



The Rite Word

From the Venerable Master

"In the past I have written about the return of Masonry, the success of our valley, and other Masonic topics I collect loosely in my mind of the heading of Masonry: Reflection, Revelation, Renaissance.

Much of this about Society, how we live, the agreement we have in being here together as set up by our founding fathers, how we live in our communities, our states, and our Great Nation and how Masonry does this. The simple agreement to live together and to respect each other in how we move through our daily lives. These are as simple stopping at a stop sign, moving ahead when it is our turn, and as esoteric as respecting the rights and viewpoints of others, in addition to our own.

These ideals are currently being stretched and tested now, as we move out of the pandemic and into recovery. Our Masonic views of Tolerance, the cornerstone civility, are more powerful now than ever. We have a great opportunity to move within society and set an example of tolerance and civility, to help everyone realize that together we are stronger as a community and society. This at times isn't easy and we are still tested almost daily

We see this test often in society these days, the fear of not being able to consider the opinions of others without feeling like we endorse them, we seek the company of those that appear to agree with us, or say what we think we want to hear. In doing this we short circuit our natural ability as humans to evaluate and consider circumstance in favor just getting what we think we want. Like defaulting our internal fight or flight mechanism to



a dumbed down moment where we don't consider anything but staying with the ranks of others, as they spew hate and deception. I encourage us all to continue to think and discuss these moments and move to understand others, not just be heard.

In an article from the Sociological Mail (www.thesociologicalmail.com) recently, it talks about the "Why did Memberships in Fraternal Organizations Die" out over time? While this is one source and point of view, and I acknowledge that in media for any report or point of view, there are many others that can debunk, repudiate, or otherwise invalidate this information, I found what they had to say intriguing. It is too much to go into here but suffice it to say much of the content is about how our society has been changing and evolving, primarily through media and in the context of how we spend our time.

I would argue that even now this is reversing, people are interested in spending time with others, exchanging ideas and experiences. This is one of the primary functions of our Craft, to engage with brothers, along with and helping others, contribute back to the community and consider the great mysteries of life. Like three tenants of how we might live and follow so closely.

The holidays are a perfect time of year to do this, at home, in lodge and in the community. I would encourage all of us, when ever we can to engage others, express empathy, offer assistance and in contributing to the lives of others, feel our own lives and experiences grow. Sometimes this is as simple as opening a door for someone or waiving hello to a stranger at a stop light. Or considering another point of view.

I wish you and your families all the best as you retire this past year and we look to 2022 and the continued growth &

Mark Burger

2021 Honor Roll

Bro. Neofito Santos 32°
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°
Ill. Durward Ayre 33°
Bro. Lewis Bisconer 32°
Bro. Estil Johnson 32°
Bro. Dennis Griffin 32°
Hon. Bennie Cooper 32° KCCH
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32° KCCH
Bro. Bob Allen 32°
Hon. David Tavernetti 32° KCCH
Bro. Neofito Santos 32° (2022)
Ill. Chuck Cowden 33° (2022)

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.

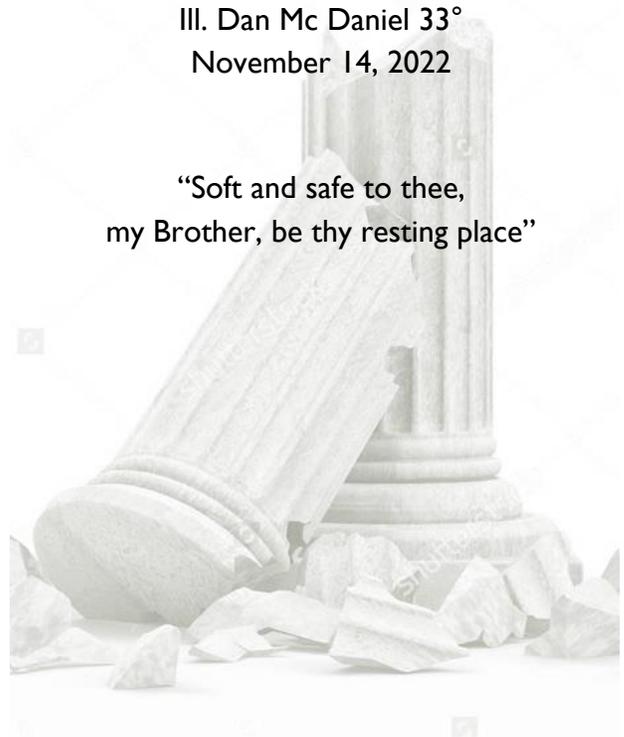
Donations

Bro. Kenric Baker 32°
Bro Lee Trustee 32°
Brother Walter Cooley 32°
Bro. David Pratt 32°
Bro. Pete Edwards 32°
Bro. Felipe Josue 32°
Bro. Mark Hutchinson 32°
Ill. Chuck Cowden 33°

Called From Labor

Ill. Dan Mc Daniel 33°
November 14, 2022

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



Treasurer

We need a new Treasurer. The job entails about 2 hours a month and attendance on a quarterly basis at the Stated Meeting and Foundation Meeting.

You will review the actions of the Secretaries office regarding expenditures and recording of income. You may also be called upon to sign checks on an as needed basis, when the PR is unavailable.

You do not have to be a professional finance person, but you should have a solid understanding of budgeting and accounting.

If interested please speak to either Ken or Gregg.

2021 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Hon. Mark Burger, 32° KCCH	831-373-1094
Senior Warden	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Junior Warden	Bro. Naresh Rampershad 32°	408-660-0121
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
Captain of the Host	Bro. Art Pasquinelli, 32°	408-483-9361

2021 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Hon. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903
Senior Warden	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
Junior Warden	Ill. Randy Downey 33°	408-674-8341
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Laurentiu Murgu, 32°	408-755-0079
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Alan Worley 32°	650-281-1574

2021 - Council of Kadosh

Commander	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
1st Lt Commander	Ill. Jack Harris 33°	408-858-9054
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Toby Vanderbeek 32°	650-722-1669
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Peter Cardilla 32°	831-214-9012

2021 San Jose Consistory

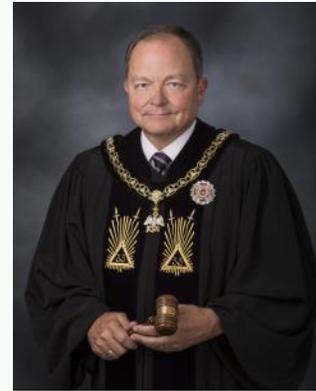
Master of Kadosh	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Prior	Hon. John Unger 32° KCCH	408-489-8128
Preceptor	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
Marshal of Ceremonies	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Captain of the Guard	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822

2021 - General Officers

Personal Representative	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
General Secretary	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
Treasurer	TBD	
Prelate	Bro. Mark McEuen, 32°	408-251-3086
Almoner	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423
Orator/Librarian	Hon. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Hon. Tom Tefft, 32° KCCH	408-465-2585
Director of Ceremonies	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Chief Knight KSA	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423

Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Secretary	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
Treasurer	TBD	
Director (exp 2022)	Bro. Garrett Burrow, 32°	408-891-6746
Director (exp 2022)	Hon. Jeffory Toone, 32° KCCH	408-390-5016
Director (exp 2023)	Ill. Randy Downey 33°	408-674-8341
Director (exp 2023)	Bro. Toby Vanderbeek 32°	650-722-1669
Director (exp 2021)	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
Director (exp 2021)	Hon. Brandon Duenas 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Venerable Master	Hon. Mark Burger, 32° KCCH	831-373-1094
Wise Master	Hon. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903
Commander	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Master of Kadosh	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730



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



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

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of San Jose, in the Orient of California, acknowledge and yield all allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

From the Wise Master

As you all know I moved to Henderson Nevada in July of 2020. My situation at the time was draining my finances after a criminal did quite a lot of damage to my house and my finances. This was a retirement move and one that I do not look back on. I served this year as an officer and had guaranteed that I would make the live stated meetings and fulfill my office. I have been able to attend board meetings via zoom most of the time this year.



Obviously this is the last office I will serve for the San Jose Scottish Rite; and it has been a pleasure to work with our fellow officers in the preservation of our membership. This does not mean that I will not be joining you for dinners in the coming year; I will from time to time. I will also remain on the degree teams for San Jose.

I wrote about some of the disappearing verbiage from our degrees in terms of its flavor, a couple of months ago. It is sad for me to see so much of those degrees being depreciated with the expectation that the candidate will study the concepts and precepts for themselves.

I have also written from our American history with selections arranged by David Barton in The Founders Bible. Other sources include rabbinical studies, Emmet Fox and our degree scripts. I thank those of you who have commented to me about those articles.

My lodge has voted in a new treasurer and I will be training my replacement soon. Thus I will be shedding financial responsibilities that have been very hard to keep track of on some occasions. Also this will place more local control over those duties. I will also be taking a lifetime membership at Monterey to never miss paying my dues. All that being said I have affiliated with the Las Vegas Scottish Rite and attend a few of the lodges here as well. I eventually will affiliate with one and participate in the line here, if asked.

Thank you all again for being brothers in my Masonic family:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark M...".

From the Commander of Kadosh

December 27, 2021

On this day, Freemasonry celebrates one of our two Patron Saints, St. John the Evangelist. Some 60 years ago in Magnolia Lodge No. 120 in Biloxi, Mississippi I silently wondered why these two Saints among the many. These six decades later I am still not sure how it came to be though I have fully accepted it to be so because our Ancient Masters deemed it to be so. Masonic tradition informs us that, etc, etc.



To help me better understand I found a December 2015 article from the Grand Lodge of Missouri on the subject of our Patron Saints. Here is a part of the article which I hope you find helpful if you are like me in search of some light on the St. Johns.

“Saint John the Apostle or Evangelist (considered by many to be one and the same) has a more obscure history than St John the Baptist our other Patron Saint. Numerous sources cite the persona of the Evangelist as the likely combination of several biblical persons assimilated over the millennia for emphasis and clarity. Much of the writing attributed to the Evangelist echoes Masonic themes, phrases and even ritual, however history falls short of being able to tell us whether the writings of the Evangelist are the actual source of our ritual. Regardless of the lack of traceable history, it seems reasonable to conclude that those intimately familiar with the Evangelist and his writings find him to be the “sensible” patron Saint of the fraternity. Writings such as those in the Book of Revelations, the Gospel of John along with the Epistles of John display a more ideological or philosophical perspective, often hinting at the deeper meaning of a person or event

The adoption of both Saints’ John to equally represent the fraternity seems to further distinguish Masonry at its core. The methods of religious practice for these two Saints are very different yet both are fully committed to the same belief. St. John the Baptist is strict and literal while St. John the Evangelist is lofty, philosophical and esoteric; a perfect “yin and yang” example. As the Patron Saints they serve as an example of the balance and harmony men can achieve in Freemasonry.

The Grand Lodge of England was formed on June 24, 1717, on the feast day of St. John the Baptist which corresponds closely with the summer solstice and ancient celebrations marking the longest day of the year. It is most fitting to begin a light-seeking Grand Lodge during one of the longest days of light. The observance of the feast of St John the Evangelist is held on December 27th just after the winter solstice. This is the time that the world begins moving from darkness

Continued on Page 10

From the Master of Kadosh

I hope everyone is doing well and in good health. As the year comes to a close, I feel like we have done so much as a community in such a short amount of time. 'Tis truly the season of giving, brotherhood, and love as the air grows colder at night and the hint of burning fire-wood fills the twinkling skyline as we huddle up with the ones we love, enjoying some hot beverages and exchanging gifts. The gifts that I treasure most are the unrecorded instances of the time I spend with friends and loved ones and being able to enjoy each and every fleeting second of that particular moment. Gaudy and exuberant worldly things are nice, but their shine is only temporary, special moments on the other hand shine the brightest in our hearts and lasts for a lifetime in our minds.



We have been exploring different ancient sites and as well as the ancient stone masons who built them. It's such a fascinating subject because there are new findings every day, and yet, it leaves us with more questions than answers. There are countless clues left behind by those who came before us out in the open just waiting to be discovered. From the polygonal interlocking stone walls to the different placements of the ancient sites all throughout the world. Join me as we try to connect the dots of our ancient past.

The Ancient Great Circle. The world holds a lot of mysteries surrounding the ancient world. There are countless sites around the globe that baffles and astounds both the bystanders and as well as experts in the field of archeology.

The Easter Islands, Nazca lines, Ollantaytambo, The Pyramids of Giza plateau, The ancient city of Petra, The Ritchat Structure in the Sahara, Machu Picchu in Peru, The temple of the Oracle of Siwa, Cusco, Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan, The Sumerian city of Ur, and the Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia are only a handful of iconic examples of ancient sites that are almost perfectly aligned with each other across the world if you were to draw a line around them with only less than 1 degree of deviation. Is it only just mere coincidence, or were the people from our ancient past trying to tell us something? There are clue left behind for us to decipher.

