

*Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies*

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

**VOL. XXXVIII November - December 2015**

**Issue 1**

## **New Honor Men**



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXVIII, 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:**

Our newest Honor Men: (top) Personal Representative Jerry Gonzales, 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree. (bottom left) Fred Ervast, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH, and (bottom right) Quentin Riggs, 32<sup>o</sup>. They were invested on September 19 in San Diego. Congratulations on your recognition.

## **Upcoming Events**

Our next stated meeting will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> and will include the report of the Nominating Committee. If you are willing to serve as an officer in our Valley, please let our current officers know. We will also be making plans for next year. Please bring your ideas. Be sure to get your dinner reservations in to Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32<sup>o</sup> KCCH, at [harold55@juno.com](mailto:harold55@juno.com) or (805) 218-1648, by Thursday, November 5.

At our December 14<sup>th</sup> stated meeting we will hold our annual Election of Officers. Reservations are due by Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> we will install our officers for 2016. Please note this event on your calendar and come out and support our new officers.

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

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/2015/08/2016-sr-workshops/>.

Our highway cleanups for the next two months will be on Saturdays, November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 our September stated meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming Ill. Maurice Sourmany, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Santa Barbara. We presented him with a check for \$6250 from the proceeds of the New England Summer Picnic for the Childhood Language Clinic. Ill. Maurice also gave us a rundown on what it takes to run a clinic. We were also entertained by the music of Leon Felburg.

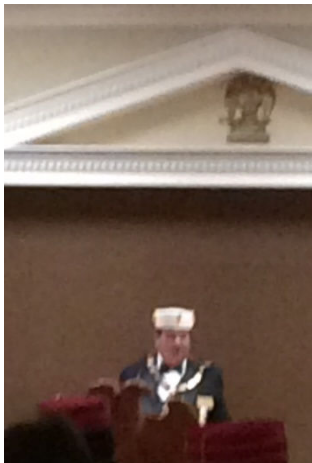
On September 19 we were in San Diego for Honors Weekend. Our Personal Representative, Jerry Gonzales, received the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree and was the active candidate for that degree conferral. Brothers Fred Ervast and Quentin Riggs were invested as Knights Commander of the Court of Honor. At the banquet that evening Ill. Jerry was one of the speakers. (See cover.)

At our October stated meeting we observed the Feast of Tishri, marking the dedication of King Solomon's Temple, and participated in the traditional toasts to our leaders.

Beyond our own events many of us also attended Grand Lodge and saw our own MW Russ Charvonja, 33°, preside as Grand Master over a most productive session.

We said goodbye to several members recently (see page 10). Brothers Charles McConica, Lauren Alexander, and Herbert Hibbard were all charter members of our Valley. Brother Tony Caballero served us a Wise Master in 1998. Clinton Williams was one of our younger members but he took Masonry very seriously.

On a more positive note we welcomed David Del Dosso, 32°, back. Dave reinstated his membership with our Valley and furthermore bought a life membership. Good to have you back, Dave.



(left) Ill. Jerry Gonzales addresses the Honors Banquet in San Diego. (below) Jerry with his lady Sally & Ill. Frank Loui.



## From the PR's Quill

*Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°*

Greetings to our Scottish Rite family. Our Masonic year is quickly coming to a close. As we look toward the next couple of months we have several things to be completed, as well as being thankful for all the blessings we have had during the year. With the holiday season rapidly approaching, we can tend to get caught up in the rustle and bustle of the holidays, but let us remember to give thanks to the Architect of the Universe. I would also like to keep in our prayers those whom are in need or in bad health.

The last couple months have been busy ones as well, with Honors to three members, as well as the Feast of Tishri. I would like to thank those who stood up and took part in making this evening of toasts and thankfulness a good one. Our nomination committee is working on the list to fill the positions for the coming year and we have one new candidate whose degrees will need to be worked out.

We will read the nominations and be voting in December, followed by our January Installation. Seems the work never stops. One final note - we are closing out the Valley Membership Achievement Program (VMAP) submittals, and I am sad to say I have dropped the ball on this program this year, but as we approach a new year I am hopeful we will be better prepared.



I will make a brief report on the program and process. Please feel free to use any of those Ideas on how to improve the valley both in Programs and attendance.

As always we are looking forward to a delightful dinner. I appreciate those who have complied with our reservations program, and am happy to say Brother Ron has continued to support us with well-prepared dinner menus.

