



The Rite Word - Valley of San Jose

Happy New Years to all and welcome to 2019!

As we close out another year, it is time to reflect on this past year's accomplishments, and look forward to another Installation and a new corps of officers to take us through 2019.



There were many highlights this past year and financially, we ended strong. The most prominent highlight was the addition of 25 new members who witnessed all 29 degrees this past summer in Oakland. For the first time in some 40 or 50 years, all 29 degrees were conferred on the same weekend. The 20 Valleys in California hosted the event and in total, 130 new Scottish Rite Masons were created. I am proud to say that San Jose Valley conferred the most degrees, had a huge contingent in working the stage, moving props and costumes and also manning the audio visual aspects of the Reunion. It was a huge success and we were a major part of that success.

On a sad note, our General Secretary, Hank Vlcek unfortunately had to resign as he and his family, moved to the Phoenix area. Brother Hank was a superb asset for our Valley and he will be sorely missed. Hank, "Job well done", Thanks. Fortunately though, with every dark cloud, you can somehow find a silver lining. And to this we were fortunate that Bro. Gregg Hall stepped up and volunteered to take on the tasks at hand. After working with Hank for about a month, Gregg took

over the reins, and has done an outstanding job in putting his own personal touches to the position. He has helped to modernize the office (and although we are a fraternity), he has brought a business background to the office that has made us more efficient as well as more cost effective. Along with these new duties, he continued as the Chairman of our Supreme Council program Called VMAP. It stands for Valley Membership Achievement Project, and exists to raise the level of the member experience and to promote Scottish Rite education. Once again, we completed all necessary facets of the program to be awarded a completion plaque for our efforts in 2018.

Financially, although the market had a tough year, we were able to manage things around the office and finished the fiscal year in great shape. Both our Bodies and Foundation budgets ended in the black. We are not naïve to think that this will continue forever, but it has been a blessing this past year. Our new budgets for 2019 have been created and I feel comfortable in our plan. I am anxious to see what we can accomplish.

As I stated earlier, our Installation is just around the corner (Tuesday, Jan. 29th) and I congratulate all the officers who will be installed. Please attend and help support those who have taken on a leadership role in the Valley. It is our annual celebration of the new corps of officers and the time to celebrate the New Year. I want to also thank our outgoing Masters who did a marvelous job in 2018. Many thanks go to Brothers Randy Downey, Chuck Cowden, Brandon Duenas and Sean Patrick as well as our

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2019 Honor Roll

Hon. Bob Laws 32° KCCH

Ill. Dee Ayre 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. John Casey 32°

Bro. Kyle DeAndre 32°

Bro. Ruben Torres 32°

Bro. Kyle DeAndrade 32°

Bro. Art Pasquinelli 32°

Bro. David Nevis 32°

Bro. Michael Rush 32°

Bro. Wayne Jensen 32°

Bro. Kerem Kapkin 32°

Bro. Lee Trusty 32°

Bro. Danny Bishop 32°

Hon. Tom Bergevin 32° KCCH

Bro. Fred Wool Jr. 32°

Bro. Kyle Burch 32°

Bro. Richard Morton 32°

Bro. Louie Castro 32°

Bro. Thomas Buntin 32°

Bro. Kyle De Andrade 32°

Called From Labor

Ill. Greg LaFavor 33°

December 12, 2018



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

Sick or Distressed

Hon. Franklin Wong 32° KCCH

408-656-5572

NEW ADDRESS

34400 Mission Blvd, Union City, CA 94587

Calls/Visitors Welcome

Ill. Leo B. Mark 33°

408-838-4764

Calls/Visitors Welcome

2018 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Hon. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Senior Warden	Hon. Gregg A. Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Junior Warden	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	831-373-1094
Captain of the Host	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172

2018 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Senior Warden	Bro. Kerem Kapkin, 32°	831-334-4041
Junior Warden	Bro. Laurentiu Murgu, 32°	408-755-0079
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Art Pasquinelli, 32°	408-483-9361
Guardian of the Temple	Hon. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903

2018- Council of Kadosh

Commander	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Naresh Rampershad, 32°	408-660-0121
2nd Lt Commander	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Garrett Burrow, 32°	408-891-6746
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Rick Qiu 32°	408-420-8173

2018 San Jose Consistory

Master of Kadosh	Bro. Sean Patrick, 32°	505-400-5805
Prior	Bro. TJ Jackson, 32°	408-230-6088
Preceptor	Bro. Richard Rosenberg, 32°	650-494-8792
Marshal of Ceremonies	Hon. Cordell Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Captain of the Guard	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983

2018- 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. Carey Atwood, 32°	408-832-1867
Prelate	Bro. Mike Sloan, 32°	408-365-8266
Almoner	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	808-699-0606
Orator/Librarian	Hon. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Hon. Tom Tefft, 32° KCCH	408-465-2585
Club Liaison	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Director of Ceremonies	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Assist. DoC	Hon. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Chief Knight KSA	Bro. Naresh Rampershad, 32°	408-660-0121

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. Carey Atwood, 32°	408-832-1867
Director (exp 9/30/2019)	Bro. Garrett Burrow, 32°	408-891-6746
Director (exp 9/30/2019)	Bro. Jeffory Toone, 32°	408-712-5370
Director (exp 9/30/2020)	Ill. Richard Fisher 33°	408-779-4088
Director (exp 9/30/2020)	Hon. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822
Director (exp 9/30/2018)	TBD	
Director (exp 9/30/2018)	Hon. Tom Bergevin, 32° KCCH	408-985-5996
Venerable Master	Hon. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Wise Master	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Commander	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Master of Kadosh	Bro. Sean Patrick, 32°	505-400-5805
Asst. to the Personal Rep.	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730



Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 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.

Dear Brethren,

As the Scottish Rite Masonic year comes to an end this month, I thank you for the opportunity you gave me to serve as your Wise Master in this precious Chapter of Knights Rose Croix.



I want to congratulate my line of officers who served us so well: Kerem Kapkin, Laurentiu Murgu, Art Pasquinelli and Martin Maxey. I wish you all the best in 2019 as you assume your new positions and responsibilities in the Chapter. To the officers of the Lodge, Council and Consistory, I thank you for a job well-done. I received great satisfaction serving with you and being a part of the team.

I hope you remember our Maundy Thursday celebration and the many words and thoughts of divine inspiration. It is my hope that my message that evening of Harmony in ourselves, with others and with our nature will serve you well in your travels.

Brethren, please attend the Stated Meeting on January 8, and exercise your vote for the 2019 slate of officers and then attend the installation of officers on January the 29th. The officers elect really do appreciate your being there and helping them celebrate their special moment.

In closing, one of my favorite toasts to our Masonic brotherly love includes, in part, this beautiful sentiment:

“Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.”

Charles B Cowden

It comes to the point of the year when terms are up, and our new officers are to be installed on January 29th. This, like the tides that come and go, means it is time for brother Naresh to lead our body. He is an abundantly qualified brother that I know will lead the body superbly, and look forward to his year with full support.



The fondness I hold when looking back at what the Valley of San Jose accomplished this year is nothing short of amazing. The state wide reunion not only brought in new members, but showcased the talents of our fraternity on epic levels. There were so many helping hands, and I would be remiss if I didn't say a big thanks to Jeff Toone for his tireless efforts throughout.

The festive boards are always a wonderful time to hone our works. Brother Cowden has always done nothing short of excellent when orchestrating these events. These times let us break bread, converse with our brothers getting to know them better, and open our minds to new learning and thoughts. If you have have never been, I strongly suggest you attend the next one that we have.

Our Language Clinic, which is why we exist, is here to help. With three licensed clinicians, the Valley of San Jose was able to help 140 children this year with our continued funding. Through these works we touch the world exponentially. I always suggest if one has not visited to see our good works, stop by and arrange a visit through the Secretary. There are truly miracles that happen just on the other side of the break room doors.

We find that in Middle English Januarie, from Latin Januarius, 1st month of the ancient Roman year, is from Janus the Roman god. In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus (/ˈdʒeɪnəs/; Latin: IANVS (lānus), pronounced [ˈjaː.nʊs]) is the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. While we must not forget the past, let us each step through the doorway of the new year to a world of possibilities as if exiting the cave in Platos allegory. For where we go one, we go all.

Benjamin Hsu

Fraternal greetings! I hope everyone enjoyed the various holiday celebrations including Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year. Typically, around the New Year people decide to adopt new positive habits and let go of some bad habits. As such, I felt in this month's article I would share a possible new habit for you to consider, if you're not already engaging in it, which is meditation. I will describe a meditation I attempt to do every day for at least 20 minutes. I hope you try it, at least once, and give it some serious consideration. I have been meditating for several years now, and I've seen significant benefits, including better concentration, clarity, calm, and overall peaceful feelings.



A Meditation for Love and Light

Begin the meditation by sitting in a comfortable position with your back as straight as possible. Place your hands on your lap or in a folded position. Ensure that you are in a safe and quiet space, free from distractions. First, tell yourself that there is nothing else to do at this time other than meditate. Give yourself permission to free yourself from life's demands and take a moment for yourself. Next, with your eyes open and not focusing on anything in particular, take three or four deep breaths. In through the nose and out through the mouth. Next, softly close your eyes. Feel your body weight as it presses against the chair. Feel where your body comes into contact with the surface and feel yourself sinking down into your chair. Next, focus on your tongue. For three breaths, notice any particular tastes in your mouth. Just noticing the taste, and not trying to judge or classify the tastes. Also attempt to clear your thoughts, and if your thoughts wander, bring it back to focusing on your tongue, or any other aspect of the meditation.

After three breaths of focusing on your tongue, shift your attention to your nose. Notice, for three breaths, any scents in the air.

Next, focus on your hearing. Listen for three to five breaths any sounds in the environment. Try not to get stuck on any particular sound but listen for any subtle sounds that are in your environment. Again, don't try to classify the sounds, just experience them coming in and out of existence. Try to listen for the silence in between the sounds.

Next start to scan down through your body. Start at the top of your head. Move down from the top of your head, through your face, down your neck, to your left arm, then your right arm, then back down the back of your back, then to the left side, then the right side, then down from your throat through your torso. Next, scan the left leg to the toes, then the right leg to the toes. As you do this try to notice any type of lingering feelings that are latent in the body. Overall try to assess how you are feeling today and become aware of the various sensations in your body. Again, don't judge any particular feeling, just notice, and don't get stuck on any particular area or part.

Next, take a moment to focus on what you want to achieve through the meditation. I typically say "God, I would like to be filled with your Love and Your Light, such that it will create inner and outer space, silence, and equanimity for the benefit of myself and others."

A Happy New Year from the KSA

The new year is a time, when many of us are re-ordering our lives. At this there are much planning. The new year is for many people a time, when they are thinking decisions of different kinds. Many of us would like to spend the New Year better than previous. The end of the year is a magic border, when we think that everything is possible, everything is only before us. Since many persons are making plans of different kind, New Year wishes can refer to these plans. Inventing wishes is simply, when we know what decisions our family and friends have.



I am pleased to announced that the following Knights have been elected to served in their respective offices of the San Jose KSA Chapter for the ensuing year (2019)

Chief Knight	Jeff Toone
First Knight	Marshall Wallace
Knight of the Watch	TJ Jackson
Secretary	Angelo Encarnacion
Monk Knight	Naresh Rampershad
Sentinel	Jason Barnett

KSA Events of the Future: Date in January 2019 (TBD), at noon will be our KSA Stated Meeting in the SJSR Library followed by a practice of sword tactics and presenting our Colors.

Make a Difference: and reach out to someone or more so I keeping with our Masonic Teachings reach out to a BROTHER that you have not seen at recent Masonic events and simply just have a conversation with him. You might learn something from that Brother and you might even go far as to get him to attend masonic events and more...

A Heartfelt Thank you: I would like to thank everyone for electing me to represent you as Chief Knight of this Chapter for the year of 2018. I am humbled that you placed such faith, confidence and trust in me. I therefore thanking each every one of you for such an honor and privilege.

Naresh Rampershad

The Sixth Degree

The Sixth Degree, Confidential Secretary, is the first of a series of dramas that take place in King Solomon's audience chamber. An audience chamber is a room where a monarch or head-of-state conducts formal interviews. If you were to ask an archeologist where that chamber was located, assuming one did exist, he couldn't tell you. The Scottish Rite uses its stage or lodgeroom to represent the audience chamber.

There are four characters in the drama of this Degree. They are King Solomon; Hiram, King of Tyre; Zerbal, the Captain of the Guard; and the candidate, who represents Zabud.

With the exception of Zerbal, these are true Biblical characters. Zabud is named in I Kings 4:5, where he is described as a priest and "the King's friend". To be a friend of the king is an honor given to a member of the royal court. Unfortunately, we have no further information as to Zabud's actual job in the court.

The scene opens with the two Kings having an argument over a payment Solomon made to Hiram. The payment was the gift of 20 cities in the northern Galilee that Solomon gave to Hiram in exchange for the latter's financial support in building the Temple in Jerusalem.

This setting is historical and you can read about it in the book of First Kings, chapter 5 in the Bible. According to the Bible account, Hiram of Tyre contributed a number of essential assets to King Solomon:

- Timber from the cedar and cypress forests of Lebanon
- Workers to help harvest the timber
- The services of Hiram the bronze worker (Hiram Abiff)
- 120 talents of gold, worth about \$255 million today, to pay the workers on the Temple construction project

In return for the timber, forest workers, and Hiram's services, King Solomon sent to the King of Tyre 3,750 tons of wheat and 186 gallons of fine oil. Most likely it was refined olive oil, a very useful product in ancient days.

In exchange for the 120 talents of gold, King Solomon deeded to Hiram of Tyre, 20 cities in northern Galilee. That is right on the border between the kingdom of Israel and the city-state of Tyre. Today, we would consider those "cities" to be puny little villages.

And, unfortunately, the villages turned out to be in poor condition when Hiram of Tyre went to inspect them. Apparently, King Solomon looked on his map, noted the villages along the border, and deeded them over without knowing anything about them. It was like promising San Diego but delivering Tijuana, no offense intended toward the latter.

In the Bible, Hiram of Tyre was not pleased. In the Sixth Degree, he feels insulted and betrayed, and expresses his feelings clearly and loudly to King Solomon in the latter's audience chamber. Zabud, the King's friend, hears the shouting, becomes worried for King Solomon's safety, and listens just outside the door.

Hiram of Tyre notices Zabud, claims that King Solomon had placed a spy, snatches Zabud and drags him onto the stage. Hiram grabs a sword and is ready to kill Zabud right then and there. King Solomon pleads for King Hiram not to take a human life and then sends Zabud away in the custody of the Captain of the Guard.

King Solomon then explains that he intended to rebuild the 20 dilapidated villages. In the Bible, Solomon actually did rebuild the 20 villages, according to II Chronicles 8:2. Although the Bible account leads you to think that King Solomon probably decided to rebuild the villages only after King Hiram complained about them. Perhaps he thought that the land was more valuable than the buildings.

At this juncture in the Degree, the two Kings make amends. Then Hiram asks about Zabud. The Captain of the Guard returns Zabud to the audience chamber where King Solomon makes an long, angry accusation of Zabud's alleged unmasonic conduct, which evidently led to summary execution in those days. At this point, the Captain of the Guard, speaking on behalf of the Candidate taking the part of Zabud, explains why he was listening in on the royal ruckus.

It turns out that Zabud feared for King Solomon's safety and was ready to come to his defense, even though he was unarmed and probably not trained for combat. Because of his focus on King Solomon's welfare, Zabud made little effort to conceal his presence, which is how King Hiram easily spotted him.

In the same way that the two kings settled their disagreements and bad feelings, once they took a moment to really listen to each other, they recognized the honorable and selfless intentions of Zabud. King Solomon appoints Zabud as his Confidential Secretary, which is where this Degree takes its name.

The lesson of this Degree is to be zealous and faithful, to be unbiased and benevolent, to act as a peacemaker when disension, disputes and quarrels arise among your Brethren. In closing the Degree, King Solomon asks whether any Brother harbors ill will or has an unsettled quarrel with another Brother. Hearing none, King Solomon closes the Lodge.

We will learn more about Solomon's methods for raising revenue, and their consequences, in a subsequent Lodge of Perfection Degree.

III. Daniel Doornbos 33°

We are so pleased to host yet another intern from the Department of Communicative Disorders & Sciences Department at San Jose State University. Shareen Dhillon, a second year student in the Master's program at SJSU, has worked diligently this past fall semester during her externship working under the supervision of Rachel Sense, M.A., CCC-SLP, and Karen Wong, M.S., CCC-SLP.



Originally from Yuba City, CA, Shareen always knew she wanted to work in a profession to help others. Growing up, she wanted to be a teacher as she had family members that enjoyed the teaching profession. However, once she learned about the field of communication disorders and speech-language pathology, Shareen was hooked. She is looking forward to working in a private practice with children once she graduates in May 2019 with her M.A. in Education with a Concentration in Speech-Language Pathology.

She enjoys working with each child to help them “find their voice in their own way”. Shareen also enjoys the collaborative environment fostered in the field of speech-language pathology in which you interact and work with other professionals and family members to help the child progress in their speech and language skills. “I have truly enjoyed my time at Scottish Rite Clinic. I have learned so much since I started here. When I first started I did not have much experience in the areas of articulation, fluency, or early intervention. However, with the help of my supervisors, they have taught me so much. They introduced me to specific programs such as SATPAC and Lindamood LiPS. They have let me use their own personal materials as well as given me resources to provide therapy. I want to thank everyone at Scottish Rite for allowing me to be an extern student for the semester and making me feel so welcome!”

We are thankful that Shareen was able to spend time with our clinic to help the children and families we serve. We wish Shareen all the best with her new ventures!

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Next, focus on your breathing. Start to notice the subtle places in your body where your breathing causes movement. It may be in your stomach or chest. Count your breathing, relax, and just notice the flow of air in and out of the nose. After about five to ten counts, proceed to the next step.

Next, softly begin to notice and or visualize a beam of pure light coming from heaven down to you on the top of your head. Begin to notice the light entering your body and proceeding down to the tips of your toes. Begin to visualize and/or feel the pure light filling up your toes, then moving to your feet, then moving up your calves into your thighs. Next the light moves up through your stomach, up to your heart and lungs, and then up to the tops of your shoulders and then down through your arms. Feel the warmth and space that the pure light brings. Believe that it is dissolving any negativity and restoring positivity, harmony and health. After the light has gone down through your fingers, bring your attention back up to your neck and feel the pure light going up your neck, into your face, through your brain, up your chin, mouth, nose, eyes, forehead, all the way up to the crown of your head.

Once you have visualized and/or felt the pure light filling you up, then take a moment to just think about nothing. Just feel your body filled up with light and clear your thoughts. When you are done with this phase, start to pull your attention back to your body. Start to notice any sounds in the environment again, for a breath or two. Start to notice any scents with your nose for a couple of breaths, then any tastes on your tongue for the same duration. Then notice your body weight pressing down on the seat for a couple of breaths. Finally open your eyes, and don't focus on anything in particular. Just feel the sensations in your body and make a commitment to yourself to try and carry this feeling with you throughout the day. Then stretch your arms a bit and remind yourself what you are doing next in your day. With this the meditation is complete.

I hope that this has been helpful for you and I encourage you to try this meditation. Sometimes people fear mediation and feel it's too difficult, but rest assured nobody when they start are perfect, and their mind wanders. Even experienced meditations have their mind wander. They key is not to get angry, just bring your focus back in, and relax. Somedays will be better than others, and it's ok.

I wish you all well on your journey for more Light!

Kenneth Sean Patrick

Stated Meeting Menu

Tuesday

January 8, 2019

(Vegetarian Entrée by **REQUEST ONLY**,
by January 4th)



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

Scottish Themed Food

Annual Dinner Ticket Books

You can now buy an Annual Dinner Ticket Book, which gives you 11 Stated Meeting Dinners and 1 Grand Masters Banquet. For a cost of \$150. This saves you \$19 off of the annual price or over 11%. There is no time limit to use them, unlike the previous annual pass which had to be used within the year.

Dues Notice

Unfortunately we still have about 20 members that have not paid their 2018 dues. This is the final appeal. Those who have not paid or made arrangements with the Secretary will be suspended at our January stated meeting.

Every effort has been made to contact each of these members.

Rebuilding the Temple Program

In 1982, the members were asked to make donations to Build the Temple. Now 36 years later, the Temple needs some upgrades. We are again asking the Brothers to step up to the plate. The donation levels below are exactly the same as they were back in 1982.

Future projects needed include; replacing window coverings throughout the building, building out the old printing room as a modern conference room, building out the warehouse as a members lounge, new floors through out the building. Also we want to expand the size of the Clinic to accommodate more Children. We have over 100 on the waitlist and our space is maxed out.

All donations are tax deductible, and you will receive the appropriate plaque and have your name placed on our Donner's wall.

Setter of the Corner Stone	\$25,000+
Designer of the Royal Arch	\$9,000 to \$24,999
Artesian of the Temple	\$3,000 to \$8,999
Craftsman of the Pillars	\$1,500 to \$2,999
Hewer of the Ashlars	\$750 to \$1,499
Cutter of the Cedars	\$250 to \$749

You can make a one time donation or alternatively you can make a pledge that will fit within your budget. And any amount will be gratefully accepted.

Please contact the Secretary to Make your donation.

Rebuilders of the Temple

III. Richard Fisher 33°

Artesian of the Temple

Hon Del Bliiler 32° KCCH

Artesian of the Temple

Bro. Cleveland Wallace 32°

Craftsman of the Pillars

III. Ken Nagel 33°

Artesian of the Temple

Hon. Gregg Hall 32° KCCH

Hewer of the Ashlars

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Chief Knight, Naresh Rampershad. All of your efforts were greatly appreciated and our successes are your successes.

For 2019, many of our programs and events will continue. As we did this past year, we will again hold our Annual Grand Master recognition “Festive Board” where we will honor our Grand Master, MW Stu Wright, and his Lady Julie. This is always a great event and we look forward to this year’s celebration. Events to look forward to are our two “Nights of Instruction” banquets chaired by Bro. Chuck Cowden. Bro. Chuck will also chair our Military Recognition Night, which has become an annual and very enjoyable event. Bro. Richard Fisher is again chairing our Scholarship Committee, as we will honor another graduating senior on their way to college. Later this month, we will again honor the Masters of our lodges as they complete their term sitting in the East of their particular lodge. We exist only because our Craft Lodges are strong and we wish to honor the men who have held our lodges together. We will continue some traditional events like our Maundy Thursday Celebration, Sweethearts Night, as well as 25 year and 50 year membership celebrations. We again attend the Highland Games in Pleasanton. What an exciting day! But besides our traditional events, we are looking for many new ideas as well.

Our Foundation is still very strong, but we can always use a new contribution here or there to continue our work (and I will speak more about that in a few moments). Our clinic continues to do amazing things with our kids and I am very proud of what is being accomplished by our Clinicians. For the past couple of years we have also made sizable contributions to the Grand Master’s project, Raising a Reader, Masons 4 Mitts, recognition of our DeMolay leadership at their Annual Conclave, and we continued our Scholarship program. We were also pleased to be able to make a fifth installment contribution to the Supreme Council’s House of the Temple, refurbishment project (to date, we have been able to donate \$125,000 of the \$150,000 we pledged to the project).

I said just a few lines earlier that we can always use a few more contributions to aid us doing the good works we wish to accomplish. Although we currently handle about 65 kids a year in our language clinic, we still unfortunately have about 100 kids on the waiting list. The list is so long, that realistically, many of them will never get the treatment they de-

serve. We would like to do more, but we need more funds to make it happen. To that end, we are starting a “Building Fund Campaign” to raise dollars for our Foundation. Our current building was built in 1984, and at that time, a very successful Building Campaign was established and goals were met by the thousands of dollars raised through the generosity of our members (Many of you were a part of that successful campaign). This year’s campaign is essentially the same as the original campaign that was established some 30 plus years ago. There are 6 different levels of giving to choose from (please see details of those levels of giving in another section of the Rite Word). So why do we call it a building campaign? Today we, only use about 60 percent of our building. We want to complete the renovation of our downstairs auditorium which will allow us to rent our building much more than today for smaller and medium size events. We are also looking to convert our old print shop and photo shop to a professional conference room with all of the technological audio visual capabilities desired by businesses of today. Here again, the rental business has a huge potential which will allow us to raise more funds for our Foundation. We also want to create more social area for our members. In the basement, we want to create an area where we as members can play pool, cards, darts, etc., an area to just relax and enjoy each other’s company.

So, no matter what your financial capabilities are, I ask only, “Each to his own Ability”. Every dollar will be cherished, and every dollar will go a long way in helping more of our kids. This coming month, every member will receive a letter explaining the campaign as well as a pledge envelope for your convenience. You will be asked to:

- First, choose a level of giving that is comfortable for you and your family.
- Second, you will be asked to make a pledge of a dollar amount within that level of giving.
- Third, you will have the choice to make either a one-time donation or choose to make recurring contributions over the next 1, 2 or 3 years (you can divide the payments up for ease of your own budgets).

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And finally you can choose to pay by check (using the envelope provided) or to pay by credit card as you so choose.

Please look for this letter, look within your hearts and hopefully you will decide what we are doing is important and that you wish to be a part of this worthwhile endeavor. Help us make this campaign as successful as it was in 1984. Our Grand Master's theme this year is "Making a Difference", and he continually reminds us that the difference is YOU!!

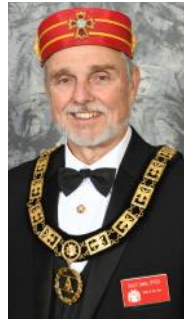
As in past years, I want to close this article with some thoughts on how we can best serve you. We only know we are doing ok, if we hear from you. Please give me your thoughts about where you see our Valley is heading, or what you would like to see done, regarding our Valley? What would excite you to 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, but most importantly communicate. You are a valued member and we value your input. I want to thank our Executive Assistant, Angela for all she does for our Valley. She makes us all look good with what she does around the building. Please make sure you stop by the office and thank her for all her efforts. She is invaluable to me, and makes my job very easy. I want to also thank Ill Bud Ramsey for assisting me in the role as Assistant to the PR. His support is invaluable.

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



Brethren

Welcome to January, and to 2019. I hope that this holiday season has brought you joy and warmth, and that the coming year brings you happiness, health, and prosperity.



Our Scottish Rite year is coming to a close this month, and a new one commences. We are looking forward to an exciting year of fellowship, learning, and fun. We hope for a large class of new members at our Spring Reunion, for good participation in our social activities, and for good attendance at our meetings. Remember that this is YOUR Scottish Rite. Be an active part, and increase the usefulness of our bodies.

At our January stated meeting, we will celebrate Scottish Heritage night. If you have Highland attire, this would be the night to wear it, and I encourage you to do so. There will be discussions of the Scottish influence in Masonry, as well as in the formation of this country. It is estimated that 25 million Americans have Scottish ancestry, and many prominent Scots were instrumental in substantial parts of our history. You know how folks say that on St. Patrick's Day, everyone is just a little bit Irish. Well, similarly, at our stated meeting this month, everyone will be just a little bit Scottish. Please attend and enjoy the festivities.

Our annual installation of officers will take place on Tuesday, January 29. I hope you will be present, to congratulate the outgoing officers and welcome the new leaders of the bodies. This will be a fun event, so we hope you will be there.

There are good number of exciting activities planned for the coming year. We hope to see you there.



Happy New Year!

Upcoming Reunion

TBD in Spring of 2019



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

Petition for Degrees

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

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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

Month, Day, and Year of Birth: _____

City, State, Country of Birth: _____

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

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

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

Lodge City and State: _____

Date and Place Raised: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer Name: _____

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

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

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

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

<i>1st Sponsor Signature</i>			

2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME	I hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ _____		
_____	to Credit Card # _____ CVC _____		
<i>2nd Sponsor Signature</i>	Expiration Date ____ / ____		

(Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office)

Signature of authorized card holder



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OF THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE**

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San Jose, CA 95125-2036

Phone: 408-978-7483

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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 January 8th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

Lodge of Perfection Opens — Election of Officers

Sunday January 20th ~ Masonic Smoker Event

Will Montoya's house

Thursday January 24th ~SCVOA Meeting

Liberty Lodge 6:30 Dinner Program Following

Tuesday January 29th ~ Installation of Officers

6 pm Practice and Pictures 7 pm Installation Refreshments following

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

Rose Croix Opens — Sweethearts Night

Tuesday February 19th ~SCVOA Meeting

San Jose 10 6:30 Dinner Program Following

Tuesday February 26th ~ Foundation and AOM

Foundation Meeting ~ 6pm AOM 7pm

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

Council of Kadosh Opens —

Thursday March 14th ~SCVOA Meeting/Chicken Feed

Leverton Lodge 6:30 Dinner Program Following

Tuesday March 26th ~ AOM 7:00pm