

## News & Announcements

May 1, 2014

Mayor Gonzales Proclaims May 3, 2014 as "Scottish Rite Day"

*Scottish Rite Freemasons Gather for Spring Reunion, May 2-4, 2014*

*Public Encouraged to Attend to Show Support For More Than 160 Years Of Masonic Contributions to Santa Fe and for the Scottish Rite Temple, Built in 1912*

Santa Fe Mayor Javier M. Gonzales is declaring Saturday, May 3, 2014 as "Scottish Rite Day" in Santa Fe. This proclamation is being made to honor the historic contributions of the Scottish Rite Freemasons to the community of Santa Fe and to honor the visit to Santa Fe by the highest official of the Scottish Rite Masons in the United States, the Honorable Ronald A Seale, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

On Saturday, May 3, 2014, the Scottish Rite Masons hold the time-honored tradition of the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, which is an annual event to honor those who have journeyed on. Bagpipes will celebrate visiting dignitaries entering the Scottish Rite Temple between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. The Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal, which begins at 7:30 p.m., gives the opportunity for all Masonic Brethren, Widows, families and friends to come together to commemorate and celebrate the lives of those who have passed on, reconcile differences that they may have, and renew vows of commitment to each other and all humankind. Anyone with a past family member, a neighbor, friend that was a Mason might enjoy coming to participate in this remembrance ceremony.

Brother Seale is a native of Baton Rouge, LA, and has served for seven years as the 18th Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, the mother supreme council of the World. Brother Noel Jesus Jarquin, a senior Scottish Rite official from Nicaragua, will be in attendance as well as the Most Worshipful Brother Kevin Schwebel, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico and Tom Payne, Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite will also be in attendance.

"For well over a hundred years, Santa Fe has been blessed with the anonymous generosity of the Scottish Rite Masons through their quiet deeds and civic leadership," said Jan Brooks, of the Scottish Rite Working Group, a coalition of civic and nonprofit leaders that are exploring strategies to preserve the Scottish Rite Temple. "The Scottish Rite Temple has not only functioned to perform Masonic degree rituals, it has long served as the civic space for activities that contribute to the essential fabric of this community," she said. Brooks is the past Executive Director of the New Mexico Association of Grantmakers and a consultant to organized philanthropy.

The Scottish Rite Temple located at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Bishops Lodge Road was listed for sale in April of this year. It was listed with the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, and it includes a mural of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella accepting the surrender of Boabdil, the last Islamic ruler of Santa Fe, Granada, Spain in 1492. The Masons have long allowed community groups to use the facility and its cavernous theater and dining hall for concerts, and plays, and fundraisers. The also hire it out for private meetings and weddings.