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

**Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°**

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

## Lodge of Perfection

Michael Schaller, 32°, Acting Venerable Master

**W**elcome from the Lodge of Perfection to our Scottish Rite family.

As you all know from the previous newsletter, David Contreras is no longer serving as Venerable Master of our Ventura Valley. While I have been serving as Senior Warden of the Lodge of Perfection I have continually tried to prepare myself to take on the position of Venerable Master for the upcoming year. I am more than happy to step up and fill that position for the remainder of the current year, and while I understand the responsibilities, I thank you for this opportunity.

In the chapter of Morals and Dogma relating to the 14<sup>th</sup> degree, Albert Pike wrote:

“It is for each individual Mason to discover the secret of Masonry, by reflection upon its symbols and wise consideration and analysis of what is said and done in this work. Masonry does not inculcate her truths, She states them, once and briefly; or hints them, perhaps, darkly; or interposes a cloud between them and eyes that would be dazzled by them.

‘Seek, and ye shall find,’ knowledge and truth.

“Masonry labors to improve the social order by enlightening men’s minds, warming their hearts with love of the good, inspiring them with the great principle of human fraternity, and requiring of its disciples that their language and their actions shall conform to that principle, that they shall enlighten each other, control their passions, abhor vice, and pity the vicious man as one afflicted with a deplorable malady.” (Morals and Dogma, 218-9).

Perfection, of course, is unattainable. But the search for perfection is critical. We receive as much Divine Light as we are prepared to receive and capable of understanding.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to serving as the Venerable Master for the remainder of the year. One last request, if any of the Brethren would like to serve as Senior Warden in the coming year, please give me a call.

Michael Schaller, 818-370-2394

## 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](mailto:harold55@juno.com), otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

### **November 9<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting Dinner**

**Roast Pork Loin  
Potatoes Au Gratin  
Buttery Peas & Carrots  
French Bread Toasted  
Garden Salad  
Cookies n Cream w/Fruit**

**Cost \$15.00 Per Individual/\$25.00 Per Couple  
RSVP by Thu, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with Harold Bogner.  
Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!**

### **December 14<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting Dinner**

**Spaghetti W/ 3 Options:  
Marinara Sauce / Meat Sauce / Alfredo Sauce  
Italian Sausage Mild**

**Meatballs  
Peas and Carrots  
Cheesy Garlic Bread  
Banana Pudding w/Waffers**

**Cost \$15.00 Per Individual /\$25.00 Per Couple  
RSVP by Thu, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with Harold Bogner**

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

## THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW

How much beauty is there in a stained-glass window in pitch darkness? None!

Is there here a lesson for Freemasons?

How much beauty is there in Freemasonry that is kept from the light that is left in the Lodge room between communications? Particularly how much of the beauty of Freemasonry is developed by those who receive the degrees, make big speeches the night they are raised, tell what Freemasonry is going to mean to them and what they are going to do to be worthy of being Freemasons, then thereafter would not be known as Freemasons except for the Emblem worn on the coat?

The beauty of Freemasonry, like that of the stained-glass window, is developed only in the light, by its practice by those who have received the degrees, by the observance of its obligations by those who have received them, by the practice of charity, by association with our fellows in developing Brotherly Love and Friendship, by visiting the Brother who is unable to mingle with his Brethren, by whispering good counsel in the ears of those who have erred or who are troubled, by walking a way with those who are lonesome, by a light in the eyes when we meet one who is entitled to sit within the Tyled Circle, by rendering to a Brother every kind of service we should like performed for us under like circumstances.

Let us keep Freemasonry in the light, so that its beauty may be visible.

– Henry Bode - In “The Wisconsin Masonic Journal”

## THE IMAGE OF FREEMASONRY

By Henry F. Collins, P.G.M., South Carolina

What sort of image appears in the mind of the average non-Mason when Masonry is mentioned? Is it one of a very secretive organization whose members go to the Lodge hall and do things about which they cannot talk? Is it an image gained by having seen one or more members engaging in questionable activities, being intemperate in word or action? Is it one created purely by a figment of the imagination because of our failure to properly inform the public about the Fraternity? As Masons, what sort of image do we impart?

Most Worshipful Brother Theodore Meriam, then Grand Master of California, in a message in the California Freemason said in part:

“For hundreds of years, Masonry has rightfully enjoyed a position of great respect in the general public eye. This has been because of favorable activities on the part of individual members, individual Lodges and Masonry as a whole.

“Perhaps too few people know what we stand for and what we do. It has been recounted that a school superintendent was interviewed about Public Education Week activities, and at the conclusion of the interview he asked if this was a sample of what Masonry believed in and worked for. On being assured that it was, he immediately asked for a petition. He stated that he had been around Masons all his life, and this was the first time he ever knew that Masons did anything except go to Lodge hall and confer some degrees, and now he had learned something, and wanted to be a member.

“I think we need to build an image – an image in the mind of the public that Freemasonry is a great institution, a most valuable asset for the community, a tremendous influence for public good – and above all, an institution of dignity, quality and substance.

“The individual Mason should always be ready to stress the Quality, the Dignity, the Substance of the Masonic Order – and his own personal pride in being a Mason.

“He should not hesitate to talk about Freemasonry. When somebody asks – “What do you do at the Masonic Lodge?” each Mason should be prepared to tell of some of the things that are done. He should not “clam up.” He should not imply that “all is secret.” He can say that we participate in serious ritualistic ceremonies designed to portray in a very graphic manner many fundamental precepts of ethical, good moral conduct of our lives. He can say that the fraternal meetings provide an opportunity for friendly, sincere conversations with fellow members concerning many, many things. He can say that his Lodge provides an inspirational thrust to its Members to be thoughtful, conscientious, participating citizens.”

The public gets its image of Masonry from you and me; from our Masonic Temples, our public appearance such as funerals, church services, public installations, cornerstone and dedicatory ceremonies, Lodges of Sorrow, etc.;

from the worthwhile endeavors of our Lodges and Brethren individually and collectively; from the composite picture presented by the sum of all of our members and of their lives and endeavors.

Let each one of us ask himself: Am I the kind of Mason, who, by my way of life and service will add Dignity?

– The Indiana Freemason

### “TWO KINDS OF COMPASSES”

We talk a lot about Speculative Masonry, but what we need to do is to make it Operative in our lives.

We need to become “doers” and not just talkers and lookers-on. We are to become known for our actions and works.

There are two kinds of compasses; those used for drawing circles and those used to chart a course.

Brethren, have not our compasses been used all too much for drawing circles, accomplishing little?

Surely, Masonry’s compasses are for action, for movement, for reaching goals, for charting courses.

Let us resolve now that we shall stand by Freemasonry and its teachings and by our actions today ensure a golden age in the future for Masonry and for humanity.

– From “The Texas Freemason”

### “THE MASTER CRAFTSMEN OF OUR TIME”

Masonry was organized in recognition of the dignity of the common man. Its programs and its teachings are based upon his right to know, to think, and to act in his own right. To all mankind it has become a symbol of resistance to thought control in every form. Such standards require that every Mason know his part.

The time has arrived for us to assume the leadership that the present situation demands; not always by officially sponsored action, but by the building of better men.

Masonry, like all free institutions, stands today at the crossroads. We can choose the easy path that ultimately leads to slavery and destruction, or we can accept the challenge of our founders and make safe for ourselves and our children’s children the highway to a free and better world. Although we may be assailed by forces from without and sometimes misled by misguided prophets from within, our mission still remains the same. Whether it be in service of our God, or in the service of mankind, we must always be the master craftsmen of our time – men with vision and the character to remain free.

– Arthur Paulsen, PGM, California

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## 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**

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.*

**Herbert Nelson Hibbard crossed on 4/11/2014**  
**Joseph Charles Sawyer crossed on 4/14/2015**  
**Antonio Medill Caballero crossed on 7/15/2015**  
**Lauren Edward Alexander crossed on 9/6/2015**  
**Charles Banker McConica crossed on 9/24/2015**  
**Clinton Lee Williams crossed on 10/7/2015**

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**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, 33° Elect..... 986-3656....jeg522@yahoo.com  
 Secretary / Treasurer.....Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°..... 415-3776....alittle93012@gmail.com  
 Almoner.....Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH..... 644-2055....nrpq@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  
 Asst Almoner Camarillo.....William Campbell, 32° KCCH ... 482-7523....bncampbell@verizon.net  
 Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes,, 32° KCCH..... 241-6968....jrcifuentes@hotmail.com  
 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.....  
 Senior Warden.....Michael A. Schaller, 32° ..(818)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° .....(818)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....jlcraig19@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 ....nrpq@sbcglobal.net  
 Dinner Reservations.....Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH ..... 484-7657 .. harold55@juno.com  
 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](mailto:vcscottishrite@gmail.com), or FAX us at (253) 276-4055

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 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](mailto:harold55@juno.com), or call (805) 218-1648

Mon	Nov	9	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Report of Nominating Committee</i> )
Sat	Nov	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12611003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Satcoy
Mon	Dec	14	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM ( <i>Reservations by Dec 10</i> ), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, ( <i>Election of Officers</i> ) Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Sat	Dec	19	

**Mon Jan 11, 2016 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM**  
**(Reservations by Jan 7)**  
**Installation of Officers & Program 7:30**

