

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

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

VOL. XXXIII September - October 2011 Issue 6

## Our Newest Honourmen



**Thom Kindall Piper, 32° KCCH designate**  
**Augusto Alipio Garcia, 32° KCCH designate**

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXIII, Issue number 6. 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:

Our cover depicts our two most recent Honourmen, our Venerable Master Thom Piper, and our Wise Master, Gus Garcia, who have been designated to be invested as KCCH's. Honours will be conferred on October 15 in San Diego. Congratulations, brethren, on your recognition.

### Upcoming Events:

Prior to our stated meeting September 12 Mr. Hal Fulkerson will provide us with entertainment in the form of imitation of Thomas Bard. For those who may not be familiar with Thomas Bard he was instrumental in the establishment of Ventura County. He served on the board of supervisors of Santa Barbara County and in 1871 was appointed as a commissioner to organize Ventura County. He also laid out the plans for Port Hueneme. He represented California in the U.S. Senate from 1900 to 1905. He was also a veteran of the Civil War, a railroad employee, a business man in the oil industry, and a founding board member of Occidental College. This should be a good opportunity to learn

something about the history of our county,

Prior to our October 10 stated meeting we will celebrate the Feast of Tishri, commemorating the dedication of King Solomon's Temple (see page 3), along with the ceremonial toasts to our leaders. This is considered a mandatory event. The meeting will include the reobligation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree.

October 15<sup>th</sup> is Honours Weekend in San Diego. We do not yet have all the details but we expect that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree will be presented in the morning (open to 33's only) and the investiture of the Knight Commanders of the Court of Honour will be in the afternoon (open to all). We hope many of you will be able to attend and see Brothers Thom and Gus be invested. If you are interested in attending please let the secretary, Ill.: Andy Little, know (phone 805-415-3776, or email to [vcscottishrite@gmail.com](mailto:vcscottishrite@gmail.com)) so that you may be kept informed.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, and October 15<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:

Our July potluck dinner and planning meeting got us off to a good start this summer. Everyone enjoyed the excellent food. We presented Brother Ray Broomfield, 32°, with his 25 year pin and certificate. Also Brother Roscoe "Pete" Stewart, 32°, reaffiliated with our Valley. Welcome back, Brother Pete.

The New England Summer Picnic was a very successful event

again this year. The new location at College Park in Oxnard was a big hit. We were happy to welcome many members of the Grand Lodge family and enjoyed the inspiring comments of our Grand Master, the Most Worshipful William J. Bray. New this year was a silent auction to raise funds for the Language Center. Approximately 200 people attended the event. We will have a full report on this event at our September stated meeting.

Feast of Tishri

Reprinted from the Santa Ana Scottish Rite News, October 1996.

As the children of Israel were led through the wilderness, God decreed the celebration of a seven-day feast in the Jewish month of Tishri, during which they were to live in "sukkohs" (shelters or "booths") – He decreed that this feast be celebrated annually to forever remind the Israelites that He had rescued them from Egypt. This "Feast of Tishri" (or "Feast of Succoth") is thus a symbol of freedom.

Some 450 years after its origin, the Feast of Tishri was utilized in dedicating the newly completed King Solomon's Temple, and this association led to its adoption by Scottish Rite Masonry to symbolize our dedication to brotherly love and human accord in a peaceful world. This adaptation is evidenced in lessons taught by the Third Degree lecture (Blue Lodge), wherein we learn that David, King of Israel, was

denied the privilege of building the Temple of God due to the "many wars and much bloodshed" associated with his reign. On his death, Solomon (his son) ascended the throne and brought peace and tranquility in the world through wisdom and righteousness – God thus chose him to perform "so great and glorious an undertaking" as that denied David. And so it was that through Solomon, construction of the Temple was seemingly guided by the hand of God – for indeed it was. Association of the Feast of Tishri with the dedication of the Temple of Solomon led to its third name – the "Feast of the Tabernacle".

The Feast of Tishri thus epitomizes the character, principles and purposes of Scottish Rite Masonry, all being consistent with the dictates of the God who spake it into existence.

The Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Ventura County will celebrate the Feast of Tishri at our stated meeting on October 10.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Hello and welcome to the Valley of Ventura. First I bring you greeting from the Illustrious William F. Stovall, 33 Degree Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California, who sends his warmest regards to our Valley. I hope all have had an enjoyable summer, and although we were dark last month, we have not been without many summertime events. From the New England Picnic, to Child ID at the Ventura County Fair, as well as the 105th Biennial Session of the Supreme Council, 33 Degree A. & A. S. R. of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard on our summer events. The New England Picnic was a huge success; it seems like every year it gets better and better. I have heard great comments about the quality of food, the location, the entertainment, as well as the fun time had by all. This is our major annual fund raiser for the Language clinic and I am so thankful to all who supported this effort. There are a great number of persons to thank for their support and assistance, including some non members and wives. So that no one may be left out, I will just choose to say thank you all, for all that you do for our Valley. I would



also thank all those both from our Valley and our other bodies for making the Child ID booth another huge success at the County Fair, providing a wonderful service to our community.

I also had the privilege to attend and represent our Valley at the 105th Biennial Session in Washington D.C. I must say it was a very enjoyable experience, with the exception of the travel, all else was a Grand Affair. I arrived last Saturday evening, and after settling in had the opportunity to socialize with some brothers from all around the Nation. Sunday morning I registered and had lunch with many whom I met the night before. Right after noon we caught a shuttle to the

St. Regis Hotel for an afternoon reception and wow, what a reception it was, more finger foods and desserts than you can imagine, a four piece band, all spread out over three rooms and a patio. Unbelievable. Very enjoyable and did I say FOOD, and me on a DIET, not a good combination, after which we walked next door to St. John's Church, at Lafayette Square for the Vesper Services, conducted by Dr. W. Kenneth Lyons, Jr., 33° G. C., Grand Chaplain, Supreme Council, 33° S.J., U.S.A. What a wonderful old Church; established in 1815, standing opposite the White House, originally organized to serve as a parish church for the occupants of the White House and their families at the time when James Madison was in office. Monday was the Grand Session, a spectacular event as well, and was available on the internet on a live stream; I hope many of you had the opportunity to view this electronic feed. [*video is still available at <http://www.entrcon.com/scottishrite/>*] This ceremony included lots of introductions, as well as the Sov. Gr. Commander R. A. Seale's address. After the ceremony I had the opportunity to visit the House of the Temple, which was open to Scottish Rite members and guests only, and we were allowed to browse and tour at our leisure. I spent most of the afternoon there, looking though the rooms and libraries. Tuesday I was free most of the day and I spent it visiting many monuments around the

White House, even got to enjoy the earth quake there that emptied all the government buildings in the area. And finally Tuesday evening we had the Grand Banquet, a very nice evening which I spent with some brothers and wives from central California and Texas. I must say this was a great opportunity for me; I had the pleasure to meet ILL. Seale in person and talk a bit about Masonry in general, as well as spending some time with our own SGIG ILL. William F. Stovall. We met together several times in the lounge at the top floor of our hotel, sharing wine and stories, with some of our California Personal Representatives. I must say it was a very enlightening time for me.

Lastly I want to officially congratulate Brother Thom Piper and Worshipful Gus Garcia, on being selected as our Valley's new Honour Men and hope many of you will join me at their Knighting on October 15<sup>th</sup> in San Diego, details to be distributed very soon.

I hope to see many smiling faces at our next meeting, as there is nothing that brings more joy to a brother, than to sit and break bread as well as enjoy some friendly conversation with each other. I'm looking forward to the opportunity of Breaking Bread with many of you, in the coming months.

*Jerry E. Gonzales*  
KCCH

## FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Please make your reservations with Tom Fanslow, preferably by email to [lakeside.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:lakeside.thomas@gmail.com), otherwise 482-3604 (leave a message), no later than the Friday before the dinner.

### September 12, 2011, Stated Meeting

Chili  
salad  
cornbread or crackers  
desert

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

### October 10, 2011, Stated Meeting Feast of Tishri

Ceremonial Toasts  
Menu to be announced

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

**New Policy for Dinner Reservations**  
**Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH**  
**Personal Representative of the SGIG**

As promised here is my new Dinner policy:

Annual Standing Reservations are available; for an advance fee of \$100.00 per person, paid by no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of the effective year.

This reservation will include 10 dinners (all 9 stated meeting dinners for the year plus Remembrance and Renewal). It will not include the dinner for our Annual Installation of Officers which is a special catered dinner.

If you choose to pay monthly; the fee will continue to be \$10.00 per person, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 7 days in advance.

If you fail to make a reservation and wish to, pay at the door, the fee for dinner will be \$15.00 per person.

*(Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from non-reservation price.)*

\*\*\*The Standing Reservation for the remainder of the year is \$40.00 payable no later than September 12, 2011.

