

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

Views from Ventura Valley

VOL. XXXV

September - October 2013

Issue 5

Our Newest Honourmen



**Jose Raul Cifuentes, KCCH designate
Robert D. Matson, KCCH designate**

Views from Ventura Valley, the Ventura County Scottish Rite News, Volume XXXV, Issue number 5. 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 our two newest Honourmen, our Venerable Master Raul Cifuentes, and our Commander of the Council of Kadosh, Robert 'Dee' Matson. Honours will be conferred on November 9th in San Diego. Congratulations, Brethren, on your selection.

Upcoming Events

Our next stated meeting is September 9. Dinner reservations are due to Brother Harold Bogner (harold55@juno.com or 484-7657) by September 5. Be sure to get those in if you expect to eat!

Our stated meeting on October 14 will include the Feast of Tishri, with its traditional toast and the re-obligation of the 14th Degree. We hope to see you at this important event. Again, **remember to make your reservations** by October 10.

On October 19 starting at 8:30 AM we will put on the 4th and 14th Degrees, for the first time in a couple of years. The casts are pretty much in place but we still need help with other aspects of the degrees, including stagecraft, sound, lighting, prompting, and possibly some non-

speaking parts or last minute substitutions. Please volunteer to help out if you can make it. Or just come down and observe the degrees. Also, if you know any brother Masons who might like to become a part of our Valley, please give them a petition and encourage them to take part in this class.

The Biennial Honours Conferral will be held on November 9th in San Diego. The 33rd Degree will be conferred at 10:00 AM, open the 33's only. The Knight Commander of the Court of Honour Investiture starts at 4:00 PM. Family and friends are invited to attend. Raul Cifuentes, 32°, and Robert 'Dee' Matson, 32°, of our Valley will be invested. At 6:00 PM the banquet will begin. The cost is \$50 per person and must be paid by November 5. If you would like to attend please let the secretary, Andy Little, 33°, know by (emailing vcscottishrite@gmail.com or calling (805) 415-3776).

The Valley of Los Angeles has invited us to a reception honoring Ill.: Frank Loui, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council for California, to be held Friday, September 20, at the Santa Monica Masonic Center, starting at 6:30 PM with dinner at 7:30. Reservations are due by

September 16; let the Secretary know if you are interested in attending.

We are approaching the last part of this year and it is time to start thinking about officers and workers for next year. If you are interested in serving as an officer in our Valley, or willing to help in another 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.

Our next highway cleanups are scheduled for Saturday, September 14th and October 12th. 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

Well, the New England Summer Picnic is now behind us and what a fantastic event. (See pictures on pages 11 to 13). Although the final numbers are not yet in, we had 136 reservations for steak and 141 for lobster. A total of 277 people were served. We used 40 pounds of butter, 45 pounds of cole slaw, and 2 gallons of salad dressing. The crew, coordinated by Harold Bogner, included Tom Melugin, David DelDosso, Mike Metzler, Jerry Gonzales, Ted Metropolis, Mike Metropolis, Jim Daniels, Kitty Hurliman, Clinton Williams, Russ Charvonja, Jose Valencia, Andy Little, Michael and Chris Blodgett, Dee Matson, Earl Williams, Raul Cifuentes, Larry Morris, Bob Sills,

Walt and Nola Bragula, and Jan Bogner. Jerry prepared an awesome breakfast for the crew. Special thanks go to three non-masons who have helped over the past several years – Steve Whitacre (son of Ted and Evelyn), and Ted and Mike Metropolis. Thanks also to all who worked behind the scenes for months before the event. Of special note was the bake sale, which raised more than \$236. Thanks to all who provided goodies. Also the raffle, organized by Jan Bogner and supported by many donations, raised \$700. Mike and Chris Brown, owners of Cantara Cellars, provided a magnum of wine to raffle, along with several bottles of wine for the bar. All for the benefit of the Language Disorder Clinic in Santa Barbara.

Our June meeting included the Cap and Ring Ceremony during which we presented our newest members with their caps and rings: David Beaver, 32°, James Craig, 32°, David Contreras, 32°, Clint Williams, 32°, and Jimmy Telan, 32°. (See pictures on pages 6 and 7.)

Again this year Chuck Batterson, 32° KCCH, organized the Child ID program for the Ventura County Fair, July 31 through August 11. This year for the first time the pictures were done in color. Thanks to all who assisted with this worthwhile program.

We have learned that Brother Tom Pugh, 32° KCCH, who now lives in Washington State, recently married Violet Stanley. Congratulations, Brother Tom.

From the PR's Quill

Jerry E. Gonzales, 32° KCCH

Greetings Scottish Rite Friends and Family, summer is about over and I wish to welcome you back after our month break in August. I hope most of you had a great time this summer season and are ready to get back in the groove of Scottish Rite functions as the end of this year is very event filled.

Our New England Picnic fund raiser was a huge success, bigger than we have had in many years, and attended by both the Grand Lodge Family as well as the Shrine Family of Los Angeles. We also saw lots of new faces, as well as our usual supporters, what a grand time it was for the valley as well as a beautiful day. I wish to thank all who supported and assisted, this is a huge undertaking to put on, and I am happy to say this year we had lots of help. Without each and every one who helped we would not be able to put this event on. I also want to mention the Ladies group who held both a bake sale and Silent auction and raised over \$900.00. Great Job Ladies! The final tabs are not in but we will be reading the financial report at our September meeting; which will have a complete breakdown for this event. Again Thank You All.

Now as we move on to the last few months of the year, yes the year is coming to an end, there is still much to be done. I will be off to Washington, D.C. to attend the Biennial Session of Scottish Rite at the end of this month. This is a busy four days of Scottish Rite business



and social events. Upon my return we will be getting ready for our monthly stated meeting dinner in September. Please see menu and contact information in the bulletin. I would also like to remind you October is Feast of Tishri and we hope you will come and join us as we toast to our leaders. 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 which I will speak about in a moment, and second I again appeal to 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 cannot 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.

Saturday, November 9th is Honours Ceremony in San Diego, and I am Proud to say we have two members who will be receiving the ***Knight Commander of the Court of Honour***, Brother Jose Raul Cifuentes, Venerable Master, and Brother Dee Matson, Commander of Kadosh. To both of you I say congratulations, and as a previous Personal Representative said, ***"Honours is not so much about what you have done but it is about what you Will Do in the Future!"*** I am hopeful many of you will join us in San Diego as we pay tribute to these two fine selectees who will be knighted as the ***Knights Commander of the Court of Honour***.

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 is announced in October with announcements of nominations at the November meeting with elections. 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, and lastly we are not breaking even at dinners at \$14.00 a dinner. I am open to suggestions but feel we may need to up the price, or someone smarter than I take over the catering. We are also working on putting on degrees for our candidates in October time frame to coincide with another valley's work, so practice is coming as well as degrees. I have a draft out of next year's calendar and hope to have it published by next bulletin.

This month the Wise Master will be in charge of meeting and program, October is the responsibility of Venerable Master and November will be Commander of Kadosh.

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.

Gerry E. Gonzales, KCCH

Silence: The Book of Constitutions guarded by the Tyler's sword may be as is claimed, a new emblem among us, but the virtue it commemorates, silence, is an old and excellent one. How much better it would be if we thought more and talked less. This virtue seems to have been more prized by the ancients than by us. The disciples of many of the ancient philosophers were required to practice absolute silence for long periods of probation, and so important was it deemed in their religious and philosophical systems that it was allotted a special deity who was represent as full of eyes and ears, signifying that many things are to be seen and heard but little to be spoken.

From *The Symbolism of Masonry* by Oliver D. Street, PGM, Alabama

Cap and Ring Ceremony



(Above) The Heads of the Bodies prepare for the Ceremony: (L-R) Earl Williams, Wise Master; Dee Matson, Commander of Kadosh; Tom Melugin, acting Master of Kadosh; and Raul Cifuentes, Venerable Master.
(Below) Class Director John Argue (L) and new members: (L-R) Clinton Williams, James Craig, David Contreras, David Beaver, and Jimmy Telan.



(Below) Brother Jimmy Telan, 32°, (left), and Brother David Beaver, 32°, (right) pass through the 14th Degree ring.





Brother David Contreras, 32°, (above left), Brother James Craig, 32° (above right), and Brother Clinton Williams, 32°, (left) pass through the 14th Degree ring.

Our special thanks goes to Michael Metzler and Raul Cifuentes for these excellent photos.

(Below) Our new members after the presentations.



Lodge of Perfection

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

Brethren,
 Summer is almost behind us, and soon we will be preparing to welcome fall. I hope you all had a great summer and enjoyed the many activities that this time of the year brought with it. I would like to start by thanking all of you who participated at the New England Picnic, either with your presence or helping as a crew member. It was a fabulous and successful event. As we approach fall, this Valley of Ventura will resume its busy activities, starting with the September Stated Dinner/Meeting. (Don't forget to make your dinner reservations with Sir Knight Harold Bogner.)

I'm excited to share with you the good news that this Valley will be performing the 4th to the 17th Degrees at the fall class starting on Saturday, October 19th. I would like to thank all of you who will be helping at the Fall Class, particularly I want to thank Ill. Andy Little for his time and effort organizing these degrees. At the same time I would like to encourage you to come and support our Valley by attending these Degrees or by helping as a cast member, sound, light or stagecraft. There are plenty of opportunities for you to participate and help us make this Class a successful one.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that at our Stated Meeting in October, we will be holding our Traditional Feast of Tishri. The feast



is considered an obligatory observance, a sharing of our fraternal spirit. It has an essential part of the Fourteenth degree. The symbolic details of the Temple's position, design, construction, furnishing, and decoration carry special meaning as they apply to the metaphorical temple of Freemasonry built in the heart of every Brother. Through the symbols of the Temple, we learn to recommit ourselves to building Freemasonry "in the hearts of men" and among nations. Please make your best effort to attend this most solemn and beautiful ceremony.

Fraternally,

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).
Reservations must be made by the Date indicated!

September 9, 2013, Stated Meeting

Roasted Chicken
Vegetables
Rice
Beans
Salad
Dessert

Price \$14,

Reservation required by Thu, September 5!

October 14, 2013, Stated Meeting

Feast of Tishri

Meatloaf
Mashed potatoes & gravy
Vegetables
Salad
Bread
Dessert

Price \$14

Reservation required by Thu, October 10!

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

THE COUNCIL OF KADOSH

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

Here is the remainder of an article that I just came across which I had enjoyed in the past. Some of you may have already seen it, but I am certain a great many have not.

Freemasonry's Dream - Reflections on the Future - *Continued from May / June Issue*

We have been given a second chance at life and only the profoundly ungrateful would turn their backs on it. Social and cultural changes have resulted in young men looking for a source of spiritual and ethical values in venues other than religion.

In the United States the age of candidates seeking admission is growing lower. He comes having researched Masonry on the internet. Often he comes after having read the rituals. He comes knowing much about what he is doing and he often comes with many questions. And he comes expecting answers.

As some of our Lodges have discovered, statements such as 'You don't need to worry about that', or 'The ritual has everything you need to know', don't fall on deaf ears – they are heard, and are treated with the contempt they deserve.

It is important to understand that these Masons do not come looking for a fight. They want



intellectual stimulation. They want to have someone at their back in the battles of life. They want to be with men dedicated to making a difference. They want to be with those who have subdued the ego and focus on that which is real and not on 'petty piques and quarrels'. They want to be in an association with older men who have promised to mentor and to share wisdom and experience.

In other words, and rather embarrassingly they come looking for exactly what we have been telling the world we have to offer.

Really, they are not asking for much. They are only asking for what

we should be able to give in civility, let alone fraternally.

'Don't ignore me. Share with me. Treat my questions and concerns as important. Help me to learn, let me help with the Lodge'.

And perhaps most important: 'Understand that I am dream-driven too. And my dreams are just as important as yours are.'

And it is true. Just as the old operative masons were driven by dreams, as the first speculative were driven by dreams, as the masons who created the great charities were driven by dreams, so are the young masons.

And they are our future.

Dream-driven organizations can never die...unless they kill the dream.

In the life of every organization there comes a point of choice – a point at which circumstances, even the dreams themselves, culminate in a moment of decision. When that point is reached every person must make a choice. It isn't possible to avoid it, for not choosing is a choice. One choice leads to a new growth, the other to the death and the comfortable warmth of decay.

Freemasonry is at that point and each of us must choose! You may choose life or you may choose death; but you must choose.

SMIB
By *Illustrious James T. Tresner II, Grand Cross recipient*

New England Summer Picnic



(Above left) PR Jerry Gonzales prepares breakfast for the crew, assisted by Larry Morris; (above right) the fire is started, (right) Walt Bragulla and assistants get the bar ready.
(continued on next page)



New England Summer Picnic



(Above left) The corn is shucked.

(Above right) The lobsters wait.

(Right) Chief cook Ted Metropolis helps prepare the bread.



(Right) Most Worshipful John Lowe, Grand Master, prepares a lobster.

Our special thanks goes to Michael Metzler and Raul Cifuentes for the excellent photos.



(Right) Our guests enjoy the good food and good company.



(Left) Michael Blodgett wins a raffle prize.

(Below) Most Worshipful John Lowe addresses the assembly as PR Jerry Gonzalez looks on.



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.*

Fred Roy Howarth crossed on 7/6/2013



**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 / 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
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Mark Your Calendar

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

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|---|
| Mon | Sep | 9 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations</u>), Program 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following |
| Sat | Sep | 14 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up, Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126, 11003 Citrus by Wells Rd, Saticoy |
| Mon | Oct | 14 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations</u>), Feast of Tishri Celebration 7:20 PM, Stated meeting following, (<u>Reobligation of the 14th Degree, Nominating Committee appointed</u>) |
| Sat | Oct | 12 | Scottish Rite Highway Clean-up,
Breakfast 7:00 AM, Cafe 126 |
| Sat | Oct | 19 | Fall Fast Class, 4th and 14th Degrees, starting at 8:30 AM |
| Sat | Nov | 9 | Honors Conferral in San Diego |
| Mon | Nov | 18 | Social 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM (<u>Reservations</u>), Program 7:20 PM, (Veterans Day), Stated meeting following (<u>Report of Nominating Committee</u>) |

