

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

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXV

March - April 2013

Issue 3

Leaders for 2013



**(L-R) Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH, PR,
Dee Matson, 32°, Commander,
Earl Williams, 32°, Wise Master,
Raul Cifuentes, 32°, Venerable Master**

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXV, Issue number 3. Published 5 to 6 times a year by the Ventura Lodge of Perfection in the Orient of California, Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies, 487Appletree 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.

Cover:

Pictured are our Personal Representative Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH, along with the heads of three of our bodies, Robert "Dee" Matson, 32°, Commander of the Council of Kadosh, Earl Williams, 32°, Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix, and Raul Cifuentes, 32°, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, following our Installation of Officers on January 14.

Spring Class

This year we will be doing something a little different for our Spring Class. We will be working with the Valley of Los Angeles. The degrees will be held at the Santa Monica Masonic Center, 926 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica, on Friday evening, March 22 and Saturday March 23. Festivities will begin with dinner and registration at 6:00 pm Friday, followed by the 4th and 14th Degrees at 7:00 pm. We will continue Saturday morning at 8:00 am with registration and coffee, followed by the 18th and 30th Degrees at 9:00 am, break for lunch at 12:00 noon, and continue with the 32nd Degree at 1:00 pm.

We currently have one candidate for this class but we would like to have more. Please encourage any of your lodge brethren who are interested to get their petitions in by our March 11th stated meeting so that we can arrange for them to take part. Also please come down, welcome our new members, observe how another valley puts on the degrees, and help out where needed. It promises to be an inspiring weekend. (If you are coming for dinner Friday or lunch Saturday, please inform our secretary, Ill.: Andy Little, vcscottishrite@gmail.com or (805) 415-3776, so that we can prepare the right amount of food.)

Upcoming Events

Prior to our stated meeting on March 11th we will be making 25 and 50 year presentations to those members who have attained those milestones. Our newest 50 year member is Edward F. Paul, 32°. Our new 25 year members are Antonio M. Caballero, 32°, William M. Coe, 32°, Frederick W. Ervast, Jr., 32°, and Larry R. Morris, 32° KCCH. Please come out and congratulate these brethren on their attainment. If you will be joining us for dinner then we

need your reservation by Thursday, March 7.

On March 25, just after the Spring Equinox, we will hold our annual Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony. We will begin with a dinner at 6:30 (reservations are required by Thursday, March 21), followed by the program. This is always an inspiring ceremony.

Our April stated meeting will be on April 8th. Reservations for dinner are required by Friday, April 5th.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, March 16th and April 13th. 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

On January 14 we held our annual Installation of Officers. Brother Raul Cifuentes, 32°, was installed as Venerable Master, Brother Earl Williams, 32°, as Wise Master, and Brother Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32°, as Commander of the Council. At dinner and during the ceremony Mr. Leon Felburg entertained us with his singing and piano playing. (See pictures pages 12 and 13.)

At our February stated meeting we honored our ladies with roses for Valentine Day. Mr. Felburg again entertained us. This was followed by a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our newest member, Brother Michael Blodgett, 32°. (See pictures page 7.)

At the meeting we had two petitions. We elected Brother Sheldon M. Hayutin, 32°, a member

of San Fernando Valley, as a member of our Valley. Brother Sheldon now lives in Leisure Village. We also elected Brother Clinton L. Williams of Channel Islands Lodge #214 to receive the degrees. Brother Clinton will receive his degrees in our Spring Class March 22 and 23 in Santa Monica.

Unfortunately Brother Kelly Sharp, 32°, who was elected Master of Kadosh, is unable to serve due to a heavy work schedule and family issues. Therefore at our February stated meeting Ill.: Floyd Griffin, 33°, was elected to continue in that office for this year. Thank you for stepping up, Ill.: Floyd.

Ill.: Frank Loui to Head California SR Foundation



Our Supreme Council Deputy Ill.: Frank Loui, 33°, has been appointed Chairman of the Board and a Director of the California Scottish Rite Foundation.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings to all our Masonic Brethren and their families, and I welcome you to our new Masonic year! Things are moving along rapidly and our new officers have stepped up to the plate as noted at our most recent Cap and Ring Ceremony. I wish to thank them all for doing such a fine job, and for our Venerable Master for putting together both the dinner and the program. I would also congratulate our newest Brother Michael Blodgett, and am hopeful Michael and his lady Christine will be joining us for dinner on a regular basis.

On to new business, I have several things to report, and will try to keep this short. First my plans to do the degrees with LA Valley did not work out but they will be conferring the degrees in March in Santa Monica on the 22 and 23 of March and have invited us to bring our candidates as well as have dinner and lunch with them. Andy and I have the details for anyone who wishes to attend as we plan to send at least one and maybe more if we get them voted on this coming month. This month we will also have two meetings, our stated meeting on the 11th of March where we will be honoring both some 25 and 50 year members, and our Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony on the 25th of the month. Wise Master Brother Earl Williams is in charge of this month's event and is working hard on putting together two fine programs for us this month. I



hope you will come and join us and please remember Remembrance and Renewal is an obligatory event for all Scottish Rite Masons.

On to the month of April; on Sunday the 7th the Masonic Service Bureau of Los Angeles will be having the 81st Annual Men's Breakfast in honor of Most Worshipful John Lowe, a member of our Valley. I am hopeful we will have a group from our valley who will want to attend, and if we do I would be happy to make a reservation for our valley to sit together. I believe the tables are normally in groups of 10 so let me know so that I can reserve a table for our valley. This is a very large event and we will need to make our reservations early. Next will be our April Stated meeting on the 8th of

April which will be hosted by the Commander of Kadosh Brother Dee Matson. I hope all of you will continue to support our valley functions.

Two final notes, I was informed by our new Deputy that he will no longer allow our Personal Representatives or secretaries to be on the Board of Directors for the Foundation so I will be announcing a recommendation at our March meeting of someone to take my place as well as Andy Little's as my assistant, although this will need a vote of the body. The New England Picnic is just around the corner. I know this is early but please start thinking about this. I was asked by several about it this past weekend at the Foundation meeting, and I want to ensure we start early so that I can go visit the other valleys and get more attendance. This is our major fund raiser and this is what Scottish Rite Masonry is about, and although we do not have a language clinic our efforts in fund raising are greatly appreciated by not only Santa Barbara Valley but also those children they offer services to.

My last comment is about dinners. We are using Caterers to

provide dinner, and it is IMPERATIVE that you make a reservation for dinner. We have to place the order 2 to 4 days in advance depending on the caterer, and when someone calls in late it puts our count in a bind. Our bulletin menus will have the deadline for making reservations, and if you do not make the deadline, you will not be having dinner with us. As a general rule the deadline is the Thursday evening before the meeting. Of course you can always do it early or even at the dinner the month before, or do as I do and pay for the year and have a standing reservation. I will say it is a bargain at \$120.00, as I am not sure we will be able to keep all meals at \$12.00 per month. I also want to reduce the mailing out about dinner as this is a very expensive service to ask you to come to dinner. To cover the mailings we would need to almost double the cost of meals. So please make your reservation when you get this note, for all three dinners.

Thank you and I look forward to dining with you in the coming months.

Jerry E. Gonzales, KCCH

“TWO KINDS OF COMPASSES”

We talk a lot about Speculative Masonry, but what we need to do is to make it Operative in our lives. We need to become “doers” and not just talkers and lookers-on. We are to become known for our actions and works.

There are two kinds of compasses, those used for drawing circles and those used to chart a course. Brethren, have not our compasses been used all too much for drawing circles, accomplishing little? Surely, Masonry's compasses are for action, for movement, for reaching goals, for charting courses.

Let us resolve now that we shall stand by Freemasonry and its teachings and by our actions today ensure a golden age in the future for Masonry and for humanity.

– From “The Texas Freemason”

Our Personal Representative, Brother Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH, has submitted the following for our consideration:

The Six Pillars of Character

Whether at work, at home, or at play, there are basic values that define ethical behavior. These values are not political, religious, or culturally biased but seem to form the basis of all Institute programs and materials.

Trustworthiness

Build trust and credibility with *integrity* (consistency between beliefs, words and actions), *honesty* (truthfulness, sincerity and candor), *promise-keeping*, and *loyalty* (fidelity to family, friends, and country).

Respect

Honor the worth and dignity of all individuals. Treat others the way you would want to be treated. Act courteously, civilly, peaceably, and nonviolently. Be tolerant and accepting of differences. Avoid rude, offensive, and abusive words and actions.

Responsibility

Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes. Exercise self-control. Strive for excellence and self-improvement. Plan ahead. Set a good example for others. Be self-reliant, prudent, proactive, persistent, and hard-working.

Fairness

Be consistent, open, and treat all people equitably. Consider all sides and make decisions on the facts without favoritism or prejudice. Play by the rules, avoid careless accusations, and don't take undue advantage of others. Pursue justice and condemn injustice.

Caring

Be kind, compassionate, empathetic, charitable, forgiving, and grateful.

Citizenship

Obey laws in good faith. Do your share to improve the well-being of fellow citizens and the community. Protect the environment, volunteer, and participate in the processes of democracy by staying informed and voting.

Cap and Ring Ceremony



(Left) Brother Michael Blodgett, 32°, receives his new cap and ring.



Brother Michael is presented his patent by PR Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH.



Mr. Leon Felburg entertains the guests.

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise 484-7657 (leave a message). Reservations must be made by the Date indicated!

March 11, 2013, Stated Meeting 25 and 50 Year Presentations

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Vegetables
Salad
Bread

Price \$12, reservation required by Thu, March 7!

March 25, 2013 Remembrance and Renewal

Corned Beef and Cabbage
Red Potatoes
Soup
Mint Ice Cream for Dessert

Price \$12, reservation required by Thu, March 21!

April 8, 2013, Stated Meeting

Lemon Chicken Breast
Rice
Vegetables

Price \$12, reservation required by Fri, April 5!

**We cannot emphasize enough to
GET THOSE RESERVATIONS IN!**

Lodge of Perfection

J. Raul Cifuentes, 32°, Venerable Master

Brethren,
I would like to start by thanking all of you for electing me as the Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection. It is a true honor and privilege to be able to serve the Valley and the brethren. I particularly would like to thank and congratulate Sir Knight Thom Piper for the outstanding job he performed leading the Valley for the last two years as Venerable Master.



I joined the Valley of Ventura Scottish Rite in 2007 a year after I was raised as Master Mason. I joined the Scottish Rite to get a deeper and more meaningful understanding of Masonry. I was very excited to go through the Scottish Rite Degrees and acquire further light in Masonry. Needless to say, I was blown away by the beautiful allegory of the degrees and the philosophical teaching I discovered, but beyond that, I was more impressed with the quality of men and friends I found in this Valley. Getting to know you, my brothers, has been a privilege and a far more worthy reward. As we start another exciting year for this Valley and the Scottish Rite, I want to assure you that myself, together with the other Heads of the Bodies, are strongly committed in keeping this Valley well and alive. With the help and support of all of you my brethren, I know this Valley can continue influencing its members to improve our communities, our families and ultimately ourselves; because I am convinced, that there is no more novel or greater cause by which humankind can benefit than by the guidance of those most exalted ideals

of Freemasonry. Today more than ever, our youth need those ideals, our nation needs those ideals, our world is in need of those philosophical and moral values.

Below my brothers, is the Scottish Rite Creed:

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal. –

And to that belief this Valley has been committed for the last 34 years, and with the help of all of you, I am sure we can continue delivering that novel promise.

*Fraternally,
Raul Cifuentes
Venerable Master*

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

Robert "Dee" Matson, 32°, Commander of Kadosh

Bio

Brethren:
Every time I think of it, I just shake my head, how on earth does a man get from Tiler to Master of Kadosh in one quick movement. I am just totally lost. I have no background in Scottish Rite Masonry. I think it was in 1981 that George Terhune urged me to apply for membership. Which I did and lo and behold, I was accepted. The best I can remember I received all the degrees in one week end. A bit overwhelming I must say. The very next thing I remember, I was asked to learn and give a lecture, can't even remember what degree it was about.



Anyway, I complied and I committed the lecture to memory. When it came time to recite the lecture for the degree work, I was out in the Channel, on a semisubmersible drilling vessel, drilling exploratory wells under the shipping lanes, and since I worked for a smaller but very well qualified directional drilling company, there was no relief. Not that that would have made any difference, the nature of the beast was that the people for whom we worked would not have allowed me to be relieved. As a result I vowed never to do that again. The nature of our work was such that you could never plan to take on anything in Masonry.

As my boss always said, we only worked half the time, but you never knew when that was going to be.

I was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Independence Rock Lodge, UD (they had not yet received their Charter) in Casper, Wyoming, in June and July of 1961. That Lodge is now Independence Rock Lodge No. 56. I started right away coaching candidates in their degree work; while I was working on my Fellow Craft degree, I coached a man on his Entered Apprentice degree and thru to his Master Mason degree. I then took on the lecture of the First Degree, which I recited many times during those days. From 1962 to 1968 I moved thru the line to being elected and installed Worshipful Master in June, 1968. Our Lodge went dark in July and August – no meetings at all.

In August I was transferred in my work from Casper, Wyoming to Corpus Christi, Texas. My work there was in a one man office, I had very little time for Masonry. In July of 1970, I was transferred to Ventura, California. About that time this office was very busy doing directional surveying for the offshore oil companies and elsewhere about the state. In 1974, I went to work for that small directional drilling company to which I alluded earlier. Until the year 2000, that was the story of my life.

In 2001, I started coming back to Lodge, in Ventura, where I had been a dual member of Poinsettia Lodge 633 (then San Buena/ Poinsettia Ojai Lodge 214) since about 1980.

Starting out as a Stewart, in 2004, I was Elected and Installed Junior Warden, serving in that capacity for about three years. In

2008 I was Elected and Installed Senior Warden and in 2009, I was Elected and Installed Worshipful Master. While I maintain I was not the most ritualistic Master Channel Islands ever had, I always felt the love of the Brethren.

For personal reasons, I did not return to Scottish Rite until about 2012, at which time then Venerable Master Thom Piper appointed me Tiler. In December 2012, the PR, Jerry E. Gonzales asked me to advance. My hearing is not the best (too many years on noisy old drilling rigs). I was of the opinion he had in mind some line office. I agreed and now I am Commander of Kadosh, and don't have a clue.

Fraternally

Dee Matson .



Mark your calendar for the Second Annual Live Celebrating the Craft webcast on May 18, 2013, 3:00 to 9:00 pm PDT, featuring:

- Never before seen footage from the House of the Temple
- Musical performances by winners of Scottish Rite Has Talent

- Video entries highlighting local Valleys and their members
- Masonic scholars, leaders, and celebrities
- And so much more!

Our show will bring together Brothers for a night of laughter, entertainment, and learning that pays homage to Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite.

Proceeds raised from Celebrating the Craft will be split between local Scottish Rite charities and the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.scottishrite.org/giving/celebrate>

Installation of Officers



Brother Raul Cifuentes being installed as Venerable Master



Incoming and outgoing Heads of the Bodies.



The brethren and their ladies enjoy an excellent Filipino dinner.



(above) Thom Piper passes the office of Venerable Master to Raul Cifuentes.



(above) Brother Walt Bragulla present the colors.
(below) Orator Bob Sills addresses the assembly.



(below) Officers of all bodies are installed.



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 Charley Rudd, 646-7758
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, (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.*

**Clarence Robert Jackson crossed on 1/13/2013
Roger M. Harvey crossed on 2/4/2013**



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.... efggriffin@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.....

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master..... J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° 241-6968.... jrcifuentes@hotmail.com

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master..... Earl G. Williams, 32° (619)947-5530.... earlwilliams8@yahoo.com

Council of Kadosh

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

Consistory

Master of Kadosh..... Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33° 525-5932.... efggriffin@verizon.net

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@dslextreme.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° 484-5222.... 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.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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

For Reservations email harold55@juno.com, or call 484-7657

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|-----|-----|----|--|
| Mon | Mar | 11 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations</u>), 25 & 50 Year awards presented, 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following |
| Sat | Mar | 16 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Satcoy |
| Mon | Mar | 25 | <u>Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)</u> |
- Fri/Sat Mar 22/23 SPRING FAST CLASS**
 Santa Monica Masonic Center
 926 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica
- | | |
|------------|--|
| FRI | 6:00 PM, Registration, dinner |
| | 7:00 PM, 4 th and 14 th Degrees |
| SAT | 8:00 AM, Registration, coffee |
| | 9:00 AM, 18 th and 30 th Degrees |
| | 12:00 noon, Lunch |
| | 1:00 PM, 32 nd Degree |
- Mon Apr 8 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM
 (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following

