



## The Rite Word

### From the Venerable Master

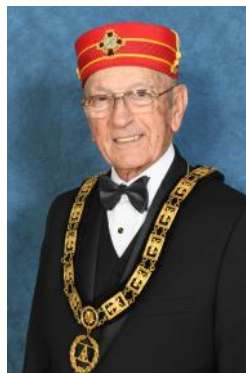
I will start by saying Hi, and hope that I find everyone in good health. Our September stated Meeting had a good attendance. The meal was good and everyone had a good time.

The Cigar Lounge is progressing nicely, Sheet Rock is up. Taping and Texturing is done. The walls have been painted. Tee Bar is installed. Were getting there. Our Fall Reunion is fast approaching us. October 4th and 5th and October 18th and 19th. Hope to see many Brother's there.

In this Month's Rite word I would like to quote an article on the All--Seeing Eye. It's an article from a book called Masonry Defined.

The All--Seeing Eye. An important symbol of the Supreme Being, borrowed by the Freemasons from the nations of antiquity. Both the Hebrews and Egyptians appear to have derived its use from that natural inclination of figurative minds to select an organ as the symbol of the function which it is intended peculiarly to discharge. Thus, the foot was often adopted as the symbol of swiftness, the arm of strength, and the hand of fidelity. On the same principle, the open eye was selected as the symbol of watchfulness, and the eye of God as the symbol of divine watchfulness and care of the universe. The use of the symbol in this sense is repeatedly to be found in the Hebrew writers. Thus, the Psalmist says "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry," which explains a subsequent passage, in which it is said: "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

"Then Moses said to the Lord, O Lord, dost thou sleep or



not? The Lord said unto Moses, I never sleep: but take a cup and fill it with water. Then Moses took a cup and filled it with water, as the Lord commanded him. Then the Lord cast into the heart of Moses the breadth of slumber; so he slept, and the cup fell from his hand, and the water which was therein was spilled. Then Moses awoke from his sleep. Then said God to Moses, I declare by my power, and by my glory, that if I were to withdraw my providence from the heavens and the earth, for no longer a space of time than thou hast slept, they would at once fall to ruin and confusion, like as the cup fell from thy hand."

On the same principle, the Egyptians represented Osiris, their chief deity, by the symbol of an open eye, and placed this hieroglyphic of him in all their temples. His symbolic name, on the monuments, was represented by the eye accompanying a throne, to which was sometimes added an abbreviated figure of the god, and sometimes what has been called a hatchet, but which, I consider, may as correctly be supposed to be a representation of a square.

The All--Seeing Eye may then be considered as a symbol of God manifested in his omnipresence---his guardian and preserving character---to which Solomon alludes in the Book of Proverbs, when he says: "The eyes of Jehovah are in every place, beholding {or, as it might be more faithfully translated, watching} the evil and the good." It is a symbol of the Omnipresent Deity.

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

**Reminder, we are back to wearing Coat and Tie for Stated Meetings. Officers Please wear your appropriate Colors.**

**At the Start of the Meeting the Grand Commander will be on Zoom**

## 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. Lee Blankenship 32°  
Ill. Bennie Cooper 33° (2025)  
Bro. Rich Johnston 32° (2025)  
Bro. Richard Medefesser 32° (2025)  
Bro. Harry Moore 32° (2025)  
Bro. James Leggate 32° (2025)

Make an annual Donation to the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies in the amount of \$100 or more and have your name included on the "Honor Roll" Your gift allows the San Jose Bodies to provide the quality events that you deserve.

