

Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXVII November - December 2014

Issue 1



Fourth Degree Team

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXVII, Issue number 1. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the 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 805-415-3776.

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 Fourth Degree Team from our Fall Class is pictured. From the left: Bill Campbell, 32° KCCH, Senior Warden; David Contreras, 32°, Orator; Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Senior Deacon; Michael Schaller, 32°, Junior Deacon; Ron Robinson, candidate; B.J. Blossomgame, 32°, Junior Warden; and Ill.: Andy Little, 33°, Venerable Master.

Upcoming Events

At our stated meeting November 10th we will perform a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our new members, Brothers Jeffrey Pittle, 32°, David Klein, 32°, Paul Santiago, 32°, and Ronald E. Robinson, 32° (to be). (Be sure to get your dinner reservations in by November 6th.) Please come out and make our new brethren feel welcome. We will also have the report of the nominating committee of the officers for next year. If you are interested in taking an office next year please let one of the current officers know. We are always looking for people willing to take part.

For our Masonic scholars, the 2nd Annual Enriching History Conference will be held on Sunday,

November 16. We will have satellite viewing at the Oxnard Masonic Center. See pages 7 and 8.

At our December 8th stated meeting we will elect our officers to 2015. (Dinner reservations are due by December 4.)

Our next highway cleanups will be on Saturdays, November 15th and December 13th. 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

Ill.: Paul A. MacQuiddy, 33° will be installed as Master of Menifee Valley Lodge #289, 27221 McCall Blvd. (off I215), Sun City, CA, on December 27, 2014 at 2:00 PM. The Grand Master, our own Ill.: Russ Charvonja, 33°, will serve as the installing officer. Brother Paul served as master of Camarillo Lodge #824 twice and as Venerable Master of our Valley. Several of us are planning to attend this event. If you would like to join us take I 215 to Sun City, exit on McCall Blvd, go left back over the freeway and the lodge is on the right about half a block down.

At our September stated meeting
Continued on page 4

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings from the Personal Representative.

Brethren, Ladies, and Friends, the end of the year is approaching rapidly with still many items to fulfill. I hope you are all enjoying the end of a very warm summer and finally temperatures are returning to normal. As November approaches and we prepare for many holiday meals both at home and out and about, I hope all of you will think to remember to give thanks to the Great Architect and Ruler of the Universe for all the many blessings he has given all of us. From our family to our friends and to our blessed lives we live.

November is a busy month again. On November 8th we will head to Long Beach Valley to support Bro. Ron Robinson as he receives his two final degrees. I hope you will be able to join us. If you are interested in car pooling please contact ILL.: Andy Little or myself so we can work a car pool or something out. I plan to drive and take the candidate with me. I know Andy will be attending, so he may drive or come and ride with us depending on how many plan to attend. If you have never been to Long Beach Valley, you are truly missing a grand performance, from their 3-D stage to wardrobe to outstanding ritual and lectures. I am always so amazed when I attend.

November 10th is our Stated meeting, and we will have the



Traditional Cap and Ring Ceremony, followed by the stated meeting and nomination of officers. Please plan to attend and welcome our new 32nd Degree masons who have completed their degrees this past year. Menu is posted in the flyer (see page 6) but be sure to RSVP for both November and December Stated Meeting dinners.

Another event that does not get much publicity is our Adopt-a-Highway clean up on November 15th. As most of you know I work for the Department of Transportation and this is a very important and critical program to our Department to assist in keeping our freeways clean of trash and litter. I encourage all of you to come out and support our cause. November 15th is also the Scottish Rite Foundation meeting

which Sir Knight Sills and myself will be attending.

Remember our election of officers is coming up in December so please try to attend and assist in electing your new line officers.

Lastly I would like to announce our outgoing Wise Master for two consecutive years; Brother Earl Williams, will be installed as Worshipful Master in Oxnard Lodge on Sunday, December 7th at 3:41 P.M. Most Worshipful (ILL.:) Russ Charvonnia will be the Installing Officer. Please plan to come and show your support for a truly great Brother as he takes the Gavel over Oxnard Lodge.

Over the past year we have had many great things happen in our valley due largely in part by the officer and key players, Ladies Included, of our valley. I would like

to thank each and every one who takes parts in ritual, events, and ceremonies; without you nothing would happen. Our Installation of officers is approaching in January. Please mark your calendars for January 12th for our installation of officers. This is very important for those who work so hard to keep the valley operational.

Finally I wish you all a very joyful Holiday Season from Veterans Day to Thanksgiving to Christmas to Hanukah to Bringing in the New Year, enjoy and be safe.

From my Family to yours, Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Jerry E. Gonzales, KCCH

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

News of the Valley

(continued from page 2)

we were honored to welcome Ill.: Frank Loui, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of California, and his lady Jeanie. We also had Sir Knight Maurice Sourmany, 32° KCCH, the new Personnel Representative for the Valley of Santa Barbara, and two members of the Santa Barbara Childhood Language Clinic who told us about their program. We presented S.K. Maurice with a check for \$8000, proceeds from the New England Summer Picnic, for the Language Clinic. See picture page 9.

On September 27 we conferred the 4th, 14th, and 18th Degrees on Brother Ron Robinson. Many thanks to all who took part in these degrees. They did an excellent job. Brother Ron will be receiving his 30th and 32nd Degrees on November 8 in Long Beach.

At our October stated meeting we celebrated the Feast of Tishri, commemorating the dedication of King Solomon's Temple. Brother Michael Blodgett, 32°, who is a professor of history specializing in ancient history at CSU Channel Islands, gave a talk on the significance of that temple.

Lodge of Perfection

J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Brothers,
We just concluded our Fall Degrees. Many thanks to all the brothers who participated and helped in putting together the Degrees. As always it was a very pleasant experience and I'm very proud of our Degree Team. Brother Ron Robinson, our new Kitchen Chef was the candidate for our Fall Degrees. I also want to take the opportunity to thank all the brothers who attended and helped at the Feast of Tishri. It was a well-attended and very nice evening, particularly, I would like to thank Brother Michael Blodgett, 32°, who presented a fabulous Lecture on King Solomon's Temple that evening.

This Month at our November Stated Meeting, we will have our traditional Cap and Ring Ceremony for the brothers who received their Degrees during the spring and fall classes. You are all cordially invited to attend this ceremony and join us on congratulating our newest Members. At the November Stated Meeting we will also present the Report of the Nominating Committee and will have the election of Officers at the December Meeting.

Lastly, on Sunday, November 16th we will have a one of a kind event called **Enriching History: The California Gold Rush and the Freemasons**. This event is organized by the Masons of California and it will be held at the



San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Our Valley will stream this event for live satellite viewing. At this presentation we will explore the California Gold Rush and Freemasonry's involvement and influence. Presenters include the Grand Master Russ Charvonia (Member of our Valley), [Ava E. Kahn](#), [Gary Kurutz](#), and [Albert L. Hurtado](#) speaking at this year's Colloquium. Additionally, CW Bayer of [NevadaMusic](#) will discuss and showcase the rich musical history of the period.

Please note that light refreshments and lunch will be provided, free of charge. Below you will find information on the schedule of events. We hope that you will be

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FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Dinner Reservations

Be sure to make your reservations with **Harold Bogner**, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

November 10th Stated Meeting Dinner Cap and Ring Ceremony

Roast Turkey Breast
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
Stuffing
Vegetables & Cranberries
Salad
Dessert

Cost \$17.00/\$27.00 Per Couple
RSVP by Thu, November 6th, 2014 with Harold Bogner.

December 8th Dinner Menu Election of Officers

Meat Lasagna
Broccoli & Cheese
Garlic Bread
Cake

Cost \$17.00 Per Person/\$27.00 Per Couple
RSVP by Thu, December 4th, 2014 with Harold Bogner

Calling all Masonic Scholars

Enriching History- The California Gold Rush and the Freemasons

Sunday, November 16, 2014

**Scottish Rite Masonic Center, San Francisco California with
Satellite viewing at the Oxnard Masonic Center, 341 S. K St.**

Free and Open to the Public

The second annual *SF Colloquium - Enriching History* will explore the California Gold Rush and Freemasonry's involvement and influence.

The Gold Rush was accompanied by the founding of a remarkable number of Masonic lodges in California, which provided prospectors with an important source of community and friendship. Some of these lodges were made up of men who traveled together from the east coast and had been members of lodges there. We can even physically see the influence of these groups, when we look at old mining districts such as "[Masonic](#)", now a ghost town, located near Bridgeport, California.

Speakers

We are honored to have [Ava F. Kahn](#), [Gary Kurutz](#), [JoAnn Levy](#), and [Albert L. Hurtado](#) speaking at this year's Colloquium. Additionally, CW Bayer of [NevadaMusic](#) will discuss and showcase the rich musical history of the period.

