



The Rite Word

From the Venerable Master

Brethren,

November rings in the Holiday season. Nature is slowing down. The harvest has been completed. Days rapidly already became shorter. Even the professional life at work seems to slow down. Everyone starts thinking about the Holidays. This is setting the stage for quality time in the evenings, for reading a book, or watching a movie or documentary. For me this is always also a time of reflection, for multiple reasons.

Here are a few thoughts:

The slowing down of nature reminds me that this year will soon be over. Did I do everything I committed to do this year? There is only little time left in the year, but I still can make a difference if I focus on it now. I am thinking about a good use of the 24-inch gauge.

Thanksgiving Holidays with friends and family – it is different this year, but we will do the best we can. We can appreciate good conversations, maybe share some of the reflections, see what everyone's plans are for the Holidays and New Year. These are tough times to see extended family in person, especially when they are distant. So: If you cannot meet in person, agree on a technology like Skype, Google or Zoom with free video conferencing and do a few test calls. Ever had a video dinner? Invite them over, virtually, to your kitchen and cook together for a while, and then later to your table, and make a toast or two. Hand around a mobile device on your table to those present or place it at a good spot. It will be different, but can be good fun.

It is also the time of giving thanks:



Many thanks to all that worked hard on the building renovation. Those attending our virtual meetings have seen live walkthroughs of what has been accomplished. It is amazing. We will continue with our virtual meetings and updates on what is happening. We are not closed down – work is continuing.

The work also continues in our clinic. Remote patient sessions seem to work very well and can be an option even after we get over this hump of COVID. A big Thank You to our clinicians!

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy November,

Reunion

We will have a virtual Reunion on Friday November 6th and Saturday November 7th.

Please get any applications to the Secretary by November 3rd.

You should have received your Dues Notice and 2021 Dues Card in the mail by now. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. Even though we are currently unable to meet, the bills continue on.

2020 Honor Roll

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September 26, 2020

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September 27, 2020

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



Donations Cont.

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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

My Brethren,

November 2020, still no Meetings or Dinners. Hopefully a few more Months and we will be able to meet. In the meantime time stay safe.

The Month of November has 2 dates, that have special meaning to me. The first November 11th, Veterans Day. We should all be proud of our Men and Women who served in the Armed Forces. Their dedication to serve and fight for freedom, is why we have such a great country. I salute all our Veterans.

The second date is November 26th, Thanksgiving. We should all be very Thankful for this day, a day hopefully, that we can spend time with family and friends, even in these Covid 19 times. Its been a rough Eight Months.

I came across an Article that states:

What should be the Motto of Masons:

Cosmist. A Religious faith of late recognition, having for its motto, "Deeds, not Creeds," and for its principle the service of humanity is the supreme duty. The design of Cosmism is to join all men and women into one family, in which the principle of equality, together with that of brotherly love(that is,love of the human race), is the predominant one, and the moral and material welfare of all the sole aim and purpose.

The Cosmists are enjoined to act as follows: To give one another encouragement and aid, both material and moral; to cultivate all their faculties; to contemplate all mankind as brethren; to be courteous and forbearing to each and all; to practice charity without publicity or ostentation.

Freemasonry is an intensely theistical institution but its principles could scarcely be better expressed, " Deeds, not Creeds."

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



From the Commander of Kadosh

This month we observe Thanksgiving. It is the fourth Thursday of November and many of the traditions surrounding it are of a harvest festival nature. True harvest festivals are usually in September or October. How we got to our Thanksgiving was quite a journey.

The tradition of a day of Thanksgiving started on December 4, 1619 when 38 English settlers landed at Berkeley Hundred, Charles City County, Virginia. The charter from the London Company required that the day their ship, the Margaret, arrived "shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God". This day of thanksgiving predated the Mayflower Pilgrim's 1621 Thanksgiving Day.

A good harvest in 1621 lead to the Pilgrim's famous celebration with the Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Other years where days of Thanksgiving were held included 1621 and 1623 in Plymouth and a Puritan holiday in Boston in 1631.

Another day of thanksgiving was observed, following the Revolutionary War, on November 25, 1783 called Evacuation Day. In mid-August 1783, Sir Carleton, the last British Army and Navy Commander, received orders to evacuate New York. At that time there were over 30,000 British loyalists who had to be evacuated. Carleton gave November 25, 1783 at 12:00 Noon as the time and date of the final evacuation.

President and Brother George Washington proclaimed November 26, 1789 as the first day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" which moved the Evacuation Day observance one day forward.

The Evacuation Day holiday was ultimately superseded by President Lincoln's 1863 proclamation that the final Thursday in November would be celebrated for "the bounties that fell on the Union and the military successes of the Civil War". It was not until the 1870s, following the completion of Reconstruction that the date was realized nationwide.

In 1939 President and Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a presidential proclamation that made the next to the last Thursday in November the Thanksgiving Day holiday. That quickly changed in 1941 when he signed a joint resolution of Congress changing Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday in November.

As a side note, when the 1971 Uniform Monday Holiday Act took effect, the American Columbus Day and the Canadian Thanksgiving Day are observed on the same day.



Continued on Page 8

From the Master of Kadosh

My how time flies; November is here already and we are still missing out on our previous physical meetings where we had our usual contact and interaction with each other. I really do miss those real-time friendships, and while seeing the smoke up here in the northern foothills slowly dissipate I want to mention some things I have found to be interesting; First is that while Zoom meetings are good they are not the best.

I am somewhat from the old school and while many of the Masons are using this new form of digital meeting, we don't even get to exchange some of the modes of recognition that are so important as Masons. Also during these meetings, as new members attend and as others may leave, it gets a bit confusing as to who is doing or did the talking.

I do want to mention that the just departed Grand Master of Masons in California MW John Trauner is very well liked among his friends and Masons in this area and the country. I previously wrote about meeting him in lodge here several years ago when he was getting into the Grand Line and I thought he was the inspector. He did have a great year in his Grand Officers Line and their travels throughout the world. It surely must have helped to bring focus to the northern California foothills and of Grans Valley and Nevada City and the surrounding Lodges in Particular.

I also want to say that the recently installed new Grand Master MW Art Weiss is also very well known as he was previously the Worthy Grand Patron of California's Order of the Eastern Star (OES) a decade or so ago — and Art Weiss's Worthy Grand Matron at that time was our very own Sister Sara who is also a member of Valley Star Chapter of OES that normally holds their monthly meetings at Los Altos Masonic Lodge.

The smoke from all these historic California fires is being put under control and clear skies are once again slowly returning. In many past years I have noticed that in very HOT summers with lots of fires, we were eventually saved by the fall rains. I hope that all of the next year's SJSR officres and members and families will have a somewhat better and more organized time in their lives once this virus situation is abated. And, that we will be able to look back once again and remember this present year with 20-20 hindsight.



Dell Bleiler

From the Secretary

Sorry for the slight delay in getting this months Rite Word in your hands. My wife and I just got back from 10 days in FL at WDW to celebrate our 10th anniversary. It was great to fill some sense of normalcy again.

Work continues around the building, see the pictures of the temporary stadium seating in the auditorium. We will build a permanent structure sometime after the 1st of the year, but this gives you a great look at what we are trying to accomplish.

On the dues front we still have 17 members who owe for 2020. If you are one of them please take care of it ASAP by either paying or contacting me to discuss having your dues remitted.

182 of you have paid your 2021 dues and we thank you. Those who have not done so, please send your check in, even though you have a dues card, will not be in good standing after the 1st of the year, until you pay.

We are here Monday though Friday from about 8 till at least 3pm. If you are in the area stop by and say hi and take a tour to see all the work that has been done. We are ready to get back to business as soon as we are allowed

Finally remember that we are having our regular meeting at 6pm on the Second Tuesday of the month. November will be military recognition. December will be Election of officers and January will be installation. If you are not getting the notices via email, please let me know your email address at gHall@sanjosescottishrite.org.



Gary Hall

Twenty-Fifth Degree, Knight of the Brazen Serpent or Sufi Master — Part I

This degree is a glimpse into Arabic culture and the faith of Islam. Unfortunately, most Masons come to Scottish Rite with little understanding about the setting and vocabulary used in this degree. Since Scottish Rite is about education and enlightenment, we will take the time to learn some religious history and philosophy in order to get the full benefit of the teachings of the 25th degree.

The word Islam (ees LAM) means submission (to the will of God). A Muslim (MOOS lim) is a person who submits him or herself to the will of God. In this degree, we are introduced to the mystical side of Islam called Tasawwuf or Sufism (SOO fizz um). Tasawwuf means "to dress in wool" and refers to the woolen garments these mystics traditionally wear. A student of this school is called a Sufi (SOO fee).

Perhaps the best known Sufi are the "Whirling Dervishes" of the Mevlevi order in Turkey. It was started by students of the jurist and poet Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī, shortly after his death. The Dervishes' spinning action is a form of active meditation.

The cast of the 25th degree consists of four Sufi Masters (teachers) and the Master of Ceremonies who goes by the name Abdullah (Arabic for servant of God). The Candidate's name is Idris (Arabic for studious or righteous), like the British actor, Idris Elba.

The cast dresses in long white robes with a rope belt, and a white muslim turban. In this degree, nobody wears an apron or cordon (sash). However they are specified, perhaps a holdover from an earlier version of this degree. See page 198 of *A Bridge to Light* for a description.

A body of Sufi Masters is called a Synod. Their meeting place is a well-appointed tent out in the desert. The structure is called Bayt al-Noor, meaning house of light. There are no chairs, so people sit on pillows.

The action begins

Abdullah, with the candidate in tow, requests admission into the tent. The First Sufi Master (ISM) responds with the traditional greeting, "Salaam Aleikum!" (Arabic for "Peace be upon you"). "Welcome Brother Abdullah!" ISM offers Abdullah food and drink and asks about his family and flocks. Hospitality was an essential duty among desert nomads, for obvious reasons.

ISM asks Abdullah, "Who is the young man with you and what occasions his visit?" He answers, "My brothers, this is my friend Idris (played the candidate). He is one of the faithful and one devoted to the search for truth. He is an initiate in the mysteries and has taken all the necessary vows." That refers to work of the 23rd and 24th degrees.

The Sufi Masters are unimpressed. The Second Sufi Master (2SM) asks, "Vows? What are they? Who, after taking them, remembers them?"

The Third Sufi Master (3SM) asks, "Does he perform his duties better than before? Is he more forgiving?"

The Fourth Sufi Master (4SM) asks, "Is he more generous to the poor?"

2SM adds, "Is he less selfish, less envious, less ungrateful?"

3SM adds, "Does he make greater sacrifices for others?"

4SM adds, "Will he take wages that are not his due?"

ISM asks, "Does he risk the guilt of perjury to the poor performance of duty?"

2SM states, "You have heard what men think of vows."

By this point, you get the idea that the Sufi Masters are looking for a pattern of personal improvement in the candidate but, due to the shortcomings of human nature, do not expect to find it.

Abdulla explains, "Good resolutions are for the most part like words written on the sands of the seashore, which the tide washes away. Perhaps it is not well to require anyone to vow to perform any duty or avoid any vice. The vow rarely ensures performance, and too commonly entails perjury. There are duties that you do not perform, or which you perform only occasionally, or reluctantly, or inadequately, or with only half your heart. It is so with every man. Take account within yourself now!"

Testing the candidate's knowledge

Q: "Then let us begin. Idris, our friend, answer for us these questions. What is the meaning of Islam?" A: "Submission to the will of Allah."

Q "And who is the last prophet of Allah?" A: "The Koran teaches us of many prophets including Moses and Jesus, but the seal of the prophets was Muhammad, praise be upon him!"

The preferred spelling is Qur'ān, which means "recitation" and refers to a collection of divine messages that Muhammad received through the archangel Gabriel over a period of 23 years, ending in the year 632 CE. The Qur'ān was given in classical Arabic and is about the same length as the Christian New Testament. Some Muslims can recite the entire text of the Qur'ān from memory. If they joined Masonry, they'd probably make a phenomenal degree team.

The concept behind "seal of the prophets" means that Muhammad is the last or final prophet that God will send to mankind. The phrase "praise be upon him" is actually "peace be upon him". In Islamic writings, you see it abbreviated as PBUH.

Q: "What one great lesson did the Prophet (Muhammad) teach?" A: "The oneness of Allah". Compare this idea with Deuteronomy 6:4.

Q: "What are the five pillars of Islam?" A: "To give alms to the poor, to pray five times daily, to observe the fast, to make the pilgrimage if possible, and to go to the mosque on Fridays."

Actually, the five pillars are:

- Shahada or profession of faith, "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God"
- Salat or prayer five times daily facing the city of Mecca
- Zakat or alms-giving
- Sawm or fasting during the daylight hours of month of Ramadan
- Hajj or pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca at least once in your lifetime

Q: "Do you assent to these beliefs?" A: "If Allah wills, it is so!"

The phrase "Inshallah" (in sha al-LAH) means "if God wills". It expresses the belief that nothing happens unless God wills it, and that His will supersedes all human will. It reflects a certain fatalism about life and conflicts with the idea that human beings can exercise their own free will. It is also the source of the culture clash between Western and Islamic laws and government.

Q: "You are indeed a true Muslim. What further do you seek?" A: "I desire a more personal knowledge of Allah."

The first statement is not exactly true. One must say the Shahada in all sincerity to be a true Muslim. As with other religions, the desire for greater personal knowledge is where mysticism comes in, Sufism in this case.

The lesson begins

2SM: "Mere knowledge is not to be found here. We can offer only a greater awareness of the veils, which conceal the truth from man."

3SM: "Knowledge is to be found everywhere, but most of all within yourself! Unfortunately, many do not recognize it when they see it nor do they search within themselves to find it."

4SM: "A wise man can find knowledge, even in the acts of fools. Attend to the following stories of Mullah Nasruddin, for in them we find much instruction. Ghulam Nabi (referring to one of the Sufi Masters by name), have you not something to illustrate to this seeker?"

Mullah Nasruddin was a 13th century satirist who lived in what is today Turkey. He was known as "a wise fool; people often focus on the fool and forget the wise part." In all probability, the Candidate has never heard of Nasruddin, so he has no idea what is coming next.

The lights dim and a spotlight shines a circle on an area of the floor. 2SM stands up, and then kneels down as if he looking for something within the lit circle.

4SM: "Mullah Nasruddin, what are you looking for? May I help you?"

2SM without looking up says, "I am looking for my spectacles."

4SM kneels down and joins the search. After looking around, he asks "I find nothing. Where could you have lost them?"

2SM: "I lost them in my tent."

4SM: "Then why are you looking here?"

2SM: "Because the light is better here than in my tent!"

The Sufi Masters share a laugh and return to their pillows.

3SM rises and says, "I could find your spectacles for you, Mulla Nasruddin, for I am able to see in the dark!"

2SM: "If that is so, my Brother, why have I seen you carrying a candle at night?"

3SM: "Is it not obvious? To prevent other people from bumping into me, of course!"

The Sufi Masters laugh again.

2SM: "Then my Brother, I guess you would have no trouble discerning the light of truth?"

3SM: "Ah, now you touch upon a subject that is serious. So many among mankind are untruthful, that can prove a difficult task. As the Mulla Nasruddin has said, 'There is truth and there is truth. People must practice real truth before they can use apparent truth. They always try the other way around, the result being that they take liberties with man-made truth, because they know instinctively that it is only an invention.'"

4SM: "You make this all too complicated. I can make it simple." He pulls off his rope-belt. "I will ask you a question, and if I find that your answer is not truthful..." he pauses a moment, then continues "... I will hang you!"

2SM: "I accept your challenge! Ask me your question!"

4SM thinks for a moment, then says "Where are we going from here?"

2SM: "Why, I am going to be hanged by that rope!"

4SM: "What? I do not believe you!"

2SM: "Very well, if I have told you a lie, you must hang me."

3SM: "But that would make it true!"

4SM: "Exactly!"

Again, the Sufi Masters laugh. The candidate, however, is visibly frustrated and exclaims, "My Masters, I do not understand. You ridicule me, and play me for a fool, when I came earnestly seeking wisdom in my pursuit of enlightenment."

Facing the candidate, the 1SM responds, "My Brother, things are not always as they seem, and wisdom often appears to us in a guise which we find, at first, unrecognizable. Would a wise man search for his spectacles, or for enlightenment, where he cannot expect to find them? Perhaps the common man does not know where to look when he is seeking the light.

Does it surprise you that, when not knowing where to look, many search in places which appear bright with promise at first glance, yet are led farther and farther from the truth which they seek? Do not men accept all manner of theories, and attach themselves to outlandish sects and cults, while believing they are capable of distinguishing truth from falsehood?"

The candidate responds, "Yes, Master, that is so."

To be continued next month.

III. Daniel Doornbos 33°

Continued from page 4

This year Thanksgiving Day is the last Thursday in November and many get accustomed to this. However, that is not always the case, remember, it is the fourth Thursday in November. In 2023, 2028 and 2029 Thanksgiving will not be on the last Thursday as in those years November has five Thursdays.

Paul M. Fiel

III. and MW Leo B. Mark 33°

On September 27, 2020, we lost our beloved brother.

III. Leo was 98 years, 4 months and 21 days old at the time of his passing.

III. Leo was raised a Master Mason on August 15, 1955 and was mason for over 65 years. He served as Master of San Jose 10 in 1964. and was the last Grand Master of California and Hawaii in 1987.

III. Leo joined the Scottish Rite in 1957, and was a member for over 63 years. He was honored with the KCCH in 1969 and Coroneted a 33° in 1975. He served as the Personal Representative for the Valley of San Jose from 1989 to 2007.

At this point we have no information about a memorial, but will get that information out when it is known.

Well done good and faithful servant.



Brycen is a hardworking and sweet 8 year old boy who is able to tackle any challenge with stride! His positive attitude and determination to improve his speech and language skills is inspiring. Brycen has been receiving speech and language therapy services at the San Jose Scottish Rite Childhood Speech and Language Clinic for over one year.



Prior to speech services at the clinic, Brycen struggled with phonemic awareness, reading, and writing. This affected his confidence because he was not able to keep up in school. Brycen's mother, Samantha, heard about Scottish Rite from a neighborhood friend and decided to go forth with speech services.

Samantha mentioned that "Brycen has learned so much since working with his speech-therapist, Ms. Alisha. His confidence has grown and he has become much better at spelling, reading, and writing. Having Ms. Alisha in our lives has made things so much better because she has helped Brycen learn that it's okay to make mistakes. The most rewarding part about receiving services at Scottish Rite is having a caring therapist who really understands my child and takes the time to help figure out how his brain works and how he learns best. I love seeing him make milestones and grow confidence."

Samantha has already referred four families, and they are all so happy with their services at Scottish Rite. She describes Scottish Rite as the best clinic she has found in the Bay Area.

During this Covid-19 pandemic, Samantha mentioned that "as a parent it has been very challenging to have a child with needs during a pandemic, but having Scottish Rite transition to the Zoom platform right away made everything so much better."

We are so pleased to hear that Brycen's family sees steady progress in his speech and language development. We look forward to continuing his progress through teletherapy as it has been an effective and fun new way to learn.





Work begins on upgrades to the Clinic

Virtual Degrees

Nov 6 and 7th, 2020



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	\$150	\$150
_____	Annual Dues	\$50	\$0 (For Current Year)
1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME	Total Due:	\$200	\$150

<i>1st Sponsor Signature</i>			

2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME _____ I hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ _____
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Signature of authorized card holder



THE RITE WORD

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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.*

“The Rite Word (USPS #3043) is published monthly by the San Jose Scottish Rite at 2455 Masonic Dr., San Jose, CA 95125. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA. 95125 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **The Rite Word**, 2455 Masonic Drive San Jose CA 95125”

Future Scottish Rite and Masonic Events

Friday and Saturday November 6th and 7th Virtual Reunion

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

Grand Commander's will join Zoom if available

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

Election of Officers for 2021

Council Opens

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Installation of Officers for 2021