### Donations

Bro. Walter Cooley Jr 32°  
Bro. Pete Edwards 32°  
Bro. Robert Thorp Jr. 32°

## Called From Labor

### No Deaths Reported



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

Bro. Ruben Torres 32°  
Bro. Gerald Hatfield 32°  
Bro. Mark Hutchinson Jr. 32°  
Bro. James Malatesta 32°  
Bro. Harold Miller 32°  
Bro. Peter Cardilla 32°  
Bro. Helmuth Litfin 32°  
Ill. Richard Modolo 33°  
Hon. Art Pasquinelli 32° KCCH  
Bro. Kenneth Sapone 32°  
Bro. Kieth Weichert 32°  
Bro. Andy Ford 32°  
Bro. Laurence Connell 32°  
Bro. Andrew Crocket 32°  
Bro. Robert Pedersen 32°

**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

Greetings Friends, Masons, Countrymen, your attention for a brief moment.

As we move into fall, we again see the world changing around us. Leaves starting to turn, days getting shorter, Holidays looming and this year we have elections again for who will lead our Great Country.



Just this last month, near the 21<sup>st</sup>, we had the Fall Equinox where for about a day, the amount of daylight is the same as the amount of darkness. After that the nights start to win the perineal battle of light. The word Equinox origin is derived from the Latin *equi* (meaning 'equal') and *nox* (meaning 'night'). Interestingly, we often see the work Lux in Masonic circles, which means 'light'.

Kicking off the holiday season, Halloween is upon us. This is a moment we use to dress up and become someone else for a night. I sometimes think about how in Masonry we do the same thing at times, dress up in the various uniforms of the various bodies we attend, we do so to become more of who we are, or have become.

Also, as we move into Fall, Masonry starts up with a number of annual activities with elections & installations as well as holiday dinners. In the Rite we have our upcoming Fall Reunion where again this time we will perform all 14 degrees of the Lodge of Perfection. This is a step up from past years and our opportunity to continue to make our Valley more meaningful through communication, participation and comradery. Come to the reunion and sideline if you are on a cast and witness our Valley in action.

So, as we all prepare for the fall and winter, I trust everyone is in good health and continues to spend time with families, participate in our craft and be upstanding in our communities. Make sure you are registered to vote so you are ready for next month. I am sure everyone knows this is a big one and many of us feel that the future of our society is at stake. As in our society and in our craft, we must always be moving forward. If we aren't we are sliding backwards. Erosion is a sneaky thing over time, you end up with something that used to work and no longer does. As in any forest, best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago the second best is today. I think about this and try to contribute to my family, my lodge and my country. It is a work in progress and on my best days, I try to keep my gratitude higher than my expectation

Mark Burger

## From the Commander

The 27th degree, *Knights of the Sun*, or *Prince Adept*, was originally the 28th degree. When the ritual was eventually revised, the two degrees were not only switched in order, but this degree, now the 27th, was significantly shortened. For this second detail, every Scottish Rite mason should be grateful. If Pike had a reputation for being long-winded and wordy, he earned it with this degree. Its original form consumes 219 pages of text! As detailed as the degree remains in its greatly shortened modern form, many times more that what is portrayed is still left to an addendum in the current monitor.



The rather stunning length of this degree is, in some ways, ironic. Many examples are given to emphasize the handful of lessons contained in this degree, one of which concerns the value of symbols themselves. Several ancient takes on *above/below* symbolism are presented along with a number of versions of *left/right/center* symbolism. A great deal is rightly acknowledged as coming from Kabbalah. An additional amount is attributed to Hermeticism.

The *above* and *below* imagery is well known from the Hermetic maxim 'as above, so below.' The *left/right/center* symbolism is most recognizable from the three pillars of Kabbalah. In essence, both types address how two parts relate to each other. However, the type of relationship depicted by each symbolic arrangement is different. *Above* and *below* are similar to each other. As it is *above*, so it is *below*. The relationship between the two parts concerns how and how much they are the same. *Below* reflects *above*. *Earth* reflects *heaven*. *Mankind* reflects *God*.

The *left/right/center* symbolism concerns two sides which are different. They don't reflect but oppose each other, and interact for one reason or another. The relationships between *left* and *right* are generally of two varieties. In one case, the two sides *limit* each other. In the other case, they *complement* each other. Opposites like *fire* and *water*, symbolic *judgment* and *mercy*, are the first type, they counteract each other. Without the temperance each gives to the other, either one might be destructive. Pairs like *wisdom* and *understanding*, on the other hand, interact with each other. One doesn't mitigate the effects of the other. They are interdependent, each providing what the other needs and doesn't have. *Wisdom* needs to be understood and *understanding* needs wisdom to comprehend. The center column is not a third influence, but reflects a perfected relationship between the two sides which is harmonious and balanced.

Masons apply this understanding to their relationships. As mentors and role models, we are to lead by example. As laborers together we strive to complement each other.

Until the next,

Peter M. Tamm



## From the Master of Kadosh

We have scheduled the Fall Consistory BBQ on Saturday October 12th (the second Saturday in October) from 11:30 until about 2:00 or so, downstairs just outside of the Lounge. The one last April was almost rained out; we hope to have much better weather for this one. Please contact me if you intend on coming so we can plan accordingly. My cellphone number is: 408-421-9381.



This last July 21st (the day after the 55th anniversary of the first manned moon landing), we had our Consistory Field Trip to the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. One of our brothers who attended, Illustrious Daniel Doornbos, 33°, wrote a nice report on our trip, but due to various deadlines, we did not have a chance to include it until now:

**Thank you for arranging the recent Consistory trip to the Hiller Aviation Museum. They have a number of aircraft on display that I never knew existed. And a few I would not dare to ride in. Besides aircraft, the museum has a section dealing with aviation careers for today's students. Hiller also has multiple kinds of flight simulators that correspond to actual aircraft, rather than a video game. After spending a few hours at the museum, we enjoyed lunch at an excellent Louisiana-style restaurant a few blocks away. This event was a success. Too bad only a few Scottish Rite brothers and wives attended.**

**Ill. Daniel Doornbos, 33°.**

A great time was had by all. Thank you Illustrious Doornbos for your report.

When I started putting my articles together, I thought that I would shy-away from the usual histories. Being October, however, I decided a while back to print this particular "Ghost Story" now, one which still haunts Freemasonry to this day. The subject is the "**Taxil Hoax**" (of which I believe all Freemasons should be aware), and is given a brief yet quite excellent treatment in the book "**Freemasonry for Dummies**", by **Christopher Hodapp, PM, 33°, KT, © 2005 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., ISBN-13: 1978-0-7645-9796-1**). The following is directly from Chapter 18, pages 297 through 299 of the 2005 printing of the book; chapter and page numbers may be different in later printings. If you don't have this book yet, get it: it's good!

<excerpt>

## From the Chief Knight

Greetings all and happy spooky season.

Our tables at the 158th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, was a successful center for masonic brethren from near and far to gather for fellowship, and a great place for people to stop and inquire more about our group, the RiteCare clinic and the Rite in general.



Please join me on congratulating Sir Knight Richard Rodriguez on his elevation to Knight of The First Order. Brother Richard Rodriguez is a 32nd Degree member of the Valley of San Jose, and has been serving alongside the Knights of Saint Andrew for the last couple years.

Our KSA chapter is gearing up for more. First, the Fall Reunion is fast approaching! In addition to some being a part of ritual teams, our KSA knights are getting ready to do our part in Sound/Lighting/Mic Table/Stage Crew and Rovers. Then we're getting ready for the SCVMOA Grand Master's Reception, and directly into installation season after that.

If anyone would like to get more involved with our Valley, the KSA is a great way to do 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*



## Tower, Language, and Management of Humans

In our last two articles, we discussed the Great Flood or Noah's Flood, which submerged the entire earth and wiped out all of humanity except for Noah and his family floating on top of the waters in an ark.

After the waters subsided and Noah's family could leave the ark, the worldwide population consisted of eight people: Noah and his wife, their three sons with their respective wives. Since women are little regarded by the Bible authors, we don't know any of the wives' names. There is no indication that any of the named men may have had multiple wives.