Registration

Cost: FREE, and a lunch and light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to: wshepard@ipsonet.org Please RSVP early, as space is limited.

Where: San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center

When: 9am, Sunday, November 16, 2014

Visit www.ipsonet.org/conferences/enriching-history-conference for more information.

Satellite Viewing:

Oxnard Masonic Center, 341 S. K Street, Oxnard, CA. Come anytime.

Schedule of Events – see next page !!

Lodge of Perfection

(continued from page !!)

able to join us at this exciting and informative event! Bring your family and friends!

Please RSVP with Sir Knight Harold Bogner, harold55@juno.com, or (805) 218-1648.

Fraternally,
J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

Enriching History- The California Gold Rush and the Freemasons



Schedule of Events

9:00 AM	Registration Begins, Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM	Opening Address, Grand Master Russell Charvonia and Guillermo De Los Reyes, Co-Chair
9:45 AM	Albert L. Hurtado, John Sutter and the Gold Rush: How to Lose a Fortune in a Hurry
10:30 AM	Gary Kurutz, The Gold Rush in Making America
11:15 AM	Music of the Gold Rush presented by CW Bayer
12:00 PM	Lunch Break
12:45 PM	Ava F. Kahn, Jewish Voices of the California Gold Rush: Transnational Traditions
1:30 PM	JoAnn Levy, Women were Forty-Niners, too!
2:15 PM	Music of the Gold Rush presented by CW Bayer
3:00 PM	Closing Panel, What Does It Mean for Us Now?

Scholarships Offered by the Masonic Family of Freemasons in Grand California

Brethren or Companions, you should consider these scholarships for our Masonic youth groups and your children and grand children. They are available to them to fill out completely and make sure that they get them in on time or they will not be considered. If you wish to help them make sure they follow the rules. This is a good lesson for the future.

My brethren, you may not figure this out but your children and grand children can if they want help attending school. After opening up Scholarship Center have them go to bottom of the page and find Scholarship Manual in (PDR – 450KB) and download and follow the instruction for all Masonic Scholarships.

Here is the link: <http://www.freemason.org/scholarshipCenter/index.htm>, it will take you to the public Grand Lodge web page on scholarships. All information you need should be right there. There is a complete manual that you can download that talks about all of the scholarships available from California Masonic Foundation as well as Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay, Job’s Daughters and Rainbow. If you can not get this information contact the Master of your Blue Lodge, Heads of Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay Job’s Daughters and Rainbow and allow them to assist you for your youth and their future.

Scottish Rite Foundation in Washington D. C. scholarship program: each year the Supreme Council gives scholarship to support the continuing education of more than thirty students. Scholarship applications must be submitted online between January 1 and March 31. For complete information on the scholarship visit scotishrite.org/brothers-in-community/scholarship. Please read the September / October 2014 issue of the Scottish Rite Journal page #19 for complete information.



PR Jerry Gonzales presents the check to Maurice Sourmany for the Santa Barbara Language Center while 2 of their clinicians look on.

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 Elrod, 646-3693
Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101 John Klopstein, 486-0602

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.*

Norman F. Slert crossed on 9/22/2014



**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..... 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..... 746-0844..... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH..... 241-6968..... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Senior Warden..... David F. Contreras, 32°..... 504-3889..... teslaslight@verizon.net

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... Earl G. Williams, 32°..... (619)947-5530..... earlwilliams8@yahoo.com
 Senior Warden..... John A. Argue, 32° KCCH..... 498-4831..... MayfieldPark@aol.com

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Commander..... Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32° KCCH..... 647-6728..... deematson@sbcglobal.net
 Senior Warden..... Jose Valencia, 32°..... 248-6867..... j_valencia92@hotmail.com

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Master of Kadosh..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33°..... 525-5932..... egriffin@verizon.net
 Senior Warden..... James L. Craig, 32°..... 525-7780..... jlcraig19@gmail.com

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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.....
 Membership.....
 Highway Cleanup..... Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH..... 643-6905..... deardorff@dslextreame.com
 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

Views from Ventura Valley
November - December

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2014

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|--|
| Mon | Nov | 10 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Nov 6), Cap and Ring Ceremony 7:20 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee) |
| Sat | Nov | 15 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy |
| Sun | Nov | 16 | Enriching History Colloquium,
The California Gold Rush and the Free-masons, Satellite viewing @ Oxnard Mas Center, 9 am - 3pm |
| Mon | Dec | 8 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Dec 4), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (Election of Officers) |
| Sat | Dec | 13 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |

