

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

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXIV September - October 2012 Issue 6

Acacia Tree



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXIV, 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: Acacia

The cover shows an Acacia tree. The Acacia, of course, has a major role in the Master Mason Degree. Beyond that, it is thought to be the "Shittah" tree of the Book of Exodus. The Arc of the Covenant and the tabernacle and its furniture were made from the wood of that tree. Thus it ties in with our celebration of the Feast of Tishri in October.

Acacias, also known as thorn trees, whistling thorns or wattles, consist of trees and shrubs. There are roughly 1300 species, most of them native to Australia. Acacia albida, Acacia tortilis, and Acacia iraqensis grow wild in the Sinai desert and the Jordon Valley. Probably one of these is associated with the story of Hiram Abiff.

The seeds of the Acacia are used for food, especially in Mexico and Southeast Asia. The plants have also been used for folk medicines, paints, incense, and perfumes. The bark is very rich in tannin. The ashes of the wood are used in making soap. Gum from it is used as gum arabic.

The "Arbre du Ténéré" Acacia tree in Niger was said to be the most isolated tree in the world, approximately 250 miles from any other tree.

Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting will be Monday, September 10. Dinner is at 6:30 PM. Remember to make your reservations through Harold Bogner (harold55@juno.com, or 484-7657). We will be planning our activities for the rest of the year so please give us your ideas for programs and activities. Your input is needed.

At our October 8 stated meeting we will hold our annual celebration of the Feast of Tishri, complete with ceremonial toast. Brother Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, is coordinating this event. This is considered a mandatory event so please try to be in attendance.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, September 15th and October 13th. Meet at the Café 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy, at 7:00 AM for breakfast. Newcomers are always welcome.

New England Summer Picnic

The New England Summer Picnic this year was a huge success. It was held at the Camarillo Grove Park, and we had perfect weather for the event. Brother Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, and Ill. Tom Melugin,

33°, organized the event with help from many, many people. Everyone pitched in to make this event a success. Although we don't have final figures, we served more than 100 lobsters and 100 steaks, used 40 pounds of butter, and raised in the neighborhood of \$2500 for the Language Clinic. Again this year we held an auction/raffle which was very successful. This year we also added a bake sale, which was well received too. A big Thank You to all who donated items for the auction and bake sale. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Frank Loui, 33°, was in attendance along with many of his officers including the rest of the Grand Line.

We apologize for not including any pictures of this event. It seems that everyone was so busy with the preparations or socializing that no one took pictures. Something we will have to correct next year.

Speaking of next year, the picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 2013, again at Camarillo Grove Park. Next year's Grand Master, our own John Lowe, 32° KCCH, has already confirmed for the event.

News of the Valley

Due to a change in jobs Brother Thom Piper, 32° KCCH, has moved to Arizona and has therefore stepped down as our Venerable Master. Thom was a tireless worker in our Valley and we will certainly miss his presence, but we wish him the best in his new endeavors and hope to see him when he is back in the area.

Again this year the Child ID

booth at the Ventura County Fair made a good showing, providing 1874 ID's during its 12 day run. Many members of our Valley joined the members of the lodges, concordant, and appendant bodies in this area to provide this vital service. Special thanks to Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, for coordinating the effort.

As announced in our last issue, on June 19 Brother Richard M. Chase, 32°, a member of our Valley who now lives in Sacramento, was presented with his 50 year hat and pin courtesy of the Valley of Sacramento. We now have some pictures of the presentation. Our thanks to the Valley of Sacramento.



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. The Reception for our Chairman of the Board will be held on November 16, 2012 at 6:00 PM, in Santa Ana, Ca. This will be the evening before the Annual Foundation Meeting. As the date nears and reservations are requested I will be putting out more word on this function.

Wow. Hard to believe summer is over, and I wish to thank all who made our Annual New England Picnic such a huge success. I have had nothing but good comments about the whole program. Great job to all who had a part in making this fund raising program happen. I also received a Thank You note from the Grand Master Frank Loui, for our warm welcome, efforts and donations. I also wish to thank the Ladies Association for the very successful auction and bake sale. Great Job Ladies! I would also like to thank Sir Knight Chuck Batterson for his continued support to the Masonic Child ID at the recent Ventura County Fair. Good Job Worshipful.

On to some other business at hand: For those who do not know Sir Knight Thom Piper has moved to Arizona and had to step down as



Venerable Master. Although Thom knew this move was coming he did not believe it would have to happen so quickly. We will truly miss him and his lovely and so very helpful lady Lynn. With that said our next in line who is Master of Conejo Valley Lodge is not able to step up at this time, so I am looking for a volunteer to fill in for the remainder of the year. I hope someone will step up to the plate and help your Valley in time of Need. We are also still in need of a Director of the Work, who resigned over a year ago.

I would like to remind the Heads of Bodies as we bring this year to a close they should be working with their lines to make plans for the upcoming year, as well as forming their respective lines.

Some other dates to remember:

October 8th Dinner will be the Feast of Tishri Celebration, hoping you will all be in attendance.

September 21, 22, 23 is the Grand Lodge of California Annual Communications, where Sir Knight / Right Worshipful John Lowe, from our valley, will be installed as Grand Master of California. SK Lowe has selected several local Brothers to assist him with appointed positions in the coming Masonic year, which we

will be announcing during our upcoming dinner/meeting.

Please remember to make your dinner reservations with Sir Knight Harold Bogner and I look forward to enjoying your company on September 10th for Dinner and some planning tips for the coming year.

Jerry E. Gonzales
KCCH

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

Save the Date

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...

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.

September 10, 2012, Stated Meeting

Roast
Mixed vegetables
Mashed potatoes
Dessert

Price \$10 with reservation, \$15 otherwise

October 8, 2012, Stated Meeting Feast of Tishri

Teriyaki Chicken
Rice
Vegetables, Rolls
Dessert

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.

Lodge of Perfection

Thom Piper, 32° KCCH, Past Venerable Master
Retirement

Brothers,

It is with a heavy heart I come to you with this news.

Some of you know that I am no longer with my company. I knew the time was coming but had hoped to make it to the first of the year and complete 2012 as Venerable Master. Due to this change occurring sooner than I hoped, I am forced to move my plans up as well. As of July 16th I will be retiring to our ranch in Pearce, Arizona, a place that will always have a welcome sign out for any of you that may travel that way.

Therefore our New England Picnic will be the last Valley of Ventura Scottish Rite function I participate in, except for the occasional visit back out to sunny California.

I cannot express fully all I have gotten from Masonry but especially, and most of all, from Scottish Rite and from all of you. You are fine men and worthy mentors all. A piece of my heart will remain with you and I will take with me memories and moments shared in friendship and camaraderie.



You mean so very much to me, it is hard to say good-bye.

Sincerely,
Brother Thom Piper

New Address:
1914 Middlemarch Road
Pearce, Arizona 85625

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 483
Pearce, Arizona 85625

Phone number and email remain the same:
(805) 208-8004
Thompiper2@aol.com

Chapter of Rose Croix

Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH, Wise Master

Greetings Brethren,

I hope everybody is doing well and as we push forward for the remainder of the year, I pray for everyone's well being so that we can continue to work together in unity. I also hope that everyone had their time of repose during the month of August. I myself had a really good and quality time off with my family. I think whoever thought about these dark months in the Masonic calendar should be applauded.

Our last fund raising activity was super and I hope everyone had a good time. The lobsters and steaks were so restaurant quality they are still lingering on my taste buds. The band, the raffles, the bake sale, the drinks, the fellowship; with all these extras no doubt we will surpass the number of attendees next year and increase our monetary donations to our charity groups, especially to the Scottish Rite Speech and Language Disorder Clinic in Santa Barbara, Ca. Our many thanks to those who work hard in the planning and execution of the event and to our dignitaries from the Grand Lodge of California, may you not tire in gracing this wonderful event. I am



so looking forward for next year's picnic.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Bro. Thom Piper for his outstanding leadership and contribution as Venerable Master of the Ventura Valley Scottish Rite for almost two years. Although Bro. Thom has left us to attend a more important undertaking, he has maintained communication and guidance to the rest of the heads of bodies. We will surely miss you and hope you'll be back to join us in the future. Good luck, my Brother.

Fraternally yours,
Bro. Paulo Santos
Wise Master
Chapter of Rose Croix

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Antonio "Tony" Ramos, 32°, Commander of Kadosh

KINDNESS

This KINDNESS Article was previously published by one of our Valley of Ventura Scottish Rite members, Don Oliver, 32° K.C.C.H.

Can you be kind to someone that has been unkind to you? Kindness is the golden cord that holds society together. Do you think the people of the world make adequate use of this precious cord? Do we as members of the Masonic Fraternity and Scottish Rite use it wisely? Do you let the golden threads of kindness weave a bright pattern in your life?

Kindness and gentle consideration for others are qualities that need to be cultivated by all of us. Sometimes these human courtesies are neglected as we rush through a busy day and try to meet a full schedule. We forget to be kind and thoughtful. Too often these characteristics are not encouraged and instilled in our children. This leads to a home life devoid of tenderness and understanding. As this tendency is multiplied in homes across the land, a nation devoid of kindness is born. We as members of the Scottish Rite

can reverse this trend, if we try harder to be kind to our fellow members.

Kindness is love lighting the face, laughing from the lips, and performing daily in life. Kindness is based on good moral principles and is manifested whether one really feels like manifesting it or not. It is a way of living. What is the motive behind kindness? If the thought lingers, "what's in it for me?" then the good deed loses its meaning. If kindness to another is accompanied by even a hint of personal pride in our actions, the kindness is false and unworthy of the term.

This is the reason that true, sincere kindness is so scarce in the world. So much of self-glory and gratification enter in that the desire to help others is lost in selfishness. Even though kindness requires a forgetfulness of self, it is inevitable that anyone who shows kindness sincerely, will also benefit. Both the "doer" and "receiver" are recipients of happiness.

Try harder to be sincerely kind and you will benefit.

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



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
Lady Betty Burnham**

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.... 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 647-8669.... nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....

Lodge of Perfection

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 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

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 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

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

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

Other Workers

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 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@dslextreame.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

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|-----|-----|----|--|
| Mon | Sep | 10 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<i>Reservations</i>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following |
| Sat | Sep | 15 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcoy |
| Mon | Oct | 8 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations</i>), Feast of Tishri Celebration 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following |
| Sat | Oct | 13 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |
| Mon | Nov | 12 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<i>Reservations</i>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following |
| Sat | Nov | 17 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |

