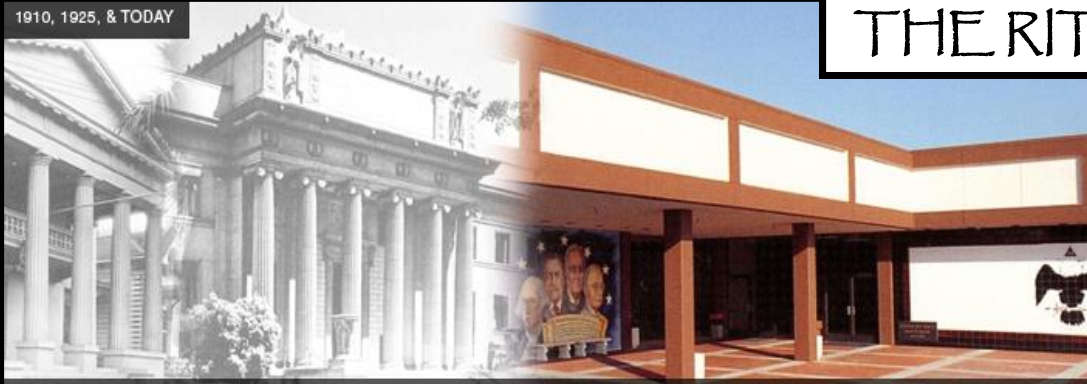


1910, 1925, & TODAY



THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY FOR THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE IN THE ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA

# THE RITE WORD

DECEMBER 2013

Volume 7, Issue 12



## Slainte! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

The beginning of December Holidays and the Installation of Officers in the Craft Lodges adds a bit of hustle to our list of things to do.

Let us not forget another important historical date in December that being December 7, 1941 @ 07:48am. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "A day that will live in infamy". More than 2300 lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Air Force. On December 8, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a Declaration of War on Japan.

Many families remember this date well because of the military service of family members at Hickman Field, Schofield Barracks and Pearl Harbor. One such family member was First Sergeant Carlos F. McCuiston Army Air Corps who was wounded during the bombing. His telegram to my parents on had two words, "Am Safe". He did write his observations of that day and they are recorded in the Air Force Story.

Again we look forward to the Christmas holiday as a Celebration of remembrance for Christianity. Others Celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc. Some Masonic Organizations like the York Rite have Obligatory meetings.

December 21 is another noteworthy date as it is the Winter Solstice or the beginning of Winter.

Remember to support your craft lodge for Stated meeting and special meetings in December. If you travel, travel safely and defensively. Remember to call in your reservations, RSVP, if you plan to attend the Scottish Rite Stated Meeting Dinner. Let us look forward also to a happy and prosperous New Year and the Installation of Newly elected Officers for the Scottish Rite.

Beannachtaí na Nollag (*Christmas Greetings*)

B.J. McCuiston, KCCH, Venerable Master

Valley of San Jose Lodge of Perfection, AASR

[billiejo@garlic.com](mailto:billiejo@garlic.com)

PO Box 2193

Gilroy, CA 95021-2193



A SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE PUBLICATION  
HOME OF THE ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE

## DECEMBER DONATIONS

### TO THE CLINIC

BY: BRO. MRS. RICHARD & MARY FISHER



FROM THE SECRETARY

Brethren all,

Can you believe we are at the end of another year? Tempus has definitely learned how to fugit even faster than ever.

Honors are completed and San Jose Valley is privileged to count two new Inspector General Honorary's, Ill. Richard Meyers and Ill. Herschel Amos. In addition, you can congratulate Brothers, Alan Spalding, Dell Bleiler, and Jerry Best our newest Knights Commander of the Court of Honor.

Our fall reunion has now been completed except for the capping ceremony which will be held on December 10th Stated Meeting night. If you were here to support our degree teams, I am certain that you were dutifully impressed. In the spring we will add at least one more of the degrees.

The only disappointing aspect of the year has been the passing of some of our members. The empty feelings do not go away quickly.

I trust that you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Robert D. Rowan - General Secretary

*The year is almost over &  
time is running out.....*

Make your contribution to the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies and have your name included on the "Honor Roll".

Your annual gift of \$100.00 or more will help the San Jose Lodge of Perfection, Chapter Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh and Consistory reach the level necessary to provide quality events for our future success.

**"2013"**

### Honor Board Members

\* III. DURWARD AYRE, 33<sup>o</sup>

\* III. RICHARD FISHER, 33<sup>o</sup> \*

\* BRO. ROBERT LAWS \*

\* BRO. ESTIL JOHNSON \*

\* III. RICHARD MEYERS, 33<sup>o</sup> \*

\* III. EDWARD CLARKE 33<sup>o</sup>

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*Bro. Robert Rowan  
(408) 978-7483*



# It's Here!.....



## The Annual Clinic Christmas Party !

**We will have face painting, art projects, a bouncy house, food and more !**

**Of course, A special guest will be arriving to pass out gift bags !**



**Saturday, December 7th, 2013**

**Doors open at 10:30am until 2:00pm !**

**Come have fun and enjoy !**

**Sign up sheet will be in the clinic !**



**San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies**

Ancient &amp; Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

**2013 ~ Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master	Bro. BJ McCuiston, 32° KCCH	408-842-8927
Senior Warden	Bro. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Junior Warden	Bro. Jack Harris, 32° KCCH	408-314-6124
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Tom Bergevin, 32°	408-985-5996
Captain of the Host	Bro. Hank Vlcek, 32°	408-578-6208

**2013 ~ Chapter of Rose Croix**

Wise Master	Bro. Bud Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-224-9431
Senior Warden	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner 32°	408-505-1822
Junior Warden	Bro. Cordell H. Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172

**2013~ Council of Kadosh**

Commander	Ill. Daniel Doornbos, 33°	408-263-2165
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Will Montoya, 32°	408-274-1137
Marshal of Ceremonies	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Jose Pulido, 32°	408-205-6432

**2013 San Jose Consistory**

Master of Kadosh	Bro. Gerald Best, 32° KCCH	408-559-3102
Prior	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32°	408-656-2459
Preceptor	Bro. Steve Munyon, 32°	408-313-0762
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Richard Rosenberg, 32°	650-494-8792
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Martin Maxey, 32°	831-402-4903

**2013- General Officers**

Personal Representative	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Assist. to the Personal Representative	Ill. Richard A. Meyers, 33°	408-264-0277
Treasurer	Bro. James Arnold, 32°	408-859-7523
General Secretary	Bro. Robert Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
Prelate	Bro. Mike Sloan, 32°	408-365-8266
Almoner	Bro. Alan Spalding, 32° KCCH	408-259-2523
Orator/Librarian	Bro. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Bro. Bryant Day, 32°	408-256-2766
Clinic Director	Bro. Robert D. Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
Club Liaison	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Harold Leister, 32° KCCH	408-846-9788
Assist. Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Charles Cowden, 32° KCCH	831-685-3416

**Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation**

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Treasurer	Bro. James Arnold, 32°	408-859-7523
Secretary	Bro. Robert Rowan, 32° KCCH	408-945-5941
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Bro. Hal Leister 32° KCCH	408-846-9788
Director (exp 9/30/2014)	Bro. David Knapp, 32°	408-298-3838
Director (exp 9/30/2014)	Bro. H. "Bud" Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-264-0277
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Jack Harris, 32° KCCH	408-314-6124
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Venerable Master	Bro. BJ McCuiston, 32° KCCH	408-842-8927
Wise Master	Bro. Bud Ramsey, 32° KCCH	408-224-9431
Commander	Ill. Daniel Doornbos, 33°	408-263-2165
Master of Kadosh	Bro. Gerald Best, 32° KCCH	408-559-3102
Assist. To the Personal Representative	Bro. Richard A. Meyers, 32° KCCH	408-264-0277

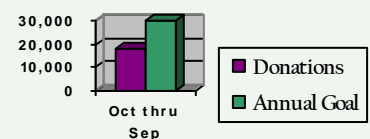


**Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°**  
**Sovereign Grand Commander**  
**Supreme Council A.A.S.R.**  
**Washington, D.C.**



