

Views from Ventura Valley

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Issue 5

New Honor Men Announced



Jerry Gonzales, 33° Elect

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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.

In Memoriam Norman Robert Hawkes, 33°

We are sad to announce the passing of Brother Norm on August 26.

Brother Norm received his Scottish Rite degrees in 1976 and was a charter member of our Valley. He served as our Venerable Master in 1991. He was invested with his KCCH in 1989 and received the 33rd Degree in 1993. Among his many influences on our Valley he was instrumental in instituting the New England Summer Picnic.

Norm was born May 23, 1934, in Newburyport, MA. He married Eleanor L. Brown in 1957. He served in the Navy before coming to work for the County of Ventura, where he became Auditor-Controller from 1973 to 1992.

Norm was a member, Past Master and Hiram Award recipient of Poinsettia Lodge #633. He was also active with many civic organizations including Boy Scouts, Ventura County Symphony Association, United Way, Rotary Club, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Oxnard.

After retiring from the county, Norm moved to Lubbock, Texas.

We will miss him.

Cover:

Our Personal Representative, Jerry Gonzales, has been elected to receive the 33rd Degree. Also brothers Fred Ervast, 32°, and Quentin Riggs, 32°, have been selected to be invested as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor. The ceremonies will take place on September 19 in San Diego.

Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting is on September 14th and we will be making plans for the rest of this year and next. Please bring your ideas. We also hope to have a presentation by the Santa Barbara Language Center. Be sure to get your dinner reservations in to Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at harold55@juno.com or (805) 218-1648, by Thursday, September 10.

On Saturday, September 19, we will be in San Diego of Honors Weekend. The 33rd Degree will be conferred on our Personal Representative, Jerry Gonzales, and Fred Ervast and Quentin Riggs will be made Knights Commander of the Court of Honor. If you want to attend these ceremonies or the banquet please contact the Secretary,

at (vcscottishrite@gmail.com or (805) 415-3776) at once so that we can make the necessary reservations.

At our October 12th stated meeting we will observe the Feast of Tishri, commemorating the dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The dinner will also include the traditional toasts to our leaders. Plan to attend this important meeting.

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

The 15th Annual California Masonic Symposium will be held on Sunday, September 20, at the Pasadena Scottish Rite Center. This year's subject is "Evolution of the Masonic Ritual. Speakers will include Ill.: Robert G. Davis, 33° GC, author of "The Mason's Words: History and Evolution of the American Masonic Ritual", and Ill.: Arturo de Hoyos, 33° GC, archivist of the Supreme Council. This event is open to Master Masons only. Further information is available at <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/article.htm?id=10811>.

The 166th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California will be held October 9-11 in San Francisco. Our own Ill.: Russ Charvonja will be presiding. See further information at <http://www.freemason.org/memberCenter/public/annualCommunication.htm>.

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.wcsmgl.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, September 19th and October 17th. 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 May stated meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming our Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of California, Ill.: Frank Loui, and his lady, on his official visit to our Valley. We also viewed a video by the late John Robinson, author of *Born in Blood* and *A Pilgrim's Progress*, about Freemasonry.

At our June 8th stated meeting we were honored to have our own Most Worshipful Russ Charvonja, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in
(continued to page 5)

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 33° Elect

Greetings to our Scottish Rite family! As summer comes to an end it is time for us to get back to work in Masonry as well as looking at closing out the Masonic year. There is still much work to be done this year as we prepare for 2016. Only four months left or 115 shopping days till Christmas. Our next Dinner meeting will be on September 14th at 6:30 followed by our Stated meeting, please insure you make dinner reservations with Sir Knight Harold Bogner. Highway cleanup is September 19th same time and place as always, please try to support this effort. Honors Ceremonies will be held in San Diego on September 18 and 19 followed by a Gala Banquet. Fall Fast Class is scheduled for late September but unless we have some candidates we may have to cancel this event. October 12th is our Annual Feast of Tishri Celebration followed by the re-obligation of the 14th degree. Highway cleanup will be on the 17th of October, again same time and location as always.

I am proud to announce and congratulate our Honor men for 2015, Brothers Fred Ervast and Quentin Riggs, who will be invested with the Rank and Decoration 'Knight Commander of the Court of Honor'.

As we begin to close out this year we still have a couple items left unattended. We should be finalizing the New England Picnic profits and presenting the check to Santa



Barbara Clinic, nominate and hold elections, and most importantly October is our Feast of Tishri Celebration. Please plan to attend.

If anyone has any ideas for events, entertainment or programs, please talk to the heads of bodies or our Orator who is always looking for new and interesting things to present.

Now on to some sad news within our Valley;

It is with great sadness that I announce Lady Connie Myers, widow of ILL.: Charlie Myers, passed away on 11 August 2015 after a short battle with Cancer. I have no word on any services but she has been cremated and at some future date her family will spread her ashes in the Ocean where Charlie's ashes were spread. If I get any details I will be sure to pass them on.

It is also with great sadness that I report that our Brother David Contreras, Venerable Master, has requested to demit from his blue lodge as well as the Scottish Rite. I will not go into details, as they are his personal reasons. With that said, although I have not spoken with the Senior Warden, I am hopeful he will step up and assume the position of

Venerable Master for the remaining 4 months. If necessary I will assume this chair for our upcoming meeting.

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

Jerry E. Gonzales KCCCH

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

News of the Valley

(continued from page 3)

California, speak to us on "Repairing the World by Improving Ourselves: Freemasonry's Role in Restoring Civility in Society".

This year's New England Summer Picnic was a huge success, especially the raffle. We were pleased to have many Grand Lodge officers and other dignitaries present. See pictures on pages 7 and 8.

We regret to announce that Connie Myers, wife of the late III. Charlie Myers, 33°, passed away. Connie was a constant presence in our Valley for many years and we will all miss her.

We also regret that our Venerable Master, David Contreras, 32°, has resigned and demitted from our Valley. We wish David the best of luck in his future endeavors.

A Note from Tiny

Brethren,

A few of you have been involved since the first New England Summer Picnic at Steckel Park in Santa Paula 25 years ago, and

remember the bees. We were there for 2 years with them, then we got smart and moved to Soule Park in Ojai for many years. I remember the first Lobster dinner in this same exact location (Camarillo Grove Park) in 1976 with Camarillo Lodge #824. Most of those who helped at our dinner have passed away. They were outstanding brethren. It has been a lot of fun through the years. It's great to see all the brethren of Ventura County Scottish Rite working together with some non-Masons to make this one of the greatest events in Masonry in California, in this brother's opinion. I am so grateful for what this event has become and what it is doing for Santa Barbara Scottish Rite's Childhood Language Center. Brethren, you will never fully understand how I feel about this event. It has been with me since 1976. I thank all the brethren and their ladies who have made this event so successful through the years. You have made this brother very proud to be a Scottish Rite Mason.

Sincerely
'Tiny' Potter, 33°

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, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

September 14th Stated Meeting Dinner

**Meatloaf w/ Brown Gravy
Cheesy Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Veggies
Dinner Rolls
House Green Salad
Glazed Pound Cake**

**Cost \$15.00 Per Individual/\$25.00 Per Couple
RSVP by Thu, Sep 10th, 2015 with Harold Bogner.
Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!**

October 12th Stated Meeting Dinner Feast of Tishri Celebration

**Roasted Chicken w/ Wine Glaze or Chicken Gravy
Rice Pilaf w/ Shallots**

**French Cut Green Beans
Sourdough Rolls
American Salad
Ambrosia Mixed Fruit**

**Cost \$15.00 Per Individual /\$25.00 Per Couple
RSVP by Thu, Oct 8th, 2014 with Harold Bogner**

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

New England Summer Picnic



Photos by the Santa Barbara Childhood Language Center
(from Bruce Rick, Secretary of the Valley of Santa Barbara)

Masons in Ventura County come together each year to prepare a New England Summer Picnic as a fund raiser to help children in the local community with speech and language disorders. For 25 years the Ventura County Valley of the Scottish Rite has coordinated the efforts to prepare and serve 1 ½ pound lobsters, 16 oz. steaks, mussels, corn on the cob, cole slaw, and kids' hot dogs for more than 400 people who attend every year in a secluded park in Camarillo. Add a refreshment stand, Bake Sale, Silent Auction, and musical entertainment and there is a feeling of a cross between a carnival and a family reunion. Old acquaintances are renewed and new friends are made. An informal program of introductions showed the wide range of support for this fund raiser: the 35 volunteers of the picnic staff, Masters and Past Masters, Grand Lodge of California Officers, Scottish Rite of California Officers, and leaders of the many appendant groups, all there to support the Santa Barbara Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center. The Santa Barbara Center serves children with speech and language disorders at no cost to the families in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties.

For more information on the Santa Barbara Childhood Language Center and the Picnic contact the Santa Barbara Masonic Center at (805) 965-6100.

New England Summer Picnic

Photos by Michael Metzler



Chapter of Rose Croix John Argue, 32° KCCH, Wise Master Obligations

As Masons each of us has taken many obligations, and the question is "What does taking these obligations mean to you?" The obligations we took at each of the degrees that began our journey as Masons were placed there because they had meaning and purpose. In Scottish Rite Masonry we again took a series of obligations and one of the things we obligated ourselves to do was to support the Valley and to faithfully attend its meetings and degree conferrals. When I look around at the lack of attendance at our various get-togethers I have to ask myself what those obligations actually meant to many of us.

There was a time when a man's word was his bond and a promise once given could be relied on. That if a man said he was going to do something, he did it because he had a sense of duty and honor. I urge all of us to examine our own lives and live up to our obligation to support the Valley by marking our calendars for the second Monday of the month as an



obligation and a duty. The fallout of this is that if Freemasonry and Scottish Rite were actually to succeed in our mission to make good men better, and the world a better place in which to live, one man at a time, then the entire world population could experience a wonderful and peaceful lifestyle. I do believe Masonry actually could achieve this goal.

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
Raul Cifuentes, 241-6968 Tony Caballero, 484-3155

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.*

Walter Bartlet Marshall crossed on 4/24/2015
Norman Robert Hawkes crossed on 8/26/2015

**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.... efggriffin@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 Schaller, 32°..... 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°..... 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, 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

Views from Ventura Valley
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2015

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon	Sep	14	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations by Sep 10), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Sep	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12611003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Saticoy
Mon	Oct	12	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Oct 8), Feast of Tishri Celebration 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (Nominating Committee appointed)
Sat	Oct	17	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Nov	9	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Nov 5), Program 7:20 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee)
Sat	Nov	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

