

*Ventura Valley*

VOL. XLV

January - February 2023

Issue 1

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XLV, Issue number 1. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the 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 805-415-3776.

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.

## Officers for 2023

On January 9, 2023, our Valley will hold our Annual Installation of Officers. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm with the Installation starting at 7:30 pm. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than Friday, January 7th. Cost is \$20.

The officers to be installed are:

### Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... Roy G. Price, 32°

### Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master.....Mark Torrez, 32°

### Council of Kadosh

Commander ..... Ray Broomfield, 32°

1st Lt. Commander .. Steven Goad, 32° KCCH

### Consistory

Master of Kadosh.....

.....Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH

### Officers of All the Bodies

Treasurer..... Tailor 'Tag' Gilbert, 32°

Secretary ..... Ill. : W. Andrew Little, 33°

Almoner..... Ryan A. Phillips, 32° KCCH

Orator..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH

Prelate..... Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH

We still have several holes in our officer lines. If you are willing to take an office, please let the current officers know.

## From the Secretary

I want to thank all the members who have sent in their dues payments for 2023. If you paid your 2022 dues then your 2023 membership card should have been sent to you along with your invoice rather than after your payment is received.

If you are suffering from financial stress (as we know many of

you may be), let us know and we will make accommodations.

If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We are all here to support each other.

Please keep us updated on your contact information. We don't want to lose track of you.

## Upcoming Events

After the Installation, our next stated meeting is on Monday, February 13. No promises but we are hoping to have a short video for you. If you will be joining us for dinner, reservations are required; contact Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at

hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

or (805) 218-1648, no later than

Friday, February 10. Cost is \$20. The menu is to be announced.

## News of the Valley

Our plans to establish our own RiteCare clinic are in the early stages. We will start off with something small and plan to grow it. We are currently looking to staff our Board of Directors.

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### “THE QUALITY, DIGNITY AND SUBSTANCE OF MASONRY”

The individual Mason should always be ready to stress the QUALITY, the DIGNITY, the SUBSTANCE of the Masonic Order - and his own personal pride in being a Mason. He should not hesitate to talk about Freemasonry.

When somebody asks - “What do you do at the Masonic Lodge?” each Mason should be prepared to tell of some of the things that are done. He should not “clam up.” He should not imply that “all is secret.” He can say that we participate in serious ritualistic ceremonies designed to portray in a very graphic manner many fundamental precepts of ethical, good moral conduct of our lives. He can say that the fraternal meetings provide an opportunity for friendly, sincere conversations with fellow members concerning many, many things. He can say that his Lodge provides an inspirational thrust to its members to be thoughtful, conscientious, participating citizens. There are many things he can say - any one of which helps build the image of QUALITY, DIGNITY, SUBSTANCE. (This is public relations!)

The public relations of the individual Mason can be, and oft times is, constantly at work. The Mason who is looked up to for his every action is constantly bringing credit to the Craft.

On the other side of the coin - the Mason who creates a bad impression, in whatever field of activity it may be, can bring discredit to the Craft. I am suggesting that we as Masons in California become concerned about our public relations - that we be alert to all means at our command to interpret ourselves, as Masons, to society - and above all, that we do so with DIGNITY, with full attention to the QUALITY and SUBSTANCE of our beloved Fraternity.

QUALITY, DIGNITY and SUBSTANCE attract good men.

BUT - they must see and sense them to be attracted!

Public relations for us are not just newspaper stories. It is much, much more. And it's our duty to recognize and use all the facilities at our command to project our IMAGE to the public, and I trust it's one of QUALITY, of DIGNITY, of SUBSTANCE.

– Theodore Meriam, PGM, California

## From the PR's Quill

*Ill John F. Lowe, 33°*

**W**elcome to 2023! May this new year allow each of us to refocus our thoughts and actions in the Scottish Rite, without danger or disruptions from COVID-19.

We have much to accomplish, and we need your attendance at our meetings and other activities. It remains unfortunate that we lost momentum during the pandemic but now is the time to begin anew.

Our Valley has the opportunity in front of us to establish our own Rite Care Clinic – an opportunity we have long sought. If you are not aware, we are encouraged to begin with telemedicine so that physical facilities are unneeded to start operation.

Importantly, such “breathing room” allows us to concentrate on building a strong board, including community partners. The California Scottish Rite Foundation is ready to provide marketing materials and important assistance as we

reach out for donations. The Foundation has strengthened guidance and oversight to assist a Valley starting a clinic – and the encouragement so necessary in this effort.

And now the big ask – will you return to our meetings? We



continue to enjoy a nice meal and fellowship on the second Monday each month. But we miss you! Are you attending blue lodge? Have you recommended a worthy brother the benefits of joining the Rite? We need the momentum!

On the 9th, we will hold our annual installation of new officers. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M., followed by installation. The evening is open to family and friends. The officers welcome your attendance and participation. Just let us know you are coming

for dinner – I’m happy to set a table place for you.

With eternal hope for the new year, please join our planning as we work to establish a Ventura center!

Salve Frater,

John



**RiteCare Childhood Language Centers of California**  
a program of the  
**CALIFORNIA SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION**

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## “SYMBOLISM”

The outstanding characteristic of Masonic ritual is its use of symbols. Everything that is said and done in the ceremonies is symbolic of ideas in Masonic philosophy.

Literally, a symbol is a comparison. The word symbol is derived from two Greek words meaning to throw together, place side by side. We have no other way to express ideas than by the use of symbols. Words themselves are only symbols. When we say a man is “lion-hearted,” we use symbolism. In ordinary usage, however, by symbol we mean an object which suggests or stands for an idea. The Flag is a symbol of our Country; the Cross is a symbol of Christianity. But ceremonies and actions may also be symbolic. The military salute is a symbol of obedience and discipline.

It may be asked why Masonic ritual should be composed so largely of objective and ceremonial symbols; why it would not be simpler to give lectures. Because it is not enough merely to state ideas; they must be driven home.

Symbols are more vivid than words. Symbols can express more than words can say. Who can explain a flower, or say what a melody means? Symbols are more impressive than words. The person seeing the symbol makes his own interpretation. The thought then is his own. He has done more than see the symbol; he has created an idea. A man holds to his own ideas, and remembers them. Lastly, a symbol can express in a flash a whole series of ideas, so it does the work of many speeches. The explanations of the symbols given in these lectures are but suggestions or starting points.

– From “Instruction Lodge Manual” by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

## **VALLEY SCHEDULE 2023 EVENTS**

As the last three years have shown us, even the best made plans can be scrambled with minimum notice. However, it is necessary for us to lay out a tentative schedule so that we can start planning, even though we know that changes will likely occur. We have not as yet set dates for degree classes. While future dates are always tentative, that is especially true this year. Watch this newsletter and our web site, <http://www.venturascottishrite.org>, for updates.

**MON. JAN. 9: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM STATED MEETING & INSTALLATION (VM, PR,  
INSTALLING TEAM)**

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**MON. FEB. 13: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM STATED MEETING (VM)**

**FRI. FEB 24, SUPREME COUNCIL VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP  
WORKSHOP, 6:00PM – 9:00 PM**

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**MON. MAR. 13: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING (CoK)**

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**MON. APR. 10: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING & 25/50 YEAR  
AWARDS (MoK)**

**MON. APR 17: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, REMEMBRANCE & RENEWAL  
PROGRAM (WM)**

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**MON. MAY 8: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM, (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM, STATED MEETING (VM)**

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**MON. JUNE 12: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING (WM)**

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**JULY & AUGUST DARK IN RESPECT TO MEETINGS**

**SAT. tentatively JULY 15, NEW ENGLAND SUMMER PICNIC,  
SERVING NOON – 1 PM**

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**MON., SEPT: 11: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM, STATED MEETING FOLLOWS  
PROGRAM (CoK)**

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**MON. OCT. 9: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (FEAST OF TISHRI  
CELEBRATION IN DINING ROOM), (RESERVATIONS),  
FOLLOWED BY STATED MEETING (REOBLIGATION OF 14  
DEGREE, NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED) (VM)**

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**MON. NOV. 13: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM,  
(RESERVATIONS), 7:30 PM STATED MEETING (REPORT OF  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE) (VETERANS DAY) (MoK)**

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**MON. DEC. 11: SOCIAL 5:30PM, DINNER 6:30 PM (RESERVATIONS),  
7:30 PM STATED MEETING – ELECTION OF OFFICERS (WM)**

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**MON. JAN. 8, 2024: SOCIAL 5:30 PM, DINNER 6:30 PM  
(RESERVATIONS), INSTALLATION 7:30 PM (VM, PR,  
INSTALLING TEAM)**

Presiding Officers: (VM) – Venerable Master, (WM) – Wise Master, (CoK) –  
Commander of Kadosh, (MoK) – Master of Kadosh, (PR) – Personal Rep.

**Some dates to remember & put on your calendar:**

**Grand Lodge Annual Communication: Oct. 27 – 29, 2023**

**SAT, Sep 9, Scottish Rite Honors: 1:00 pm, 33 Degree conferral; 4:30 pm,  
KCCH Investiture; 6:00 pm, Banquet; location TBA (Southern California)  
FRI, Nov 17, PR & General Secretary's Meeting, Sacramento Scottish Rite.  
SAT, Nov 18, California Scottish Rite Foundation Meeting, Sacramento**

## From The Kitchen Staff

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

### Dinner Menu

#### January 9, Installation of Officers

Baked Hawaiian style Chicken  
Garden Salad Santa Barbara style  
Rice Pilaf  
California Medley Vegetables  
Dinner Rolls  
Strawberry Pound Cake

Cost \$20.00, RSVP by Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)

#### February 13, 2023, Stated Meeting Dinner

Menu to be announced

Cost \$20.00, RSVP by Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner (see above)



## LODGES AND TAVERNS

The Mother Grand Lodge of the world was planned in one tavern and organized in another, and for many years continued to meet in first one tavern and then another. So also did the new Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland do the same thing. As for the subordinate lodges, it was universally the custom for them to meet in taverns, that in the early engraved lists of them published by the Grand Lodge of England they are represented not by numbers, as they are now, but by small pictures representing the signs of the tavern in which they met.

This was true to an equal extent here in America. Henry Price and his Masonic friends met in one or other of two taverns in Boston to lay plans for the establishment of their Grand Lodge in 1733, and that Grand Lodge often assembled in one or another of “the public houses.” Lodges had similar meeting places in other large centers, such as New York, Philadelphia, etc.

Modern Freemasons, who do not often consort in taverns, are sometimes shocked by these facts. It is easy to understand why. They think of a tavern as a bar saloon, a beer parlor, and therefore cannot even imagine a Grand Lodge or a lodge meeting in such places. Why did the Mother Grand Lodge meet in one? Why did it not find a room in some house more respectable?

The answer is that in those early days of the Craft the taverns, inns, and ale-houses in the towns and cities were not “such places” but were among the most respected places in the community; and also, often enough occupied the most splendid building which was furnished magnificently, and where the most exquisite ladies could go without embarrassment.

If a reader continues to be dubious, let him go into the Metropolitan Art Museum when next in New York City, and study the large picture of the ballroom in Gadsby’s Tavern at Alexandria, Virginia, Washington’s own town. Both Washington and his wife often danced in that ballroom – and so, on more than one occasion, did the correct and scrupulous Lafayette.

History has a way now and then of coming full circle. In a recent letter a friend in Exeter, England, writes: “Several lodges in England who own their own temple are facing financial trouble; this is due to fierce taxation and rising costs of maintenance. Fees are constantly rising. I think that eventually some lodges will have to go back to the taverns whence they started, and hire a room as and when required.” He then goes on to report how the White Hart Lodge – ousted from their own property by the military – “got a dispensation to meet at the White Hart where they started 200 years ago.

– Masonic Curiosa



# 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**

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.*

**William Lyle Ekman crossed on 6/18/2018**

**Oliva Junior Harkey crossed on 1/1/2020**

**Charles Phillip Batterson crossed on 12/6/2022**



**FREEMASONRY BUILDS ITS TEMPLES IN THE  
HEARTS OF MEN AND AMONG NATIONS.**

**Useful Contacts**

**Officers of All the Bodies (as of our January 2023 Installation)**

Personal Rep of the SGIG...Ill.:	John F. Lowe, 33°	(714)392-2692	<a href="mailto:johnflowe@verizon.net">johnflowe@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer	Tag Gilbert, 32°	(805)558-8469	<a href="mailto:tag653@gmail.com">tag653@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°	(805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>
Almoner	<u>Ryan A. Phillips, 32° KCCH</u>	(805)443-2906	<a href="mailto:ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com">ryan.phillips138@yahoo.com</a>
Orator	J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH	(805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Prelate	Fred Ervast, 32° KCCH	(805)389-0787	<a href="mailto:fastfynn@verizon.net">fastfynn@verizon.net</a>
Director of the Work			
Class Director	Michael D. Blodgett, 32° KCCH	(805)390-0114	<a href="mailto:mdblodgett@gmail.com">mdblodgett@gmail.com</a>
Historian			
Tyler			

**Lodge of Perfection**

Venerable Master	Roy G. Price, 32°	(805)276-8946	<a href="mailto:venturaprice@yahoo.com">venturaprice@yahoo.com</a>
Senior Warden			
Junior Warden			

**Chapter Rose Croix**

Wise Master	Mark T. Torrez, 32°	(805)290-3200	<a href="mailto:mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com">mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com</a>
Senior Warden			
Junior Warden			

**Council of Kadosh**

Commander	<u>Ray Broomfield, 32°</u>	(805)482-6756	<a href="mailto:raybroomfield@msn.com">raybroomfield@msn.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander	<u>Steven R. Goad, 32° KCCH</u>	(760)608-1585	<a href="mailto:steve.goad9@gmail.com">steve.goad9@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander			

**Consistory**

Master of Kadosh	Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH	(805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:sjl273prez@hotmail.com">sjl273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Senior Warden			
Junior Warden			

**Other Workers**

Dinner Reservations	Harold W. Bogner, 32° KCCH	(805)218-1648	<a href="mailto:hbogner@smartsourcellc.com">hbogner@smartsourcellc.com</a>
Membership, VMAP Chair	J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH	(805)241-6968	<a href="mailto:jrcifuentes@hotmail.com">jrcifuentes@hotmail.com</a>
Stagecraft	Salvador J. Lopez, Jr., 32° KCCH	(805)649-8177	<a href="mailto:sjl273prez@hotmail.com">sjl273prez@hotmail.com</a>
Stagecraft Emeritus	Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH	(805)625-3296	<a href="mailto:mgmetzler@aol.com">mgmetzler@aol.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°	(805)415-3776	<a href="mailto:alittle93012@gmail.com">alittle93012@gmail.com</a>

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  
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

2023

Views from Ventura Valley  
January - February

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Mark Your Calendar

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

**Mon Jan 9** Installation of Officers. Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, (*Reservations by Dec 6*), 7:30 pm Ceremony, *Venerable Master in charge of meeting*

**Mon Feb 13** Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, (*Reservations by February 10*), 7:30 pm Stated Meeting, *Venerable Master in charge of meeting.*

**Mon Mar 13** Social 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, (*Reservations by Mar 10*), 7:30 pm, *Commander of Kadosh in charge of meeting.*

