

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

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXVI

March - April 2014

Issue 3

Leaders for 2014



2014

Views from Ventura Valley
March - April

Page 2

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXVI, Issue number 3. 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:

Our cover shows a picture from our installation of the new officers and the installing team. The heads of the four bodies, seated in front, are (L-R) Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33°, Master of Kadosh for the Consistory; Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32° KCCH, Commander of the Council of Kadosh; Earl Williams, 32°, Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix; and J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection.

Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting will be Monday, March 10. We have three members who qualify this year for 25 year pins and certificates: Thomas D. McConica, 32°, Eldon D. Peterson, 32°, and Brian W. Whitaker, 32°. We will be making these presentation to those who are able to attend. This will also be our last stated meeting before our Spring Class on March 29, so please get those petitions in. Also be sure to make your reservations for dinner by Thursday, March 6, with Brother Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at harold55@juno.com or (805) 484-7657.

On Monday, March 24 we will observe Remembrance and Renewal, when we remember departed brethren and look forward to the future with renewed energy. This event is considered mandatory for Scottish Rite Masons so please make an effort to attend. Guests are also invited. Dinner is at 6:30; reservations are due to Harold by Thursday, March 20.

Part 1 of our Spring Class will be on Saturday, March 29, beginning at 8:00 AM. At that time we will exemplify the 4th, 14th, and 18th Degrees. Please get those petitions in, and if you can do so, come down and give us a hand, or just enjoy the degrees. You will always find something of value that you have overlooked before.

Our April stated meeting will be on Monday, April 14. The program is to be announced. Dinner reservations are due to Harold by Thursday, April 10.

On May 17, 3 to 9 PM PDT, the Supreme Council will again this year host an online program showcasing member talents, Masonic scholars, and other subjects of interest. More details can be found at <http://scottishrite.org/development/gi-views/celebrate>.

Our next highway cleanups will be on Saturday, March 15th and April 19th. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Newcomers are always welcome.

Privacy Policy

In recent years privacy concerns have been raised in reference to materials on the Internet, particularly where individuals may be publically identified as being associated with particular organizations or causes. While many accept the situation, others desire more control over their privacy. Also California state law mandates that we protect "personally identifiable information". In order to address these concerns the Orient of California has adopted a privacy policy, which you will find on page 8. It provides for allowing members who do not want personally identifiable information on our web site to opt out. Those who wish to can do so by signing and returning the letter on page 9, or by contacting the secretary, Ill.: Andy Little, 33°, at vcscottishrite@gmail.com or (805) 415-3776.

New England Picnic

Plans are underway for the New England Lobster and Steak Fund Raiser.

Date: July 12, 2014.

Location - Camarillo Grove Park (101 Freeway Exit - Camarillo Springs Road), Area #1.

Ticket sales will start soon.

All profits go to the Santa Barbara Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center.

News of the Valley

We are off to a good start this year with our Installation of Officers and Cap and Ring Ceremony now history. See the installation photo on the cover and Cap and Ring pictures on pages 12 and 13.

Our Orator, Brother Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, has suggested forming a Masonic study group, and perhaps working as a group on the Master Craftsman program. This may be of interest to our budding Masonic scholars. If you are interested please contact Bob at (805) 981-8262 or rlsills@rlsills.com.

We are happy to report that Brother Hermond 'B.J.' Blossomgame, 32°, has been restored to membership in our Valley. Welcome back, Brother B.J.

On March 14 and 15 some of our members will attend a Scottish Rite workshop in Portland, to meet with members from other Valleys and work with each other on ideas on how to improve our Valleys. We look forward to the insights they bring back.

Our condolences go out to Brother Terry Holts, 32°, on the loss of his wife Bonnie.

Be sure to check our web site,

<http://venturascottishrite.org>

for the latest news.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings from the Personal Representative.

Welcome to our Second News Letter for the year. The Valley is off to a great start, with Installation out of the way, we have honored our newest members and ladies at the Cap & Ring Ceremony this past month. I must say what a delightful event, to see so many new active candidates joining our Valley. I welcome each and every one of you to the Valley and hope you will become an active member. I also must thank Sir Knight Harold Bogner, Master of Ceremonies, and Sir Knight Raul Cifuentes, Venerable Master, for putting this program together. I was very impressed, and every year it seems to get better.

Please note there are many things coming in March and a reminder that the New England Picnic is just around the corner. March we normally honor our new 25 and 50 year members, but at this date we are not sure we will have any in attendance. In the Month of March we also celebrate Remembrance and Renewal with a special dinner and program hosted by the Wise Master. This date is a Mandatory attendance for all Scottish Rite Masons. I hope to see you in attendance. We also have on the Calendar the Spring Class on the 29th of March, which is the last Saturday in March. If you have any candidates get them signed up, and if you would like to participate we have lots of large to small parts and you are most



welcome to join us. Notice of practice will be out soon. I hope to have two of them, one as a walk through and one as an actual degree. Although we have not perfected all the required degrees we are hopeful, so as we have done in the past we will finish up with our degrees in another Valley. April sounds like a simple month for most but we are not far from the New England Picnic, and some of the key players will already be gearing up for this event. Ticket Sales should begin in Late April, and run through end of June. Again I encourage all to support us in the annual fund raising event for the Santa Barbara Language Clinic.

Please note the Change in the price for dinner. This is due to us not breaking even over the past year. I am working at keeping the price as

low as possible, and I have added an enhancement to those who care to bring their ladies. If anyone has any ideas on how to improve dinner or would like to step up and take over either cooking or catering, please, I would welcome the relief. Please insure you make your dinner reservations by the due date so we have a good head count, as we pay by the plate, so there is no room for error. A good way to insure you have reservations is to pay for the year in advance. Although we have started the year, we would be willing to prorate the price if you are interested.

Lastly I would like to close with something I saw in a Commentary by Michael Josephson, which I feel really parallels some of our desires for further light, rather than just to attend meetings for sake of attending!

Making Bricks or Building Cathedrals

According to an old parable, three men were working hard cutting stone from large blocks of granite. When asked what they were doing, the first fellow said, "I'm making bricks." The second said, "I'm creating a foundation for a large building." The third person answered, "I'm building a cathedral."

They are doing the exact same job, and all three responses were accurate, but they reveal the huge difference attitude makes. It's the difference between tolerating or enjoying one's life, between thinking small or large.

Mindset matters.

Just like the stone cutters, most of us have a habitual or characteristic mental attitude that determines how we experience and interpret situations. It's pretty clear that the fellow who saw himself playing an important role in building a grand cathedral is much more likely to feel good about his work and his life than the guy who defines his job as making bricks.

A bookkeeper for a school may think of herself as someone who just works with numbers or as part of an enterprise that educates children. A math teacher can characterize himself as someone who teaches long division, someone who seeks to make all math interesting and understandable, someone who teaches students how to learn difficult concepts, or, larger yet, someone who helps young people develop attitudes and skills that will help them lead worthy and successful lives.

What do you do?

Don't minimize yourself by just describing the tasks you perform; think big.

There is no job that can't be meaningful and gratifying, if not because of how it fits into a larger picture of producing human happiness, then at least in terms of the gratification you can feel simply from a job well done.

"I would offer up to each of you; both in your Masonic Life as well as your Personal Life, what are you doing, Making Bricks or Building Cathedrals?"

(continued on page 11)

Lodge of Perfection

J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Brethren,

First and foremost I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those who assisted and attended at the 2014 Installation of Officers. We have another exciting year ahead of us and I'm counting with everybody's support and participation to all the rewarding events planned for our Valley throughout the year.

I once again would like to congratulate all our new members who recently obtained the 32nd Degree and attended the Cap and Ring Ceremony last Month. It was a special evening and I hope that the candidates found this ceremony meaningful and full of warm fellowship and brotherly love from all the members of our Valley. At the same time, I express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Heads of Bodies and all other Brothers involved in helping us put this program together. I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Lastly, I would like to remind you of two important events in March. First, on March 24 we will be holding our traditional Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony. The attendance is



mandatory for all Scottish Rite Masons. Please make sure you make your reservations with Sir Knight Harold Bogner. And second, I ask for your support for the upcoming Spring Class on March 29th. We need your help with the degree ritual, stage work, sound, lights and other miscellaneous tasks but most importantly, we need help with your attendance. Please let me or Ill. Andy Little know if you are available to help.

Fraternally,

Raul Cifuentes
Venerable Master

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF**Dinner Reservations**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH HAROLD BOGNER,
PREFERABLY BY EMAIL TO HAROLD55@JUNO.COM,
OTHERWISE (805) 218-1648 (LEAVE A MESSAGE).**

March 10, Stated Meeting

**Corn Beef & Cabbage
with All the Fixings
Dessert**

**Price \$17/ Individual or \$27/Couple
Reservation required by Thu, March 6!**

**March 24, 2014
Remembrance & Renewal**

**Beef Roast
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Salad
Dessert**

**Price \$17/ Individual or \$27.00/Couple
Reservation required by Thu, March 20!**

April 14, 2014, Stated Meeting

**Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Vegetables, Salad, and Bread
Dessert**

**Price \$17/ Individual or \$27.00/Couple
Reservation required by Thu, April 10!**

**Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies**

Valley of Ventura County – Orient of California

487 Appletree Ave. Camarillo, 93012-5148

Phone: (805) 484-5222; Cell: (805) 415-3776

email: vcscottishrite@gmail.com, Fax (253) 276-4055

Web: <http://venturascottishrite.com>

**Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH
Personal Representative
of the S.G.I.G. of California**

**III. W. Andrew Little, 33°
General Secretary
of the Valley**

Re: **Privacy Policy**

Dear Brother,

The Orient of California for the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States has adopted a policy intended to enhance the protection of the privacy of all active members of the Scottish Rite in California. As you know, the fraternal business of this Valley oftentimes involves the use of photographs of our members; publishing bulletins and articles that include members names and contact information; press releases including some or all of the same or similar information; ads, websites and social media that publishes the same or similar information; and, releases that tend to identify our members as Scottish Rite Freemasons. That information is referred to as *personally identifiable information* that identifies or traces your identity.

To address the desires of some of our active members, the Orient of California has drafted a form letter that if dated, signed and delivered by a member to his Valley will remove that member from having such *personally identifiable information* made known to the public. Please carefully review the enclosed form and if you wish to opt-out of being identified either by photograph or any other *personally identifying information*, date and sign the form and return it by the U.S. mail to this Valley.

If you do not wish to opt-out from the use of such information in the normal course of this Valley's fraternal business, you need not do anything. If we do not receive your written confirmation of your desire to opt-out within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, we will assume that the Orient and Valleys may continue making such use of that information with your informed consent. In the event you wish to speak with someone in the Valley about this letter, please call Brother Andy Little, Secretary, at (805) 415-3776, or email him at vcscottishrite@gmail.com.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Andy Little, Secretary



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Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH
Personal Representative
of the S.G.I.G. of California

III. W. Andrew Little, 33°
General Secretary
of the Valley

Written Instruction Denying Consent for the Public Use of My Likeness and Personally Identifiable Information

I _____ am a member in good standing of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, Orient of California, Valley of Ventura County. In that capacity I know and fully understand that the Valley of Ventura County maintains a website available to the public; frequently displays photographs of its members to the public; and, although adhering to a general policy of not disclosing to the public such personally identifying information as financial data, bank account numbers, credit information and other data protected from disclosure by California law, the Valley does from time-to-time release to the public such information as email addresses, occupations, birth and wedding anniversary dates for me and my spouse, mailing addresses and telephone numbers, as well as other non-financial information about me and other members.

I further understand that the phrase "**Personally Identifying Information**" means any information, in any form or format, that specifically identifies or traces to my identity. In addition, I understand that when I personally appear in public as a Mason or member of the Scottish Rite, I am voluntarily revealing my Masonic and Scottish Rite affiliation. It has been made known to me and I fully understand that unless I affirmatively revoke my consent to such public disclosure of such personally identifying information, that information will be disclosed from time-to-time by the Valley and the Scottish Rite.

Therefore, and to make clear my personal desires in that regard, I hereby invoke my right to opt-out of such public disclosure and forbid the disclosure of such information without written instruction by me to the contrary. This prohibition shall take effect on the date of my signature below and shall remain in full force and effect unless and until revoked in writing by me. I further understand and agree that unless this form, or a subsequent revised version of it is signed, dated and delivered to my Valley, it shall be presumed without my recourse that I have given affirmative consent to the use and disclosure of all such information other than financial data.

Printed name of member

Signature of member

Date

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Robert "Dee" Matson, 32° KCCH, Commander of Kadosh

At our recent Cap & Ring presentation Ceremony, we presented each Candidate with the book Morals and Dogma by Albert Pike. Recently I came across an article on Morals and Dogma. I found it quite interesting and I now quote:

"Morals and Dogma. This is the name of the work written by Albert Pike in the third quarter of the 19th century for the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. It contains 861 pages divided into 32 articles or lectures named and numbered to conform to the Degrees from 1 to 32 of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Much if not most of the text of several lectures fails to connect closely with the ritual of the corresponding degrees but consists rather of a running commentary on many ancient religions, philosophies, and cults, without much order of arrangement or logical progression of any kind. The lectures do not generally throw much light on the corresponding numbered degrees, the rituals of which are, themselves, mixtures of material from various sources. There is a great deal of learning written into the book but so inextricably and unmethodically mingled that it is almost inaccessible. Morals and Dogma has been criticized as being composed of many citations and quotations and borrowings from other



authors without giving credit, and as containing the rearranged substance of other works and sometimes those of not the highest quality. But much of this was anticipated and expressly disposed of by Pike, himself, for he nowhere pretended to originality, admitted that he had copied from many sources, and merged and mingled many ideas of others with his own. That is justifiable if one wants to present that kind of book and can find readers who will appreciate it. But the truth is that, while it deserves better treatment, Morals and Dogma has been read by comparatively few, although it is widely circulated by being presented for many years to each of the thousands of candidates

who receive the Scottish Rite Degrees in the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States.”

At this point, because this is quite lengthy, I will continue in the next bulletin. There is a bit of a turn to this story.

PR's Quill

(continued from page 5)

I look forward to all your smiling faces at our monthly dinner program.

Jerry E. Gonzales, KCCH

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

The Trowel

by *Michael N. Salmore*

The tools of a true Master Mason –
A man who has proven his skill –
Are any or all as he chooses,
His tasks to correctly fulfill.
Foremost of these is the Trowel,
Which practical builders all class
As the tool for the spreading of mortar
Uniting the house in one mass.

But we as Freemasons would use it
For the purpose more noble and grand,
As Craftsmen have faithfully taught us,
As Masonry's rituals command,
To spread the cement of affection,
Devotion and brotherly love,
To bring peace, good will and contentment
On earth as in Heaven above.

Yea; that's the cement that unites us
In one sacred union of friends –
Brothers 'mongst whom no contention,
Nor discord nor difference portends,
Except that most noble contention
By Masons Accepted and Free;
Or rather that fine emulation
Of who can best work and agree.

Photos of Cap and Ring Ceremony





(Opposite page top left) DeMarco Benton, 32°, and his lady Jasmin; (top right) Jaron Coby, 32°, and his lady Morgan; (bottom left) Harvey Handfinger, 32°, and his daughter Lisa; (bottom right) Michael Schaller, 32°; (left) Jose Valencia, 32°, and his lady Rayleen. (below) Class Director John Argue, 32° KCCH, lines up the honorees. (bottom) Floyd Griffin, 33°, explains the 32nd Degree black hat.



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 |
| | Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 484-4150 |

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 Roy Fullerton crossed on 2/21/2012

**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..... 986-3656jeg522@yahoo.com
 Secretary / Treasurer Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° 484-5222alittle93012@gmail.com
 Almoner Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH 644-2055nrpq@sbglobal.net
 Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks ... John Argue, 32° KCCH..... 498-4831mayfieldpark@aol.com
 Asst Almoner Santa Paula..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° 525-5932efgriffin@verizon.net
 Asst Almoner Camarillo..... William Campbell, 32° KCCH ... 482-7523bncampbell@verizon.net
 Orator..... Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH..... 981-8262rlsills@rlsills.com
 Prelate..... Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 647-8669nerus2006@sbglobal.net
 Director of the Work

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH 241-6968....jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Senior Warden..... David F. Contreras, 32° 504-3889teslaslight@verizon.net

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... Earl G. Williams, 32°(619)947-5530 earlwilliams8@yahoo.com
 Senior Warden..... John A. Argue, 32° KCCH..... 498-4831MayfieldPark@aol.com

Council of Kadosh

Commander Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32° KCCH 647-6728deematson@sbglobal.net
 Senior Warden..... Jose Valencia, 32° 248-6867j_valencia92@hotmail.com

Consistory

Master of Kadosh Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° 525-5932efgriffin@verizon.net
 Senior Warden..... James L. Craig, 32° 525-7780jlcraig19@gmail.com

Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew... Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH 644-2055nrpq@sbglobal.net
 Dinner Reservations Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH..... 484-7657 .. harold55@juno.com
 Programs, Social Events.....
 Membership..... Thom Piper, 32° KCCH..... 208-8004Thompiper2@aol.com
 Highway Cleanup..... Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH..... 643-6905deardorff@dslextre.com
 Stagecraft..... Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH 524-3362mgmetzler@aol.com
 Childhood ID Program..... Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 647-8669nerus2006@sbglobal.net
 Newsletter Editor..... Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° 484-5222alittle93012@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
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

2014 Views from Ventura Valley
March - April Page 16

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon	Mar	10	Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (<u>Reservations due by Mar 6</u>), 25 Year awards presented, 7:20 pm, Stated meeting follows
Sat	Mar	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 am, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy
Mon	Mar	24	Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (<u>Reservations by Mar 20</u>), Remembrance & Renewal Ceremony 7:30 pm (Open to all)
Sat	Mar	29	Spring Fast Class Part 1, Starts at 8:00 am Saturday, 4 th , 14 th , 18 th Degrees exemplified, lunch served
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
Mon	May	12	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations by May 8</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting

