

Pasadena Scottish Rite Bulletin



2025 Council of Kadosh Officers
Valley of Pasadena - March 2025

Pasadena Scottish Rite Bulletin

(USPS 422-600)

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Official Publication of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction of the USA, Valley of
Pasadena and Coordinate BodiesPeriodical Class Postage Paid at Pasadena, California
and at additional mailing offices.

No Subscription Price

Published Monthly Except July/August Combined

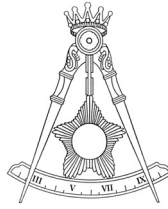
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Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°

Editor

Calvin E. Smith, 32°

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address changes to the Scottish Rite Bulletin.
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.

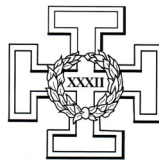
Jeffrey W. Yates, 32° KCCH

*Venerable Master
Lodge of Perfection*

John S.C. Thorpe, 32°

*Wise Master
Chapter of Rose Croix*

Jonathan M. Wood, 32°

*Commander
Council of Kadosh*

Leonard Manoukian, 32° KSA

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the Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in the Orient of California

Wayne R. Sauer, 32° KSA

*First Knight
Knights of Saint Andrew*

Jonathan M. Wood, 32°*Commander***Council of Kadosh**

Greetings, Brethren and friends,

Throughout my Masonic journey, I have always been interested in learning how our fraternity reflects and incorporates the ethics and spiritual paradigms by which Western society has been shaped. In each of the degrees of the Blue Lodge, our ceremony revisits ideas from the ancient past, reminding us of their wisdom and applicability to the modern condition. Albert Pike was himself so enamored of these lessons that his most famous book, *Morals & Dogma* encompasses tens-of-thousands of lines of text exploring what he believed to be the origin and significance of every bit of symbolism found in the thirty-two degrees of the Scottish Rite system.



Truly, contemplating our symbolism and the aims of Freemasonry, one can often find illuminating connections to ancient ideas from Greece, Judea, Arthurian Legend, and Eastern thought. While researching colors often used in Masonic rites (such as blue, gold, red, silver, black, and white), I found an interesting parallel between ancient Greek and Masonic symbolism of the colors black and white, which likely sheds light on our system of balloting.

As early as the 5th c. C.E., (around the same time 300 spartan soldiers held a last stand against Xerxes and his army of 300,000 at Thermopylae), the Athenians were casting votes using small black and white pebbles, where for example, white was used for “yea” and black for “nay,” or, in the case of a court trial, the accused were acquitted by white pebbles, and condemned by black (Bible Study Tools, n.d.). The stones were then counted to render verdict. The Greek word for these stones was psephos, from which the scientific study of elections, psephology, is named. Even the modern word, ballot, preserves this

Continued on next page

Commander, Continued...

ancient history of bean-counting, as it comes from medieval French ballotte, meaning a small ball (Getty News, 2023). The Greek-language equivalent of the practice of Hebrew gematria (counting the value of the letters in a Hebrew word), is isopsephy meaning “equal count” and works the same way, i.e. by observing the numerical value of a Greek word and pondering the connection between those with the same numerical value.

The discovery of the possible inspiration for our use of black and white “pebbles” in lodge balloting, inspires me to dig further into our symbols and traditions to uncover further parallels. I hope it will do the same for you.

In conclusion, if the AASR really is the “university” of Freemasonry, then this kind of inquiry is our homework! I always enjoy discussing these topics and look forward to sharing more in my bulletin messages this year.

In Fellowship,

Dru Wood, 32°

Commander, Council of Kadosh

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.

Meet the Commander



Johnathan M. “Dru” Wood, 32°

Commander, Council of Kadosh

Brother Jonathan “Dru” Wood first knocked upon the door of Freemasonry at San Jose Lodge No. 10, in San Jose, California, in 2006, was raised that same year, and served as Worshipful Master in 2010. He was a charter member in 2009 of Paideia Lodge No. 852, a Traditional Observance lodge in Santa Cruz, CA; is an officer of the Southern California Research Lodge and has served six terms as Master of Claremont Lodge No. 436, where he is the sitting Master, Officers’ Coach, and a candidate coach. He received the Hiram Award in 2023.

Brother Wood is an officer of the San Gabriel Valley York Rite Bodies, Melrose St. John Council No. 52 of the Allied Masonic Degree, Pasadena Valley Council of Kadosh, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and is Treasurer and Past Celebrant of California College, Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatus. He is a member of the Southern California Past Masters’ Association, the Grand College of Rites, Philalethes Society, and the Masonic Society. He serves as President of the Claremont Masonic Building Association, Treasurer of the 806th Masonic District, and is currently pursuing certification as a meditation instructor through the Academy of Reflection, a club dedicated to masonic contemplation, based in the Valley of Guthrie, OK.

He served for 5 years as a Certified Adult Volunteer for the International Order of Job’s Daughters for girls, as Bethel Guardian Treasurer at Claremont Bethel No. 301.

Continued on next page

Meet the Commander Continued...

Brother Wood enjoys writing and speaking on Masonic topics such as the intersection of Freemasonry and rites of passage, the grail quest, and the western esoteric tradition; he has delivered educational presentations throughout the state, has had articles published in Masonic periodicals, and has twice been featured as guest editor of the Fraternal Review.

He is an Army veteran, graduating basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia in 2000, and served in the Quartermaster Brigade until his honorable discharge in 2008. In 2022 he completed a degree in accounting and currently serves as bookkeeper for the Grand Chapter of California, Order of the Eastern Star.

He enjoys meditation and spending time in nature, and is an avid bibliophile, and an unrepentant mixologist.



Visit us on Facebook

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

March Dinner Menu

Stated Meeting on March 7th

Corned Beef & Cabbage Soup
 Salad with Bleu Cheese Dressing
 Beef Stew over egg noodles
 Rolls & Butter
 Chocolate Mousse Cake

Last day for reservations: Wednesday, March 5th at 2pm

Number of Reservations at \$20.00 Per Person.....

Fish or Vegetarian on request only when making reservation.

Remember - a reservation made is a reservation paid.

mary@pasadenascottishrite.org or 626-795-4213 Ext: 101

The Secretary's Desk

Ill. Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°

At our March meeting we will be voting on several candidates for the upcoming 2025 reunion in memory of Ill. Harry R. Sprague 33°. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us Scottish Rite Masonry be sure to get those applications turn in either online or the old fashioned way with a paper application.



Also remind your lodge and especially any newly raised master masons of the upcoming Spirit of Hiram play which will be held on March 14th at 8:00pm, there will be the usualy spaghetti dinner server prior to the performance at 6:30pm please make your reservations tfor this event at SoH@pasadenascottishrite.org

Fraternally,

Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33°
General Secretary

Daily Recap of Membership

Recap data generated: 3/3/2025 2:01:55 AM

Valley of Pasadena Orient of California Southern Jurisdiction

	Begin	Initiations	Affiliations	Reinstatements	Deaths	Demits	Susp NPD	Susp Other	Expulsions	Ending
Pasadena / Lodge	656	38	3	11	27	8	46	3	0	656
Pasadena / Chapter	657	41	3	11	27	8	46	3	0	656
Pasadena / Council	654	39	3	11	27	8	46	3	0	654
Pasadena / Consistory	652	39	3	11	27	8	46	3	0	652

Current Dues Statistics

Accurate As Of: 3/3/2025 5:01:32 AM

	Count	% of Total	Orient Wide Avg.	Jurisdiction Wide Avg.
Active Members with Dues Paid in Full:	308	47%	43.4%	48.6%
Active Members with Current Dues Balance:	109	16.6%	10.1%	9.6%
Active Members with Arrears Dues Balance:	76	11.6%	17.3%	9.5%
Active Members that are Dues Exempt (A,L,R):	70	10.7%	10.9%	10.7%
Active Paid Life Members (E):	93	14.2%	18.2%	21.6%
Total:	656			

The P.R.'s Corner

Ill. Gregory J. Gabriel, 33°

Now that our Cathedral Centennial celebration party has concluded, we can look back upon the evening and claim another successful event for our Valley. Enjoyed by all who attended, all I can add to this monumental achievement is a huge and grateful,



THANK
YOU!

Remember that this is just the start of an exciting year, full of celebration and memories to be had. Please be a part of it as we join together in our beautiful and historic home to celebrate Freemasonry in this Valley. Hope to see you at the Rite very soon.

Gregory J. Gabriel, 33°

Personal Representative in the Valley of Pasadena

DO IT RITE!

Master Craftsman Online College & Leadership Academy.

<https://mastercraftsmancollege.org/>

That's right: Master Craftsman is now ONLINE! Since its inception in 2009, the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman education program has been a leading source for Masonic education, not only here in the Southern Jurisdiction, but also across the globe.



SCOTTISH+RITE
MASTER+CRAFTSMAN



The Spirit of Hiram

Returns Friday, March 14, 2025 at 8pm

The *Spirit of Hiram* is a dramatic presentation of the Master Mason Degree. It has been performed by Pasadena Scottish Rite for decades and will return to our stage for one night. It is a tiled performance for Master Masons only – please put this on your calendars and help us spread the word by announcing it at your lodges via Trestleboard, Secretary communication & appendent bodies. There is a free Spaghetti Dinner at 6:30 pm. We look forward to your attendance.

DUES CARD REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION • SoH@PasadenaScottishRite.org

Projected Dates

2025 Reunion

Ill. Harry R. Sprague, 33° Memorial Class

Phase 1

4th thru 6th degrees Friday, May 30, 2025
7th thru 16th degrees Saturday, May 31, 2025

Phase 2

17th thru 22nd degrees Saturday, June 28, 2025

Phase 3

23rd thru 29th degrees Saturday, July 26, 2025

Phase 4

30th thru 32nd degrees Saturday, August 23, 2025

Childhood Language Center

Robert S. Artinian, 32° KCCH

Brethren,

First, I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May good health, hope, happiness, peace, and love resound in your homes.

This is my last time writing to you as chair of our beloved Childhood Language Center. I would like to thank the Foundation and their staff for their leadership and support, our board members for their dedication and Meghri Habashian, our administrator, for her tireless efforts. I would like to also express my gratitude to all our members in this valley for the ongoing support of the Language Center.

Time has come to pass the baton, and I am certain that it will be well cared for. I am humbled with the privilege and trust that you have granted me this last year serving the Language Center. I ask all of you to continue to support our center so it can reach its full potential by serving as many children as possible.

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers.

Robert S. Artinian, 32° KCCH

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Pasadena



The article above was intended to be published in the February issue of the Bulletin but there is only so much room available in each issue. - Editor

Good Cheer Report

David Francis Philips
Hospital

Please take a moment to call upon your distressed brethren.

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Radenkovich
Pasadena Lodge No. 272
August 22, 2024

Joseph Klein
Ridglea Lodge No. 1431, Texas
February 2, 2025

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

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.

Photos from the Centennial held on February 21st, 2025





In addition being Wise Master here at Pasadena Scottish Rite, John S.C. Thorpe, 32° serves as an Assistant Cubmaster of Pack 602 in Upland. On March 2nd I had the honor of presenting him with his Wood Badge Neckerchief, Woggle and Beads for completing the Boy Scouts of America Wood Badge training. - Ron Alcorn III, 33°



The Librarian's Memo Pad

Ill. William F. Rook, 33°

The Christian Kabbalah

Christian Kabbalah is an interpretation of Kabbalah within a Christian framework. Emerging in the Renaissance, it is a mystical tradition that sought to integrate Jewish mystical ideas, particularly those found in Kabbalistic teachings, with Christian theology. Christian Kabbalists saw Kabbalah not merely as a Jewish discipline but as a universal, ancient wisdom that could enhance the understanding of Christian doctrines.



Here's an overview of its key elements, history, and influence:

1. Historical Background

Christian Kabbalah began in the 15th and 16th centuries, largely through the work of Christian scholars who encountered Jewish mystical texts. The Italian philosopher Giovanni Pico della Mirandola was one of the earliest figures to introduce Kabbalah to the Christian world. He believed Kabbalistic teachings contained hidden truths that could support Christian doctrine, particularly ideas about the Trinity, the nature of Christ, and the process of salvation.

