



The Rite Word

From the Personal Representative

Happy New Years to all and welcome to 2021!

Well, is it just me, or **WHEW!!!!**

Every day is precious (Grand and Glorious in every respect), and we give thanks to God for each and every one, but this past year has been tough.

Our Valley started this past year on a happy and exciting note with the Installation of new officers. We had a couple of events early in the year, and as all are painfully aware, we came to a screeching halt. Since the middle of March there have been no fraternal gatherings of any kind.

From the first line of Charles' Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". It is true that our traditional meetings and events did not take place, but despite all that, we had many successes.

Our clinicians continued to give valuable care to our children in their speech therapy, but it was all through video therapy. As it turned out, parents had to be more involved, a bi-product that



has turned out to be even better therapy that we thought it might. ___ children were treated throughout this past year. We added back, a third clinician, Angela Stephens who worked for us in past. She had been working with video therapy before the pandemic hit, and she was excited about adding some our kids to her list of patients. As well, this has alleviated some of our wait list of kids that might not have been treated otherwise.

We were able to initiate 12 new members this last month, again in a state-wide video "Virtual" setting. It was tremendously successful, and most valleys throughout the state brought in new candidates of their own.

We were able to recognize a graduating senior and again awarded a \$10,000 four-year scholarship to her.

In May, we negotiated a one-year contract with Amazon, who are now leasing 280 of our parking spots for their delivery vans and employees. The funds derived from this contract are almost 2 ½ times what we could bring in with our rental program in the building. And we didn't need extra manpower, janitorial supplies or wear and tear on the building. They use the parking lot with nothing needed from us. They

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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.

2021 Honor Roll

Bro. Neofito Santos 32°

III. Richard Fisher 33°

III. Durward Ayer 33°

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. Joseph Murdock 32°

Bro. John Casey 32°

Hsin-I Chen

Bro. Peter Anderson 32°

III. Daniel Doornboss 33°

Bro. Jason Fagan 32°

Bro. William Gunnells 32°

Bro. Gilbert Pitt 32°

Bro. Brian Calverley 32°

In Memory of
III and MW Leo B Mark
Edna Morgan



Called From Labor

Bro. Wayne Thompson 32°

November 27, 2020

Bro. Gary Brandenburg 32°

November 28, 2020

Bro. Frank Guidon 32°

November 17, 2020

III. Hershel Amos 33°

December 17, 2021

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



2021 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	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°	408-275-6326
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

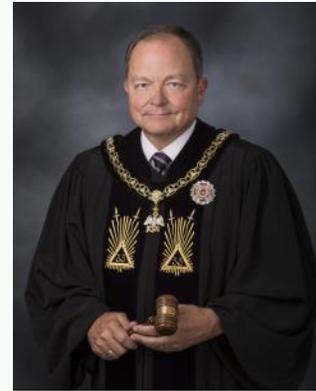
Master of Kadosh	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
Prior	Hon. John Unger 32° KCCH	408-489-8128
Preceptor	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
Marshal of Ceremonies	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Captain of the Guard	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822

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	Hon. Gregg Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Treasurer	Bro. Rick Qiu 32°	408-420-8173
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	Hon. Gregg Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Treasurer	Bro. Rick Qiu, 32°	408-420-8173
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	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	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.

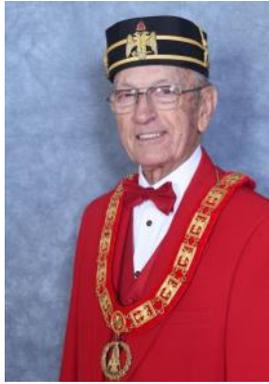


Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General in California,
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

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
My Brethren:**

As this year comes to an end, and it was a very weird one, covid-19 and counting. It was an Honor and a Privilege to serve you as your Wise Master. I sincerely want to thank the Rose Croix Officers in the line for their support, even though it was virtually. You were always there for the Meetings. Honorable Martin Maxey 32 Deg. KCCH. Tim Lynch 32 Deg. ILL. Randy Downey 33 Deg. And Laurentiu Murgu 32 Deg. I congratulate the new Officers for 2021. I hope you will be able to have some physically attended Stated Meetings. To the outgoing Leaders of the Three other Bodies, it was a pleasure to serve with you.