The Great Circle has a circumference of 24,892 miles which is slightly smaller compared to the modern day Equatorial circumference of the Earth. The circle also passes over other natural key landmarks such as the

Great Amazon river, entrance to the Tigris Euphrates river, as well as the Bay of Bengal in the Ganges and not to mention a vast area of the unexplored Sahara desert of ancient Mesopotamia. A handful of historians and scientists suggests that the Great Circle was the ancient equator of the Earth before a great cataclysmic event happened around 12,500-14,500 years ago. We all know that different cultures from around the world talked about a flood myth, from the Holy bible, to the ancient Sanskrit texts, to the Cuneiform clay tablets of ancient Sumeria, and even the Pillar 43 of Gobekli Tepe in Turkey indicated that there was a world-wide cataclysmic event that triggered the great flood, which interestingly, also, happens to coincide with the Younger Dryas period that happend approximately around 12,500- 14,500 years ago that lead to the rapid cooling of the Earth for less than 100 years, and then persisted roughly for the next 1,300 years. Ice-core samples taken from different parts of the world by various scientists confirmed this abrupt change in climate due to a sudden tilt of the Earth's axis.

There are some theories being investigated by experts and scientists, and yet, they can't agree on a definitive cause. The most prominent is the Impact hypothesis which suggests that there was a fragmented comet or asteroid that collided with the Earth, therefore triggering the chain of events such as wildfires, floods and mass extinction of some animal species. The idea of the tilting the Earth's polar axis not too far-fetched as we look into the year of 2011 as an 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit Japan and moved it's mainland by 8 feet, and shifted the Earth axis by approximately 4 inches. We can only speculate what a massive object composed of rocks, ice, and metals can actually do. What if because of an impact event, the celestial axis was inclined at an angle of about 30 degrees from it's present location, which in turn suggests that the terrestrial axis then is oriented differently from what it is today. What if the Great ancient circle was indeed the pre-Diluvian equator of the ancient world, and maybe, the reason why these various ancient sites are located where they are is that, the equator is the obvious place to start a settlement or civilization that ensures a good climate for agriculture, a natural protection from the cold climate, and a logical place for a civilization to evolve.

We are at the end of our journey, and yet, we barely scratched the surface of the mysteries surrounding the ancient world. Fin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Paul White". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

":Thirty-first Degree, Inspector Inquisitor, Part I

In the 30th degree, we learned to dispell our fear death by living according to our obligations, promises, and the principles of good living. In the 31st degree, we enact the final judgement of a human soul following death.

In this degree the candidate responds to a series of probing questions and rituals based on an ancient funerary text known as "The Egyptian Book of the Dead". The best version of this document is the Papyrus of Ani, written around 1250 BCE. Ani was an Egyptian scribe. His "book" currently resides in the British Museum.

The Egyptian Afterlife

The Egyptians believed that their land was the best in the world, created by the gods and given to them as a gift to enjoy. The afterlife was essentially a reflection of mortal life but in an ideal state. It was a place of lush vegetation, with eternal springtime, unending harvests, and no pain or suffering. There, rich and poor alike were provided with plots of land on which they were expected to grow crops. The physical location of this kingdom was fixed either below the western horizon or on a group of islands in the west. It was sometimes called "the Field of Reeds", a reference to the vegetation that grows along banks of the Nile river.

To reach the Field of Reeds, the recently deceased person needed to be entombed properly with all attendant rites according to their social standing. Your tomb had to be in the land of Egypt, not some other, inferior place in the chaotic world beyond the border. Whenever possible, soldiers and travelers who died abroad were returned home for proper interment.

Funerary rites had to be strictly observed in order to preserve the body which, it was thought, the soul would need in order to receive sustenance in the next life. Once the body was prepared (mummified) and properly entombed, the soul's journey began through the afterlife. Funerary texts carved on the walls of the tomb or left inside coffin told the soul who he or she was, what had happened, and what to do next.

The jackal-headed god Anubis greeted the newly departed soul in the tomb and ushered him or her to the Hall of Truth. There Osiris, king of the underworld, was presiding judge. In the Hall of Truth, the standard is only the will and laws of the gods. Human laws did not matter. There were two parts to the judicial procedure in the Hall of Truth: the Negative Confessions and the Scales of Maat.

Negative Confessions

The newly departed soul made a series of 42 statements, each affirming that he or she is innocent of a violating a specific law or committing a forbidden action. The statements were tailored to the individual making them, although some were common to everybody. A local deity from a specific city or territory of Egypt, judges each statement.

The pattern was: "Hail [name of the god] who comest forth from [place], I have not [bad deed]."

Example: "Hail, Sertiu, who comest forth from Anu, I have not been angry without just cause."

The Confession included statements such as: "I have not stolen. I have not slain people. I have not stolen the property of a god. I have not said lies. I have not led anyone astray. I have not caused terror. I have not made anyone hungry".

In some texts, this confession appears: "I have not learnt things that are not", which referred to believing in falsehoods. That is an ideas that was contrary to the will of the gods, or something that seemed true to the person but was false in reality.

The Scales of Maat

Maat was the goddess of truth and harmonious balance. She is represented as a tall woman, whose headdress consisted of a single white ostrich feather.

The soul of the deceased was required to have his heart weighed on an enormous balance-scale against Maat's feather. During the process of embalming or mummification, the vital organs, including the heart, are removed from the corpse and stored separately in canopic jars. That makes it possible to put the heart on the scale without harming the person to which it belonged.

The heart is placed on one pan and Maat's feather on the other. The pointer at the top of the balance-scale indicates which item is heavier. The preferred outcome is where the heart is lighter than the feather, indicating the absence of guilt. The falcon-headed god Horus conducts the Soul to Osiris, to receive the final judgement. Behind him stand Isis and Nephthys to welcome to the soul to the Field of Reeds.

On the other hand, if the deceased's heart was heavier than Maat's feather, it indicates of guilt, despite the soul's professions of innocence. Such heavy hearts were summarily tossed onto the floor. Lurking there was a monster named Ammut. She was part crocodile, part lion, and part hippopotamus. When she ate the heart, the person's soul ceased to exist. While many people fear an after-world of torment, to an ancient Egyptian, non-existence was the worst possible outcome.

Embalming, funerary rites, and tomb preparation were expensive. That's why Egyptian tombs contain the remains of royals, court officials, and skilled artisans. Despite the egalitarian nature of the Field of Reeds, the majority of Egyptians could not afford the procedures required to get there.

Why the Egyptians?

We understand that this degree is about a person's final judgement. But why would Grand Commander Pike choose a judgement scenario from ancient Egypt? The various orders of Knighthood in the Scottish Rite all follow a Christian-Crusader theme. Why not use an example from the Christian faith?

Christian eschatology deals with matters such as death and the afterlife, Heaven and Hell, the second coming of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead, the rapture, the tribulation, millennialism, the end of the world, the Last Judgment, and the New Heaven and New Earth in the world to come.

All of these concepts exist in mainstream forms of Christianity but their meaning and significance vary, as well as the order in which certain events are supposed to happen. So it's a lot easier to avoid the quagmire of conflicting religious beliefs by viewing the judgement and afterlife from a totally independent perspective.

Caves and Hieroglyphics

Plenty of caves have been found in the Holy Land containing artifacts of great interest and historical value. But no caves with Egyptian hieroglyphics have been found there. So the idea that Crusaders might discover such a thing stretches the imagination. Is there any historically consistent way this setting could happen?

During the 7th Crusade, there were Crusader invasions into Lower (Northern) Egypt, in an effort to take advantage of the conflicts among the various Muslim groups that opposed the Christian presence in their territories. And if the so-called cave was really an unexcavated tomb, there might well be hieroglyphics on its walls, so the setting would be plausible.

Hieroglyphics is a form of written communication using pictorial symbols that represent meaning or sound, or a combination of the two. At the time of the Crusades, nobody in the world could understand Egyptian hieroglyphics. It was not until the discovery of the Rosetta stone by a French officer in 1799 that enough material existed to decipher the hieroglyphics, which took place during the 50 years following its discovery.

Seneschals and Squires

During the Middle Ages, a Seneschal (pronounced SEN eh shall) was the court-appointed manager of a royal or noble household. He was in charge of domestic arrangements and the administration of servants, which might involve hundreds of laborers, servants and their associated responsibilities.

