

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXVII

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Issue 4

MW Russ Charvonja Grand Master of Masons



Speaker for June

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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:

Most Worshipful Russ Charvonja, Grand Master of Masons in California, will address our Valley at our stated meeting on June 8, on the topic of "Repairing the World by Improving Ourselves: Freemasonry's Role in Restoring Civility in Society". We look forward to hearing his ideas on this important topic.

Upcoming Events

At our next stated meeting on May 11th we will view the third video in a series by the late John Robinson, author of *Born in Blood and A Pilgrim's Progress*, about Freemasonry. Also we will be welcoming the Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of California, Ill.: Frank Loui, and his lady, on his official visit to our Valley. Be sure to get your dinner reservations in to Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at harold55@juno.com or (805) 218-1648, by Thursday, May 7. It also being our Mother's Day dinner, all ladies will be our guests.

At our June 8th stated meeting we are honored to have our own Most Worshipful Russ Charvonja,

33°, Grand Master of Masons in California, speak to us on "Repairing the World by Improving Ourselves: Freemasonry's Role in Restoring Civility in Society".

On June 22 we will have a planning meeting for the New England Summer Picnic. Meet at 6:30 at Oxnard Masonic Center for pizza. You are invited to bring a side dish or desert to share.

The New England Summer Picnic will be on July 11 this year, again at Camarillo Grove Park. (See page 8 for details.)

We will be dark for our stated meetings dates in July and August.

There are a number of other events that may interest some of our members:

On Wed, May 13, Ill.: Frank Loui will be visiting the Valley of Santa Barbara and they have invited our members to join them for the occasion. Then on Fri, May 15, the Valley of Santa Barbara will hold an open house featuring their Childhood Speech and Language Center from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. (See page 13.) Both events will be at 16 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara. Contact their secretary, Brother Bruce Rick, (805) 965-6100 or bar972@outlook.com for more information or reservations.

Again this year Supreme Council will hold its Celebrating the Craft webathon on May 16, 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM our time. Go to <http://scottishrite.org/> during those hours to view the talent of our fellow Scottish Rite members.

The Valley of Los Angeles is presenting a series of outstanding Masonic speakers. On May 15 at 7:00 pm Ill.: Robert G. Davis, 33° GC, will speak. Brother Davis recently completed a book entitled "The Mason's Words: the History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual." Other speakers include Ill.: Sean Graystone, 33° GC, Superintendant of the House of the Temple, on Fri., June 12 and Ill.: Rex R. Hutchens, 33° GC, author of "A Bridge to Light", on Fri., July 10. All events are at the Santa Monica Masonic Center, 926 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica. For more information call (323) 937-2566 or visit their web site, <http://la-sr.org>.

On Friday, July 10, Channel Islands Lodge will hold a reception for Grand Master Russell E. Charvonja, at the San Buenaventura Masonic Center, 482 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura. Social hour will be from 5:30-6:30 pm, with dinner at 6:30 and the reception at 7:30. Reservations are required; no tickets will be sold at the door. Dinner is \$35 per person, payable in advance. Send checks to Grand Master's Reception at the above address. For more information Email treasurer@lodge214.com.

The Supreme Council Biennial Session will be held from Sat. Aug

22 through Tue, Aug 25 in Washington, D.C. It includes the Centennial Jubilee celebrating the 100th anniversary of the House of the Temple. The schedule of events can be found online at <http://scottishrite.org/development/giving/centennial-jubilee-biennial-session/>, which also includes a link for registration.

The XIV World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges will be held Nov 18-21 in San Francisco. The title of the conference is "The Chain of Union: Strengthening Fraternal Bonds in a Changing World" and it consists of seven sessions on various topics. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Masonic leaders from throughout the world and to learn more about our fraternity. More information is available at <http://www.wcrgl.com>.

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/2015/04/2016-regional-workshops/>.

Our highway cleanups for the next few months will be on Saturdays, May 16th, June 13th, July 18th, and August 15th. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Newcomers are always welcome.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings to our Scottish Rite family, hope this note finds you in the best of health. We do have a few members in need of our prayers and hope you will reach out to them as noted in this bulletin.

As we move into spring and soon summer there is much happening around the Valley. I am happy to say our new officers are rising to the challenges of being heads of bodies. The next three months are event filled, from the Official Visit of our S.G.I.G. ILL.: Frank Loui in May, to June when we will be graced with the Honor of having the Grand Master Russ Charvonja speak at our program, followed by the New England Picnic in July, so needless to say the coming months will be very busy ones in Scottish Rite Masonry.

Sadly to say we had to cancel our Spring Reunion due to no candidates; I encourage speaking to those master masons in your respective lodges about becoming Scottish Rite Masons. Our Valley is shrinking and if we wish to survive we need to build our membership. On a similar subject The Supreme Council has initiated a program named the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP). We have registered and have established a committee to manage the program. I will be speaking a bit more about this program at the May Meeting along with ILL.: Frank Loui, as well as introducing the committee. I hope when asked to help or support we can



count on our membership to stand up and assist. There are 10 individual projects within this program and we have made assignments for 9 out of 10 items. Please plan to attend our May meeting as we enlighten you on this subject.

Tickets will go on sale very soon for the New England Picnic, please take a book and sell them to your friends, family, co-workers, or whomever would enjoy a delightful afternoon of Steak or Lobster or both at the park and support our philanthropy. Sir Knight Harold Bogner will be making an announcement about tickets at the May meeting, and Brother Earl Williams (seated Master of Oxnard Lodge #341) will again be our ticket chairman.

Please remember May 11th and June 8th are special event nights in honor of our Special Guests; please make your plans early as well as reservations for dinner.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to make dinner reservations prior to our stated dinner. We put a notice out via email every month and still have people wanting to make reservations at the door. It is very difficult to keep dinner costs down if I have to guess how many are coming for dinner. To those of you who do I thank you, and remember the easy way is to pay for your dinner annually and you will always have a reservations.

The May Dinner is complementary for all Ladies in Honor of Mother's Day, but we still need the reservation, "Thank you Ladies for your continued attendance and support".

If anyone has any ideas for events, entertainment or programs, please talk to the heads of bodies or our Orator who are always looking for new and interesting things to present.

Thank you all for your continued support, and looking forward to having dinner with you soon.

Jerry E. Gonzales KCCH

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

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

In Memoriam Wesley Grant Harman, 32° KCCH

We are sad to announce the passing of Brother Wes on April 20.

Brother Wes received his Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Santa Barbara in 1970 and affiliated with our Valley in 1978 as a charter member. He was invested with his KCCH in 2001 and served as Wise Master in the Chapter Rose Croix in 2005.

Wes was born April 2, 1924 in Halfway, MO. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and worked for Southern California Gas Company for 38 years.

Wes was a member and Past Master of Oxnard Lodge #341. For many years he handled reservations for the Masonic Center. He was also

very active in the Order of Eastern Star. He was a friend to all.

Masonic and Easter Star services were held for Wes on April 27.

News of the Valley

At our March stated meeting Brother Maurice Sourmany, 32° KCCH, Personal Representative of the Valley of Santa Barbara, spoke about their Childhood Language Clinic and invited us to an open house on Friday, May 15th, 4:00 to 7:00 pm, 16 E. Carrillo St. in Santa Barbara. We hope that some of you can make it to get a better idea of how their clinic operates.

Also on that evening we honored our 25 and 50 year members. 50 year members Wesley F. Cullins, 32°, *(continued to page 12)*

Lodge of Perfection

David F. Contreras, 32°, Venerable Master
Scientists

Freemasonry has in it from past history to present scientists working in many fields of science and great innovators, thinkers and influential individuals. The following inventive and original minds all, in their own ways, changed the world — and they were also all members of the Freemasons, some you will recognize and some you may not.

10. Vannevar Bush (1890 – 1974)

American engineer, scientist and developer of the first electronic analogue computer, Vannevar Bush is perhaps best remembered as the author of the revolutionary essay "As We May Think." Published in 1945, it envisaged much of the technology we take for granted today, including personal computers, the Internet, hypertext, online encyclopedias, and speech recognition software. In 1939, Bush — a Worshipful Master in Massachusetts's Richard C. Maclaurin Lodge — was appointed president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; as such he assumed considerable influence with the US Government in military and scientific research. Bush was involved in the development and proposed use of the atomic bomb. And, as the alleged head of the "Majestic 12" — the



purported code name of a secret committee of scientists, leaders and officials formed by President Harry Truman — Bush is rumored to have investigated UFO activity in the wake of the Roswell incident, the supposed crash of an alien aircraft in New Mexico in 1947. The secrets his fellow Lodge members may have heard are almost too immense to contemplate.

9. Sandford Fleming (1827 – 1915)

Sir Sandford Fleming was a Scottish-born Canadian inventor and engineer. Perhaps best known as the

man who, in 1851, designed the first Canadian postage stamp, Fleming is also often credited with the invention of standard time zones. Amongst his many achievements, Fleming was chief engineer of the cross-continental Canadian Pacific Railway. Knighted by Queen Victoria in 1897, Fleming was also a Freemason. Freemasonry helped Fleming in no small way, providing him with links to many influential members across the international fraternity. His proposal of world time zones was supported by many powerful masons, most notably the fourth Governor General of Canada, 9th Duke of Argyll John Campbell. Fleming's engineering genius also helped to bring about the trans-Pacific submarine telegraph cable, which some have dubbed the "Victorian Internet."

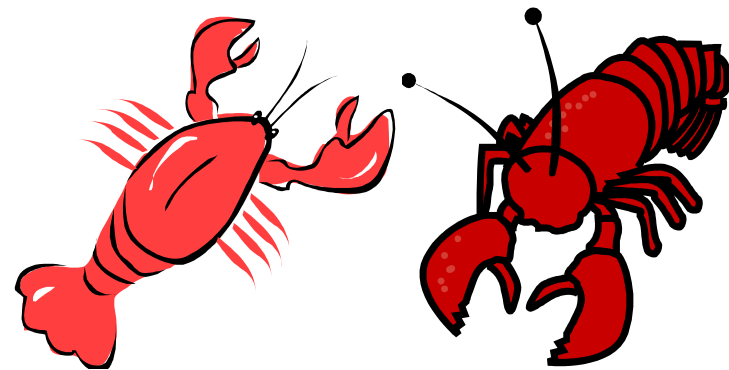
8. John Theophilus Desaguliers (1683 – 1744)

The French-born astronomer, scientist, natural philosopher and priest Rev. John Theophilus Desaguliers has been credited with the invention of the planetarium and is also remembered as the man who took steam engine design a step further though the addition of a safety valve. Influenced by Sir Isaac Newton, whom he was an assistant to, the Oxford-educated Desaguliers chose to settle in England. Desaguliers was also an extremely prominent Freemason and a major force both in collating the early history of the society and in attracting

noblemen to the world's first known Grand Lodge — the Premier Grand Lodge of England. Mystery shrouds his connection with Freemasonry up to 1719, but in that year he was elected the third Grand Master, and after serving in this post he subsequently held various prestigious positions within the Fraternity — in his adopted home as well as in Europe. Desaguliers, who appears to have invested far more time in science and Freemasonry than he did in the Church of England, has been called the "Father of Modern speculative Freemasonry."

7. King Camp Gillette (1855 – 1932)

It can be reasonably claimed that the American innovator King Camp Gillette changed the world when he launched the cheap, disposable safety razor to a grateful public in 1901. Yet the founder of the world famous Gillette brand (now a business unit of Procter & Gamble), who was known for his business acumen and innovative marketing strategies, was also a Freemason. Little is known of Gillette's personal experience within the Fraternity, but his political ideas are well documented and must surely have been shared among other members. Gillette was a "Utopian Socialist," and envisioned a single public-owned corporation that controlled the entire world's industry. He also imagined a giant US-wide city named Metropolis that would be powered exclusively by Niagara Falls. King Camp Gillette: dreamer; inventor; Freemason.



25th Annual New England Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 11th, 2015

Cut-off date for tickets – July 5, 2015

Location – Camarillo Grove Park, Area #1
6968 E Camarillo Springs Road,
Camarillo CA
Parking Fee Paid

Camarillo Grove Park is located off of Camarillo Springs Road at the Camarillo Springs exit near the base of the Conejo Grade.

Serving Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Serving: 1 ½ lb. Maine Lobster
Serving: 1 lb. New York Steak
With: Corn on the Cob, Coleslaw, Garlic Bread,
Mussels (if available)
Coffee, Water & Lemonade

Entertainment: SheriMerry ADD, Silent Auction, Bake Sale
(Please think about donations for the auction and the bake sale.)

All profits go to the Santa Barbara Scottish Rite "Childhood Language Center" (www.sbspeech.com)

For Information & Tickets:

Earl G. Williams, 32° (626) 367-7954

Checks payable to: Ventura County Scottish Rite
"Bring your own large platters." "No Refunds"

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Dinner Reservations

2015 Dinner Reservation Policy:

The cost for dinner is \$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 to 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 the 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).

May 11th Stated Meeting/Mothers Day Dinner III.: Frank Loui Official Visit as SGIG

Baked Ham Slices
Sweet Potatoes Mash
Peas & Carrots
Dinner Rolls
Banana Pudding/Vanilla Wafers

Cost \$15.00 Per Individual/Ladies Complementary
RSVP by Thu, May 7th, 2015 with Harold Bogner.

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

June 8th Stated Meeting Dinner MW Russ Charvonja Guest Speaker

Fish Fillet/Crab Cakes
(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Rice Pilaf
Corn on the Cob
Hawaiian Rolls
Caesar Salad
Strawberry Shortcake

Cost \$15.00 Per Person/\$25.00 Per Couple
RSVP by Thu, June 4th, 2014 with Harold Bogner
Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!

June 22nd NESP Planning Meeting

Pot luck with Pizza & Drinks Provided
No reservations required
Please bring a side of dessert to share
Planning committee, all Heads of Bodies, Ladies and other interested persons are invited



May 16, 3:00 – 9:00 PDT
<http://www.scottishrite.org>

To support the Rebuilding the Temple Campaign

- Video footage from the House of the Temple
- Masonic scholars, leaders, and celebrities
- Winners from our Scottish Rite Has Talent Contest
- Content featuring local Valleys and their members

Chapter of Rose Croix

John Argue, 32° KCCH, Wise Master

Words to Live By

- Accept the fact that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue!
- Always keep your words soft and sweet in case you have to eat them.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you should die while doing so.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see them again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be your sole purpose in life to serve as a horrible example to others.
- Never buy a car you can't push.
- Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- The second mouse gets the cheese.
- Birthdays are good for you. The more you have the longer you live.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
- We all could learn a lot from crayons. They come in all colors and all live in the same box.



- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Have an awesome day knowing someone has thought about you today.

AND MOST OF ALL:

- Save the earth ... It's the only planet with chocolate!

John A. Argue
Wise Master
March 2015

Grand Master's Reception

Channel Islands Lodge No 214 will host a Reception honoring The Most Worshipful Russell E. Charvonja, Grand Master of Masons in California.

Friday July 10th, 2015

5:30-6:30pm Social Hour

6:30-7:30pm Dinner

7:30pm Reception

Attire: Black Tie

Dinner \$35 per person

Child's Plate (under 10) \$15

Seating for dinner is limited; reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis.

No ticket sales at the door

To receive a Reservation Response Card, please contact Worshipful

Kavanaugh at treasurer@lodge214.com

No reservations will be taken by phone or Email

News of the Valley

(continued from page 5)

and C. Richard Marshall, 32° KCCH, and 25 year members David B. Gillette, 32° and Roscoe L. 'Pete' Stewart, 32° were there for the presentations.

On March 23 we celebrated Remembrance and Renewal with the traditional mystic dinner and the extinguishing and relighting of the lights.

At our April stated meeting we watched an interesting video entitled Freemasonry and the Fabric of America by Ill.: Lee Sherman

Dreyfus, former governor of Wisconsin.

It was also announced that the Rainbow Girls of the State of California raised over \$72,000 for the Scottish Rite Clinics. These are the same young ladies who serve us our food at our stated meeting dinners, and we are most impressed by their generosity.

At our April Highway Cleanup three members of Oxnard Lodge #341 came out and gave us a hand, and they did an excellent job of cleaning up the trash. We wish we had a few more Scottish Rite members willing to take on this project.

Scottish Rite Childhood Speech & Language Center Open House

Friday, May 15, 2015 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM (PDT)

Please join us for an

Open House

at the Masonic Center
16 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara

What's behind those beautiful doors on Carrillo Street? Come find out as you take a tour of our four-story historic building and see our non-profit speech & language therapy center, a philanthropy of the Scottish Rite Masons. Demonstrations of our various therapy programs will be given.

RSVP to Denay by May 1st at 805-962-8469 or speechsb@gmail.com

Wine, cheese, & light refreshments will be served.

Public parking is available from Anacapa St. (Lot #9). Guests may enter from the front door or the rear entrance facing the parking garage. We hope you can make it!

Cheers,
Scottish Rite Language Center

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
Ted Whitacre, 642-5886

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.*

Kenneth Eugene Dole crossed on 2/26/2015
John Allen McWherter crossed on 3/20/2015
Wesley Grant Harman crossed on 4/20/2015

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, 32° KCCH 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.... efgriffin@verizon.net
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 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..... David F. Contreras, 32° 504-3889.... teslaslight@verizon.net
 Senior Warden..... Michael Schaller, 32° 370-2394.... mscon777@aol.com

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... John A. Argue, 32° KCCH 498-4831.... MayfieldPark@aol.com
 Senior Warden..... David E. Klein, 32° 451-8745.... lionhtd@aim.com

Council of Kadosh

Commander Jose Valencia, 32° 248-6867.... j_valencia92@hotmail.com
 Senior Warden..... Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com

Consistory

Master of Kadosh..... James L. Craig, 32° 525-7780.... jlrcraig19@gmail.com
 Senior Warden..... David A. Beaver, 32° 535-8028.... davidabeaver@yahoo.com

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
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 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: (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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon	May	11	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations by May 7</i>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following (Mothers Day)
Sat	May	16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12611003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy
Mon	Jun	8	Social 5:30 PM, Flag Day, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<i>Reservations for Jun 4</i>), MW Russ Charvonia, Grand Master of Masons in CA to speak, Stated meeting follow
Sat	Jun	13	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Jun	22	Pizza Dinner 6:30 PM, Planning Meeting for New England Summer Picnic and Child ID Program at Ventura County Fair

Sat Jul 11 New England Summer Picnic,
Camarillo Grove Park, Serving
12 noon – 1:00 pm

