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

THE RITE WORD

FEBRUARY 2016

Volume 10, Issue 2



From the Venerable Master



Thank you for electing me as Venerable Master of the San Jose Lodge of Perfection. It is a privilege to serve the Valley of San Jose and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in that capacity. Congratulations also go to Bro. Brandon Duenas, III, Roger Bibb, Bro. JR McGovert, and Bro. TJ Jackson on being elected to serve as leaders for their respective bodies. Installation of Officers was on January 26, 2016 at 7:00PM. It was a great time!

The Masters of 2016 will be meeting to discuss upcoming events to ensure we have a fun-filled and meaningful year. Keep your eyes on the Rite Word for announcements of events. We had a number of outstanding events in 2015 and expect to continue the trend this year. If there are specific activities that you'd like to have, please be sure to tell any of the officers.

We will continue to participate in the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP). Bro. Gregg Hall will be leading the effort again this year. See Bro. Gregg for details and to volunteer to help on the committee. VMAP is intended provide a framework to ensure that our Valley is providing the very best experiences for our membership from degree conferral, to community and social activities, to philanthropy, and more.

I'm looking forward to serving you in 2016.

Tom Bergevin
Venerable Master

From the Secretary's Desk,



I hope that the New Year has started well for all of you, and that 2016 will be your Best Year Ever! The year has begun well for your Valley, and the new Masters are hard at work putting together programs for every taste. Read the Rite Word every month and participate. And—if you have any questions or ideas — **CALL ME!** Most of you have been timely getting your 2016 Dues sent in -**THANK YOU!** - but there are still about 100 of you who have yet to send them in. We need your dues to fund our programs and the many activities and charities we support. Please, if you haven't, send them in today. If you have any questions or problems, call me at: 408-978-7483. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Lodge in the near future. Fraternaly, **Hank Vlcek**

A SAN JOSE SCOTTISH RITE PUBLICATION

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



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**Many thanks to all who
have donated
throughout the year!
It is greatly appreciated!!!**

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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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.

LAST OF "2015"
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- ILL. Durward Ayre 33°**
- Bro. Resty Casiano 32°**
- Bro. Bennie Cooper 32°**
- Bro. Robert Laws 32°**
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Honor Roll**

San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

2016 - Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master	Bro. Tom Bergevin, 32°	408-985-5996
Senior Warden	Bro. Martin Maxey, 32°	831-402-4903
Junior Warden	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32° KCCH	408-656-2459
Captain of the Host	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner, 32° KCCH	408-505-1822

2016 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Senior Warden	Bro. Ion Vasilescu, 32°	408-371-7172
Junior Warden	Bro. Charles Cowden, 32° KCCH	831-685-3416
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Kerem Kapkin, 32°	831-334-4041
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Laurentiu Murgu, 32°	408-755-0079

2016- Council of Kadosh

Commander	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
1st Lt Commander	Bro. Richard Bartlett, 32°	831-331-3342
2nd Lt Commander	Bro. Cordell Bleiler, 32° KCCH	650-948-1400
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Charles Colman, 32°	408-972-5101
Lt of the Guard	Bro. Bill Mattson, 32°	408-771-1872

2016 San Jose Consistory

Master of Kadosh	Bro. JR McGovert, 32°	408-258-3700
Prior	Bro. Mark Burger, 32°	831-373-1094
Preceptor	Bro. TJ Jackson, 32°	408-230-6088
Marshal of Ceremonies	Bro. Oscar James, 32°	408-644-1023
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Kevin Griffith, 32°	408-259-6965

2016- 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
General Secretary	Bro. Henry A. Vlcek, 32°	408-757-1774
Treasurer	Bro. Carey Atwood, 32°	408-832-1867
Prelate	Bro. Mike Sloan, 32°	408-365-8266
Almoner	Bro. Jerry Best, 32° KCCH	408-712-5370
Orator/Librarian	Bro. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
Tiler	Bro. Tom Tefft, 32°	408-229-9460
Club Liaison	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Director of Ceremonies	Bro. Charles Cowden, 32° KCCH	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. TJ Jackson 32°	408-230-6088



**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.**

Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

President	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
Secretary	Bro. Henry A. Vlcek, 32°	408-757-1774
Treasurer	Bro. Carey Atwood, 32°	408-832-1867
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
Director (exp 9/30/2016)	Bro. Jerry Best, 32° KCCH	408-712-5370
Director (exp 9/30/2017)	Bro. Gregg A. Hall, 32°	408-656-2459
Director (exp 9/30/2017)	Bro. Wolfgang Lochner, 32°	408-505-1822
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Wayne Rose, 32°	408-266-4184
Director (exp 9/30/2015)	Bro. Randy Downey, 32° KCCH	408-674-8341
Venerable Master	Bro. Tom Bergevin, 32°	408-985-5996
Wise Master	Bro. Brandon Duenas, 32°	408-763-7696
Commander	Ill. Roger Bibb, 33°	408-371-0470
Master of Kadosh	Bro. JR McGovert, 32°	408-258-3700
Assist. To the Personal Representative	Ill. Richard A. Meyers, 33°	408-264-0277

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.

Honoring Blue Lodge Masters of 2015



Every year, the Valley of San Jose Honors the Blue Lodge Masters of the preceding year for service to their Lodge and Masonry in general during their year in the Oriental Chair. This year 8 Past Masters accepted our invitation to be so honored and recognized. Posing with Ill. Ken Nagel after receiving their awards, they are, from left to right: Wors Martin Maxey, Monterey #217; Wors Christopher Willingham, Paideia #852; Wors Fred Hink, Willow Glen-Fraternity #399; Wors Dell Bleiler, Los Altos #712; Ill. Nagel; Wors Jason Hawkinson-Prater, Mt View-DeAnza #194; Wors Mike Sloan, South Valley #187; Wors Nick Schilling, Mt Moriah #292; and Wors Hank Vlcek, Golden Rule #479. Congratulations and Thank You for your service!



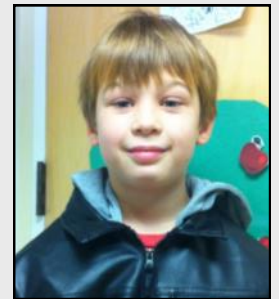
From the Clinic

Theo is a fun, charismatic 7 year old boy who has been seen at the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic for the past seven months. His mother brought him to the clinic due to difficulties with his articulation. Specifically, Theo was demonstrating a fronted /s/ distortion that made his speech sound slushy. His mom reported that “Theo was difficult to

understand at times. He struggled with other kids at the park and elsewhere.”

Since treatment began at our clinic, Theo has made excellent progress. He has worked with a program called “Straight Speech” in which the /t/ sound is used to facilitate the correct tongue position. The phonemes /s/ and /t/ have the same place of articulation. Thus, for a child who has difficulty figuring out the placement and airflow for /s/, this can be helpful. The program goes through a variety of steps including using a straw to produce centralized, sharp airflow. Theo has worked very hard since treatment began.

His mother has noticed an improvement not only in his sound production, but she has noticed an improvement in his social relationships too! She commented that Theo “has improved immensely. He’s more self-aware...We have the tools to help him and he can recognize when he needs to be more clear.” Theo is such a fun kid to work with. He’s always showing off his dance moves, artistic abilities, and caring for other kids in the clinic. He is truly such a joy to see for therapy. His mother is pleased with the services at our clinic too. She stated, “The caring that is displayed by the therapists is exactly what a parent is looking for.” We appreciate you, too, Theo and family!



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IMAGINE LIVING THE DREAM

Shut Ins

<u>Raymond Ruhland</u>	5068 Trenary Way, San Jose, CA. 95118-2626	408-267-5569 Visitors most welcome!
<u>Franklin Wong</u>	439 Dardanelli Lane Los Gatos, CA. 95032	408-656-5572 Calls/visitors Welcome!
<u>Jack Harris</u>	1066 Camino Ramon San Jose, CA. 95125	408-314-6124 Calls/visitors Welcome!

“Called from Labor:



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



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.

A note from Angela...



I still want to apologize if donation letters and/or dues payments have not been processed in a timely manner. I am finally able, after this busy past 2 weeks to hit the grindstone and begin working hard to get caught up.

If you have lost or misplaced your 2014 Plastic Dues Card, please contact me or email me and I will place an order with Supreme in Washington. All labels and cards come from them.

Our “Sweethearts Night” is coming up this February Stated Meeting, Tuesday February 9th.

We want to welcome all those Ladies and invite them and a significant other or friend to join us for a wonderful dinner and social. Please contact us for more information or to make your reservation!

Happy Valentine’s Day to All !

God Bless! **Angela**
adathans@gmail.com or (408)978-7483 wk. (408)561-0129 cell





Tuesday, February 9th, 2016

Assorted Appetizers

~Chicken Sherry-
-*Boneless Breast of Chicken in a
Sherry Cream Sauce*

~Vegetables

~Rice Pilaf

~Mixed Green Salad

~ Rolls and Butter

Dessert

\$15.00 per person

Reservations Required!!!

Vegetarian Entrée must be requested in advance!

Be sure to
make your
reservations!!!
408-978-7483
or Email Angela!
adathans@gmail.com

Or Text to or Call
Angela
(408)561-0129



Membership Reward Program

The membership reward program is being put in place to give a tangible reward to those members who are actively recruiting new members to the San Jose Valley of the Scottish Rite. The rewards will go to Top Line signers. Some of the rewards are based on a single reunion and one is a cumulative reward.

Single Reunion Rewards

Any member who is a top line signer will receive a complimentary meal at the Stated Meeting where the Capping Ceremony will be held. Please mention this when making your reservation for that meal.

Any member who is a top line signer for at least 3 candidates will receive the complimentary meal mentioned in number one and will also have all meals during the reunion complementary as well.

Cumulative

Every member who is the top line signer for a candidate, and fulfills their duties to the candidate as described in the Top Line Signer Job Description, will earn one percentage point towards a life membership. The member may utilize their points at any time after they have a total of 25%. They may choose to hold onto their points until such time as they choose to redeem, so the discount on life membership could range from anywhere between 25% and 100% depending on when the member decides to redeem his points. If the member decides to wait and is the Top Line Signer for 100 new members, he will receive a free life membership. The rules of the cumulative program may be changed at any time, and the participating member may choose to stay with the existing plan or to move to the new plan as they desire.

MASTER CRAFTSMAN PROGRAM

We will try once again to get the Master Craftsman Study Group going. We are going to be going through the Master Craftsman Philosophy with Morals and Dogma. This is actually the 3rd installment of the program, but you can work on it along with the group regardless of having completed the others. This group is open to any Master Mason as Morals and Dogma is a publicly available book. So, if you know someone at your lodge that may be interested — have them come down.

We will meet on the Third Tuesday of the Month at 7pm, starting on March 15.

Please contact Gregg Hall at: 408-656-2459 or greggahall@gmail.com if you are interested and he will give you all the details.





Greetings All,

Happy 5776 A.M.! I hope your New Year is off to a good start. I would like to begin this column by first thanking the members of this Valley for allowing me the privilege to serve as Master of Kadosh of the San Jose Consistory. I would also like to thank our 2015 Master of Kadosh, Bro. Bud Ramsey KCCH, for all his guidance and leadership. In case you are unawares, Bro. Ramsey is not only a Past Master of Kadosh, but also a Past Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, a Past Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix, and a Past Commander of the Council of Kadosh. He has certainly left behind some pretty big shoes to fill and a stellar example for all Scottish Rite Masons to follow.



Thank you again Bro. Ramsey for your exemplary dedication and service.

Now, since this submission will be printed in the February Rite Word, I thought I would share with you a brief history of one of my favorite days of the year, Valentine's Day. There's no doubt it is one of America's most popular holidays. More than 62% of Americans celebrate by sending greeting cards and flowers; giving candy or other gifts; enjoying romantic dinners; or all three. But the history behind Valentine's day turns out to be somewhat surprising.

For example, the roots of Valentine's Day go all the way back to a raucous ancient Roman fertility festival held in mid February called *Lupercalia*. Lupercalia was conducted annually on February 15 under the superintendence of a corporation of priests called *Luperci*. The origins of the festival are obscure, although the likely derivation of its name from *lupus* (Latin: "wolf") has variously suggested a connection with an ancient deity who protected herds from wolves and with the legendary she-wolf who nursed Romulus and Remus. As a fertility rite, the festival is also associated with the god Faunus.

The festival began with the sacrifice by the Luperci of goats and a dog, after which two of the Luperci were led to the altar, their foreheads were touched with a bloody knife, and the blood was wiped off with wool dipped in milk; the ritual required that the two young men laugh. The sacrificial feast followed, after which the Luperci cut thongs from the skins of the sacrificial animals and ran in two bands around the Palatine hill, striking with the thongs at any woman who came near them. A blow from the thong was supposed to render a woman fertile. In 494 CE, the Christian church under Pope Gelasius I appropriated the form of the rite as the Feast of the Purification. But who was St. Valentine?

Not much is known about the holiday's namesake. First of all, there was more than just one Christian cleric named Valentine. One of them was sentenced to death for performing marriage ceremonies in secret after Emperor Claudius II banned marriage for young Roman men. Apparently, he was of the belief that single men made better soldiers.

It wasn't until the 1300's though that the holiday became definitively associated with love and romance. Back then, people believed that February 14th was also the beginning of mating season for birds. The first written Valentine greetings appeared in the 15th century. And by the 17th Century, people in Great Britain had begun a tradition of exchanging Valentine's Day cards or letters. Valentine's Day soon caught on in the U.S. as well. The first mass produced holiday cards emerged in the 1840's and Valentine's Day soon exploded into a major consumer holiday.

