



## The Rite Word

### From the Venerable Master

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal . . ." ; "it is the great parent of science & of virtue: and that a nation will be great in both, always in proportion as it is free"

~Thomas Jefferson

I have to say, these are among my favorite quotes of Jefferson, a perfect example of self-reference.

I think the concept of self – evidence is the classic 'I think, therefore I am' moment in time. You may have heard this as Cogito, ergo sum, which is the same in Latin, and coined by the French philosopher René Descartes in his Discourse on Method of 1637 as a first step in demonstrating the attainability of certain knowledge. In masonry we talk of Logic and Rhetoric. It is interesting that these topics also come up in the better parts of popular culture. Spock said in the first of the reboot movies "Doctor, you speak to me of Logic; Logic is the beginning of Wisdom not the end". Descartes argued the theory of innate knowledge and that all humans were born with knowledge was through the higher power of God. It was this theory of innate knowledge that was later combated by philosopher John Locke (1632–1704), an empiricist. Empiricism holds that all knowledge is acquired through experience. Also, worth noting that the three portraits in Thomas Jefferson's parlor room at Monticello are of John Locke, Isaac Newton, and Francis Bacon, the three of the great enlightenment thinkers. So, for me, it is again, the balance of what I was given in life and what I have learned though living it.

In October, I again had the privilege as Venerable Mas-



ter to meet and host one of the luminaries of Masonry, Grand Commander James Cole. I found him to be an interesting and engaging man. Like his predecessor, the Southern accent certainly implies charm and a particular validation of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. I have to say that the Valley of San Jose has again given me the chance to live the life as a Mason, that always thought Masonry was, and as should be.

This month is the annual Time Change, occurring on Sunday the 7th. The moment when suddenly all at once after the blissful extra hour of sleep in the morning, it is dark when I get home at the end of the day. It is always interesting to me how our biological clocks are geared to the rise and fall of the sun and as such our productivity. Jefferson, I quoted earlier and my favorite mason in belief and practice but who never attended lodge or took degrees, was quoted as saying "But whether I retire to bed early or late, I rise with the sun." A typical day for Jefferson started early. He told of a fifty-year period in which the sun had never caught him in bed; he rose as soon as he could read the hands of the clock kept directly opposite his bed. I wish I could be that good. This idea of changing the time was originally to save candles, conceived by another great Mason Benjamin Franklin in 1784 but didn't see widespread implementation until 150 years later at the height of the industrial revolution when the clock, not the sun assumed rule of our society. Time, always an interesting topic. I try to always take a minute now and then to understand its various nuances, but it is a fleeting thing.

Life and time are among the two best teachers. Life teaches us to make good use if time and time teaches us the value of life. ~ Unknown

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

Ill. Chuck Cowden 33°  
Bro. Kyle Burch 32°  
Bro. Brian Calverley 32°  
Bro. Robb Walker 32°  
Bro. Robert Pedersen 32°

### Rebuilding the Temple

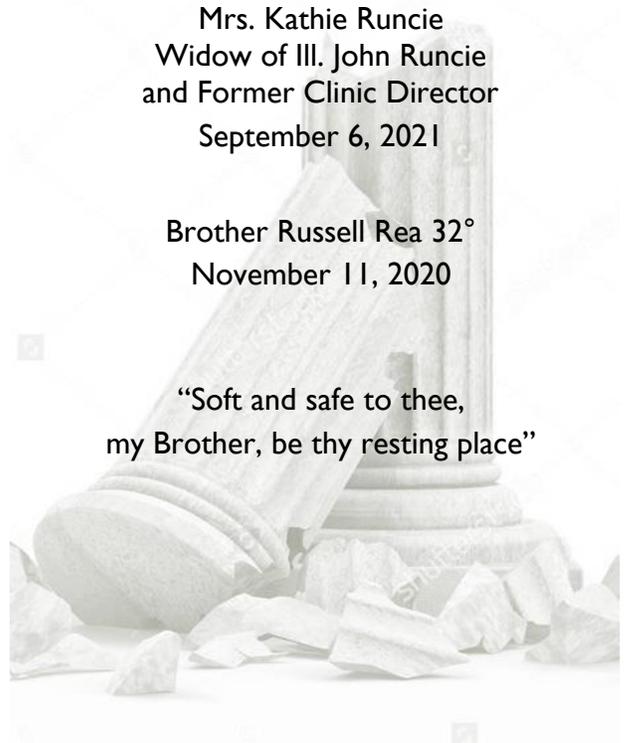
Bro. Robert Beeson

## Called From Labor

Mrs. Kathie Runcie  
Widow of Ill. John Runcie  
and Former Clinic Director  
September 6, 2021

Brother Russell Rea 32°  
November 11, 2020

"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**

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

**2021 - Chapter of Rose Croix**

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

**2021- Council of Kadosh**

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

**2021 San Jose Consistory**

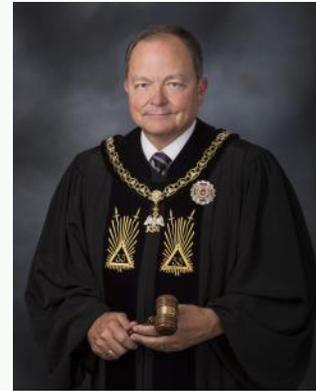
<b>Master of Kadosh</b>	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
<b>Prior</b>	Hon. John Unger 32° KCCH	408-489-8128
<b>Preceptor</b>	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
<b>Marshal of Ceremonies</b>	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
<b>Captain of the Guard</b>	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822

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<b>General Secretary</b>	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
<b>Treasurer</b>	TBD	
<b>Prelate</b>	Bro. Mark McEuen, 32°	408-251-3086
<b>Almoner</b>	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423
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<b>President</b>	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
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<b>Treasurer</b>	TBD	
<b>Director (exp 2022)</b>	Bro. Garrett Burrow, 32°	408-891-6746
<b>Director (exp 2022)</b>	Hon. Jeffory Toone, 32° KCCH	408-390-5016
<b>Director (exp 2023)</b>	Ill. Randy Downey 33°	408-674-8341
<b>Director (exp 2023)</b>	Bro. Toby Vanderbeek 32°	650-722-1669
<b>Director (exp 2021)</b>	Bro. Sean Patrick 32°	505-400-5805
<b>Director (exp 2021)</b>	Hon. Brandon Duenas 32°KCCH	408-763-7696
<b>Venerable Master</b>	Hon. Mark Burger, 32° KCCH	831-373-1094
<b>Wise Master</b>	Hon. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903
<b>Commander</b>	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
<b>Master of Kadosh</b>	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
<b>Asst. to the Personal Rep.</b>	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 PR**

Having recently completed our Fall Reunion, I want to personally congratulate our newest members. As well, I want to thank Ill Gregg Hall, 33°, and Ill Chuck Cowden, 33 ° for their leadership, and anyone who had anything to do with the Reunion. This was our first Reunion in over two years, and it came off magnificently! Our degree teams were sharp, and the stage crew, lighting and sound were right on the spot. Ill Dan Doornbos, 33° was unable to make most of the Reunion, and for the first time our Communicated Degrees were handled by Brothers Peter Cardilla 32° and David Kampschafer 32° who were outstanding in their duties. And lastly, a big thank you to Angela for the wonderful meals we enjoyed. **By any measure, the Reunion was a huge success!**



I truly wish I could end my article here, with all our successes, but sadly I must make one observation: Those of us who sit on the sidelines need to do better in the way we dress. Some of our members chose to attend the Reunion in jeans, sweat clothes or some other casual attire. My brothers, our Scottish Rite is no less important in the way we look than in our craft lodges and we need to present ourselves in a better light. Anytime we have a Stated Meeting or confer any of our degrees, the appropriate dress should always be a coat and tie; or at least a pair of slacks and a dress shirt. Please let me make it very clear, we always want you here, but not dressed down like you were going to a ball game. We owe our members better and ourselves better..... Please take heed.

**From the Commander of Kadosh**

I often respond to the question of what is Freemasonry with; “it is a philosophy”. Most often when the non- Masonic questioner hears this answer, they are somewhat stunned to hear my reply. I suspect that many Masons might not fully agree as well, thinking of our beautiful craft more as a social and charitable organization doing good work and striving to conduct ourselves by the three tenants of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Of course, they are right in that belief and I believe we do all that good work within the construct of a true philosophy



Time for a definition of philosophy:

“Quite literally, the term "philosophy" means, "**love of wisdom.**" In a broad sense, philosophy is an activity people undertake when they seek to understand fundamental truths about themselves, the world in which they live, and their relationships to the world and to each other”.

Reading this it is clear to me that our beloved Freemasonry is a philosophy in every sense. Worshipful Brother Walter L. Wilmshurst, in his book “The Meaning of Masonry” devoted a full chapter to exploring Masonry as a philosophy. I want to share one brief passage in which Brother Wilmshurst, in his subtle way, challenges the Brethren to think about this idea of the teachings and practices of the craft as a philosophy.

“ Masonry offers to those capable of appreciating it a working philosophy and practical rule of life. It discloses to us the scheme of the universe – a scheme once shattered and arrested, but left in the hands of humanity to restore. It indicates our place, purpose and our destiny in that universe. It is a great house of instruction and initiation into the mysteries of a larger life than the unenlightened worldling is as yet ripe for appreciating. I commend the aforementioned book to you should you want to further pursue this idea.

In November we celebrate and honor our military veterans. As part of our Stated Meeting, we will hold our event to do so. Join us that evening to recognize the service and sacrifices of two such veterans representing the Junior and Senior Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in our Valley area of interest.

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## From the Master of Kadosh

I wish everyone and their families are going to be in good health this coming holiday season so we can create more moments with the people we truly love and care for, may it be having a pint with a Brother, or having a piping hot cup of cocoa with the nephews, nieces, or grandkids while being embraced by a cozy warm blanket, or just by simply sharing a hearty Thanksgiving meal with loved ones. It is never too late to mend irregularities with personal relationships especially when it comes to family. It is unfortunate that we are not able to choose who our family is going to be, but we certainly are fortunate enough to be able to build everlasting relationships and meaningful memories with them. The red string of fate is eternal, we are bound together whether we like it or not and it transcends over mountains, oceans, and even through the sands of time.



When I was looking through my holiday wishlist, I am astounded on how much technology has evolved throughout the years, almost all of the basic everyday items that we all utilize today has a touchscreen interface of some sort, doing all these complex calculations in a split second, from telling you the weather, date, time, all while playing your favorite song on the background with the artist as the wallpaper on the App's homescreen. It reminded me of the time when I was reading about an ancient civilization that possibly invented math, science, units of measurement, and the like. Join me as we take a glimpse into "The Cradle of Civilization", Ancient Sumeria.

Blessed by the stars. Sumer is the earliest "confirmed" civilization in the historical region of Southern Mesopotamia, or now known as Southern Iraq. It emerged around the [Chalcolithic](#) and [early Bronze](#) Age between 7000 and 8000 years ago. I wouldn't hold my breath since I just talked about another ancient site several months ago called Gobekli Tepe, which hasn't yet been fully studied as of today, and that it still pre-dates Sumer.

The ancient Sumerians is said to have invented the 60-12 counting system that is used to measure hours, minutes and seconds to this day. The Sexagesimal system is also utilized in basic math and geometry measuring angles in degrees. The ancient Sumerians are also the creators of the very first writing system we know today as Cuneiform, which is an advanced system also utilizing picto

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## From the Wise Master

Many in the Scottish Rite dismiss the Frank Judge in the 30<sup>th</sup> degree as being unimportant; as he does not have a vow for the Aspirant. I view him as being the one person who lays out the mission for a new Knight Kadosh (Holy Knight).



First off, Frank Judge is extremely honest. He makes sure that the aspirant is of pure intentions and is of the mission to detest wrong and oppression. He states right off that they are the successors of the secret stern frank judges who condemned even kings. Obviously the past and present are different as the original mission of the Knights and the purposes of the old vows were to cover a different period in time: Perhaps a time when the Knights Kadosh provide some of that tyranny and oppression that this degree now takes on as a knights new mission to eradicate.

The Frank Judge says to the chaplain, "You know that we admit among us only those persons whose integrity, whose unsullied reputation, whose unimpeachable honesty and whose honor lift them above the mass of mankind. Their courage, zeal and fidelity make it impossible to doubt or distrust them. Free of prejudice and improper information they are prepared to labor in the great works of a Knight Kadosh".

Let's examine that. These knights have pure reputations, pure intentions, their word is never in question and their respectability will always shine. Prejudice and improper information are learned concepts; teachers can influence children in this way. These Knights must base every aspect of their thought on true facts only in order to maintain these qualities.

The Frank Judges then take a vote on whether this aspirant will be allowed to proceed based on

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## Thirtieth Degree, Knight Kadosh — Part 2

In the previous article, we learned about the work Kadosh, and accompanied the Aspirant through the first and second apartments, where he experienced the lessons and took his first two vows. When we left the Aspirant, the Commander had just said to him, "But one trial remains. I place you in the charge of the Chaplain, for that which awaits you can give no hope but God's eternal mercy."

The Herald places a black veil over the Aspirant's head and conducts him to the door of the Third Apartment. The Chaplain gives an alarm of two claps three times, followed by a single clap.

### Third Apartment

The Third Apartment is the courtroom of the Frank Judges, whose secret tribunal, among other things, evaluates individual who aspire to become Knights Kadosh. Each Judge is clothed in a long black robe, a black hood, and a black veil over his face.

The idea of the Frank Judges is based on the Vehmic courts of Westphalia region of Germany during the later Middle Ages. They were run by a collection of lay judges known as "free judges". In French, they were called "francs-juges", which is where we get the term "frank". Their authority came from the Holy Roman Emperor. We learned about them in the 21st Degree.

The Herald places him in the center of the room. The Supreme Judge addresses the Aspirant by name, "Constans, how great must be your temerity to seek admission to this Order and suffer the ordeal of the Frank Judges!" You will recall that Constans was the name of the Candidate in the 28th degree. The Frank Judges already know who Constans is. What else might they know about him?

The Chaplain asks the Judges to look with favor on Constans, who, after fair warning and mature reflection, made the necessary vows (of knighthood). The Supreme Judge is not convinced. He asks whether the Aspirant is so confident of his purity of his intentions that he feels no fear of standing before the Judges. Constans probably feels plenty of fear that he might be unable to convince the Judges he is worthy.

The Supreme Judge reminds the Chaplain that only whose qualities lift them above the mass of mankind are admitted to become Knights Kadosh. The courage, zeal, and fidelity of such individuals make it impossible to distrust them. Being free from prejudices and improper influences, they are prepared to labor in the great work of the Knights Kadosh.

He adds, "Many, my brother, are called but few are chosen". (See Matthew 22:11-14) "Many faint on the way, and many wander from it and are lost." He asks the Chaplain whether he is sufficiently acquainted with Constans to know that he possesses the necessary qualifications. Finally he warns, "If not, beware! You know what danger you both would incur." He does not say what the danger is.

The Chaplain notes how Constans has been warned repeatedly and had opportunity to drop out. He heard the pledges and vows, and witnessed his resolution to proceed. That is why the Chaplain brought him before the Judges, knowingly and willingly accepting

responsibility for the consequences.

The Supreme Judge accepts the Chaplain's appeal. But warns him again not to complain should "the terrible penalty" be incurred and pronounced on both of them. He then directs the Aspirant to uncover his face, kneel, and look upon his Judges, waiting submissively as they pass sentence upon him.

The Supreme Judge asks the other Judges if the Aspirant shall be permitted to proceed. Each Judge whispers his vote to the Supreme Judge. It turns out that one Judge voted NO. If the vote stands, the Aspirant is thereby condemned.

The Supreme Judge offer the dissenting Judge a chance to explain his vote. He expresses his fear that Constans might entertain opinions that are unmasonic, that he might be religiously intolerant, willing to tolerate old abuses, and that his progress in Masonry has been too fast. He demands the Aspirant make a general profession of faith in Masonry, Religion, and Politics. Without it, the no vote stands.

The Chaplain covers Constans' head and escorts him out of the Judge's room to prepare his profession in writing.

### Profession of Faith

A profession of faith is a public statement of one's beliefs. Christians had them since New Testament times, "...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved". (See Romans 10:9) Later versions include the Nicene Creed or the traditions of the particular church you might belong to. The Muslim's profession of faith is the Shahada: "I bear witness that there is no god but God, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of God".