2. Key Concepts

- **God's Emanations and the Sephirot:** In Kabbalah, God manifests through ten emanations called the Sephirot, forming a "Tree of Life." Christian Kabbalists sought to map Christian symbols onto the Sephirot, often linking aspects of the Trinity to these emanations.
- **Names of God and Divine Language:** Christian Kabbalists

Continued on next page

Librarian's Memo Pad, continued.....

explored the sacred names of God and considered Hebrew to be a divine language. They believed that understanding these names allowed a closer connection to the divine, and even helped in understanding Christ's nature.

- **Messianic Focus:** Christian Kabbalah often centered around Messianic interpretations. For example, Kabbalistic concepts like the "Adam Kadmon" (primordial man) were interpreted to be metaphors for Christ.
- **The Christological Reading:** Figures like Johannes Reuchlin sought to integrate the Kabbalistic concept of "Tikkun" (restoration) into the Christian idea of redemption, positing that Christ's life and work were essential for the spiritual repair of the world.

3. Major Figures

- **Giovanni Pico della Mirandola:** A pioneer in merging Kabbalah with Christianity, Pico saw Kabbalah as a pathway to greater spiritual truths compatible with Christian teachings.
- **Johannes Reuchlin:** A German humanist who defended Jewish texts, Reuchlin believed Kabbalah held profound truths applicable to Christianity. His book *De Arte Cabalistica* (1517) was one of the first systematic works on Christian Kabbalah.
- **Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa:** A Renaissance thinker who integrated Kabbalistic and alchemical principles into Christian mysticism, Agrippa's works included Kabbalistic ideas on angelic hierarchies and the mystical significance of Hebrew letters.
- **Athanasius Kircher:** A Jesuit scholar whose works on symbology and mysticism popularized Kabbalistic ideas within Christian circles in the 17th century.

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4. Influence on Western Thought

Christian Kabbalah greatly influenced the development of Western esotericism, including Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, and Hermeticism. Renaissance humanism, which sought the reconciliation of religious knowledge with classical learning, was deeply impacted by Christian Kabbalah, which offered a way to integrate mysticism with Christian faith.

5. Legacy and Modern Perspectives

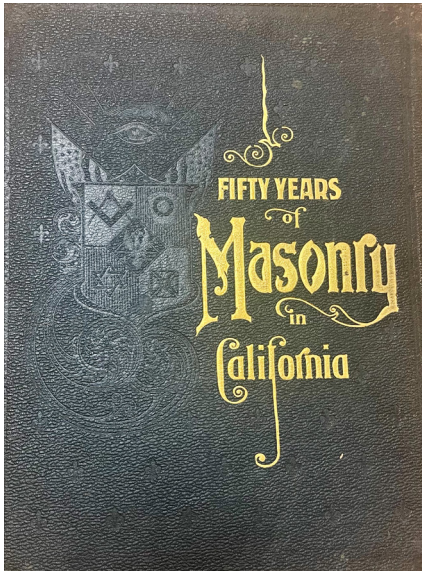
While Christian Kabbalah is no longer a major theological movement, its influence persists in various mystical and esoteric traditions. The works of Christian Kabbalists introduced concepts that would become central to Western mysticism and the occult. In modern times, some scholars view Christian Kabbalah as an example of religious syncretism and as an early attempt at interfaith dialogue, bridging Jewish and Christian spiritual traditions.

Christian Kabbalah remains a unique and complex branch of mystical thought, offering a lens to explore the intersection of Christian mysticism and Jewish esoteric wisdom.

A study of both the Jewish Kabbalah and the Christian Kabbalah is possible using our Pasadena Scottish Rite Library.



Library Treasures.



FIFTY YEARS
of
MASONRY
in
CALIFORNIA.

VOLUME I.

by

EDWIN A. SHERMAN, 33°

CHAPTER IV.

ADVENT OF FREEMASONRY INTO CALIFORNIA.

THE GRAND LODGES OF MISSOURI, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND CONNECTICUT THE FIRST MOTHERS OF CALIFORNIAN FREEMASONRY.

A SHORT time after the close of the Revolutionary War for American Independence, the light of Freemasonry, like that just before the dawn, began to tip the crests of the Alleghany and the Appalachian range of mountains, then the western boundary of civilization, and soon thereafter to dart its rays of rising sunlight down the western slopes and across the lakes, the fountains of the St. Lawrence River, and the broad valley of the Mississippi, "the Father of Waters," and its tributaries. The Masonic and patriotic spirit and memories of the Masonic fathers of American Independence accompanied the great lights wherever the altars of Freemasonry were set up in the then vast wilderness filled with hostile tribes of Indians. The first Lodge

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Library Treasures, continued...

to be opened for work was at the town of Lexington, Kentucky, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, November 17, 1788, as Lexington Lodge, No. 25, F. & A. M., the town and Lodge having been named after Lexington in Massachusetts, where the first blood was shed in the American Revolution. The next in order was American Union Lodge, the charter having been granted to it by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, February 15, 1776, as a Military Lodge in the Connecticut Line of the American Army during the Revolutionary War, which found lodgment at Marietta, Ohio. It was opened by the Master, Lieut. JONATHAN HEART, with Col. BENJAMIN TUPPER and Gen. RUFUS PUTNAM as Wardens. There were several Brethren who had been members of the Military Lodge, No. 10, also warranted by the St. John's Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and in all there were ten of these officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary Army who met and elected their officers, and opened this Lodge June 28, 1790.

The Grand Lodge of South Carolina chartered Parfait Union Lodge at New Orleans, Louisiana, March 30, 1794, to French refugee Brethren from the Island of Hayti, while the Grand Lodge of North Carolina granted a charter to St. Tammany Lodge, No. 29, at Nashville, Tenn., December 17, 1796.

Bibliographical source:

FIFTY YEARS of MASONRY IN CALIFORNIA. VOLUME I. Compiled and Edited by EDWIN A. SHERMAN, 33°, Venerable Grand Secretary Masonic Veteran Association of the Pacific Coast. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. GEORGE SPAULDING & CO., Publishers. 1898.

Research, Summary by:

Brother Oliver A. Torrealba, 32°.
KSA-Pasadena Scottish Rite.
& Past-Venerable Chieftain (2023)
KSA-Long Beach Scottish Rite



Pasadena Childhood Language Center



PASADENA

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 February 2025 Donors

365 Club

Bill Rook, Frank Barbano, Daniel Jones

Memorials

Steven Klein in Memory of Joseph Klein

In Honor of

Friends of the Center

PSR Almoner, Frank Barbano, Anonymous

Remember when making donations please make checks payable to “California Scottish Rite Foundation” and put Pasadena on the memo line.

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Master of Kadosh

All Bodies

Jeffrey W. Yates, 32^o KCCH

Miles H. Bresee III, 32^o KCCH

Ronald W. Alcorn III, 33^o

Keith D. Kramer, 32^o KSA

Stephen R. Miller, 32^o KCCH

Wayne R. Sauer, 32^o KSA

Almoner

Treasurer

Secretary

Asst. to Secretary

Organist

Tiler

Scottish Rite Calendar

Keep Friday Nights for Scottish Rite

Dress is Coat and Tie

MARCH

Friday, March 7

4:30PM Cathedral Board

6:00PM Social

6:30PM Dinner

8:00PM Stated Meeting

Council of Kadosh in Charge

Women's Association

Sunday, March 9

12:00PM Knights of Saint Andrew

On Zoom only

Friday, March 14

6:30PM Spaghetti Dinner

8:00PM Spirit of Hiram

Saturday, March 22

10:00AM Discussion Group

Periodical

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite
150 North Madison Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101-1710

Time dated material

SAVE THE DATE

Stated Meeting, April 4, 2025

Remembrance and Renewal, April 4, 2025

Stated Meeting, May 2, 2025

2025 Reunion starts on May 30, 2025

