

The Rite Word

From the Venerable Master

Strange times and interesting moments - Past, Present and Future.

I have always loved contrasts. To evaluate one thing against another is to see things for what they are and perhaps what they aren't. So for me, with so much Masonry still in lock down and to be installed to such an honor of Venerable Master, this is truly a mo-



ment of reflection. I am honored and am looking forward to this New Year and what we can achieve together.

My good friend Wikipedia tells us that January (in Latin, lanuarius) is named after Janus, the god of beginnings, gates transitions duality and doorways. February comes from the Roman month Februarius was named after the Latin term februum, meaning purification,. January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a monthless period.

This month we have Valentine's Day, a day to remember our loved ones we care for them, to rekindle why we are together. Also President's Day, the day we celebrate some of the men with such vision for our society, that we feel their thoughts and ideas resonating to this very day.

One of the articles I did as Master of Kadosh, was on Quotes. I like them as they are an opportunity to drop a little something in to a conversation and the thoughts of others to give them a moment of contemplation. It seems easier than telling them your thoughts as most are compelled to respond with theirs, rather than consider what was said. In consideration of this and the place we find ourselves in looking at the year ahead, I offer this month's quote:

'Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice: It not a thing to waited for, it is a thing to be achieved'. ~William Jennings Bryan

So with these thoughts in mind for February, along with some reflection on this past year with all of the wonderful changes that leadership has accomplished for the Valley and our building as well as the virus coming to a close, people getting back to work and our society rebounding, it feels the stage is set for a year of getting back to what we will surely call the 'new normal'.

What we can do in this coming year ~ remember that we are Masons. As such we have the opportunity to contribute to not only our own lives, but also to our loved ones and to this great society we live, to also give a little something back to everyone, every day.

For me, my new hobby I call 'Waving at Strangers'. I get about a 90% wave back.



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 Ayre 33°

Bro. Lewis Bisconer 32°

Bro. Estil Johnson 32°

Bro. Dennis Griffin 32°

Hon. Bennie Cooper 32°

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. Lee Milde 32°

Bro. Timothy O Kesler 32°

Bro. Estil Johnson 32°

Bro. Michael Ball 32°

Bro. Christopher Boyes 32°

Bro. Melih Ovadya 32°

Bro. Kaleo Gagne 32°

In Memory of III Hershel Amos 33°

III. Durward Ayre 33°

III. Richard Fisher 33°

Hon. Bennie Cooper 32° KCCH

In Memory of III and MW Leo B. Mark 33°

Kathy Fish

Hon. Bennie Cooper 32° KCCH

For Virtual Teaching Supplies

Kathie Runcie

Called From Labor

Bro. Tony Arnedo 32° December 28, 2020

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



2021 - Lod	ge of P	erfection
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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
202		

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	III. 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

	. Godinen or readour	
Commander	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
Ist Lt Commander	III. Jack Harris 33°	408-858-9054
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		

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



III. James Cole 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council A.A.S.R.
Washington, D.C.



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

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

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 Brethren;

As I scroll through my mind and think about what to write about in this letter, I find many relevant thoughts and things that absolutely must be talked about.

First I firmly believe that Masonry is divinely inspired

and we have been charged with the guardianship of all of the things Jesus talked about; and true thinking.

I think about how a group of Masons assembled in the name of God inspired the birth of a nation and the documents: The Declaration of Independence and The Bill Of Rights. I deeply feel that these two documents are clearly connected to many of the things Jesus talked about.

In everything Jesus did he clearly pointed out that there are really only two important things: True love and blind faith. He was a Jew yet gave to all of us that true love and kinship. Read Matthew 12:15-21. He extended out from the Jews to us a place in a promised land. Our spirit always belongs to God and keeping it cleaned up is a full time job. Jesus would never ask: What were you thinking; he would ask "What are you thinking"? A question like this one is very connected to the Kabbalah.

Mankind at this point is in the beginning of the most evil period ever to exist on earth. Where everything we think, say or do is recorded on line and used by others in judgment of us. Where the greatest document ever written by Masons is losing its shine and where we began a period of trial and tribulation. This evil isn't just isolated in a small pocket somewhere else; it is global in scope and it is here. Only a true faith in God will keep us from joining the forces of evil in these turbulent times. I use a quote from the 29th degree to point this out:

"Wrong and error rule over the world; and it is only here and there that truth and right are conquer-

ors. But morning comes at last after night, and no true Mason despairs of final victory"



From the Commander of Kadosh

First things first. I thank the Brethren for allowing me to serve you as your commander for 2021-2022. It is truly an honor and a privilege. Secondly, I thank Illustrious Richard Fisher 33 Degree and his officers for their service to the Council of Kadosh during a trying time in our history. Finally, I welcome Brother Peter Cardilla to the Council officer line as our Lt. of the Guard.



I have been thinking about our Brother Illustrious Ed Clarke 33 Degree who was so important to my understanding of what being a true Mason meant. He shared his own thoughts on the subject as well as papers and books in his collection of learned materials. So, in my first article as the brand new commander, I want to pass on for your consideration, extracts from records as far back as I390, of "The Ancient Charges of a Freemason" which Ill Brother Ed shared with me in one of our discussions. This will serve as a reminder to those already familiar with the charges.

Concerning God and Religion

A Mason is obliged to obey moral law. If he rightly understands the art, he will never be stupid atheist nor irreligious libertine Be good men and true, or men of honor and honesty.

The Civil Magistrate, Supreme and Subordinate

A Mason is a peaceable subject to the civil powers wherever he fresides and works, and is never concerned with plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation.

The Lodge

A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; and every Brother should belong to one and be subject to its Bye Laws and General Regulations. He should visit his Lodge regularly persons admitted as a member of a Lodge must be good men and true, Freeborn, of mature age, no women, no immoral or scandalous men but of good report.

Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices

Continued on page 10

From the Master of Kadosh

Greetings and salutations Brethren, First and foremost, I would like to congratulate all of the newly installed incoming Officers for the 2021 Masonic year, I humbly thank all of the brothers who elected me as Master of Kadosh of the Consistory for the ensuing Masonic year. I will do my utmost best as my forebearers have done



before me. I would also like to thank all of the outgoing Officers of the San Jose Scottish Rite together with the unswerving guidance and firm leadership of our Personal

Representative, Illustrious Ken Nagel, with the support of our General Secretary, Worshipful Greg Hall.

They've all worked tirelessly, keeping all of us up to date with relevant information during these trying times, as well as spearheading the on-going renovations of the San Jose Scottish Rite Temple. They paved the way, not just for the newly installed officers and members, but also, for the community. To all, I extend a warm(socially-distanced) hug, as we march on, to face the trials of 2021 together!

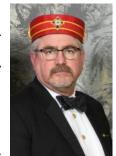
Ahh yes, Valentine's Day, Love is in the air(Covid-19 might be present too), February is the season for sweets, flowers and cheesy-over-top greeting cards as some of us enjoy celebrating with our loved ones. Although no one is 100% sure of the origin of the holiday, let's take a glimpse of how the ancient Romans celebrated Lupercalia, the feast of purification, health, and fertility.

On the ides of February, around the 13th-15th of that month, followers of Romulus and Remus would gather inside a cave called the Lupercal, located on the side of Palatine Hill, of which, some historians suggests that it is the central location that played a major role in the Roman foundation mythology, it is also where it was believed by historians to be the place where Romulus and Remus were nurtured by a female wolf, which kept them alive. Don't ask me how that is possible, just like III. Dan Doornbos always say, Je ne sais pas, I don't know, I wasn't there.

The followers would then gorge food to their heart's content, and indulge themselves with alcohol enough to fill the Tiber river sevenfold. At some point able young men would start to sacrifice a goat and a dog, to symbolically honor the she-wolf that took care of the twins, Romulus and Remus. They would then craft whips from the freshly

From the Secretary

The Installation is complete. Congratulations to the new officers. Thanks to all that joined us for the meeting. Hopefully that was the first and last time we will ever have to hold an installation in that manner.



We are doing better than normal on getting dues in this year, but with the Supreme Council sending out dues cards before you pay, that means that 127 of you have dues cards that you have not paid for at the time I write this. If you are one of them, please take care of it, or contact me if you can't.

The work on the Clinic continues. The new floors are in, we have new furniture and we are looking forward to the time when our Clinicians can return to using the newly updated Center to help the kids. We have also gutted the bathrooms and over the next few weeks we will be rebuilding them. Instead of having a men's and women's we are going to make one an ADA compliant room and the other will be more kid friendly. For this one, we will be doing the vast majority of the work ourselves. (see Pictures elsewhere).

We have also started to plan for the remodel of the main restrooms, this will be a bit more extensive, as we need to bring them up to current ADA standards, as well as making them more modern. The plan is to do both the upstairs and down stairs at the same time. To bring it up to code will require us to reduce the number of stalls and reconfigure them a bit. We also plan to remove the shower out of the women's room downstairs and add another toilet. This work is outside the scope of our inhouse expertise so we will contract out the work, which will also get it done faster as well.

The work we have done will be the one good thing that came out of Covid as we were able to do many large projects in a short period of time, where if we were having to work around events it would have taken several years to get what we have done in the last year done.

If you haven't yet, please come down and take a look at all we have done to improve your Scottish Rite.

Sup Well

Twenty Sixth Degree continued from January

Moment of Consecration

Next comes a purification as the VC pours a small quantity of water over Constans's head. He explains that the first Christians who lived in Rome baptized their initiates with pure water as a symbol of regeneration. It symbolizes the soul's purification by suffering and sorrow.

Then the VC dips his finger into a cup of perfumed oil and makes the sign of a tau (T-shape) cross on Constans's forehead, saying, "By this sign I devote you henceforth to the cause of Truth.

On the altar, there is a veiled statuette. The VC unveils it to reveal a white marble statue of a woman, who represents Truth. He explains that the statue is a symbol of nature, not an idol that represents a deity to be worshipped. This statue is the Palladium of this degree.

The term "palladium" traces back to a statue of the Greek goddess Pallas-Athena, believed to protect the ancient city of Troy. For those who are really into Greek mythology, Pallas was the Titan god of warcraft, named for a "pallo" or spear. He had several children, including a daughter named Athena, who stood with the Olympians. In time, Athena became a goddess of many things, including: wisdom, courage, inspiration, civilization, law and justice, strategic warfare, mathematics, strength, strategy, the arts, crafts, and skill.

A cast member brings the VC a plate containing bread and a chalice containing wine. The VC explains that their next action is not intended as an irreverent imitation of religious rite but a renewal of our obligations and fraternal kindness, and expression of heartfelt gratitude to God for His beneficience and sure promises. They eat and drink together.

The VC next explains that faith in God's word and a sincere reliance upon his loving kindness are the true bread of life. Good deeds and kindly affections are the wine that exalts the soul. Having partaken of these symbols, let us always be symbols of faith and virtue, and remind us that we are true Brothers of every true and upright Mason around the globe.

At this point, the Master of Ceremonies comes forward and clothes Constans in a white tunic, then invests him with the apron, color, and jewel of this degree. The VC explains how the three colors symbolize the Masonic trinity. Green represents wisdom, red is an emblem of energy, force, and power (strength); and white, a mingling of all visible colors, represents divine harmony.

Deciphering Jewels and Symbols

The jewel of this degree is a gold equilateral triangle, with a flaming heart in the center. Two sets of letters appear on the

jewel: W, F, and H representing Wisdom, Force, and Harmony: another way of expressing wisdom, strength and beauty. The second set is I, H, and S. In Christian tradition, they stand for the Latin words "lesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus Savior of Mankind); as well as Sapienta, Imperium, Harmonia: again meaning Wisdom, Strength and Beauty.

This degree has another symbol, called the Grand Hexagram. It consists of a white equilateral open triangle, with its point up, interwoven with a black equilateral open triangle, with its point down. In the center is a tau cross. The emphasis is not on the six points but on the two triangles, hinting at the meaning of the number three in Masonry.

The VC explains that if God were but one, he would never be Creator or Father. If He were but two, there would be antagonism and division in the Infinite, and there would be division and death of every possible thing. However, since God is three, to create from Himself and in His image, infinite multitudes of beings and numbers. So God is really single in Himself but triple in our conception. This causes us to likewise see Him triple in Himself, but single in our intellect and love.

The VC receives Constans as one of the Faithful and a Prince of Mercy. He presents him with a mark, called a "Tessera", to help him understand the degree and to prove he is entitled to its privileges and honors.

A tessera is a small tablet of wood, bone, or ivory used by the ancient Romans as a ticket, tally, voucher, or means of identification. Or a small piece of marble, glass, or tile used in mosaic work. Operative masons were said to use them to create tesselated pavements. You can also inscribe a watchword, such as a motto, slogan, or password onto a tessera. In time, tessera and watchword became synonymous.

The tessera or watchword of this degree is a fish shape, with the Greek letters ${}^{\circ}$ IXOY ${}^{\circ}$ X written inside. The letters spell the word "ichthys", the Greek word for "fish". But the letters also stand for "lesous Christos Theou Hyios Soter" meaning "Jesus Christ Son of God Savior". This "Jesus fish" symbol was in use for centuries before the passion cross became the official symbol of the religion.

This concludes the VC's third lecture. With a few lines of dialog, the Chapter is closed.

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What happened to Scottish Trinitarian?

This degree also has the name Scottish Trinitarian. The Trinitarian part is obvious. But Scottish? The degree itself was most likely developed in France in the mid-18th century. Some authors have suggested that the French Masons of the time regarded Scotland as a final bastion of chivalry and knighthood, thus they incorporated the term Scottish into their collection of "higher" degrees.

The Scottish Trinitarian name is carried over from an earlier time. Today, it is used only in the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. In the Northern Jurisdiction, this degree is titled Friend and Brother Eternal. In Canada, France, and England, it is simply called Prince of Mercy.







Clinic Bathrooms in Process





Rebuilding the Temple Program

When we started the building campaign almost two years ago, it was designed to bring in dollars that would eventually lead to fostering even larger funds to help treat the kids in our clinic. Although our clinicians are doing amazing work for the children they treat, we have another 70 kids on the wait list that may very well never get the treatment they deserve. To be able to bring in another 1 or 2 clinicians to take on a bigger load, and bring the waitlist down, we need the requisite dollars to pay them. We can only accomplish this by creating a more attractive building that will help bring in larger dollars through our rental program. We have accomplished a dozen or so projects that will do just that, but again, we need additional dollars to finish the projects.

Over the last couple of years we have spent almost \$300K upgrading the facility. New flooring, new paint, new curtains for the stage, new lighting for the stage, new window coverings in the dinning room and auditorium, new dishwasher, new walk in fridge downstairs, new member center, new conference room, new ceiling tiles in the main lobby, refurbish the clinic, etc.

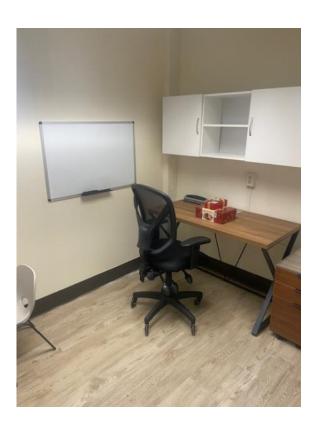
We are currently working on remodeling the bathrooms in the Clinic and will shortly begin work on the rest of the bathrooms.

As you are all aware, we started the campaign almost 2 years ago. It was envisioned as a 2-3 year campaign where we have asked each of you to assist by either contributing a one-time gift or a pledge donation where you can contribute in smaller payments over a period of months as you choose. We are about 75% of the way through the estimated time to complete the campaign and we are very pleased and thankful that we have surpassed the 80% mark in funds raised which have been either directly donated in cash or with pledges which are expected to come in over the next many months.

To date, we have received about \$175K in direct donations, and another \$25K in long term pledges. This brings our total to about \$200 or just over 80% towards our goal of \$250,000. These donations have

come from many different donors., but honestly only about 10% of the membership. There is still plenty of time in our campaign to contribute, and we hope each of you see the need and the benefit in what we are asking. You don't have to make a large donation to make a difference. Every dollar is precious and will go a long way in accomplishing our goal. We ask only that you consider where we are headed as Scottish Rite Masons, and that you remember, "Each to his own ability". Give as you can, but please participate at some level. Think of the funds we could raise if every member contributed just a little. A large donation, or small, it doesn't matter. But please be a part of the solution.

I want to thank each of you who have so generously contributed thus far. As well, I want to thank in advance, each of you who makes a decision to come onboard and help us reach our ultimate goal. Our Valley is accomplishing amazing things. But, it is only because of you, our members, that we are so successful. You truly make the difference.



Clinic Offices with new floor furniture and cabinets

Saul is a smart and sweet 11 year old boy. He started speech and language therapy at Scottish Rite Clinic in May of 2020 after being referred by a local clinic. Treatment has been conducted though



telehealth and Saul has made many gains in his speech and language skills. Saul's mom Aydee stated, "I am really grateful that even in these circumstances, my son has the opportunity to continue learning and improve his speech and understanding."

Saul and his family live in San Jose. He has two sisters and a dog named Shazam. He loves Chuck E. Cheese and hopes to go back there someday soon. Saul enjoys holidays. One of the neat aspects of providing services via telehealth is that you get see a child in their home environment, so therefore Saul was able to show off his much loved Halloween and Christmas decorations. His therapist Angela was able to share views of her decorations too! This became quite the opportunity for conversation growth and practice. Saul is a chess player and has been attempting to teach Angela how to play during motivation breaks between work exercises. This teaching has proven to be a great language exercise.

Treatment has focused on Saul's language skills which are impacted due a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Some of his targeted goals include vocabulary development, grammatically correct sentence construction, sequencing steps to perform an activity, describing, inferences, problem solving and conversation/social skills.

His speech therapist Angela has noted great progress with Saul's ability to carry on a conversation with turns, comments, and questions on a growing variety of topics. Grammar and vocabulary skills are increasing as well as Saul's confidence and willingness to engage in conversation.

Saul's mom noted that he has a hard time staying on topic during conversations, has trouble with using the right words and cannot articulate all his sounds clearly. After the initiation of therapy services, Saul's mom reported "He has improved his ability to speak more clearly and have a conversation with peers. He can have an exchange with more detail and stay on one top-ic."

"My experience at the clinic so far has been very comforting because I know my son is in good hands. It makes me happy for his future to see him thriving," Saul's mom stated.



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All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit. No Master or Wardenis chosen by seniority but only on merit

Management of the Craft

All Masons shall work honestly and work creditably .. They are to avoid all ill language; will call each other by no disobliging name, but Brother: and will behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge

Behavior

While in Lodge you will hold no conversations without permission of the Master; will not talk of anything impertinent, nor interrupt any Brother speaking; do no joking while Lodge is engaged in serious business After Lodge he may enjoy himself in innocent mirth, but avoid all excess No private piques or quarrels must be brought into the Lodge ... nor discuss any religion or politics ... this must be strictly observed.

Words to live our lives by both within and without the Lodge. I wish all the Brothers a productive Scottish Rite year. Stay safe and well.

Olavas B Coewlan

Continued from Page 5

slain animal's hides. Historians believed that young women would line up on the streets asking to be whipped by the bare young men equipped with the animal hide whip they've crafted earlier in the festival, of which the women believe the act would grant them good health and fertility during the spring season. There were also some historical records that indicated a matchmaking lottery was practiced where the young men drew names of young women from a jar. The pair would then be coupled for the duration of the festival, or longer, if the match was right. Think of it as ancient Roman Tinder, but I digress. This tradition went on for quite some time until Pope Gelasius I suppressed it around 5th Century CE.

In modern times, parts of Central Europe such as Prague still practice the "whipping" to this day with a more "friendlier" approach by using thin Willow wood bark, instead of the animal hide. In 1913, Hallmark from Kansas city MO., started to print factory-made Valentine's day cards. I think I'll stay with that. February has not been the same since.

John State State

III. Roger Bibb 33° Class

TBD in 2021



ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY,

		Petition for Degrees			
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THE RITE WORD

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<u>Tuesday February 9th</u> ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:00 pm

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

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

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