



## The Rite Word

### From the Venerable Master

I will start by saying Hi, and hope that I find everyone in good health. Our May Stated Meeting was well attended and our meal was excellent as always.

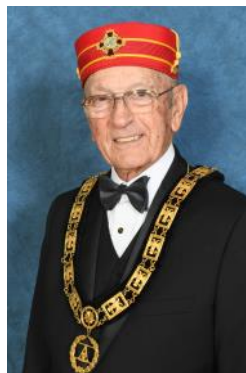
On April the 26th through April the 28th we had a State wide Reunion for all the Scottish Rite Degrees. This was the First State Reunion to be held in many years.

On Friday the 26th, our Scottish Rite Valley had the honor and privilege of conferring the 4th through the 14th Degree. It was an exceptional Job done by our Valley. The remaining degrees were done at the Oakland Scottish Rite. Our own Illustrious Ken Nagel 33Deg. was the spearhead in getting the different lodges in our jurisdiction to put on the different degrees. The different degree Directors did an excellent job of seeing that the Degrees were performed well. My congratulations to all that participated in the various degrees. We had over 80 candidates State Wide.

At our May Stated Meeting we had a capping ceremony for some of our brethren, who completed all of the 32 degrees. Congratulations to all of our Brothers. As of this writing our Stage and Floor Area are being refinished. They are being sanded and coats of Varnish are being applied. They finished the process on May 10th. It looks Great. Well done.

I again remind you of our Special Event to be held on June 29th. Our Dinner and Music Event to raise funds for our Rite Care Clinic. Dinner 6:30 PM with Music of the 50's and 60's at 7:30 PM. It will be a Great Night. Please call the Scottish Rite Office and make your Reservations. The meal and show are to be prepaid. Our clinic needs our support.

In this Month's Rite Word, I would like to quote an article on



Dedication of a Lodge. It's taken from a book called Masonry Defined.

A Dedication to the two Saints John is thus explained:

Q. Our lodges being finished, furnished, and decorated with ornaments, furniture, and Jewels, to whom were they consecrated. Ans. To God. Q. To whom were they first dedicated? Ans. To Noah, who was saved in the Ark. Q. By what name were the Masons then know? Ans. They were called Noachidae, sages, or Wise Men. Q. To whom were the lodges dedicated during the Mosaic dispensation. Ans. To Moses, the chosen of God, and Solomon, the son of David, King of Israel, who was an eminent patron of the craft. Q. But as Solomon was a Jew, and died long before the promulgation of christianity, to whom were they dedicated under the christian dispensation? Ans. From Solomon the patronage of Masonry passed to St. John the Baptist. Q. Under what name were they known after the promulgation of Christianity? Ans. Under the name of Essenes, Architects, or Freemasons. Q. Why were the Lodges dedicated to St. John the Baptist?. Ans. Because he was the forerunner of our Saviour, and by preaching repentance and humiliation, drew the first parallel of the Gospel. Q. Had St. John the Baptist any Equal?. Ans. He had; St. John the Evangelist. Q. Why is he said to be equal to the Baptist? Ans. Because he finished by his learning what the other began by his zeal, and thus drew a second line parallel to the former; ever since which time Freemason's lodges, in all Christian countries, have been dedicated to the one or the other, or both, of these worthy and worshipful men.

May you always have Love to Share, Health to Spare, and Friends who care. May you be blessed.

