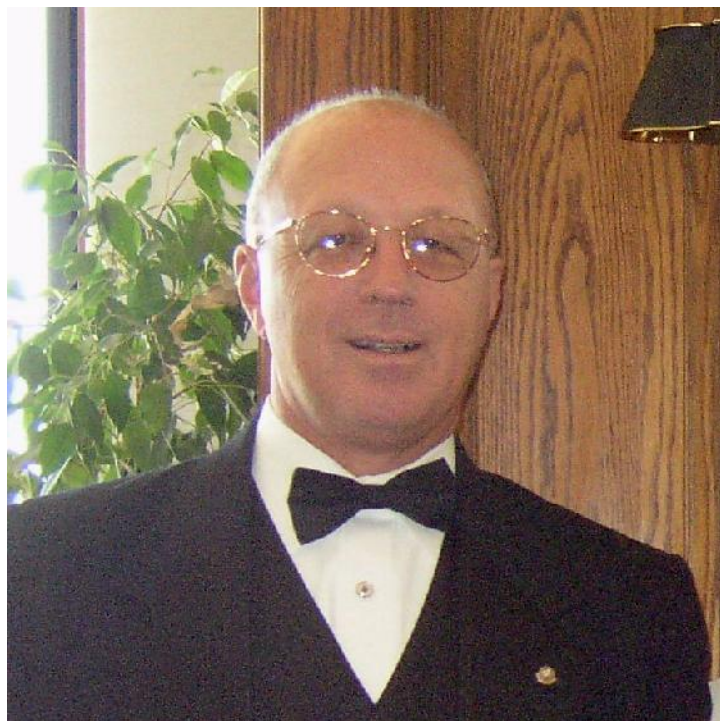


Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of California, Valley of Ventura, Scottish Rite

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXV November - December 2012 Issue 1



**Most Worshipful John F. Lowe
Grand Master**

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXV, 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, 487Appletree 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: New Grand Master

The cover shows our newly installed Grand Master of Masons in California, our very own John F. Lowe. Congratulations, Most Worshipful John, and best wishes for a successful year.

Several other members of our Valley will be assisting Most Worshipful John this coming year: Right Worshipful Russell E. Charvonias, 33°, as the Senior Grand Warden, Ill.; G. Thomas Melugin, 33°, as Senior Grand Deacon, and Brother Marc A. Newman, 32°, as the Grand Sword Bearer.

Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting will be Monday, November 12. Dinner is at 6:30 PM. Remember to make your reservations through Harold Bogner (harold55@juno.com, or 484-7657). We will have the report of the Nominating Committee. If you are willing to serve in an office next year please let the officers know so that they may consider you.

Our December 10 stated meeting will be our annual Election of Officers for 2013. Please come out and make your voice heard, and let next year's officers know that they

can depend on your support.

Looking ahead, on January 14, 2013 we will install our officers for the next year.

Also on the schedule, our candidate, Brother Michael Blodgett, will receive his degrees by courtesy of the Valley of Pasadena on November 9, 10, 16, and 17 (Friday evening and Saturday morning / early afternoon of those dates). It would be great if some of our members could come down and support him.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, November 17th and December 15th. 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

Prior to our September stated meeting Wise Master Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH, gave a short presentation on Filipino dress and culture. Under Further Light in Masonry Brother Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, discussed the characteristics of different generations and how they affect masonry.

Prior to our October stated meeting we observed the traditional Feast of Tishri. Our thanks to Brother Bob Sills for coordinating this event.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Hello and welcome to the Valley of Ventura. I bring you greetings from the Illustrious William F. Stovall, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California, who will be stepping down this year as SGIG after many long years of service to the Rite. His Reception will be on Friday November 16th, 2012, at the Embassy Suites, Santa Ana. The Reception will start at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM, and Program at 7:30 PM. Many of you may have received an invitation with RSVP note. I am not sure if there is still time to RSVP but if you have an interest, let me know and I will make contact for you. Tiny Potter and I, as well as a few others, will be representing our Valley, as well as presenting the donation we voted on at our last meeting. Still no news as to who will be ILL.: Stovall's replacement, but there is a PR meeting prior to this event, where I am assuming his replacement will be announced.

Now on to some good news, Sir Knight Thom Piper is back, and has assumed his duties as Venerable Master for the remaining year! I will let him explain if he so desires at our dinner meeting, but from myself, family and the Valley, Welcome Home Thom and your lady Lynn. Although you were not far away, or gone for very long, your presence, or lack of, was duly noted. I will say that brother Raul did a really good job filling in during your absence. Again, Welcome home!



Well the year is closing out, only a couple more meetings before our annual Installation of Officers in January. I am working on the calendar and should have it out very soon for the upcoming year. The nomination committee is meeting and should have our perspective officers ready for nomination soon.

As I close I will leave you with two comments. Please do not forget to RSVP for Dinner with Sir Knight Bogner, and we will start taking Annual Pre Paid dinner reservations for the upcoming year; that is assuming we have someone to prepare dinner for us but I am still working on that issue. Looking forward to your smiling faces for dinner, so until then, thank you for all your support this past year.

Chapter of Rose Croix

Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH, Wise Master

Greetings Brethren,

How time flies and next thing we know Thanksgiving is just around the corner. There are so many things to be thankful for this year. I thank the Great Architect of the Universe for the continual due of His divine assistance to the officers of our valley; by your WISDOM we are instructed wisely. I thank also for the active members of the Scottish Rite; by your STRENGTH we are united as one common band. And I thank mostly for the continued support of our ladies; by your BEAUTY we are inspired to do good and strive to be better. Happy Thanksgiving in advance my BRETHERN.

November is also the month where we choose our next set of officers. I am very excited to find out who will be stepping up to the plate. Scottish Rite is very different from Blue Lodges in respect to taking official positions. We do not look upon the candidate's past leadership experience or qualifications as basic requirements before being elected. Being a Scottish Rite Mason is enough quality already. We believe in the inherent and God-given talent of each Brother who has gone through the various forms of our initiation. Scottish



Rite is a place to sharpen your tools and we are your Brethren, ready to assist in any difficulty you may have. My advance congratulations to those who will be elected and appointed for the ensuing year.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome again Bro. Thom Piper. He has returned to California (I don't know exactly where but I do hope Sis Lynn knows..lol) to be with us again for the remainder of his term. It is my pleasure to serve with him this year and I truly believe that I have found yet another worthy Brother in Masonry.

Fraternally Yours,
Bro. Paulo
Wise Master

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Antonio "Tony" Ramos, 32°, Commander of Kadosh
"FAMILY" The Cornerstone of Life

The Family, when properly fulfilled, is the cornerstone of life, the breath of all that is. Obviously, this insight urges the preservation, protection, and strengthening of family values. In addition, it relates to an important element in the lessons of the Scottish Rite — Duty is the one great law. Thus, above all else and as part of one's service to God, our duty as Masons is to be good fathers, husbands, sons, and Masonic Brethren faithful to our families and country.

Families are the basic unit of civilization, but they don't just happen. The family is nurtured by respect, understanding, self-discipline, enthusiasm, togetherness and, most of all, love. This takes time and effort and is aided by reflections from previous generations of family, friends, and Brethren.

When we were children, we were enriched by that which our parents and grandparents imparted to us. As parents, we in turn have conveyed those values to our children. And Masonry, like the family, passes on the values and wisdom of those who have gone before to prepare those that follow. If what we teach are quality values, they will aid in creating a more virtuous heritage for future generations.

Unfortunately, that wondrous future, which could be man's destiny,

is clouded by significant and not always positive cultural changes. During this rapid and continuing transformation, society has, admittedly, witnessed a steady decline in family values. Regardless of the agent of change, however, the future and its inherent problems are not going to fade away. Only a wise adjustment to the future will stay tomorrow's decay.

With the increased occurrence of man-made disasters as well as other mischief, with the seeming lack of toleration for differing philosophies and religions of humankind, it's evident that the values of society need modification. In matters of absolutes and incalculables, we all need better understanding of toleration.

Because the talk of fostering a good family is increasingly difficult, however, it is not sufficient reason to ignore the undertaking or underestimate its potential for good. What better way to face our entangled tomorrows than with the entrenched values of Freemasonry? As individuals and fraternal Brothers, we are rich in what we can contribute to humanity. It's also evident that each of us profits when we spiritually and intellectually touch the lives of others.

