

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

# *Views from Ventura Valley*

VOL. XXXIV

July - August 2012

Issue 5

Presenting... **The New England Summer Picnic**



## THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH !

*A benefit performance for the Scottish Rite Language Disorder Clinic*

Enjoy the debut of these talented 1.5 lb Maine Lobsters (\$35)  
or choose a famous Juicy and Tender 1 lb. New York Steak (\$25)

Joining our stars will be Corn-on-the-cob, Garlic toast,  
& Mussels (subject to availability)

Free Hot Dog Meal for anyone under age 12

Show opens July 14<sup>th</sup> at Camarillo Oak Grove County Park.

Music and merriment from 10am - 4pm

**Serving from 12 - 1pm**

**Tickets on sale NOW thru July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Earl Williams for tickets, (626) 367-7954

No ticket sales accepted after above date.

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXIV, Issue number 5. 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.

### In Memoriam Lois Marrs



Above: Lois at a recent installation of officers.

Below: Lois being honored as "Our Lady of the Centerpieces".



We are very saddened to report that on June 22 Lady Lois Marrs went to that "house not made with hands".

Lois was always present at our Scottish Rite dinners and events. She provided the wonderful centerpieces for our tables, tirelessly bringing them from her home and setting them up for each dinner. She was honored last year as "Our Lady of the Centerpieces". She was active in our Women's Association for many years, joining in 1984, serving as President in 1999, and as Member at Large since 2002. Lois always provided insightful poems for our enjoyment.

Lois was born February 21, 1919. She married a Superintendent of Ocean View School in Oxnard. She was a school teacher for 23 years at Ocean View and at Mound and Juanamaria Schools in Ventura. After retirement she had a second career selling Avon products. She had three children, two boys and a girl. She had 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Lady Lois also recently celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> year in the Order of Eastern Star. She was also a member of the Daughters of the Nile.

Lois was a delightful person and we will all miss her dearly.

## Upcoming Events

Of course our BIG upcoming event is the **New England Summer Picnic**, being held this year on **July 14<sup>th</sup>** at **Camarillo Grove Park**. See the cover and page 8 for details.



For this year's picnic we have made special arrangements with the park district to include parking. Just show them your ticket when you arrive.

As far as meetings are concerned, we are **DARK** for July and August. No stated meetings until September. Enjoy your summer.

However, we do have some events going on this summer.

We will again be helping with the Child ID booth at the Ventura County Fair, August 1-12. We need volunteers for all days and shifts. We have free entry passes and once your shift is over you can see the fair. If you can help please contact Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, at 647-8669 or nereus2006@sbcglobal.net.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and August 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

At our May stated meeting Brother Michael Bradbury, 32°, former District Attorney of Ventura County had been scheduled to speak on Cowboy Poetry, but had to cancel due to a family emergency. We hope to reschedule him in the near future. A big thank you goes to our orator, Brother Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, who stepped in at the last moment and spoke on the poetry of Robert Morris.

On Memorial Day several members of our Valley participated in the wreath-laying ceremonies at Ivy Lawn Cemetery. See pictures on page 6.

Prior to our June stated meeting we held a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our two newest members, Brothers Jay Peterson, 32°, and Jim Brady, 32°. See pictures on page 12. Also Brother David Wehmeyer, 32°, Potentate of Al Malaikah Shrine, paid us a visit along with several of his officers and addressed our Valley. See pictures on page 13.

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. Congratulations on attaining this milestone, Brother Richard.

Congratulations are also in order to Brother Jim Daniels, 32° KCCH, who received the Hiram Award on June 6 from Oxnard Lodge #341.

## 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 Degree 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. As this date nears I will try to keep you posted as to any events surrounding the date.

Valley News Flash: The New England Picnic is still on for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 so I encourage all of you to get out there and sell those tickets, time is running out. I will also ask of you, when someone asks for your help with some part of this event, please offer your assistance. It takes the hands and efforts of many to make this event happen, we need your **HELP!** To those of you who year in and year out offer your assistance, I say thank you for all you do, and I will do my best to give you as much recognition as possible as the days go by. This event again will be attended by our Grand Mater and the Grand Family which we are looking forward to spending



time with during this fund raising event.

