

*Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of
California, Valley of Ventura, Scottish Rite*

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXVI January - February 2014 Issue 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXVI, Issue number 2. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of California, Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies, 487 Appletree Ave, Camarillo, CA 93012-5148. This publication is distributed free of charge to all members. For further information call 805-415-3776. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the address above.

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite sitting in the Valley of Ventura, Orient of California acknowledge the authority and yield 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 of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Cover:

Wishing all of you and your families a prosperous, healthy, and fulfilling year.

Upcoming Events

On pages 7 and 8 you will find a calendar for our Valley's activities for the coming year. Please mark your calendars and save this list for reference. The calendar is also available on our web site.

Our Installation of Officers will take place on Monday, January 13. Installation will be preceded by a Filipino dinner prepared by the cook crew of Anacapa Lodge #710, who are renowned for their culinary arts. Dinner reservations are due to Brother Harold Bogner (harold55@juno.com or 484-7657) by Thursday, January 9. Be sure to get those in if you expect to eat! Following dinner Brothers Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Earl Williams, 32°, Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32° KCCH, and Ill.:. Floyd Griffin, 33°, will be installed as the Heads of the Bodies. Please come and show them your support for the coming year.

Our February stated meeting on Monday, February 10, will include the Cap and Ring ceremony for our

eight newest members. Please come out and welcome them to our Valley. Dinner reservations are due to Harold by Thursday, February 6.

Our March stated meeting on March 10 will include 25 and 50 year presentations. Then on March 24 we will hold our annual Remembrance and Renewal ceremony. Finally, our Spring Fast Class is scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 29. Please encourage your Masonic brothers to join and get their petitions in. Also we need cast members and help with stage craft and all the miscellaneous activities necessary to put on the degrees. Please give us a hand.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, January 18th and February 15th. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Newcomers are always welcome.

News of the Valley

Our Valley's web site is back up and operational. We had to go to a new URL which differs slightly from our previous one. It is

<http://venturascottishrite.org>

Check it out. You can find our calendar, newsletter issues, general information on the Scottish Rite and

links to interesting sites. And please let us have your suggestions for improvements.

In November we decided to put aside our usual stated meeting business and enjoy a dinner dance instead. Leon Felburg provided the entertainment for the event.

Prior to our December stated meeting we viewed a video by Masonic author John Robinson on his experiences debating anti-Masons. Brother Robert Kennedy, Jr., 32°, provided much insight into Brother Robinson's work.

This past couple of months we lost two of our old time honor men. Ill.: Joe Dishlip, 33°, received his 33rd from the Valley of Sioux City, Iowa, in 1973, before affiliating with

our Valley in 1983. Brother Henry Buckingham, 32° KCCH, who served as Venerable Master in 1986, was awarded his KCCH in 1985. He received his degrees from the Valley of Santa Barbara in 1972 and joined our Valley as a charter member in 1978. These brothers were instrumental in guiding our Valley during our early years.

We congratulate Ill.: Paul MacQuiddy, 33°, on his election as Master of Menifee Valley Lodge #289, Sun City. This will be Brother Paul's third time in the East and we wish him a successful year.

Congratulations are also in order for Ill.: Edmund Heath, 33°, and Lady Joann Lipking on their recent marriage.

MASONIC EDUCATION AND THE LODGE

The following is excerpted from an email from Brother Nigel Gallimore, who regularly distributes interesting and informative articles on the craft. If you wish to be included, contact him at njdgall@gmail.com.

Education has been called "The Unspeakable Masonic Word" because it seems like no one ever talks about it. Education is a key to membership. Education in Freemasonry is meant to be a lifelong process, furthering our understanding of the fraternity and its relevance to today's world. Freemasonry is education, simultaneously moral instruction, spiritual enlightenment and intellectual growth so that a man may come to know - and improve - himself. But this is not supposed to

be a solitary activity - Freemasonry also is a brotherhood. Our ancient brothers coined the word "Speculative Mason" to differentiate themselves from the "Operative Mason." What is the difference between "Operative" and "Speculative" Masonry? Operative refers to the time in our history where Masons actually did the physical labor of building. They were the best at their craft, and they kept secret their methods of building. Speculative refers to the period of time when men were accepted into the Craft as "non-operative" members. They were not "physical builders", but "builders of character" instead.

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From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings to all our Masonic Brethren and their families, I hope everyone enjoyed a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. As the Holiday season comes to an end so another Masonic year has come and gone, with many fond memories of things past and plans of things to come. Many new Scottish Rite Masons have been brought into our Valley and Elections have been held and we are on our way to our 2014 Installation. I am hopeful as the New Year brings new hopes and desires, as well as new members we hope, to our elected officers; it will also bring new ideas and programs. Our top four officers have volunteered to stay on for another year so that we might bring up a new staff of officers, for which I am thankful for them and will work with them to groom some new officers for the coming years.

For those who do not know, our Annual installation will be held on January 13th 2014. Reservations will be REQUIRED and can be made with Sir Knight Bogner. Please make your reservations no later than the 9th of January, in order that we may have the proper number of meals prepared. I know this subject will be addressed somewhere else in this letter but I do want to remind everyone how important reservations are. Dinner will be prepared by Anacapa Lodge 710 for us and as always, their food is top notch. Please plan and join us as we make ready to bring in our new officers.



Some other good news this past year: we were able to put on the 4 and 14th degrees and plan to do it again, working towards doing all 5 mandatory degrees by the end of the year. As always we will work with other valleys to find a location to do any missing degrees for our candidates. We also (or should I say; Ill.: Andy Little) has our new web site up and running, please link below and have a look. Our calendar is posted there as well.

On to a couple of not so delightful subjects:

1. Sir Knight Larry Morris is leaving the area. He has been a strong supporter of our valley, a cast member in the degrees and a leader in his respective Blue Lodge. He will be dearly missed by many in the

area, but we wish him well on his next adventure.

2. As we do not have a dinner crew, we have had to resort to ordering food from caterers, which is not a simple or cheap task. Reservations are difficult for many of you, and we are not breaking even on stated meeting dinners. With this thought in mind I am forced to make some changes to our dinner policy. There are some price changes as well and we will strictly adhere to our cut off date for reservations; so I encourage you to make your reservations early or on time or pay annually in advance. I will post elsewhere the dinner changes (*see page 6*) but there is some good news to all of this, I am giving a break in both the monthly reservation cost as well as the annual reservation fees to those who bring their wives. Please look for those changes on page 6 of this bulletin.

Finally I wish to thank every one of you for all your support this past

Masonic Education

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Three centuries ago, the Free Masons who created the first London Grand Lodge, were thinkers. Along with the Royal Society (of London for Improving Natural Knowledge), they were part of the movement to the Age of Reason, the Enlightenment. Freemasonry then was free from religion, free from nationalism, intellectual, liberal, democratic, progressive, convivial, and cosmopolitan.

Today, Freemasonry's instruction is all presented in allegory and

year to our officers and myself. As always, if you have an idea for a program or speaker, please bring it to our attention. Comments, both positive and critical, are always welcome as this is your Rite and we wish to provide you with the programs and service you desire. There are some new programs on the horizon and our New SGIG III.: Frank Loui has taken control and is diligently moving all of the California Valleys in a positive direction, and I look forward to working for him in the coming year to bring our valley and state back to life.

I look forward to all your smiling faces at our Annual Installation of Officers.

Jerry E. Gonzales, KCCH

<http://www.venturascottishrite.org/>

<http://www.scottishritecalifornia.org/>

symbolism, but the education is no less crucial to the Speculative Mason's life. Tragically few seem to understand or want to understand, and this power goes neglected in the realities of contemporary Masonry. While the teachings of Freemasonry are universal – “Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices.” - it was never intended for every human being to enter its temples, and yet its doors have been flung open for many years allowing practically any man to enter. In the fundamental duty of educating oneself and one's fellow Masons, we today are not just

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FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Dinner Reservations

Dinner policy for 2014:

Annual Standing Reservations are available; for an advance fee of \$150.00 per person or \$250.00 per couple, paid by no later than January 31st of the effective year.

This annual reservation includes 10 dinners for the year: all 9 stated meeting dinners plus Remembrance and Renewal. It does not include the dinner for our Annual Installation of Officers which is a special catered dinner.

If you choose to pay monthly; the price will be \$17.00 per person, or \$27.00 per couple, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 7 days in advance.

If you fail to make a reservation by the stated deadline, you are welcome to join us for refreshment and the stated meeting but we will not have a dinner for you, as these are prepaid, by-the-plate catered dinners.

I thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

(Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from non-reservation price.)

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

January 13, Installation Dinner

**Pancit
Adobo
Lumpia
Fried Rice
Dessert**

**Price \$17.50/Person
Reservation required by Thu, January 9!**

Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, 805 218-1648 or
hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

February 10, 2014, Stated Meeting Cap and Ring Ceremony

Roasted Chicken
Vegetables
Rice
Beans
Salad
Dessert

Price \$17/ Individual or \$27.00/Couple

Reservation required by Thu, February 6!

Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, 805 218-1648 or
hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

Ventura County Scottish Rite Schedule for 2014

Save this page for reference!

(Watch the newsletter and web site for updates.)

Dates: Events:

Mon	Jan	13	Social 5:30 PM, Filipino Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Jan 9), Installation of Officers & Program 7:30
Sat	Jan	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Feb	10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Feb 6), Cap and Ring Ceremony 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Feb	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12
Mon	Mar	10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations due by Mar 6), 25 & 50 Year awards presented, 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Mar	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Mar	24	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Mar 20), Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)
Sat	Mar	29	SPRING FAST CLASS, STARTS AT 8:00 AM SATURDAY

Mon	Apr	14	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations by Apr 10</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Apr	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	May	12	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations by May 8</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following (Mothers Day)
Sat	May	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Jun	9	Social 5:30 PM, Flag Day, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<u>Reservations for Jun 5</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Jun	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Jun	23	Pizza Dinner 6:30 PM, Planning Meeting for New England Summer Picnic and Child ID Program at Ventura County Fair
Sat	Jul	12	<u>New England Summer Picnic, Camarillo Grove Park, Serving 12 noon – 1:00 pm</u>
Mon	Jul	14	DARK
Sat	Jul	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Aug	11	DARK
Sat	Aug	16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Sep	8	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<u>Reservations by Sep 4</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Sep	13	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Sat	Sep	27	Fall Fast Class, Part 1, starting at 7:00 AM
Mon	Oct	13	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations by Oct 9</u>), Feast of Tishri Celebration 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (Reobligation of the 14th Degree, Nominating Committee appointed)
Sat	Oct	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Sat	Oct	25	Fall Fast Class, Part 2, Starting at 7:00 AM.
Mon	Nov	10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Nov 6), Program 7:20 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee)
Sat	Nov	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Dec	8	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations by Dec 4</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (<u>Election of Officers, Cap and Ring Ceremony</u>)
Sat	Dec	13	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

**Mon Jan 12, 2014 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Jan 8),
Installation of Officers & Program 7:30**

Please note the Scottish Rite Class dates are tentative, and some may be in collaboration with other Valleys.

Lodge of Perfection

J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Brethren and Friends,

On behalf of the Valley of Ventura Scottish Rite I want to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2014! It is with great excitement that we welcome this New Year, and the Valley is looking forward to once again working together with you to achieve our goals and make your Scottish Rite experience more enjoyable and meaningful.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you, my brothers, for allowing me and the rest of the Heads of Bodies to stay in our chairs for another year while we develop and train the new leaders who will take control of the Valley when this year ends. We are confident that this was the best decision for the good of our Valley and we are looking forward to working together with all of you, particularly our new members, with all the events, programs, degrees and activities the Valley planned for this year.



In advance, thank you for being a Scottish Rite Mason and for your support and commitment to our Valley.

Fraternally,

Raul Cifuentes
Venerable Master

Masonic Education

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negligent. We are uninformed, and the odd thing about it is that the ritual tells us what to do. Remember the advice imparted to you upon your first knocks on the Inner Door: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and

it shall be opened unto you." One's search is a personal endeavor, and there are many aids to help along the way. When enough members start speaking aloud about Masonic education we can restore to its rightful place the paramount purpose of Freemasonry: to labor together in replenishing the "common stock of knowledge" in our pursuit of Truth.



For Those Who Need our Prayers

*We seek in prayerful words, dear friend,
Our heart's true wish to send you,
That you may know that, far or near,
Our loving thoughts attend you.*

- Donald Wright, 642-6621**
- Charley Rudd, 646-7758**
- Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101**
- John Klopstein, 486-0602**
- Elmer Stringer, 487-3078**
- E. Floyd Griffin, 525-5932**

Please give these people a call, pay them a visit, or drop them a card or letter, to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a distressed brother, please contact our Prelate, Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, (nereus2006@sbcglobal.net or 647-8669) or one of the other officers.

For Those Who have Crossed the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call from me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.*

*For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.*

- James Woodrow Page crossed on 1/1/2013**
- Charley Henry Kidder Jr. crossed on 6/11/2013**
- Henry Proctor Buckingham crossed on 11/17/2013**
- David Harold Allen crossed on 11/20/2013**
- Joe Nathan Dishlip crossed on 12/14/2013**



**Freemasonry Builds Its Temples in the
Hearts of Men and Among Nations.**

Useful Contacts

Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG.....Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH..... 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com
 Secretary / Treasurer Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° 484-5222.... alittle93012@gmail.com
 Almoner Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH 644-2055.... nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
 Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks.... John Argue, 32° KCCH 498-4831.... mayfieldpark@aol.com
 Asst Almoner Santa Paula..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° 525-5932.... efggriffin@verizon.net
 Asst Almoner Camarillo William Campbell, 32° KCCH ... 482-7523.... bncampbell@verizon.net
 Orator..... Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH 981-8262.... rlsills@rlsills.com
 Prelate..... Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 647-8669.... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH 241-6968.... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... Earl G. Williams, 32° (619)947-5530.... earlwilliams8@yahoo.com

Council of Kadosh

Commander Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32° KCCH 647-6728.... deematson@sbcglobal.net

Consistory

Master of Kadosh..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° 525-5932.... efggriffin@verizon.net

Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew.... Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH 644-2055 nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
 Dinner Reservations..... Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH 484-7657 .. harold55@juno.com
 Programs, Social Events
 Membership Thom Piper, 32° KCCH 208-8004.... Thompiper2@aol.com
 Highway Cleanup Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH..... 643-6905.... deardorff@dslextre.com
 Stagecraft Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH 524-3362 ... mgmetzler@aol.com
 Childhood ID Program..... Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 647-8669.... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Newsletter Editor..... Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° 484-5222.... alittle93012@gmail.com

Recent changes are underlined. All phone numbers in area code 805 unless noted.
 You can email us at vcscottishrite@gmail.com, or FAX us at (253) 276-4055
Web site: (Note new URL) <http://venturascottishrite.org>

**“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for
others and the world remains and is immortal.” – Albert Pike**

Ventura Lodge of Perfection
in the Orient of California
487 Appletree Ave
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email harold55@juno.com, or call (805) 218-1648

Mon Jan 13	Social 5:30 PM, Filipino Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Jan 9), Installation of Officers & Program 7:30
Sat Jan 18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy
Mon Feb 10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Feb 6), Cap and Ring Ceremony for new members 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat Feb 15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up
Mon Mar 10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), 25 & 50 Year awards presented,
Sat Mar 15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up
Mon Mar 24	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Remembrance and Renewal