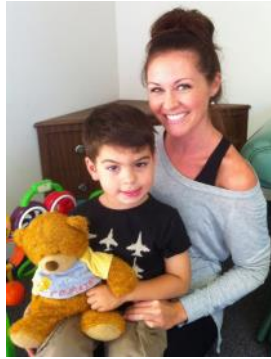
**Ill. Frank Loui, 33° P.G.M.**  
**Deputy of the Supreme Council in California,**  
**Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite**  
**Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.**

*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.*

**2013 Clinic Appeal**

**We can do better in 2014**





Cameron is a happy and playful four-year old who has been receiving speech therapy through our Clinic since August 2012. His parents brought Cameron into the Clinic secondary to concerns that he “mispronounced many basic words and had a hard time correcting them when prompted.” His parents wanted to, “address the issue before his self-esteem and confidence was affected, in case he was not understood by other adults and peers.” His parents noted that their son “has



shown a lot of progress since the treatment at the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic began. Although he has a lengthy vocabulary he still hesitates to use a lot of language because he doesn't want to make a mistake. This has been a slow process but it has been very rewarding.” According to Cameron's parents, “He continues to work on pronouncing multi-syllabic words and improving his sentence structure,” in his therapy sessions. In addition, Cameron is working on reducing his frontal lisp on /s/, /s/-blends and /z/ in all positions of words. Cameron's Mother stated, “It feels great to know that someone else cares and works with my child. It makes me feel that I am not alone in this effort. Our speech therapist Jenna is an amazing professional and has a tremendous love for what she does. She has a deep knowledge of speech techniques and child development and communicates with our child in a gentle holistic manner that inspires love and security. If I feel this way, I know my son does too. Our family thanks the San Jose Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic for everything you have done for Cameron. He loves working with you Jenna.”







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**Greg LaFavor**

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San Jose, CA 95120

408-268-5847

**Orville Hanel**

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visitors please!



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San Jose, CA. 95125-3223

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**Visitors welcome !**

**Robert Gass**

c/o : VA Nursing Home Care  
Rm.258  
4951 Arroyo Rd.  
Livermore, CA 94550-9650

\*\*\*\*\*



*Please remember those brothers that are shut in. A friendly call or note from a fellow brother would be a warm and appreciated gesture. Though, they cannot always be present , they are certainly not out of mind. We wish them all the best. God Bless.*

**Called from Labor**

Bro. Gilbert H. Althoff 32° - Aug. 28, 2013



**Treasured thoughts of one so dear  
Often bring a silent tear  
Thoughts of scenes long past  
Years roll on but memories last.**



**Please remember to notify us when a fellow Brother is ill, in need,  
or has passed to the other shore.  
We are not always contacted in a timely manner. Scottish Rite is here to assist!  
Please feel free to call anytime! (408) 978-7483**



***From the Master of Kadosh - Gerald Best 32\* KCCH***

In

about 300 A.D., the Catholic Church began to dedicate popular pagan feast days to the Saints. December 27th, the shortest day, was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist while June 24th, the longest day of the year, was declared St. John the Baptist day. Collectively, Masons refer to them as the Holy Saints John. In an earlier publication of the Rite Word, I mentioned that on June 24th, Freemasons celebrate the Feast of St. John Baptist. As we enter the month of December, it seems proper to mention/discuss the other member of the oft referenced pair, St. John the Evangelist, who's specific Feast Day is celebrated on December 27th.

Freemasonry historically acknowledges St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist as its patron saints, reveres their memory, points to their exemplary lives in its ritualistic work, and dedicates its Lodges to them. Because St John the Evangelist finished, by his learning, what the other began by his zeal, and thus drew a second line parallel to the former, Freemason's lodges in all Christian countries, have been dedicated to both of these worthy and worshipful men."

*"There is, in every regular and well governed Lodge, a certain point within a circle, embordered by two parallel perpendicular lines. . . ."*

John the Baptist was zealous, while John the Evangelist was learned, and by picking both of them as patron saints, Masons symbolically united both passion and reason. They have been depicted by a symbol, published in the earlier article, in which the lines and circle denote the boundaries by which a Mason is to circumscribe his actions. Depicting the Saints John in this way seems particularly apt. They border the individual Mason like an embodiment of Time - perhaps the beginning and end of a year, perhaps the elapse of a lifetime. Both men also embody certain important, universal characteristics. Saint John the Baptist is considered a zealous man of action, Saint John the Evangelist a man of learning, meditation, and vision. Together, the two represent a balance between fraternal zeal and learned equilibrium, qualities which all Freemasons should strive to emulate. The symbol implies that a Mason should work and strive to achieve the proper balance between passion and intensity on one side, and knowledge and education on the other. In other words, he should balance education, excitement and faith to effectively subdue his passions. In a way, it is a graphic representation of the conscience.

Around 300 B.C.E., the Romans re-arranged their calendar to specially honor the winter solstice. A week-long festival, called Dies Natalis Solis Invicti (Birthday of the Unconquered Sun), began on December 21, had its main feast day on December 25, and ended on December 27. This festival featured feasting, dancing, bonfires, decorating homes with greens, and gift giving. As Christianity became the state religion of the Empire, the summer solstice was rededicated to St. John the Baptist (who by tradition was born six months before Jesus), December 25 to the birth of Jesus, and December 27 to St. John the Evangelist. As the Church began to dedicate popular pagan feast days to the Saints, June 24th, the longest day of the year, was declared St. John the Baptist day, while December 27th, the shortest day, was dedicated to St. John the Evangelist and these feast days continued under the Church of England. Collectively, Masons refer to them as the Holy Saints John.

In that earlier publication of the Rite Word, I noted that on June 24th, Freemasons celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist. As we enter the month of December, it is only proper to mention/discuss the other member of that oft referenced pair, St. John the Evangelist, whose specific Feast Day is celebrated on December 27th.





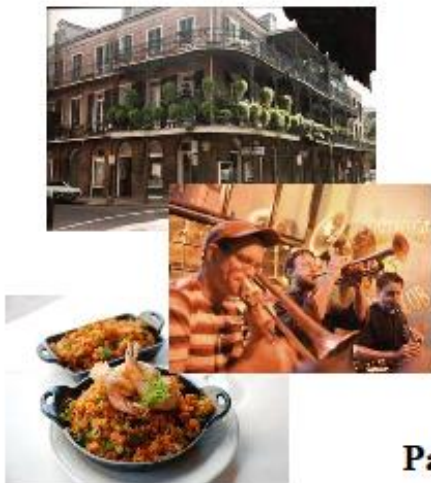
# The Masters of 2014 for the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies

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Come along with fellow members of the Scottish Rite and their families, as we explore the sights and sounds of New Orleans. Stroll the world famous French Quarter, enjoy the beautiful plantations, take in the incredible jazz and zydeco music, be amazed at the variety of life on a swamp tour, cruise along on a jazz/dinner cruise aboard the steamboat Natchez, and enjoy some of the most incredible food anywhere on the planet. We want you with us. So join us in "The Big Easy".



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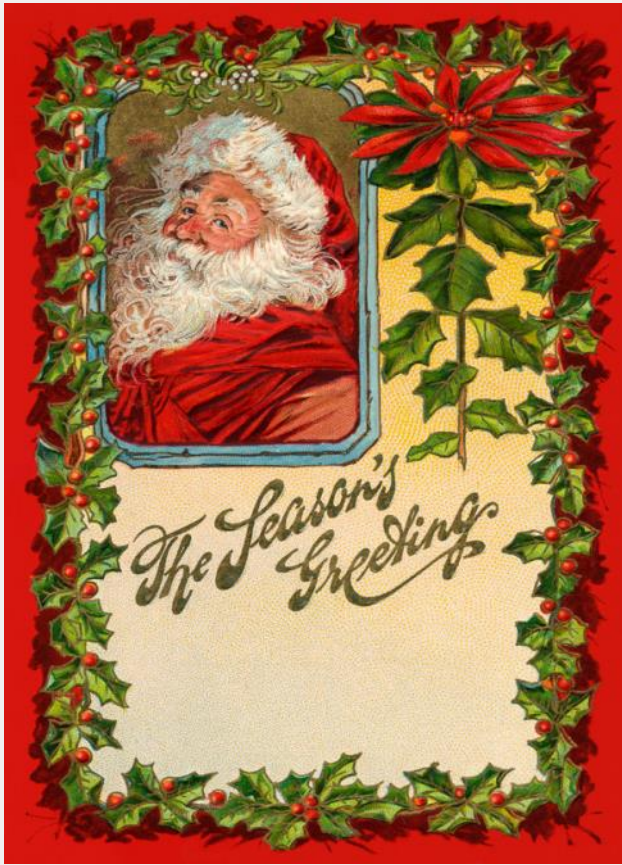
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## DECEMBER MENU

### Assorted Appetizers

\*\*\*\*\*

~Roasted Stuffed Pork Loin

~Vegetable

~Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

~Mixed Green Salad

~Fresh Baked Rolls with butter

~Dessert

(Vegetarian Dish-upon request)

RESERVATIONS A MUST!

(Continued from page 7)

During Europe's "Middle Ages," St. John the Evangelist's Day, also known as the third day of Christmas, was a particularly popular holiday. Wine or hard cider was brought to the local church for a blessing. The wine was later consumed - no doubt heartily - with the toast, "Drink the love of Saint John."

More information about the Feast of St. John the Evangelist can be found in the *Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs* by Fr. Francis X. Weiser, SJ:

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday Season, a hearty toast or two, perhaps in the name of St. John the Evangelist and a Happy and Prosperous New year.

Compiled and edited from several Masonic publications and articles authored by RW Yoel Lee, Bro. Robert Blackburn, and others whose works I gratefully acknowledge.

Gerald R Best, KCCH  
2013 Master of Kadosh



### "Winter Solstice"

This year, the winter solstice happens on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at Sat 9:11 AM, California time.

The December solstice occurs when the sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees. In other words, it is when the North Pole is tilted 23.5 degrees away from the sun. The December solstice occurs annually on a day between December 20 and December 23. On that date, all places above a latitude of 66.5 degrees north (Arctic Polar Circle) experience 24 hours of darkness, while locations below a latitude of 66.5 degrees south (Antarctic Polar Circle) receive 24 hours of daylight. Here in San Jose, the sun will rise at 7:22 AM and set at 4:55 PM, giving us 9 hours, 32 minutes, and 54 seconds of daylight.

Winter solstice is short on daylight but big on celebrations. Following are a few of the traditions:

The Beivve festival was celebrated by the Sami people of Fennoscandia, the region comprising the Scandinavian Peninsula, Finland, Karelia and the Kola Peninsula. The Sami are the indigenous or native people of that region.

They worshipped Beivi, the spring and sun goddess of fertility and sanity. She is associated with the fertility of plants and animals, and in particular, reindeer.

Saturnalia was the ancient Roman festival that marked the dies natalis ("birth day") of the Temple of Saturn on December 17. It began with a public sacrifice to Saturn and a banquet, followed by private festivities that included gift-giving, continual partying, and a carnival atmosphere that overturned Roman social norms. For example, gambling was permitted. And masters provided table service for their slaves. These festivities eventually expanded through December 23 during the Imperial period (27 BCE to 476 CE).

Sol Invictus ("the undefeated Sun") was a religious title referring to several solar deities to be worshipped collectively. Solar deities were popular for millennia throughout the ancient Near East and Mesopotamia. Emperor Elagabalus (ruled 218 to 222 CE) introduced the festival of the birth of the Dies Natalis Solis Invicti ("Unconquered Sun God") to be celebrated on December 25, and it reached the height of its popularity under Aurelian (ruled 270 to 275 CE), who promoted it as an empire-wide holiday.

The Christian religion got started somewhere between the years 30 and 40 CE. With the growing popularity of Christianity in the Roman Empire, Jesus of Nazareth came to receive much of the recognition previously given to the sun gods. That was especially true when Constantine the Great (ruled 306 to 337 CE) became the first Christian Roman Emperor. This is how Jesus' birth came to be scheduled on December 25th.

Yule was initially celebrated by the Finnic and Germanic peoples of Northern Europe as a pagan (more accurately, "polytheistic") religious festival. Yule was later absorbed into, and equated with, the Christian festival of Christ's Mass. That is where we get the word, "Yuletide." Yule was originally celebrated from late December to early January on a date determined by the lunar Germanic calendar. The festival was placed on December 25 when the Julian calendar was adopted, beginning in the 16th Century. The Julian calendar is the one with 365 days divided into 12 months and an extra day every four years.

Everybody knows that deciduous trees drop their leaves in the winter. But they didn't always understand why. In pagan Europe, folks believed that leaf-drop meant that the tree had died. Then, in the springtime, it miraculously came back to life by sprouting new leaves. Evergreen trees do not drop their leaves. For that reason, evergreens of all kinds were treasured during the cold, dark winter days. Plants like holly, ivy, and mistletoe decorated homes during the winter. Pine and fir trees were dragged into the house and decorated. Trees were also chopped up and tossed onto the fire, the primary source of heat and light during that time of year.

Christ's Mass is the celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth (between 6 and 4 BCE). That birth took place in the town of Bethlehem. Traditionally it was called, "the city of (King) David." In Roman times, Bethlehem was in the province of Judea. Today Bethlehem is in Palestinian territory. The town never actually moved. Rather, as empires rise and fall, the landlords change but the property stays in the same place. Incidentally, Bethlehem is the home of a large Palestinian Christian community and they welcome pilgrims and tourists.

Considering the activities of animal husbandry described in the Gospel of Luke, it is much more likely that Jesus was born in the spring. Then some time after his birth, Jesus' family relocated to the town of Nazareth in the Galilee, where Jesus grew up. That's why they call him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

In Christian theology, the birth of Jesus represents, "The incarnation of the second Adam, in fulfillment of the divine will of God, undoing the damage caused by the fall of the first man, Adam." Maybe that's why nobody celebrates Adam's birthday.

Christmas activities include feasting, attending midnight masses, and singing carols about the nativity. People used to gather at somebody's house and stand outside the front door singing carols. You don't see that much any more. People still exchange gifts and stash them under decorated trees, in the tradition of Saturnalia and Santa Claus, whose sleigh is drawn by reindeer, from Scandinavia.

However you celebrate, here's wishing you a Happy Winter Solstice!

~ Daniel Doornbos - Commander, Council of Kadosh



# RE-you-NION

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Support San Jose Membership by sponsoring a new member!

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[Sanjosescottishrite.org](http://Sanjosescottishrite.org)

## PROPOSITION/PETITION

ORIENT OF SAN JOSE

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

Office of the Secretary (408) 978-7483

2455 Masonic Drive – PO Box 18220, San Jose, CA. 95158-8220

Fee: \$150.00 (must accompany this petition)

(Please print or type)

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Present Blue Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Date Raised: \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever petitioned for any of the Scottish Rite Degrees?: \_\_\_\_\_

I believe in the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order and undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, the entire separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America. Wholeheartedly believing in the foregoing, I respectfully apply for membership with San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by:

1: \_\_\_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_\_\_





**SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE BODIES  
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**Future Scottish Rite Events**

**Tuesday November 26th ~ San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation meeting @ 5:00 PM**

**Tuesday December 3, 2013 - Scottish Rite Nite of Instruction & Agape**

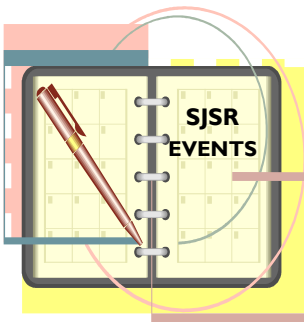
**Saturday December 7th - Annual Clinic Christmas Party 10:30 AM—2:00 PM**

**Tuesday December 10th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00 PM**

*Followed by Capping Ceremony*

**Wednesday December 25, 2013 - Christmas—Office Closed**

**Wednesday January 1, 2014 - New Years Day—Office Closed**



*"The Rite Word (USPS #3043) is published monthly by the San Jose Scottish Rite at 2455 Masonic Dr., San Jose, CA 95125.*

*Periodicals Postage Paid at San Jose, CA. 95125*

*POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Rite Word, PO Box 18220, San Jose CA 95158."*