**We have a new start time for Stated Meetings. We will now start at 6:30pm with social and dinner following. This is to assist our brothers who are coming from work to be able to get to the meeting on time.**

## 2024 Honor Roll

Bro. David Pratt 32°  
Bro. John Kirk 32°  
Hon. David Driesbach 32° KCCH  
Bro. Peter Biggam 32°  
Ill. Bennie Cooper 33°  
Bro. Bobbie Byers 32°  
Bro. Douglass Picard 32°  
Bro. John Kirk 32°  
Bro. Mark McEuen 32°  
Bro. Neofito Santos 32°  
Ill. Richard Fisher 33°  
Hon. Virgilio Quina 32° KCCH  
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32° KCCH  
Ill. Chuck Cowden 33°  
Bro. John Bannister 32°  
Bro. Jason Fagan 32°  
Ill. Dee Ayre 33°  
Bro. Robert Allen 32°  
Ill. Roger Bibb 33°  
Bro. Lance 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

## Called From Labor

**Bro. James William (Bill) Bell 32°**  
**April 27, 2024**



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

### Hair Cuts

Bro. Kaleo, who is a licensed Hair Stylist is doing hair cuts on a reservation basis on Sundays between noon and 5pm. He is donating 100% of the money collected to the Scottish Rite.

He is doing it by appointment only and won't be here on days he doesn't have appointments, so if you would like to get your hair cut and help the Scottish Rite at the same time, please give the office a call to schedule your appointment.

To date, Kaleo has raised almost \$1K for our clinic. Thank you very much for your dedication.

**2024 - Lodge of Perfection**

<b>Venerable Master</b>	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Hon. Richard Rosenberg 32° KCCH	650-885-5469
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Bro. Timothy Lynch 32°	408-386-2746
<b>Captain of the Host</b>	Bro. John Absalon 32°	909-660-9983

**2024 - Chapter of Rose Croix**

<b>Wise Master</b>	Hon. Mark Burger, 32° KCCH	831-373-1094
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Bro. Chris Mays 32°	650-773-7995
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Bro. Oscar Arguello, Jr 32°	408-834-6671
<b>Guardian of the Temple</b>	Bro. Tom Thiel 32°	831-596-0506

**2024- Council of Kadosh**

<b>Commander</b>	Bro. Peter Cardilla 32°	831-214-9012
<b>1st Lt Commander</b>	Bro. Max Mora 32°	408-259-8306
<b>2nd Lt Commander</b>	Bro. Mike Dremel 32°	831-383-9971
<b>Marshal of Ceremonies</b>	Bro. Andrew Litfin 32°	408-832-5846
<b>Lt of the Guard</b>	Bro. Cesar Otero 32°	650-799-9763

**2024 San Jose Consistory**

<b>Master of Kadosh</b>	Bro. Helmuth Litfin 32°	408-421-9381
<b>Prior</b>	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
<b>Preceptor</b>	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
<b>Marshal of Ceremonies</b>	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
<b>Captain of the Guard</b>	Bro. Allen Diamond 32°	408-550-5039

**2024- General Officers**

<b>Personal Representative</b>	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
<b>Asst. to the Personal Rep.</b>	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730
<b>General Secretary</b>	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447
<b>Prelate</b>	Ill. Richard Fisher, 33°	408-779-4088
<b>Almoner</b>	Bro. Kaleo Gagne, 32°	669-888-6423
<b>Orator/Librarian</b>	Hon. David Kimball 32° KCCH	408-836-6792
<b>Tiler</b>	TBD	TBD
<b>Director of Ceremonies</b>	Ill. Charles Cowden, 33°	831-685-3416
<b>Chief Knight KSA</b>	Bro. Mike Lammer, 32°	408-309-5452

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

<b>President</b>	Ill. Kenneth G. Nagel, 33°	510-468-9864
<b>Secretary</b>	Ill. Gregg Hall, 33°	408-656-2459
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bro. Joe Campbell 32°	408-234-5447
<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>	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
<b>Director (exp 2024)</b>	Bro. David Kampschafer 32°	408-568-0978
<b>Director (exp 2024)</b>	Bro. Mike Lammer 32°	408-309-5452
<b>Venerable Master</b>	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
<b>Wise Master</b>	Hon. Mark Burger, 32° KCCH	831-373-1094
<b>Commander</b>	Bro. Peter Cardilla 32°	831-214-9012
<b>Master of Kadosh</b>	Bro. Helmuth Litfin 32°	408-421-9381
<b>Asst. to the Personal Rep.</b>	Ill. H. Bud Ramsey, 33°	408-838-3730



**Ill. James Cole 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.**

***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

Looking back over May it was wonderful to attend and have the privilege of contributing to a very successful Reunion. The degrees were great, and it was fantastic to see many of them that are normally only communicated. A fine example of the rich fabric of the lessons of Masonry and especially the Scottish Rite. I also got to know a few of the candidates, and we have some fine men that are joining our ranks who will no doubt contribute to our Craft in the years to come.



Our time together in Masonry is, especially as exemplified by our Scottish Rite degrees, the perfect opportunity to examine our lives, our place in our families, communities, society as a whole and of course, our relationship with the Great Architect. These times give us the opportunity to know ourselves better and how to communicate and contribute to the greater good.

Communication is an interesting thing for me. It is often, for me, a time to learn to listen first and then, if appropriate, respond back. I have found that some of the best men and Masons are the ones that say the least, just as the wisest man is usually the one that considers and perhaps asks about what he might not be familiar with as opposed to the one that quickly tries to convince others of what he may know.

Much of this is also about context. When and where to lend one's opinion. Often it is better to listen to what you might learn, than to talk about what you might not really know. This good to have an opinion, giving your thoughts, experiences and conversations with others some consideration. In my mind, this is a fluid process, constant evolving and changing. This is one of the key aspects of our Great Society, to be able to listen to the opinion and beliefs of others.

On another note, the question for me is often, not only what I think about things, but what to do about it. In thinking about this one day, I came across a quote by Roy T. Bennett, in his book *The Light in the Heart*

“Don't just learn, experience. Don't just read, absorb. Don't just change, transform. Don't just relate, advocate. Don't just promise, prove. Don't just criticize, encourage. Don't just think, ponder. Don't just take, give. Don't just see, feel. Don't just dream, do. Don't just hear, listen. Don't just talk, act. Don't just tell, show. Don't just exist, live.”

Thank you for listening.

*Mark Burger*

### From the Commander

Each month I've looked at one of the Council degrees. Up to now, each of them has been an updated and revised version of a degree from an early rite of the Royal Secret. This ends, however, with the 23rd degree and a subset of the Council degrees, referred to as the Mystery Degrees, begins. The Chief of the Tabernacle is the first of the four Mystery degrees, and the only one styled as a Lower Mystery degree. The lessons of the degree include faith, humility, and service, and stress the oneness of God.



Though very little is retained from the Royal Secret's version of the 23rd degree, called the Key of Masonry, some remnants are still detectable. The Key of Masonry was a long degree that seemed to recap the lessons of all the previous degrees. It was heavily steeped in alchemical and astrological symbolism, giving special attention to certain numerical symbols, especially seven and twelve, numbers which are also featured in the modern degree. Additionally, references to the four-faced cherubs of the Book of Ezekiel appear in both degrees.

This, for the most part, is where the similarities stop. The departure from the old degree is understandable. For one thing, the Key of Masonry is exceptionally long, clearly designed to be a recap of a long journey through the twenty previous degrees. Along with this, the Key is a very strange combination of symbols, featuring a master styled as the biblical Adam, a character called Brother Truth, and a collection of so-called 'sylphs', the imaginary air spirit first described by the alchemist and physician Paracelsus.

The Chief of the Tabernacle degree symbolically refers to the tabernacle of Moses, which was erected in the wilderness as a place for God to dwell among the people as they wandered in search of a homeland. This tent of meeting was also the prototype for the later Temple of Solomon, which was to be a more permanent home for the Lord. King Solomon's Temple, as we know, is, itself, the model for every masonic lodge. That is, every lodge of masonry is a place where the Great Architect of the Universe is present and dwelling among the people. The light we find in masonry and the quality of the brotherhood, are the evidence of his holy presence.

But the lodge is also a symbol. It's a symbol, we are told, of the entire universe and all of Creation. Therefore we, as Masons, are charged, not only to acknowledge and see God's presence in the world, but to portray it, as vehicles of that masonic light, that through us and the influence of brotherly love, the whole world might be aware of the Lord who dwells among us.

Until the next,

*Peter McConary*

## From the Master of Kadosh

The Consistory trip this year to the Hiller Aviation Museum has been scheduled for Sunday July 21st, the day after the 55th anniversary of the first manned lunar landing back in 1969. We expect to arrive (carpool if you can) at about 11:00 AM, and stay until the Museum closes at 5:00 PM.

Reservations have already been made for at least 12 persons (the minimum for group discounts), which gives us a \$2 discount per person off the regular admission price for adults, children, or seniors.

The Museum regular prices are normally \$21 for Adults, \$14 for Seniors (Age 65+) and \$14 for Youths (5-17), but WITH the (minimum 12 person) discounts the prices are \$19 for Adults, and \$12 for Seniors and Youths. Children 4 and under are FREE with a paid Adult, and Active Military are also FREE. Assuming that we have at least 12 attendees, we will get the discount prices.

Look for a flyer with additional trip details at the July Stated Dinner.

Continuing the discussion of  $\Phi$  (phi, or the Golden Mean) within our series on Geometry, we present the following excerpt from "Sacred Geometry – Deciphering the Code", by Stephen Skinner (© 2006 by Octopus Publishing Group Ltd, paperback by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., ISBN 978-1-4027-6582-7). As noted previously, my own comments are enclosed in italicized braces [ ... ] .

From **Chapter 1** of Sacred Geometry, page 36 (and following):

<excerpt>

..., the Ancients always preferred numbers that could be expressed as whole numbers or fractions (such as  $\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{9}$ ) and preferably unary fractions, which are fractions with 1 as the numerator (such as  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $\frac{1}{60}$ ).

So here is *phi* expressed as a fraction:

$$\Phi = (\sqrt{5} + 1) / 2$$

We can reduce the equation to a simpler form by dividing through by 2:

$$\Phi = 0.5 + (\sqrt{5} \times 0.5)$$

$\Phi$  is now expressed entirely in terms of 5, so it should not come as a surprise that 'fiveness' is a quality of  $\Phi$  and that  $\Phi$  occurs in the proportions of the pentagon (a five-sided figure) and of the pentagram (a five-pointed figure).

## Incommensurate numbers



## From the Chief Knight

We are planning a big arch of steel this month, for the San Jose Rainbow Girls' next installation of Officers. To the current and prospective members, and Red and White hat alumni as well, please join us and mark your calendars to support one of our youth orders. Let's make this evening great for these young ladies and their families.

Sat, June 22

2:00pm

San Jose Scottish Rite Center



Our KSA chapter wants to continue celebrating and sharing thanks to everyone involved with the Spring Reunion last month. I want to thank all those Sir Knights, who showed up all three days and put in the work behind the scenes; you helped make this Reunion run smoother. I was particularly happy and proud to see a half dozen of our own KSA compliment up in Oakland. Continued thanks and gratitude also goes out to all the brothers and Sir Knights from other valleys; it is always a pleasure working with you!

For anyone interested in getting more involved in your Valley, the KSA is a great way to do it. The State-wide Reunion many of you just experienced, is a great example of where the KSA can shine. There are many things that bring such a big undertaking together, beyond the organizers and directors. Whether it's helping out with wardrobe, the microphone station, sound, lighting, or staging, one can usually find a KSA hat floating around at these stations. One KSA member from another valley sets up a makeup station to apply beards and mustaches. And, it's not just a great time to help your Scottish Rite brothers, we also have a great time doing it.

To learn more about the KSA, join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month, at noon, down in the San Jose Scottish Rite conference room. Kilt not required.

*Michael E. Hammer*

## Fixing our Mistakes

Last month, we discussed the first human family, a warning about sin, the introduction of violence and murder, and the development of a skilled society that would not survive the eventual worldwide flood.

We noted that the first mention of sin was when Cain offered a faulty sacrifice and met with rejection. We saw that sin is not necessarily an action but thoughts that lead up to the action.

### What is Sin?

The concept of sin has been present in many cultures throughout history. It was usually equated with an individual's failure to live up to external standards of conduct or with his violation of taboos, laws, or moral codes.

In ancient Greek thought, sin was looked upon as, in essence, a failure on the part of a person to achieve his true self-expression and to preserve his due relation to the rest of the universe; it was attributed mainly to ignorance.

In the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), sin is viewed as a defiance of God's commandments, and sin itself is regarded as an attitude of defiance or hatred of God. Perhaps the worst manifestation of defiance or hatred of Israel's God was to worship other gods. In ancient times, there was a wide selection of local, regional, and world-class deities one could individually or collectively approach for protection and favors.

Most of us grew up with a monotheistic mindset, where there is only one God. A modern equivalent of defying or hating God might be to worship Him the wrong way. That is, you follow the wrong faith tradition by being Jewish, Christian, Muslim, or Zoroastrian. Perhaps you belong to the wrong faith organization, such as Reform or Orthodox; Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, or Protestant; Sunni or Shiite. It could even mean you belong to the right faith organization, such as Baptist movement, but the wrong congregation, such as Southern, American, Full-Gospel, or Fundamentalist.

Fortunately, humankind is slowly working past these differences toward a common goal of spiritual unity. One of my favorite sayings is: "How many Gods are up there? Ain't but one. So if I'm worshipping God—and you're worshipping God—we're both worshipping the same God!" It may require a new way of thinking.

### Sin in the Hebrew Bible

The generic Hebrew word for any kind of sin is "avera" (transgression). Based on verses in the Hebrew Bible, Judaism describes three levels of sin or three categories of a person who commits an avera.

1. Intentional. "Pesha" (deliberate sin; in modern Hebrew: crime) or Mered (rebellion), This includes actions committed in deliberate defiance of God. Strong's Concordance equates it with rebellion, transgression, and trespass.

2. Accidental. "Avon" (iniquity) — A sin of lust or uncontrollable emotion; done knowingly, but not done to defy God. The person is still responsible for their action though it is considered less serious. Strong's Concordance suggests a moral evil: fault, iniquity, mischief.

3. Unintentional sin. "Cheit" — A sin, crime, or fault due to ignorance or misunderstanding of Halacha (Jewish law). The person should not be held accountable but would receive appropriate instruction, so as not to repeat the error. Strong's Concordance suggests "to miss the mark (speaking of an archer), to err, to stumble."

The Law of Moses or Torah, lists 613 commandments or duties, which, if violated, constitute sin. Many actions, such as murder, adultery, or sabbath violation, were punishable by death. The community was expected to carry out the capital sentence, and specific techniques were provided. This is a substantial contrast to the condition of Cain in Genesis chapter 4, where no human was permitted to execute him.

A complex system developed of gifts and sacrifices a sinner had to make to the Israelite God to obtain forgiveness and atonement. We will deal with those issues in future articles.

The following passages express the preferred approach to sin and redemption:

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22)

"For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart" (Psalm 51:17) (see also Isaiah 1:11, Psalm 40:6-8)

In other words, get with the program and do things right the first time.

### The Idea of Original Sin

Original Sin is a Christian concept that emerged during the 4th Century, developed and promoted by Augustine of Hippo (354–430 CE), the bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa and a Doctor (authoritative teacher) of the Church. His writings include *The City of God*, *On Christian Doctrine*, and *Confessions*.

Original sin is a doctrine that as humans, through the fact of birth, inherit a tainted nature with a proclivity to sinful conduct and in need of regeneration. Three Bible passages support the idea of an inherited fault that cannot be self-corrected:

First in Genesis chapter 3, is the Forbidden Fruit story, which we have already discussed.

Second, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5)

Third, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance

of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:12-21)

The idea is that because of sin, Adam's and your own, you will be punished by death. Recall God's warning to Adam, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Genesis 2:16-17)

But the execution and death of Jesus of Nazareth, even though it was arranged and carried out by Roman non-believers, was a single redemptive act that overcame both inherited (original) sin and individual sin. The proof of concept was Jesus's own resurrection from the dead. Eventual resurrection from death thus became available to all humans, whether they lived before and after the days of Jesus

Forgiveness and resurrection are the benefits of divine grace. Divine grace is blessing you receive even though you have not earned it and cannot claim to deserve it.

If you were raised believing these concepts, they make perfect sense. If you were raised in some other religious tradition, they are probably the most unfair, unnecessary, and illogical concepts imaginable. We have a lot of Bible to study ahead of us before we are ready to tackle that discussion.

### Another Classification of Sin

Influenced by Augustine, the councils of Carthage (411-418 CE) and Orange (529 CE) brought theological speculation about original sin into the official lexicon of the Church.

"Actual sin" is divided, on the basis of its gravity, into two categories: mortal and venial.

A **mortal** sin is a deliberate turning away from God; it is a grave matter committed in full knowledge and with the full consent of the sinner's will. Until properly repented, it cuts the sinner off from God's sanctifying grace.

A mortal sin (such as murder) that is deliberately committed and is of such serious consequence according to Thomist theology (see definition below) that it deprives the soul of sanctifying grace. Think: Hell fire.

A **venial** sin (such as dishonesty) usually involves a less important matter and is committed with less self-awareness of wrongdoing. While a venial sin weakens the sinner's union with God, it is not a deliberate turning from him and so does not wholly block the inflow of sanctifying grace.

A venial sin is relatively slight or something committed without full reflection or consent and so, according to Thomist theology, does not deprive the soul of sanctifying grace. Think Purgatory.

Thomist theology, or Thomism, comes from Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) an Italian-born Dominican friar and priest, an influential philosopher and theologian, and a Doctor of the Church. His writings include *Summa Theologica*, *Disputed Questions on Truth* and *Summa contra Gentiles*. Aquinas taught that reason and faith are both necessary to achieve true knowledge.

Actual sin (mortal and venial) is also divided, on the basis of knowledge, into two categories: formal and material.

**Formal** sin is both wrong in itself and known by the sinner to be wrong. It therefore involves him in personal guilt.

**Material** sin consists of an act that is wrong in itself, that is, contrary to God's law and human moral nature. But the sinner did not know the act is wrong. Therefore he is not personally culpable.

### What is the Difference between a Sin and a Crime?

The difference between sin and crime is the source of the commandment, rule, or law that the individual is expected to observe and obey.

If you do something forbidden—or fail to do something required—by spiritual or religious authority, you have committed a **sin** (intentional, accidental, mortal, venial, formal, material, etcetera). But there is no requirement to show that anybody was harmed.

If you do something forbidden—or fail to do something required—by legal or regulatory authority, you have committed a **crime** (felony, misdemeanor, infraction, violation, etcetera). There is also requirement that somebody was hurt in some way, even if just indirectly.

And who or what is the source of authority? In most human traditions, it is God (or an equivalent entity). Even in countries with a constitutional government, the basis of right and wrong can be found in the religious traditions of its founders. Unfortunately, the implication of those religious traditions can be subject to conflicting interpretation.

Is there any alternative to divine authority? There is, in philosophy. The Greeks got the ball rolling by reasoning through all kinds of scenarios and developed many useful, though not always consistent, ideas. The application of law is based in philosophy, and results in laws and regulations being added, changed, or removed from the base formed in spiritual authority.

Through people like Thomas Aquinas, we learn that that reason and faith, or philosophy and religion, are both necessary to achieve true knowledge of our lives and the world we inhabit. That is precisely the approach to personal conduct taught by Freemasonry in general and the Scottish Rite in particular.



However, in its decimal form  $\phi$  never ends. Numbers that are never-ending, and cannot be exactly expressed, are called incommensurate where they cannot be constructed with basic Euclidean geometry using a compass and a straightedge.

They have intrigued man since antiquity. One rather florid story relates that when Hippasus of Metapontum (c.500 BC) discovered that the Golden Mean can never be expressed as a fraction or a ratio between two whole numbers, his fellow Pythagoreans were so shocked they were said to have sacrificed 100 oxen. I think this is probably an exaggeration, given that the Pythagoreans were vegetarians, but it shows the degree of their veneration for whole numbers and their rational relationships as expressed as rational fractions.

Iamblichus of Chalcis (AD 245-325) stated that the Pythagoreans built a tomb for whoever discovered incommensurability, signifying that he must forever depart from the life and fellowship of Pythagorean society.

### The Golden Triangle

The Golden or Sublime Triangle is an isosceles triangle with both base angles of 72 degrees and the third angle of 36 degrees. When the base angles are bisected (cut in half) the two new triangles produced are also Golden Triangles [refer to page 37 of the paperback version of *Sacred Geometry* for illustrations of this and the pentagram & pentagon discussion to follow]. This process can be repeated over and over, each time creating new Golden Triangles in the same way you can continue producing Golden Rectangles [to be discussed briefly next month].

The Golden Triangle also produces the Golden Mean of 1.618, because the ratio between the longer side and the short side of the triangle is  $\phi$  [as the illustration on page 37 shows]. This triangle can also be used to produce a type of logarithmic spiral [discussed later in the book].

### The Golden Pentagon

The Pentagon, or five-pointed star, has long been considered magical. In the West it is often used specifically as a protection against evil, with the single point upwards. When the double point is upwards the pentagram is construed as an evil sign [N.B., this does **NOT** apply to our Masonic Orders!]. The most famous magical fraternity of the last few centuries, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, used it to devise a Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram to help disperse undesirable entities. It is therefore not surprising that this figure also has some special geometry.

If you look closely at the pentagram, you will see that it is made up of five triangles attached to an upside-down regular pentagon.

If the sides of the five triangular points are one unit in length, then the base of these triangles (or the side of the pentagon) is 0.618. Interestingly,  $1/0.618$  is  $\Phi$ . Or, to put it yet another way, if you divide the sides of the triangle by the base of the triangle you get  $\Phi$ . In short the regular pentagram is made up of five Golden Triangles, touching each other around a pentagon.

</excerpt>

I have been informed that some of my articles (due to quoting from Stephen Skinner's book) have been somewhat long, so I have not included the diagrams from the book this month in the interest of brevity.

We will finish our discussion of  $\Phi$  next month by introducing the Fibonacci Series

*Helmut R. Richter*



Picture above is the newly refinished floor

Picture below is the Statewide Reunion Class





Meet Kade! Kade is a sweet and caring four-year-old who comes to the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Jose for speech and language therapy.



During therapy sessions, Kade loves to cook, play with dinosaurs, and enjoys bringing toys from home to share with his Speech and Language Pathologist, Rachel. Kade has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and has worked very hard to increase his expressive language to engage with his family and others in his community. He has made exceptional progress toward his speech and language goals.

Prior to services at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of San Jose, Kade's mom described his language as almost "non-existent" and that he did not use language to interact with others consistently. Since services started at the Center, Kade's parents have seen a "huge improvement" with his use of language. "We can carry on a conversation; he can express his needs and wants. He is also able to talk to others outside of the home without needing us to help translate." Kade's improved communication has had a tremendous impact on his family as he is better able to use his words to get his needs met. His mom happily stated that "with the help of speech, he has become calmer and gained confidence". Kade's family is grateful for the services they have received stating the "a lot of families don't have the money to acquire the help their child needs. It is nice having a place that is willing to help with no expense but plenty of rewards



