



The Rite Word

From the Personal Representative

Happy New Years to all and welcome to 2025!

As we complete another year in our Valley, I would like to say how proud I am of all that we have accomplished. A new corps of officers will soon be installed (Tuesday Evening, January 14th to be exact), and it is time to look ahead to another exciting year in the Valley of San Jose. At the time of this writing, the incoming presiding officers are completing their line and making plans for the year, and I look forward to what they bring us.



(Chief Knight). You have my fullest confidence to lead our valley.

We, as a Valley have taken steps to grow in membership by holding events that are meaningful for the Valley and all its members. If you have not been to a Scottish Rite event for a while, I ask that you come see what is taking place. I think you will be pleased.

This past year we will held our 14th Annual Grand Master recognition "Festive Board" where we honored our Grand Master, MW Sean Metroka, and his Lady Margaret. We look forward this year to having Most Worshipful Art Salazar and Lady Laura join us for this year's celebration.

One of the highlights this coming year (being an odd numbered year), is the recognition of some of our members for their outstanding support of our valley by being coroneted a 33 Degree Mason and others being elevated to the rank of Knight Commander Court of Honor. More info to follow once we get word who Supreme Council has chosen to receive the honors.

As I stated earlier, our Installation is just around the corner and I congratulate all the officers who will be installed. Please attend and help support those who have taken on a leadership role in the Valley. It is our annual celebration of the new corps of officers and the time to celebrate the New Year. I want to thank our outgoing Masters who did a marvelous job in 2024. Many thanks go to Hon Art Pasquinelli (Venerable Master), Hon Mark Burger (Wise Master), Wor. Peter Cardilla (Commander of Kadosh) and Wor. Helmut Litfin (Master of Kadosh of the Consistory) as well as our Chief Knight, Bro. Michael Lammer. All of your efforts were greatly appreciated and our successes are your successes. And thanks to the following men for stepping up to take the mantle in their new roles: Hon Richard Rosenberg (Venerable Master), Bro. Chris Boyes (Wise Master), Wor. Max Mora (Commander of Kadosh), Wor. Eddie Hermano (Master of Kadosh of the Consistory) and Chris Boyes

Some events have already been scheduled for this year, but I look forward to new suggestions from our leadership team. We will again hold our Military Recognition Night, chaired by Ill. Chuck Cowden which has become an annual highlight of the year. Bro. Richard Fisher is again chairing our Scholarship Committee, as we will honor another graduating senior on their way to college. We exist only because our Craft Lodges are strong and I would like to again bring back our recognition night of our sitting Lodge Masters. We wish to honor the men who have held our lodges together. We will continue some traditional events like our Maundy Thursday Celebration, Sweethearts Night, as well as 25 year and 50 year membership celebrations. This last year we held two Reunions and brought in 17 new members to our valley. For the first time in decades, we successfully conferred all 11 of the degrees in the Lodge of Perfection and I hope we can duplicate that effort in 2025. Our current plans are to again hold Reunions both in the Spring and Fall. Hopefully we can continue our growth with new candidates witnessing the beautiful work being performed by all our degree teams.

This past year, we again attended the Highland Games in Pleasanton. What an exciting weekend! And plans are being made to continue the practice. Look for more info later in the year in the

**January is our Installation of Officers.
 Pictures at 5:30 PM, Practice at 6:00 PM, Meeting at 6:30 PM
 Installation will follow the meeting**

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°

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.

