



The Rite Word

From the Venerable Master

Greetings Brethren

Our spring reunion on April 4th and 5th had eighteen candidates. The degrees were exemplified by our degree teams in a manner that made us all proud, and hopefully, made a good impression for each candidate. I thank those who participated and helped in putting on the degrees.



Our Scottish Rite Library in the Scottish Rite building is very special. Have you spent any time there? If you have not, make it a personal requirement. You will be impressed, and want to take valuable time to learn more about the library just across from the office.

Did you know Our Craft could be traced back to a manuscript written in England in 1390? At that time all Freemasons were Operatives (workers engaged on buildings). There were several kinds of masons. Freemasons were those builders of a superior type, who designed, supervised and erected the great cathedrals and other marvelous Gothic structures.

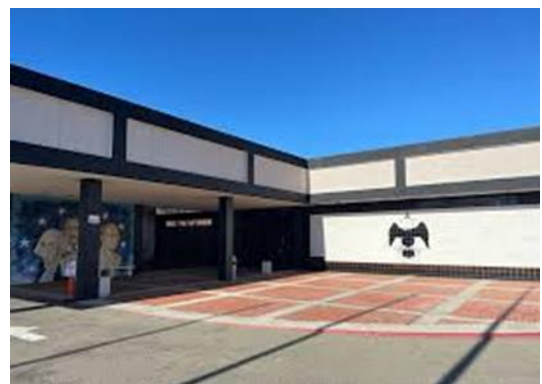
Operative Freemasons worked with high degree and skill in the middle ages. Young beginners at the age of 10 or 12 were called Apprentices. Once an apprentice had served sufficient time, (usually 7 years) he was required to submit to exacting tests of his proficiency before being accepted

into a full membership in the Craft.

This piece of Masonic history is from our library book "The MAKING of a MASON"

Take the time to wander around in our Library to check this book or other books about Masonry. It is rewarding. Just remember to return the book so another member can enjoy and learn more about Masonry.

Russell Rosenberg



2025 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32° KCCH	650-885-5469
Senior Warden	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
Junior Warden	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Noe Escamilla 32°	408-310-7915
Captain of the Host	Bro. John Absalon 32°	909-660-9983

2025 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
Senior Warden	Bro. Frank Fitzgerald 32°	831-588-4978
Junior Warden	Bro. Ben Shuford 32°	408-429-5370
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Robert Fernandez 32°	408-893-3973
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Doug Picard 32°	831-402-1234

2025- Council of Kadosh

Commander	Bro. Max Mora 32°	408-259-8306
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Mike Dremel 32°	831-383-9971
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Neal Gossard 32°	408-234-5694
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Thomas Babroudi 32°	408-771.2391
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Willie Cadiente 32°	408-348-4732

2025 San Jose Consistory

Master of Kadosh	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
Prior	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Preceptor	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
Marshal of Ceremonies	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Allen Diamond 32°	408-550-5039

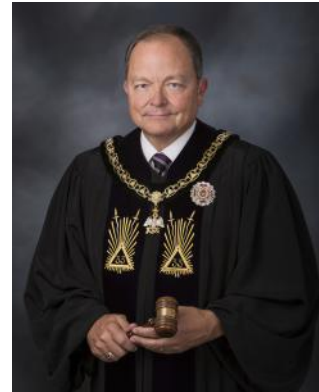
2025- General Officers

Personal Representative	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447
General Secretary	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
Treasurer	Bro. Kenric Baker 32°	714-319-9977
Prelate	Bro. Mike Lammer, 32°	408-309-5452
Almoner	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423
Orator/Librarian	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Tiler	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Director of Ceremonies	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416

Chief Knight KSA	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
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Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Secretary	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
Treasurer	Bro. Kenric Baker 32°	714-319-9977
Director (exp 2025)	Bro. Tim Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Director (exp 2025)	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Director (exp 2026)	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
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Master of Kadosh	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447



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

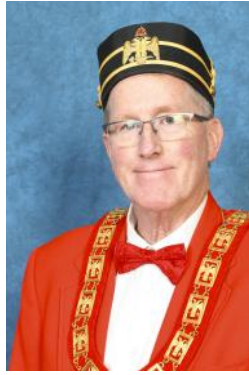


To Be Determined
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General in California,
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

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, here we are. Hope everyone had a nice Easter holiday. Spring is in the air. A great time to get out and enjoy nature's bounty. We had a very nice Maundy Thursday where we honored our departed brethren. This event makes me even more proud of our fraternity as we honor each other, even after death. The heads of the Scottish Rite bodies are planning some fun activities and are looking at several options. Please let any of us know if you have any preferred activities we can do as a group.