In December we had Elections for the New Incoming Leaders for the four Bodies of Scottish Rite. All were elected. Congratulations to the Brethren who will serve the Valley in 2021. On our January 12th Stated Meeting, we will be Installing the New Leaders for the Valley's four Bodies, again congratulations to all of you.

As we enter the Holliday Season, I want to wish all my Brethren and Families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021 New Year. My Prayers are that hopefully sometime in 2021 we will be able to meet again. On last Tibit.

Until a man learns to pray for himself, he cannot hope to learn the supreme Masonic secret. It is through prayer, and through living what Freenasonry teaches, that this secret will come to life. Through these teachings the Mason will put into practice the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. In doing so, he will develop his character and personality in the image of the Great Architect of the Universe.

May you always have Love to share, Health to Spare, and Friends who care. May you be Blessed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Art Pasquonelli".

From the Commander of Kadosh

This is my last article as Commander of the Council of Kadosh. There is not much to report on my term of office except WOW!



The incoming presiding officers of the Bodies should have a better 2021 than the outgoing officers had in 2020. I hope the months of social isolation will show people the value of fraternal association and be an encouragement to consider joining our Masonic fraternal organizations.

The New Year is coming but January 1 has not always been observed as the first day of a new year as our Orator, the Honorable David Kimball, explained at our last meeting.

The earliest recorded celebrations of the new year go back to ancient Babylon 4000 years ago. They observed it at the first new moon following the vernal equinox. Sounds a bit like how we observe Easter.

Past civilizations have used agricultural and astronomical events to mark the new year. The Egyptians used the annual flooding of the Nile for their new year while the Chinese celebrated it at the second new moon after the winter solstice. As I mentioned a few months back, following the French Revolution, France observed September 1 as their new year.

Medieval Europe temporarily replaced the first day of the new year, January 1, with December 25 (Jesus' birth) (winter solstice) and March 25 (Feast of the Annunciation) (vernal equinox). It has been said the early Christian church moved some observances to coincide with pagan festivals in order to gain converts. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as the first day of the new year.

Our American new year traditions include eating "Hoppin' John" for good luck, singing "Auld Lang Syne" and dropping the ball at Times Square.

From a Masonic standpoint, the best suggestion how to start the new year comes from a non-Mason, the founder of The Old Farmer's Almanac, Robert B. Thomas "**Begin the new year square with every man**".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill M. Fiel".

From the Master of Kadosh

I have always liked the movies and plays and watched some of them repeatedly. It is one of my fascinations and original interests in Masonry. For example I have watched the video "Midway" and other war and classical movies in continuous detail of the script and of each actor's movements and wording in order to try and learn the proper way of making a successful presentation and movie production. I think I have won the Battle of "Midway" with Nimitz, Spruance and Charlton Heston more than 30 times, and each time I find additional artistic nuances and helpful guides whenever I am listening to or speaking to others. I try and emulate these thoughts and actions.

I remember years ago when I was "Sound Manager" for the 'Silver Masque' theatrical group for 4 years at Northeastern U. Many of these details were important to my function for the semi-annual plays. Several of the student actors went on to become movie and television stars and others into Hollywood executive and administrative positions. I never thought I would ever end up here in California let alone in Free Masonry, or Mountain View, Los Altos, Eastern Star, Past Masters Assn., Sciots, Research Lodge, Scottish Rite or here in Penn Valley, Grass Valley, and Nevada City... What a trip!

My original families came to Boston from Kaiserslautern in Germany in the mid 1880's; and in the mid 1905's from the Ukraine. The Bleiler part was Masonic and they got to know "everybody" in Boston. I still remember when I was only 3 years old and they gave me a little lamb to show-off at the yearly exhibit on the Boston Commons. I didn't know it then, and not until much later, that they always had good fraternal hopes for me as a man, and that they had always guided my life and career thru their friends and contacts. But back then the "Craft membership" was a real operative "secret".

The friendships I have made here with you all will not be forgotten and to each one I want to express my sincere appreciation for all the help and understanding you have given me here during these years. My best wishes go to the new 'line officers' at the San Jose Scottish Rite and to MW Ken Nagel, Bud Ramsey, Gregg Hall, Angela and Staff; and to Randy Downey, Brandon Duenas and all of the volunteers who have kept our San Jose Scottish Rite craft a wonderful example and source of Masonic Fraternalism.



Dell Bleiler

From the Chief Knight

Dear Brethren, Family and Friends,

What a year 2020 has turned out to be! In reflection for the Rite Word two simple words come to mind, *gratefulness* and *blessings*.

I first asked myself, "What blessings? What should I be grateful for?" In a year of a pandemic, I, as many of you, have brothers and friends that have either gotten sick or passed away. Economic hardships are hitting families, and communities, and there is constant negativity on social media. I step back with much contemplation and meditation to find hidden beauty in all of this.

Gratefulness. As I reflect, I become grateful for my masonic family. Despite our physical absence from each other for over 10 months, our Zoom calls during the monthly stated meetings remind me that none of you are very far away. I have all of you to depend on and I know that you love me and my husband unconditionally. This is why I am grateful.

Blessings. You may be thinking, "What blessings can a pandemic provide?!" Let's be honest, this is a difficult one! What I have realized is COVID-19 gave me the opportunity to appreciate all of my brethren and family. During Thanksgiving, it was nice just to sit with a small group of family members and reconnect. What a blessing to be able to appreciate what's right in front of me.

With renewed resolve, and on behalf of the Knights of St. Andrew, I would like to announce and congratulate the upcoming Officer Line for 2021:

Chief Knight of the Realm- Brother Kaleo Gagne 32°

First Knight- Brother Mike Lammer 32°

Knight of the Watch- Past Chief Knight Naresh Rampershad 32°

Secretary- Brother Angelo Encarnacion 32°

Our officers recognize that the chapter is only possible through those who come before us, and to those we are grateful. If you, or know of another, who served as a past Chief Knights for KSA San Jose, please let us know. We are gathering names and years to fill our commemorative history.

We also want to remind all of the Knights of St. Andrew that we are having monthly Zoom Meetings, and you are all invited. Look out for the Zoom information in your email.

If any of you need anything please do not hesitate to contact us at sjscottishriteksa@gmail.com. We strive to do what we can to help all of you during this time.

Finally as the year comes to a close, please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing you all in 2021! Happy Holidays!



Kaleo Gagne

From the Venerable Master

Brethren,

2020 is past us. A year, that I would call “bizarre”. It created challenges. Yet, society, and Masonry in particular survived. It was a year that inspired creativity.

Creativity in how to manage our lives, prepare for even tougher times that luckily did not happen. Some panicked, creating artificial shortages, but I think most of us managed to get past that and help others where possible. Some Lodges were offering supplies and exchange programs. The spirit of Masonry in tough times.

Creativity in how to communicate. After realization that this is not a short little while to breeze through, we managed to get everyone educated about modern ways to meet “virtually”, and have established a program that seems to scale to that medium, rather than a physical presence. There are benefits that we have experienced: members that cannot easily travel due to distance or health were able to participate. I would hope that we will continue to use this technology in the future, after this pandemic is over.

Creativity in how to overcome social distancing over the Holidays. Some Lodges and Appendant Bodies organized social gatherings for Thanks Giving, Christmas and New Year, for everyone to join, chat, laugh, and have a good time with a cup of tea, mulled wine or other favorite.

I am sending a big “Thank You!” to the officers of this year, of the bodies and the board. Attending the virtual meetings allowed for execution. While it was a challenging year from an operations perspective, it allowed for creativity in the building renovation. It is amazing to see what was possible to do. Thank you to all the volunteers that were able to contribute time and labor.

I wish the newly elected slate of officers of 2021 all the best. I am sure we'll see further improvements how we will deal with this situation, but hope is out that we are over the hump, that social life in person will resurrect. While life will not be the same as a year ago, we will benefit from the lessons learned, and see an improved life for us as a society in general, and us as Masons in particular.

Happy New Year to all, whithersoever dispersed around the globe,



Twenty Sixth Degree — Prince of Mercy

We were introduced to the Hebrew mysteries in the 24th Degree, followed by the Islamic mysteries in the 25th. In this Degree, we explore the Christian mysteries. By way of review, these three degrees posit that religions are the basic level of spiritual learning. The mysteries are the advanced level. As we experience the mysteries, we must elevate our ways of thinking about things, and mentally exchange absolutes for possibilities.

Bodies of the 26th Degree are called Chapters. The colors of a Chapter of Princes of Mercy are red, white, and green. They are seen in the hangings of the room and the Venerable Chief's tunic. The altar is triangular. We will learn more about it shortly.

The presiding officer is the Venerable Chief (VC). At the beginning of the conferral, he explains to the candidate that the Chapter represents a meeting of Christian Masons that meets at night in the catacombs under the city of Rome during the reign of Emperor Domitian.

A Little History

Since Roman times, there is a series of underground tombs or catacombs under the city of Rome. Before the Christian religion became legal in 313 CE, potential converts had to study in secret, and the catacombs were an ideal place. These students were known as catechumens. The material they studied was called a catechism. After a Mason receives a degree, if he elects to learn the full-form proficiency, he memorizes a catechism, which is a series of questions and answers.

Domitian was the younger brother of Titus, who led the Roman 10th Legion in its sack of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. Domitian believed the Roman Empire should be governed as a divine monarchy led by himself as a benevolent despot. He acted accordingly. Toward the end of his reign, Domitian heavily persecuted Jews and Christians, who rejected the Roman gods. That is why the Christians had to meet underground at night, so the Romans would not see them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wolfgang Dohler".

The Candidate has a Name

The Candidate in this degree takes the name Constans. Remember that name, as we will hear it again in a future degree. The VC explains to Constans that he previously attained the 2nd degree of the early Christian Mysteries, and it about to receive the third and final degree and become one of the Faithful and Elect.

The VC asks Constans what he was taught before becoming a Mason. Constans replies, "That I should invoke the blessing of God." At this point the VC has everybody kneel and recite the Lord's Prayer. See Matthew 6:9-13. After prayer, everybody stands, then the VC gavel once and they sit.

Immediately, the VC begins his first lecture, discussing the early practices of Christianity. According to the lecture, Christians were divided into three groups: Auditors, Catechumens, and the Faithful. At the first stage, the Auditors received certain ceremonies and instruction to prepare them to study the Christian faith. At the second stage, the Catechumens underwent purifications and baptism, and learned dogmas of the religion. At the third stage, the Faithful learned the mysteries of the faith, such as the Incarnation, Nativity, Passion, and Resurrection of Christ.

Christianity 101

Since some Masons do not come from a Christian background, we should briefly define these terms. Incarnation refers to the idea that Jesus was sired by God, as opposed to having a human father. Nativity is about the birth of Jesus, with accompanying events that demonstrate his divine status and mission. The Passion refers to Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, said to be a vicarious atonement for all mankind. Resurrection refers to the process whereby Jesus was restored to life in a new immortal form. Christ refers to a spiritual anointing that Jesus received to fulfill his mission. The term Christ comes from the Greek word for anointed: Χρίστος (Christos). Of these events, only the crucifixion is considered historic, that is, Bible scholars and historians agree that it actually happened.