We had a great time at the Memorial Day ceremonies at Ivy Lawn Cemetery to honor those fallen veterans from the past. I was pleased to have our valley represented by our officers. Thank you for all in attendance. *(See pictures page 6.)*

On to some other business at hand: Our Director of the Work has resigned over a year ago without replacement, so our Valley is in need of someone to take on this task! To date we have not had anyone step up to the plate on this program and as

a result we have had to take our candidates to other Valleys for degree work. This saddens me as I feel we should be doing degrees for our valley. I am looking and will be asking for support in this matter. We again have one candidate and I have another potential candidate on the horizon. It will probably happen that we have to take them to Pasadena or Long Beach again for the degrees this year. I am hopeful in the coming year we can get our degree teams back together and would like to have the opportunity to start working on getting our degree teams back together, filling your teams and learning the NEW Ritual. I am encouraging all Degree Masters to start re-building your ritual teams so that next year we will be able to again put on our fine and professional ritual. We have added three new members this past year, have one knocking and may have some others ready soon. Please do not hesitate to invite newly obligated 3<sup>rd</sup> degree masons to join the valley. We need to build our valley with active new Masons to carry us into the future.

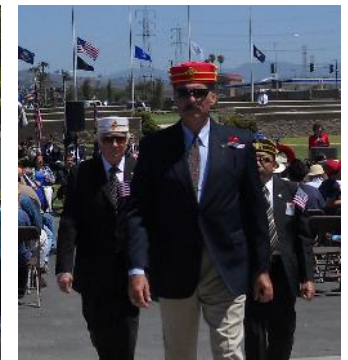
Some other dates to remember: Monday, June 25th-

Pizza Dinner 6:30, our planning meeting for the New England Picnic, please contact Sir Knight Bogner for reservations (harold55@juno.com, or 484-7657). Please note this is not a social meeting, although all are welcome with ladies, it is a meeting to make assignments and ensure all the bases are covered for the Picnic. No meeting in August but do not forget to help with the Highway Cleanup again in July and August and our next normal dinner meeting night on September 10th at the normal time.

This being a special bulletin I am trying to keep my comments brief, but I hope to see many smiling faces at the planning meeting as well as the New England Picnic! There is nothing that brings more joy to a brother than to sit and break bread as well as enjoying some friendly conversation with each other. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to Break Bread with many of you, in the coming months.

*Gerry E. Gonzales*  
KCCH

## Memorial Day Ceremonies at Ivy Lawn Cemetery



Venerable Master Thom Piper, Commander Tony Ramos, and Master of Kadosh Floyd Griffin make the presentation as other members of the Scottish Rite and the Knights Templar look on.

## A Word from the Women

The Ladies' Association met briefly after the Cap & Ring ceremony. Not having a quorum we just entertained ourselves by talking about you guys. We had to mind our P's and Q's though because Tim, who is not quite yet a Mason, joined us with Abigail and we didn't want him to learn too much!

We welcomed Patricia whose husband had just become a Scottish Rite Mason. We wished them well as they head north to live in Washington.

Lois read a memorable inspirational poem about 'Worry' that had us all chuckling at its cleverness.

Coming up soon is our Fabulous New England Dinner. No need to bring desserts this year. Our group will be holding a Bake Sale on site so you may buy your goodies and eat them right there or take them home for later if you are as full as I am after that sumptuous feast. There will also be a Raffle. The raffle items will be many things you need/want/ didn't know you needed/ or didn't know you wanted. It may sound confusing but it's fun and I think you will all have a good time participating. If anyone has any item(s) they would like to donate for the raffle/auction please let us know. We can pick it up if it isn't convenient to bring it that day. Contact: Lynn Piper (805) 208-8003.

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## I See You've Traveled Some

*Original Author Unknown*

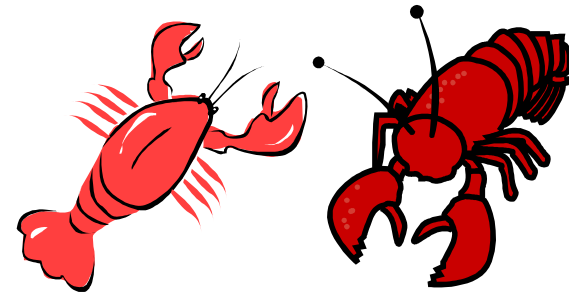
*Additional lyrics written by John Sheremeta*

Wherever you may chance to be, wherever you may roam  
Far away, in distant lands, or just at home sweet home  
It always gives you pleasure, it makes your heart strings hum  
Just to hear those words of cheer, "I see you've traveled some"

When you feel your brother's greeting, as he takes you by the hand  
It thrills you with a feeling that few can understand  
You feel that bond of brotherhood, the tie that's sure to come  
When you hear him say in a friendly way, "I see you've traveled some"

And if you are a stranger, to this strange land, all alone  
If fate has left you stranded, quite broke and far from home  
'Tis a grand and glorious feeling, it thrills you, makes you numb  
When he says, with grip of fellowship, "I see you've traveled some"

And when your final summons comes, to take one last long trip  
Adorned with lambskin apron white, and gems of fellowship  
The Tyler at the golden gate, with square, and rule, and plumb  
Will size up your pin and say, "Walk in, I see you've traveled some"



## 22nd Annual New England Picnic

SAVE THE DATE - July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Location – Camarillo Grove Park  
Area #1  
6968 E Camarillo Springs Road,  
Camarillo CA

**Camarillo Grove Park** is located off of Camarillo Springs Road near the base of the Conejo Grade. **Parking is included** – just show your ticket when you enter the park.

We are only three weeks away from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual New England Picnic. Do you have your tickets? This is a reminder to call and check with Earl Williams @ 626/367-7954 (cell). We are striving for a sold out event. If you have tickets, get out there and sell them. Don't put them on a shelf or desk. It is up to **US** as members of this Valley to encourage as many people to attend and support this event which will support the clinic.

Reminder to **all** members who are selling tickets – You are responsible to turn in the money collected and/or tickets. If you have cash/checks for your tickets, turn the money in to Earl as soon as possible. If you have unsold tickets – they **MUST** be returned back to Earl for reconciliation on or before July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The **cut off** for ticket sales is **JULY 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

The whole purpose of this fund raising event is to support the center for childhood speech and language disorders in the Masonic Center in Santa Barbara. If you would like further information on the clinic – please call 805/962-8469 or visit [www.sbspeech.com](http://www.sbspeech.com).

## Lodge of Perfection

Thom Piper, 32° KCCH, Venerable Master

*The following is from an email currently making the rounds.*

Jeopardy Question No One Could answer. Do You Know?

### ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Jeopardy Question:

The final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns?" All three contestants missed it!

This is really an awesome sight to watch if you've never had the chance. Very fascinating.

### Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the unknowns and why?

21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.



4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

*continued to page 10*

## Lodge of Perfection

*(continued from page 9)*

They must commit two years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guards are given wreath pins that are worn on their lapels signifying they served as guards of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guards must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pins.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are:

- Joe Lewis (the boxer),
- Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST, GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took two days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!". Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God Bless and keep them. We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve. God Bless America.

- President Taft,

## THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Antonio "Tony" Ramos, 32°, Commander of Kadosh  
Life Was Meant for Noble Deeds

*"Life Was Meant for Noble Deeds" is excerpted from the Essay "A Story of Life" by William M. Saunderson Sr. and Jr, who also follows the footsteps of his father as a Mason.*

Life embraces in its comprehensiveness a just and warm return for individual perseverance and labor. Life for something definite and practical; take hold of things with a will, and they will yield to you and become the ministers of your own happiness and that of others.

Nothing within the realm of the possible can withstand the man or woman who intelligently pursues success. Every person carries within the key that unlocks either the door to success or failure. Which shall it be?

Strength, bravery, dexterity, and unfaltering resolution must be embraced by those who resolve to pursue fortune along the rugged road of life. Their path will often lie amid the rocks and crags, not among the likes. A great action is always preceded by a great purpose. History and daily life are full of examples to show us that the measure of human achievements has always been proportional to the amount of human daring and doing.

Deal with questions and facts of life as they really are. What can be done and is worth doing, do with dispatch; what cannot be done, or would be worthless when done, leave

for the idlers and dreamers along life's highway.

Life often presents us with a choice of evils instead of good; and if anyone would get through life honorably and peacefully, he must learn to bear as well as forbear, to hold temper subject to judgment, and to practice self-denial in small as well as great things. Life is short, yet long enough to lose your character, your constitution, and your estate; or, on the other hand, by diligence you can accomplish much within your limits.

If the sculptor's chisel can make impressions on marble in a few hours which distant eyes shall admire, if the man of genius can create a work that shall speak the triumph of mind a thousand years hence, then may true men and women, alive to the duty and obligations of existence, do infinitely more.

Working on human hearts and destinies, it is our prerogative to do imperishable work, to build within life's fleeting hours monuments that shall last forever. If such grand possibilities lie within the reach of our personal actions in the world, how important that we live for something every hour of our existence, and for something that is harmonious with the dignity of our present being and the grandeur of our future destiny!

A steady aim, strong arm, able hand, and resolute will are the  
*continued to page 13*

## Cap and Ring Ceremony



Potentate's Address



Left: David Wehmeyer, Potentate of Al Malaikah, addresses our Valley. Above: Brother David makes a presentation to Lady Lynn Piper.

Cap and Ring Ceremony

(Opposite page) Top left: Brother Jim Brady, 32°, Top right: Brother Jay Peterson, 32°, and his lady Patricia. Center: Illustrious Floyd Griffin, 33°, presents our newest members with their patents. Bottom: The heads of the bodies prepare for the ceremony. Seated at table Left to Right: Illustrious Floyd Griffin, 33°, Tony Ramos, 32°, Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH, and Thom Piper, 32° KCCH.

Council of Kadosh

(continued from page 11)

necessary requisites to the conflict which begins anew each day and writes upon the scroll of yesterday the actions that form one mighty column of true worth. One day's work left undone causes a break in the great chain that years of toil may not be able to repair. Yesterday was ours,

but it is gone; today is all we possess, for tomorrow we may never see; therefore, in the golden hour of the present, the seeds are planted for the harvest for good or evil.

Decide at once upon a noble purpose, then take it up bravely, bear it off joyfully, be honest, deal with kindness with all who come your way, and depend upon this, you will be happy.



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

Please give these brethren 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.

Robert Eldred Culver crossed on 2/23/2012



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.....

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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**

Wise Master ..... Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH ..... 619-947-5530..... paw\_nmcl0@yahoo.com  
 Senior Warden ..... Eduardo M. Austria, 32° ..... 986-4594..... emaustria@verizon.net

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Commander ..... Tony Ramos, 32° ..... 488-3782..... tonybie70@gmail.com  
 1st Lt. Commander ..... Daniel C. Poff, 32° ..... 241-8080..... danpoff@yahoo.com

**Consistory**

Master of Kadosh ..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° ..... 525-5932..... egriffin@verizon.net  
 Prior ..... Kelly Sharp, 32° ..... (661)713-9407..... thesaniterium@hotmail.com

**Ladies' Association**

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**

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew ..... Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH ..... 644-2055 .. nrbpq@sbcglobal.net  
 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@dslextre.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](mailto: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

2012 Views from Ventura Valley July - August Page 16

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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 484-7657

Mon	Jul	9	<b>DARK</b>
Sat	Jul	14	New England Summer Picnic, Serving at 12 noon, Camarillo Grove Park, Camarillo Springs Rd, Camarillo
Sat	Jul	21	Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 am, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy
Mon	Aug	13	<b>DARK</b>
Sat	Aug	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Sep	10	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following