For this month, I would like to present the following information as I continue to look at various societal connections to our craft:

The Pythagorean Theorem holds deep symbolic and practical meaning in Freemasonry, especially within the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees. Here's how it ties in:

1. Symbolic Importance

- The Pythagorean Theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) relates to the right triangle, which symbolizes balance, order, and harmony—key themes in Masonic philosophy.
- The 47th Problem of Euclid (which is the Pythagorean Theorem) is especially revered in Masonry. It's often called "the jewel of the Master Mason", representing the importance of geometry and knowledge in the building of character and the universe.
- It symbolizes moral uprightness, where the square (right angle) is a metaphor for virtue and rectitude.

2. Practical Origins in Stone Masonry

- Operative Masons (the real stonemasons of medieval times) used the Pythagorean Theorem to create perfect right angles, which were essential in constructing stable, symmetrical buildings—especially cathedrals, temples, and lodges.
- The 3-4-5 triangle (a common Pythagorean triple) was a practical tool: lay out a triangle with sides of 3 units, 4 units, and 5 units, and the angle opposite the 5-unit side is guaranteed to be 90 degrees.

3. Pythagoras and Esoteric Meaning

- Pythagoras himself is considered a proto-Mason by some Masonic traditions, admired not just for his mathematics but for his mystery school teachings, which parallel the symbolism and secrecy found in Masonic lodges.
- The theorem is often seen as a key to understanding the divine order of the universe, aligning with Masonic themes of seeking light, truth, and universal knowledge.

From the Commander Brethren,

In case anyone was curious. I have been thinking, since there is a Southern Jurisdiction, there must be a Northern Jurisdiction. In fact, there is a Northern Jurisdiction with some distinct differences.

For those who are interested, please read them below:

The Scottish Rite, one of the appendant bodies of Freemasonry, is divided into two main jurisdictions in the United States: the **Southern Jurisdiction (SJ)** and the **Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ)**. While both promote similar values and degree systems rooted in Freemasonry, they have distinct histories, organizational structures, rituals, and styles. Here's a breakdown of the **key differences and similarities**:

☑ Similarities

1. Core Purpose:

- Both promote moral and spiritual values through Masonic teachings.
- Emphasize personal development, philanthropy, and community involvement.
- **Degree Structure:**
 - Both confer degrees from the 4° to the 32°, with the honorary 33° conferred later.
 - Share many thematic and philosophical elements in the degrees, though the content and names may vary.
- **Connection to Craft Masonry:**
 - Candidates must be Master Masons (3°) to join the Scottish Rite.
- **Use of Ritual and Symbolism:**

Both make heavy use of allegory, symbolism, and dramatic presentation in degrees.

Key Differences



Feature	Southern Jurisdiction (SJ)	Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ)
Geography	Covers 35 states, mostly in the South, West, and international	Covers 15 northeastern and midwestern states
Headquarters	Washington, D.C.	Lexington, Massachusetts
Founded	1801 – the Mother Council of the World	1813, branched from SJ
Degree Names and Content	More traditional; uses Pike's "Morals and Dogma"	Degrees revised for modern relevance; less esoteric
Degree Conferral	Usually not all 29 degrees are conferred – key ones selected	All 29 degrees offered in a structured cycle
Ritual Focus	Heavily philosophical and mystical, based on Albert Pike's writings	More practical and moral lessons with updated language
Public Image/Style	More traditional and symbolic	More modern in presentation and outreach
Charitable Arm	Scottish Rite Foundation, various local programs	Children's Dyslexia Centers, other philanthropies

Example: 14th Degree

- **Southern Jurisdiction:** 14° – *Perfect Elu*, focuses on the search for truth and spiritual enlightenment.
- **Northern Jurisdiction:** 14° – *Grand Elect Mason*, with similar themes but updated ritual presentation.

Philosophical Roots

- **SJ** follows **Albert Pike's philosophy**, especially through *Morals and Dogma* (though it's no longer officially required reading, it still influences the ritual tone).
- **NMJ** updated its rituals in recent years to be more accessible and understandable, especially for newer genera-

Master of the Lodge

From the Master of Kadosh

Warmest congratulations to each of our new Scottish Rite brothers on your advancement towards your degree! Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Wishing you all the best as you continue to your next degrees and reach even greater lights. The month of May, with its blossoming flowers and warmer days, brings a sense of renewal and celebration. For Scottish Rite brothers, it is an opportune time to reflect on the values that bind them together and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship. May is associated with renewal, making it an ideal time to revisit the core values of brotherly love, relief, and truth. It is a period for reflection on personal goals and for setting new intentions for growth and improvement. Engage in introspection and shed old habits that no longer serve a purpose. Embrace positive changes and cultivate an open mindset for new experiences and learning. May offers numerous opportunities to come together and celebrate through various activities and events



that emphasize unity and camaraderie.

Honor the rich history and cultural heritage of the Scottish Rite with lectures, discussions, or exhibitions. Dedicate May to enhancing skills and knowledge through workshops, seminars, and study groups focused on various aspects of Freemasonry.

Study and rehearse ceremonies to ensure precision and reverence, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Channel the spirit of May into community service and outreach initiatives to embody the Masonic principle of relief and to make a positive impact.

Organize charity events and fundraisers in collaboration with local organizations to support resonant causes. Volunteer time and expertise to mentor younger members or individuals in the community, offering guidance and support.

In conclusion, May offers numerous opportunities for Scottish Rite brothers to celebrate their shared values, strengthen bonds, enrich knowledge, and positively impact their communities. Let this month be a time of reflection, action, and unity, upholding the timeless principles of Freemasonry.



From the Chief Knight

Brethren,

I hope everyone is well and having a great spring season with their families! On May 18th, KSA will be hosting a Potluck barbecue at 1pm at the San Jose Scottish Rite Center. Please come join us. All are welcome.



I wondered about the origins of the Knights and the Arch of Steel. Here's what I found:

- The Knights of St. Andrew organization itself was established in 1993 in Dallas, Texas, at the Valley of Dallas Scottish Rite. It was created as a service organization within the Scottish Rite for 32° Masons to assist in events, degree work, and ceremonial functions.

The "Arch of Steel" draws from older military and Masonic honor guard traditions, where crossed swords or sabers were used as a symbolic gesture of respect or protection. This type of ceremony likely predates the formation of the Knights of St.

Andrew but was adopted and formalized by them sometime after 1993 as part of their ritual practices. So, while the ceremonial act has older symbolic roots, the specific "Arch of Steel" by the Knights of St. Andrew likely originated in the 1990s, aligned with the group's founding and growth.

We have several exciting events coming up:

- April 20th is Easter so our meeting will be held one week later on Sunday, April 27th
- May 18th KSA meeting and SOI for accolade/promotion. Please also join us after for BBQ around 1pm.
- June 15th is Fathers day so we will meet on June 8th. For KSA members, we will have a School of Instruction by Past Chief Knight Tim Lynch.
- July 8th Grand Master Festive Board – KSA will perform Arch of Steel and Flag Escort.

Finally, please mark you calendars for Labor Day weekend and get your tickets to the Highland Games at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds.

2025 Honor Roll

Ill. Bennie Cooper 33°
Bro. Rich Johnston 32°
Bro. Richard Medefesser 32°
Bro. Harry Moore 32°
Bro. James Leggate 32°
Ill. Chuck Cowden 33°
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°
Bro. Mark McEuen 32°
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32°KCCH
Ill. Dee Ayre 33°
Bro. Bob Ahrens 32°
Ill. Roger Bibb 33°
Hon. Virgilio Quina 32°KCCH
Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32°KCCH
Bro. Max Mora 32°
Bro. Patrick Judge 32°
Bro. Tom Bergevin 32°KCCH
Bro. Doug Picard 32°
Ill. Richard M. Fisher 33°
Bro. David E. Tavernetti, 32°
Bro. Lee Blankenship, 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

