

Views from Ventura Valley

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Issue 3

Heads of the Bodies for 2015



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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:

(TL) Venerable Master David Contreras, 32°; (TR) Wise Master John Argue, 32° KCCH; (BL) Commander of the Council Jose Valencia, 32°; (BR) Master of Kadosh James Craig, 32°.

Upcoming Events

At our next stated meeting March 9th we will honor our 25 and 50 year members. Three members, Brothers Warren W. Brown, 32°, Wesley F. Cullins, 32°, and C. Richard Marshall, 32° KCCH, will receive their 50 year honors, while five members, David B. Gillette, 32°, MW John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH, Thomas B. Pugh, 32° KCCH, Roscoe L. Stewart, 32°, and James D. Wyman, 32°, will be honored for 25 years. Also at that meeting Brother Maurice Sourmany, 32° KCCH, Personal Representative of the Valley of Santa Barbara, will be joining us to tell us more about their Childhood Language Clinic and the plans for an open house in May.

If you plan to join us for dinner be sure to get your reservations in to Sir Knight Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, at harold55@juno.com or (805) 218-1648, by March 5.

On March 23 we will celebrate Remembrance and Renewal with the traditional mystic banquet with the explanation of the Feast of Passover and the Last Supper, and the extinguishing and relighting of the candles. Dinner reservations are due to Harold by March 19. This event is considered mandatory for Scottish Rite Masons so please make an effort to attend. Guests are also invited. Remember to get your dinner reservations to Harold by March 19.

In April our stated meeting will be held on April 13, with reservations due to Harold by April 9. This is our last stated meeting before our Spring Class so let's get those petitions in.

The Spring Class will be held on April 25 starting at 7:00 am. We plan to confer the 4th, 14th, and 18th Degrees on that date. If you have a part in one of the degrees, in stage craft or other supporting role, please mark this date on your calendar. If you do not have a part, please consider taking one. We always have a need for workers in our degrees.

We also hope to revive the 30th Degree this year. We are especially in need of someone to take on the lead role in this degree. If you are
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From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings to our Scottish Rite Brethren Family, hoping all is well with everyone and the New Year is moving along well for you. To those of you in ill health I send our prayers from the valley and my family, hoping you will be well in the near future.

I am happy to report we are off to a very good start this Masonic year. Our new Heads of Bodies have embraced their duties with zeal and joy. It warms my heart to have fresh new brethren who are willing to step up and take charge. We have much work to do in the coming months and things are moving full speed ahead. In March we will be presenting 25 & 50 year awards to several brethren at our monthly stated meeting, and on March 23 we will celebrate our Scottish Rite 'Remembrance And Renewal' Ceremony. Wise Master John Argue KCCH *Chapter Rose Croix* will be in charge of both of these dates, which promises to be a delightful month. Moving into April Commander Jose Valencia, *Council of Kadosh*, will be hosting the Stated meeting. As we move forward, we will have our *Spring Class* on April 25th, assuming we have some applications. I would encourage you to seek out those brothers in your lodge who are looking for more in Masonry. Finally I would like also to invite you to join our Highway clean-up crew in our 'Adopt-a-Highway' program, which will meet for coffee and then clean up on March 14th, and April 18th. As a manager for the



Dept. of Transportation, I can say this program is a huge help in our efforts to keep our freeways looking beautiful, and I as well as all our management, do appreciate all who help with this noble effort. As you can see, busy months indeed, and the following months are not slowing down. We host the Grand Master of California in June only to be followed by our New England Picnic in July, and not to forget our Child ID Program in August, but I will save those details for a future bulletin.

I have been tasked with forming a membership committee and am looking for some volunteers. Currently Sir Knight Raul Cifuentes, ILL. Andy Little and I are heading this up but I would really like someone else to take the lead on this, as I do not want to be the person in

charge of all programs – after all it is your Valley. Remember, although I am the Personal Representative to the SGIG I am not the one in charge of this valley. This is a very important program if our valley and Scottish Rite Masonry are to survive and we need to take it seriously. Please think about this program and committee.

One final note: Please remember to make dinner reservations prior to our stated dinner. We put a notice out via e-mail every month and still have people wanting to make reservations at the door. It is very difficult to keep dinner costs down if I have to guess how many are

coming for dinner. To those of you who do I thank you, and remember the easy way is to pay for your dinner annually and you will always have a reservation.

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

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

Jerry E. Gonzales KCCH

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

Upcoming Events

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interested please let us know. This degree has a large cast so we can find a place for anyone willing to commit.

Our next highway cleanups will be on Saturdays, March 14th and April 18th. 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

In January we installed our officers for 2015. Ill.: Fred Potter presided over the ceremony. Congratulations to our new officers. Please give them your support during the coming year.

Last year a series of meetings was held throughout the country to discuss ideas for improving the Scottish Rite. From these a new pro-

gram known as the Valley Membership Achievement Project (VMAP) has evolved. This initiative consists of a list of suggestions in 10 specific subject areas for improving Scottish Rite Masonry: Membership Recruitment, New Member Engagement, Degree Conferral Proficiency, Reunion Experience, Scottish Rite Education for Candidates, Scottish Rite Education for Members, Officer Responsibilities & Engagement, Philanthropy & Public Image, Membership Retention, and Valley Organizations. It challenges each Valley to select and implement some of those suggestions. We have formed a committee consisting of the Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH, Jerry Gonzales, 32° KCCH, and Ill.: Andy Little, 33°, to work on this program. This is an ambitious project and we will need a great deal of help with it so please let us know if you are willing to become involved.

Lodge of Perfection

David F. Contreras, 32°, Venerable Master
What Makes You A Mason?

Most Masons have heard that question – What makes you a Mason? – and had to answer it. It is, of course a part of the teachings he has to learn.

The Obligation is the thing that separates the Mason from the non-Mason. This being the case, the Obligation has to be the most important part of the conferral of the degrees, but unfortunately once it has been given, all too often no more attention is given to it.

The Obligation is also known as Oath. Some use the expression “Oath or Obligation.” Is it one or the other, or neither or both?

The Dictionary defines an “Oath” as a “solemn affirmation or declaration made with an appeal to God....”

An “Obligation” is “a duty imposed,” something one is bound to do as a result of a contract, moral responsibility or promise to uphold the obligation.

All rituals use the expression “promise and swear.” A promise means to “engage in a pledge.” To swear means to “declare solemnly in the name of God.”

Properly, therefore, our “Obligation” is really an “Oath.”

The root of the word “Obligation” is the same as that of our word “ligament,” meaning a cord or tendon by which one thing is tied to another. The Latin *obligato*



literally signifies a tying or binding, like the cable tie.

Our Obligation is therefore a pledge which ties a Mason to the Craft and ties himself to the duties and responsibilities imposed by it.

The secrets which a Mason pledges himself never to write or to see written consist of certain of the ceremonies and the modes of recognition. They do not include Masonic truths, which are accessible to all. They may be found in the Volume of the Sacred Law, but their discovery and their interpretation are left to each man. The prime object of

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FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Dinner Reservations

2015 Dinner Reservation Policy:

The cost for dinner is \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple, paid at the door, with a reservation in place, made 5 days in advance.

If you fail to make a reservation by the stated deadline and/ or wish to pay at the door, the fee for dinner will be \$25.00 per person.

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

(Special Guests and Visitors will be exempted from the non-reservation price.)

Be sure to make your reservations with **Harold Bogner**, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise (805) 218-1648 (leave a message).

March 9th Stated Meeting Dinner

Chicken Cordon Blue

Seasoned Wild Rice

Carrots & Peas

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

French Rolls

Cost \$15.00 Per Person/\$25.00 Per Couple

RSVP by Thu, March 5th, 2015 with Harold Bogner.