This past seventeen years, The Southern Jurisdiction joins the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in a "Family Life" program designed to
(continued to page 8)

The Consistory

Floyd Griffin, 33°, Master of Kadosh

Brethren:

It seems like only yesterday that we started the year, and now we are looking at the end of it.

We have had some great times and some disappointments. The disappointments that our Venerable Master (Thom Piper) moved to Arizona, but others moved in to help out. The Valley had a great New England Summer Picnic, thanks to the hard work of a lot of the members.

The disappointment was that we are not having the members like we have had in the past. There are new members in our Lodges and that tells us that we need to be visiting our lodges and inform our Brethren of the joy and fun along with the knowledge of masonry that is out there for them. It's true that all of us can find other things to do, but if a Brother in the past had not taken the time to talk to you, or inform you of the value and knowledge of Scottish Rite Masonry to you, where would you be?

Your Scottish Rite Valley needs your help, in many ways. Call one of the officers, make a reservation and come on out for dinner, then talk to one of your officers and volunteer. Who knows, you might enjoy it more than you thought.

If all of us don't take care of our Valley, Who Will?



Tomorrow starts the "First day of the rest of the Year". Remember it's not too late to start enjoying the friendship of brothers from days gone by.

If all of us could invite a Blue Lodge brother, think of the great class that awaits us, it just takes a little effort. Think of the rewarding feeling that would be, and the reward you would have is a new brother.

Brethren, I just put my article together, and then low and behold I received an e-mail from Thom Piper and he will be back, well forget the part that we lost him and come to the meeting this next month and say hello to Thom again, I'm sure that he would like to meet all of the brothers and greet them again. See how great MASONRY is when we are brothers.

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise 484-7657 (leave a message), one week before the dinner.

November 12, 2012, Stated Meeting

Ham and Beans

Corn Bread

Salad

Dessert

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

December 10, 2012, Stated Meeting Elections

Festive Dinner

(details to be announced)

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

HELP NEEDED

Our cook crew needs help setting up the dining area so that they can concentrate on preparing the food. If you can help with this important task, please contact Roger Rider (983-3025) or Tom Melugin (483-3092).

Thank you for your support.

Council of Kadosh

(continued from page 5)

celebrate and energize the spirit of family. It's a beautiful and noble cause. Masonic teachings actively seek to make good men into better men, good families into better families and, ultimately, to create a better world for all. This program will be a natural enhancement of Blue Lodge ideals extended by Scottish Rite activity.

While it's absurd to think our Order or any organization can totally impact on this problem, it would be irresponsible not to try. In general, the family unit is in trouble and needs help. The Supreme Council holds that the elements of a worthy family and family life are not only ordained by a Supreme Being to nourish the soul of every individual, but they also serve as the bedrock and moral strength of any group, even of a nation and of civilization itself.

At all times and especially through this "Family Life" program, each member of the Scottish Rite should realize how precious a family is and, honoring the Supreme Being which created it, endeavor to respect and improve his own family as well as assist the families of others. Similarly, members of all Masonic organizations should be encouraged to join in the celebration of good and wholesome family life by participating in their own "Family Life" endeavors.

Within each Scottish Rite Valley, for instance, Brethren should endeavor to foster those community programs and observances that hold

up the family as an invaluable asset to the state and country. Many Orients and Valleys already sponsor family life projects, and The Supreme Council has no intention of superseding those endeavors. It would, however, like Valleys to enhance, encourage, and expand their existing family programs, even creating new ones. One of Freemasonry's favored youth organizations is the Boy Scouts of America. Recently, that group commissioned a research study on "The Values of Men and Boys in America." The findings are as significant as they are obvious: "Men and boys of our country need more positive role models, who embody strong moral values and personal integrity." The study also suggests that the greater the involvement by youth in upright organizations (i.e., Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, etc.), the more positive the impact on values and achievements. Obviously, adult encouragement is the difference between success and failure in youth organizations.

Clearly, the term "family" has many meanings. For example, there is the Scottish Rite family, Childhood Language Disorders Clinic family, Masonic Youth Group family, individual Masonic family, and common ancestor family. All of these are families, and though the main thrust of the Scottish Rite's "Family Life" program is to help the common ancestor family, all of the above, and more, are inclusive of that relationship. Let your imagination be your guide. Walk the extra mile and involve yourself and your loved ones

in a variety of these special families and their activities.

Further information on specific suggested Scottish Rite "Family Life" activities and awards will be sent to the Orients for deliberation and dissemination. By your good work, let your light shine towards a better tomorrow characterized by stronger, happier families.

A wise poet once made the following observation. It speaks a truth that is immemorial, and seeks support for that which is yet to be:

No written word or mortal plea
Can teach young hearts what they
should be,

Nor all the books upon the shelves
But what the teachers are themselves.

Let's be good teachers and promote the family – first, last, and forever.

All Masonic organizations can help the development of wholesome family life by participating in the Scottish Rite's new "Family Life Program".

Jack E. Nixon, 33°, S.G.:I.:G.: in Wyoming., Chairman, Family Life Program, P.O. Box 698, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201-0698

Submitted by: Antonio "Tony" C. Ramos, 32', Commander of Kadosh

Scottish Rite Foundation Reception for Illustrious Robert Stovall, 33°, SGIG

TO: Personal Representatives, General Secretaries, Directors, Members, Committee Members and Officers

A Reception for the Chairman of the Board will be held on November 16, 2012 at 6:00 PM.

The Annual Foundation Meeting will be held on November 17, 2012 at 8:30 AM.

Location: Embassy Suites
1325 East Dyer Road
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Hotel has complimentary shuttle to and from John Wayne Airport (SNA)

Please share with your members and consider publishing in your newsletter

All information regarding this event will be forwarded in the near future...



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 Clarence Jackson, 658-4859
Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101 Edmund Heath, 340-7841

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, (nereus2006@sbcglobal.net or 647-8669) 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.

(fortunately we have nothing to report here)



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 Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° 484-5222..... alittle93012@gmail.com
 Treasurer Roger Rider, 32° KCCH 983-3025..... rider4sd@msn.com
 Almoner Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH 644-2055..... nrpq@sbcglobal.net
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 Asst Almoner Santa Paula Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° 525-5932..... egriffin@verizon.net
 Asst Almoner Camarillo William Campbell, 32° KCCH 482-7523..... bncampbell@verizon.net
 Orator Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH 981-8262..... rlsills@rlsills.com
 Prelate Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH 647-8669..... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Thom Piper, 32° KCCH 208-8004..... Thompiper2@aol.com
 Senior Warden J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° 241-6968..... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Junior Warden Augusto Garcia, 32° KCCH 832 4389..... guspastmaster710@yahoo.com

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH (619)947-5530..... paw_nmcl0@yahoo.com
 Senior Warden Eduardo M. Austria, 32° 986-4594..... emaustria@verizon.net

Council of Kadosh

Commander Tony Ramos, 32° 488-3782..... tonybie70@gmail.com
 1st Lt. Commander Daniel C. Poff, 32° 241-8080..... danpoff@yahoo.com

Consistory

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 Prior Kelly Sharp, 32° (661)713-9407..... thesaniterium@hotmail.com

Ladies' Association

President Mary Elizabeth Sharp (661) 414-2987.....
 planetnevereverland@hotmail.com
 Vice President Lynn Piper 208-8004..... lynnapiper@aol.com
 Secretary Nola Bragulla 644-2055..... nrpq@sbcglobal.net
 Treasurer Ires Sutton 647-2364

Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH 644-2055 .. nrpq@sbcglobal.net
 Dinner Reservations Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH 484-7657 .. harold55@juno.com
 Programs, Social Events
 Membership Thom Piper, 32° KCCH 208-8004..... Thompiper2@aol.com
 Highway Cleanup Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH 643-6905..... deardorff@dslextre.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 Ladies' 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

Web site: <http://venturascottishrite.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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email harold55@juno.com, or call 484-7657

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|---|
| Mon | Nov | 12 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee) |
| Sat | Nov | 17 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcoy |
| Mon | Dec | 10 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, Election of Officers |
| Sat | Dec | 15 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |
| Mon | Jan | 14 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations), Installation of Officers |
| Sat | Jan | 18 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |

