

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

**VOL. XXXVI**    *September - October 2014*

**Issue 5**



**M.W. John L. Cooper III**

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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:**

Most Worshipful John L. Cooper III addresses the crowd at the New England Summer Picnic.

## **Upcoming Events**

Ill.∴ Frank Loui, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General for California, and his lady will attend our stated meeting on September 8. We look forward to meeting with him and learning more about the new programs for our Orient and from Supreme Council. Also, two representatives from the Santa Barbara Childhood Language Clinic will visit us that evening and tell us more about their program. Sir Knight Maurice Sourmany, 32° KCCH, the new Personnel Representative for the Valley of Santa Barbara, will also be present. We will be presenting him a check from the proceeds of the New England Summer Picnic for the Childhood Language Clinic.

Our Fall Class will begin on Saturday, September 27, with the 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> Degrees. Please try to have any petitions in by our September 8<sup>th</sup> stated meeting. Now is a good time to ask your Masonic brethren whether they would like to continue their Masonic education and

become 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Masons. Also, we will need help with the degrees. If you are willing to take a part, or if you can help us with stagecraft, lighting, or sound, please let us know.

At our October 13<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting we will also be celebrating the Feast of Tishri, commemorating the dedication of King Solomon's Temple. Brother Michael Blodgett, 32°, Professor of History at California State University, Channel Islands, will speak to us on King Solomon's Temple.

For our Masonic scholars, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Enriching History Conference will be held on November 16 at the San Francisco Scottish Rite Center. The program will feature presentations by four noted historians who will explore the influence of Freemasonry on the California Gold Rush. Details can be found at <http://www.ipsonet.org/conferences/enriching-history-conference>.

In order to allow more people to view this event we are considering hosting a "viewing site" on that day. Stay tuned for further details.

Our next highway cleanups will be on Saturdays, September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 18<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



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Ill.: Andy Saar, 33°, Personal Representative for the Valley of Santa Barbara. Andy was a good friend of our Valley, a frequent visitor to our events, and a great help to us over the years. We will miss him.

There will be a Masonic and Scottish Rite Memorial Service for him on September 6 at 2:00 PM at the Santa Barbara Masonic Center, 16 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara.

Brother Bruce Rick, 32°, is a member of the Valley of San Diego. He has been living in Ventura for the last few months and has taken a very active role in our Valley. He has been a regular on the Highway Cleanup crew, and he has helped with lighting and sound on our last

two classes. However, Brother Bruce has relocated to Santa Barbara. We will miss his enthusiastic help but we wish him the best in his new home and thank him for his many contributions while he was here.

At our May stated meeting Masonic scholar Tim Hogan spoke to us on the influence of the Qabbalah on Masonry. We had a large and enthusiastic attendance for this interesting and thought-provoking event.

Prior to our June stated meeting Mr. Chuck Terra, Resource Development Manager of Food Share, explained how their outstanding programs are able to be so effective with limited resources.

Of course our big event for July was the New England Summer Picnic, and once again this year we had perfect weather and a great turnout, and raised a considerable amount of money for the Childhood Language Center. A BIG thank you goes out to all who made this event a great success. (See pictures on the cover and pages 5 and 8, and on our web site at [www.venturascottishrite.org/celebrations.html](http://www.venturascottishrite.org/celebrations.html).)

Under the leadership of Brother Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, we have instituted a recycling program for laser printer cartridges, ink jet cartridges, cell phones (with batteries), digital cameras, tablets, and similar small electronics. The proceeds go to support the Child ID program. Pickup boxes are located at Oxnard and Channel Islands Masonic Centers. See flier on page 9.

## From the PR's Quill

*Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH*

**G**reetings from the Personal Representative.

Well, the summer is over, and I wish to welcome you back to our Scottish Rite dinner meetings. Our SGIG, Ill.: Frank Loui, and his lady will be visiting in September so I ask you to make your reservations early. Our cook has a very special menu planned for us. We are planning to have the P.R. from Santa Barbara along with the Clinic Manager and ladies as our guests as well to present them with our fund raising monies from the New England Summer Picnic.

It is with a sad heart I inform you of the passing of Illustrious Andrew David Saar, 33°, and Personal Representative of Santa Barbara for a very long time. He passed away this past week, and memorial arrangements are being made for a Masonic and Scottish Rite Memorial Service on September 6, 2014 at 2:00 PM at the Santa Barbara Masonic Center, 16 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. Please keep his lady Leanne in your prayers. Those whom wish to attend should try to car pool leaving Oxnard Lodge Parking lot around 12:00 PM. I for one will be attending along with Ill.: Tiny Potter.

Sir Knight Maurice Sourmany, 32° KCCH, has been duly appointed as the P. R. of Santa Barbara Valley, and we will look forward to having Bro. Sourmany join us for dinner as well this coming month.



With all the sad news, I am happy to report that our summer New England Picnic was a huge success, and although we did not make our goal of tickets sold we did net more money than we did last year. There are many to thank for making this function a success, and in fear of leaving someone out I will not name them but give my warm thanks to all of those who made this event a huge success. I am hopeful we can get the clinic manager and staff at our upcoming September dinner to present them with our donation.

I also wish to thank all those who participated in the Child ID booth at the Ventura County Fair. To all our Masonic brethren who support this effort I am grateful. I especially thank Sir Knight Chuck Batterson who heads up this event every year.

Sir Knight Harold Bogner also puts this event on at the Pt. Hueneme beach festival and I am thankful for his efforts as well.

Finally, as the year is about to come to a close, we still have some events ahead of us; from the Fall Class to the Feast of Tishri Celebration in October, as well as our election of officers. Heads of bodies please start thinking of who will fill your line or plan on staying in your current chair.

A couple of Honorable mentions are: Brother Jesse Escamillia was just selected for Chief Petty Officer in the Navy. This is a very honorable and prestigious appointment. For those who do not know, Navy Chiefs' are the only Bureau appointed enlisted positions of all the Military Services. Jesse has worked hard for this appointment and I am very proud of him. Also a bit premature as the elections have not happened but Brother Earl Williams, our Wise Master will become Master of Oxnard Lodge this coming year.

As I hope you know Earl has been our New England Picnic Ticket Chairman for the past two years.

Some other business: please support our '*Adopt-A-Highway*' Clean up event. For those of you who do not know I am a Maintenance Manager for the State of California and know the Adopt a Highway Program is being over hauled and being looked at closely. We want to insure we are doing our part to maintain our permit to do this clean up and show our name on the freeway. My hat's off to those who take part in this effort, and I will do whatever I can to make it work for all of us.

Thank you in advance to all who make these events happen!

*Jerry E. Gonzales, KCCH*

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



New  
England  
Summer  
Picnic:  
Guests  
enjoying  
the food

## Lodge of Perfection

J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

Brethren,  
I hope that all of you had a great and safe summer. First of all I want to thank and congratulate all the brethren and friends who helped in the organizing and execution of our traditional New England Picnic. It was a magnificent and very successful event. Once again, we were able to raise a very significant amount of money that will benefit the kids treated at the Santa Barbara Language Center. This could not have been possible without the support of all of you. A big thanks to you all!

At the September Stated Meeting we will have the honor of having two very important guests. Illustrious Frank Loui, S.G.I.G. for the Orient of California, will be joining us as his first official visit to our Valley. We will also have the attendance of Sir Knight Maurice Sourmany, the newly appointed Personal Representative for the Santa Barbara Valley, as well as two delegates for the Santa Barbara Language Center. We will be presenting the check of the money raised at the New England Picnic to the Santa Barbara representatives. Please make your best effort to attend the Stated Meeting and help us greet and welcome these very distinguished guests.

As fall approaches, we are starting to plan our Fall Degrees. The first part of the class will start on



Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. This time, we will make our best effort to get together a cast to include the 30<sup>th</sup> Degree. It has been a long time since our Valley conferred this degree. We need your help my brothers, please get involved in helping with our Degrees. We need help with the cast members, stage crew and costumes, but most importantly we need your support by attending the Degrees. They are beautiful and meaningful. If you haven't been present at the Scottish Rite Degrees in some years, this is the perfect opportunity for you to come down and re-experience the beautiful philosophical teachings of the Degrees. I hope to see you all.

