

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

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

**VOL. XXXII**

**March - April 2010**

**Issue 3**



## **Installation of Officers**

**2010**

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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: Installation**

We installed our officers for 2010 on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH, was installed as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection; Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH, was installed as Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix; Harold W. Bogner, 32° KCCH, was installed as Commander of the Council of Kadosh; and Steven Bestwick, 32° KCCH, was installed as Master of Kadosh in the Consistory. A big thanks to the installing team, Right Worshipful John Lowe, 32° KCCH, Ill.; Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°, and Ill.; E. Floyd Griffin, 33°, for a fine job, and to Anacapa Lodge #710, for preparing a delicious Filipino dinner.

### **Upcoming Events**

March is a very busy month for our Valley.

Our Spring Class, named in honor of Ill Raymond N. Deardorff, 33°, will be held on two Saturdays, March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 AM both days, at the Oxnard Masonic Center. The 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Degrees will be portrayed on March 6<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Degrees on March 13. We have two candidates plus six from Santa

Barbara. We will be using the revised scripts so you may see some differences this time. There is much work to be done so, if possible, please come out and give us a hand.

At our stated meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> we will be doing 25 and 50 year presentations. The following members are slated for 50 year presentations: Charles C. Carroll, 32° KCCH, Robert S. Kennedy Jr., 32°, and Earl 'Capp' Loughboro, 32°. Those slated for 25 year presentations are Ray Burchette, 32°, Charles Foster, 32°, Gary Frick, 32°, and Antonio Ramos, 32°. Please come out and congratulate these brethren on their achievements.

Our annual Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony will be held on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, with dinner at 6:30, followed by the Last Supper tableau, the Remembrance of Departed Brethren, the Mystic Banquet, and the Extinguishing and Relighting of the Lights. You won't want to miss this inspiring event.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> we will participate in the Kids' ID Program at the Railfest in Fillmore. If you can help please contact Chuck Batterson at 647-8669 or by email at nereus2006@sbcglobal.net.

Our April stated meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

May 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> will be the Southwestern Regional Reunion class in Scottsdale, Arizona, where all 32 Degrees of the Scottish Rite will be portrayed by expert degree teams from all the valleys in the area. If you have a chance to attend this event you won't be disappointed.

Our next highway cleanups will be on March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>. 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

On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> we joined Oxnard Lodge for a Super Bowl party. Everyone had a great time (although Saints fans seemed to have a better time).

At our February stated meeting Brother Jerry Gonzalez, 32° KCCH, spoke on Scottish Rite Honors under the Further Light in Masonry program.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> some of our members will attend the Leadership Conference in New Orleans to learn how better to manage our Valley. We appreciate the time and effort they have put in.

Brother Larry Morris, 32° KCCH, has completed the Master Craftsman program and received his certificate and lapel pin. Congratulations, Brother Larry. This is an excellent program to help us learn more about Scottish Rite Masonry and the rest of our members are urged to consider taking it.

## Proposed Bylaws Changes

Some changes have been proposed to the bylaws of the bodies of our Valley. The purpose of these changes is to clarify the officers of each body and to specify which officers are elected and which are appointed, and what their duties are.

It is anticipated that these changes will be put to a vote at our April 12<sup>th</sup> stated meeting.

The proposed changes can be accessed over the internet at

<http://vcscottishrite.webs.com>

Please take a look at them prior to our April stated meeting.

## Presiding Bodies

The four bodies of our Valley take turns presiding over our stated meetings. Here is the schedule for the remainder of this year:

March	Chapter Rose Croix
April	Council of Kadosh
May	Consistory
June	Lodge of Perfection
July	Chapter Rose Croix
September	Council of Kadosh
October	Consistory
November	Lodge of Perfection

If you are an officer of one of these bodies please make a special effort to attend those meetings when your body is presiding.

## From the PR's Quill

*Ill.: Tom Melugin, 33°*

Our degree teams will soon be putting on the degrees in the new format with new scripts for the first time. A lot of hard work has gone in to pulling this off. I would like to thank the heads of the bodies and degree masters for getting together and getting this thing off the ground. To the stagecraft, sound and lighting crews (which consist of Ill Ted Whitacre on sound and whoever happens to be standing around the stage on lighting) thank you. To the wardrobe crew, Harold Bogner and...and...Harold, you didn't know you were a crew did you? A very special thanks to the Director of the Work, Steve Bestwick, for pulling all these folks together and working so hard to make this happen. Brethren, we need help here. We have a small number of people doing a whole lot of jobs trying to make this Valley functional. I have asked you for help before. I am asking again. Come join us. Be a Mason. Be a part of your Valley.

2<sup>nd</sup> LCDR Kelly Sharp, Council of Kadosh and Sr. Warden Tom Fanslow, Chapter Rose Croix, will be attending the Leadership Academy in New Orleans in April. We had hoped to send officers from the other two lodges but due to some miscommunication they are unable to attend. All is not lost however. The Southwest Regional Reunion will be held in Scottsdale in May and we will now have a few extra dollars to send some folks over there.



It was suggested to me that we might want to look in to adopting a policy that the L.A. Valley has in regards to stated meeting dinners. They have a Dinner Club and each member pays \$100 at the beginning of the year to cover the cost of 10 Stated Meeting Dinners. In our case that would be 8 Stated Meeting and the Remembrance and Renewal dinners for \$90. The Saint John's Dinner, if it continues, and the Installation Dinner would be extra. The July dinner is a potluck and we are dark in August. This would help take the guesswork out of how many dinners to prepare. If you are not a member of the Club and wanted to attend any dinner a reservation would be required. What are your thoughts? Should we try that here? Let me know.

**Thoughts from Our Prelate**

Walt Bragulla, 32° KCCH

*Philosophy by Charles Schultz*

**Y**ou don't have to actually answer the questions, just ponder on them.

- 1- Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- 2- Name the last five Heisman Trophy winners.
- 3- Name the last five winners of the Miss America Pageant.
- 4- Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
- 5- Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for Best Actor or Actress.
- 6- Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

The point is, none of us remember the Headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies, awards tarnish, achievements are forgotten, accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one.

- 1- List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
- 2- Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
- 3- Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.



- 4- Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
- 5- Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia!

*Walt*

**FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF**

Please make your reservations with Tom Melugin at: (805) 395-0600 or email to melugit@aol.com no later than 6 PM Sunday evening before each of the dinners. We no longer have a standing reservation list. You MUST call in your reservations.

**Menu for March and April****March 8, 2010, Stated Meeting  
Traditional St. Pat's Fare**

Tossed salad  
Boiled Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Boiled potatoes and carrots  
Horseradish, creamed and plain  
Dinner rolls  
Dessert

Price: \$10.00 per person

**March 22, 2010, Remembrance and Renewal Dinner**

Salad  
Cornish Game Hens  
Mashed potatoes and gravy  
Dressing  
Dinner rolls  
Dessert

Price: \$10.00 per person

**April 12, 2010, Stated Meeting**

Salad  
Cornish Game Hens  
Mashed potatoes and gravy  
Dressing  
Dinner rolls  
Dessert

Price: \$10.00 per person

**Reservations are an absolute must. Please call or e-mail a confirmation.  
We no longer have a standing reservation list.**

## LODGE OF PERFECTION

Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Brethren,  
Since the Valley of Ventura Scottish Rite Bodies are about to have their Spring Class, and we only exemplify five of the 32 degrees, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree, I thought that it would be a good time to remind us what the degrees are. The Lodge of Perfection consists of the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> degrees.

### 4th degree - Secret Master:

Your first steps into our sanctuary are duty, reflection and study. They teach us to honor those relationships to God, family, country, Masonry. **The apron** is white and black, with a letter "Z" and all-seeing eye. **The jewel** is an ivory key with the letter "Z" on the wards. **The lessons** of the 4° are secrecy, obedience, and fidelity.

### 5th degree - Perfect Master:

The degree teaches that honesty and trustworthiness are the cornerstone of the foundation of Masonic honor. This virtue should be in all of our undertakings. **The apron** is white and green, with a cubic stone and a Hebrew YOD. **The jewel** is a compass open on a segment of a circle, to an angle of sixty degrees. **The lessons** of the 5° are Honesty, Sincerity, and good Faith.

**6th degree - Intimate Secretary:** In this degree we should learn duty, charity and toleration. We are told to reshape ourselves and our thinking into



charity, self-control, and success. Be a peacemaker. **The apron** is white and red, with Hebrew letters YOD HEH in the center, and a small triangle containing the Hebrew letters (clockwise from top) BETH, NUN, and SHIN. **The jewel** is a gold triangle with the same three letters inscribed.

**7th degree - Provost and Judge:** We learn that impartial justice protects person, property, happiness and reputation. These degrees teach us to judge with patience and impartially. **The apron** is white, edged with red, with a key and five rosettes. **The jewel** is a golden key.

**8th degree - Intendant of the Building:** We should strive for perfection by using the great  
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principles of "God's inherent love, charity, morality and kindness". **The apron** is white, with red and green, with a balance, a five-pointed star, and a triangle with the Hebrew letters BETH (for Ben-khurim), YOU (for Jakinah), and ALEPH (for Achar). **The jewel** is a gold triangle with the same three letters.

### 9th degree - Elu of the Nine (Elected Knight of the Nine):

Scottish Rite virtues are at the very heart of this degree, truth, candor and generosity. We should use these to shape our lives and conduct. **The apron** is white, lined with black, and sprinkled with blood, with an arm holding a dagger, and a severed head held by the hair. **The jewel** is a dagger, hilt of gold and blade of silver.

### 10th degree - Elu of the Fifteen (Illustrious Elect of the Fifteen):

This degree teaches toleration of others. Everyone has the right to his own political or spiritual views. **The apron** is white, with a black flap, and with three arch-shaped gates – over each a head on a spike. **The jewel** is a dagger as in the previous degree.

### 11th degree - Elu of the Twelve (Sublime Knight Elect of the Twelve):

This degree teaches sympathy. We should be sympathetic to our brother masons and to all mankind as well. **The apron** is white, lined with black, with a flaming heart in the center. **The jewel** is a dagger suspended from a black cordon inscribed with

the words "Vincere aut Mori," the pledge "that you will rather die than betray the cause of the people, or be overcome through your own fear or fault."

### 12th degree - Master Architect:

This degree teaches faith in moral and virtues and in God. "Life is what each man makes of it; the optimist turns a trial into a blessing." **The apron** is white, lined with blue and gold (symbolizing the Craft degrees), with a protractor, plain scale, sector, and compasses. **The jewel** is a gold triangle, with a Hebrew ALEPH on the obverse and the five types of columns on the reverse.

### 13th degree - Royal Arch of Solomon (Knight of the Ninth Arch):

This degree teaches liberty in our mind and our hearts, motivated by duty and honor. **The apron** is purple, bordered with white, and with the "Enochian delta" (hexagram with inscribed Tetragrammaton) in the center. **The jewel** is a gold triangle with the Enochian delta on the reverse, and a scene showing two men lowering a third into a newly-discovered subterranean vault, on the obverse.

### 14th degree - Perfect Elu (Grand Elect, Perfect and Sublime Mason):

In the degree we learn to reflect and look into ourselves. We should strive to be true to ourselves and our God. **The apron** is white silk, bordered in gold, with the Ineffable Delta in the Center. **The jewel** is a quadrant (compass open to ninety degrees) topped by a crown, and with a nine-  
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## Scottish Rite Women's Association

Terrie Metzler, President

So far what a wonderful year. But, then again, this is only the second month. We have some good ideas for the up and coming year. Ladies, for those of you that have not been to a meeting lately – you sure are missing a good time.

Congratulations to Mr. Lucky for winning the 50/50 drawing. Than a great big Thank You to you for donating it back to the Ladies Scottish Rite.

A Thank You goes to Mr. Argue for the donation from the St. John's dinner, in which we did the decoration for the dinner. What a lovely night it was.

Nola and Evelyn are having surgery this week, so keep them in your prayers.



I really hope to see some, if not all, of you at next month's meeting.

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pointed star on the obverse, and a five-pointed blazing star (with the Tetragrammaton) on the reverse. The compass is opened on a segment of a circle, inscribed with the numbers 3, 5, 7, 9.

This is just a short description of each degree in the Lodge of Perfection. If you would like to read

more on the Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection, please refer to the book "A Bridge to Light" that each of us received at the Cap and Ring ceremony when we were initiated into Scottish Rite. Please mark your calendars for the degrees, March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We will see you on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

Mike Metzler  
Venerable Master

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.*

Peter Bokron  
Ken Hower, 985-3294  
Donald Wright, 642-6621

Harry Scherschling, 647-6786  
Clarence Jackson, 524-1141  
Gonzalo Hernandez, 485-0166

Please give these brethren 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, Walt Bragulla, 32° KCCH, (644-2055) 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.*

Morris Funk crossed on February 10, 2010

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

### Useful Contacts

#### Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG .....	G. Thomas Melugin, 33° .....	483-3092 .....	melugit@aol.com
Secretary .....	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° .....	484-5222 .....	alittle93012@gmail.com
Treasurer .....	Roger Rider, 32° KCCH .....	983-3025 .....	rider4sd@msn.com
Almoner .....	Ill.: Ted Whitacre, 33° .....	642-5886 .....	tedcw@vcoms.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 .....	earl.griffin@sci-us.com
Asst Almoner Camarillo .....	William Campbell, 32° KCCH .....	482-7523 .....	bncampbell@verizon.net
Orator .....	Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH .....	671-5537 .....	jeg522@yahoo.com
Prelate .....	Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH .....	644-2055 .....	nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
Director of the Work .....	Steven J. Bestwick, 32° KCCH .....	658-0190 .....	bestwick@adelphia.net

#### Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master .....	Michael G. Metzler, 32° KCCH .....	524-3362 .....	mgmetzler@aol.com
Senior Warden .....	Thom Piper, 32° .....	581-6122 .....	thompiper@chance.com
Junior Warden .....	J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° .....	241-6968 .....	jrcifuentes@hotmail.com

#### Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master .....	Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH .....	981-8262 .....	rlsills@rlsills.com
Senior Warden .....	Tom Fanslow, 32° .....	482-3604 .....	fantom1938@yahoo.com
Junior Warden .....	Augusto Garcia, 32° .....	832 4389 .....	
.....	.....	guspastmaster710@yahoo.com	

#### Council of Kadosh

Commander .....	Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH .....	484-7657 .....	harold55@juno.com
1st Lt. Commander .....	David H. Lieberthal, 32° .....	241-7158 .....	david@lieberthal.net
2nd Lt. Commander .....	Kelly Sharp, 32° .....	(661)713-9407 .....	
.....	.....	thesaniterium@hotmail.com	

#### Consistory

Master of Kadosh .....	Steven J. Bestwick, 32° KCCH .....	658-0190 .....	bestwick@adelphia.net
Prior .....	Roy Balfour, 32° .....	492-6553 .....	rjbal4@earthlink.net
Preceptor .....	Eric Lyke, 32° .....	672-0130 .....	
.....	.....	myhomecenter-eric@sbcglobal.net	

#### Women's Association

President .....	Terrie Metzler .....	524-3362 .....	TerrieToad2004@aol.com
Vice President .....	Eleanor Batterson .....	647-8669 .....	nereus20017@sbcglobal.net
Secretary .....	Nola Bragulla .....	644-2055 .....	nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer .....	Ires Sutton .....	647-2364 .....	
Member at Large .....	Lois Marrs .....	642-4292 .....	

#### Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew .....	Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH .....	644-2055 .....	nrbpq@sbcglobal.net
Dinner Reservations .....	G. Thomas Melugin, 33° .....	395-0600 .....	melugit@aol.com
Programs, Social Events .....	Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH .....	647-8669 .....	nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
Highway Cleanup .....	Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH .....	643-6905 .....	deardorff@dslextrime.com
Stagecraft .....	Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH .....	524-3362 .....	mgmetzler@aol.com
Childhood ID Program .....	Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH .....	647-8669 .....	nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
Widows Program .....	Women's Association .....		
Newsletter Editor .....	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° .....	484-5222 .....	alittle93012@gmail.com

Recent changes are underlined. All phone numbers in area code 805.

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

**“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

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### Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations call (805) 483-3092

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sat	Mar	6	Raymond N. Deardorff Spring Fast Class (Part 1, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> Degrees portrayed), 7:30 AM; Lunch 12:00 Noon
Mon	Mar	8	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), 25 & 50 Year pins presented, 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Mar	13	Raymond N. Deardorff Spring Fast Class (Part 2, 30 <sup>th</sup> , 32 <sup>nd</sup> Degrees portrayed), 7:30 AM; Lunch 12:00 Noon
Sat	Mar	20	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
Mon	Mar	22	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)

Mon	Apr	12	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Apr	16-17		Scottish Rite Leadership Conference in New Orleans
Sat	Apr	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
Mon	May	10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations</i> ), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
May	12-16		Southwest Scottish Rite Regional Reunion, Scottsdale, Arizona
Sat	May	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
Mon	May	31	Avenue of the Flags at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park Memorial Day, 10 AM, Laying of wreath by Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

