



From the Personal Representative

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Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in California, Valley of Burlingame

The first ever Orient of California, Orient-wide Reunion (June 29-July 1, 2018) hosted by the Valley of Oakland was a huge success! Candidates completed their degrees during this historic 3-day event. I am happy to announce that we have seven new Masters of the Royal Secret this year, namely -

Ronaldo G. Antonio
Edgar R. "Jett" Carrasco
Patrick R. Esteban
Alonzo G. Flores
Kevin J. Martinez
Vincent Tom
Reynato T. Villafuerte

To all of our new Scottish Rite brethren, congratulations on becoming a 32°, Master of the Royal Secret!

This September we celebrate our annual Feast of Tishri. The Scottish Rite Feast of Tishri is derived from the Jewish festival of Sukkoth which is chiefly a harvest festival that celebrates the bountiful gifts the Lord has given to Israel. It is also a serious reminder of when God brought their ancestors out of bondage from Egypt and to the promised land. As the children of Israel were led through the wilderness, God decreed the celebration of a seven-day feast to occur in the seventh month of the Jewish liturgical calendar, the month called Tishri, during which they lived in "sukkoth" (temporary shelters or booths). He decreed that this feast be celebrated annually to forever remind the Israelites that He had rescued them from Egypt. Feast of Tishri is thus a symbol of freedom.

The Lord further commanded the Israelites saying "On the first day, you will take for yourselves the fruit of the citron tree, the branches of the palm, the boughs of myrtle trees, and the willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before your Lord your God for seven days." In observing this command, they gathered citron, palm, myrtle and willow, binding them together and rejoicing to the Lord waving them in all directions with earnest prayer and thanksgiving. The significance of these four species of plants has long been discussed by the wise and is well summarized by Rabbi Julius Nodel, 32°, in a Feast of Tishri address to the St. Louis Scottish Rite Bodies many years ago. He said:

"Among the symbols of Succoth are four species of plants - the citron, the branch of the palm tree, the myrtle leaves, and the willow leaves. The citron plant produces both fruit and fragrance - The palm produces fruit but no fragrance - The myrtle produces fragrance but no fruit - The willow produces neither fruit nor fragrance

This teaches us that there are also four kinds of people.

There are those that have knowledge and good deeds - they correspond to the citron. There are those who live a life of good deeds, but have no knowledge - they are like the palm. There are those who have knowledge, but perform no good deeds - they are like the myrtle. There are those who have neither knowledge nor good deeds - they are like the willow.

Yet, on Succoth, all of these different species of plants are placed together and bound as one, thus teaching us that though there are different kinds of people on Earth, with their own interests and desires, accomplishments and failures, they must still be bound together in one universal brotherhood."

As Masons, we should strive to attain the character of the Citron - to possess knowledge while performing good works.

Some 450 years after its origin, the Feast of Tishri was utilized in dedicating the newly completed King Solomon's Temple, and this association led to its adoption by Scottish Rite Masonry to symbolize our dedication to brotherly love and human accord in a peaceful world. This adaptation is evidenced in lessons taught by the Third Degree lecture (Blue Lodge), wherein we learn that David, King of Israel, was denied the privilege of building the Temple of God due to the "many wars and much bloodshed" associated with his reign. On King David's death, his son Solomon ascended the throne and brought peace and tranquility in the world through wisdom and righteousness - God thus chose him to perform "so great and glorious an undertaking" as that denied David. And so it was that through Solomon that the construction of the Temple was made, seemingly guided by the hand of God - for indeed it was. Association of the Feast of Tishri with the dedication of the Temple of Solomon led to its other name - the "Feast of the Tabernacle".

To marshal the meaning of The Feast of Tishri is to summarize the principles, ideals and purposes of Scottish Rite Masonry, all being consistent with the dictates of the God.

Proud to be a Scottish Rite Mason, I remain.

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Mozart, a Viennese Mason initiated in 1784, used Three extensively in his famous Masonic opera, The Magic Flute, with its Three ladies, Three boys, Three priests, Three slaves and Three sets of chords in E flat.

Gothic Cathedrals across Europe, federal buildings and capital landmarks across the United States, post offices, courthouses, state capitals and more, display the pattern of Three-in-one doorways. At the Rockefeller Center stand figures atop doors of opposites. The male on the right and the female on the left flank "god" in the center, which also incredibly holds a Compass. This Triptych Three-door entrance system is the focal point of the façade. Twin towers, as with the Twin Pillars are a pair of opposites and denote the visible universe with its light and dark, hot and cold, masculine and feminine, sun and moon, good and evil. These doors flank the "god" in the third central door, often holding the Compass. We also see a rose window, in the shape of a circle, symbolizing eternity and the soul within. Light beams through flowers and radiates from the center of the rose window as all life radiates outward from our soul. The late Joseph Campbell wrote extensively on this meaning. You will find another example at the old Radio City Music Hall building, just as you will at the ancient Temple of Karnak in Egypt.

Why this meaning? Why has it been transmitted through the ages? Is this part of Freemasonry's Lost Secret? To us earthly travelers, the "god" in the center is the real YOU - the eternal, inner YOU. This is the spiritual that never, never, never dies.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote "A man is a god in ruins". The ancient Platonists believed that in their preexistent state, in which all souls had sinned and lost their wings, no longer could they ascend, so they sunk into their earthly bodies as a punishment. Yet there is a pathway redemption and ascension.

So my Brothers, ours is to build our house in the heavens. Our earthly work in seeking the Light defines our pathway. As Masons, and Scottish Rite Masons in particular, our ritual instructs and omnipresent symbols guide us. Let us work to ready ourselves to meet the kind messenger at the end of our earthly journey.

Fraternally,

Dennis Mahoney, 32°

Venerable Master, Burlingame Lodge of Perfection

From the General Secretary

Brethren,

It's that time of year when the dues notice are sent out. Please pay as soon as you can so our treasure can pay our per capita.

When you receive your dues notice you can send me a check or pay on line. To pay on line:

Go to Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Click on "pay your dues

Follow instruction

This is an easy way to pay (saves paper and stamps)

If you have any problems with dues please call me and we can solve any situation.

Bill Price

General Secretary



**Congratulations to
Arune Weinstein,
wife of Allan Weinstein,
on being granted
United States Citizenship!**

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Burlingame Bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Burlingame, Orient of California, derive their charters from the Supreme Council; Mother Council of the World of the Inspectors-General, Knights-Commander of the Temple of Solomon; of the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at Charleston, in the state of South Carolina. Unto said Supreme Council and its duly constituted officers, these bodies acknowledge and yield allegiance.

Ill. Ronald A. Seale, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
of the Supreme Council



Ill. Frank Loui, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
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of the United States of America
in California