

Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

*Views from
Ventura Valley*

VOL. XLI

May - August 2019

Issue 4

Remembrance And Renewal



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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

The cast of our Remembrance and Renewal team is pictured on the cover: (L-R) Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, Francis Villareal, 32°, James Craig, 32° KCCH, and Ryan Phillips, 32°.

Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting will be on May 13th. At that time we will have a very special guest speaker. Ill.: **Merrick Hamer**, 33°, will speak on “Polarities of the Holy Saints John” which explains the phenomena of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist from their astronomical and psychological perspectives, as these would, in subtle ways, influence the mind of the Freemason. Brother Merrick is an outstanding actor and ritualist as well as being an expert on Western Esoteric Tradition. In addition to his many Masonic activities he has been associated with Rosicrucianism, Hermetic Science, and other esoteric disciplines. He is also an accomplished musician and interpreter of classic poetry.

If you will be joining us for

dinner, reservations are required; contact Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Thursday, May 9th. Cost is \$15 per individual but, in honor of Mothers’ Day, the ladies eat free (with a reservation).

Our June stated meeting will be on June 10th. Program is to be announced. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are due to Harold by Thursday, June 6th (see address above). Cost is \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple.

On Saturday, June 8, we will take our candidates to Long Beach Scottish Rite to receive the 30th and 32nd Degrees. Anyone who would like to come along is more than welcome.

On Monday, July 8th, we will have a planning party for the New England Summer Picnic, beginning with a pizza dinner at 6:30 pm.

The **New England Summer Picnic** will be on Saturday, **July 27th**, at Camarillo Grove Park. This is our major fundraiser for the Santa Barbara Childhood Language

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From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°

Greetings to our Scottish Rite family!

Wow, this has been a busy year so far with much work still to be done. I hope all of you in attendance at our dinner meetings have enjoyed the Masonic Information/Education programs our Leaders have been providing, and they promise more to come. Please see the notices in the bulletin for all our upcoming events. I wish to thank our Officers for stepping up and conducting the meetings and programs this year. As some of you know I have not been in attendance at some of the recent past meetings due to some spiritual program commitments, but I should be back in Action in the coming months.

This past month we started our Spring Reunion, with the conferral of the 4th, 14th, and 18th degrees on our newest candidates, and we will be following up with the remaining two degrees in Long Beach on the 8th of June. I wish to thank all those involved in putting on the reunion, from Wardrobe, Stage Craft, music, lights, videos, class director/education and the members of each degree cast. I think this is one of the best performances we have produced in a very long time. Good Job guys and thank you for all your hard work.

In light of the Spring Class, we are planning to preform our Cap and Ring ceremony at our September



Stated meeting, so please make plans to attend. Other notes of importance are the July **New England Picnic** to be held on July 27th with a planning meeting scheduled for July 8th. As most of you know this Picnic is a major undertaking for our valley and requires lots of support as well as ticket sales. Please support on both ends, Tickets and Set up/Serve and Clean up. With the effort of all our active members I know this will again be a huge success. Also note, in addition to ticket sales we have our silent auction/raffle which also is a huge money maker for this event, so please donate or find others to donate new items to be auctioned/raffled, and come and put your tickets in the baskets for what you want to win.

A final note, our dinner attendance has been falling off over the past couple years as well as our
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PR's Quill

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ability to make reservations. With that thought in mind first I encourage all who can attend please try to be a part of our meetings and programs; as for the ladies who attend I will assure you the business part of the meeting will be short and to the point in order not to hold you up too long. We continue to search for ways to shorten the meetings and have met with much success. Lastly, PLEASE make your reservations in a timely manner so our cook knows how much food to prepare. We do pay for meals requested so if you make a reservation and do not show up, please send in your fee or plan to

pay for it at your next dinner meeting. I have made it simple and cheap for those who have trouble with this: buy the annual dinner reservations. You can still get in at a pro-rated fee for remaining of the year, just ask!

I want to say "Happy Mothers' Day" to all our ladies and invite you to dinner on the house in May. As always, I look forward to visiting with you during social hour and dinner.

God Bless, and Hope to See You at Dinner!

III. Jerry E. Gonzales 33°

<http://www.venturascottishrite.org/>
<http://www.scottishritecalifornia.org/>
<https://scottishrite.org/>
<http://www.casr-foundation.org/>

Upcoming Events

(continued from page 2)

Clinic. See the flier on page 6 for more information. It is vitally important for us to **sell tickets** to make this event successful. Please invite your friends and members of your Masonic family. (The last day for ticket sales is July 19.) We will also need lots of help the day of the Picnic to pull it off. And we need items for our raffle, which provides a major portion of our profits. Please give us all the help you can to make this event successful.

After all the activity in July, we will take some time to relax. We will be dark in August.

It is not too soon to begin thinking about the officers for next year. We hope to have more offices filled and to reestablish our progressive lines so that the officers may prepare for the coming years. When asked, please help by taking an office.

Our highway cleanups will be on Saturdays, May 18, June 15, July 20, and August 17. Meet at the Café 126, 11033 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 am for breakfast.

News of the Valley

On April 9 we lost our oldest member, Donald Wright, at age 105. Brother Don, who received his Scottish Rite degrees in 1943, was raised in St. Peter's Lodge #31, F&AM, Bradford, New Hampshire on March 18, 1942. In 2017 several members of our Valley were present when Brother Don received his 75-year presentation.

We heard from Brother Hector Lopez, 32°, in Colorado. who writes "Please communicate to the Brethren that I'm doing extremely well and if everything keeps going good I'll be installed as WM of Mosaic Lodge 184 AF&AM on 1/11/2020 @ High Noon. On my installation day I have a big event in the works. I'll keep the Brethren updated on the specifics. It's been a challenge unlearning California ritual and learning Colorado's. I truly appreciate and love all my Brothers from Oxnard 341 and our Scottish Rite Valley. The example everyone has shown my family and I have given us a fabulous foundation in Masonry that's gifted me the privilege of making the 7 year journey as WM in 3 yrs. I hope everyone in our Valley is in the best of health and spirits. I will continue to keep giving the Brethren how everything's going in Colorado."

At our March stated meeting our speaker was none other than

our own Sir Knight Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH. Fred gave a humorous talk in which he read excerpts of school children's explanations of history.

At our April stated meeting we watched an interesting video by Masonic author Kevin L. Gest speaking about the symbolism in the Entered Apprentice apron, from his book *Freemasonry Decoded*.

On March 25 we held our annual Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony, including the Remembrance of Departed Brethren, the traditional explanation of Passover and the Last Supper, the Mystic Banquet, and the Extinguishing and Relighting of the Lights.



Please also see the photo on the cover.

On April 6th we held the first part of our Spring Class, in which we conferred the 4th, 14th, and 18th Degrees on Brothers Robert Sturgeon and Javier Hernandez. A big Thank You goes out to all the cast members, stagecraft, and other workers who made this event a success.

NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC

The Twenty Ninth Annual **New England Picnic** Saturday, July 27, 2019

10:00AM to 4:00PM • Serving 12pm to 1pm

Camarillo Grove Park- 6968 E. Camarillo Springs Road

(101 Exit - Camarillo Springs Road) Location of event - Area #1 • Parking Fee Paid

Cost - \$45.00 for Lobster

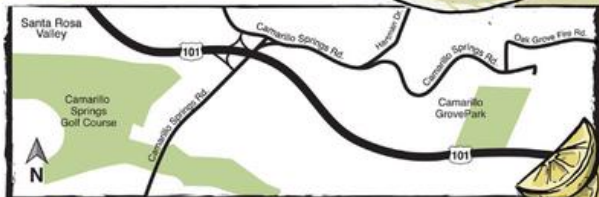
Cost - \$35.00 for Steak

Includes: corn on the cob, coleslaw,
garlic bread, and mussels (if available)

Bring your own platter!

- Free Hot Dogs for Kids
- Entertainment by SheriMerryADD
- Raffle

To donate raffle items contact:
Erik Cortez 805-760-5085



Call for Information & Tickets: Earl G. Williams, 32° 626/367-7954

Cut-off date for tickets - July 19, 2019 • Checks payable to: Ventura County Scottish Rite
Available to Members, Family & Friends • *No Refunds*

Sponsored by the Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies
Benefiting Santa Barbara RiteCare Childhood Language Center • www.sbspeech.com

From The Kitchen Staff

Dinner Menu

May 13, 2019, Stated Meeting Dinner

Chicken Enchilada Casserole
Mexican Rice
Refried Beans or Black Beans
Mixed Vegetables
Pound Cake

Cost \$15.00/Individual

Ladies are complementary (but RSVP required)

RSVP by Thursday, May 9th, 2019

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

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

June 10, 2019, Stated Meeting Dinner

Broiled Montreal Steak
Garlic Potatoes
Peas & Carrots
Bread
Salad
Brownies

Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple

RSVP by Thursday, June 6th, 2019

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

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

Dinner Reservations

2019 Dinner Reservation Policy:

Prorated Annual Reservations for the remainder of 2019 are available at the rate of \$15.00/\$25.00 per remaining dinner meeting. At the time of this writing there are 6 remaining dinner meetings.

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 4 days in advance.

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

As always Widows are guests of the Valley with or without reservations! (Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from non-reservation price.)

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

DECODING SECRET MASONIC SYMBOLISM OF DOGS PLAYING POKER

The turn-of-the-(last)-century lithograph by Bro. Cassius Marcellus Coolidge (1844–1934) has had an extremely long, ahem, tail: Wherever American men congregate in rec rooms and sports bars throughout the land, you will find their doggy doppelgangers. Playing poker. (See <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-painting-dogs-playing-poker-endured-100-years>) Now, it is revealed that the lovable band of canine buds, best known for their card playing, is actually a secret club of Freemasons.

The evidence? An examination of Riding the Goat (see <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/decoding-the-secret-freemason-symbolism-of-idogs-playing-poker-54667>), a lesser-known work of the series, depicting the famed dogs engaged in a mysterious ritual involving masks, cone-shaped hats, blindfolds, and one dog perched atop a goat. In fact, to true Dogs Playing Poker aficionados, the Freemason connection is old hat. Brother Coolidge's involvement with the Masonic Lodge in his town of Antwerp, New York, is part of his official

biography.

As for the symbolism of the Riding the Goat, here is an article in the *Winterthur Journal*, "Riding the Goat: Secrecy, Masculinity, and Fraternal High Jinks in the United States, 1845–1930s," by Boston University art history professor William D. Moore, who breaks down the symbolism (and helpfully explains the complex humor of the work):

In Coolidge's image entitled "Riding the Goat," a variety of dogs have gathered within a fraternal lodge room to initiate what appears to be a St. Bernard by having him ride a goat while blindfolded. Three officers, denoted as such by their ceremonial collars and their location in monumental chairs behind a desk, look on while a spaniel holds a rope, which in Masonic argot is called a "cabletow," secured around the candidate's neck. Behind the main figures, the lodge secretary, another St. Bernard, is recording the fact that the candidate has joined the organization. Some of the canines sport circular hats, which are employed by the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry to denote elevated institutional status. Many of the dogs are smoking, consuming tobacco both through pipes and as cigars.

The humor in this composition is derived, as it is in many of Brother Coolidge's works, from the canine actors pursuing human activities. The dogs provide the punch line in this visual anecdote. The goat is simply a commonplace of the lodge room, comparable to the ceremonial paraphernalia or the monumental chairs. Significantly, the goat is fully under the control of the lodge members. Although the St. Bernard is blindfolded, he retains his composure.

The official website that ministers the Dogs Playing Poker legacy offers the following commentary on the image, from someone identified as an "Unknown Mason," confirming that it lives on as a symbol within present-day Masons:

The Cassius Coolidge dog picture of "Riding the Goat" is Masonic in nature and yes it was sometimes used as a joke between members and potential members. It depicts one of the first three principal degrees of Freemasonry.

The dog riding the goat is wearing a blindfold. The blindfold is an important part of the first three degrees of Freemasonry and has a specific and symbolic meaning in each degree. The rope around his neck is called a "cable tow" and it too has a particular, significant and symbolic meaning in the particular degree this picture represents.

The three dogs sitting to the left at the desk indicate the three principal officers of any Masonic Lodge and on the necklace type collars they are wearing are the jewels of their office (each jewel being of a different shape and having its own significant meaning).

The dog to the right of the three at the desk is wearing a red cap. In Scottish Rite Masonry this cap is the emblem of a KCCH mason. A couple of the dogs are wearing blue caps. This too has a particular meaning in Scottish Rite Masonry. It is symbol that represents a fifty-year mason (meaning he was initiated fifty or more years ago).

So, as you can see, there are things in the picture that any Mason can clearly see.



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.*

John Klopstein, (805) 486-0602
Larry Toumi, (805)987-1738
Thom Piper, (805)208-8004
William R. Wood

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, (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.*

Donald Gay Wright crossed on 4/9/2019



**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.∴ Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°.....	(805)986-3656	jeg522@yahoo.com
Treasurer..... M.W. Russ E. Charvonia, 33°.....	(805)258-1037	rcharvonia@freemason.org
Secretary.....Ill.∴ W. Andrew Little, 33°.....	(805)415-3776	alittle93012@gmail.com
Almoner.....Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°.....	(805)649-8177	sjl273prez@hotmail.com
Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks..John A. Argue, 32° KCCH.....	(805)498-4831	mayfieldpark@aol.com
Asst Almoner Santa Paula.....Ill.∴ E. Floyd Griffin, 33°.....	(805)525-5932	efgriffin@verizon.net
Asst Almoner Camarillo.....William F. Campbell, 32° KCCH.....	(805)482-7523	bcncampbell@verizon.net
Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH.....	(805)241-6968	jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
Prelate.....Francis Villareal, 32°.....	(805)366-2924	eo1.scw@gmail.com
Director of the Work.....		
Class Director.....Michael D. Blodgett, 32°.....	(805)390-0114	mdblodgett@gmail.com
Historian.....Ill.∴ Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°.....	(805)484-4150	fred_pttr@yahoo.com
Tyler.....Mark T. Torrez, 32°.....	(805)290-3200	mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master.....Steven R. Goad, 32°..... (760)608-1585 steve.goad9@gmail.com

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master.....Ryan A. Phillips, 32°..... (805)443-2906
ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com

Council of Kadosh

Commander.....Roy G. Price, 32°..... (805)276-8946 venturaprice@yahoo.com

Consistory

Master of Kadosh.....James L. Craig, 32° KCCH..... (805)804-7247
jlrcraig19@gmail.com

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Dinner Reservations.....Harold W. Bogner, 32° KCCH.....	(805)484-7657	hbogner@smartsourcellc.com
Membership, VMAP Chair.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH.....	(805)241-6968	jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
Highway Cleanup.....Jim R. Deardorff, 32° KCCH.....	(805)643-6905	james.deardorff805@gmail.com
Stagecraft.....Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°.....	(805)649-8177	sjl273prez@hotmail.com
Stagecraft Emeritus.....Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH.....	(805)524-3362	mgmetzler@aol.com
Newsletter Editor.....Ill.∴ W. Andrew Little, 33°.....	(805)415-3776	alittle93012@gmail.com

Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at 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

2019

Views from Ventura Valley
May - August

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

- Mon May 13 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by May 9*), Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. (Mothers Day). [VM]
- Sat May 18 Highway Clean Up, Breakfast 7:00 am, Café 126, 11033 Citrus Dr. by Wells Rd., Saticoy
- Mon June 10 Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, (*Reservations by Jun 6*), Program 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following. [WM]
- Sat June 15 Highway Clean Up, Breakfast 7:00 am, Café 126, 11033 Citrus Dr, Saticoy
- Mon July 8 Pizza Dinner 6:30 pm, Planning Meeting for New England Picnic
- Sat July 20 Highway Clean Up, Breakfast 7:00 am, Café 126, 11033 Citrus Dr, Saticoy
- Sat July 27 NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC, Serving Time 12 Noon – 1 pm, Camarillo Grove Park**