The Mysteries

The VC continues, explaining that many ancient writers talked about a mystic aspect to Christianity, similar in form to the Grecian (Greek) mysteries. That includes secret doctrines that only select members received. These groups has three

degrees or levels: the Material, the Intellectual, and the Spiritual. These teachings and practices or sacraments are contained in a work called "The Celestial Hierarchy".

There really is a publication called The Celestial Hierarchy. It was written sometime during the 5th century by a Christian theologian known as Pseudo-Dionysius. The work deals primarily with the nine orders of angels. The work influenced the theology of Orthodox movement, as well as that of the Christian scholar—philosopher, Thomas Aquinas. You can read English translations of The Celestial Hierarchy on multiple websites.

The Orator and Junior Warden then recite the story of Jesus' trial before the Roman Prefect Pontius Pilate, based primarily on the account found in John chapters 18 and 19. If you study the accounts of Jesus' trial from a legal standpoint, there emerges a powerful example on the miscarriage of justice and the power of mobs.

The VC now gives his second lecture, describing how brutal ignorance leads the low masses of humanity to hatred of those who try to teach them and to regard intellect and learning as their enemies. The setting maul, which we learned about in the 3rd degree, is a symbol of brute force.

Two Heros address The Question

There is a correlation with the stories of Hiram Abiff and Jesus in that they both suggest immortality of the soul. We know the Hiram legend is just that, a legend. And the resurrection of Jesus must be taken as a matter of faith. But the point is immortality of the soul, some form of life or continuation of consciousness after physical death.

Science cannot prove that the soul exists, what it is, nor its life expectancy. Neither can philosophy explain it. The only way for a person to really know is to experience death and then see what happens. A normal, healthy human mind may be curious about death and the hereafter, but definitely not in a hurry to find out. So in the meantime, we just wonder about it.

The lecture continues by explaining how the death, burial, and raising of Hiram's body from the grave sym-

bolize the death and resurrection of Jesus and also burying the sins of the natural man and experience a new life by means of faith. Reflected here is the idea that you can leave the stains of the past behind you and become a new person in the here and now. No need to fear death and hope something good happens to you afterwards.

The VC goes on to compare the three Masonic pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, typified by King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff with the Christian Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Christianity 102

Since we are learning about the Christian faith, we should know that the doctrine of the Trinity is not found in the Bible. The Christians of the 1st century struggled to understand the relationship between Jesus and God. The existence of a relationship is obvious from reading the Gospels. Trinity was the explanation that eventually gained the most acceptance. Trinitarian Christians have attempted to compare this idea to other religions, such as the Hindu deities Brahma, the creator; Vishnu, the sustainer; and Shiva, the destroyer. Another example is Osiris, Isis, and Horus, from the Egyptian pantheon. Unfortunately, these comparisons rely on oversimplified notions.

Back to the Lecture

The lecture concludes with the premise that no human virtue is more worthy of imitation than to lay down one's life for his family, his country, or his cause. See John 15:13. This does not mean that you're supposed to give up your life, like some form of surrender. It means you are willing to face death even though you don't deserve to die. We remember some people like that every Memorial Day.

Now comes the question that determines whether Constans (the candidate) is worthy to become a Prince of Mercy, a true recipient of the 26th degree. The VC asks Constans, "Do you believe that you are so duly and truly prepared, truly prepared to be made a Prince of Mercy, that if you were about to be put to death by an unjust judgement of the people, could you sincerely say, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do?'" See Luke 23:34.

Constans responds, "I hope with the help of God I could."

The VC asks, "If death were imminent, could you sincerely say, 'Oh my Father! If it be possible, let this cup pass from

me! Yet not my will but Yours be done?'" See Matthew 26:39.

Constans again responds, "I hope with the help of God I could."

