



## The Rite Word

### From the Venerable Master

Greetings Brethren

I hope everyone is enjoying our summer weather and that you are in good health.

The July 8th Grand Master's reception was a great success. We had a good turnout of our members, their ladies and visitors. Ill Ken Nagel presented to the Grand Master a beautiful Gavel, which was carved out by Matt Spencer, Past Master of Liberty Lodge No. 299. He then presented a check of \$5000 from the San Jose Scottish Rite to the California Masonic Foundation.

Vergil Quina from the Monterey Scottish Rite Club Presented the Grand Master with a gift and gave a wonderful speech.

The Grand Master then gave a walk about speech on Masonry and the progress it is making in California.

In all if you were not there you missed a great event.

I would like to quote an article on the meaning of the Lesser Lights. It is from a book called *Masonry Defined*.



“ In the lecture of the first degree we are told a Lodge has three symbolic lesser lights; one of these is in the East, one in the West, and one in the South. There is no light in the North, because King Solomon's Temple, of whichever Lodge is a representation, was placed so far north of the ecliptic that the sun and moon, at their meridian height, could dart no rays into the northern part thereof. The north we therefore Masonically call a place of darkness.

This symbolic use of the three lesser lights is very old, being founded in the earliest lectures of the last century.

The three lights, like the principal officers and the three principal supports, refer, undoubtedly, to the three stations of the sun, its rising in the east, its meridian in the south, and its setting in the west: and thus the symbolism of the Lodge, as typical of the world, continues to be preserved.

*Rufus Rosenberg*



### 2025 - Lodge of Perfection

<b>Venerable Master</b>	Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32° KCCH	650-885-5469
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Bro. Noe Escamilla 32°	408-310-7915
<b>Captain of the Host</b>	Bro. John Absalon 32°	909-660-9983

### 2025 - Chapter of Rose Croix

<b>Wise Master</b>	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Bro. Frank Fitzgerald 32°	831-588-4978
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Bro. Ben Shuford 32°	408-429-5370
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Bro. Doug Picard 32°	408-893-3973
<b>Guardian of the Temple</b>	Bro. Robert Fernandez 32°	831-402-1234

### 2025- Council of Kadosh

<b>Commander</b>	Bro. Max Mora 32°	408-259-8306
<b>1st Lt Commander</b>	Bro. Mike Dremel 32°	831-383-9971
<b>2nd Lt Commander</b>	Bro. Neal Gossard 32°	408-234-5694
<b>Marshal of Ceremonies</b>	Bro. Thomas Babroudi 32°	408-771.2391
<b>Lt of the Guard</b>	Bro. Willie Cadiente 32°	408-348-4732

### 2025 San Jose Consistory

<b>Master of Kadosh</b>	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
<b>Prior</b>	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
<b>Preceptor</b>	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
<b>Marshal of Ceremonies</b>	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
<b>Captain of the Guard</b>	Bro. Allen Diamond 32°	408-550-5039

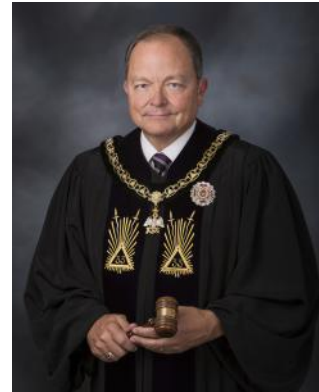
### 2025- General Officers

<b>Personal Representative</b>	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
<b>Asst. to the Personal Rep.</b>	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447
<b>General Secretary</b>	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bro. Kenric Baker 32°	714-319-9977
<b>Prelate</b>	Bro. Mike Lammer, 32°	408-309-5452
<b>Almoner</b>	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423
<b>Orator/Librarian</b>	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
<b>Tiler</b>	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
<b>Director of Ceremonies</b>	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416

<b>Chief Knight KSA</b>	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
-------------------------	----------------------	--------------

### Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

<b>President</b>	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
<b>Secretary</b>	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bro. Kenric Baker 32°	714-319-9977
<b>Director (exp 2025)</b>	Bro. Tim Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
<b>Director (exp 2025)</b>	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
<b>Director (exp 2026)</b>	Bro. John Absalon, 32°	909-660-9983
<b>Director (exp 2026)</b>	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
<b>Director (exp 2027)</b>	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
<b>Director (exp 2027)</b>	Bro. Mike Lammer 32°	408-309-5452
<b>Venerable Master</b>	Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32° KCCH	650-885-5469
<b>Wise Master</b>	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
<b>Commander</b>	Bro. Max Mora 32°	408-259-8306
<b>Master of Kadosh</b>	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
<b>Asst. to the Personal Rep.</b>	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447



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



**Ill. Arthur L. Salazar, Jr. 33°**  
Deputy of the Supreme Council  
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.***

### From the Wise Master

Dear members of the San Jose Scottish Rite,

I am really Enjoying this year. We have had several wins this year. We had one of the most enjoyable and well presented reunions that I have ever attended. It was truly an enjoyable event and everyone helped to make it a success. I am looking forward to the next one and hope we can have as many come out and support it. Even if you're not participating in one of the degrees, it is still a very impressive event, and I'm sure your support will be greatly appreciated. A lot of effort goes into these reunions, and it is the work of many that made the last one a success. So, please join us at the fall Scottish Rite Reunion. As has been my custom this year, I have tried to provide our membership with some Scottish Rite education. I have provided a short article below that outlines some of Scottish Rite of Freemasonry's contributions to American history.



American blend of mysticism, philosophy, and patriotism. While the Scottish Rite is just one branch of Freemasonry, its contributions to American civic life, education, and leadership culture remain significant. Through its rituals, charitable endeavors, and emphasis on personal betterment, the Scottish Rite has left an enduring mark on American fraternal and historical landscapes. Please enjoy the rest of our year in Scottish Rite, and please join us at our next event. I look forward to seeing you!

Fraternally,  
Chris Boyes, Wise Master

### From the Secretary

August is a rare month in which there are no National holidays that are observed throughout the United States. However, that doesn't mean that people haven't adopted August as a month to bring attention to their favorite causes. Did you know that August has been designated National Immunization Awareness Month, National Win With Civility Month, and Neurosurgery Outreach Month. It contains National Elvis Week and National Resurrect Romance week, perhaps for those who have forgotten to observe national girlfriend day, which is on the first day of the month. I'm sure you all feel better knowing that August has some significance.



### The Scottish Rite in American History

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry has played a notable role in the tapestry of American history, not only as a fraternal organization but as a cultural and intellectual influence that helped shape the values and leadership of the nation. Formally established in the United States in the early 19th century, the Scottish Rite expanded on the foundational degrees of Freemasonry, offering members a system of moral philosophy and civic duty expressed through elaborate rituals and symbolic teachings.

The Rite took root in America around 1801, when the first Supreme Council was formed in Charleston, South Carolina—making the U.S. the birthplace of the modern Scottish Rite. This organization quickly attracted men of influence, including politicians, military leaders, judges, and educators, who found in its degrees a structured approach to ethics, justice, and enlightenment ideals. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Scottish Rite emphasized education, charity, and civic engagement. It established institutions like the Scottish Rite hospitals for children and supported public schooling and literacy initiatives. The Rite also preserved and propagated Enlightenment values such as religious freedom, constitutional democracy, and individual rights—principles central to the American experiment.

Figures such as Albert Pike, one of the most prominent Scottish Rite leaders, contributed significantly to its philosophical development. Pike's work, *Morals and Dogma*, became a key text in the Rite and reflected a uniquely

I really want to compliment the Scottish Rite members of the Valley of San Jose on your support of our Childhood Language Disorders Clinic. This makes a difference in the lives of so many children. We at Scottish Rite, in helping young people surmount the difficulties they are facing, have reason to be proud. What better legacy can we leave than to help make a difference in the lives of these kids. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!!



## From the Commander

Dear Brethren of The San Jose Scottish Rite,

It is my pleasure to say that our Grand Masters Reception was a great hit! I hope that you, as well, my brethren, also enjoyed it. We had great attendance, and it looked like everyone had a great time, including our Grand Master. I also hope the Grand Master appreciated the turnout. The dinner was superb, and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Please make sure and acknowledge the fine work that Angela and her team have done to keep us well fed with very delicious meals. I hope all my brothers are doing well, and I hope to see you at our next Scottish Rite Meeting.

Kudos to the Knights of Saint Andrew for performing an exemplary arch of steel and flag escort. These ceremonies are always very impressive. I would like to congratulate, Chief Knight Chris Boyes and the Knights for performing these ceremonies.

With that, good day and be safe!

*Michael Moe*

Labor Day Weekend

August 30-31, 2025 at the  
Alameda County Fairgrounds,



## From the Master of Kadosh

I would like to thank you for those who came to our Grand Master reception. It was filled with brotherly love, good fellowship and good foods. Summer is here and some of us want to travel. I would like to share "Traveling Man In Masonry". In the ancient world of Operative Masonry, the masons were often required to move from job to job much as in our modern time. It was further explained that ancient master masons, just as 1st class masons of today of today, were more likely to travel great distances than those of lesser ranks (FC & EA). Due to their experience, they could move freely from job to job. Those doing so were normally members of a Masonic guild, whose members would, if known, vouch for the qualifications of another 'traveling' mason. In speculative masonry we as Master Masons may freely move from Lodge to Lodge (either visiting or moving membership) and upon proper avouchment or by testing be found worthy to attend another Master Mason Lodge. This is much the same as moving from one job to another or from one ancient Masonic guild to another. Also, a Master Mason is a traveler from west to east, as east is the where the sun comes up, hence the source of light. This is why the master sits in the East. Because it is the source of light. Thus, being a traveling man represents our journey from darkness to Masonic light. We "traveled" symbolically when we were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Remember the words, "It will be necessary for you to travel"? and the condition of the road we would have to travel? In Masonry we are told to seek the light. Light in Masonry is knowledge and from that knowledge comes information and understanding. (by Bro. Jeff Godwin)

*Jeff Godwin*





## From the Chief Knight

Once again, I am truly honored to be Chief Knight of the SJSR Knights of Saint Andrew. We have had some great recent events, including a barbecue, accolades, and the Grand Masters annual Reception and Agape Dinner. At the dinner, many of the Knights, welcomed the Most Worshipful, Arthur Salazar with an Arch of Steel and escorted the flag to it's proper place. I want to thank all who helped make this a very impressive ceremony. We had full lines on both side of the procession and I could not be more proud. The next event is quickly approaching. Please see the details below, and come join us that weekend. It promises to be an awesome event.



159th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games in Pleasanton this Labor Day Weekend (August 30–31, 2025):

### Tickets & Pricing

- 1-Day Pass (Aug 30 or 31):
- Adults: \$35
- Seniors (65+): \$20
- Youth (12–17): \$20
- Children (6–11): \$5
- Children 5 & under: FREE (ticket required)
- Active Military: FREE (ticket required)
- 2-Day Pass:
- Adults: \$60
- Seniors: \$30
- Youth (12–17): \$30
- Children (6–11): \$10
- Children 5 & under & Active Military: FREE
- Purchase online (scanning QR code at gates or in advance), no on-site box office

### Parking & Entry

- Parking: \$15/day (card only: credit, debit, Apple Pay, Google Pay)
- Gates: Open 8 AM; close 6 PM; final entry at 4:30 PM; re-entry allowed until ~5:30 PM with hand stamp
- Enter via Gate 8 or 12 off Valley Avenue—follow fairgrounds signs

### Whisky Tasting

- Separate wristband/event ticket:
- General Tasting (7 samples): \$35


- VIP (12 samples): \$45
- Open Saturday & Sunday, 12:30–4:30 PM

### What to Bring

Recommendations from past attendees:

“Definitely bring a chair. Some shade... Pack like you’re going to an air show.”

- Bring portable seating, sunscreen, water, and layer-friendly attire

 Accommodations (If you are going both days, here are some hotels that are near the event.)

Several lodging options near Pleasanton:

Hotel Rate (per night) Notes

San Ramon Marriott from \$149 ~10 min drive, Saturday concert held here

DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton from \$154.75 On-site, near fairgrounds

AC Pleasanton Hotel from \$139 Modern option

Pleasanton Marriott from \$159 Preferred fairgrounds partner

SpringHill Suites & TownePlace Suites ~\$149 Suites near Stoneridge Mall

RV Camping at Fairgrounds availability via reservation  
No tent camping

### Extras & Travel Tips

- Trackside Terrace: Premium seating & dining in reserved tables—info on fairgrounds site
- Getting There:
- By BART: Pleasanton station, short Uber/Lyft ride
- BY CAR: Easily accessed via I-580/680
- Explore Pleasanton’s Main Street restaurants, shopping, and parks

### Next Steps

- Tickets & tasting wristbands: Buy early to lock in prices and availability

<https://alameda.saffire.com/p/pages/scottish-games>

- Parking: Pre-book daily passes
- Seating: Bring chairs or reserve Trackside Terrace
- Lodging: Choose among listed hotels or book RV spot early
- Plan your visit: Map out events like Heavy Athletics, Dancing, Piping, Kilted Mile, Grandstand Shows & Whisky Tasting

## 2025 Honor Roll

Ill. Bennie Cooper 33°  
Bro. Rich Johnston 32°  
Bro. Richard Medefesser 32°  
Bro. Harry Moore 32°  
Bro. James Leggate 32°  
Ill. Chuck Cowden 33°  
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°  
Bro. Mark McEuen 32°  
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32°KCCH  
Ill. Dee Ayre 33°  
Bro. Bob Ahrens 32°  
Ill. Roger Bibb 33°  
Hon. Virgilio Quina 32°KCCH  
Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32°KCCH  
Bro. Max Mora 32°  
Bro. Patrick Judge 32°  
Bro. Tom Bergevin 32°KCCH  
Bro. Doug Picard 32°  
Ill. Richard M. Fisher 33°  
Bro. David E. Tavernetti 32°  
Bro. Kevin Pinson 32°  
Bro. Neofito T. Santos 32°  
Bro. Lee Blankenship 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.

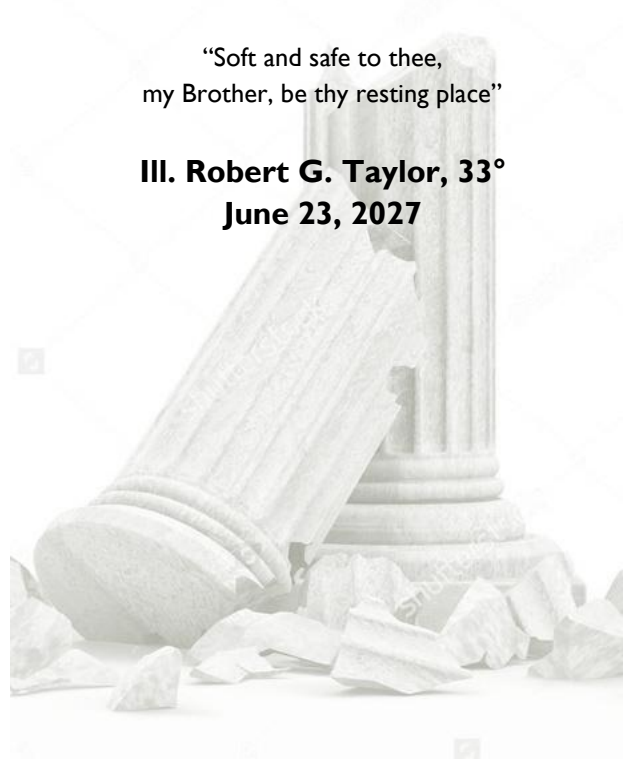
## Donations

Ill. Richard M. Fisher 33° (in honor of Ill. Robert Taylor, 33°)  
Ill. Richard M. Fisher 33° (in honor of our new members)

## Called From Labor

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

**Ill. Robert G. Taylor, 33°**  
**June 23, 2027**



**Link to online petition:**



## News from the Monterey County Scottish Rite Club

Summer 2025

This summer finds the Monterey County Scottish Rite Club busy doing the work of the Rite.

In May, the Club was at the street fair Pacific Grove Good Old Days. There was an exceptional booth with Scottish Rite regalia and brothers were dropping all days, both days. It was a fine time talking to the public about who we are and what we do for the Children's Language Clinic.

On Saturday June 21st there was a fundraising BBQ at the Pacific Grove Masonic Lodge. Almost fifty brothers where there, sharing stories, breaking bread and having a general good time. Illustrious Roger Bibb and his wife Valerie made the drive down from San Jose to attend.

On Tuesday July 8th Club President Honorable Virgil Quina Sr PM KCCH along with a few club members attended the Grand Masters Festival Board Banquet. Honorable Virgil gave a heartfelt speech on the honor, benefits and pleasure of having the opportunity to be a Scottish Rite Mason, after which he presented Grand Master Most Worshipful Arthur Salazar a donation from the Monterey County Scottish Rite Club.



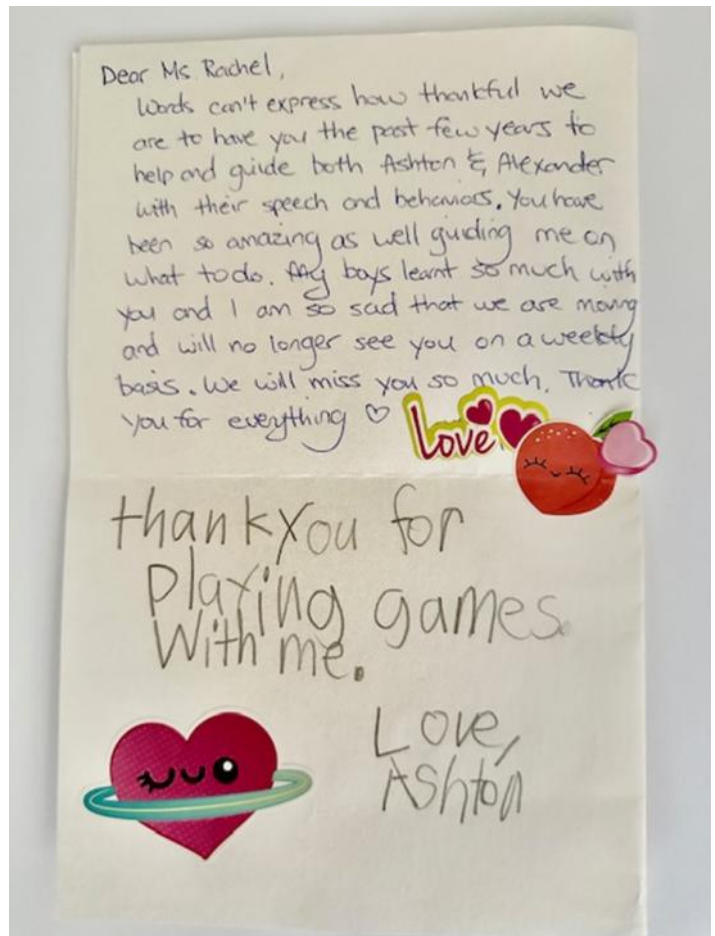
The Club continues to be present at 3rd degrees in Monterey County to congratulate new Master Masons and make a presentation about the Rite. Other projects include getting a degree team together for the Spring Reunion. The Club meets the last Saturday of each month at the Pacific Grove Masonic Lodge at 11:00 AM. There is a

Brother's Breakfast before and all are invited. Take a drive South for the day some Saturday and enjoy the fog.



### From the Clinic

We wanted to share a note of appreciation from one of our families who has received services at our clinic. We are incredibly thankful to support and impact each child and family that walks through our clinic doors!







### Abraham Finds a Wife for His Son

Last month, we learned about Abraham's first real estate transaction. He purchased the field of Machpelah because there was a cave there where he could bury his recently deceased wife, Sarah.

This month, we travel with Abraham's servant in search of a wife for his son, Isaac. The Bible text does not give the servant's name.

From Jewish tradition, we learn his name was Eliezer.

"And Abraham said unto his eldest servant [Eliezer] of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac." Verses 2-4.

Abraham wanted Eliezer to find Isaac a wife from among Abraham's family living in Mesopotamia. That action continued the practice of marrying within the tribe and not mixing with outsiders, the Canaanites, in this case.

"And the servant [Eliezer] said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again." Verses 5-6.

Eliezer could not compel a hesitant young women to leave her home and travel to a far-away land to marry a man she has never met. He proposed an alternative, "Should I bring Isaac to meet her?"

"The Lord God of heaven, which took me [Abraham] from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again." Verses 7-8.

If the girl doesn't come willingly, don't try to force her and don't bring Isaac to meet her. Note that if the "right" girl says "no", Eliezer is released from his oath. With this clarification, he took the oath and set out on his journey.

"And the servant [Eliezer] put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter." Verse 9.

What's this about "hand under his master's thigh"? Talmudic tradition takes these verses to indicate that the oath was sworn while Eliezer held Abraham's penis in his hand. It derives from the rule that all Jewish oaths must be sworn while holding some ritual object, which is supposed to indicate the presence of God at the time of the swearing. Abraham's circumcision was the sign of the covenant between God and his people. See Genesis 17:9-14. Nowadays, Jewish people just hold a Torah scroll. The June, 1976 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* has an informative article on this topic.

"And the servant [Eliezer] took ten camels of the camels of his master [Abraham], and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor. And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water." Verses 10-11.

Although nobody else is mentioned at this point in the story, Eliezer traveled in the company of other servants of Abraham. The distance from Abraham's encampment near Be'er Sheva to Haran, the city of Nahor, was about 400 miles. Assuming the loaded camels traveled 30 miles per day, a one-way trip took approximately two weeks.

### Looking for the right young woman

Where is the best place in the Ancient Middle East to go girl-watching? The local well, when the young women come to draw water for their families. Either in morning before it gets too hot, or in the evening after things had cooled down. Eliezer prays for success:

"And he [Eliezer] said O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master." Verses 12-14.

Eliezer was looking for a specific behavior to identify the right bride for Isaac: A woman that not only offered the customary hospitality of giving a drink to a visitor, but who would volunteer to provide water for the visitor's

camels.

"And it came to pass, before he [Eliezer] had done speaking (finished praying), that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. And the damsel [Rebekah] was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up." Verses 15-16.

This could be the candidate... She was part of Abraham's extended family, she was really pretty, had excellent hospitality skills, and never had sex. The perfect fiancée. Eliezer implemented his plan...

"And the servant [Eliezer] ran to meet her [Rebekah], and said, 'Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher'." Verse 17.

"And she said, 'Drink, my lord:' and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, 'I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking'. And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels." Verses 18-20.

Rebekah's actions passed Eliezer's test. Is she the right girl for Isaac?

"And the man [Eliezer] wondering at her [Rebekah] held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not." Verse 21.

### **Eliezer marks Rebekah to be Isaac's wife**

"And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man [Eliezer] took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;" Verse 22.

The jewelry was worth about \$17,000.00 in today's money. As we will read in verse 30, Eliezer actually placed the earring and bracelets on Rebekah. That action was not just giving a gift. It implied a covenant or agreement.

"And said, 'Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?' And she said unto him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor'. She said moreover unto him, 'We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in'." Verses 23-25.

Eliezer's prayer was clearly answered. This was the right girl! He offered thanks (verses 26-27) while Rebekah ran home to tell her family.

"And the damsel [Rebekah] ran, and told them of her mother's house these things. And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man [Abraham's slave], unto the well. And it came to pass, when he [Laban] saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man [Eliezer] unto me [Rebekah]; that he [Laban] came unto the man [Eliezer]; and, behold, he [Eliezer] stood by the camels at the well. And he [Laban] said, Come in, thou blessed of the Lord; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels. And the man [Eliezer] came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's [the other servants'] feet that were with him. And there was set meat before him [Eliezer] to eat: but he said, 'I will not eat, until I have told mine errand'. And he [Laban] said, 'Speak on'." Verses 28-33.

Before enjoying a meal, Eliezer explained who he was (verse 34), who sent him (verse 35), his assignment (verses 36-38), and what would happen if the selected young woman did not cooperate (verses 39-41), his prayer for success (verses 42-44), and the resulting events (verses 45-48).

### **Rebekah's family gives their blessing**

"And now if ye [Rebekah's family] will deal kindly and truly with my master [Abraham], tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left. Then Laban [her brother] and Bethuel [her father] answered and said, 'The thing proceedeth from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's [Isaac's] wife, as the Lord hath spoken'. And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant [Eliezer] heard their words, he worshipped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth." Verses 49-52.

Rebekah's father and brother agreed to let her become Isaac's wife. But she also had to agree to the arrangement. Eliezer then presented more gifts (verse 53). He and the other servants ate dinner and stayed overnight. The next morning, Eliezer asks permission to leave (verse 54).

"And her brother [Laban] and her mother (name not mentioned) said, Let the damsel [Rebekah] abide with us a few

days, at the least ten; after that she shall go. And he [Eliezer] said unto them, 'Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master'. And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, 'Wilt thou go with this man?' And she said, 'I will go'." Verses 55-58.

With Rebekah's agreement, they sent her away (verse 59) with a blessing that she would become the mother of thousands of millions, and her descendants would overcome all their enemies. (verse 60) Rebekah and her servants mounted their camels, and left with Eliezer and Abraham's other servants (verse 61).

### Rebekah finally meets Isaac

"And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country." Verse 62.

The location referred to is Be'er Lahai Roi, which means "The well of him that lives and sees me". That was the place to which Hagar fled when Sarah kicked her out of Abraham's encampment, in Genesis chapter 16.

"And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. For she had said unto the servant, 'What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us?' And the servant had said, 'It is my master [Isaac]: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself'." Verses 63-65.

When the text says that Rebekah "lighted off her camel", it may be she she jumped off or even fell off the camel. The next thing she did was veil herself, an act of modesty and respect for her future husband.

"And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." Verse 67.

There is no mention of any betrothal or marriage celebrations in the text. Given Abraham's wealth, they likely held them at some point after Rebekah's arrival. For readers interested in kinship connections, Rebekah and Isaac were first cousins, once removed.

Next time, we will learn about Abraham's late-in-life marriage, the nations that resulted from it, and a famous dispute between Isaac's two sons.

*David Brown*

## Stated Meeting Menu Tuesday

### August 12th 2025

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY  
call the office, by August 8th)  
**DRESS IS CASUAL**

Assorted Appetizers

Chicken Sherry

Boneless chicken layered with  
sherry cream sauce

Rice Pilaf

Vegetables

Green Salad

Rolls with butter

Dessert

Invite family & friends. We need you to  
make your reservations by the Friday be-  
fore. No Exceptions.





## Fall Reunion Class

October 2025



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

## Petition for Degrees

(Full) Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME DATE

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Month, Day, and Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a US Citizen? YES ☐ NO ☐ If "No", where are you a citizen? \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Wife/Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Years as M.M.: \_\_\_\_ Blue Lodge Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place Raised: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Hat Size: \_\_\_\_ (example: "7 1/8")

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

_____	<b>Degree Fee</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Fall</b>
<i>Candidate's Signature</i>		\$200	\$200
_____	<b>Annual Dues</b>	\$90	\$0 (For Current Year)
1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME			
_____	<b>Total Due:</b>	<b>\$290</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<i>1st Sponsor Signature</i>			
_____			
2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME	I hereby authorize the San Jose Scottish Rite to charge \$ _____		
_____	to Credit Card # _____ CVC _____		
<i>2nd Sponsor Signature</i>	Expiration Date ____ / ____		

(Return Petition to Valley General Secretary's Office)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of authorized card holder*



## THE RITE WORD

2455 Masonic Drive  
San Jose, CA 95125-2036

Phone: 408-978-7483

e-mail: [mail@sanjosescottishrite.org](mailto:mail@sanjosescottishrite.org)

Periodicals  
Postage

PAID

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.\*

"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**, 2455 Masonic Drive San Jose CA 95125"

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

**Tuesday August 12th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**

Chapter Opens (casual dress)

**August 30th-31st ~ KSA at the Highland Games**

Fairgrounds in Pleasanton

**Tuesday September 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**

Council Opens

**Tuesday October 14th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**

Consistory Opens

**October 24th-26th ~ Annual Communication**

Grand Lodge of California

**Tuesday November 11th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**

Chapter Opens

**Tuesday December 9th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**

Council Opens