



# Pasadena Scottish Rite

Valley of Pasadena - June 2020

## Virtual Meeting of Pasadena Scottish Rite Officers

**Pasadena Scottish Rite Bulletin**

(USPS 422-600)

150 N. Madison Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91101-1710

626.795.4213 Fax: 626.795.1487

<http://www.pasadenascottishrite.org>[bill@pasadenascottishrite.org](mailto:bill@pasadenascottishrite.org)Reservations: [mary@pasadenascottishrite.org](mailto:mary@pasadenascottishrite.org)

Official publication of the Ancient and Accepted

Scottish Rite of Free Masonry

Periodical Class Postage Paid at Pasadena, California  
and at additional mailing offices.

No Subscription Price

Published Monthly Except July/August Combined

**Editorial Staff**

Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°

Editor

Pat Meyer, 32°

Mail Manager

**Change of Address**

Please notify the Secretary's Office of your correct mailing address including ZIP CODE when moving. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Scottish Rite Journal. 150 North Madison Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101-1710

**Allegiance**

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Pasadena, Orient of California acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspector General Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-Third and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States of America.

James D. Cole, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

Frank Loui, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
in the Orient of California

Rees Padfield, 33°

Personal Representative of  
the Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
in the Orient of California

Gregory J. Gabriel, 32° KCCH

*Venerable Master  
Lodge of Perfection*

Robert K. Edis, 32°

*Wise Master  
Chapter of Rose Croix*

Ohannes "Hovig" Antabian, 32° KSA

*Commander  
Council of Kadosh*

David J. Williams, 32° KSA

*Master of Kadosh  
Consistory*

Jorge A. Ramos, 32° KSA

*First Knight  
Knights of Saint Andrew*

---

# Gregory J. Gabriel, 32° KCCH

## *Venerable Master*

### Lodge of Perfection

Many great murder mysteries begin with, “It was a dark and stormy night”, and this one is no exception. On December 12, 1933, between 11pm and midnight, a 45-year-old wealthy playboy dentist, Dr. Leonard Siever, was shot to death in the driveway of the Pasadena Scottish Rite Cathedral. Nothing was taken except his wristwatch and no murder weapon was ever recovered. Dubbed by the Pasadena Police as the “Sphinx Murder”, it could have been made into an “edge of your seat” movie thriller for the silver screen. But there is one problem. Movies have an ending. This who-done-it, does not.



Before Dr. Siever caught a round to the back of his head and another between the shoulder blades execution style, dying from an acute case of “lead poisoning”, he was a prominent dentist in the San Gabriel Valley area. He was a patron of the arts and loved music. He was engaged a few times but had never been married. His diary was filled with encounters of young local women, many of whom were married. And he loved to attend events that were usually women only events such as teas, women’s club meetings and other women’s social functions.

Some of these women had worked for the dentist, others were wealthy patients. Some were college girls and one was an actress, a leading lady at the Pasadena Playhouse and on the silver screen. The two things they all had in common, they were all young and they were all beautiful.

A few days after the murder, a South Pasadena woman, named Yvonne Howard was found in the early morning hours wandering the streets of Hawthorne. She was crying and demanded to be taken to the Pasadena Police Department where she told detectives that she “met Dr. Siever eight years ago. He called me Peggy. Then he double-crossed me, so I took his gun and waited for him last Tuesday night and shot him.”

Continued on next page

Venerable Master, Continued...

But she later recanted her confession and said she had never even met the doctor. Police citing that the only facts she knew of the case were what she read in the newspapers.

Pasadena Police Chief Charles H. Kelly (a Past Master of Pasadena Lodge #272) theorized that it may have been a robbery related to “a gambling joint” operating a block from the cathedral. However, they could not link the establishment to the crime.

And now the plot thickens! In the Pasadena Professional Building, one floor below Dr. Sievers’ office, was a young, up and coming surgeon, Dr. Carl Wagner, who was dating a 22-year-old divorcee by the name of Frances Coen Cooke. It seems that Mrs. Cooke was seen in the company of Dr. Wagner on the afternoon of the murder. She was also seen later that night in the arms of Dr. Siever just hours before his demise.

Ahh, but another plot twist. It seems that both doctors frequented a Palm Springs hotel with their mistresses. A hotel managed by a Mrs. Nellie Madison a woman who was later sentenced to be hung for the murder of her own husband in Burbank in 1934. (She had enough of his infidelity.) She told a district attorney investigator that her husband, Eric D. Madison, had given a costly gold wrist watch to a young Pasadena woman just a short time before the shooting. The same watch that Dr. Siever was seen wearing the day of the murder. She also told the investigator that Mr. Madison confessed to her that he was the killer but swore he would kill her if she ever told anyone. She said that there was a fight between this young Pasadena woman and the good doctor on the night in question. Surprisingly, a short time later, the watch was mailed to ... wait for it ... Mrs. Frances Coen Cooke along with a demand for \$5,000 in cash. Was this hush money? While all this sounds unbelievable, it was well known that Mr. Madison frequented various Pasadena hotels with his “escorts”. He could very well have been in the area that night.

But what of the murder weapon? A law student by the name of Harry Karsch admitted to the district attorney that he had been hired to dispose of a gun in Tijuana. He was convinced that it was the firearm used in the Siever case. But it was never confirmed that the gun Karsch dumped was actually the one

Continued on next page

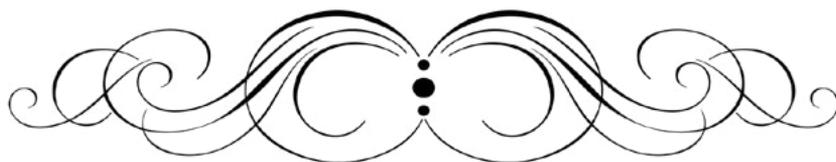
Venerable Master, Continued...

used in the crime.

So, after 86, no murder weapon, no explanation as to the \$5,000 demand for the watch, no real motive for the killing and several confessions but no one in custody. Who killed Dr. Leonard Siever and why? A botched robbery? A jilted lover? A payback for a gambling debt? An angry husband demanding street justice?

It seems the only ones who really know what happened at 150 North Madison Avenue around low twelve on that cold, rainy, darken night of December 12, 1933 are the two sphinxes that stand watch over the Pasadena Scottish Rite Cathedral. And their lips are sealed!

Gregory J. Gabriel, 32° KCCH  
 Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection



## Pasadena Lodge of Perfection Reconciliation Detail

104 · Union Bank - Almoner, Period Ending 04/30/2020

Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>						7,651.32
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>						
<b>Deposits and Credits - 1 item</b>						
Deposit	04/29/2020			X	10.00	10.00
Total Deposits and Credits					10.00	10.00
Total Cleared Transactions					10.00	10.00
Cleared Balance					10.00	7,661.32
Register Balance as of 04/30/2020					10.00	7,661.32
<b>Ending Balance</b>					<b>10.00</b>	<b>7,661.32</b>

# The Secretary's Memo Pad

Ill. William F. Rook, 33°

Brethren, Family and Friends.

I hope I find you all well at this writing. It has been a long haul and still hurdle ahead to face. Things at the Rite are still at a closed down, a waiting word from the Grand Master as to our reopening times.

I want to thank all the brothers who have paid their dues. If you look at the stats 52% of our members have to this date paid their dues. The orient wide is only 46.9% and Jurisdiction wide it is 49.9%. Pasadena is ahead of the curve for the first time in the 8 years I served as your General Secretary.



We hope to again have virtual meetings with speakers. Watch for announcements.

That's all from here.

Bill

Current Year Membership Statistical Changes	
Initiations:	0
Affiliations:	0
Reinstatements:	3
Deaths:	6
Demissions:	0
Suspensions (Non-payment):	2
Suspensions (Other reasons):	0
Expulsions	0
Current Lodge Membership	779

Current Dues Statistics				
	Count	% of Total	Orient Wide Avg.	Jurisdiction Wide Avg.
Members with Dues Paid in Full:	409	52.6%	46.9%	49.9%
Members with Current Dues Balance:	108	13.9%	11.9%	10.8%
Members with Arrears Dues Balance:	71	9.1%	11.6%	8.5%
Members that are Dues Exempt:	95	12.2%	11.2%	10.3%
Paid Life Members:	95	12.2%	18.4%	20.4%

# The P.R.'s Corner

Ill. Rees Padfield, 33°

Brethren,

I hope that June brings good health and easier travels to you and your family. I was pleasantly surprised that 57 of you participated in our first ever digital stated Meeting on May 1st. It was certainly encouraging. As if this date, we do not know when the Grand Master or the Governor is going to allow organizations to meet and under what conditions. Looking ahead, our General Secretary and the Cathedral Board are looking into purchasing hand sanitizing stations for the building as they will be needed regardless of the conditions being specified. Assuming a limit on participants, we are also evaluating how to set up the dining room to optimize social distancing. The Stated Meeting can utilize social distancing by using the balcony. In the meantime, we will continue to utilize the ZOOM application for our Board and Stated Meetings.



I wish to thank Illustrious Bill for setting up the Masonic education segment in our first ever ZOOM Stated Meeting. The illumination of the 11th as well as part of the 9th and 10th degrees was certainly interesting and well received.

I am most appreciative that the Brethren have been observant in paying their dues. Even though we are not meeting at the Rite or having rentals, our utility bills, insurance premiums as well as the property taxes are still due. We also are continuing to maintain the building as well completing some tasks that were started before the lock down.

I know that most of your Lodges are having virtual meetings. Now would be good time to discuss Scottish Rite Masonry and the knowledge to be obtained.

Continued on next page

The P.R.'s Corner Continued...

As we look forward to June, do not forget the sacrifices made at Normandy and the war in the Pacific. Memorial Day should remind us that the tree of liberty, and freedom, is watered not with pretty words and flowers, but with the blood of our young men and women. If you should see a veteran with his baseball cap showing Navy, Army, Marine, Air Force or Coast Guard participation in one of our nation's past or current conflicts, please approach them and thank them for their service and sacrifice. Should you encounter a first responder please thank them also. The light in their eyes will brighten your day.

Rees Padfield, 33° Inspector General Honorary  
Personal Representative



Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PasadenaAASR>

## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, to improve its members and enhance the communities in which they live by teaching and emulating the principles of Brotherly Love, Tolerance, Charity, and Truth while actively embracing high social, moral, and spiritual values including fellowship, compassion, and dedication to God, family and country.

## Strategic Objectives

Fulfill the promise of additional Masonic knowledge through education and training.

Build a Positive Public Image of Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.

Support and expand our philanthropic activities.

Provide a framework for effective leadership to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity.

Provide a financial process to ensure the stability and long-term success of the Fraternity

## Scottish Rite Creed

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

June 2020 Pasadena Scottish Rite Virtual Stated Meeting

Friday, June 5th  
7:30pm – 9:30pm

<https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/81197729224?pwd=M29vWUZNRDVWk2FTTHpmWXArSU5udz09>

Pasadena Scottish Rite is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/81197729224?pwd=M29vWUZNRDVWk2FTTHpmWXArSU5udz09>

Meeting ID: 811 9772 9224  
Password: 867115

One tap mobile  
+16699006833,,81197729224#,,1#,867115# US (San Jose)  
+12532158782,,81197729224#,,1#,867115# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 811 9772 9224  
Password: 867115

Find your local number: <https://scottishrite.zoom.us/u/kegzWezo-Ro>

10 minutes before

Organizer: Pasadena Scottish Rite

Pasadena Scottish Rite  
**June 5, 2020**  
**Stated Meeting**  
**7:30 PM**



**Masonic Education**  
**Ill. John Heisner 33°**  
**Past Grand Master**  
**of the**  
**Grand Lodge of California**  
**Guest Speaker**

# IN MEMORIAM

Lee Abramson  
South Bay Lodge #421  
April 25, 2020

Milton A. Adams  
Pomona Lodge #246  
February 18, 2018

Frank Bruno  
San Fernando Lodge #343  
January 29, 2020

Henry Cook  
Old West Lodge #813  
February 23, 2020

John Walter Plumb  
Pasadena Lodge #272  
March 5, 2020

Ivan N. Stein  
Granada Hills Lodge No. 378  
April 16, 2019

May Almighty God, in his infinite mercy,  
Grant that we may meet again, to part no more.

**PASADENA LODGE OF PERFECTION - UNION BANK ACCT. --1667  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

**As of March 31, 2020**

Beginning Balance March 1, 2020			<b>\$ 63,447.24</b>
Refund Registrations S.C. Workshop & Hotel	\$ 1,863.79		
Deposits	\$ 2,616.48		\$ 4,480.27
			-----
			\$ 67,927.51
Checks 4717- 4736	6,969.84		
Paychex charges (payroll, taxes and fees)	11,237.08		
Debit Card charges	359.41		
	-----		
	18,566.33		18,566.33
			-----
			<b>\$49,361.18</b>
			=====
Uncleared Transactions	\$ 420.00		\$ 420.00
Register Balance March 31, 2020			<b>\$48,941.18</b>
			=====

**Deposits Breakdown:**

Members Dues for 2020	\$ 2,176.48	
Candidates Fees	\$ -	
Receipts Dinners Stated Mtg.	340.00	
Reinstatement Fee	100.00	
	-----	
	2,616.48	

**McClure Investment March 1 - 31, 2020**

	<u>Total Market Value</u>		<u>Change from last period</u>
4063 - PSR Life Membership Acct.	\$ 181,194.68	↓	\$ 22,060.40
4066 - PSR Almoner Acct.	\$ 14,873.80	↓	\$ 867.85
4067 - Cathedral Assoc. Acct.	\$ 313,182.77	↓	\$ 37,797.40
4068 - Lodge of Perfection Main Acct.	\$1,288,375.81	↓	\$ 182,722.53
3495 - Buy out Acct.	\$ 134,443.49	↓	\$ 12,240.65

**SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
As of March 31, 2020**

Beginning Balance March 1, 2020		<b>\$107,679.66</b>
Deposits:	\$ 20,202.86	<u>20,202.86</u>
		127,882.52
		-----
Checks 3153 -3162	\$ 79,469.63	
Payroll and Taxes	\$ 652.78	
Debit Card charges	<u>1,460.58</u>	
	81,582.99	<u>81,582.99</u>
		<b><u>46,299.53</u></b>
Uncleared Transaction	<u>\$1,762.19</u>	\$1,762.19
Ending Balance as March 31, 2020		=====
		<b>\$44,537.34</b>
		=====

**Deposits Breakdown:**

Apartment December Rent	\$ 1,760.00	
Parking Lot Lease The REMM Group	15,657.86	
Parking Lot Lease Fuller Theological Sem	1,600.00	
Parking Lot Rentals	<u>1,185.00</u>	
	\$ 20,202.86	

---

 Pasadena Childhood Language Center


Meghri Habashian  
Office Coordinator

Donations may be made by a group, an organization, a couple, or an individual. They may be made **In Honor of...**, **In Memory of...**, as a member of the **365 Club**, or as **Friends of the Center**. All donors are recognized in the bulletin.

Thank You to Our March/April 2020 Donors

**365 Club**

William Rook

**In Memory of Frank Bruno**

**Marle Crane**, Gail C. Sweeney, Charles & Joyce, Agnes Lara,  
Leslie & Toni MacWillie, Sharon McClintock

**In Memory of John Plumb**

David Patterson

**In Memory of Eugenia Baldonado**

Arthur Beddoe

**In Honor of Jack Vautin**

Ramiro Villalon

**Friends of the Center**

Charles Streitz, Jonathan M. Wood, Bill Davis, Donald Heller,  
Christopher Lebedeff, Matthew Hyde, Steven Klein,  
Brandon Lippincott, Chester Olson Jr., Roger Sherman.



Visit the Pasadena Scottish Rite our online store.  
<https://squareup.com/store/ScottishRite>

## A Sponsor's Responsibility

For every petitioner for the degrees of Scottish Rite Degrees there is a Scottish Rite Mason who is his sponsor on whom rests the responsibility for proper training of the petitioner. The Scottish Rite Mason who signs the petition has a responsibility that does not end with their signature on the petition. If you invited a guest to a gathering at your home, you make sure that he meets all of your guest and is made welcome and comfortable. Isn't the man whom you recommend Scottish Rite Freemasonry entitled to the same courtesy? As his sponsor, is it not your duty to assist him with his work and take an interest in his progress? It seems to us that it is, and that you should see to it that he fully understands the fine lessons of our degrees. If you recommend a man to the Scottish Rite, satisfy yourself that he is receiving that for which you recommended him. To do so is but a Masonic courtesy and it is your duty as a Scottish Rite Mason.

Ancient & Accepted

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Rees Padfield, 33<sup>o</sup> Personal Representative  
D. Edward Griffiths, 33<sup>o</sup> Asst. Pers. Rep.  
Gregory J. Gabriel, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH Asst. Pers. Rep.

Officers of the Pasadena Bodies

Lodge of Perfection

Gregory J. Gabriel, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH

*Venerable Master*

Chapter of Rose Croix

Robert K. Edis, 32<sup>o</sup>

*Wise Master*

Council of Kadosh

Ohannes "Hovig" Antabian, 32<sup>o</sup> KSA

*Commander*

Consistory

David J. Williams, 32<sup>o</sup> KSA

*Master of Kadosh*

All Bodies

Gregory J. Gabriel, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH Almoner  
Miles H. Bresee III, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH Treasurer  
William F. Rook, 33<sup>o</sup> Secretary  
Keith D. Kramer, 32<sup>o</sup> KSA Asst. to Secretary  
Stephen R. Miller, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH Organist  
Roland P. Sanchez, 32<sup>o</sup> KSA Tiler

Scottish Rite Calendar

Keep Friday Nights for Scottish Rite

JUNE

Friday, June 5

7:30PM Virtual Stated Meeting  
Connection info on page 9  
John Heisner Guest Speaker  
Lodge of Perfection in Charge

Periodical

Pasadena Lodge of Perfection  
150 North Madison Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91101-1710

Time dated material