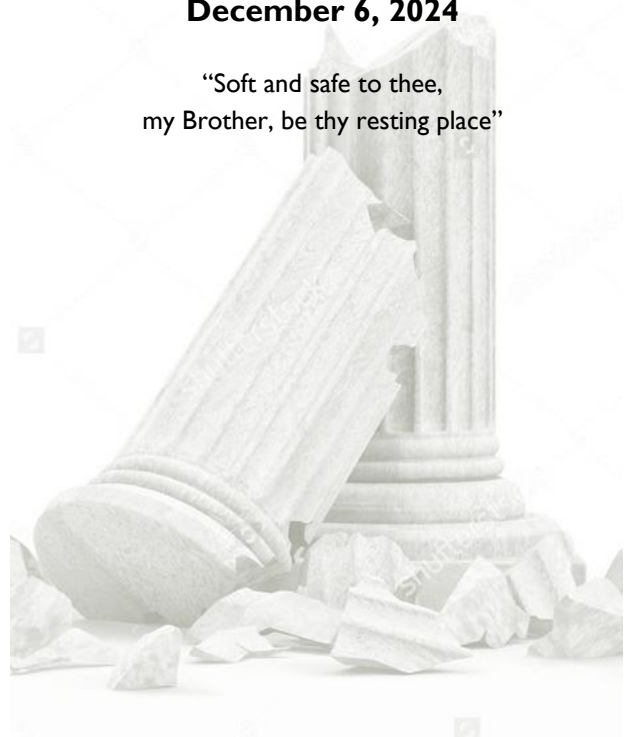
Donations

Ill. Daniel Doornbos, 33°
Bro. Phillip Bates, 32°
Bro. Robb Walker, 32°
Bro. Patrick Van Cleemput, 32°
Bro. Robert Wilson, 32°

Called From Labor

**Bro. William Horton Jr. 32°
December 6, 2024**

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



Capping Ceremony for
Willie Cadiente



2025 - Lodge of Perfection

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

2025 - Chapter of Rose Croix

Wise Master	Bro. Chris Boyes 32°	925-200-9864
Senior Warden	Bro. Frank Fitzgerald 32°	831-588-4978
Junior Warden	Bro. Ben Shuford 32°	408-429-5370
Master of Ceremonies	Bro. Sam Weseloh 32°	650-933-8184
Guardian of the Temple	Bro. Doug Picard 32°	831-402-1234

2025- Council of Kadosh

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

2025 San Jose Consistory

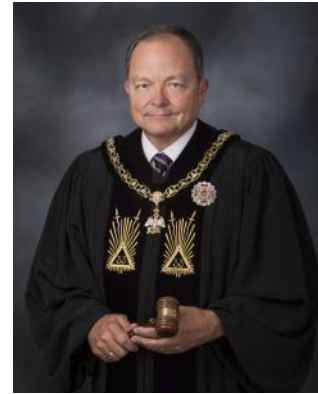
Master of Kadosh	Bro. Eddie Hermano 32°	408-910-9868
Prior	Hon. Brandon Duenas, 32° KCCH	408-763-7696
Preceptor	Hon. Naresh Rampershad 32° KCCH	408-660-0121
Marshal of Ceremonies	Hon. Art Pasquinelli, 32° KCCH	408-483-9361
Captain of the Guard	Bro. Allen Diamond 32°	408-550-5039

2025- General Officers

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

Directors of the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation

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



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

Brothers & Friends,

I said many of my farewells last month but wanted to reiterate my thanks to the Valley for the privilege of sitting in the East for the Chapter in this last year. I look forward to what every else I can do to contribute to the work of the Rite in the coming year.

In the past I have mentioned my affinity for the Quotes of Others in expressing thoughts for consideration. Some are contemporary and some from history. In these times of instant communication via S&M (Social Media), I often see people coming to confrontation over their opinions and those of others. This is why I have long thought the quotes of others are important because they give us the opportunity to consider a point someone is making without personalizing it. They carry the perspective & perhaps wisdom of others and allow us to expand upon it in the context of the time and times it took to create it.

I will leave you with a few parting thoughts - in the form of quotes.

“Sometimes what one needs to say is too important to let fear get in the way”
~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Over the years, Tim Cook has repeatedly emphasized that he feels it's better to be involved in conversations than sit on the sidelines. “You don't change things by just yelling,” he said in 2016. “You change things by showing everyone why your way is the best.”

“The nature of innovation is that you cannot predict all the consequences. In my experience, there have been surprising consequences. Some fabulous, and some less so.” Jony Ive.

“People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.” ~Theodore Roosevelt

And finally,
“Perhaps wisdom is the ability to recognize you might not have it”
MCB 6/28/22

Mark Burger



From the Commander

My term as Commander of the Council has run its course. It's been an honor for me and a great pleasure to serve in this capacity, and I thank all of you for your ongoing friendship and support.

The Council of Kadosh consists of twelve degrees and I have highlighted one with each of my monthly contributions to the Rite Word. The final degree of the Council is the thirtieth, Knight Kadosh. This is the degree where the candidate is memorably walked up and down a symbolic ladder. On the rungs of the ladder are written the names of the seven liberal arts and sciences and a number of masonic virtues. Less obvious perhaps, on each side of the ladder is written an expression. On the right hand side it reads Love of God, on the left, Love of Neighbor. Now, often written in English, they were originally written in Hebrew, as seen in the illustration accompanying the degree in A Bridge to Light. These expressions describe our two principal goals as Masons, morality and virtue.

Morality and virtue are two closely related ideas. Morality, on the right side, concerns your beliefs, and amounts to what you think about right from wrong. Your thoughts being private, your true beliefs are known only to God. The rightness of your thoughts, shows your Love of God. Virtue, on the left, concerns your actions. Morality is right thinking, virtue is right behavior. Simply put, knowing what is right and not doing it, is not virtue. The rightness of your action toward others is a display of your Love of Neighbor. One, morality, is ideal, you believe it, while the other, virtue, is real, you display it.

A worthwhile secondary consideration comes from a brief explanation of the original Hebrew expressions. The Hebrew word *karev* (קרוב), means *nearby* or *close*, hence the translation as *neighbor*. However it also carries the meaning of a *battle* or *struggle*, particularly one fought close at hand. We might consider a deeper lesson presented in the degree. One must embrace the work of a Freemason. They must Love the Struggle. Not contention with others, but the struggle to improve oneself.

Finally, we learn in the Scottish Rite that a Mason's love for humanity should outweigh his distaste for vice. This, often difficult lesson, reminds us once more of the balance we strive to attain between our thoughts and our behavior, between being kind and being fair, and between what is right and what is practical.

Thank you again, my Brothers, and farewell Illustrious Gregg Hall as you take the next step in your journey. Your presence, friendship, and guidance will be dearly missed.

That is all,

Peter McCann



From the Master of Kadosh

Greetings, Scottish Rite Brethren.

This is my last article for the Rite Word, and as my article last month (on Bro. Gordon Cooper) was VERY long, and this month needs more space for more articles from others, I will make this VERY brief.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Master of Kadosh for the San Jose Consistory.

This past year was interesting, and not quite what I expected, but satisfying nonetheless.

My replacement this coming year is Wor. Eduardo "Eddie" Hermano, a very capable brother, whom I expect to do a marvelous job leading the Consistory.

I will now leave you in quite capable hands.

See you at the meeting and dinner!

Helmut R. Kippen



From the Chief Knight

Happy New Year!

Here's hoping your Hogmanay was not too heavy with libations, but left everyone ready for the new year and ready to spring into our next Reunion, only a few months away. The KSA sends congratulations to, and applauds all those members in our Valley that progressed and/or stepped up to help the Valley of San Jose take on a new year.

In addition to the five new members the KSA gained in 2024. We wrapped up last year receiving a few more, bringing us up to seven new members. Three of them received their accolades in November and the other four were knighted after the December meeting. (See picture below)

The KSA will be starting January representing our Valley at local Masonic events, including the Mountain View De Anza installation of officers, and possibly the next Rainbow Assembly installation of officers.

2025 Officers for the San Jose Chapter of Knights of Saint Andrew, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of San Jose:

Chief Knight:	Bro. Chris Boyes
First Knight:	Bro. Alan Porjesz
Knight of The Watch:	Bro. Mike Lammer, PCK
Secretary:	Bro. Tim Lynch, PCK
Monk Knight:	Bro. Angelo Encarnacion
Sentinel:	Bro. John Absalon

(PCK = Past Chief Knight)



Michael E. Lammer

Abram Enters Into a Covenant

Last month, we learned about the rebellion of the kings of the five Jordan River cities against their landlords the Elamites, who lived in Mesopotamia. The resulting battle at the valley of Siddim was a major defeat for the Jordan River people. The conflict involved Abram's nephew Lot, who was captured. Abram assembled a fighting force, pursued the Elamites to the cities of Hobah and Damascus, and attacked them during the night.

Abram's force defeated the Mesopotamians, killed King Chedorlamer of Elam, and took back all the goods they had taken from the five Jordan River cities. And Abram's nephew Lot. On the way back home, Abram and his contingent passed by a place called the Valley of Shaveh or the king's dale. While there, Abram met Melchizedek, the king of Salem (later known as Jerusalem).

Melchizedek held a religious bread-and-wine ceremony for Abram. Afterward, Abram gave Melchizedek one-tenth of the spoils of war from his campaign against the Elamites. This is the most popular interpretation of the story.

Later, the King of Sodom wants Abram to turn over the captured Mesopotamians but he can keep the goods and property for himself. Abram refuses, saying he doesn't want to enable the King of Sodom to claim that he (the King) made Abram rich.

The Lord Formalizes His Promise

Genesis chapter 15 contains the formal covenant of Yahweh's promises to Abram. By now they should be familiar to you. Promises of a natural-born child and heir, a magnificent posterity, the choice land of Canaan, and the patronage of Yahweh as Abram's god.

Abram, thinking about his and his wife's advanced age, suggested that his chief steward could be adopted and become Abram's heir.

"And Abram said, Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed [posterity]; and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

"And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, 'This [Eliezer the steward] shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels [born to you and Sarai] shall be thine heir'. And he [the Lord] brought him [Abram] forth abroad, and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he [the Lord] said unto him [Abram], So shall thy seed [posterity] be'. Genesis 15:2-5

"And he [Abram] believed in the Lord; and he [Abram] counted it to him [the Lord] for righteousness." Genesis 15:6

In this context, righteousness is being true to one's social obligations and commitments. In other words, Abram expressed confidence that the Lord would keep his promises.

The Lord reminded Abram what he has done for him so far: "And he [the Lord] said unto him [Abram], 'I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it'. And he [Abram] said, 'Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall

inherit it?'" Genesis 15:7-8

The Covenant Ceremony

"And he [the Lord] said unto him [Abram], 'Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon'. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst [cut them in half], and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not cut. And when the fowls [scavenging birds, such as vultures] came down upon the carcasses (of the sacrificed animals), Abram drove them away. Genesis 15:9-11

This ceremony reflects an ancient practice in which the participants in a covenant oath passed through the dismembered parts of the animal and proclaimed a similar fate on themselves if they disobeyed the terms of the agreement. Likely because of this, the Hebrew word for "making" a covenant, is literally "to cut" a covenant (lechrot brit).

Abram Gets His Answer

Abram wanted to understand how he would know that he had in fact inherited the land promised to him. How would it happen?

"And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. Genesis 15:11-12

"And he [the Lord] said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed [posterity] shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they [Abram's descendants] come out with great substance." Genesis 15:12-14

This verse is looking ahead in time to Abram's great grandchildren, the 12 sons of Jacob/Israel, who will travel to Egypt to survive a famine, and end up staying there forced to labor, for 400 years, until the Lord sent Moses to liberate them. Some scholars guesstimate that the bondage lasted only 215 years. Whatever the number of years, the point of the story remains the same.

"And thou [Abram] shalt go to thy fathers [die] in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age." Genesis 15:15. According to Genesis 25:7, Abram, later known as Abraham, lived to the age of 175 years.

"But in the fourth generation they [Abram's descendants] shall come hither (to the promised land) again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." Genesis 15:16

Who were the Amorites?

The Amorites were the descendants of Ham's son Canaan. Some historians use the names Amorites and Canaanites interchangeably. Others consider the Amorites to be a subset of the Canaanites.

At its peak, Amorite influence ranged from Egypt to Mesopotamia. They founded Babylon and the Old Babylonian Empire. They also founded the Fourteenth Dynasty of Egypt. The famous lawgiver Hammurabi was one of their rulers.

At the time of Abram, the Amorites lived throughout the Levant, principally in the highlands west of the Dead Sea and east of the Jordan River, and as far north as Syria.

There was enough open land for Abram to dwell among the Amorites. But the large posterity promised to Abram will be far too numerous to share the land with other peoples. So the Amorites had to go, but not immediately.

