets us up to have some professional entertainment events, once we get back to having enough parking for such things.

Something new this year is that Supreme will be mailing out your dues cards with your dues notices.. However, that means you really need to pay your dues as soon as possible, when you get the notice. Having a dues card will no longer mean you are in good standing. (this was not something we were consulted on).

Speaking of dues there are still 52 of you that have not paid your dues or contacted me to make arrangements. If you are one of them please do so now.

Lastly, I have been looking up some of our older members and finding they have passed away. Please make sure that part of your final arrangements is to have someone let your various masonic organizations know.

Dell Bleilere

Sun Vel

### Page 5

## The 22nd Degree — Knight of the Royal Axe or Prince of Libanus

Libanus (pronounced 'li-bə-nəs) was the ancient name for the Lebanon Mountains where the famous cedar trees grow. For this degree, we shift our theme from quarries and stones to forests and timber.

The opening scene is a College of carpenters in the mountains of Lebanon. The officers and brothers are standing around a large, round table covered with plans and instruments. In the east is an altar, with the Holy Bible, square, compasses, and an axe. The room is lit by 36 electric candles.

The axe, suspended from a sash, is the jewel of the College. On the surfaces of the axe are Hebrew characters representing names from the Bible. At the end of handle, are the characters for Noah and Solomon; on the sides of handle, the characters for Lebanon and Tyre; on one side of blade, the characters for Adoniram, Cyrus, Darius, Zerubabbel, Nehemiah, and Ezra; and the other side of blade, the characters for Shem, Ham, Japheth, Moses, Aholiab, and Bezaleel. Those are names of places and people significant in the legends of Masonry and stories from the Bible. However, they are not mentioned in the ritual, so we will not elaborate on them in this article.

Each of the members wears a rainbow colored sash. The colors those of the visible light spectrum. We will discuss more about the rainbow later on.

In this story, a Prussian Knight (the candidate) with sword and full regalia shows up and asks to become a Prince of Libanus. The Master of Ceremonies presents him to the Assistant Expert, who asks a series of questions. Has he received all the preceding degrees? Yes. Has he proven to be a true knight and just judge? Yes. What further claim does he have to this privilege? The claim of birth and his rank in Masonry.

Suddenly the Venerable Chief (the presiding officer) interjects, saying the candidate's claim is not sufficient! The Venerable Chief explains to the candidate that while he understands his claim, noble circumstance of birth is of no regard here.

Traditionally, in order to be a knight, you had to be born into a noble family. Your actual physical, mental, and moral qualifications had little to do with it. Noblemen did not labor. That's what craftsmen and peasants were for. In this degree, the privileges of noble birth are disregarded in favor of candidates willing to put forth the effort to work and learn.

The Venerable Chief explains that everyone in the College is a workman of some kind in his chosen vocation. On the large round table, the members are preparing plans and studying the calculations of astronomy. To be admitted to this degree, one must labor for a full year in the workshop and earn the unanimous approval of the members.

He asks the candidate if he is willing to lay aside his insignia, sword, and jewel of a Prussian Knight and "join the sons of labor, who represent the toiling millions?" The candidate agrees.

The Master of Ceremonies conducts him to the workshop, where they meet the Master Carpenter, who explains that the College teaches its skills to those who work. The he asks several questions and the Master of Ceremonies responds.

Does he (the candidate) work? No, but he is willing to.

Does he acknowledge the dignity of labor? Does he know it is a privilege, not a curse, for a man to earn his sustenance by work? He does.

Does he admit that the honest laboring man, upright and independent, in the heraldry of nature is a peer of kings? And that idleness is disgraceful? He does.

Is he willing to eat only what he earns, to patiently receive instruction, and to treat the workmen of the College as equals? He is.

The Master Carpenter has the candidate put on a workman's apron and directs him to take a few strokes with a saw. Then the Master Carpenter explains that the saw, the plane, and the hewing-axe are the working tools of a Prince of Libanus. The saw symbolizes steady patience and determination, even though the pace of human progress is slow and sometimes painful. The plane slices away the prejudices of ignorance and absurdities of superstition, thus aiding in the civilizing of mankind. The axe is the great agent of civilization and improvement, as well as a weapon in battle.

Under blows of the axe, barbarians fall and forests disappear, enabling settled society, with its laws and arts that refine and elevate mankind. A pioneer uses his axe to fell great trees. A Mason uses his axe to cut down the mighty trees of intolerance, bigotry, superstition, uncharitableness, and idleness.

At this juncture, the candidate stops for a lunch break. He dines on a piece of bread and a cup of water, while the Master Carpenter says, "My Brother, eat of the laborer's food. It is you own, for you have earned it, and nobody goes without because you eat."

Continued on page 7

After lunch, the candidate receives an axe and chops away on a log. The Master Carpenter announces to the workmen that the Knight (the candidate) has readily agreed to their rules and cheerfully conformed to their customs, showing true appreciation for the dignity of labor. Even though a candidate is customarily required to labor for a full year, if everyone agrees, they may immediately give their blessing and admit him among the Princes of Libanus.

The Master of Ceremonies conducts the candidate back to the College meeting room and presents him, with the workmen's unanimous recommendation, to the Venerable Chief. The Venerable Chief asks the candidate if he still desires to enter the association of laborers. He does.

Is he (the candidate) deterred by the hazard of such toil and fare he experienced in the workshop? He is not. Then the Venerable Chief orders the candidate invested with the collar, apron, and jewel of a Prince of Libanus.

The Venerable Chief explains the symbols on the apron. On the flap is a three-headed snake, which represents idleness, while the heads represent the resulting vices of drunkenness, impurity, and gaming, by which many young men have been lost and nations have sunk into ignoble imbecility and shameful bondage. The bottom of the apron depicts the large round table, with various instruments and documents, in the College meeting room.

The Assistant Expert then recites the history of this degree. It notes that the close relationship between the Phoenecians (which includes people of Tyre) and the Israelites was based on the leaders of both nations being fellow initiates of the mysteries.

According to the story, it all started with Moses who received the mysteries in Egypt. At some point, the mysteries were altered by Moses, Joshua (Moses's successor), or perhaps King Solomon. Their changes made the mysteries more like Masonry, as it was practiced at the building of King Solomon's temple. And by extension, as we are introduced the mysteries through Masonry today.

A College of Artificers was established upon Mount Lebanon. Through their Colleges, the artificers maintained their rights and privileges, and used signs and passwords to identify one another. King Solomon, whose wisdom gave him a true understanding of the dignity of labor, built a palace on Mount Lebanon. He would go to inspect the progress of the work there, where they were felling, preparing, and shipping cedar trees for use in the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

As the lecture ends, we observe that the sun has set. The Venerable Chief declares the cedars of Mount Libanus felled, and the College is closed.

### The Rainbow

The rainbow design of the sash may remind you of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. In their ritual, each of the colors represents a virtue:

- Red Love in all its forms
- Orange Religion in all its forms, based on love and forgiveness
- Yellow Nature and its importance in one's daily life
- Green Immortality and the understanding of death is a part of life
- Blue Fidelity with an emphasis on being honest and reliable
- Indigo Patriotism, encouraging active citizenship to your country

Violet — Service to others, which bind all the colors together

No meanings are attributed to the colors of rainbow in the Prince of Libanus degree. However, the colors might lead you to think of the rainbow flag, a symbol of peace and social change, dating back to the late 15th Century.

### The Cedars of Lebanon

The Lebanon cedar (*cedrus libani*) is a coniferous tree with a spicy-resinous scented wood, and broad, level branches that make it ideal as a source of timber for construction purposes. The trees grow at an altitude above 2,000 meters (6,600 feet). Many trees reach a height of over 35 meters (115 feet). If nobody chops them down, Lebanon cedars can live over a thousand years.

The mountains of Lebanon were once shaded by thick cedar forests. Lebanon cedar wood was prized by the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Romans, and Turks. After centuries of persistent deforestation, the extent of these forests has been markedly reduced.

The Lebanon cedar is the emblem of the country of Lebanon and it appears on the national flag. The Lebanese people refer to the remaining cedar forest as "the Cedars of God". In 1998, they were added to the

Continued on page 10

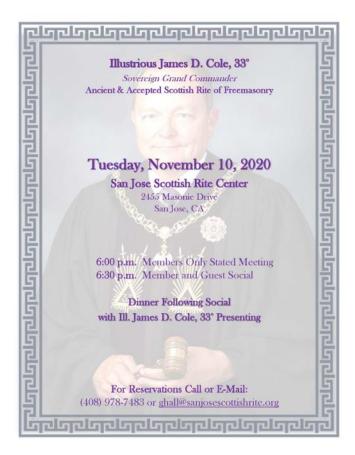


# Call the Office <u>NOW</u> at 408-978-7483 & make your reservations!

Dinner is TBD depending on if we can hold the meeting or not.



Special Thanks to Craig Hall at Gray's Paint for donating and discounting the paint we have used in the building.





Zephy is a sweet and compassionate nine-year-old-girl who has been seen at the Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Clinic secondary to a diagnosis of Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Zephy loves her cat, Rascal. She



likes to play superhero with her friends and enjoys hanging out with her cousins. Zephy wants to be a doctor when she grows up. During our sessions, Zephy always has fun stories to tell and smiles continuously. She is an absolute pleasure!

Zephy's diagnosis of Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a speech and language disorder that affects how the brain tells the muscles to move and make sounds. In order for speech to occur, messages need to be sent from the brain to the mouth. When a child has CAS the messages from the brain to the lips and tongue do not get through correctly and the child has difficulty moving their articulators in the right ways even when their muscles are not weak. Thus, a child with CAS will know what they want to say but when the brain tells the mouth and muscles to move, there are hiccups along the message pathway. CAS is not a problem that children outgrow and takes years of speech therapy to help the child. According to the American Speech and Hearing Association, the National Board for Speech and Language Pathologists, treatment sessions of up to 4 times per week may be recommended. With specific therapy techniques that are specialized for training speech motor plans, a child's speech can be changed successfully but not without a lot of work.

Zephy has done exceptionally well and she continues to make progress. Her parents are supportive of her therapy sessions and understand the need for Zephy to practice each day. Zephy's mom recently commented, "We have had an amazing experience with the clinic. I am



so thankful for the services. I don't have to worry about her digressing during the summer or being denied for services by our insurance agency. Every speech therapist has had great communication with us and I have seen so much improvement with Zephy. She enjoys her lessons and I am so happy she has them!" We are proud of Zephy and all she continues to accomplish during her therapy. Keep up the fantastic work Zephy! UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

### The 22nd Degree at San Jose

Decades ago, before the Scottish Rite degree rituals were standardized, members of the San Jose Scottish Rite performed this degree as a comedy. They scheduled it on Saturday right after lunch, which was helpful for keeping the audience awake. The candidate was conducted to the stage,

handed a very dull axe, and told to chop a log in half.

Midway in the project, the supervisor would ask if the axe needed sharpening. Then he took the axe and hammered on its cutting edge with an iron bar, leaving it even duller that before. Eventually, the candidate—breathing heavily and sweating profusely—succeeded in cutting the log. And the audience would erupt in a hearty ovation.

Today, the Knight of the Royal Axe or Prince of Libanus is conferred by a degree team that drives over three hours each way from San Luis Obispo. These dedicated brothers skip the comedy in favor of a memorable lesson in the value of human labor and earning your way in life.

III. Daniel Doornboss

And after which My son did ask, About their aprons white. And of the rings upon their hands.Of gold so shiny bright.

With tearful eyes I said with pride, They're men of spirit pure. Those men who wear those Mason rings, Of that you can be sure.

And before he went to bed that night, The family he foretold. Someday I'll wear a ring like dad's, A Square and Compass Gold.

May you always have Love to share, Health to spare, and friends who care. May you be blessed.





Ort Pasquinelli



III. Roger Bibb 33° Class

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

| Valley of San Jose   |  |               |                        |
|--|--|---------------|------------------------|
|  |  |               |                        |
| ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY,   |  |               |                        |
| SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.  |  |               |                        |
| Petition for Degrees   |  |               |                        |
| (Full) Name:   | DDLE NAME  | LASTNAME      | DATE                   |
| Street Address:  |  |               |                        |
| State: Zip Code:   |  |               |                        |
| Home Phone: () Work Pho  |  | Cell Phe      | one: ()                |
| 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." |  |               |                        |
| of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Kite. 1 a   | in currently a wias  |               |                        |
|  | D E  | Spring        | Fall                   |
| Candidate's Signature  | Degree Fee<br>Annual Dues                                  | \$150<br>\$50 | \$150<br>\$0 = 5       |
| 1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME   | Annual Dues  | \$30          | \$0 (For Current Year) |
|  | <b>Total Due:</b>  | <u>\$200</u>  | <u>\$150</u>           |
| 1st Sponsor Signature  |  |               |                        |
| 2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME   | I hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ |               |                        |
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| 2nd Sponsor Signature  | sor Signature Expiration Date/                             |               |                        |
| (Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office) Signature of authorized card holder   |  |               |                        |



THE RITE WORD

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## **Future Scottish Rite and Masonic Events**

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

Chapter Opens—Business Casual

Thursday August 20th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Friendship Lodge #210

Tuesday September 8th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Council Opens—Business Casual Dress

<u>Saturday September 12th</u> ~ The Scottish Rite Mysteries

Sacramento Scottish Rite

Monday September 21st ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Golden Rule Lodge #479

Monday October 12th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm

Los Altos Lodge #712

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

Consistory Opens—Octoberfest

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

Grand Commander's Visit

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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