

Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XLIII

March - April 2021

Issue 3

Remembrance & Renewal



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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

Our cover refers to Remembrance and Renewal, which we will celebrate on March 22. The painting of the Last Supper represents the traditional Christian, and by extension, Jewish holidays that occur around this time, and which have been associated with this Masonic celebration. The lower picture is a representation of a Celtic celebration to mark the Spring Equinox.

Upcoming Events

Our March 8 stated meeting will again be over Zoom, starting at 7:00 pm. On March 22 we will celebrate Remembrance and Renewal, also over Zoom and starting at 7:00 pm. Details of this event are currently being worked out. Finally, our April 12 stated meeting will also be at 7:00 pm over Zoom.

Because of security issues we are not able to put the access information here since our newsletters are posted to the internet. The access information for these events will be sent via email. If you want to attend but don't receive the email, contact the Secretary, Ill. Andy Little, at

alittle93012@gmail.com or 805-415-3776.

News of the Valley

First, the Valley of Santa Barbara conveys its thanks to all who made donations to their Childhood Language Clinic, either through our New England Summer Picnic fundraiser, or along with their dues payments. They really appreciate your help.

Since our last newsletter we held a virtual online Installation of Officers, a first for us. Congratulations to those installed and a big Thank You to all who participated. In February we held another virtual meeting. We were happy to be joined by 50-year member Marvin Wergeland in his new blue hat.

At this time, we still do not know whether we will be able to hold our Picnic this year. The date has been set for July 17 but the Park District has not as yet OK'd the event. They are waiting to get a better idea of how the pandemic plays out, and we are also waiting for a go-ahead from the health officials as well as Masonic authorities. So, for now, keep your fingers crossed.

From Venerable Master Mark Torrez

BRETHREN:

I want to personally thank every Brother Mason at Ventura Valley of Scottish Rite Masonry for helping in the support of one of our fallen brothers and his widow. Worshipful Ronnie Brown would have deeply appreciated what we have done for his family. He knew that there was something we were working on but had passed before we could share it with him. This was something I couldn't have done alone, and with all the support I received from the Valley and other lodges, we made this charitable donation a success.

This is what makes me proud to be part of this beautiful fraternity. All it took was an email and just like that every brother heeded to the call and without hesitation. There were many donations that were made, too many to count, coming from across the country from our neighboring lodges. Speaking to Worshipful Ron's wife Janice, she expressed how grateful she was for all the contributions. She had no idea that we had put this together for her. In this correspondence you will have a personal letter attached from Janice Brown thanking the Valley personally.

Also, I would like to say it's times like this I know I could count on every one of you brothers, and without a doubt you all have a friend in me, but most of all a brother. I can't wait to see you all again in lodge. My number and email are attached as well if you need to

contact me for any reason.

Thank you

Bro Mark Torrez

Mark.torrez0983@hotmail.com

8052903200

(Letter from Janice Brown)

Mason Brethren,

Thank you to each and every one of you who has remembered Brother Brown, Scottish Rite, through prayer, cards, calls and donations to our family. Masons played an important part in Ron's life and it is heartwarming to feel the brotherly love that has been shared in his memory.

To share a quick story from his days as Master, Ron and several members were trying to get "the women" involved in Lodge. So, a few of us came together to organize and prepare a Stated Meeting dinner. There were probably a dozen or so wives who gathered for this activity. At one point we took a break in between tasks and began talking about how Lodge had affected our husbands. We agreed that Masons had made better men of our loved ones in our families, in leadership and in the community. We were grateful.

Many thanks to all who have given to Ron over the years and his memory.

Sincerely,
Janice Brown

From the PR's Quill

Greetings to the Members and Family of Ventura Valley.

John F. Lowe, 32° KCCH

It has now been a year since we began dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial changes brought by shutdowns to help curb this killer disease. A year ago, we had not heard of *social distancing*, singing *Happy Birthday* while washing one's hands, or the wearing of face masks or shields when in public.

You may still remember the "time before" when we were eating in restaurants, gathering with friends, and meeting for stated dinners. You can remember, yes? Then suddenly, we were told to stay home, not be in groups, and let us not forget learning to meet virtually for work or Scottish Rite.

Yet, as I write this the outlook is becoming better. Virtually all over 65 can now get the COVID vaccine shots – *you are getting your shots, yes?* The shipments of vaccine across the country had a few stumbles in February, mostly due to snowstorms, but is now working a little better each day.

As to *a return to normal* (if there will ever be such a thing),



the outlooks vary from early summer to as far away as Christmas time. Be not dissuaded my friends; the vaccine rollout is making a positive change in infection rates and with all our help it will continue thus.

The above said, in-person meetings are still off some time in front of us, and we have no crystal ball information making a promise. But make no mistake. We will return to in-person once our state and local governments agree that the matter is in hand. 2020 was a difficult, even heart-wrenching year for all of us. The glimmer

of things to come in 2021 right now may be just a glimmer but watch for it to brighten a little each day. For there is hope of a better time soon, and we as humans must always have hope.

Until we can meet again in person, please keep yourself

and loved ones safe... Wear a mask, wash your hands often, and show all the leadership exemplified by Scottish Rite Masons. Be the difference in someone's life – it all matters.

Until then,
Fraternally,
John

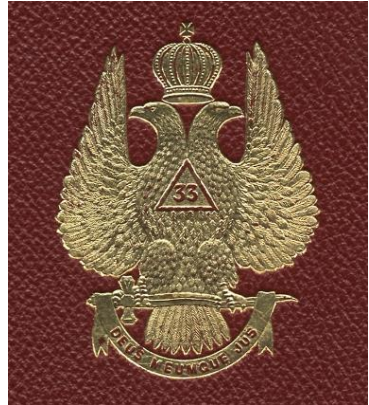
The Scottish Rite Eagle

The following is extracted from an article by Brother Nigel Gallimore.

Ever since its establishment, the Scottish Rite has adopted the double-headed eagle as its emblem. Both Supreme Councils (Northern and Southern Jurisdictions) in the United States use a wings-down version. In the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the wings-up design is reserved for 33° Active Members (of which there are approximately fifty) and Active Emeritus Members of the Supreme Council. Otherwise, a Brother may only wear the Double-Headed Eagle with its wings pointed downward. Unless a member is one of approximately fifty 33° Active Members or an Active Emeritus Member of the Supreme Council, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, the answer to the question “wings up or wings down?” is this: wings down. In the NMJ everything on their regalia is “wings down” just like the SJ. But sometimes in the NMJ “wings up” can be used to symbolize and distinguish its 33rds only.

No importance is attached to wing position in the Southern Jurisdiction. The official adopted logo of the Southern Jurisdiction is wings down. As far as the SJ Supreme Council is concerned, anything that is “wings up” is purely an artistic license and has no official symbolism.

Other Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite jurisdictions (AASR) use wings up as their official logo, including some Prince Hall AASRs as well as more than a few unrecognized, clandestine ones. Some non-U.S. jurisdictions, including Canada, use the wings-up version as well. But in the United States, it's primarily wings-down.





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**
- Thom Piper, (805) 208-8004**
- Mike Satumba, (210) 557-9721**
- Jim Daniels, (805) 984-7272**

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), (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.*

- Allen James Potts crossed on 8/7/2020**
- Ronnie L. Brown crossed on 1/31/2021**



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

Useful Contacts

Officers of All the Bodies

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Recent changes are underlined.

You can email us at 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

2021

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendar

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

Mon Mar. 8: 7:00 PM, Zoom Stated Meeting (CoK)

Mon Mar. 22: 7:00 PM, Zoom Meeting for Remembrance & Renewal Program (WM)

Mon Apr. 12: 7:00 PM, Zoom Stated Meeting (MoK)

Mon May 10: 7:00 PM, Zoom Stated Meeting (VM)

