

# Ventura Valley

VOL. XLVI

January - February 2024

Issue 1

## Officers for 2024



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XLVI, Issue number 1. 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.

## Officers for 2024

On January 8, 2024, our Valley will hold our Annual Installation of Officers. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm with the Installation starting at 7:30 pm. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Ill ∴ Harold Bogner, 33°, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Friday, January 6th. Cost is \$20.

The officers to be installed are:

### Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master.... Sal Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH

### Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master.....Roy G. Price, 32° KCCH

### Council of Kadosh

Commander ..... Mark T. Torrez, 32°

### Consistory

Master of Kadosh.....David A. Beaver, 32

### Officers of All the Bodies

Treasurer..... Taylor ‘Tag’ Gilbert, 32°

Secretary ..... Ill ∴ W. Andrew Little, 33°

Almoner..... Ryan A. Phillips, 32° KCCH

Orator..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH

Prelate.....

We still have several holes in our officer lines. If you are willing to take an office, please let the current officers know.

## From the Secretary

I want to thank all the members who have sent in their dues payments for 2024. If you paid your 2023 dues then your 2024 membership card should have been sent to you along with your invoice rather than after your payment is received.

If you are suffering from financial stress (as we know many of

you may be), let us know and we will make accommodations.

If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We are all here to support each other.

Please keep us updated on your contact information. We don’t want to lose track of you.

## Cover

Our cover shows the heads of the bodies for 2024: Venerable Master Salvador Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH; Wise Master Roy Price, 32° KCCH; Commander Mark Torrez, 32°; and Master of Kadosh David Beaver, 32°.

## Upcoming Events

Our next event will be our Installation of Officers on Monday, January 8, 2024, to be followed by a short stated meeting. It will be at Oxnard Masonic Center. Dinner is at 6:30 pm. Because of the asbestos problems with the lodge room, all of our activities will be held in the dining room. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Ill ∴ Knight Harold Bogner, 33°, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Friday, January 5. Cost is \$20. See page 7 for the menu.

Our February meeting will be on February 12. As above, please contact Illustrious Harold for dinner reservations by February 9. We anticipate that the dinner and the stated meeting will both be held in the Oxnard Dining Room.

## News of the Valley

At our November stated meeting we held a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our newest members: Tony Thomas, 32°, Gary Adkinson, 32°, and Ruben Cabrera, 32°, (who was unable to attend due to an emergency).

At our December stated meeting we made a 50-year presentation to Brother Robert Frost, 32°. Brother Frost was accompanied by his wife and daughter. We were very happy that he could come out in person for the presentation.

## Scholarship Applications

The California Scottish Rite Foundation awards over \$200,000 in scholarships each year to more than 100 deserving students to assist with the pursuit of undergraduate or graduate degrees.. If you know of students planning to attend college next year, we suggest they check them out. Applications open on January 15 and close on April 15. Announcements go out on May 27. Check them out at

<https://www.casrf.org/scholarship>

## From the PR's Quill

*Ill John F. Lowe, 33°*

### Civility—A Journey or a Destination?

Many new initiates to Masonry, upon receiving their first degree, ask what can be said about their experience when asked by family or friends. To this question, the answer is often that the new member has undergone a transformative experience; that he has taken an oath to be a better man, a better husband, brother, son, and citizen. Indeed, if we follow this transformation through all three degrees, then every master mason is destined to travel, as we say, from being a good man in the journey towards becoming a better man. Our visualization technique for this is, of course, the transition from rough ashlar to finished ashlar.

However, as a teaching fraternity, are we yet missing an important facet in that which makes a truly *better* man? A logical argument may be made that when much of our esoteric work was first formulated that masons, as well as the larger society, were civil in action and tongue. A *gentleman* was



known to engage in discourse without resorting to verbal abuse or temper. The very term *civil discourse* points to the dictates of social intercourse requiring thought and respect when discussing matters of importance. To this, our fraternal teaching adds *courtesy* and *affability* as masonic traits. To all, regardless of station in life, we must act with courtesy and civility in speech and deed.

Our current national environment, being driven by the major political parties of the United States, bombards us daily with rhetoric very much

antithetical to civility. Candidates for the highest office in the land use social media as a cudgel striking out at their real or perceived political opposites. Far too many of our population then model this same behavior; and we find ourselves in seemingly an increasingly *uncivil* society. Even though we may feel like an exemplar of civil behavior, we may be quite hesitant to even attempt to hold civil discourse with family and friends. Better to dodge than engage in a foolhardy attempt? Can Masonry help society regain civility lost?

This was the wellspring forming the Masonic Civility Committee several years ago. We Masons have an educational system spread across the continent, already in place with tools and symbolism to show, teach, and pass on the regaining of civility in our daily lives. The plumb, square, level, and compasses can thus be repurposed as implements of persuasion, changing from merely the builder's use over to new, far more important work.

In operative masonry, we use the plumb to check for vertical trueness and to be upright in our conduct. In operative maritime use, the plumb is used to check the depth of waters beneath a vessel.

In our repurposing, let us think of the plumb to gauge a lack of civility. The longer the plumb line, the deeper runs rudeness, mistreatment, and lack of respect. As the lessons of civility are inculcated, we can metaphorically see the plumb line becoming shorter; eventually so short that only the plumb remains with a hands-breadth of line—an indicator that perhaps only a puddle of abuse remains, shortly to evaporate into courtesy.

Let us repurpose the square from a building tool to a *reflecting* tool. Just as a vertical wall will reflect back sound waves, if we hold a square with one side vertical it becomes the symbolic reflector of words and speech back to us. When reflected back, are the words indeed showing careful thought, mindful of content, and thus received by the other party as valuable? Are we stating a fact, or attempting to force an opinion upon someone else? Can your words influence without taking something away from the other person? With this tool in mind, one may reflect on thoughts before engaging the mouth. The goal is learning the other person's opinions while reflecting back understanding and genuine interest.

*continued on page 6*

## PR's Quill

*Continued from page 5*

The level, used by builders to prove horizontals, we may repurpose and indicate that it is limitless in size thus including the entire population upon its flat plane. As we are taught in Masonry, we must strive to encourage all we may encounter to consider all humans as part of one family. With all caste distinction thus removed, a civil society is respectful of all individuals, regardless of station or prominence. Does not a beggar deserve respectful consideration of their plight and perhaps a kind word? Surely a barista or meal server has feelings and looks forward to pleasant interchanges with customers... or do they? Our metaphorical level reaches under the drive-in window; kindness and affability are deserved, just as we would with a person of high social standing.

Finally, we may also repurpose the compasses for a more important use. Rather than drawing a mere circle or even thinking about circling our finite, personal world, let us expand the legs of our compass to encircle the

entire world and all therein contained. In this manner anyone with whom you may come in contact is therefore within the circumference of importance to you. In other words, within this circle is a world existing in harmony, with only civil discourse being observed across the landscape. Is this not a worthy goal for all Masons, bringing the bright light of kindness, compassion, affability, and friendship back out from under the blanket of rudeness? Can we return civility to its rightful place so humankind reflects the original design given to us by the Supreme Architect? As Freemasons working under the all-seeing eye of history, it is our duty and our destiny to model, to teach civil behavior to all on our journey towards a perfect ashlar.

*For more on Civility, visit*

[www.masoniccivility.org](http://www.masoniccivility.org)

*For more on becoming a Civility*

*Ambassador, go to*

<https://www.civilityambassadors.org>

*For the larger World-Wide Civility*

*effort, go to*

<https://www.civilitycouncil.org/>

Salve Frater,

John



RiteCare Childhood Language Centers of California

a program of the

CALIFORNIA SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION

# From The Kitchen Staff

Be sure to make your reservations with Harold Bogner,  
preferably by email to [hbogner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com),  
otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

## Dinner Menu

### January 8, 2024, Installation of Officers, Stated Meeting

Roasted Pork  
Bread Dressing  
Pork Gravy  
Steamed Peas  
Apple Pie  
Hot French Bread

Cost \$20.00, RSVP by Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)

### February 12, 2024, Stated Meeting Dinner

Meat Lasagna  
Italian Vinaigrette Dressing Salad  
Garlic Cheese Bread  
Strawberry Pound Cake

Cost \$20.00, RSVP by Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)

## **VALLEY SCHEDULE 2024 EVENTS**

Following is our proposed schedule for 2024. We have made several departures from previous years:

Remembrance and Renewal is combined with our April stated meeting.

The "Executive Committee" virtual meeting is being replaced by the Language Center Meetings and held virtually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

We will have a stated meeting in August rather than going dark.

We have not as yet set dates for degree classes. Watch this newsletter and our web site, <http://www.venturascottishrite.org>, for updates.

**MON, JAN 8: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM STATED MEETING & INSTALLATION (VM, PR,  
INSTALLING TEAM)**

**TUE, JAN 23: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, FEB 12: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM STATED MEETING (VM)**

**TUE, FEB 27: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, MAR 11: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING (CoK)**

**TUE, MAR 26: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, APR 8: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM, REMEMBRANCE & RENEWAL PROGRAM (WM),  
STATED MEETING (MoK)**

**TUE, APR 23: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, MAY 13: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING (VM)**

**TUE, MAY 28: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, JUN 10: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM, STATED MEETING (WM)**

**TUE, JUN 25: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**



**JULY DARK IN RESPECT TO MEETINGS**

**SAT, JUL 13: NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC, SERVING NOON – 1 PM**

**TUE, JUL 23: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, AUG 12: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING FOLLOWS PROGRAM (MoK)**

**TUE, AUG 27: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, SEP: 9: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING FOLLOWS PROGRAM (CoK)**

**TUE, SEP 24: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, OCT 14: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (FEAST OF TISHRI CELEBRATION IN DINING ROOM), (RESERVATIONS), FOLLOWED BY STATED MEETING (REOBLIGATION OF 14 DEGREE, NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED) (VM)**

**TUE, OCT 22: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, NOV 11: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM STATED MEETING (REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE) (VETERANS DAY) (MoK)**

**TUE, NOV 26: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, DEC 9: SOCIAL 5:30PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM STATED MEETING – ELECTION OF OFFICERS (WM)**

**TUE, DEC 24: LANGUAGE CENTER MEETING, 6:30, VIRTUAL**

**MON, JAN 13, 2025: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (RESERVATIONS), INSTALLATION 7:30 PM (VM, PR, INSTALLING TEAM)**

Presiding Officers: (VM) – Venerable Master, (WM) – Wise Master, (CoK) – Commander of Kadosh, (MoK) – Master of Kadosh, (PR) – Personal Rep.

**Some dates to remember & put on your calendar:**

**Oriental Reunion: Apr 26 – 28, 2024, San Jose and Oakland**

**Grand Lodge Annual Communication: Oct. 25 – 27, 2024**

**Camarillo Air Show: Aug 17 – 18, 2024**



## 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.*

**Robert 'Dee' Matson, (805) 647-6728**  
**John Klopstein, (805) 486-0602**

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 the Secretary ([alittle93012@gmail.com](mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com), (805) 415-3776) 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.*

**Troy Chester Groves crossed on 7/19/2023**



**FREEMASONRY BUILDS ITS TEMPLES IN THE  
HEARTS OF MEN AND AMONG NATIONS.**

**Useful Contacts**

**Officers of All the Bodies**

Personal Rep of the SGIG...Ill. : John F. Lowe, 33° .....	(714)392-2692	<a href="mailto:johnflowe@verizon.net">johnflowe@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer.....Tag Gilbert, 32° .....	(805)558-8469	<a href="mailto:tag653@gmail.com">tag653@gmail.com</a>
Secretary.....Ill. : W. Andrew Little, 33° .....	(805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>
Almoner.....Ryan A. Phillips, 32° KCCH.....	(805)443-2906	<a href="mailto:ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com">ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com</a>
Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH .....	(805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Prelate.....		
Director of the Work.....		
Class Director.....Michael D. Blodgett, 32° KCCH..	(805)390-0114	<a href="mailto:mdblodgett@gmail.com">mdblodgett@gmail.com</a>
Historian.....		
Tyler.....		

**Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master.....	<u>Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH</u>	(805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:sj1273prez@hotmail.com">sj1273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Senior Warden.....			
Junior Warden.....			

**Chapter Rose Croix**

Wise Master.....	<u>Roy G. Price, 32° KCCH.....</u>	(805)276-8946	<a href="mailto:venturaprice@yahoo.com">venturaprice@yahoo.com</a>
Senior Warden.....			
Junior Warden.....			

**Council of Kadosh**

Commander.....	<u>Mark T. Torrez, 32° .....</u>	(805)290-3200	<a href="mailto:mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com">mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander.....			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander.....			

**Consistory**

Master of Kadosh.....	<u>David A. Beaver, 32° .....</u>	(805)535-8028	<a href="mailto:davidabeaver@yahoo.com">davidabeaver@yahoo.com</a>
Senior Warden.....			
Junior Warden.....			

**Other Workers**

Dinner Reservations.....	<u>Harold W. Bogner, 33° .....</u>	(805)218-1648	<a href="mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com">hbogner@smartsourcellc.com</a>
Membership, VMAP Chair.....	<u>J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH .....</u>	(805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Stagecraft.....	<u>Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH</u>	(805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:sj1273prez@hotmail.com">sj1273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Stagecraft Emeritus.....	<u>Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH .....</u>	(805)625-3296	<a href="mailto:mgmetzler@aol.com">mgmetzler@aol.com</a>
Newsletter Editor.....	<u>Ill. : W. Andrew Little, 33° .....</u>	(805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>

Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at [vcscottishrite@gmail.com](mailto:vcscottishrite@gmail.com).

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 County  
Scottish Rite Bodies  
487 Appletree Ave  
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

2024

Views from Ventura Valley  
January - February

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email [hbogner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com), or call (805) 218-1648

- |     |     |    |   |
|-----|-----|----|---|
| Mon | Jan | 8  | Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm ( <i>Reservations by Jan 5</i> ), INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS following |
| Tue | Jan | 23 | Language Center Board Meeting, 6:30, Virtual  |
| Mon | Feb | 12 | Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm ( <i>Reservations by Feb 9</i> ), Stated Meeting following           |
| Tue | Feb | 27 | Language Center Board Meeting, 6:30, Virtual  |
| Mon | Mar | 11 | Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm ( <i>Reservations by Mar 8</i> ), Stated Meeting following           |
| Tue | Mar | 26 | Language Center Board Meeting, 6:30, Virtual  |