Genesis Chapter 10 lists Noah's son Japheth as having seven sons. Of the seven sons, two are listed as having children, totaling seven named grandsons. Verse 5 suggests that they went on to populate "the isles of the Gentiles", most likely in the Mediterranean Sea.

Noah's son Ham had four sons. Three of them are shown as having sons. In total, Ham has 21 grandsons, plus two great grandsons are listed.

### Nimrod

One of Ham's grandsons is Nimrod, "the mighty [warrior] / hunter before the Lord". Bible historians have different ideas who Nimrod actually was, or whether he was a person at all. The Bible says nothing about the game he hunted.

Unless that game was real estate. Nimrod is connected with the building of cities of Babel, Erech, Accad, Calneh, in the land of Shinar, which today is known as Mesopotamia. In addition the cities of Asshur, Nineveh, Rehoboth, Calah, and Resen are listed. They lay to the north of Mesopotamia. The Sumerian, Assyrian, Akkadian, and Babylonian civilizations developed in these areas.

### Canaan

We talked about the descendants of Canaan last month. Canaan's descendants are connected with the cities of Sidon, Gerar, Gaza, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, and Lasha, all of which are in or near Bible lands. Also listed are the names of early non-Israelite tribes, including Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Hivites, Arkites, and Sinites. Three more tribes, the Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites, were the families that made up the Canaanites, who occupied the Promise Land centuries later when Moses led the Israelites there.

### Mizraim

Ham's son Mizraim had seven sons. They migrated southwestward into the lands of Arabia and Egypt. The descendants of Mizraim son, Casluhim, are said to be the origin of the Philistines, who struggled for years with the Israelites in the days of the Judges and King David. They called their land Philistina. It is known today as Palestine.

As you read on in the Bible, two things become apparent. The Bible is Israelite-centric. And a majority of the civilizations and tribes listed above, are at one time or other, conquerors or opponents of the Israelite people.

## Shem

Genesis lists the names of five sons of Noah's son, Shem. Aram had four sons. The text shows that Arphaxhad had one son, Salah, who had one son, Eber. Eber, in turn had two sons, Peleg and Joktan. These were the great-great-grandsons of Shem.

For the most part, Genesis 10 adds two generations after each of Noah's sons. Verses 22 through 25 go out five generations. So what? This is a break in the pattern of the text. It calls our attention to something important about Shem's descendants.

### The Earth was Divided

The text says Joktan had 13 named sons. Peleg, has one son in the next chapter, but our attention is drawn to a mysterious phrase, connected to Peleg: "for in his days was the earth divided". What does that mean? It depends on who you ask.

In Hebrew, the name Peleg means "division". In Greek, the name is Phalek or Phaleg. Here is another example of a person's name connected with a deed or event. Traditionally, the division spoken of is found in the following chapter, Genesis 11, the story of the Tower of Babel and the founding of the people's language.

Some Creationists interpret this verse as referring to the supercontinent of Pangaea being split into the modern continents. The traditional Bible timeline, which places the Creation as happening in 4004 BCE, places Noah's Flood around 2350 BCE. Six generations times 40 years, estimates Peleg's division of the earth happening around 240 years later, say, 2110 BCE, about 4,000 years ago.

Geologists say that the supercontinent of Pangaea began to break apart about 200 million years ago. They call it a "supercontinent" because all of the separate continents we know today were stuck together into one big land mass. Think about it: The cruise ship industry might never have existed if Pangaea had stayed together.

### Tower of Babel

The Tower of Babel is one of the best-known stories in the Hebrew Bible. Genesis 11 verse 1 says, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech."

What was this language? Some Jewish and Christian traditions suggest it was the Adamic language, the one Adam and Eve spoke. According to Ethiopian and Eritrean traditions, the ancient Semitic language of Ge'ez was the language of Adam. We have a number of extant non-Bible texts written in Ge'ez, also known as Classical Ethiopic. It is also the liturgical language of Ethiopian and Eritrean Christian churches.

"And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there." Gen 11:2.

Who are we talking about? We know the land of Shinar refers to Mesopotamia, so this sounds like Nimrod, the mighty warrior / hunter / real estate mogul, and the descendants of Noah that chose to follow him.

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar." Gen 11:3.

Brick or stone? That depends on the local geology. Mesopotamia is a big river basin. There was plenty of mud but no deposits of stone nearby. So the builders used what was available. The word "slime" refers to bitumen.

Why would the authors mention this? Because they came from a place where big buildings were made of stone, like the Levant. Remember that these stories were oral traditions that were finally written down in the final centuries BCE.

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." Gen 11:4.

"And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Gen 11:5-6

It looks like Humanity 2.0 is getting into mischief, just like their antediluvian predecessors (Humanity 1.0.) The text only hints at why the tower offends God, "whose top may reach unto heaven".

Tradition suggests that the tower is an act of defiance, that humans assumed a right to access the divine realm; or that the tower builders worshipped the a different god, in this case the Mesopotamian goddess, Innana. Josephus suggested that Nimrod was a ruthless dictator and the tower was the product of severe forced or slave labor.

"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city." Gen 11:7-8.

"Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." Gen 11:9

### **Moral of the Story**

Babel is the Hebrew name for the city and empire of Babylon. The native Akkadian name of the city was Bāb-ilim, meaning "gate of God". Alternatively, the name Babel may come from the Hebrew verb *bālal*, meaning to jumble or to confuse, after the Lord distorted the common language of humankind.

When you read verses 1 and 9, you get the point of the story. This is an etiology, an explanation of why the different peoples of the world live in separate places, each speaking their own language. Then we recall the phrase used in Genesis 10, verses 5, 20, and 31: "These are the sons of [Japheth, Ham, Shem], after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations". This shakeup was bound to happen.

### **Ziggurats**

Archaeologists have identified the ruins of ancient buildings called "ziggurats" which are pyramid-stepped temple towers. They were built with mud bricks and an exterior surface of baked mud bricks. Baked bricks are rain and wind resistant.

Unlike the pyramids of Egypt, ziggurats had no internal chambers. They were usually square or rectangular, averaging either 170 feet square or 125 × 170 feet at the base. Approximately 25 ziggurats are known, being equally divided among Sumer, Babylonia, and Assyria. They were built from approximately 2200 until 500 BCE. That fits with the traditional Bible timeline.

People ascended the ziggurat by an exterior triple stairway or by a spiral ramp. But for almost half of the known ziggurats, no means of ascent has been discovered. The sloping sides and terraces were often landscaped with trees and shrubs. A famous example was the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

The legendary Tower of Babel has been popularly associated with the Etemenanki ziggurat of the great temple of Marduk in Babylon.

The Apocryphal Book of Jubilees informs us that the Tower of Babel took 43 years to build and stood 5,433 cubits tall. That is 8,021 feet or 1.5 miles. Today, the world's tallest building is the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. It stands 2,717 feet or half a mile tall.

Unfortunately for the ambitious Babel builders, they still had a long way to go. Modern humans have been all the way to the moon, landed machines on Mars, and sent satellites into the solar system. But we have not yet reached the heavenly realm.



## Leo Taxil and the Great Hoax!

Gabriel Antoine Jogand-Pagès was born in Marseilles, France, in 1854, and [having changed his name] at a very young age, he fell in love with the life of being a con artist. At the wise old age of 25, Taxil decided to capitalize on the wave of anti-Catholic sentiment in France at the time, and began writing a series of satires, pamphlets, and pornographic stories against the Church. In 1881, he joined a Masonic lodge. After his first degree, he was quickly expelled for his repeated run-ins with the law and other publishing outrages. Taxil needed to find a new and better source of income and fun. Peeved over being chucked from the lodge, Leo conceived a masterful hoax, and this time took aim at *both* Catholics and Freemasons.

In 1885, he trotted off to a Catholic church and confessed his sins to the local priest. He even threw in a completely fictitious confession to a murder, as a joke to test the confidentiality of the confessional. Next, as a newly minted and “outraged” Catholic, he began writing a series of fictitious exposés of the secret rituals of the Freemasons. Never mind that he had only experienced the first degree. What he didn’t know, he made up. In short order, he published *The Three-Point Brothers*, *The Anti-Christ and the Origin of Masonry*, *The Cult of the Great Architect*, and *The Masonic Assassins*.

To his great amusement, Taxil became the darling of the Catholic hierarchy and was granted a private audience in Rome with Pope Leo XII. The pope declared himself to be Taxil’s biggest fan and wanted more books and more exposés of the Masons, a situation which Taxil found to be absolutely hilarious, as well as financially lucrative. He was running dry but soon created what would become a story that has long outlived him.

Taxil’s most fanciful invention was a version of Freemasonry he claimed was called *Palladism* or *Luciferian High-Masonry*. He wrote that Palladism was created and directed from Charleston, South Carolina, where it was founded by Albert Pike. According to his increasingly bizarre story, Palladism was a co-ed version of Masonry that organized sexual orgies and Satan worship among its members. Albert Pike, whom Taxil gave the title Supreme Pontiff of Universal Freemasonry, supposedly directed 23 Supreme Confederated Councils of the World by passing instructions to them through a woman named Diana Vaughan. According to Taxil, Ms. Vaughan was able to blow the whistle on Pike and his unholy band of Satan worshipers when she escaped the fiendish clutches of a Palladian lodge.

**There wasn’t a speck of truth in his entire absurd and convoluted tale**, apart from a real lady named Diana Vaughan who typed his manuscripts, but the public ate it up. Fortunately for Taxil, Albert Pike had died in 1891, so there wasn’t much of a chance of a slander lawsuit from across the sea. So, he could gleefully write that Pike, the Luciferian Pope, met with Lucifer every Friday at 3:00 p.m. (We’re left to wonder if this was a

late-in-the-day, three-martini lunch.) Palladian lodges engaged in devil worship, ritual sex, and any other sacrileges Taxil could think of.

Meanwhile, Taxil’s popular works about nonexistent female Palladian lodges were feverishly embroidered by others. The Bishop of Grenoble asserted that these female lodges were harems for the male lodges, while Jesuit Bishop Leon Meurin wrote in his *Synagogue of Satan* that *everything* about Freemasonry was Satanic, including aprons, symbols, signs and handshakes.

On April 19, 1897, Taxil rented the auditorium of the Paris Geographic Society and filled the hall with a carefully invited guest list of free-thinkers, Catholics, and the press. In a long presentation, he dropped the bomb on them all: Everything he had written had been a carefully designed hoax, specifically intended to humiliate the Catholic Church for being so easily manipulated. The gathering erupted in competing clamors of both laughter and anger, depending on whose ox was being gored. His 33-page confession was printed in the papers the following week, and it was the talk of Paris. He had made a fat wad of cash with his books and thumbed his nose at both the Masons and the Church. He left Paris and retired to a very nice country house where he died in 1907.

More than a hundred years after his confession, Taxil’s quotes about Luciferian Masonry and his deceitful misquoting of Albert Pike’s writings still get trotted out in new anti-Masonic works. Jack Harris, J. Edward Decker, James Holly, Gary H. Kah, William Schnoebelen, Jack Chick, and even Pat Robertson (who should *really* know better, as his own father was a Freemason) have all published anti-Masonic books over the last several decades that use portions of Taxil’s self-confessed lies. Leo the liar is long dead, but his practical joke lives on.

*Heinrich R. Kippen*



**List of Requested Books for  
Clinic Library – Updated  
7/23/24**

Book Titles from  
**[www.socialthinking.com](http://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

**Monterey Scottish Rite Club**

As we are all aware of, there have been many ebbs and flows of all aspects of Masonry in the last 25 years. Even in our Valley, in years past, we would have Reunions with 20, 30, I even heard once 50 member classes. Much time has been spent addressing this and, in our Valley, this has been no exception.

It is often forgotten that our Valley extends down though the Salinas Area, the Monterey Peninsula and at its Southern border, San Luis Obispo. This is quite a distance to be able to participate on a regular basis to meetings, social events and reunions. And yet, we continue to bring the Rite to members of our Blue Lodge in various ways. One of the answers in the past, were 'Scottish Rite Clubs' that were formed in a number of cities. Sadly, while once thriving, these local clubs have also experienced the ravages of time and erosion. It is many of our more tenured members that remember these heady times and a few recently have endeavored to do something about it.

We are happy to announce that a few brave Scottish Rite members have relaunched the Monterey County Scottish Rite Club. Brothers Virgil Quina Sr, 32° KCCH, Ills Bennie Cooper 33° and Pete Santos 32° got together with some of our younger members on the Monterey Peninsula to reformed the Club. This past summer with Ills Roger Bib graciously drove down from the Bay Area to install the officers officially reestablishing the Club.

With these brothers, the Club now meets on the last Saturday each month at the Pacific Grove Masonic Lodge. They have begun making plans to reach out to not only

# Stated Meeting Menu Tuesday

## October 8th 2024

(Vegetarian Entrée by REQUEST ONLY call the office, by October 4th)

- Garden Salad
- Sweet and Savory Pineapple Pork Loin
- Mash Potatoes and Gravy
- Veggies
- Rolls and Butter
- Dessert

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

### Monterey Club Continued

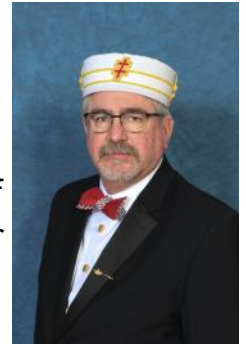
Scottish Rite Masons in the Southern part of our Valley but also are planning to attend each new 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree to introduce new Master Masons to the light & wisdom of the Rite, to let them know that when they are ready and interested in seeking more light in Masonry, they will be there for them. There are also plans for social dinners at local lodges and participation in local events to showcase Masonry & the Scottish Rite.

It is hoped that this is but one small tessera in the larger mosaic window of light that shines upon Masonry in general and our Scottish Rite Valley in particular. The Club hopes provide a way for Scottish Rite Masons in the Southern part of our Valley to stay in touch with leadership, experience & contribute to Scottish Rite Masonry and help out with fundraising for our Language Clinic. Perhaps there are other clubs in our Valley that are still active and maybe, even more importantly, brothers are inter-



### From the Secretary

The dues notices for 2025 are out now. Many of you have started paying your dues and I thank you. If you didn't get a dues card with your dues notice, it means that you having paid 2024 dues. Please take care of that now. That is 45 of you at this point.



Our Fall Reunion is Fast Approaching. Now is the time to be talking to members of your lodge about coming out and joining the Scottish Rite.

Progress continues on the Smoking room. Thanks to Brandon and Art for painting the walls. The smoke eater is in the roof, the grid is hung for the ceiling. Next will come the laying of the floor tile. At this point I don't think it will be completed by the October stated meeting, but it will be done before the November meeting.

Also the equipment for the HVAC system has been completed and is on the way to us. It will be put in place on the roof and then they can get it all plumbed in and we should be good to go. It was a long process, but it will serve us well for many years to come.



Link to online petition

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

2455 Masonic Drive  
San Jose, CA 95125-2036

Phone: 408-978-7483

e-mail: 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**

**October 4th and 5th ~ Scottish Rite Fall Reunion**

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

Consistory Opens—Grand Commander Zoom Town Hall

**Saturday October 12th ~ BBQ 11:30 am**

Consistory Hosting

**October 18th and 19th ~ Scottish Rite Fall Reunion**

**Monday October 21st ~ SCVOA Meeting 6:30 pm**

Los Altos #712

**October 25, 26, and 27 Grand Lodge**

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

Chapter Opens