

*Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies*

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

**VOL. XLI**

**September - October 2019**

**Issue 5**

## **New England Summer Picnic**



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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

The cover shows (l-r) recent RiteCare grad Zaiden, Speech Clinician Julie DeAngelis, Santa Barbara Personal Representative Maurice Sourmany, and Clinician Summer Calvert at the New England Summer Picnic.

## New Sovereign Grand Commander

The Supreme Council has elected a new Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. : James D. Cole, 33°, who previously served as Lt. Grand Commander and as SGIG for Virginia. He replaces Ill. : Ronald A. Seale, 33°, who recently retired. Ill. : Michael D. Smith, 33°, SGIG for South Carolina, has been elected as Lt. Grand Commander.

We congratulate Grand Commander Cole and wish him the greatest of success in his new role.

## Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting will be on Monday, September 9. At that time, we will have a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our newest members,

Ron Brown, 32°, Richard Sturgeon, 32°, and Javier Hernandez, 32°. We hope you can come out and properly welcome these new members. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at

[hbogner@smartsourcelc.com](mailto:hbogner@smartsourcelc.com)

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Thursday, September 5th. Cost is \$15 per individual or \$25 for couple with reservation.

On Saturday, September 21, our two newest honormen, Michael Blodgett and Steve Goad, will be invested as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor (KCCH) in San Diego. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 pm and will be followed by a banquet at 7:00 pm. The banquet cost is \$70 and tickets must be purchased by September 17. Please let the secretary know if you are planning to attend the banquet so that we can coordinate the ticket purchase and reserve seating.

On Saturday, October 14, prior to our stated meeting, we will conduct our annual Feast of Tishri observance, celebrating the dedication of King Solomon's

Temple. The feast will include the traditional toasts. At the meeting we will undergo the Reobligation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree. Also, the Nominating Committee for next year's officers will be appointed. Brethren, we need people to take on the offices and do the work required to keep our Valley functioning. If you are willing to take an office, please let the Heads of the Bodies or the Personal Representative or Secretary know. (Contact information is on page 15.)

Unfortunately, we do not have any candidates for our Fall Class, so the Fall Class has been cancelled. To the casts, stagecraft, and other workers on the degrees, we thank you for your efforts, and please continue to think about your parts and keep them fresh in your minds so that we will be prepared to pick them up when needed for our next class.

Looking a little further ahead, on June 26-28 the valleys of Southern California are planning a reunion, to be held at Long Beach Scottish Rite, at which the 5 mandatory degrees plus 12 additional degrees will be exemplified. Earlier that month in Oakland the 5 mandatory degrees plus the other 12 degrees will be exemplified. The plan is to switch the optional degrees between the North and South the following year. This will allow candidates (and members) who desire to see all 29 degrees to do so either by attending both reunions next summer, or by attending reunions in Southern California two years in a row. Our Valley is expecting to take part in the southern reunion. If you are

interested in taking advantage of this opportunity then be sure to put these dates on your calendar.

There will be no highway cleanups during the next two months (see below).

## Highway Cleanup

We regret to announce that due to several unfortunate circumstances we have found it necessary to shut down our highway clean-up program for now. The program started in 1993 and involves cleaning up the 126 Freeway between Wells and Kimble Roads. At that time, we had 25 workers dedicated to this effort.

Over the years we have seen our numbers shrink as our membership has declined and many former workers are no longer able to participate. Recently we have been lucky to get a couple of workers out. At the same time CalTrans has become more serious about enforcing the rules, which has put even more of a strain on the current workers. Under these circumstances Sir Knight Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH, who has kept the program going almost singlehandedly the last few years, has decided to shut it down.

Our permit runs through April 30, 2020, so if anyone else would like to take charge of reorganizing the program and bringing it into compliance with CalTrans, we would be very happy for their efforts. But barring that we will be terminating the program.

## From the PR's Quill

*Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°*

**G**reetings to our Scottish Rite Family!

Hello brethren, friends and families. As we approach the beginning of the Fall Season, we too also are approaching the end of our Masonic year and there is still work to be completed as well as The Grand Lodge Sessions are up and coming among other events to close out this year. I hope the past year has been a pleasant and event filled year for all of you.

Recently we had our New England Picnic and I cannot begin to thank all who attended and supported this event. We had a great turn out and Brother Eric Cortez and Family did a great job with their auction event. I cannot thank you and your supporters enough for your efforts. Santa Barbara Valley and the staff from the Clinic, thank you so much for attending and talking about your programs. ILL. Maurice, I would also like to thank you for filling in for me in my absence as Master of Ceremonies. To the Grand Lodge Family, always wonderful to have you attend and support. There are so many to thank for making this event happen, I am not going to attempt to list them here, but there are two key players who make this event happen and I feel it is my duty to mention them, ILL. Tom Melugin and Sir Knight Harold Bogner. These are the two men who make this event happen. To both of you and all the others who work to make this event a



success I commend your efforts. Thanks, for all of your support.

As this year comes to an end, we still have much to do in the coming months. September we will be having the Cap and Ring Ceremony for our spring class members, Brother Ron Brown, Brother Robert Sturgeon, and Brother Javier Hernandez, followed by a very short business meeting. Next will be the Honors Ceremony in San Diego on September 21, 2019, where we will Honor Brother Steven Goad and Brother Michael Blodgett, who will receive the Investiture of Knights Commander of the Court of Honour. My sincere Congratulations to our three new brethren and our two most Honorable Honorees. Finally, in October we will celebrate the Feast of Tishri at which time we also plan to make presentations to the Valley of Santa Barbara Language Clinic.

The sad news is there will be NO

Fall Class Reunion due to lack of Petitions. With that in mind in the coming year 2020 for our spring class we will be having a state wide reunion mixed with Half in the North (Oakland Valley) and Half in the South (Long Beach Valley), so our candidates may be able to attend both and receive all 29 degrees or attend in the South and receive the Mandatory five plus half of the other 24 degrees. This program will be coming in June with more details in the coming year. So, it is our duty to get those Master Masons who are not Scottish Rite members signed up for the Spring Class of 2020. This should be an event to remember. Please get those petitions filled out and submitted for this Monumental Event.

We need your support for these following events. The Nominating Committee is appointed in October, their recommendations are made in November and voted on in December. We are truly in need of men who desire to hold a chair in our

bodies; not a lot involved but some effort and attendance is needed. Please think about taking a position in our line.

Finally, I want to thank Sir Knight Raul Cifuentes (again) for heading up our VMAP program and finalizing the report for the past year. Due to his diligent efforts last year we were honored with a plaque for our efforts and hope to receive another award in the coming year.

Our next meeting is approaching and I am looking forward to having dinner with all of you. I truly thank you for your continued support. Please, Please, Please, remember to make your dinner reservations on time.

God Bless, and Hope to See You at Dinner!

**Ill. Jerry E. Gonzales 33°**

<http://www.venturascottishrite.org/>  
<http://www.scottishritecalifornia.org/>  
<https://scottishrite.org/>  
<http://www.casr-foundation.org/>

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## News of the Valley

At our May stated meeting we heard Ill. **Merrick Hamer, 33°**, of the Valley of Pasadena, speak on "Polarities of the Holy Saints John", explaining the phenomena of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist from their astronomical and psychological perspectives.

At our June stated meeting Sir Knight Dexter C. Pehle, 32° KCCH, of the Valley of Santa Barbara, read an interesting paper by Masonic Scholar RW Brother Leon

Zeldis of Israel titled "An Esoteric View of the Rose-Croix Degree".

On July 27 we held our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Picnic. Thanks go out to the many people who helped make this a success. Sir Knight Bruce Rick, 32° KCCH, of the Valley of Santa Barbara, penned a great article, including pictures, which we have reproduced starting on the next page (page 6).

## Southern California's Largest New England Style Picnic

Article and photos by Bruce Rick, 32°. KCCH Valley of Santa Barbara

Trading your lobster or steak ticket for a wristband starts you on this yearly fun-in-the-sun (hasn't rained here in 28 years and continued sunny on this 29<sup>th</sup> year in July 2019) picnic at Camarillo Grove Park in Camarillo, California, where you just bring your appetite! Well, New England Picnic old-timers know to bring a large platter for the 1 ½-pound lobster or the 16 oz. steak. Both choices come with coleslaw, corn on the cob, garlic bread, and mussels. Since 1998, Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, has led the crew of over 30 volunteers comprising of Ventura County Valley Scottish Rite Masons, local Masons, family members, and even high school community service helpers, to benefit the Santa Barbara RiteCare Child Language Center. And the main dish isn't all - when you stroll around the grounds, you will find a drinks tent, a bake sale, a huge selection of raffle items, and musical entertainment.



Lead man Harold Bogner had the idea of Lazy Lobster Lovers



“Here you see Masons and non-Masons coming together to support our local RiteCare center, which is the crown jewel of the 14 California RiteCare centers,” said Maurice Sourmany, 33°, Personal Representative (P.R.) to the Sovereign Grand Inspector General (S.G.I.G.) of California for the Santa Barbara Valley.

This year “The Rockin’ Henrys” family band played before the crowd of over 300 picnic guests. The family leader is Mason Michael Henry.



**The Rockin' Henrys Family Band**

Among the many dignitaries from Grand Lodge, Grand York Rite, Scottish Rite, and Shriners in attendance, Grand Master of California Stewart Wright said, “The New England Summer Picnic or Lobsterfest as I like to call it, again is a big success, not only for the Santa Barbara RiteCare but for our extended Masonic family.” He pointed out, “the Grand Lodge is a big supporter of the activities that help kids like this and like our Masons4Mitts (providing baseball mitts to California’s underprivileged children).”

*(Continued to page 10)*

# From The Kitchen Staff

## Dinner Menu

### **September 9, 2019, Stated Meeting Dinner, Cap & Ring Ceremony**

**Shrimp Scampi**  
**Parmesan Noodles**  
**California Blend Vegetables**  
**Frosted Apple Sauce Cake**  
**Soft Serve Ice Cream**

**Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple**

**RSVP by Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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

**Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to hbogner@smartsourcellc.com, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).**

### **October 14, 2019, Stated Meeting Dinner**

**Chicken Alfredo**  
**Lightly toasted Garlic Bread**  
**Mixed Vegetables**  
**Caesar Salad**  
**Strawberry Pound Cake**

**Cost \$15.00/Individual or \$25.00/Couple**

**RSVP by Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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

**Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to hbogner@smartsourcellc.com, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).**



## Dinner Reservations

### 2019 Dinner Reservation Policy:

Prorated Annual Reservations for the remainder of 2019 are available at the rate of \$15.00/\$25.00 per remaining dinner meeting. At the time of this writing there are 4 remaining dinner meetings.

If you choose to pay monthly; the fee will be \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 4 days in advance.

If you make a reservation and fail to attend, the appropriate thing to do is send your money to the Valley or be prepared to pay at the next meeting you attend, as we will have paid for your dinner reservation in advance.

As always Widows are guests of the Valley with or without reservations! (Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from non-reservation price.)

Be sure to make your reservations with Harold Boqner, preferably by email to [hboqner@smartsourcellc.com](mailto:hboqner@smartsourcellc.com), otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

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## LET US REMEMBER

*by Thomas Power*

Let us remember in our youth,  
Before the evil days draw nigh,  
Our Great Creator, and his Truth,  
Ere memory fail, and pleasures fly;  
Or sun, or moon, or planet's light  
Grow dark, or clouds return in  
gloom;  
Ere vital spark no more incite;  
When strength shall bow and years  
consume.

Let us in youth remember Him!  
Who formed our frame, and spirits  
gave,  
Ere windows of the mind grow dim,  
Or door of speech obstructed wave;

When voice of bird fresh terrors  
wake,  
And music's daughters charm no  
more,  
Or fear to rise with trembling shake,  
Along the path we travel o'er.

In youth, to God let memory cling,  
Before desire shall fail or wane,  
Or ever be loosed life's silver string,  
Or bowl at fountain rent in twain;  
For man to his long home doth go,  
And mourners group around his  
urn!  
Our dust to dust again must flow,  
And spirits unto God return.



Grand Master of California Wright tosses in the ceremonial first lobster.

Evelyn Rick, in the lobster cracking line said, "Every year the lobsters are so big that Harold's idea of doing the hard work has made a Lucky Lobster Lover out of me!"

*"Will it bite me?"*



The lobsters and mussels are flown in from Maine, the steaks are provided by local Oxnard California vendors.

Kids could have hot dogs and chips.

*"The works, please!"*



*"Medium Rare For Me"*



Said the original Ventura Valley picnic organizer Fredrick "Tiny" Potter (33<sup>rd</sup>, PM, Hiram Award recipient, Camarillo Lodge No. 824): "We started the picnics in 1982, with the idea of a family-oriented fundraiser, always for the Santa Barbara speech clinic. Each year we have worked to make this an enjoyable experience as our first priority and a fundraiser as a secondary benefit."

"Julie and I are always thrilled to come to the Picnic and see so many who want to support our RiteCare activities", said Summer Calvert, staff Speech Language Pathologist. She and Julie DeAngelis, also a Speech Language Pathologist, share the work to cover the needs of over 200 children per year.

The Santa Barbara RiteCare Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit that provides screenings, evaluations, and therapy services to pre-school through kindergarten age children. Contact RiteCare through their website [www.sbspeech.com](http://www.sbspeech.com).



(l-r) RiteCare recent grad Zaiden, Julie DeAngelis, Maurice Sourmany, Summer Calvert

As emcee, Sourmany thanked all for coming, and, even though he didn't win any raffle items, said, "This is just like a family reunion; some folks we see most every day and others, here, once every year. It is worthwhile even just to visit dear friends and meet new ones."

*"Have you ever been to such a great family picnic?"*



## **SPEED THE REAL V-DAY**

*Claude H. Morrison, PGM, California*

We should not forget the continued fulfillment of the purpose to which we became Masons. While this varies with each individual Mason, it is connected with the well-being and improvement of mankind through the application of the principle of good to the individual man.

In a world torn with prejudice and ill will we can and should be known as men of goodwill. When others scoff at this or that creed, race or sect, we should with the tolerance of perfect understanding, assist the world to a better understanding. We should hate nothing but hatred and intolerance.

We must respect our individual personalities, we must support our rights as individuals, but in supporting those rights we must accept the responsibilities which go with those rights, and those responsibilities can best be discharged by that service which comes from loyal enthusiasm and clear, unbiased thinking.

Such is the program of Masonry. The development of the individual by the combined, intellectual and material resources of his Lodge and Grand Lodge, and with it all the nurturing of faith, a faith that enables him to look to the future with confidence, a faith born of belief in God.

I am wondering if you see the picture as I see it. We have a great institution, rich with the traditions of the past, and bright with potentialities of the future. This institution can never rise above the sincerity, the ability and enthusiasm of the men who compose it. The primary purpose of Masonry is to make better men, and if we are to accomplish this purpose we must not only, invoke the aid of the traditions of the past, but take advantage of all of the help that modern science can give us.

They say that the soldiers and sailors in the field, on and under the water, and in the air, have a special kind of faith. It is not a blind faith, nor a faith born of fatalism. It rises above danger, and continues firm when their comrades do not return. They implement their faith with action, and make those actions count against their enemies whose faith is blind and born of hatred.

My brethren, our battle is one of peace. Our enemies are intolerance and ignorance. Our weapons are intelligence and understanding and love. By implementing our faith with action may we encourage and incite all Masons to rise to higher levels of interest and accomplishments, and thus speed the real V-Day when ignorance and misunderstanding are no more.

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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.*

**John Klopstein, (805) 486-0602**

**Larry Toumi, (805)987-1738**

**Thom Piper, (805)208-8004**

**William R. Wood**

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 the Secretary ([alittle93012@gmail.com](mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com)),  
(805) 415-3776) 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.*

**Gustav Friedrich Grosch crossed on 3/5/2017**

**Eldon Daniel Peterson crossed on 5/29/2019**

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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.....Ill. J. Jerry E. Gonzales, 33°.....	(805)986-3656	<a href="mailto:jeg522@yahoo.com">jeg522@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer.....M.W. Russ E. Charvonja, 33°.....	(805)258-1037	<a href="mailto:rcharvonja@freemason.org">rcharvonja@freemason.org</a>
Secretary.....Ill. J. W. Andrew Little, 33°.....	(805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>
Almoner.....Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32°.....	(805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:sjl273prez@hotmail.com">sjl273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks..John A. Argue, 32° KCCH.....	(805)498-4831	<a href="mailto:mayfieldpark@aol.com">mayfieldpark@aol.com</a>
Asst Almoner Santa Paula.....Ill. J. E. Floyd Griffin, 33°.....	(805)525-5932	<a href="mailto:efgriffin@verizon.net">efgriffin@verizon.net</a>
Asst Almoner Camarillo.....William F. Campbell, 32° KCCH.....	(805)482-7523	<a href="mailto:bnccampbell@verizon.net">bnccampbell@verizon.net</a>
Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH.....	(805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Prelate.....Francis Villareal, 32°.....	(805)366-2924	<a href="mailto:eo1.scw@gmail.com">eo1.scw@gmail.com</a>
Director of the Work.....		
Class Director.....Michael D. Blodgett, 32°.....	(805)390-0114	<a href="mailto:mdblodgett@gmail.com">mdblodgett@gmail.com</a>
Historian.....Ill. J. Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°.....	(805)484-4150	<a href="mailto:fred_pttr@yahoo.com">fred_pttr@yahoo.com</a>
Tyler.....Mark T. Torrez, 32°.....	(805)290-3200	<a href="mailto:mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com">mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com</a>

#### Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master.....Steven R. Goad, 32°..... (760)608-1585 [steve.goad9@gmail.com](mailto:steve.goad9@gmail.com)

#### Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master.....Ryan A. Phillips, 32°..... (805)443-2906  
[ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com](mailto:ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com)

#### Council of Kadosh

Commander.....Roy G. Price, 32°..... (805)276-8946 [venturaprice@yahoo.com](mailto:venturaprice@yahoo.com)

#### Consistory

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#### Other Workers

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Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at [vcscottishrite@gmail.com](mailto:vcscottishrite@gmail.com).

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 County  
Scottish Rite Bodies  
487 Appletree Ave  
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2019

Views from Ventura Valley  
September – October

Page 16

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Mark Your Calendar

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

**Mon Sep 9** Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm (*Reservations by Sep 5*), Cap & Ring Ceremony 7:30 pm, Stated Meeting following, [CoK]

**Sat Sep 21** HONOURS Conferral in San Diego,

**Mon Oct 14** Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, Feast of Tishri Celebration, (*Reservations by Oct 10*), Stated Meeting following (Reobligation of 14<sup>th</sup> Degree, Nominating Committee Appointed) [VM]

Oct 18-20 Grand Lodge Annual Communication

**Mon Nov 11** Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