The Knights Kadosh have their own profession of faith, printed ahead of time for everyone's convenience. Constans reads it: "Supreme and Frank Judges, I Constans, declare that in matters Masonic, Political, and Religious, my beliefs are as follows:

- Masonic — I believe in being a true Brother, in the performance of duty, in subduing my passions, and in aspiring to virtue.
- Political — I believe in being a loyal and peaceable citizen, and in government by the consent of the governed, with equal treatment for all.
- Religious — I believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, of infinite Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge, One Who loves us all and desires our obedience."

After all have heard the Aspirant's profession of faith, the Supreme Judge calls for a new vote and asks the Chaplain to bring Constans back into the room. Then he gives the verdict, "The Frank Judges have decided that your profession of faith befits the character of a Knight Kadosh and refutes the suspicion (of the Judge who voted NO) against you. Constans is good to go.

## Fourth Apartment

After hearing from the Supreme Judge, the Master of Ceremonies (MC) presents Aspirant Constans and the members of the reunion class to the Preceptor. The MC explains that the Aspirants are men, their rights are expressed by the Hebrew word "Meshtar", meaning they possess a commanding quality and manner.

The Preceptor is not impressed. He responds, "Sir Master of Ceremonies, the word "man" expresses no claim of right to enter here, and those who come are to obey and not to govern."

The MC then uses the Latin word "Vir" (pronounced: weer) to explain what he means by a man. Vir means a man you can depend on, who is intellectually an adult, free from childish notions, capable of distinguishing the truth, and mature enough to follow it. "His empire is over himself. He has overcome the fear of death and sacrificed his weaknesses and passions on the altar of Masonry".

The Preceptor, more confident with this definition, says, "If he be such a man, let him kneel before the mausoleum erected to the memory of one dear to us". On the screen again appears the statement, "He who overcomes the dread of death shall ascend above the terrestrial sphere and be entitled to initiation into the Greater Mysteries."

The Preceptor points out three mysterious characters below the statement, which translate to J. B. M., the initials of three secret words in the Symbolic (Blue Lodge) Degrees. The three letters also stand for "Jacobus Burgundus Molensis", the Latinized name of Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Order of Knights Templar, who sacrificed his life rather than compromise his integrity or deny the truth.

The Preceptor asks the Aspirant if he is willing to accept such a demand on his life. He responds, "I am". Then the Preceptor directs the MC to conduct the Aspirant to the Mysterious Ladder of Kadosh.

### The Mysterious Ladder of Kadosh

Think back to the story of the patriarch Jacob, who stopped to rest at Bethel and had a dream of a "ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it." (See Genesis 28:10-22) The ladder or staircase is symbolic of the connection between Heaven and Earth. It represents progress, ascension, and spiritual passage through the levels of initiation. In the Bible, Jacob's ladder established contact between mankind and God.

The Mysterious Ladder of Kadosh is a two-sided A-frame design with seven steps on each side. On one side, the steps are named after the seven liberal arts and sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy that we learned about in the Fellowcraft degree.

On the other side, starting at the bottom are: Justice, Perfect Equity, Amiability, Good Faith, Great Labor, Endurance, and Elaboration, Intelligence, and Understanding. On one post is written "Love of God", and the other "Love of Neighbor".

The First Sub-Preceptor (Number 2 officer) explains that Love of

God and Love of Neighbor are the two pillars of morality and virtue. They bring to mind the story of the lawyer and Jesus of Nazareth. (See Luke 10:25-27 and compare Matthew 22:34-40)

The First Sub-Preceptor then has the Aspirant stand on the first step of the ladder and explains Justice. To be just and true is the basis of all virtue and excellence. The next step is Perfect Equity. Justice does not require that we punish all offenses against us nor that any wrongful acts go unpunished. God requires us to forgive all men but He forgives whom He will. (See Matthew 6:14-15)

The third step is Amiability, meaning the quality that makes us beloved by others and the spring from which mercy flows. Next is Good Faith, referring to being a man of your word. It relates to the Hebrew word "Emunah", which means "faithfulness". We get our word "Amen" from it.

Step five is Great Labor, referring to attain any great work or good purpose requires unceasing labor and constant labor. The next step is Endurance, a necessary virtue in a world filled with apathy. If you conceive of a great idea, few will appreciate it, fewer will become interested, and fewer still will endeavor to help you reach it.

The final step is Elaboration, Intelligence, and Understanding. Taken together, these words mean that a Knight Kadosh is not content with the mere routine of duty, but strives to attain excellence and do his whole duty in the most perfect manner.

At this point, the Aspirant is standing at the top of the ladder. The Preceptor reminds him of the maxim, "Let him who stands, take heed lest he fall". (See I Corinthians 10:12) He continues, "If we have practiced the virtues and studied the philosophy inculcated in the words of this mystic ladder, whatever sea of misfortunes may overwhelm us, we will be able to bear patiently the storm".

The Preceptor has the Aspirant descend the steps on the other side of the ladder while the Second Sub-Preceptor (Number 3 officer) briefly comments on them. He adds, "We caution you not to forget the lessons of one degree simply because you have received another".

At this juncture, the Preceptor has the Officers kneel in a semi-circle in front of the mausoleum. The he offers a prayer. After the prayer, he requires the Aspirant to take his third vow.

### The Third Vow

The Preceptor instructs the Aspirant to listen to the third vow: "I solemnly promise and vow that I will ever revere the memory of those who died for the cause of truth and the liberation of humanity from the kingdom of repression. If need be, I will imitate their loyalty, remembering always the example of Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Order of Knights Templar.

"I furthermore promise and vow that I will contribute to the propagation and diffusion of enlightened ideas and will strive to secure for my Brethren the legal sovereignty of the people. I furthermore promise and vow that I will defend the right of every Brother to practice his religion or advocate his political persuasion. Amen."

The Preceptor asks the Aspirant, "Do you assent?" He responds, "I do". The MC conducts the Aspirant to a table, on which lies a skull, a silver cup, a crown, and a cross.

Then the Preceptor has the Brethren and Knights stand and places the Aspirant's hand on the skull, and says, "We all enter life in the same manner... Who can tell us of whose body this relic (the skull) was a part? We do not know if he was rich or poor... He may have been illustrious by his virtues or infamous by his crimes... The Knights Kadosh all drink from the same cup of equality, and they break the bread of fraternity together to never forget these sad truths."

At this point, the MC breaks a loaf of bread and gives pieces of it first to the Aspirant and then to members of the class. Next he fills the silver cup, usually with fruit juice, and passes it to the Aspirant and the class. When all have participated, the Preceptor continues:

Holding up the crown, he says, "This crown does not represent a government to which any of us owe allegiance. It is rather that of the tyrants and cowards who abuse their sovereignty and usurp power to the detriment of others." He puts down the crown and picks up a dagger and holds it over his head, crying, "May tyranny perish from the earth!" The Officers draw their daggers and repeat the same.

The Preceptor puts down the dagger and picks up the cross, saying, "This cross does not represent a beneficent religious power to which any of us owe allegiance. As it sat next to the crown (on the table), it represented the union of church and state — a condition which, history tells us, is fraught with peril. To affirm our belief in the total separation of church and state, we now place this cross in a place of honor, where it is uncorrupted by the temptations of temporal authority."

He places the cross on a separate table, beside the symbols of various other world religions, then continues, "Do not make the mistake, my Brother, of assuming that by this act we deem all religions equal. Your personal beliefs are yours alone, and we do not interfere with your beliefs or the beliefs of others."

The Preceptor again raises a dagger over his head and cries, "May intolerance cease to curse mankind!" The Officers draw their daggers and repeat the same.

Then the Preceptor asks the MC, "Sir Master of Ceremonies, with what shall we replace the crown as a symbol of political authority?" He answers, "The Roman cap of liberty." The MC replaces the crown with the cap.

Next the Preceptor asks the MC, "Sir Master of Ceremonies, what shall add to the cross?" He answers, "The shepherd's crook of faith." The MC places the crook next to the cross and the other religious symbols.

Finally, the Preceptor exclaims, "The people! Sovereign over institu-

tions! The Good Shepherd, who teaches and persuades! We are about to receive you into our bosom..."

He directs the Aspirant to kneel. While touching him on the head, right shoulder, and left shoulder with the flat of the sword blade, he says, "To the glory of the Great Architect of the Universe and under the auspices of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, I do create, constitute, and receive you a Knight Kadosh of the White and Black Eagle and one of the poor Fellow-Soldiery of the Temple of Solomon."

The Preceptor has everyone sit down. He then describes a sign of the Order. Raise a dagger above your head as if to strike. The accompanying words are "Nekam Adonai" (pronounced ney-KAM ah-doe-NAI), which means "Vengeance is Thine, O Lord".

With help from the MC, the Preceptor demonstrates the grip: One Knight stands with his right hand out, the fingers curled in and the thumb extended vertically. Another Knight grasps the thumb of the first, with his fingers curled in and thumb raised. The leaves nine digits showing, which represent the nine knights of the original Knights Templar as well as the nine Elus who sought the murderers of the Master Hiram.

At this point, the MC draws and raises his sword, and proclaims that the Aspirant, addressed as "Sir" followed by his given name, and all members of the class are duly created, received, and constituted Knights Kadosh of the White and Black Eagle and one of the poor Fellow-Soldiery of the Temple of Solomon.

Finally, the Orator gives a lecture about the meaning of the Hebrew word "Kadosh" and how it was used. Then he brings up the design of the Great Masonic Camp, which at this point consists of a pentagon within a heptagon within a nonagon. The 30th Degree adds a triangle within the pentagon, which signified how all knightly virtues are but the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.



We first heard about speech services offered through the Scottish Rite from another parent on Nextdoor when I first started our journey once my son was diagnosed with Autism. We were on the waiting list for some time before Alisha reached out to us. Honestly, Alisha has been such a blessing in our lives. She really connected with my son, which can be tough. She always has an amazing attitude, makes things fun and interactive even with the added stress of zoom. My son has made tremendous strides. He has gone from barely verbal to where we can't keep him quiet. It has been a constant in his life and has helped him grow in so many areas especially with his peers and at school. I absolutely would recommend your services to anyone looking to get their child help. We are a one income family and insurance wasn't helping out much so this was a huge find for us. We are incredibly grateful for Alisha's dedication and care for our son.

Thank you,

Hayman Family



### From the Secretary

Congratulations to our 3 newest members who recently went through the Reunion. And thank you to all those who attended and put on the various degrees and communications.



We had a great visit from the Grand Commander in October. Those of you who missed it missed a great evening. We are back at the Valley of San Jose, Please make it a point to come down and join us and enjoy the newly renovated facility.

November will see us celebrate our Armed Forces. In December we will hold our Annual Elections, and hold a night of Instruction, and In January a new slate of Officers will be installed.

A dues reminder will hit mail boxes in November. If you paid after October 15th you will get one, just ignore it if you have already paid. If you haven't paid, please take the opportunity to do so.

There are also still 37 of you that haven't paid for 2021. You will be receiving calls shortly. Please take care of this as you will be suspended on December 31st if you haven't taken care of your obligation or contacted me to arrange relief.

Finally, attendance has been down since we started meeting in person again. We spent a lot of time and money improving the building so that it was a nice place for our members to come to. Please come down and take a look, come to the stated meeting and events. Come down and watch football on the 85 inch TV in the Member Center. Its your Scottish Rite, you joined and you pay your dues every year. Why not get some value out of it.

### From the Chief Knight

Hope all is well with all of you.

The Knights of St. Andrew are in full swing again. With that being said. If any lodge would like KSA to perform flag detail for either a Hiram Award or any other event please let us know.



Within a couple of months lodge installations will be starting up, and you would like KSA to do the flag detail please let us know so that we can put it on our calendar. You can text me on my cell at (669) 888-6423. We hope to hear from all of you soon.

*Kaleo Dagne*

*Gary Hall*

# Stated Meeting Menu Tuesday

## November 9th 2021

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by November 5th )

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

- Assorted Appetizers
- Green Salad
- Turkey
- Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Vegetables
- Dessert

### Commander Continued.

We will also recognize our members who have served and continue to serve in so many important ways.

On December 7, the PR and VM will co-host our Scottish Rite Night of Instruction and Agape Dinner. This is a Brothers only event open to all Freemasons. All the information about this event is in the Rite Word. Please join us for this night of instruction, brotherly love, great food and drink.



Ill. Nagel, MW Jeff Wilkins, Ill James Cole and Ill. Frank Loui



### Wise Master Continued

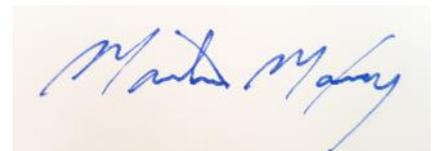
these criteria: “Remember here that neither friendship nor hatred enters, nor favor, nor partiality, nor prejudice.” This is very messianic in its base. Who among you would be able to judge a person or situation and avoid any of these temptations?

The aspirant is asked to voice his opinions in matters Masonic, religious and political. The Frank Judges look at these opinions only so far as to see that they are consistent with reverential love for the Deity, affection for their fellow men, regard for their rights and detestation of imposture and tyranny. The Frank Judge states that beyond this they have no right to ask what you believe. In this viewing of the aspirant’s statement the judges are looking for that connection to God and man and the personal mission of the aspirant to be prepared to raise his sword against tyranny and oppression.

The Frank Judge ends by telling the aspirant the new goal of a Knight Kadosh is to be distinguished among Masons and enrolled among the benefactors of Mankind. Our job is to seek to have a place in heaven through being a Holy Knight.

As I have, many times, publicly raised my sword against what is happening in the world today. I can only raise it to protect the constitution I know. Our constitution has contingencies built into it and has no contradictions; as one brother stated it did. My personal view now is that people in big social communication companies are cutting off the expressions and views of many Americans via censorship. Anyone who agrees with this process should perhaps consider China as a place of residence. Germany in 1936 would have been a great place for these censor types and believers in such. .To me Nazi history is repeating itself here in America and the people will not know what hit them until it is too late.

I love this degree as it taught me a lot about how to live and to recognize improper information by lack of facts (imposture).



graphs which have symbols that is equivalent to multiple sentences just like the Emoji's we have on our smartphones.

We knew nothing about the ancient Sumerians until about 150 years ago when a massive cache of clay tablets were discovered on modern day Mosul, Iraq on the ancient site of the library of Ashurbanipal, where more than 30,000+ clay tablets were found along with cylindrical seals that were used to reproduce these ancient tablets. One of these tablets contained the Epic of Gilgamesh. One could speculate that this is an early form of the printing press. This is also the same site where the winged-bulls or Lamassu were discovered which is said to be a depiction of a mythological hybrid of half-man, half-bull with wings, which is reminiscent of the Sphinx in Egypt depicting half-man, half-lion, or the Centaurs from the Greek mythology consisting of half-man and half-horse. Some of the clay tablets refer to the Lamassu as the Annunaki or sky gods, there has been heavy debate regarding this topic in the scientific community, so I'm just going to leave it at that.

There is so much information contained in the clay tablets, including instructions for glass-making, the invention of the wheel, sail boats, and it even set the platform for early agriculture with the invention of the plough and seed-sowing implements. It was also illustrated on the clay tablets that they were utilizing canals for irrigation and sewage management. They also depicted advanced trade routes that pre-date the Silk road at about 3000 years prior.

There are also some clay tablets that illustrated more than 20+ musical instruments, usage of jewelry and make-up, and also annotated more than 500+ recipes of craft beer. It also mentioned schools for the privileged who were able to learn to scribe for themselves. The earliest known documented contracts are also contained within these clay tablets. The Sumerians credited all their vast accumulated knowledge not to any king or priest unlike other cultures, but rather, to the Annunaki. If you are interested to know more about this topic, look at the works of Zecharia Sitchin who has a different perspective regarding this topic.

The wealth of knowledge contained within these clay tablets go beyond the expectations of the modern man, and it is far too vast to discuss on a single article such as this one. From advanced calculations in astronomy to documentation of past cataclysmic events, one can only observe and speculate.



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

Roger Bibb 33° Reunion Class





## 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.\*

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

### **Tuesday November 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm**

Military Recognition Night

Council Opens

Dress is Colors or Coat and Tie

### **Tuesday November 23rd ~ Foundation Meeting 6:00 pm**

### **Tuesday November 23rd ~ All Officer Meeting 7:00 pm**

### **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