Effective the Month of June 2011

## Lodge of Perfection

Thom Piper, 32°, Venerable Master

Greetings, Brethren – It is true what they say, time really does fly when you are having fun. The past nine months have been a whirlwind of planning and endeavors. I started out in January of this year a bit apprehensively, wondering how things would go, uncertain as to whether I would do the right things and say the right things. This year I learned a very important lesson from all of you; I need not worry. I cannot fall because my brothers hold me up. No matter what the challenge, I find unlimited support from my fellow Scottish Rite Masons. As I enter the home-stretch it seems a good time to acknowledge a few whose strengths have kept me from falling flat on my face. These individual thanks in no way diminish my deep appreciation for every one of you who have made this year memorable.

\*Thanks to P.R. Jerry Gonzales. You are always there when I have a question, a problem or need a hand.  
\*Thank you to Bros. Roger Ryder and Melvin Young, without whom we would not have had such delicious meals, and I'm pretty sure meeting attendance would have been down too.

\*Thanks to Brother Robert Sills, our Orator Supreme. Your teachings this year have been a lamppost to further light in masonry and, while educational, are also highly entertaining.



\*No one would be reading this if not for the tireless efforts of Bro. Andy Little. Thank you.

\*Brother Floyd Griffin, thank you for being the 'caulking in the cracks'. You have filled in repeatedly anywhere and anytime I have asked.

\*Thanks to two husband and wife teams, the Bragullas and the Whitacres, for all your help.

\*Brother Tom Fanslow, thanks for your great organizational skills and follow-up.

\*Lois Marrs, thanks for decorating our dinner tables beautifully for each occasion.

\*Jim Daniels, thank you for your kindness in always remembering my family and asking after them.

\*Thank you to Brother Tiny Potter and Chuck Batterson for your  
(continued to page 9)

## Chapter of Rose Croix

Augusto Garcia, 32°, Wise Master

The degrees of the Chapter of Rose Croix are very complex. They attempt to invest the candidate with a deeper understanding of Religion, Philosophy, Ethics, and history. The intellectual challenges presented in these degrees are at times overwhelming, and can take years to master. A thorough reading of the chapters related to them in *Morals and Dogma* and in the *Legenda and Readings*, is essential to achieve even a basic comprehension of their true meaning.

### 15th degree - Knight of the East, of the Sword, or of the Eagle:

In this degree "we learn fidelity to obligation and perseverance of purpose under difficulties and discouragement." The *Apron* is of crimson velvet, edged with green, with three interlaced triangles inside it. The *Jewel* is three concentric gold triangles, with two crossed swords inside them.

### 16th degree - Prince of Jerusalem:

This degree teaches "heroism of patience, the nobility of self-sacrifice" and compassionate judgment, along with charity, fidelity and brotherhood. The *Apron* is crimson, edged in gold and aurora-color, and with a square shield with a delta and three YOD's, a balance, and a hand of justice. The *Jewel* is a mother of pearl lozenge, with a hand holding a balance in equipoise, under



it a sword with five stars surrounding the point. On the left is a Hebrew D, on the right is a Hebrew Z.

### 17th degree - Knight of the East and West:

The lessons of this degree are that loyalty to God is man's primary allegiance, and the temporal governments not founded upon God and His righteousness will inevitably fall. The *Apron* is of yellow satin, with crimson and gold, and with a sword and Tetractys (of the Tetragrammaton) on it. The *Jewel* is a heptagon of silver and gold, with crossed swords on a balance on the obverse, and a lamb on the book of Seven Seals on the reverse. The *Jewel* is hung from a double order, one black (left-to-right) and one  
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Chapter Rose Croix

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white (right-to-left), representing good versus evil. A gold coronet is also presented.

18th degree - Knight Rose Croix:

This degree teaches that life and its strengths come from God. The rose signifies the dawn and the cross is a sacred symbol of antiquity in many cultures. To be tolerant of other's errors and faults. The Apron is of white leather or satin, bordered

in red, with a skull and cross-bones, a red passion cross and three red rosettes. The grand Jewel is a gold compass open. In it is a pelican, tearing its breast to feed its seven young on the obverse, and an eagle with wings extended, on the reverse. On the circle are the letter I.N.R.I.

Last but not least, I would like to say "Thank You" to all who recommended me to be bestowed to KCCH, hopefully I could exceed your expectation.

Lodge of Perfection

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straight talk.