Today, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's cards are sent each year, more than on any other holiday except for Christmas. More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes are sold and more 220 million roses are produced for the holiday in a typical year. All together, Americans spend almost 20 billion on Valentine's Day; or an average of about \$130 per person, per year. While the most popular gifts were candy and flowers; nearly 20% of Americans splurge on jewelry, shelling-out as much as 4 billion dollars annually.

So, if this month you find yourself fortunate enough to be one of the above statistics, I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. Be thankful and express your love the best way you know how.

And if you don't...who cares? You just saved about 130 bucks and have a whole evening to do what thou wilt. Enjoy it!

See you at the next RSM.

J.R. McGovern,
Master of Kadosh

P.S. Checkout the links below next time you get a quiet moment to yourself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvcoGcBpCW4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-hz_zKZdnE



Congratulations to the New Masters and Officers of 2016



Lodge of Perfection, Bro Tom Bergevin 32°, Venerable Master



Chapter of Rose Croix, Bro Brandon Duenas 32°, Wise Master



Council of Kadosh, Ill. Roger Bibb 33°, Commander



Consistory, Bro JR McGovert 32°, Master of Kadosh



THE GENERAL OFFICERS of the VALLEY of SAN JOSE



Cutting the ceremonial cake



III FRANK LOUI



The Installation begins.....



FROM THE COMMANDER OF KADOSH



My Brothers,

The San Jose Council of Kadosh is the Body responsible for the 19th through the 30th Scottish Rite Degrees, known as the Philosophical or Chivalric Degrees.



“The Council Degrees exemplify various philosophical and religious traditions, as well as our Orders of Knighthood, as embodying principles and ideas promulgated by our Rite. Their precepts, teachings and ideas illustrate what must be encountered, understood and employed on the path to greater Truth and Knowledge.”

“The 19th Degree shows how the great moral principles inculcated in the preceding Degrees lead up to their application in various schools of religious, philosophical and civil thought.”

“Once enlightenment and proper conduct free a man from bondage and servile and base behavior, the structure of the old and faulty systems of belief are shattered and destroyed, symbolized by the Angels pouring their vials. For when evil, symbolized by darkness, destroys itself, naught is left but the Light. Truth alone endures, because it is real; all else is illusion..”

The Degrees no longer speak of building the Temple, but of building the New City, referring to the day when all Mankind will live together according to the principles extolled by Masonry. Candidates will be made a Priest of the Order of Melchizedek, meaning that the Candidate should assume these priestly qualities: virtue, sincerity, equitability, truth, justice and tolerance. Be true and faithful to God, to duty and yourself. This entitles the candidate to be called a Pontiff, or bridge builder, able to make his way in the labyrinth of life. Thus, the name of the 19th Degree - the Grand Pontiff, the First Degree of the Council of Kadosh.”

(All of the above is taken from the Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide.)

*Thank You to the Scottish Rite Masons listed below
for serving the San Jose Council of Kadosh for 2016:*

Rick Bartlett, 32°, 1st Lt Commander

Dell Bleiler, 32° KCCH, 2nd Lt. Commander

Charles Colman, 32°, Marshal of Ceremonies

William Mattson, 32°, Lt. of the Guard

Fraternally,

ILL. ROGER BIBB, 33°, COMMANDER





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April 22-23, 29-30 / May 2, 2016

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PROPOSITION/PETITION

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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 Events

Tuesday, Feb 9th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm

6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner ~ Program—”Sweethearts Night”

Tuesday, Feb 16th ~ MONTHLY OAM MEETING - Host: San Jose #10

6:30pm ~ Dinner 7:30pm ~ SOI—Ritual of the First Degree

Tuesday, Jan 23rd ~ QUARTERLY SJSR FOUNDATION MEETING - 5:30pm

Tuesday, Jan 23rd ~ MONTHLY ALL OFFICER COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 8th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm

6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner ~ Program—”TBA”

Thursday, March 10th ~ MONTHLY OAM MEETING - Host: South Valley #187

6:30pm ~ Chicken Feed Dinner 7:30pm ~ Grand Master Visitation

Tuesday, March 22nd ~ MONTHLY ALL OFFICER COUNCIL MEETING - 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 12th ~ Stated Meeting @ 6:00pm

6:30pm - Social Hour ~ 7:00pm - Dinner ~ Program—”TBA”

Friday/Sat, April 22nd/23rd ~ FIRST WEEKEND OF SPRING 2016 REUNION

Friday/Sat, April 29th/30th ~ SECOND WEEKEND OF SPRING 2016 REUNION

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