

VOL. XXXIII November - Becember 2010

Issue 1

Feast of Tishri



Ceremonial Toast

Views from Ventura Valley November - December

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXIII, Issue number 1. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of California, 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 805-484-5222. 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: Feast of Tishri

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Brother Raul Cifuentes, 32°, leads the Bodies in one of the ceremonial toasts of the evening during the ceremony marking the dedication of King Solomon's Temple.

Upcoming Events

Our next Stated Meeting will be on Monday, November 8th. Brothers Roger Rider, 32° KCCH, and Mel Young, 32° KCCH will again be in charge of preparing the dinner. It is imperative that you make your reservations with Brother Tom Fanslow, 32°, by Friday evening, November 5. Please email him if possible at fantom1938@yahoo.com, otherwise call him at 482-3604 (leave message).

The big event of the evening will be the Cap and Ring Ceremony, where we welcome our newest members, Brothers James Clay, 32°, and Erik Hansen, 32°, and present them with their 32nd Degree hats and 14th Degree rings. We will also have the report of the nominating committee.

For December we will hold our regular stated meeting on December

13. Dinner will be at 6:30 with reservations required. At the stated meeting we will elect our officers for the coming year.

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Our next highway cleanups will be on November 13th and December 18th. 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

At the recent Grand Lodge Communication two of our members were selected as Grand Lodge Officers for 2010-2011. Brother John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH, was elected Senior Grand Warden, and Brother David W. Smith, 32°, was appointed Junior Grand Steward. Congratulations, brethren.

Congratulations are also due to our prelate, Brother Walter W. Bragulla, 32° KCCH, on receiving his Golden Veteran's Award for 50 years as a Master Mason on September 2nd, and to Ill.: Harry L. Maynard, 33°, who is scheduled to receive his Golden Veteran's Award on November 4th, both in Channel Islands Lodge #214.

We send our condolences to Ill∴ (continued on page 4)

From the PR's Quill

Ill.: Tom Melugin, 33°

With Deepest Sympathy Illustrious Don Leach and family.

For today, tomorrow and always, may your sorrow be lifted by the memories that bring peace to your soul.

In an effort to make contact with absent brethren, The Supreme Council has initiated an outreach program called Brother to Brother. Each Valley is to endeavor to contact either by phone or in person, if possible, all our brethren that we have not seen or heard from lately. Brother Thom Piper, chairman of the membership committee. has made several contacts so far and has left a lot of phone messages. One contact he made a lady answered the phone, Thom identified himself as being from Scottish Rite. The lady velled out "it's someone from the Scottish Rite." Thom heard another voice yell out, "I don't want to talk to them." Hmmm! Anyway, Thom has enlisted some help and they will hopefully contact everyone on the list.

Brothers Mel Young and Roger Rider have taken over the cooking chores. They had originally agreed to do it for the months of September and October. I had



asked Roger if they would consider becoming full timers. He discussed with Mel and they are going to stay on. Thank you both, I appreciate it. If you have any special dishes that you like and would want them to prepare I am sure they would be open to suggestions. Brother Tom Fanslow has taken over the unenviable task of handling dinner reservations and has made arrangements for the Rainbow Girls to do the serving and clean up. Thank you Brother Tom.

Now, I need someone to step up and take over the bar. The last time I put out this request, and I was only looking for a bartender, I received one response.

Thoughts from Our Prelate

Walt Bragulla, 32° KCCH

I met a Dear Old Man today who wore a Masonic pin...

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It was old and faded like the man - its edges worn and thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat to give the old Brother his due...

I said, "I see you've traveled East". He said, "I have, have you?"

I said, I have and in my day before the All Seeing Sun...

I played in the Rubble with Jubala, Jubilo and Jubalum.

He shouted, "Don't laugh at the Work my Son. It's Good and Sweet and True....

And if you've traveled as you said, you should give these things a Due."

The Word, the Sign, the Token, the Sweet Masonic Prayer...

The Vow that you have taken, you have climbed the Inner Stair.

The wages of the Mason are never paid in Gold...

But the gain comes from contentment when you're Weak and Growing Old.

Sometimes the greatest lessons are those that are learned anew...



And the old man in the park today has changed my point of view. To all my Masonic Brothers, the Only Secret is to Care...
May you live upon the Level, and part upon the Square.

Anonymous

One more point, whatever your Party and point of view, remember this great country that gives us the privilege of being a Mason in Freedom. On November 2, 2010 VOTE!

News of the Valley

(continued from page 2)

Don Leach on the loss of his wife, Mary, who recently passed away.

At our October stated meeting we celebrated the Feast of Tishri. All the participants did a fine job with the ceremonies.

Robert Sills, 32° KCCH, Wise Master Commitment

"Commitment: Personal commitment, interaction dominated by obligations. These obligations may be mutual, or selfimposed, or explicitly stated, or may not. Distinction is often made between commitment as a member of an organization (such as a sporting team, a religion, or as an employee), and a personal commitment, which is often a pledge or promise to one's self for personal growth." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

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I like to believe that my commitment to Masonic bodies and in particular to the Scottish Rite Bodies of Ventura County is "mutual" with my brethren and I know it is certainly "self-imposed." Why have this commitment? I didn't join the Ventura bodies for business or as many did in earlier times to become a Shriner. If those had been my reasons I could have remained in the Los Angeles Valley, pay my dues and avoid going to meetings; this I had done for many years. No, the reason I became an active participant in the Ventura bodies was for "personal growth."

I had been active in my blue lodge for years. I am a past master, have served on Grand Lodge committees, coached candidates, planned events and worked on degree teams. I joined and read the publications of the Southern



California Research Lodge, the Masonic Book Club and thought I was knowledgeable about Masonry. Alas, something was missing. I decided that I wanted to learn more. Not about ritual or how to plan an event, but about what it really means to be a Mason. What was the Scottish Rite really all about? It was clear to me that the Rite was different from blue lodge Masonry. Yes, there is ritual in the lodges and therefore there are lessons to be learned. But Lodges have a very large social component, Lodges have or should have a significant presence in the community, Lodge support charities both internally, by way of (continued on page 8)

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Views from Ventura Valley

November - December

Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, Commander of Kadosh The Council Degrees

The degrees of the Council of Kadosh are chivalric and philosophical, but also contain mystical material. The word "Kadosh" is a Hebrew word meaning "Holy". The complexity of these degrees cannot be overstated and is exemplified by the number of pages attributed to them in Morals and Dogma. The twenty-eighth degree alone is over a quarter of the 1000+ page tome.

Source:

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http://www.scottishritecalifornia.o rg/council_of_kadosh.htm





19th Degree - Grand Pontiff: The lessons of this degree are learned from the past and how it affects the present and the way we live in the future. We always strive to endure, produce and improve the world as it surrounds us. *There is no apron*, but *the iewel* is a gold "parallelogram" (rectangle) with a Greek Alpha on one side and an Omega on the other.



20th Degree - Master of the Symbolic Lodge: This degree shows us Liberty, Fraternity and Equality. These teach moral, religious and philosophical understanding. This degree helps one to comprehend Deity, forces of nature, good and evil. *The* apron is yellow, bordered in blue, with three concentric pointdown triangles, with the Tetragrammaton (horizontal) and "Fiat Lux" (vertical) at the center, forming a cross. Its triangular shape relates to the "fourth great light, which reminds us of the Deity and his attributes." The jewel is gold, with the same three concentric triangles.



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21st Degree - Noachite, or Prussian Knight: The lesson from this degree is to learn that arrogance; defamation and cowardice are unworthy attributes of a mason, and that humility, modesty and courtesy are the true virtues of men and Masons. The apron is yellow, and contains an arm holding a sword, and a winged figure holding a key in the left hand, and the right forefinger on the lips (the "Egyptian figure of Silence"). The jewel is a point-up triangle, with an arrow, point downward, an arm holding a sword, and the motto "Fiat Justitia, Ruat Coelum."



22nd Degree - Knight Royal Axe, Prince of Libanus: This degree teaches, "if a job is worth doing its worth doing well". By doing good work we improve character and become better citizens. The apron is white, bordered in purple, and contains a three-headed serpent and a table with instruments and plans on it. The jewel is an axe and handle of gold. On the top of the handle are the initials of Noah and Solomon. In the middle of the handle are the initials of Libanus and Tsidun. On the blade are the initials of Adoniram, Cyrus, Darius, Zerubbabel, Nehemiah, Ezra (on one side), and Shem, Kham, Yapheth, Moses, Ahaliab, Betselal (on the other).



23rd Degree - Chief of the Tabernacle: This degree teaches that the man who forgets his duty to God, family, country, and himself will be in danger of moral and spiritual destruction by thoughts of unworthy ambition. The apron is white, bordered with red, blue, and purple ribbons. These colors, from the curtains of the Tabernacle, represent earth, fire, air, and sea, respectively, as well as the Lord's beneficence, glory, wisdom, and power. On the apron is the golden seven-branched candlestick, representing the seven planets and virtues: Sun, faith ("aspiration toward the infinite"); Moon, hope; Venus, charity; Mars, fortitude ("victory over rage and anger"); Mercury, prudence; Saturn, temperance; Jupiter (conqueror of the Titans), justice. The jewel is a small silver censer, or ornamented cup, held by a handle in the shape of an open hand.



24th Degree - Prince of the Tabernacle: In this degree a Mason must show evidence of compassion, piety and justice. After initiation he may "manifest faithfully the social virtues in order to receive the rewards", to serve humanity through our brotherhood. The apron is of white lambskin, with scarlet, green, and blue. On it is a violet myrtle tree, and a gold representation of an Arabian tent. The jewel is the Hebrew letter ALEPH, suspended from a violet ribbon.

Chapter Rose Croix

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Masonic Homes and the Masonic Foundation, and externally as in the case of support for public schools.

I have determined that the Rite is the place to contemplate and fine tune your "personnel growth," not as a Mason but as a person. Often it is said that "Masonry makes good men better." The Rite is the place that this process really resides. The men, who at this time are joining our ranks have said they want to learn more of the philosophy of Masonry; the

Scottish Rite is the training field to bring that knowledge to the fore.

Beginning in January and for the next twelve months there will be monthly presentations discussions of what the degrees teach, what Masonic writers and writing Masons are saving and how Freemasonry in fact makes us better men. I am asking that each of you commit to come to the monthly Scottish Rite Meeting. Enter in to the discussions, suggest a topic for discussion, and even offer to present or lead a discussion. If you haven't been to a meeting its time to find out what's going on.

Conejo Valley DeMolay Chapter Reactivated



We are happy to report that Conejo Chapter, Order of DeMolay, has been reactivated, becoming the only DeMolay Chapter currently operating in Ventura County. The Chapter is now looking for new members and for adults willing to serve as advisors. If you know of a

young man between the ages of 12 and 21 who may be interested in joining please contact Ill.: Andy Little, 33°, at (805) 415-3776.

DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to successful, happy, productive lives. Basing its approach on timeless principles and practical, hands-on experience, DeMolay opens doors for young men aged 12 to 21 by developing the civic awareness, personal responsibility leadership skills so vitally needed in society today. DeMolay combines this serious mission with a fun approach that builds important bonds of friendship among members in more than 1,000 chapters worldwide.

The Order of DeMolay was founded in 1919 in Kansas City, Missouri, by Frank S. Land, a Scottish Rite mason who was then serving as the secretary of the local Scottish Rite bodies.

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR RESERVATIONS

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH TOM FANSLOW, PREFERABLY

BY EMAIL AT FANTOM 1938@ YAHOO.COM, OTHERWISE CALL 482-3604

(LEAVE A MESSAGE), NO LATER THAN THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE DINNER.

We no longer have a standing reservation list. You MUST email or call in your reservations.

Menu for November and December

November 8, 2010, Stated Meeting

Beef Stew

Corn Bread
Salad
The Usual Libations
Dessert

Price: \$10.00 per person

December 13, 2010, Stated Meeting

Hamburger Supreme (Hot Dish)

Dinner Rolls
Vegetables
Salad
The Usual Libations
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

The Council of Kadosh

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25th Degree - Knight of the Brazen Serpent: This degree tackles the concept of pure, celestial, eternal soul of man. He looks within his faith, life, and God and to get a clear look at his inner self. The apron is white, lined in black, and with gold stars on the white side (Pleiades, Hyades, Orion, Capella) and with silver stars on the black side (Perseus, Scorpio, Bootes). Also on it is a serpent, ouroboros, surrounding a scarab, a triangle in a glory with the Tetragrammaton in its center, and the four initials of the stars Regulus, Aldebaran, Antares, and Fomalhaut. The jewel is a gold tau cross (crux ansata) with a serpent entwined around it, and the Hebrew words HLThI ("he has suffered or been wounded") and NChShThN ("the Brazen Serpent") on it.



26th Degree - Prince of Mercy, or Scottish Trinitarian: In this degree we search for "the rewards of the trinity of God's attributes - wisdom or intelligence, force or strength, harmony or beauty." The apron is scarlet, bordered in white, with a green triangle (point-down) in the center. In the triangle are the initials of Force, Wisdom, and Harmony, and a flaming heart of gold with the initials I.H.S. (Jesus Hominum Salvator; or Imperium, Harmonia, Sapientia). The jewel is gold, and is the same triangle, suspended by a purple ribbon.



27th Degree - Knight of the Sun, or Prince Adept: This degree teaches that our love for God manifests itself in our love for Truth, Justice and Nobility of Soul. *The apron* is white lambskin, with a vermilion pentagram. *The jewel* is a golden sun on the obverse, and a hemisphere, showing the northern half of the ecliptic (Taurus to Libra) and zodiac.



28th Degree - Knight Commander of the Temple: The lesson of this degree teaches us to scorn selfishness, and to uphold the knightly virtues of charity, truth and honor. We should always strive to assist the poor, helpless and infirmed. The apron is of scarlet lambskin, lined in black, with a Teutonic Cross (cross potent sable, charged with a smaller cross double potent or, surcharged with the escutcheon of the Empire - the two-headed black eagle) and a black key surrounded by a laurel wreath. The jewel is a gold triangle, on which the word I.R.N.I. is enameled.



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29th Degree - Scottish Knight of Saint Andrew: The virtues of this degree are "Love of God, loyalty to superiors, faithful adherence to promise and active resistance to unfair judgment." There is no apron. The jewel has two parts: on top is a gold hexagram, made of concave-outward triangles, with a compass open to 25 degrees inside it. On the bottom is suspended a gold St. Andrew's cross ("X"), with a knight's helmet, winged serpent ouroboros, key, and a point-down triangle. In the center of the cross is a Hebrew YOD, and on its points, clockwise from bottom, the Hebrew letters N M I N.



30th Degree - Knight of Kadosh, or Knight of the White and Black Eagle: The lesson of this degree is to be true to ourselves, to stand for what is right and just in our lives today. To believe in God, country and ourselves. There is no apron, but the jewel is a gold Teutonic cross, enameled in red, with the letters J.'.B.'.M.'. on the obverse, and a skull transpierced by a poniard on the reverse.

I thought that the last article that I would share with you is a short history of the degrees that I found on the link listed above. This short review shows a "cliff notes" listing of the degrees that we go through prior to presenting the 30^{th} degree.

I have so appreciated the hard work and efforts put forth by the four heads of bodies this year. It has been an honour to serve with you for the past year. It has been unique to have all the heads of bodies from the same lodge. Much discussion has taken place at many different times about the Valley and things that we can do to improve it. Many of you that attend and support the Valley realize that no ONE person can make things happen in putting on the degrees or different programs. presenting Brothers Bestwick, Sills and Metzler are involved in many different aspects in masonry. These brothers have had a hard time with the word "NO". They are <u>always</u> willing to help to make things happen and want the best for the Valley. Thanks for your service. I am proud to work with you.

To the brethren who attend and support the work of the Valley, you are the people that "GET ER DONE". That attitude not only shows in your efforts in our Valley, but also in other bodies. You know who you are.....

To the members of our Valley, come down to support YOUR Valley. Without YOU we do not have a Valley.

Respectfully and fraternally,

Harold W. Bogner, 32° KCCH Commander Council of Kadosh

The Consistory

Steve Bestwick, 32° KCCH, Master of Kadosh

Where Did the Consistory Come From?

riginally, the Latin word consistorium meant simply 'sitting together', just as the Greek syn(h)edrion (of which the Biblical Sanhedrin was a corruption).

2010

In the Roman Empire, it was specifically applied to a formal meeting of the Comites consistoriales, i.e. those members of the Emperor's court with the title of Comes who were assigned — and this conferred the highest rank amongst Comites.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consistory

The meetings of members of the Thirty-second Degree, or Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, are called Consistories. The elective officers are, according to the ritual of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, a Commander-in-Seneschal, Chief. Preceptor, Chancellor, Minister of State, Almoner, Registrar, and Treasurer. In the Northern Jurisdiction it is slightly different, the second and third officers being called Lieutenant-Commanders. Consistory confers the Thirty-first and Thirty-second Degrees of the Rite in the Southern Jurisdiction: in the Northern Jurisdiction the Consistory confers the Degrees from the Nineteenth to the Thirty-second inclusive.

Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry



Consistory

The Consistory Degrees are very different from each other in form and content. The 31° reveals the dynamic relationship that has existed for centuries between human law as a means of achieving justice, and divine justice as an ideal. The 32° reviews the degrees of the Lodge of Perfection, the Chapter of Rose Croix and the Council of Kadosh. In it we learn the very ancient roots of Masonic Truth in the East!

"Where Freemasonry flourishes, there will be found the highest type of citizenship and the best standard of living." Albert Pike

(continued on next page)

31° - Inspector Inquisitor

In this degree the apprentice learns prayerful self-examination. mistakes today should not be committed tomorrow. Simply, the daily look at oneself to learn to live with the future. No apron is worn in the Supreme Tribunal, but the traditional apron displayed is of pure white lambskin with a Teutonic Cross of black and silver embroidered upon the flap. The jewel is a silver Teutonic cross. The jewel is suspended from a white collar, with a gold triangle with a "31" inside it. The duty is to judge yourself in the same light as vou judge others, considering both actions and motives.

SPES MEA IN DEO EST "My hope is in God"

32° - Master of the Royal Secret

The lessons taught in this degree are that genuine brotherhood requires mutual regard, opinion, esteem and charity. We always look for the good in all and make allowances for others' shortcomings. We trust the Supreme Architect to lead us to friendship, morality and brotherly love. The apron of

this degree is white, lined in black, with a double-headed eagle and a plan of the Camp of the Princes. The jewel worn is a golden Teutonic Cross. In the center are the letters XXXII, surrounded by a green wreath. The cap of a Master of the Royal Secret is black silk with a black band trimmed in gold. In the center front is a double-headed eagle emblem with a raved equilateral triangle above in gold. The triangle is red, has 32° in its center and is trimmed with gold. The duties are: a Soldier of the Light seeks truth and knowledge; a Soldier Freedom demands for the people free vote and voice and attains freedom of voice, vote and opinion for himself; a Soldier of the True Religion combats spiritual tyranny with reason and truth; a Soldier of the People encourages men to be self-reliant and independent; a Soldier of Scottish Rite Masonry is zealous and ardent in the performance of his duties to God, his country, his family, his brethren and himself

Views from Ventura Valley

September - October

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 Donald Wright, 642-6621 Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101 Jim Daniels, 984-7272

2010

Clarence Jackson, 658-4859 James Clay, 312-5538 Gonzalo Hernandez, 485-0166 Tom Fanslow, 482-3604

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.

James Mullen crossed on 7/9/2010 Lawrence Walter Hurliman crossed on 8/20/2010 James Edward Spoor crossed on 9/10/2010

Useful Contacts Officers of All the Bodies Treasurer Roger Rider, 32° KCCH 983-3025 rider4sd@msn.com Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks ... John Argue, 32° KCCH......498-4831mayfieldpark@aol.com Director of the Work Steven J. Bestwick, 32° KCCH.......658-0190.....bestwick@adelphia.net Lodge of Perfection Venerable Master Michael G. Metzler, 32° KCCH524-3362mgmetzler@aol.com Senior Warden Thom Piper, 32° 581-6122 thompiper@chance.com Chapter Rose Croix Wise Master Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH 981-8262 rlsills@rlsills.com guspastmaster710@yahoo.com Council of Kadosh 1st Lt. Commander David H. Lieberthal 32° 241-7158 david@lieberthal net 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 eric.lyke@att.net Women's Association President. Terrie Metzler 524-3362 Terrie Toad 2004@aol.com Secretary Nola Bragulla 644-2055 nrbpg@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..........644-2055nrbpg@sbcglobal.net Highway Cleanup Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH 643-6905 deardorff@dslextreme.com Stagecraft Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH 524-3362 mgmetzler@aol.com 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. or FAX us at (253) 276-4055

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Pike

487 Appletree Ave Camarillo, CA

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Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email fantom1938@yahoo.com, or call 482-3604

5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Cap and Ring Ceremony 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following

(Report of Nominating Committee) Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy

Sat

Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Election of Officers
Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy

Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Installation of Officers 7:20 PM Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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