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



## FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

### Dinner Reservations

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).

### September 8<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting Dinner Visit of our S.G.I.G, III.: Frank Loui Childhood Language Disorders Clinic Presentation

Grilled Oriental Steak W/Tomatoes & Peppers  
Seasoned Shrimp  
Orange Rice Pilaf  
Sautéed Mushrooms & Onions  
Seasoned Corn  
Salad  
Dessert  
Dinner rolls.

Cost \$17.00/\$27.00 Per Couple

RSVP by Thu, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with Harold Bogner.

### October 13<sup>th</sup> Dinner Menu

### Feast of Tishri Dinner

**Program: King Solomon's Temple**

**Speaker: Prof. Michael Blodgett, 32°**

Cost \$17.00 Per Person/\$27.00 Per Couple

RSVP by Thu, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with Harold Bogner

## NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC



**Help us Support the  
Child ID Program.**  
Bring your used and unneeded items.

# Let's Recycle!

## HELP US RAISE MONEY

### Ventura Scottish Rite Bodies

You can help us raise money and help the environment by collecting your used & new printer cartridges, cell phones, & small electronics and dropping them off at:

**Conejo Valley Masonic Center • 2786 Crescent Way • Thousand Oaks**

**Oxnard Masonic Center • 341 S. K Street • Oxnard**

**Ventura Masonic Center • 482 E. Santa Clara • Ventura**

For more information, email: [rsills@rsills.com](mailto:rsills@rsills.com)

NEW AND USED LASER CARTRIDGES



NEW AND USED INK CARTRIDGES



CELL PHONES, IPADS AND TABLETS



SMALL ELECTRONICS



**Preserve the Environment and Help Our Fundraising**  
**New and Used**

- Printer Cartridges
- Cell Phones
- iPads & Tablets
- Small Electronics  
(Laptops, Digital cameras, etc.)



**Why Recycle?**

- Preserve the environment
- Educate kids and our community
- Make money \$\$\$

— We have partnered with Green Hippo —  
[www.GreenHippo.com](http://www.GreenHippo.com)



**GREEN HIPPO**  
RECYCLING REWARDS!

## 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](mailto: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.*

**John Edward Hills crossed on 5/11/2014**  
**Elmer L. Stringer crossed on 5/21/2014**  
**Charles Raymond Rudd crossed on 6/4/2014**

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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, 32° KCCH ..... 986-3656.... jeg522@yahoo.com  
 Secretary / Treasurer..... Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33° ..... 415-3776.... alittle93012@gmail.com  
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 Asst Almoner Camarillo ..... William Campbell, 32° KCCH ... 482-7523.... bncampbell@verizon.net  
 Orator..... Robert L. Sills, 32° KCCH ..... 981-8262.... rlsills@rills.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

#### Council of Kadosh

Commander ..... Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32° KCCH 647-6728.... deematson@sbcglobal.net  
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#### Consistory

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 Senior Warden..... James L. Craig, 32° ..... 525-7780.... jlccraig19@gmail.com

#### Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew .... Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH ..... 644-2055 ... nrbpq@sbcglobal.net  
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 Programs, Social Events .....  
 Membership .....  
 Highway Cleanup ..... Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH ..... 643-6905.... deardorff@dslextrame.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: (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

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Santa Barbara, CA

### CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### Mark Your Calendar

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

**Mon Sep 8 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Sep 4), Program 7:20 PM: Presentation on the Santa Barbara Childhood Language Clinic, Stated meeting: Visit by Ill. Frank Loui, 33°, SGIG for California**  
**Sat Sep 13** Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 am, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy  
**Sat Sep 27** Fall Fast Class, Part 1, starting at 7:00 AM, 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Degrees

**Mon Oct 13 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM**  
**(Reservations by Oct 9), Feast of Tishri Celebration 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (Reobligation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, Nominating Committee appointed)**  
**Sat Oct 18** Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126  
**Sat Oct 25** Fall Fast Class, Part 2, Starting at 7:00 AM, 30<sup>th</sup> & 32<sup>nd</sup> Degrees.