Among the Knights Templar, the Seneschal was the number-two officer and assistant to the Grand Master. In peacetime, the Seneschal administered all the lands belonging to the chapter house. In wartime, he handled the movement of the men, the pack trains, the food procurement, and other issues of moving an army.

A squire was a knight-in-training, a son of noble birth between the ages of 14 and 21. He was a shield bearer or armor bearer of a knight, he saddled the knight's horse and cared for the knight's weapons and armor. If all went well, the squire would become a knight himself after his 21st birthday.

The Opening Scene

The degree begins in a darkened room representing a cave. A Seneschal is sitting in the cave contemplating Egyptian hieroglyphics and drawings on the wall. He obviously can't decipher hieroglyphics so he focuses on the pictures and attempts to figure out what they mean.

Outside the cave, a Squire notices the light from the Seneschal's lamp and comes to see what he is doing. They sit down together and begin to discuss the hieroglyphics and drawings. The Seneschal thinks they contain a lot of valuable instruction. But the Squire argues that the ancient Egyptians are long dead and their artwork is only good for decoration.

The Seneschal admits that the Squire may be correct, but he adds, "Our symbols (the Christian symbols of the Crusaders) might be merely decoration to those whose eyes and minds are not yet open, and whose minds are guided by ignorance".

The Squire asks the Seneschal if he is claiming to understand these "scribblings". He responds, "Not all but their sense is clear enough to me".

The Squire is incredulous. "What sense is a baboon staring at two men, one dressed like a bird and the other like a dog?" He adds, "The Egyptians

were heathens and idolators. It would be better to chop their so-called artwork from the walls and grind it into mortar to build a church!"

The Seneschal responds, "Men often seek to destroy things they don't understand. He asks, "Where is the glory in destruction?" Christ taught us that there is glory in good works." Referring to the excesses committed by some of the Crusaders, he asks, "How can the destruction of cities or the murder of innocent women and children be considered good works?"

The Squire admits that there was an excess of enthusiasm on both sides of the conflict. "Yet the stories of our old glories fill my heart with pride."

The Seneschal explains that, "It is easy to be proud of the accomplishments of others. Gaze upon this wall and learn its lessons. Our ancient teachers, the Greeks, learned this lesson from the Egyptian priests. The Greek's care for wisdom of the past permits me to transmit it to you. Treat it with the same veneration and future generations may learn it from you".

After a few moments, the Seneschal asks, "Do you believe in the judgement of the dead?" The Squire answers, "I do. We are taught in the Bible that Christ will judge all mankind." The Seneschal adds, "The ancient Egyptians also believed in the judgement of the dead—a lucky guess, perhaps. Sit quietly and transport your mind back two thousand years, if you can." And the lights go down.

Reception in the Hall of Justice

When the lights come up again, we are in a Court of the Dead takes place in the Hall of Justice or "Maati" as the Egyptians called it. The candidate represents the soul of Cheres (pronounced KEY rees). According to Rex R. Hutchens, 33rd GC, Cheres was an architect from the land of Chemi or Khem.

Herodotus, the Greek geographer and historian, used the term Chemi for the land of Egypt. Chemi literally means "black" or "pupil of the eye". However the ancient Egyptians were not black-skinned like the Nubians or Ethiopians. For example, the Egyptians drew their women with yellow skin and men with red skin. It has therefore been suggested that Chemi (black) refers to the color of the soil, not the complexion of the people.

There were indeed black-skinned Pharaohs. The Kushites of the kingdom of Nubia lived further up the Nile, south of the Egyptians. They overthrew the natives and ruled over Egypt for more than 90 years, during a period known as the 25th Dynasty.

A Cast of Deities

With the exception of the Seneschal, Squire, and Candidate, all of the roles in the 31st degree are gods of some kind. Many of them are female.

There were literally hundreds of major, minor, and local deities worshipped at different times and places in Egypt. More than one deity is said to have created all the others. Some of the later deities were composites or combinations of two prior individual deities. Many of them were family members of other deities. Even a few humans became minor deities, such as Imhotep, the architect of the stepped pyramid and vizier to Pharaoh Djoser.

These Egyptian gods have speaking parts in the degree:

- Anubis — Jackal head. God of embalming and protector of the dead
- Atum — Creator god and solar deity
- Duamutef — Son of Horus
- Imsety — Son of Horus
- Isis — Goddess of motherhood, magic, fertility, healing, and rebirth
- Hapy — Son of Horus
- Horus — Falcon head. Linked with kingship, protection, and healing
- Kebehsenuf — Son of Horus
- Maat — Goddess of truth, justice, balance, and order
- Nephthys — Mistress of the house, sister and helper of Isis
- Osiris — God of death and the afterlife, ruler of the underworld

Thoth — Ibis head. Recorder of the gods and patron of scribes

These Egyptian gods are referred to in the degree but do not speak:

- Amun — Another form of the creator or sun god
- Amun Khem — Amun of Egypt, another name for the sun god
- Amun Ra — The Egyptian supreme being
- Khem — aka Horus the elder, generative power surviving death
- Kneph — God of the Nile river

Ptah — Creator of all other deities, his breath gives life to everything

Amen, Amun, Aten, Aton, Atum, and Ra are names for the creator god, sun god, and king of the other gods. When Amen, et. al. is combined with Ra, it refers to the supreme being of the Egyptians, an abstract entity. All the other deities, even Ra himself, being but emanations from him.

In addition to his other achievements, Ptah was also the patron of crafts-people and architects, and the inventor of masonry. Operative masonry, that is.

Next month, we will examine the ritual of the 31st degree and learn about the Scottish Rite interpretation of the ancient Egyptian Hall of Justice.

From the Secretary

Here we are at the end of another year. At the December meeting we will elect a new line of officers for the Valley. Thank you to those who served this year and to those who will take over in January.



We are down to about 30 members that still owe dues for 2021. Those who are not current or who don't contact me to make other arrangements will be suspended effective December 31st. We have been trying to contact you for months and you have had at least 5 mailings. It is now on you to take care of things.

When you move, we need for you to let us know. It isn't something that we magically get informed about. You can call, email, or go on the Supreme website and enter it yourself, but we need to be informed.

We are open for business, we have a beautiful Library with thousands of books, come down and take advantage off it. We have a beautiful member center with a big TV, pool table, card tables, poker chips, and other games, as well as some exercise equipment. Come down and take advantage of it. We are here everyday weekday till at least 3pm or if you want to make other arrangements just call and we can do so. It is yours as members so lets use it.

In the 1st quarter of next year we also have plans to build out the Cigar Lounge and to finish the last little bit of Flooring.

And finally, we will have the dates for the Spring Reunion next month. We plan on doing many more degrees so find some candidates and lets grow our Valley.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Guss Yell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Colton is a smart and engaging 7-year-old boy. He enjoys playing video games and going to school as a second grader. Colton is an inquisitive young man with a great memory. During the pandemic, Colton along with his father have worked to create inventions to help sterilize food, mail, masks, and other objects and clean the air. He is truly a young engineer.



The family first heard of the Scottish Rite Clinic from both a friend with a child who attended as well as a family friend. He first received speech and language therapy through Early Start and they knew he would need continued services after 3 years of age. Colton had a significant language delay and was barely talking at 3 years old. Colton was seen for in person treatment at 4 years old. He enjoyed therapy and saw it as a playdate. His parents began to note an increase in language skills. His language has grown so much now Colton's father says, "He argues the facts like a lawyer, he analyzes the story like a scientist. He asks a lot of questions. We get homework from his therapists and review it with him and place it on his bedroom wall. We began to see him gain confidence in his speech. We were once worried about his speech but now he's just like a chatterbox and doesn't stop."

After a break in services and therapist change, Colton began receiving services via telehealth. His mother stated, "Angela understands special needs kids and their weaknesses and enhances from there. She has a patient personality with a firm tone which helps his speech level increase."

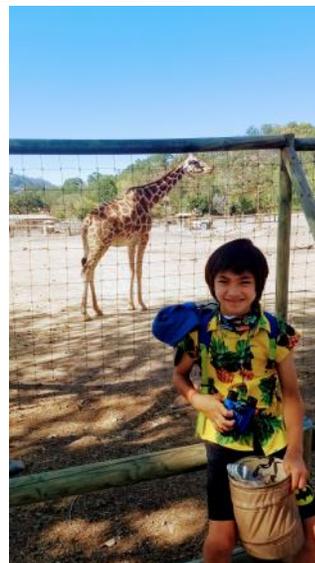
Colton is seen for individual visits, and he is also part of a social group. During his group visits he learns skills to promote social thinking and gets to use his speech and language to interact with peers. According to Colton's mother, "The social communication group is one of the most rewarding parts for Colton. His social skill deficits make him not want to talk to peers. He has learned new things like greetings and feelings. We have begun to see him chatting with peers at school instead of just adults without shyness and with confidence. He expresses his opinions well and passionately. Practicing feelings during the communication group is very powerful."

Treatment has focused on activities that target areas such as language development as well as social language and social thinking. Colton has worked on cognitive linguistic tasks such as making inferences, idioms, conditional directions, explaining what's wrong and predicting a story. Currently he is working

on problem solving, multiple meaning and sentence comprehension. Colton has worked hard developing his ability to take the perspective of others. He participates in activities where he determines what other people might be thinking, saying and why. We call these thought bubbles and speech bubbles.

In social group Colton has worked on feelings, conversational turns, personal space, body language, perspective taking, following group plans, whole body listening, greetings and interruptions. Colton is a great leader in group. He does a wonderful job participating and demonstrates a nice understanding of the concepts.

Colton's parents stated, "We really respect the Clinic's mission and appreciate the people who donate to the clinic funding to help special needs kids grow and prepare them to become useful civilians in the future. The speech therapists are all very professional and super patient to the clients and parents. They are very understanding of the special needs kid's behavior and are very accommodating. We really appreciate that the clinic gives clients a lot of opportunities/ flexible times to develop and grow."



Stated Meeting Menu Tuesday

December 14th 2021

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by December 10th)

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

- Assorted Appetizers
- Green Salad
- Ham
- Au Gratin Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Fresh Baked Bread
- Dessert

Continued from Page 4

to greater light, and it became one of the more important days in the Masonic calendar. It was reported that George Washington refused to miss attending the Masonic observance of St. John the Evangelist. Regardless of how or where it began, it is accepted that every regular and well-governed Lodge recognize and celebrate both days as a remembrance and recognition of our patron Saints. Typically celebrated with feasts, processions and regalia, the Holy Saints John are metaphoric pillars of our Lodge, for Saint John the Baptist is implied as the pillar beneath the earth and Saint John the Evangelist as the pillar beneath the heavens. They are our history and our legacy; they are our obligation to forever remember, explore and celebrate the boundaries of our faith". Masonic tradition informs us that

We recently completed the Roger Bibb Reunion and I believe it to have been quite a success. I hope many of you had the opportunity to attend and participate in this wonderful activity. We capped the new members as part of our November Stated Meeting Dinner Program and look forward to sharing their Scottish Rite travels. Plans are already being made for our 2022 reunion/s. Stay tuned for dates for your calendar.

Charles B Coe

The Personal Representative
And
The Venerable Master

of the
Scottish Rite Valley of San Jose

INVITE ALL FREEMASONS TO

A Night of Scottish Rite Instruction and Agape Dinner

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

6:30 PM - Social Gathering

7:00 PM - Speaker

7:30 PM - Festive Agape/Dinner

Cost \$25

Requested dress is white tie & tails, tux or dark suit & tie with SR Cap

NOTE:

Reservations are required
Please call the SJ Scottish Rite @ 408-978-7 483 or visit the office to make your reservations

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR RESERVATION/S Reservations not cancelled by December 2, 2021 must be honored.

Cash, personal check or credit card

III. Roger Bibb addresses our newest Brothers



Spring Reunion

Dates and Honoree will be announced next month



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."

		<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
<i>Candidate's Signature</i>	Degree Fee	\$200	\$200
1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME	Annual Dues	\$50	\$0 (For Current Year)
<i>1st Sponsor Signature</i>	Total Due:	<u>\$250</u>	<u>\$150</u>

2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME

2nd Sponsor Signature

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

(Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office)

Signature of authorized card holder



THE RITE WORD

2455 Masonic Drive
San Jose, CA 95125-2036

Phone: 408-978-7483

e-mail: mail@sanjosescottishrite.org

Periodicals
Postage

PAID

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

Tuesday December 7th ~ Night of Instruction 6:30 pm

White Tie, Tux or Dark Suit

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Annual Elections

Dress is Colors or Coat and Tie

Tuesday January 11th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Annual Installation of Officers

Dress is Formal Colors or Coat and Tie

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Sweat Hearts Dinner

Dress is Colors or Coat and Tie