In the 16th century BCE, the Amorite era ended in Mesopotamia with the decline and fall of Babylon and other Amorite-ruled cities. The Amorites in Syria came under the domination of first the Hittites and later the Middle Assyrian Empire. They then appear to have been displaced or absorbed by other semi-nomadic Semitic-speaking peoples. By 1200 BCE, the Amorites disappeared from the pages of history.

The displacement or absorption mentioned above corresponds roughly with the time the Israelites escaped from Egypt, and after 40 years of wandering the desert, entered their promised land. This is not to say that the land was empty of inhabitants. Indeed there were multiple city states in the Levant when the Israelites arrived. But they did not possess the unity and strength of the Amorites under the Old Babylonian empire.

Iniquity of the Amorites

In Genesis 15:16, we read that "...the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." What does that mean? If we take a look at Leviticus chapters 18 and 20, we get an idea.

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 'Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the Lord your God. After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.'" Leviticus 18:1-3.

Since they occupied such a large territory, the Amorites picked up many of the local religions where the many individual deities went by different names in different locales. However it came together, the religious norms and social practices of the Amorites were offensive to the God of Abram. Now back to Leviticus.

The greatest number of items on the list doings deal with "uncovering nakedness". For the Israelite people, the human body, especially the parts dealing with reproduction, were considered sacred. It was a shame to display them publicly. But this term goes further. Uncovering nakedness is a Hebrew idiomatic term for committing sexual immorality.

The list of people with whom it is inappropriate to have sexual relations includes one's father, mother, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, grandchild, in-law, step-family and neighbor. Additional forbidden relations include male-on-male, human-and-animal, or during a woman's menstruation.

Other inappropriate behaviors include: Offering children (as sacrifices to the false god) Molech, using the services of mediums and familiar spirits, and cursing your father or mother.

For the Amorites, the punishment for doing these sorts of things was to lose their land and their national identity. For Israelites, the punishment would range from being childless, to cut off from among their people, or being put to death.

A Sign from the Lord

Remember how the Lord told Abram to take a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a pigeon and divide them in half? This was an ancient covenant ceremony. Abram performed his part. The Lord explained how the inheritance would work out. Then the text describes an peculiar event:

"And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces." Genesis 15:17

This action represents symbolically that the Lord agreed to the covenant by passing between the sacrificed animals. It was like getting the Boss's signature at the bottom of your contract.

The Lord then reaffirmed the covenant He made with Abram, describing the dimensions of the promised land: "Unto thy seed [posterity] have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: (that is, the lands of the) Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaim, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites." Genesis 15:18.

We should recall that "the river of Egypt" does not refer to the Nile. Rather it is the Wadi el-Arish, which marks the border of Israel and Egypt to this day.

Next time, we will learn about Abram's and Sarai's continued efforts to have a child. But not the way God intended and not the promised heir.



From the Venerable Master

I will start my last article as Venerable Master by saying Hi, and hope that I find everyone in good Health. I pray good health and blessing's for everyone in 2025.

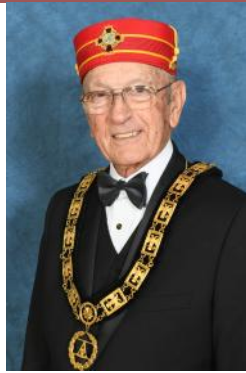
The year 2024 was a good year for our Scottish Rite Valley. In 2024 we had a state wide Reunion for all 32 Degrees. Our Valley was able to put on the 4th through the 14th Degree. We had many Grand Lodge Officers Attend. We were able to achieve this goal by the guidance of Ill. Ken Nagel and the Degree Directors who took on this task. It was the first time in many years that this feat was accomplished. Congratulations to all that took part. We also put on our own Degrees in September and October. which were also very successful.

In September we also put on a 50's--60's Musical to raise funds for our Rite Car Clinic. It also was a great success. We raised about \$3,600 for the clinic.

Our Valley also took on the task of creating a Smoke Room downstairs. It was a lot of hard work, but by dedication and many hours of a few of our Scottish Rite Brothers it has been accomplished. It is open and ready to use. Thanks to all that had a hand in completing this task.

Amazon continues to Rent our Parking Spaces which is a good revenue for our Valley. In closing, I wish to thank everyone who helped me along my year as Venerable Master. It was a pleasure and an honor to serve you in 2024. Keep reading the Rite Word.

May you always have Love to share, Health to Spare, and Friends who Care. May you be blessed.



From the Secretary

I wanted to say hello to all of you and say that I appreciate the opportunity to serve as General Secretary of the San Jose Scottish Rite bodies. I will endeavor to do the best I can and please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concerns. It takes a team effort to achieve the kind of success this organization is capable of. Being new in this position, I'm sure I have a lot to learn and discover. I appreciate Gregg Hall trying to pass all the knowledge I need...if I can just remember it all.

William Jennings Bryan said, "If a man measures life by what others do for him, he is apt to be disappointed; but if he measures life by what he does for others, there is no time for despair." **If you haven't been to Scottish Rite in awhile, call me and tell me what's keeping you from attending or participating.** If you think you don't make a difference, you're wrong. We could use your help.



Scottish Rite Polo Shirts

You can get your very own San Jose Scottish Rite Polo Shirt. These are high quality shirts. They are of a poly wicking material so they will not fade or shrink. They are available in either Black or White.

Cost is \$35 per shirt. Please contact Brandon Duenas to place your order. We have run out of what we had on hand, but we are now taking orders for those that want them.

From the Clinic**List of Requested Books for
Clinic Library – Updated
7/23/24****Book Titles from www.socialthinking.com**

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

Pirate Pete by Nick Sharat

There Was an Old Lady (any book from the series)

Love Monster

The Day It Rained Hearts

My Mouth is A Volcano

Bears Loose Tooth

Bear Wants More

Sneezy the Snowman

Bear Snores On

Where is the Green Sheep

Mr. Grumpy's Motor Car

Ketchup on Your Cornflakes

Personal Space Camp

You Choose by Nick Sharratt

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.

Stated Meeting Menu Tuesday

January 14th 2024

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by January 10th)

- Salad
- Chicken Pacita
- Rice
- Veggies
- Bread
- Dessert

We need you to make your reservations by the Friday before. No Exceptions.

Cost for Life Membership

Age	Factor	Amount
Under 49	21X	3297
50-54	19X	2983
55-59	17X	2669
60-65	14X	2198
Over 65	11X	1727

This is the current price. You can apply this years dues to this amount. There will be a slight increase for next year.

From the Outgoing Secretary

My Brothers,

It has been my greatest pleasure and honor to be able to serve you and this Valley as the General Secretary for the last 7 years.



I am proud of all that we have accomplished in that time. The building has been almost entirely refreshed, we have built out new areas for our members to enjoy, and hopefully created a space you can all be proud of.

Fraternally, we have brought in many new members, we have added new degrees, we have cleaned and organized the prop room. The future looks good for the continued success of the Valley.

I believe that the team that has been put in place, will be able to continue to move our Valley forward.

Chris and I are looking forward to our move to FL, and our new adventures. We will miss many of the people we have spent so much time with over the last 20 years of Masonry. But we will be back to visit from time to time. And if anyone is in Central FL, please don't hesitate to look us up.

So, now on to the New.

Link to online petition



Rite Word. We attempted to hold quarterly Sunday bar-b-ques in the backyard area although to be transparent, not as well attended as I had hoped. Hopefully we will see a better turnout in the future.

A special thank you goes to Ill Bud Ramsey who is Chairman of our Supreme Council program Called VMAP. It stands for Valley Membership Achievement Project, and exists to raise the level of the member experience and to promote Scottish Rite education. Ill Bud did an outstanding job keeping this program sound in 2024, and as a Valley, we completed all necessary facets of the program to be awarded a completion plaque for our efforts. We will continue this great program in 2025 and plan to do even better.

Our Foundation is still very strong, but we can always use a new contribution here or there to continue our work. Our clinic continues to do amazing things with our kids and I am very proud of what is being accomplished by our Clinicians. For the past couple of years we have also made sizable contributions to the Grand Master's project, Raising a Reader, Masons 4 Mitts, recognition of our DeMolay leadership at their Annual Conclave, and we held our Scholarship program to which I have previously spoken.

Our Foundation Board was committed not only to continue the support for our Children's Clinic, but also continuing the upgrade of the building which we commenced during the Covid years. We are getting closer to finally completing the HVAC renovation project to make the building more comfortable and efficient throughout the year. It is a very expensive project to the tune of approx. \$750,000, but to my mind, well worth the dollars to finish the infrastructure of the building. We are also excited about the completion of the renovation of the old machine shop downstairs in the warehouse which has become a beautiful cigar lounge with a refreshment bar and large screen TV for relaxation. Many self-help hours went into completing this project and many thanks to every brother who spent time bringing it to fruition. In the next coming months, we look to upgrade the bathroom in the kitchen area, upgrade the linen locker downstairs to make setting up for events more efficient and to upgrade the kitchen floor to be able to bring our kitchen to commercial grade standards. Much can be accomplished through the self-help assistance of our members, but there are some costs as well to complete these projects. If you would like to help with hands or with needed dollars, both are appreciated and needed. Let us know if you can help make a difference.

And we renewed our contract with Amazon for another year, leasing our parking lot to them for their delivery vans and employee parking. And we don't need extra manpower, janitorial supplies or wear and tear on the building. We just stay out of their way and continue to collect rent checks. The current lease ends the end of May. Hopefully, they will extend the lease for another year. A real financial boon for our Foundation.

Finally, I want to recognize the work accomplished by our wonderful staff. As I say every year, in reality, they are not just staff, but a huge part of our family. Ill Gregg, Angela, Monica, Krissy, Noe, John and Sandy are truly the ones who see that everything is accomplished for our members, that the building is in top shape and that our Valley thrives. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts and accomplishments. They make me and our entire Valley look good. Thanks for everything you do.

But we are losing one of our valued members. Ill Gregg Hall (our General Secretary) and his wife, Chris have decided to retire and move to Florida. Gregg's many years have made a huge difference in our valley, His efforts have been monumental and invaluable and our valley is the better for it. We can't thank him enough and we wish the two of them all best for their future journey.

Gregg's departure means personnel changes and you will see a new team starting this month.

Ill Bud Ramsey (currently my Asst.) has agreed to fill the General Secretary's position handling the Admin and Fraternal side of what Ill Gregg's job entailed.

Wor. Joe Campbell, currently our Treasurer, has agreed to fill the position left by Ill Bud moving to the General Secretary slot by being the "Asst. to the PR", and being my right arm in the executive.

With Wor. Joe taking on his new role, Bro. Kenric Baker has agreed to take the Treasurer's position and handle all the financial duties which Ill Gregg had handled.

Hon David Kimball who has been our Orator for many, many years is stepping down and we thank him for those many years of service. With his departure, Ill Richard Fisher has agreed to step aside as Chaplain and fill the position as our new Orator.

With Ill Richard moving to his new position, Wor. Michael Lammer has agreed to become our new Chaplain.

And finally, with nearly 17 marvelous years with our organization, Angela will take on an even a bigger role as our Rental Department Manager. Many changes are to take place (some I haven't even spoken to her about yet), but I think it will enhance our Rental Program, and I know she will handle them with ease always caring for our members and our clients.

Whew!!!!!!! A lot of changes for the valley.

As in past years, I want to close this article with some thoughts on how we can best serve you. We only know we are doing ok, if we hear from you. Please give me your thoughts about where you see our Valley heading, or what you would like to see done, regarding our Valley? What would excite you to return to an active role? Our Valley is here to support you, but I need to know your thoughts and desires. Please contact me when you think we are failing or doing good work on your behalf, but most importantly communicate. You are a valued member and we value your input.

With 2024 behind us, we look forward to a more prosperous new year, and a new corps of officers who will write a new chapter in our history. Please come out and show your support for the new leadership team.

I look forward to seeing each of you over this coming year. Come on out and help make a difference! Happy New Year to all!





THE RITE WORD

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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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Future Scottish Rite and Masonic Events

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens
Installation

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens

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

Lodge of Perfection Opens

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

Chapter Opens

Tuesday April 8th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Council Opens

Tuesday May 13th ~ Scottish Rite Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

Consistory Opens