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

March 23rd Remembrance & Renewal

Irish Style Corn Beef & Cabbage

with All the Trimmings

Cost \$15.00 Per Person/\$25.00 Per Couple

RSVP by Thu, March 19th, 2015 with Harold Bogner.
Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!

April 13th Stated Meeting Dinner

**Succulent Stuffed Grilled Pork Chops
 Rosemary Butter Roasted Red Potatoes
 California blend Steamed Vegetables
 Assorted Cookies**

Cost \$15.00 Per Person/\$25.00 Per Couple
RSVP by Thu, April 9th, 2014 with Harold Bogner
Please note we will not take any reservations after this date!

Venerable Master

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Masonry is to assist our brethren in discovering these tenets and principles.

These Obligations and Oaths extend to the upper degrees in Scottish Rite Masonry and the other Masonic organizations.

The oaths and obligations are magnified by each individual Mason and radiate in various forms from within to outwardly acts in and out of the lodge.

My appreciation to Brother Little for his direction in giving me materials to write this article. Some of these ideas are taken from an article by Nigel Gallimore.

First Dinner on the Moon

(Thank you to Ill Harry Maynard for this article. It fits nicely with our upcoming Remembrance and Renewal Celebration.)

An Historical Event: I Thought You Would Find This Interesting. What was the first liquid and food consumed on the moon?

I'm betting that most are unaware of this story.

Forty-six years ago two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. I'm

talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

The background to the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow. He asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth's orbit and on to the surface of the moon. He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made

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Chapter of Rose Croix

John Argue, 32° KCCH, Wise Master – elect

THE VALLEY NEEDS YOU

Brethren the Valley of Ventura of the Orient of California of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America needs YOU.

Without YOU this Valley will never grow and prosper.

We do not need you to be just a card carrying member.

We do need YOU to attend our stated meeting dinners.

We do not need you to stay at home on Monday nights and twiddle your thumbs and wonder what to do.

We do need YOU to attend our meetings and sit in fellowship with your brethren.

We do need YOU to fill the sidelines at degrees and present a show of enthusiasm to our candidates.

We do need YOU to become active on some level.

How can I become active you say?

Well – Take part in the degree work – many parts are very small – Help the stagecraft crew – Help with the wardrobe.

Help the Kitchen crew – They will teach you how to cook, or how to set the tables.

Become the Social Director – Arrange several activities in the year that will bring the brethren together with non- Scottish Rite Masons to promote membership.



Get active with Thom Piper on the Membership Committee.

Join the Knights of St. Andrew and see what projects they would like to become involved in.

I know there are many more ways to show your support.

We would love it just to see your smiling face at a meeting.

So why don't YOU start by coming out and seeing how YOU can help this Valley become all it should be.

As I said at the start the Valley needs YOU.

John A. Argue
 Wise Master
 March 2015

The Consistory

James Craig, 32°, Master of Kadosh

B Rethren,
March brings us together on the 9th for dinner and special presentations for 25 and 50 years of membership for several of our Brethren whom we may have not seen in quite some time. Please come and share this special night with them.

We also celebrate a night of Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony as well as a wonderful dinner beforehand on March 23rd beginning with social hour at 5:30 with dinner and the ceremony to follow. All are invited, bring the whole family as we can all enjoy this wonderful event in Scottish Rite.



James L Craig
Master of Kadosh

First Dinner on the Moon

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the following public statement:

"This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John and he took communion.

Here is his own account of what happened: "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the scripture: 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me

will bring forth much fruit ... Apart from me you can do nothing.'

"I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute [they] had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly.

"I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think the very first liquid ever poured on the moon and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the moon - and who, in the immortal words of Dante, is Himself the "Love that moves the Sun and other stars."

For Those Who Need our Prayers

*We seek in prayerful words, dear friend,
Our heart's true wish to send you,
That you may know that, far or near,
Our loving thoughts attend you.*

Donald Wright, 642-6621 John Klopstein, 486-0602
Jerry Carpenter, 419-4101 Dwayne Marquardt

Please give these people a call, pay them a visit, or drop them a card or letter, to let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a distressed brother, please contact our Prelate, Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, (746-0844 or nereus2006@sbcglobal.net) or one of the other officers.

For Those Who have Crossed the Bar

*Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call from me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.*

*For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.*

Russell School crossed on 6/1/2004
Robert Earl Littell crossed on 2/7/2015

Freemasonry Builds Its Temples in the Hearts of Men and Among Nations.

Useful Contacts

Officers of All the Bodies

Personal Rep of the SGIG.....Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH.....986-3656....jeg522@yahoo.com
 Secretary / Treasurer.....Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°.....415-3776....alittle93012@gmail.com
 Almoner.....Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH.....644-2055....nrpq@sbcglobal.net
 Asst Almoner Thousand Oaks.....John Argue, 32° KCCH.....498-4831....mayfieldpark@aol.com
 Asst Almoner Santa Paula.....Ill.: E. Floyd Griffin, 33°.....525-5932....efgriffin@verizon.net
 Asst Almoner Camarillo.....William Campbell, 32° KCCH ...482-7523....bncampbell@verizon.net
 Orator.....J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH.....241-6968....jrcifuentes@hotmail.com
 Prelate.....Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH.....746-0844....nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Director of the Work.....

Class Director, Historian.....Fred 'Tiny' Potter.....484-4150....fred_pttr@yahoo.com
 Tyler.....Robert S. Kennedy, 32°.....987-2164....robertk@cipcug.org

Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master.....David F. Contreras, 32°.....504-3889....teslaslight@verizon.net
 Senior Warden.....Michael Schaller, 32°.....370-2394....mscon777@aol.com

Chapter Rose Croix

Wise Master.....John A. Argue, 32° KCCH.....498-4831....MayfieldPark@aol.com
 Senior Warden.....David E. Klein, 32°.....451-8745....lionhtd@aim.com

Council of Kadosh

Commander.....Jose Valencia, 32°.....248-6867....j_valencia92@hotmail.com
 Senior Warden.....Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH.....986-3656....jeg522@yahoo.com

Consistory

Master of Kadosh.....James L. Craig, 32°.....525-7780....jlrcraig19@gmail.com
 Senior Warden.....David A. Beaver, 32°.....535-8028....davidabeaver@yahoo.com

Other Workers

1st Knight, Kts of St. Andrew....Walter Bragulla, 32° KCCH.....644-2055....nrpq@sbcglobal.net
 Dinner Reservations.....Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH.....484-7657...harold55@juno.com
 Programs, Social Events.....
 Membership.....
 Highway Cleanup.....Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH.....643-6905....deardorff@dslextreame.com
 Stagecraft.....Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH.....524-3362....mgmetzler@aol.com
 Childhood ID Program.....Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH.....647-8669....nereus2006@sbcglobal.net
 Newsletter Editor.....Ill.: W. Andrew Little, 33°.....415-3776....alittle93012@gmail.com

Recent changes are underlined. All phone numbers in area code 805 unless noted.

You can email us at vcscottishrite@gmail.com, or FAX us at (253) 276-4055

Web site: (Note new URL) <http://venturascottishrite.org>

**“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and
the world remains and is immortal.” – Albert Pike**

Ventura Lodge of Perfection
in the Orient of California
487 Appletree Ave
Camarillo, CA 93012-5148

Views from Ventura Valley
March - April
2015

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon	Mar	9	25 & 50 Year awards, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations due by Mar 5), presentations 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Mar	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12611003 Citrus by Wells Rd., Satcoy
Mon	Mar	23	Remembrance and Renewal, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Mar 19), Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)
Mon	Apr	13	Stated meeting, Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations by Apr 9), meeting following
Sat	Apr	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Fri	Apr	24	Setup for Spring Fast Class, 7 PM
Sat	Apr	25	SPRING FAST CLASS (part 1), Setup at 7:00 AM, Starts at 8:00 AM

