

Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXVIII January - February 2016 Issue 2

The Tyler's Place Podcast



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXVIII, Issue number 2. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the 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:

Check out The Tyler's Place Podcast, presented by the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Supreme Council, 33°, S.J. USA. This podcast is by brothers, for brothers. It features interviews from Scottish Rite Masons around the world, and other subjects of interest to modern Freemasons. It is hosted by Brother Maynard Edwards, 32nd Degree, and contains interesting interviews and discussion on Masonic topics. Check it out at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-tylers-place-podcast/id927434220?mt=2>.

Upcoming Events

We have an active schedule planned for the new year. You can find the details on the center pages, 6 and 7. Please save it for reference. Also read our bulletin and check our web site for updates.

Our next event will be our Installation of Officers on Monday, January 11th, with dinner at 6:30 pm. The new Heads of the Bodies for 2016 are: Michael Schaller, 32°, Venerable Master; David Del Dosso, 32°, Wise Master; Ill.: Jerry Gonzales, 33°, Commander; and

Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh. The installation team will be Ill.: Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°, as Installing officer, Ill.: Tom Melugin, 33°, as Master of Ceremonies, and Ill.: Orvne Carpenter, 33°, as Chaplin. As in previous years the dinner will feature Filipino cuisine prepared by Anacapa Lodge #710. This is a special dinner and is not part of our meal plan. Reservations MUST be in by Monday, Jan 4th, to Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at harold55@juno.com or (805) 218-1648.

Our second meeting of the year will be on Monday, February 8th. Reservations are due to Harold Bogner by Thursday, February 5th. If you want to take advantage of the annual meal plan get your money in by then.

We are planning a big push on the VMAP program this year and will need everyone's help. The object is to implement specific programs and program improvements to enhance the membership experience for all our members. We hope that you will give us your support.

The 2016 Scottish Rite Regional Leadership Workshops have been

scheduled. One will be held in Houston, TX on March 18 & 19, another in Phoenix, AZ on April 1 & 2, and one in Charlotte, NC on April 15 & 16. Since Phoenix is not that far away our Valley should consider sending some of our up-and-coming leaders. More information is available at <http://scottishrite.org/2015/08/2016-sr-workshops/>.

The Celebrating the Craft Webathon will be held on May 21, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm our time. If you are talented (and we know that many of you are) you are invited to participate. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2015. More information can be found at:

<https://scottishrite.org/development/giving/celebrate/talent/>.

Our highway cleanups for the next two months will be on Saturdays, January 16th and February 13th. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Newcomers are always welcome.

Changes Coming to Our Bulletin

In the next few months we will be transitioning our bulletin from its current paper-based version to a primarily electronic version. We will continue to distribute the bulletin by mail as well as by email to those who have it, for the next few months. After that we will distribute only by email except for those who do not have email or who request a paper copy.

Going to an electronic version has several advantages. It lets us get

the newsletter to you in a more timely fashion, especially for those who live out of the area. It lets us inexpensively use colored pictures and graphics. We can include links to other sites of interest and the readers will generally be able to access them via a mouse click. We can add optional sections to the electronic version without incurring additional printing charges.

You will hear more about this in the coming months. Please let us know of any concerns you may have.

News of the Valley

At our November stated meeting Brother Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH, spoke on how King Solomon's Temple may have been constructed, given that tools of iron were not used. Brother Salvador Lopes of Fillmore-Santa Paula Lodge #291 was elected to receive the degrees in our Valley.

At our December stated meeting we elected our officers for next year. Michael Schaller, 32°, was elected Venerable Master for the Lodge of Perfection, David Del Dosso, 32°, was elected Wise Master for the Chapter Rose Croix, Ill.: Jerry Gonzales, 33°, was elected Commander of the Council of Kadosh, and Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, was elected Master of Kadosh for the Consistory. For all the bodies Brother Walt Bragulla, 32° KCCH, was elected Almoner, Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, was elected Orator, Charles Batterson, 32° KCCH, was elected Prelate, and Robert Kennedy, 32°, was elected Tyler.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°

Greetings to our Scottish Rite family!

Another Year has come and gone. I hope all of you had a joyful Holiday season. As we move into the New Year I wish to thank all of you for your continued support. To our new officers I thank you for stepping up to the challenges of being a head of body. I will provide each head of body with the annual calendar, with the Head of Body who will be in charge for the month noted. Please make plans to insure you are prepared for your month of being in charge.

Installation will again be catered by Anacapa Lodge 710, and I wish to thank them for their continued hospitality. Please take time to thank our fellow brothers in the kitchen after dinner.

We have been somewhat slow in bringing in new members, and as a result our membership is dwindling. I encourage each of you to talk to your fellow Masonic Brothers who are not Scottish Rite Masons and encourage them to join our ranks. As you can see from our 4 bodies, membership is hurting us in filling the lines. I would really like to see us back to having all four bodies with full lineups.

We will continue to keep our dinner prices the same, with the exception of Installation, which will be \$16.00. Annual purchasing



of Dinners is still available which allows you not to have to make reservations. I will also note that the deadline for installation dinner is earlier than normal so please make sure your reservation is in on time. This is necessary for purchasing and preparing the food for installation.

I thank you all for your continued support, and guidance. Please join us for Dinners and special events. As the New Year arrives there is much work to be done, and assistance from everyone is monumental. Please offer your support and assistance both in Degrees and everyday functions.

God Bless You and Happy New Year.

Ill.: Jerry E. Gonzales 33°

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

Master Craftsman Program



SCOTTISH+RITE
MASTER+CRAFTSMAN

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman (SRMC) program is an exciting, by-mail correspondence course designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. Upon completion of each program listed below, the participant will be rewarded with a medal or pins to denote multiple completions.

Currently, there are three programs that are meant to be taken in the following order:

Program I: The Symbolic Lodge will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the “High Degrees” began to develop soon after formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike’s book, *Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry*, along with Arturo de Hoyos’s *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* (3d ed.) will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.

Program II: Scottish Rite Ritual and History consists of six lessons, utilizing the *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide* by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross, and *A Bridge to Light* (4th ed.) by Rex Hutchens, 33°, Grand Cross, as its textbooks.

Program III: Scottish Rite Philosophy uses Albert Pike’s *Morals & Dogma, Annotated Edition*, by Arturo de Hoyos, 33°, Grand Cross and returns to the ritual of the Scottish Rite to re-explore it on a deeper level, by looking for the moral lesson imparted in each degree and then applying that lesson to one’s everyday life. The course consists of 33 quizzes, grouped into 10 sections.

If we have several people interested in this program perhaps we can set up a group study. There is a Group Leader Guide available to help with this.

For those who want to get started on the program, it can be purchased at <http://www.scottishritestore.org/>.

Questions about the Program?

Please send an email to mc@scottishrite.org.

Ventura County Scottish Rite Schedule for 2016

Please save this page for reference!

(Watch the newsletter and web site for updates.)

Dates:

Events:

Mon	Jan	11	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Jan 4), Installation of Officers & Program 7:30
Sat	Jan	16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Feb	8	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Feb 5), Stated meeting following
Sat	Feb	13	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12
Mon	Mar	14	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations due by Mar 10), 25 & 50 Year awards presented, 7:30 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Mar	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Mar	28	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Mar 24), Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)
Mon	Apr	11	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Apr 7), Program 7:30 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Apr	16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Sat	Apr	23	SPRING FAST CLASS (part 1), Setup at 7:00 PM Fri, Apr 22, Class starts at 8:00 AM Apr 23
Mon	May	9	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by May 5), Program 7:30 PM, Stated meeting following (Mothers Day)
Sat	May	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Jun	13	Social 5:30 PM, Flag Day, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations by Jun 9), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Jun	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Jul	11	Pizza Dinner 6:30 PM, Planning Meeting for New England Summer Picnic and Child ID Program at Ventura County Fair
Sat	Jul	16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Sat	Jul	30	New England Summer Picnic, Camarillo Grove Park, Serving 12 noon – 1:00 pm
Mon	Aug	8	DARK
Sat	Aug	13	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Sep	12	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations by Sep 8), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Sep	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Sat	Sep	24	Fall Fast Class, Part 1, Setup at 7:00 PM Friday, Sep 23, Class starting at 8:00 AM Sep 24

- Mon Oct 10 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (*Reservations by Oct 6*), *Feast of Tishri Celebration* 7:30 PM, Stated meeting following, (*Reobligation of the 14th Degree, Nominating Committee appointed*)
- Sat Oct 15 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
- Mon Nov 14 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (*Reservations by Nov 5*), Program 7:30 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (*Report of Nominating Committee*)
- Sat Nov 19 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
- Mon Dec 12 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (*Reservations by Dec 10*), Program 7:30 PM, Stated meeting following, (*Election of Officers, Cap and Ring Ceremony*)
- Sat Dec 17 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

Mon Jan 9, 2017 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (*Reservations by Jan 7*),
Installation of Officers & Program 7:30

Please note the Scottish Rite Class dates are under review and pending degree teams and practice dates.

Dinner Reservations

2016 Dinner Reservation Policy:

Annual Standing Reservations are available; for an advance fee of \$140.00 per person or \$240.00 Per Couple, paid by no later than January 31st of the effective year.

This reservation will include dinner for all (9) stated meeting dinners and (1) Remembrance and Renewal Dinner, for the year. It will not include the dinner for our Annual Installation of Officers, which is a special catered dinner.

If you choose to pay monthly, the fee will be \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 5 days in advance.

If you fail to make a reservation by the stated deadline and / or wish to pay at the door, the fee for dinner will be \$25.00 per person.

If you make a reservation and fail to attend, the appropriate thing to do is send your money to the Valley as we will have paid for your dinner reservation in advance.

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

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

From The Kitchen Staff

January 11th Installation Dinner Menu (Anacapa Lodge #710 Hosting)

- Lumpia
- Pancit
- Fried Rice
- Adobo
- Dinner Rolls
- Salad
- Dessert

Cost \$16.00/Individual,
RSVP by, January 4th 2015 (“No Exceptions!”)
(Note this is a Special Installation Dinner, not a part of the Annual Dinner Reservation!)

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

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

February 8th Dinner Menu

- Meat Loaf
- Cheesy Mash Potatoes
- Mixed Vegetables
- Salad
- Assorted Cookies

Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple
RSVP by, February 4th 2016

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

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

(The following article is by Brother Robert H. Johnson, PM and comes from the excellent Midnight Freemason web site (<http://www.midnightfreemasons.org/>), of which Brother Johnson is the managing editor. Thank you to Ill.: Tom Melugin, 33°, for bringing this site to our attention.)

The Parrot Mason

by Midnight Freemason Contributor Bro. Robert H. Johnson, PM

Admittedly, the title of this post sounds offensive. I didn't make this term up and I am not the first to use it. It is however an entry in Mackey's Masonic Encyclopedia. It is as follows;

“PARROT MASONS

One who commits to memory the questions and answers of the catechetical lectures, and the formulas of the ritual, but pays no attention to the history and philosophy of the Institution, is commonly called a Parrot Mason, because he is supposed to repeat what he has learned without any conception of its true meaning. In former times, such superficial Freemasons were held by many in high repute, because of the facility with which they passed through the ceremonies of a reception, and they were generally designated as Bright Masons. But the progress of Freemasonry as a science now requires something more than a mere knowledge of the lectures to constitute a Masonic scholar.”

The topic raises several questions and also, high emotions. I believe what Mackey was trying to say is that one should endeavor to understand what he is reciting rather than just reciting it alone. There is no understanding in rote memorization. Understanding the lessons of the degrees and what happened in them is what matters.

I believe somewhere along the line we as Masons had to ask ourselves, “How do we know this Brother is ready for the next degree?” and the answer lay somewhere in the memorization of the catechism. I suppose this is fine in a perfect world. A world where there is a direct correlation between memorizing and understanding. A brother over all, needs to understand the words, the degree and the lessons before he progresses, but in today's practice it's more of a “here is the degree, here is the catechism, memorize it and move on...” mentality. This leaves men ill-equipped to handle what true Freemasonry is about, truth, love and brotherhood.

Mackey wrote a paper called “Reading Masons And Masons Who Do Not Read” in which he further addresses this issue. You can read that piece at <http://www.masonicdictionary.com/read.html>.

~RHJ



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 John Klopstein, 486-0602
Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101 Dwayne Marquardt**

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, (746-0844 or nereus2006@sbcglobal.net) 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.*

**Jesse James Walker crossed on 2/2/2014
Warren Wakeman Brown crossed on 11/29/2015**



**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, 33° Elect..... 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com
 Secretary / Treasurer..... Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°..... 415-3776.... 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..... J. Raul Cifuentes,, 32° KCCH..... 241-6968.... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Prelate..... Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH..... 746-0844.... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....
 Class Director, Historian..... Fred 'Tiny' Potter..... 484-4150.... fred_pttr@yahoo.com
 Tyler Robert S. Kennedy, 32° 987-2164.... robertk@cipcug.org

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... Michael A. Schaller, 32° . (818)370-2394.... mscon777@aol.com
 Senior Warden.....

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... David Del Dosso, 32° 492-6284
 dave.deldosso.c3o6@statefarm.com
 Senior Warden.....

Council of Kadosh

Commander Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH..... 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com
 Senior Warden.....

Consistory

Master of Kadosh..... Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH 484-7657 .. Harold55@juno.com
 Senior Warden.....

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
 Membership.....
 Highway Cleanup Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH..... 643-6905.... deardorff@dslextreame.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°..... 415-3776.... 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: <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

Views from Ventura Valley
January - February
Page 12

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 456
Santa Barbara, CA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon Jan 11 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Jan 10), 25 & Program 7:30
Sat Jan 16 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 12611003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy

Mon Feb 8 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Feb 5), Stated meeting following
Sat Feb 13 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12, 12611003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy

Mon Mar 14 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM
(Reservations due by Mar 10), 25 & 50 Year awards presented, 7:30

Sat Mar 19 PM, Stated meeting following
 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up,
 Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

Mon Mar 28 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM
(Reservations by Mar 24).

**Remembrance and Renewal
Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)**