The VC declares, "My Brother, you are worthy to be accepted among the Faithful (the third and final degree of Christian mysticism). What now do you most desire?"

Constans responds, "Light."

The VC says, "Jesus of Nazareth said, 'I have come as light into the world that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.' (See John 12:46) My Brother, this is life eternal, to know the only one true God, and the Word that did create the universe, in whom is light, and that light the life of men. (Compare John 17:3 and 1:4) My Brethren, aid me to bring this newly accepted Brother to light!"

The VC helps Constans to stand, and then continues, "Behold the darkness is past, and the True Light now shines... You have been taught to believe in the true God. As Masons, we do not know if you are a Christian, Jew, or Muslim, or even of another faith..." He then explains that if you want people to respect your religion, you must also respect theirs.

Next, the VC describes the altar. In the center of the room is a three-sided altar. Each side is 18 inches wide and the altar is 36 inches tall. Two items sit atop the altar. One is a golden equilateral triangle with the Hebrew letters YHVH, the Greek letters A and Ω, and a passion cross. The VC explains that these symbols come from the Book of Revelation (in the Christian Bible).

At this point, Constans stands before the altar, and the VC asks him whether he assents to the instruction he has received so far in the degree. He does. Is he willing to be solemnly bound to the duties imposed by this degree? He is.

Ill. Daniel Doornbos

To be continued next month.

Kyle is a sweet and hardworking 7 year old boy who enjoys reading, playing the piano, and spending time with his family. Kyle shows consistency with his attendance and continues to carry-over speech therapy strategies at home which has contributed to his overall progress. Kyle has been working with a speech therapist two times a week to expand his utterances to comment, request, and relate experiences. His speech therapist, Alisha, is extremely proud of his progress and is inspired by his eagerness to learn!



Kyle's mother, Sharon, mentioned being referred to the Scottish Rite Speech Clinic by her friend who was in the process of applying to the clinic. It was during this time that Kyle's speech was limited, as it was difficult for him to express himself or for people to understand him. His mother says, "he was only able to produce single 2-3 word sentences". Because of this, "Kyle became easily frustrated and had many behavioral problems at school".

Sharon describes Kyle's current speech-language abilities as "gaining more confidence speaking to people. As his vocabulary increases he is able to speak in longer sentences. He is also using more past tense words when describing past events". Sharon feels as though "life is easier when we can understand things that Kyle says", and "we are able to have him talk about his frustrations and reduce the frequency of his melt-downs".

Sharon feels like the speech therapist that works with Kyle is helpful, flexible, and very patient. The speech therapist understands Kyle's needs and has very good strategies to get Kyle to cooperate during sessions. Sharon describes her experience at the clinic as "feeling welcomed. The speech therapist we see at the clinic is always very friendly. At the end of the session she always goes over things they do during the speech and updates my child's progress with me. I am very happy with her services".

We thank Kyle's family for sharing their experiences and are so pleased to hear that they see 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.



have indicated they want to extend the lease for another year, and maybe as many as 5 years. A real financial boon for our Foundation.

Our Building Fund Campaign also saw a huge donation of funds this past year. Although we started out as three year campaign, as we finish our 2nd year, to date, we have collected nearly 90% of our \$250,000 Goal. Thanks to all who generously contributed to this cause.

Financially, as I write this article with three weeks left in the year, we are currently some \$236,000 better than budget. This is due to many factors, but none the less, a huge accomplishment for the Foundation.

And finally, I want to spend some time talking about the building itself. Due to the Herculean efforts of our staff, Gregg, Angela and Monica to upgrade the building, you will not recognize the building today. We have painted the entire interior of the building; as well new floors have been installed throughout most of our areas; New ceiling tiles in the foyer and halls; new lighting throughout; new plugs and switches; completely updated stage with new curtains and lights; new dishwasher in the kitchen; completely refurbished apartment; complete new clinic spaces; a new dividing wall between the auditorium and dining room; and new risers in the auditorium which has added an additional 90+ seats. There are numerous other smaller tasks that were also completed. In all, the building which was built in 1984 has never looked better! But this could not have been accomplished only with the staff's efforts. We also had a few member volunteers who gave of their time and talents. One such volunteer was Wor. Art Pasquinelli, who for five – six months was in the building nearly every day, painting, cleaning, demolishing, moving or whatever other task we threw at him. He was truly a god-send! As well, Jeff Toone spent many hours on our computer network and audio visual components of our operation. And Brandon Duenas, who spent numerous hours as a Jack of all trades addition to the team. Lastly, I would like to recognize a non-member (although a Mason from Scotland), Jimmy Reilly who painted nearly the entire interior of the building putting in hundreds of hours over the last 8 months. His talents were invaluable to making the walls look fresh and clean. He was truly amazing.

So as we close out 2020, we look to a new year, and a new corps of officers who will be installed Tuesday, January 12th, to take us to a new chapter in our history.

A huge thank-you to our four outgoing Masters, Brother Wolfgang Lochner (Venerable Master), Wor. Art Pasquinelli (Wise Master), Bro. Richard Fisher (Commander of Kadosh), and Wor. Dell Bleiler (Master of Kadosh of the Consistory).who had a tough road to keep our members engaged as best they could through these times. They can all be very proud of how they helped to lead our Valley.

Again, as of this writing, we have no idea what lay ahead or when we can get back to some sort of normalcy. Each year I try to discuss what events we are anticipating, but I am going to dispense with that this year and not try to out guess when we can get back to meeting in person. But I do want to remind all, that as this is an odd-numbered year, we look forward to being able to recognize some of our deserving members through Supreme Council, by elevating a few of them to the rank of Inspector General Honorary or 33 Degree, as well as bestowing the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour or KCCH. We look forward to hearing the results of Supreme Council's decision.

The last item I would like to speak to is communication. Please let us know how we are doing. What would excite you to return to an active role? Our Valley is here to support you, but I need to know your thoughts and desires. Please contact me when you think we are failing. Let us know also, when you think we are doing well, but most importantly communicate. You are a valued member and we value your input. The Valley is only successful if you think we have done right. Let us know!

I look forward to seeing each of you over this coming year. Come on out and help make a difference!



III. Roger Bibb 33° Class

TBD in 2021



ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY,
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

Petition for Degrees

(Full) Name: _____
FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME DATE

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Month, Day, and Year of Birth: _____

City, State, Country of Birth: _____

Are you a US Citizen? YES NO If "No", where are you a citizen? _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Wife/Partner's Name: _____

Years as M.M.: ____ Blue Lodge Name _____ No. _____

Lodge City and State: _____

Date and Place Raised: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer Name: _____

Have you ever previously petitioned for any Scottish Rite Degrees? YES NO

Hat Size: ____ (example: "7 1/8")

"I, the above named and below signed, confirm a belief in a Supreme Being, the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, and an undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the forbearance of a state sponsored religion, principles embodied by the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. I respectfully petition to receive the 4th through 32nd Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. I am currently a Master Mason in good standing."

_____	Degree Fee	Spring	Fall
<i>Candidate's Signature</i>		\$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 \$ _____
 to Credit Card # _____ CVC _____
 2nd Sponsor Signature _____ Expiration Date ____ / ____

(Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office)

Signature of authorized card holder



THE RITE WORD

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Future Scottish Rite and Masonic Events

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens

Installation of Officers for 2021

Zoom information for installation 6:45 start

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/82970129717?pwd=dTNOeW00YUdTMc8rbFpKOTNaKytOQT09>

Passcode: SRInstal21

Description: Scottish Rite Installation

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 829 7012 9717

Passcode: 5988531752

International numbers available: <https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/kc4ThLEcw3>

Tuesday February 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens