

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

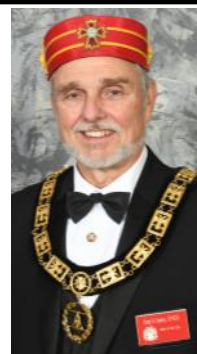
MARCH 2018

Volume 12, Issue 3



## From the Venerable Master

In March, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a time which honors the patron saint of Ireland. Much of his life is the subject of conjecture, and even the dates of his life are uncertain, other than that he lived in the mid to late 5<sup>th</sup> Century. Born in Great Britain and originally taken as a slave to Ireland, he subsequently escaped and later returned to the Emerald Isle as a missionary. He later served as a bishop, and has been referred to, at one point, as the bishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland.



St. Patrick is credited with using the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the holy trinity, which explains in large part the use of the shamrock as a symbol of St. Patrick's Day. Of course, the most famous legend surrounding St. Patrick is his banishment of all snakes from Ireland. Scientific evidence tells us that there never were any snakes in post-glacial Ireland, but that has never deterred the legend from perpetuating itself. Many theories exist as to how he became associated with this legend, but none can be proven over any other.

St. Patrick is buried at Down Cathedral, Downpatrick, County Down, Northern Ireland. This has special significance to me, as it is the country from which my ancestors emigrated in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

March 17, widely accepted as the date of his death, marks the annual recurrence of St. Patrick's Day. Throughout Ireland, it is a day of solemnity, and a holy day of obligation, but also a day of celebration. Feasts and parades are held in his honor each year.

In the United States, of course, St. Patrick's Day is a day to celebrate one's Irish heritage – whether or not one is actually Irish. It is a festive occasion, a day of libations and joy, a day for the “wearin’ of the green”, and of less than successful attempts to speak with an Irish accent. It is, to put it simply, a reason to have a party.

So be with us at our March stated meeting, as we take the chance to celebrate the Irish in all of us.

Erin go Bragh (Ireland Forever)

**Randy Downey, 32° KCCJ**

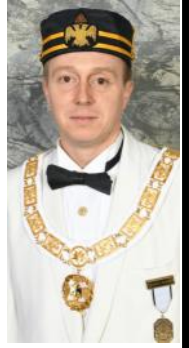
**2018 Orient-wide Reunion.** ALL 29 Degrees will be Conferred! On June 29, 30 and July 1 of 2018, every Scottish Rite Valley in California will come together to host the first Orient-wide Reunion in California's Masonic history!! This historic gathering will be held at the beautiful Oakland Scottish Rite Temple, and will be a Once in a Lifetime event!! Talk to every Master Mason you know about the beauties of Scottish Rite Masonry, and give them a petition.

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

## From the Commander

Greetings,

We welcome the month of March with change. In our degrees we learn the equinox has important roles throughout time. It is more than just trying to balance an egg perfectly, which can be done any day of the year. The word equinox comes from the Latin word aequus, meaning equal, and nox, meaning night. We may think it to be an equal split of light, and dark, but the equinox is just close in time. It varies due to the sun rise, and atmospheric reaction of sunlight. The few days prior to the spring equinox, and a couple after the Autumn equinox is a period know as the equilux. Taken from Latin meaning equal light. This is when there is both true equal night, and day. Duncan said "Light, is a source of positive happiness: without it man could barely exist". We should take this extra time and lux to share that happiness with all we encounter. A friend often uses the phrase "Let your Light shine", and think that is a solid way to start the month of March.



Happy Saint Patrick's Day

Brandon Heath Duenas

Commander of Kadosh

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!**  
**We are wishing you a Very Happy New Year !**

**IN MEMORY OF BRO. DAVID GIBSON**

**\*\*BY KATHRYN RUNCIE AND BRO. WAYNE ROSE**



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**BRO. RUBEN TORRES**

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.\*

**San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies**

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

**2018 - Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Senior Warden	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Junior Warden	Bro. 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
<b>2018 - Chapter of Rose Croix</b>		
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	Bro. Martin Maxey, 32° KCCH	831-402-4903
<b>2018- Council of Kadosh</b>		
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°	408-781-6947
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Garrett Burrow, 32°	408-891-6746
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Nicholas Palomarez, 32°	650-644-6940
<b>2018 San Jose Consistory</b>		
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	Bro. Cordell Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Captain of the Guard	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
<b>2018- General Officers</b>		
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	Bro. Henry A. Vlcek, 32° KCCH	408-757-1774
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	Bro. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Bro. 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. Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Joseph DaSilva, 32° KCCH	831-635-9749
Organist	Bro. Richard Timmins 32° KCCH	408-899-2047
Chief Knight KSA	Bro. Naresh Rampershad, 32°	408-660-0121



**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.**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Mondays & Wednesdays — Closed  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday —  
9am - 5pm**

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

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Secretary	Bro. Henry A. Vlcek, 32° KCCH	408-757-1774
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 9/30/2017)	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Director (exp 9/30/2017)	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822
Director (exp 9/30/2018)	Bro. Wayne Rose, 32°	408-266-4184
Director (exp 9/30/2018)	Bro. Tom Bergevin, 32° KCCH	408-985-5996
Venerable Master	Bro. 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

***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 Master of Kadosh

Fraternal greetings! First off, I want to congratulate all involved in making the Sweetheart dinner in February a success! I'm proud to be part of an organization which continues to honor and support the spouses of our departed brethren. Additionally, I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming trip to Guthrie, Oklahoma, April 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, where we are organizing a trip to observe all 29 degrees in their amazing Scottish Rite temple. Please mark your calendars, and more details concerning the logistics and cost are to come soon. This will be a great opportunity for our brothers to see how Guthrie performs all the degrees in preparation for our Statewide conferral in June.



In continuing with my last article in February, I would like to continue to explore the Seven Virtues and how they relate to the path of Jacob's ladder as follows:

### Seven Virtues as They Relate to Jacob's Ladder

Faith, Hope, and Charity are said to be the daughters of Sophia, who was the goddess of Wisdom. Sophia is represented in Hellenistic philosophy and religion, Platonism, Gnosticism and Christian theology. In Gnosticism Sophia is a feminine figure who represents the feminine aspects of the Godhead and the Holy Spirit in the Trinity.

In the mysteries of Mithras there existed a ladder, Jacob's ladder, with seven rounds which symbolized the path of the soul towards a state of perfection. The rounds of the ladder were considered gates whereby the novice was to pass through seven dark and winding caverns in his ascent to perfection. Each cavern represented a world, or state of existence, through which the soul was to pass as it progressed towards perfection. The rounds were considered to be made out of metals of increasing purity and associated with the ancient seven planets. The Seven Virtues represent the seven rounds as follows:

7. Charity
6. Hope
5. Faith
4. Justice
3. Fortitude
2. Prudence
1. Temperance

The first four rounds are the foundation of perfecting the lower nature of our being. Moving up the ladder the three principle rounds are Faith, Hope, and Charity. Whereby Faith creates Hope, and Hope leads to Charity. The greatest of these and the pinnacle of the journey is Charity. Therefore, perfecting our natures and behaviors, and knowing ourselves leads us to the ultimate spiritual path up Jacob's ladder from the Earth to Heaven!

Wishing you all well on your journey!

***Fraternally, Sean Patrick***

***Master of Kadosh***

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<u>Leo B. Mark</u>	Westgate Villa, Room 29 5425 Mayme Avenue, San Jose, CA.	408-838-4764 Cell Calls & Visitors Welcome!
<u>Herb Dallas</u>	1373 Echo Valley Drive San Jose, CA. 95120	408-268-9472 Calls & Visitors Welcome!

## Called From Labor

No Brothers reported Called from Labor this month

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

## "2018" Honor Roll

Ill. Durward Ayre 33°  
Ill. Richard Meyers 33°  
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°  
Bro. Estil Johnson Jr 32°  
Bro. Wallace Currey 32°  
Bro. Patrick Judge 32°

Bro. Dave Kimball 32°  
Bro. Robert Laws 32°  
Bro. Hank Vlcek 32°  
Bro. Franklin Wong 32°  
Bro. Robert G. Allen 32°  
Bro. Bennie Cooper 32°  
Bro. Herb Dallas 32°

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.

Send your annual gift of **\$100.00** to Scottish Rite and have your name on The "**2018**" Honor Roll

## Thoughts on Mystery Schools, the Lesser Mysteries and Freemasonry”

I believe it is generally accepted that the Egyptians, more than any other ancients, were the most learned in the occult sciences. The wisest of philosophers from Greece went to Egypt to be initiated in the sacred mysteries by the priests of Thebes, Memphis and Hermopolis. Thales, Solon, Pythagoras and Plato all traveled to the delta of the Nile in quest of knowledge. On their return to Greece, these scholars announced and confirmed the Egyptians to be the wisest of mortals and their temples to be the repositories of the most sublime doctrines concerning the history of the gods and the regeneration of men.



It is both interesting and instructive to relate this story concerning Pythagoras and his experience gaining entry to the Egyptian Mystery School. It is commonly believed that initially his application was denied. Finally, after many years of waiting and preparation, he was elected into the Mysteries of Isis at Thebes. It was only for the very few.

Let’s quickly review the dynamics of a mystery school: it is posited by many scholars that a Mystery School fulfills the following conditions or criteria: 1—There is a Founder, or authoritative leader, dead or alive; 2—There is a community, physical or virtual, of autonomous individuals with a common intention, searching and being open to the mystery of life; 3—There is a doctrine, a philosophy or an ideology; 4—There is a path of initiation; 5—There are specific practices or rituals that form the methodology of the school.

It is usual to examine the mysteries by differentiating between the Lesser Mysteries and the Greater Mysteries. The Lesser Mysteries are the foundation for the initiate to prepare him for the Greater Mysteries through various degrees of purification and discipline along with training in intellectual and spiritual perception. Generally, the first 4 degrees of say, 7, comprised the Lesser Mysteries. Usually, the 4th Degree was employed as a decision or testing point to determine those who are deemed prepared to move on to more stringent discipline and purification as well as a more intimate relationship between initiate and teacher.

The trials of the Lesser Mysteries are comparatively simple, but as the initiate proves his worth and ability to stand the tests, the training becomes more rigorous and the demands on his nature more severe and errors are more sternly dealt with by the teacher. The Lesser Mysteries are marked by two features: 1—instruction in the deeper sciences of the cosmos; and 2—dramatic rites portraying that which the initiate must go through without outside assistance in the Greater Mysteries. In the ancient Greek Eleusinian Mysteries, for example, the sacred rites acted as a spiritual aid in stimulating the candidate to live the higher life, as well as familiarizing him with the path of the initiatic process. These teachings are passed down through the oral tradition from teacher to student in an unbroken lineage of physical initiation. This physical initiation empowers the initiate on their life path as they strive to achieve their full potential and life purpose. The power of this process helps the initiate gain a greater connection to the supreme power and there the “Great Work.” The Mystery Schools were more than cultural forces—they were the culture and civilization of the time!

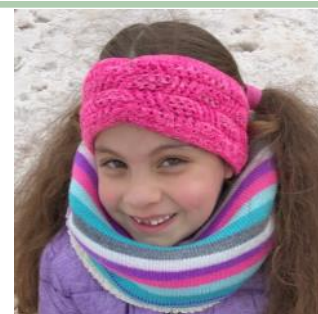
Early on, I had found the expressions “Freemasonry is a progressive, moral science” and that “it makes good men better men” somewhat unfulfilling in trying to describe our gentle craft. So, when asked, this is how I describe Masonry — It is a modern day Mystery School where the initiate undergoes a transformation from darkness to light by the progressive teaching of our moral science through a series of degrees, self study and the practice of our lessons outside the Temple in all facets of life.

So, I leave this for you to consider: is Freemasonry a Mystery School in the tradition of the Egyptians and the Greeks and so many other Mystery Schools of ancient times and today? If not—then just what is Freemasonry?

*Fraternally, Chuck Cowden, Wise Master*



Layla is a sweet and talkative 6-year-old girl who has been coming to the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic since October 2016 to work on her articulation, receptive language, and expressive language. Layla loves to play with dolls, toy animals and loves to dress up in costumes.



She was referred to us by her preschool teacher. Layla's mother, Angela, reported that she had constant ear infections requiring tubes in both ears at age 2, delayed speech and had a hard time speaking clearly and holding a conversation. Layla's treatment program has focused on eliminating her tendency to substitute the /k/ sound with the /t/ sound and the /g/ sound with the /d/ sound. Layla is now able to differentiate the two and is able to produce her target sounds in sentences. She has moved on to working on more complex sounds, such as l-blends, "sh" and "ch" She has also been working on responding to questions with appropriate, on-topic responses, and producing plural nouns.

Layla's mother said, "Layla has made tremendous improvement here at Scottish Rite with her speech delay. She has more confidence when she talks to family, friends, and she is a lot more talkative." We are very proud of her. She has come a long way by the help of her speech therapist."

Layla has brightened our clinic with her smile and playful nature. Her parents are very thankful for our clinic. Her mother said, "What truly helps is the one on one support. The free services with donation option helped us tremendously" She and her parents recently donated some of her toys, games, and books to us so that the other children can enjoy them too. We wanted to give a big thank you to the Madrid family!

# Congratulations to our New Brothers



Ill Ken Nagel congratulates four new Brothers from our Fall 2017 Reunion Class on receiving their 32nd Degree patents — Master of the Royal Secret. Left to right are:

Angelo Encarnacion

Cirilo Paredes

Marius Dumitrean

Thomas Brumett, Jr.





## MENU

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Assorted Appetizers

Main Entrée — Penne Marinara w/ Meatballs

Mixed Vegetables

Caesar Salad

Garlic Bread

Dessert

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY, prior to March 9)

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

## THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

AND

## THE WISE MASTER

INVITE YOU TO

## THE SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

## CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

## AND RENEWAL

Thursday, March 29, 2018

At the San Jose Scottish Rite Temple

6:30pm—Traditional Lite Supper

7:15pm—Ceremony

Open to All Brothers, Families & Friends

Business Suit for Men with SR Cap

Dress or Pant Suit for Ladies



3 Brothers from the Valley of San Jose are honored by the York Rite with their prestigious "GOLD AWARD" for outstanding service to the York Rite. Left to right: Bro Hank Vlcek, Ill. Roger Bibb and Ill. Ken Nagel.



Bro Mark Burger is presented with his Past Master Jewel by Ill. Ken Nagel for all his hard and diligent work as Master of Kadosh in 2017. Congratulations!



**Attention all 32<sup>o</sup> Masons**  
Are you a 32<sup>o</sup> Scottish Rite Mason?  
If so come join us  
Scottish Rite Orient of California  
Valley of San Jose  
**Knights of St Andrew**

**Interested?** Please contact any member of the Knights of St. Andrew or in particular, Jeff Toone, Secretary: email [toonej@gmail.com](mailto:toonej@gmail.com)

**What do we do:** We provide services to and for the different Bodies of the Valley of San Jose. These services include but are not limited to providing assistance to the stage crew of the various Degrees performances, promoting membership within the Scottish Rite, providing Greeters at the door for Scottish Rite Events, participating in parades, performing arch of steel on special occasions, escort our flags, etc. Come join with us to find the LIGHT and have fun doing so!

*Fraternally, Naresh Rampershad, Chief Knight*



Our Sweethearts receive flowers and our Love at the February Valentine's Day Dinner. Top row, left to right: Greta Justus, Barbara Spalding, Tina Ude, Nancy Kell, Bottom Row, left to right: Mary Fran Mundy, Ellen Gibson. We love you, Ladies!



# RE-you-NION

Replace the 'U' with 'YOU'!

*Join with your Brothers at the next Reunion!*

June 29 - 30 & July 1, 2018 – ALL CALIFORNIA REUNION

To be held at the historic Valley of Oakland Scottish Rite Temple

Support San Jose Membership by sponsoring a new member!

Application can be downloaded from our website.

[www.sanjosescottishrite.org](http://www.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)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (If different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

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

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (If retired, previous occupation): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
OF THE VALLEY OF SAN JOSE

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

**Thursday, March 8 ~ Monthly OAM Meeting hosted by South Valley Lodge #187**

*6:30pm— Chicken Feed Dinner    7:30pm—Annual Visitation & Presentation by the GRAND MASTER of Masons in CA*

**Tuesday, March 13th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm**

*6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner ~ Program - St Patrick's Day Theme*

**Thursday, Mar 15 ~ Annual Pizza & Magic Show Family Night at SJ Masonic Center —6:30 to 8:30pm. Kids free. Adults \$5**

**Sunday, March 25 ~ Monthly Masonic Get Together from 1pm—7pm**

*Host—Wors Joe Campbell, 3681 Kendra Way, SJ    Bring a dish to share    Open to All Masons and Friends*

**Tuesday, March 27th ~ All Officer Meeting —7pm**

**Thursday, March 29th ~ Annual Maundy Thursday Observance at 6:30pm —Details inside**

**Tuesday, April 10th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm**

*6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner ~ Program - 25 & 50 Year Presentations*

**Sunday, April 22 ~ Monthly Masonic Get Together from 1pm—7pm**

*Host—Wors Naresh Rampershad, 5802 Blossom Ave SJ    Bring a dish to share    Open to All Masons and Friends*

**Tuesday, April 24th ~ All Officer Meeting —7pm**

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

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