And an appreciative thank you to my mentors, AKA The Three Wise Men: Bros. Bill Campbell, Harold Bogner and Tom Melugin.

Hopefully we can keep our momentum going the remaining four months. It will take some work because I know it's harder to stay focused over the holiday season. Some ideas are:

#1 A food drive for the less fortunate.

#2 A holiday meal at the lodge for the families of Masonic service personnel.

#3 A book drive to improve the Masonic Library at the Lodge.

#4 Set up and employ a speakers bureau for guest speakers.

Your input and/or ideas are greatly welcomed. No need to wait for meetings, contact me anytime.

IMPORTANT REMINDER- Heads of the Bodies please contact your line and anyone else you can think of and get them to the next Scottish Rite meeting.

Brother Thom Piper

"The Forty-Seventh Problem of Euclid is the earliest Masonic symbol we have on record; it appears as the frontispiece to Anderson's Book of Constitutions, published at London in 1723, accompanied by the word 'Eureka' in Greek characters. It will be understood that prior to this date only one book on Freemasonry had been printed, and not till three-quarters of a century later did our Monitors contain illustrations of the emblems and symbols. So it happens that the Forty-Seventh Problem is, so far as is known, the earliest illustration of a Masonic symbol on record."

- Oliver D. Street, Past Grand Master, Alabama



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 Clarence Jackson, 658-4859
Donald Wright, 642-6621 Gonzalo Hernandez, 485-0166
Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101 Charlie Rudd, 646-7758

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, Jim Daniels, 32° KCCH, (gardengreen2@verizon.net or 984-7272) 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.

Irvin K. "Ike" Lee crossed on 7/27/2011



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  
 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 ..... Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH ..... 981-8262..... rlsills@rlsills.com  
 Prelate ..... James F. Daniels, 32° KCCH ..... 984-7272..... gardengreen2@verizon.net  
 Director of the Work.....

**Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master ..... Thom Piper, 32° ..... 208-8004..... Thompiper2@aol.com  
 Senior Warden ..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° ..... 241-6968..... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com  
 Junior Warden ..... Jesus "Jesse" Escamilla, 32° ..... 651-9582..... escamilla.jesus@gmail.com

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 Junior Warden ..... Tom Fanslow, 32° ..... 482-3604..... lakeside.thomas@gmail.com

**Council of Kadosh**

Commander ..... Kelly Sharp, 32° ..... (661)713-9407..... thesaniterium@hotmail.com  
 1st Lt. Commander..... Tony Ramos, 32° ..... 488-3782..... tonybie70@gmail.com  
 2nd Lt. Commander ..... Melvin Young, 32° KCCH ..... 486-3444..... melrose2@roadrunner.com

**Consistory**

Master of Kadosh..... Roy Balfour, 32° ..... 492-6553..... rjbal4@earthlink.net  
 Prior ..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° ..... 525-5932..... efgriffin@verizon.net  
 Preceptor ..... Jamal N. Saman, 32° ..... 279-2821..... sonofsyria@sbcglobal.net

**Ladies' Association**

President ..... Terrie Metzler..... 524-3362..... TerrieToad2004@aol.com  
 Vice President..... Mary Elizabeth Sharp..... (661) 414-2987  
 planetnevereverland@hotmail.com  
 Secretary ..... Nola Bragulla ..... 644-2055..... nrpq@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 ..... 644-2055 ..... nrpq@sbcglobal.net  
 Dinner Reservations..... Tom Fanslow, 32° ..... 482-3604 .. lakeside.thomas@gmail.com  
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 Highway Cleanup ..... Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH..... 643-6905..... deardorff@dslextreme.com  
 Stagecraft ..... Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH ..... 524-3362 ..... mgmetzler@aol.com  
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Recent changes are underlined. All phone numbers in area code 805.

You can email us at [vcscottishrite@gmail.com](mailto: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 lakeside.thomas@gmail.com, or call 482-3604**

Mon	Sep	12	Stated Meeting: Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Sep	24	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Stated Meeting, Feast of Tishri Celebration, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), ceremony 7:20 PM</b>
	Oct	14-15	<b>Stated meeting following, (Reobligation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, Nominating Committee appointed)</b> Honours conferral in San Diego
Sat	Oct	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Stated Meeting, Cap and Ring Ceremony : Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), ceremony 7:20 PM,</b>
			<b>Stated meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee)</b>
Sat	Nov	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
Mon	Dec	12	Stated Meeting, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (Election of Officers)
Sat	Dec	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy