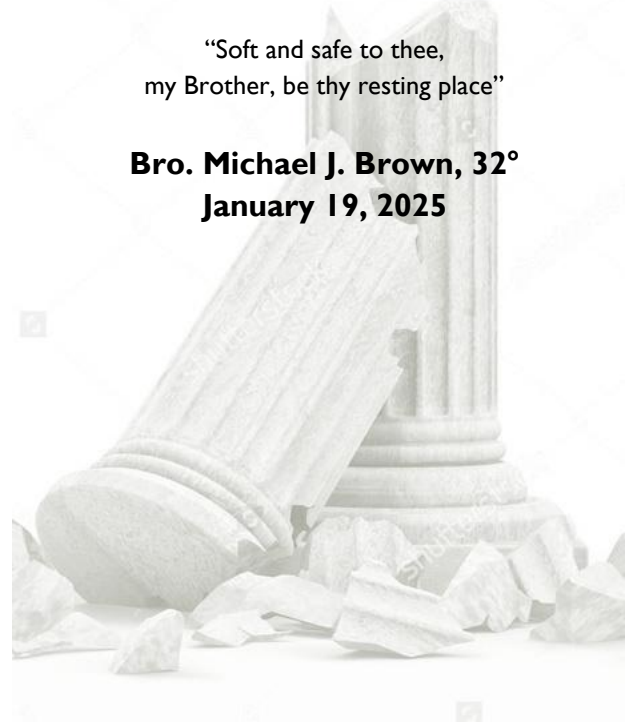
Bro. David Ellis Tavernetti, 32°
Ill. Robert Winters, 33°
Ill. Richard M. Fisher 33° (*in honor of our new members*)

Called From Labor

No Deaths Reported this month.

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

Bro. Michael J. Brown, 32°
January 19, 2025



Cost for Life Membership

Age	Factor	Amount
Under 49	21X	3297
50-54	19X	2983
55-59	17X	2669
60-65	14X	2198
Over 65	11X	1727

This is the current price. You can apply this years dues to this amount. There will be a slight increase for next year.

From the Clinic

Meet Antonio!

Antonio has been receiving speech and language therapy at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Jose for social communication and pragmatics. Most recently, Antonio has joined the Social Thinking Group for young elementary students. Our Social Thinking Group uses the Social Thinking Methodology developed by Michelle Garcia Winner, as well as other evidenced based practice approaches to help children develop social strategies to navigate their communities with language and thinking about themselves and others.

During the Social Thinking Group, Antonio and his peers work on specific strategies that help them observe what is happening around them, make smart guesses about other's thoughts and feelings, and determine how to interact based on these observations. Specific vocabulary contained in books and materials, as well as games and activities are used to help scaffold a child's understanding and use of the concepts. Family Letters with explanations of the vocabulary and key components of the session's concepts, as well as specific homework for how to incorporate the strategies at home are provided to parents.

Antonio has been making great gains with understanding the concepts and strategies. His mother reported, "I have loved to see the interactions and gains my son has made. The people here are really wonderful. It's very warm and friendly. There's hope and support. And this clinic provides both in a very kind and structured way. I am so grateful for the knowledge learned and the weekly support from the Scottish Rite Center. I appreciate you, Rachel."

We are grateful to help Antonio and his family. It is a pleasure to see him learn and grow!



ables

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

Pirate Pete by Nick Sharat

There Was an Old Lady (any book from the series)

Love Monster

The Day It Rained Hearts

My Mouth is A Volcano

Bears Loose Tooth

Bear Wants More

Sneezy the Snowman

Bear Snores On

Where is the Green Sheep

Mr. Grumpy's Motor Car

List of Requested Books for Clinic Library – Updated 7/23/24

Book Titles from www.socialthinking.com

Superflex takes on Rock Brain and the Team of Unthink-



Abraham's Son Isaac is Born

Last time, we learned how Abraham's nephew Lot, with his wife and daughters, escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's wife became a pillar of salt. And a scandalous tale of incest resulted in the birth of two baby boys, whose descendants would be prominent in Israelite history. This time, we rejoin Abraham and his continuing adventures.

Abraham Tells the Tale Again

"And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar." Genesis 20:1.

In the Hebrew language, Gerar means "lodging-place". The location of the city is unknown today. Nahal Gerar is a wadi in the Negev desert of Israel. Along this wadi, there are several important ancient Bronze Age (roughly 3300 to 1200 BCE) archaeological sites. During the early Iron Age (roughly 1200 to 600 BCE) it was an area of Philistine settlements.

Just like he did during his visit to Egypt, back in Genesis chapter 12, again entering a strange land, Abraham tells everybody that Sarah is his sister... with similar results.

"And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, 'She is my sister' and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah." Verse 2.

"Because I [Abraham] thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place [Gerar]; and they will slay me for my wife's sake." Verse 11.

But Abraham had misjudged the people of Gerar. God intervened before Abimelech got himself into trouble.

"But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, 'Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife'... And God said unto him [Abimelech] in a dream, 'Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I [God] also withheld thee [Abimelech] from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her [Sarah]'. Verses 3 and 6.

"Now therefore restore the man [Abraham] his wife [Sarah]; for he [Abraham] is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou [Abimelech] shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine..." For the Lord had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife." Verses 7 and 18.

Abimelech, the king of Gerar, had taken Abraham at his word and assumed Sarah was not married, believing it was acceptable to take Sarah into his harem. Note that Sarah, at his point in time, is in her mid-eighties and she is expecting a child. Yet Sarah is still so attractive that the king immediately wanted her.

Abimelech's action triggered a curse: While Sarah was in Abimelech's harem, all the other women became infertile. Combine that with the previous night's dream, Abimelech was eager to send Sarah back to her husband.

"Therefore Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants, and told all these things in their ears: and the men were sore afraid." Verse 8.

And Abimelech had words for Abraham, "Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, 'What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done'. And Abimelech said unto Abraham, 'What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing?'" Verses 9 and 10.

Abraham's excuse? "Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake." Verse 11.

In other words, everybody knew it was wrong to take another man's wife. But it was up to local custom whether it was wrong to kill a stranger. So if a stranger came to town and experienced an untimely death, there would be nothing wrong to take the stranger's widow to be somebody else's wife.

Apparently, Abimelech was happy with that explanation, because he... "took sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and womenservants, and gave them unto Abraham, and restored him Sarah his wife... and Abimelech said, 'Behold, my land is before thee [Abraham]: dwell where it pleaseth thee'." Verses 14 and 15.

"And unto Sarah he [Abimelech] said, 'Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: thus she was reproved'." Verse 16.

Say what? That statement makes little sense and sounds really harsh. Abimelech is trying to say, "Look, I am giving your 'brother' 1,000 pieces of silver in the presence of all these witnesses. This is to compensate you for any wrong I may have done to you. This will settle any claim

against me, and your reputation is cleared." From the New Living Translation of Genesis 20:16.

Finally, "Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children." Verse 17.

Isaac is Born

A few articles ago, we read, "Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I [YHVH] will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." Genesis 18:14.

Genesis chapter 21 begins with, "And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." Verses 1-2.

Remember back to Genesis 18:12, when Sarah laughed at the idea that such an old couple could have a son? The Hebrew name Yitzhak, means "one who laughs" or "one who rejoices". In English, that name is Isaac.

"And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him." Verses 3-4.

Circumcision is the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham. "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed." Genesis 17:11-12.

"And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. And Sarah said, 'God hath made me to laugh (rejoice), so that all that hear will laugh with me'. And she said, 'Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age'. And the child [Isaac] grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned." Verses 5-8.

Hagar and Ishmael get Kicked Out

Remember back in Genesis 16, when Sarah (then known as Sarai) gave her female slave [Hagar] to Abraham (then known as Abram) so he could have a child? Their son's name was Ishmael. Fourteen years later, Isaac was born.

"And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian [Ishmael], which she had born unto Abraham, mocking." Verse 9.

Ishmael, now about 16 years old, was apparently laughing at or making fun of Isaac. Sarah noticed it. When Sarah and Hagar previously had problems getting along, Sarah banished Hagar from Abraham's encampment. It would not be the last time.

"Wherefore she [Sarah] said unto Abraham, 'Cast out this bondwoman [Hagar] and her son [Ishmael]: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac'. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his [Abraham's] son [Ishmael]." Verses 10-11.

God expressed a different point of view to console Abraham. "And God said unto Abraham, 'Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad [Ishmael], and because of thy bondwoman [Hagar]; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed (posterity) be called. And also of the son of the bondwoman [Ishmael] will I make a nation, because he is thy seed'." Verses 12-13.

Isaac will carry on Abraham's name and legacy, his descendants eventually becoming the tribes of Israel. However, Ismael is also Abraham's son. Tradition says that Ismael also had a name and legacy, the future tribes of the Arabic nations.

"And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle (made of animal skin) of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child [Ishmael], and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba." Verse 14.

Beersheba was known for its water wells. The idea was that Hagar should arrive there before her water supply ran out. Such however was not the case.

"And the water was spent in the bottle, and she [Hagar] cast the child [Ishmael] under one of the shrubs. And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow shot: for she said, 'Let me not see the death of the child.' And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept." Verses 15-16.

How far is a "bow shot"? In ancient times, the bow and arrow was a crucial tool for hunting and weapon for warfare. For hunting purposes, 40 yards might be ideal. In combat, 300 yards is desirable. This is like saying, "a stone's throw".

Ishmael must have been praying, because "...God heard the voice of the lad [Ishmael]; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, 'What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is'... And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink." Verses 17 and 19.

"And God was with the lad [Ishmael]; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and (coincidentally?) became an archer. And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran (on the Sinai peninsula): and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt." Verses 20-21.

Dispute over a Well

Abraham's servants dug a water well somewhere in Abimelech's territory. Then, some of Abimelech's servants, without his knowledge, violently siezed the well. Abimelech feared the siezure would spark problems with Abraham and his people. So that very day Abimelech offered to make an oath with Abraham.

"And Abraham reproved Abimelech because of a well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away. And Abimelech said, 'I wot (knew) not who hath done this thing; neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I of it, but to day'. And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and both of them made a covenant." Verses 25-27.

Abraham gave sheep and oxen as payment for the use of the well his servants dug, so his people could access the well without local interference.

In a separate action, "...Abraham set seven ewe (female) lambs of the flock by themselves... And he said, 'For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou [Abimelech] take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I [Abraham] have digged this well'. Wherefore he [Abraham] called that place Beersheba; because there they sware both of them." Verses 28-31.

Beersheba or Be'er Sheva means "well of the oath" or "well of the seven" in Hebrew. Today, Be'er Sheva is known as the "Capital of the Negev", the largest city in the Negev desert of southern Israel, with a population of over 214,000.

"And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord [YHVH], the everlasting

God [El Olam]. And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days." Verses 33-34.

The drama escalates in our next installment.



Stated Meeting Menu Tuesday

May 13th 2025

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by May 9th)

Cinco de Mayo Dinner!

Invite family & friends. We need you to make your reservations by the Friday before.



From the Secretary

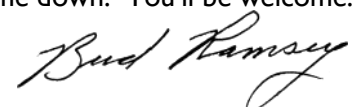
Our Scottish Rite bodies are doing things that matter, we're having a fun time, and we're doing a great deal to support each other. And that's part of what we're all about... supporting one another and being family for one another. You are part of that...entitled to all the rights and privileges that comes with being a part.



John Wesley once wrote:

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

Come down and join us....put something into it. It matters and you will make a significant difference to the rest of us....and we'll make a difference to you. Even if you haven't been around, come down. You'll be welcome.



Fall Reunion Class

October 2025



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."

_____	Degree Fee	Spring	Fall
<i>Candidate's Signature</i>		\$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 hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ _____		
_____	to Credit Card # _____ CVC _____		
<i>2nd Sponsor Signature</i>	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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e-mail: mail@sanjosescottishrite.org

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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 May 13th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Consistory Opens

Tuesday June 10th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens (casual dress)

Tuesday July 8th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Grand Masters Reception

Tuesday August 12th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Chapter Opens (casual dress)

Tuesday September 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Council Opens

Tuesday October 14th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Consistory Opens

October 24th-26th ~ Annual Communication

Grand Lodge of California