**The following is an updated list of books that the Clinic would like to have to help the kids. If so inclined you can order from Amazon and have shipped to the SR, or buy and bring it in. Thanks for your Consideration**

**List of Requested Books for Clinic Library – Updated 12/19/23**

Book Titles from Social Thinking.com

Superflex – Superflex takes on Rock Brain and the Team of Unthinkables  
 Superflex takes on Brain Eater and the Team of Unthinkables  
 Superflex takes on Glassman and the Team of Unthinkables  
 Superflex takes on One-Sided Sid, Un-Wonderer and the Team of Unthinkables  
 Superflex and Focus Tron to the Rescue!  
 Superflex and Kook Q. Cumber to the Rescue!  
 You are a Social Detective!  
 Eye Power/Learning to Use the Power of your Eyes Volume 1  
 Eye Power/Learning to Use the Power of your Eyes Volume 2  
 We Thinkers! Series Volume 2 Social Problem Solvers (5 books in series)Hidden Rules and Expected and Unexpected Behaviors\  
 Smart Guess  
 Flexible and Stuck Thinking  
 Size of the Problem  
 Sharing an Imagination  
 We Thinkers! Series Volume 1 Social Explorers Curriculum (5 books in series)  
 Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings  
 Body in the Group  
 Thinking with Your Eyes  
 Whole Body Listening  
 The Group Plan

**Other Book Titles (found on Amazon)**

A Birthday for Cow by Jan Thomas  
 A Pest in the Garden by Jan Thomas  
 What Is Chasing Duck? By Jan Thomas  
 My Friends Make Me Happy by Jan Thomas  
 The Apple Pie Tree  
 Sheep in a Shop

# Stated Meeting Menu

## Tuesday

June 11th 2024

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by June 7th)

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

Garden Salad

Pasta Puttanesca (Vegetarian)

Fresh made Italian sausage

Dessert

We need you to make your reservations by the Friday before. We can't shop properly if you are calling the day of to make reservations.

### Annual Dinner Ticket Books

You can now buy an Annual Dinner Ticket Book, which gives you 11 Stated Meeting Dinners and 1 Grand Masters Banquet. For a cost of \$150. This saves you \$40 off of the annual price or over 21%. There is no time limit to use them,

We are looking at a price increase for Dinners starting soon, so now is the time to lock in your savings.

### From the Secretary

We are now into the summer months. We will be business casual in June, August, and September July is Tux as it is our Grand Master Reception. No Jeans or tee shirts.

Also, we are working on the HVAC, but we cannot make the antiquated system work any better than it does. I am sorry, but we are doing what we can.

On June 29th we will have a dinner dance fundraiser. You must buy your tickets in advance, no tickets will be sold at the door. You can call the office and purchase them over the phone.

In the next month or so, we will start the process of building out the smoking lounge downstairs. This will be well vented to the outside so it won't be an issues for those who don't like smoke, but it has been requested for a long time by many of our members and it will so start taking shape. It is the final project, that we have planned for the many upgrades we have made to the building over the last several years.

And lastly Dues, Thanks for all that have paid, if you haven't done so, please take care of it now. If you haven't paid last years, there are 12 of you, whom I have all called myself, I will be sending out a final notice this month and if you don't get it take care of, you will be suspended.



### III. Gregg Hall 33° Reunion Class

October 4-5 and 18-19, 2024



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>Spring</b>	<b>Fall</b>
<i>Candidate's Signature</i>	<b>Degree Fee</b>	\$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

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San Jose, CA 95125-2036

Phone: 408-978-7483

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

Chapter Opens

**Thursday June 13th ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm**

Mt. Moriah #292

**Saturday June 29th ~ Dinner Dance 6:30 pm**

Fund Raiser for our Clinic with dinner and live music and dancing.

**Tuesday July 16th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 5:30 pm**

Lodge of Perfection Opens—Grand Master's Reception

**Sunday July 21st ~ Hiller Aviation Museum**

Details to follow soon