

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

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXVI November - December 2013

Issue 1

The Donald L. Leach Fall Class



Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXVI, Issue number 1. 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 805-415-3776. 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.

Cover:

Our cover depicts, in the front row, the members of our Fall Class, and behind them the cast members of the 14th Degrees and other Workers in the Temple.

Our newest members (front row, from the left) are Harvey Handfinger, Jeffrey Pittle, Derek Lauck, Michael Schaller, David Klein, Jaron Coby, and Jose Valencia.

Behind them (from the left) are Pat Riggs, 32° KCCH, Andy Little, 33°, Orvene Carpenter, 33°, Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH designate, Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, James Craig, 32°, Larry Morris, 32° KCCH, David Beaver, 32°, Bruce Rick, 32°, Fred Ervast, 32°, David Contreras, 32°, Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, Paulo Santos, 32° KCCH, and John Argue, 32° KCCH.

On October 19 our Valley exemplified the 4th and 14th Degrees. On November 23 our candidates will receive their remaining degrees at Long Beach Scottish Rite.

Upcoming Events

On Saturday, November 9, several of us will travel to San Diego to witness Brothers Raul Cifuentes,

32°, and Robert Dee Matson, 32°, be invested as Knight Commanders of the Court of Honor. The investiture will begin at 4:00 PM and will be followed by the Honours Banquet at 6:00.

Because of the Honours Weekend, our next stated meeting will be on Monday, November 18. **Note the date change.** We understand that Venerable Master Raul Cifuentes is planning a special Members Appreciation Dinner Dance (*see page 6*). Dinner reservations are due to Brother Harold Bogner (harold55@juno.com or 484-7657) by Thursday, November 14. Be sure to get those in if you expect to eat!

At the November stated meeting we will also have the report of the Nominating Committee.

On November 22 and 23 the Valley of Long Beach will put on the Scottish Rite degrees and we plan to take two candidates there on Nov 22 and seven more on Nov 23 to receive the rest of their degrees. We hope that many of our members will be able to come along to support our candidates and witness the excellent work done by Long Beach.

At our stated meeting on December 9 we will hold elections for next year's officers. Again, **remember to make your**

reservations by Thursday, December 5.

Since the Nominating Committee will be reporting in November and elections will be held in December, if you are interested in serving as an officer in our Valley, or are willing to help in any other capacity, please make your wishes know to our PR, Jerry Gonzales, or our Venerable Master, Raul Cifuentes. There is always much to be done and they can find an appropriate use for your talents. Please consider getting involved in the work of our Valley.

The officers are also working on the calendar for next year. If you have an idea for an event, or some suggestions on what we might do differently, please give them your input.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, November 16th and December 14th. 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 stated meeting September 9 Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, reported on the New England Summer Picnic. It was the best attended in several years and the profits were about \$3800, which will benefit the Childhood Language Disorders Clinic in Santa Barbara.

On October 14 we celebrated the Feast of Tishri with the traditional toasts. Our Orator, Brother Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, gave us an explanation of the background of the festival.

On October 19 we portrayed the 4th and 14th Degrees for seven candidates. Many of our cast members were new and all put in a lot of time and effort to learn their parts and try to put on an impressive ceremony. The 4th Degree cast consisted of Andy Little, 33°, as Venerable Master, Bill Campbell, 32° KCCH, as Senior Warden, David Beaver, 32°, as Junior Warden, David Contreras, 32°, as Orator, Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH designate, as Senior Deacon, Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, as Junior Deacon, and James Craig, 32°, as the Voice Offstage. The 14th Degree cast consisted of Larry Morris, 32° KCCH, as Venerable Master, James Craig, 32°, as Senior Warden, David Beaver, 32°, as Junior Warden, David Contreras, 32°, as Orator, Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, as Senior Deacon, and Fred Ervast, 32°, as Moses.. Much credit also goes to our supporting workers including stage craft, headed by Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH, for seeing that the room was properly set up and torn down for each degree, Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, for wardrobe, Pat Riggs, 32° KCCH, for sound, Bruce Rick, 32°, for lighting, and Bob Sills, 32° KCCH, for slides. Many of these people also helped out in various ways behind the scenes. And of course to John Argue, 32° KCCH, as Class Director. We hope that our seven new members were impressed. We look forward to doing these degrees again next spring, and maybe adding some additional ones.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings Scottish Rite Friends and Family,

Hope all is well, and as we move toward the close of the year we are still busy working within the Rite. Our Valley pulled together and put on the first half of the Fall Class and for that I commend all those who made it happen, as well as welcome our new applicants. These along with a couple who could not attend will be finalizing their initiation into the Rite on the 23rd of November in Long Beach. I hope many of you will be able to attend with them, as Long Beach not only puts on grand degrees but has a beautiful facility and stage, as well as making our new candidates feel welcome in a strange Valley. With the progress ILL.: Andy Little has made with the first half of the class we are also hopeful by spring we will be able to do all the required degrees here in our own valley. Our valley is growing and for that I am most thankful to all who have supported us.

We are also about to Knight our Venerable Master Jose Raul Cifuentes, and Commander of Kadosh Robert Dee Matson into the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on the 9th of November. If you are going you need to get your dinner reservations in as the final date I believe is the 5th. I congratulate and welcome both of you to this honored investiture.

Now as we move on to the last two months of the year, yes the year is



coming to an end, there is still much to be done. Elections are coming for our new officers, as well as some possible changes among the staff. We look to all of you to support the incoming officers.

Two final notes on Dinners, in November I am moving the dinner date forward one week to the third Monday, November 18, due to date of Honours in San Diego, and second I again appeal to you of the need to RSVP for dinner. If you have prepaid standing reservations nothing is necessary, we add you to the list if you are coming or not, but if you do not have prepaid reservations then it is imperative that you make a Reservation by the dead line as we have to order the food from the Caterer and they only provide the number of meals we request. I am sad

to say we can not afford to order extra meals, so If you do not meet the RSVP deadline, you are welcome to attend the meeting but do not plan on having dinner.

Some other events and housekeeping issues of interest; the heads of bodies need to start to put together their nominations for the upcoming year for head of body. The nomination committee was announced in October with nominations due at the November meeting with elections in December. If you do not have a replacement, you, the head of body, will remain in place for the coming year. Installation is coming in January, we need to start planning, and as I mentioned earlier due to Honours being the second weekend in November, I want to move the stated meeting one week later in the month. I believe we will be having a dinner

dance in November so look for the details elsewhere in this bulletin. I have a draft out of next year's calendar and hope to have it published by next bulletin (*see page 6*). Lastly, Annual prepaid RSVP's are due by the stated meeting in February 2014; the price for the year will be \$150.00 per person, which is \$15.00 per meal, a hint of things to come.

This month the Commander of Kadosh will be in charge of the meeting and program, and for December it will be the Consistory.

Busy times ahead, I hope to see you all at our coming dinners and meetings. Wives, friends, and family are always welcome at dinner but please make the necessary reservations.

Jerry E. Gonzales, KCCH

BROTHERHOOD
by Edwin Markham

The crest and crowning of all good,
Life's final star, is Brotherhood;
For it will bring again to Earth
Her long-lost Poesy and Mirth;
Will send new light on every face,
A kingly power upon the race,
And till it comes we men are slaves,
And travel downward to the dust of graves.
Come, clear the way, then, clear the way:
Blind creeds and Kings have had their day.
Break the dead branches from the path:
Our hope is in the aftermath -
Our hope is in heroic men,
Star-led to build the world again.
To this event the ages ran:
Make way for Brotherhood - make way for Man!
It was his CREED that:
There is a destiny that makes us brothers:
None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

Lodge of Perfection

J. Raul Cifuentes, 32° KCCH designate, Venerable Master

Brethren,
This is the last bulletin of the year. It is hard to believe that we have almost arrived to the end of 2013.

Every time we look back to the past we cannot help but to be thankful and humbled for all the blessings we have received and all the tasks we have accomplished. 2013 was a blessed year for the Valley of Ventura. With the support of all of you, we were able to gain twelve new members through our Spring and Fall classes. Our recent Feast of Tishri and The Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony in spring were also well attended and supported as well as the Cap and Ring ceremony for our new members. The New England Picnic this summer was one of the most well attended and fruitful events in years. All these accomplishments are the result of team effort and the love that you my brothers profess to the fraternity and our Valley.

At our next and last Sated Meeting on November 18th, the heads of bodies would like to show our appreciation to all of you for your unconditional support and assistance during this year. We are preparing a Dinner/Dance for you, your friends and family to enjoy. Dinner will be catered by Stone Fire



Grill and Music will be offered by Mr. Leon Felburg (the one man band). The cost is \$14 per person or \$25 per couple. Please remember to make your reservations to Sir Knight Harold Bogner by Thursday, November 14th.

As we approach to the end of the year, remember to be thankful for all the blessings you have received, enjoy these holidays with your family and friends and above all, don't forget to keep in your prayers our brave Soldiers serving this country, and assistance for those who are less fortunate than you.

Bro. Raul Cifuentes, 32°
Venerable Master,
Lodge of Perfection

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

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

November 18, 2013, Stated Meeting Dinner/Dance

Tri-tip
Chicken
Cartwheel Salad
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Coleslaw
Bread Sticks
Dessert

Price \$14/single or \$25/Couple

Reservation required by Thu, November 14!

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

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, 805 218-1648 or
hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

December 9, 2013, Stated Meeting Elections

Cajun Chicken Penne
Garden Salad
Garlic Bread
Cheesecake

Price \$14

Reservation required by Thu, December 5!

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

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, 805 218-1648 or
hbogner@smartsourcellc.com

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

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

Brethren, a while back I read this piece and thought it might be worth passing on, you see so many times all we have to do is look up. Sounds simple, I know, but there could be more truth than we oft times think.

The Buzzard, the Bat, and the Bumblebee

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the buzzard, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with not top.

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkably nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place or ground. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly, and no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it throws itself in the air. Then, at once, it can take off in a flash.

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means to escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely



destroys itself.

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up

And now, to digress just a moment, I would like to take this time to thank the brethren for the honours bestowed upon me in San Diego, at the 2013 Biennial Ceremonies. I am so humbled by the awarding of the Knights Commander of the Court of Honor. Thanks you all so very much!!

Reception for Tom Melugin



Oxnard Lodge #341 recently held a reception for Ill. Tom Melugin, 33°, honoring him for his year as Grand Senior Deacon. Several of our members were involved in the festivities. To the left, Grand Master John Lowe, 32° KCCH, recognizes Tom and presents him with a Challenge Coin. Below that Jerry

Gonzales is the surprised recipient of the Hiram Award, presented by GM Lowe. Bottom Left, GM Lowe presents Ill. Orvene Carpenter with a plaque recognizing him for 50 years as a Past Master of Oxnard Lodge. Below, GM John addresses the guests.



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
Elmer Stringer, 487-3078 David Allen
E. Floyd Griffin, 525-5932

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.*

(Thankfully we have nothing to report here at this time.)



**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° 484-5222.... alittle93012@gmail.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@dslextre.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 (805) 218-1648

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|-----|-----|----|---|
| Sat | Nov | 9 | Honors Conferral in San Diego, 33 rd Degree 10:00 AM, KCCCH Investiture 4:00 PM, Banquet 6:00 PM |
| Mon | Nov | 11 | DARK! Stated meeting postponed to Nov 18 |
| Sat | Nov | 16 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy |
| Mon | Nov | 18 | Social 5:30 PM, Membership Appreciation Dinner & Dance 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations</u>), Stated meeting following, <i>Report of Nominating Committee</i> |
| Sat | Nov | 23 | Last section of Fall Fast Class, held at Long Beach Scottish Rite. |
| Mon | Dec | 9 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (<i>Election of Officers</i>) |
| Sat | Dec | 14 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |

