

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

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXV

January - February 2013

Issue 2

In Memoriam



Donald L. Leach

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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: In Memorial Donald L. Leach

Ill.: Donald L. Leach, 33°, passed away on November 20, 2012.

Don was born in Talmage, Nebraska, and his family lived in several places before settling in Eureka, where Don graduated from Eureka High School and Humboldt State University. Don later received advanced degrees from USC, Northwestern Traffic Institute, and University of California, Santa Barbara, and his Juris Doctorate from Ventura College of Law.

Don and his late wife, Mary, were married for 57 years. Together they raised five children.

Don had a varied career, working for the US Postal Service, as a Radio and TV broadcaster, as a Captain in the Marine Corps, as a college instructor, with the Highway Patrol, and as an attorney. He served in Vietnam and Okinawa while with the Marine Corps. It was the Highway Patrol that brought him to Ventura County where he retired as Area Commander in 1991. As an attorney he specialized in Estate, Probate, and Family Law.

Don was very active with the Rotary, where he had perfect attendance and served as president

and secretary of the Rotary Club of Ventura. He also served with the Salvation Army, the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, the Estate Planning Board, and Ventura County Law Library, and as president of the Ventura County Fair Board.

In spite of all his other activities Don found time to be active in many aspects of Masonry. He served as master of San Juan Lodge #732, in the York Rite, Shrine, Red Cross of Constantine, and National Sojourners. He served as inspector of the local Masonic district for many years.

Don joined the Scottish Rite in Sacramento in 1973 and became a charter member of our Valley in 1979. He was designated a KCCH in 1983 and was invested with the 33rd Degree in 1995. He served as Master of Kadosh in 1982. He took an active role in the degree work. He served as General Secretary of the Valley from 1997 until 2007.

At a service held for Don on November 29 Ill.: Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°, and Brother Jim Deardorff, 32° KCCH, delivered the eulogy. Many brethren were in attendance.

We will all miss Don's presence and his tireless efforts, for Masonry and for the community. We are all a little poorer because of his absence.

III.: Frank Loui, New Deputy

Past Grand Master Frank Loui, 33°, has been appointed as a Deputy of the Supreme Council for California. We congratulate III.: Loui and welcome him to his new position. Under his leadership we look forward to a time of renewed growth for the Scottish Rite in California.

Upcoming Events

January 14 will be our annual Installation of Officers. Brother Raul Cifuentes, 32°, will be installed as Venerable Master, Brother Earl Williams, 32°, as Wise Master, Brother Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32°, as Commander of the Council, and Brother Michael 'Kelly' Sharp, 32°, as the Master of Kadosh. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30 followed by a Filipino dinner at 6:30, prepared by Anapaca Lodge #710. **Reservations are a must!** Contact Harold Bogner at harold55@juno.com, or 484-7657. The installation will follow dinner. III.: Fred 'Tiny' Potter, 33°, will serve as Installing Officer, Brother Harold Bogner, 32° KCCH, as Master of Ceremonies, and III.: Orvene Carpenter, 33°, as Installing Chaplain.

Prior to our February stated meeting we will have a Cap and Ring Ceremony for our newest member, Brother Michael Blodgett, 32°.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, January 19th

and February 16th. 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

Prior to our November stated meeting Brother Michael Bradbury, 32°, former District Attorney for Ventura County, spoke to us on Cowboy Poetry. (This event was rescheduled from earlier this year due to illness.) The presentation was well received and Brother Bradbury donated two CD's which were auctioned off to support the Childhood Language Clinic.

As reported above, on November 29th we lay to rest III.: Don Leach, 33°, who served as Secretary of our Valley for over 12 years. On December 1 we lay to rest Brother Donald E. Olivier, 32° KCCH. Don was not a member of our Valley at the time of his death, having taken a demit several years ago, but he is well known to our members, having served as Prelate for many years.

At our December stated meeting elections were held. Brother Raul Cifuentes, 32°, was elected Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Brother Earl Williams, 32° was elected Wise Master of the Chapter Rose Croix, Brother Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32°, was elected Commander of the Council of Kadosh, and Brother Michael 'Kelly' Sharp was elected Master of Kadosh for the Consistory. These officers will be installed at our January 14 meeting.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings to all our Masonic Brethren and their families. I hope everyone is having a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year, as well as an enjoyable Holiday season. Another year has come and gone, with many fond memories of things past and plans of things to come. Elections have been held and we are on our way to our 2013 Installation. I am hopeful as the New Year brings new officers, it will also bring new ideas and programs.

For those who do not know, our Annual installation will be held on January 14th 2013. Reservations will be REQUIRED and can be made with Sir Knight Bogner. Please make your reservations no later than the 7th of January, in order that we may have the proper amounts of meals prepared. I know this subject will be addressed somewhere else in this letter but I do want to remind everyone how important reservations are. Dinner will be prepared by Anapaca Lodge 710 for us and as always their food is top notch. Please plan and join us as we make ready to bring in our new officers.

Some other good news is I am working with both Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Valleys to put on a joint degree. Our dates are tentative, and what level of work we will do is still in the planning stages, but I am hopeful with the aid of both of these Valleys and the wisdom of both Venerable Masters we will come to a working solution. I will keep you informed if and when this comes to



reality. Please note the dates on the annual calendar are tentative so far (*see pages 6 & 7*).

On to a couple of not so delightful subjects;

1. Our ladies organization has informed me that they will not be continuing on in the coming year, but will continue to support us and join us for our dinners and programs. Seems to be just a lack of interest and so few members. Ladies, I wish to thank you for all you do and as you know you are always welcome in all we do in Scottish Rite Masonry.

2. Our dinner crew has hung up their aprons, and I must say their last meal in December was one heck of a meal to close out with. Great Job Guys. With that said, we are looking

to start catering dinners. I have some good prospects and it is looking like we may move the type of meal and vendor around to keep things interesting. I have not worked out the price yet or details but am moving forward with this effort. If any Brother or lady is interested in helping or maybe even preparing a meal please contact myself or Sir Knight Roger Rider, who has agreed to be my caterer coordinator for the coming year. With this thought in mind I must bring two things to your attention, Price and Reservations. I am hopeful I can keep the price between 10 and 12 dollars, which is very close to what we have been paying. With that in mind the annual fee for dinners will be adjusted accordingly. As soon as I have a firm idea on the fees, I will be putting out the fee for this annual dinner ticket. The other issue of concern will be reservations; with a caterer and paying

per plate it will be more important to make reservations than ever for we will have to pre order a quantity of dinners. Please be prompt on your reservation or be prepared to be told you are too late and a dinner will not be available to you.

Finally I wish to thank everyone for all your support this past year to our officers and myself. As always if you have an idea for a program or speaker, please bring it to our attention. Comments, both positive and critical, are always welcome as this is your Rite and we wish to provide you with the programs and services you desire.

I look forward to all your smiling faces at our Annual Installation of Officers.

Jerry E. Gonzales
KCCH

DUES! DUES! DUES!

A big Thank You goes out to all those who have already paid their 2013 dues. It makes the secretary's job much easier.

To those who have not yet paid your dues, please take care of it soon. Your 2013 dues were due January 1.

If you have gotten behind and have not yet paid your 2011 dues, you will be subject to suspension. If you are behind but wish to retain your

membership in the Scottish Rite you need to contact the Secretary, Andy Little, at (805) 415-3776 or vcscottishrite@gmail.com. If you have encountered financial hardship and are unable to pay then we need to know that. We have ways to keep you in good standing, but we need to know. Otherwise you may find yourself suspended for non-payment of dues. **Please don't let this happen!**

FROM THE KITCHEN STAFF

Please make your reservations with Harold Bogner, preferably by email to harold55@juno.com, otherwise 484-7657 (leave a message), one week before the dinner.

January 14, 2013, Stated Meeting Installation of Officers

Filipino Dinner

Catered by Anacapa Lodge #710
Price \$16, reservation required!

February 11, 2013, Stated Meeting

Menu to be announced

Ventura County Scottish Rite Schedule for 2013

Save this page for reference!

(Watch the newsletter for updates.)

Dates:	Events:
<u>Mon Jan 14</u>	<u>Social 5:30 PM, Filipino Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Installation of Officers & Program 8:00</u>
Sat Jan 19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
<u>Mon Feb 11</u>	<u>Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Cap and Ring Ceremony 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following</u>
Sat Feb 16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 12
<u>Mon Mar 11</u>	<u>Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), 25 & 50 Year awards presented, 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following</u>
Sat Mar 16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
<u>Fri/Sat Mar 22/23</u>	<u>*****SPRING FAST CLASS (PART 1/2), STARTS AT 7:00 PM, FRIDAY, 8:00 AM SATURDAY</u>
<u>Mon Mar 25</u>	<u>Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony 7:30 PM (Open to all)</u>
Mon Apr 8	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (Reservations), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat Apr 13	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

Mon	May	13	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations</i>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following (Mothers Day)
Sat	May	18	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	May	27	Avenue of the Flags at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park Memorial Day, 10 AM, Laying of wreath by Ventura County Scottish Rite Bodies
Mon	Jun	10	Social 5:30 PM, Flag Day, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<i>Reservations</i>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Jun	15	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Jun	24	Potluck dinner 6:30 PM, Planning Meeting for New England Summer Picnic and Child ID Program at Ventura County Fair
Sat	Jul	13	New England Summer Picnic, (location TBA), Serving at 1-2 PM
Sat	Jul	20	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Fri/Sat	Jul 26/27		*****Spring Fast Class (Part 2/2), STARTS AT 7:00 PM, FRIDAY, 8:00 AM SATURDAY
Sat	Aug	10	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Aug	12	DARK
Mon	Sep	9	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (<i>Reservations</i>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following
Sat	Sep	14	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Fri/Sat	Sep 27/28		*****Fall Fast Class (Part 1/2), STARTS AT 7:00 PM, FRIDAY, 8:00 AM SATURDAY
Mon	Oct	14	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations</i>), Feast of Tishri Celebration 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (Reobligation of the 14th Degree, Nominating Committee appointed)
Sat	Oct	19	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Mon	Nov	11	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations</i>), Program 7:20 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (Report of Nominating Committee)
Sat	Nov	16	Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126
Fri/Sat	Nov 22/23		*****Fall Fast Class (Part 2/2), STARTS AT 7:00 PM, FRIDAY, 8:00 AM SATURDAY
Mon	Dec	9	Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<i>Reservations</i>), 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

Please note the Scottish Rite Class dates are indicated with asterisks (***). These are under review and pending degree teams. Our PR is working with both Los Angeles and Santa Barbara in a group effort to put the degrees back together.**

HOW DID MASONIC RITUAL COME ABOUT?

(from a series of articles by Nigel Gallimore, a Past Master (UGLE) who now lives in Santa Barbara)

Ironically, most of our early knowledge of Masonic ritual is from the early anti-Masonic literature (exposures) in England and France. The first ritual was probably a simple ceremony of admission, which developed into two degrees and, at about the time when the first Grand Lodge in England was formed in 1717, into a system of three degrees. These early ceremonies were mainly delivered in catechetical form and were evidently briefer and less well structured than the later ceremonies. Early ritual was also Christian in content – indeed the Premier Grand Lodge met on St. John's Day (24th June).

Because of the way that the Craft developed from very early times, there was considerable diversity of practice in England from one part of the country to another, and particularly between the Lodges under the two rival Grand Lodges, the Premier and the Ancient Grand Lodges. To pave the way for the union of these two Grand Lodges, a Lodge of Promulgation was formed in 1809 under the Premier Grand Lodge (or Moderns) to examine the ritual and make recommendations.

Following the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, a Lodge of Reconciliation was established to complete the rationalization of the ritual into a form acceptable to both parties forming the newly constituted United Grand Lodge of England. The work of the Lodge of Reconciliation between 1813 and 1816 included demonstrations of the opening and closing ceremonies, the obligations and the perambulations. It was

probably also when most of the Christian references were removed. Its other main function was to demonstrate the unified ritual. Representatives of Lodges in London and the Provinces were invited to attend special demonstrations organized by the experts from the Lodge of Reconciliation, which completed its work in 1816.

It was forbidden to print the ritual or even produce written manuscripts, so the communication of the work to the various Lodges relied heavily on the ability, not to mention the memory, of those attending the demonstrations. Their task was then to instruct their own members in the approved practices. It was not until 1835 that the first regular ritual book was published in England by George Claret. This is somewhat surprising because at this time the printing of ritual was still strictly frowned upon by Grand Lodge, and several later authors were firmly admonished for such transgressions.

Towards the latter part of the 19th century, and into the 20th century, an increased number of rituals emerged. Today in England there are some 40 published rituals and several hundred smaller workings, some unique to particular Lodges. Emulation is the most widely used. Some rituals are practiced within certain Provinces, such as the Oxford Working and the Sussex Working, and many others are popular in particular geographic areas. Except for a few Lodges in Bristol and the North of England, which retains more of the earlier practices, the degree of variation is

quite small. The UGLE has never officially recognized any particular ritual working. Lodges are to this day, free to teach and practice whatever ritual they wish, provided the landmarks are not breached.

In the USA, there are several different Craft rituals in use, generally exhibiting only minor variations and, broadly speaking, they are very similar to England. Yet, in a very curious way, the visitor from England who knows his ritual will find that the American versions sound strangely old-fashioned, repetitive, and somehow older than used today in England. Surprisingly, this is true! America got their ritual from Britain, but it is, in fact, older.

American Masonic workings owe their origins, unquestionably, to England, Scotland, Ireland, but the stabilization of their ritual was done by an American, Thomas Smith Webb, who, in 1797 published a book under the title *Freemasons' Monitor or Illustrations of Freemasonry*. What happened in fact was, that Webb took the English Freemason William Preston's book *Illustrations of Masonry* (it was almost a bible to the English Craft), retained sixty-four pages of work intact, word for word, cut out a few minor items, and rearranged others. Although Webb wrote very little of it himself, he may well be described as the father of American ritual.

For that reason, it is fair to say that the ritual used in America, though it came from Great Britain, is actually far older than used today in England, and it is not merely 'old-fashioned,' but also more discursive, and by reason of their Lectures much more explanatory than what is used in England, especially of the symbolical

meaning of their procedures. With the creation of the UGLE the ritual in England had been altered, curtailed and polished up, (some said, almost beyond recognition), but not so in the USA where they preserved it.

The American ritual material is essentially the same as in England and easily recognizable. The signs and secrets are virtually the same, except that America uses the Scottish sign for the Entered Apprentices. The second degree is more elaborate and the third is basically the same, but because lodges perform the drama as if it were a play, treating the Candidate as though he were really H.A., the result is occasionally rather rough and frightening, especially in those lodges that pride themselves on the realism of their performance.

The manner in which Americans safeguard their ritual is also interesting. In England, the Grand Lodge views the ritual as a 'domestic matter,' i.e., a majority of the Brethren in any lodge may decide what form of ritual shall be worked, and unless the Lodge was guilty of some serious breach, the Grand Lodge would not interfere. In the USA, the very reverse is the case. Each Grand Lodge prescribes the ritual that its Lodges shall work, and usually the Grand Lodge prints and publishes the "monitorial" or explanatory portions of the rituals too. Some Grand Lodges also publish the esoteric ritual, in code or cipher, but this is forbidden in others. Moreover, to prevent innovations, the Grand Lodges protect their forms of ritual working by the appointment of officers, called Grand Lecturers, whose duty is not to lecture, but to ensure that the groups of lodges under their care adhere to the official workings



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 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.*

**Jerrold Joseph Schwartz crossed on 10/30/2012
Donald Lee Leach crossed on 11/20/2012**



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.... efgriffin@verizon.net
Asst Almoner Camarillo William Campbell, 32° KCCH ... 482-7523.... bncampbell@verizon.net
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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..... Kelly Sharp, 32° (661)713-9407.... thesaniterium@hotmail.com

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
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Stagecraft..... Michael Metzler, 32° KCCH..... 524-3362 ... mgmetzler@aol.com
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Recent changes are underlined. All phone numbers in area code 805.
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
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED **ark Your Calendar**



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

Mon Jan 14 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, (Reservations), Installation of Officers 8:00
Sat Jan 19 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy

Mon Feb 11 Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30
PM (Reservations), Cap and
Ring Ceremony 7:20 PM,
Stated meeting following
Sat Feb 16 Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up,
Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126

