

Language Center News



Greetings from the RiteCare Language Center of Orange County

We sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy.

When we closed the Center in March, we thought these months would be lost since the children could not receive therapy. Since May, our venture into Teletherapy is now showing signs of success. During the first month, 40 children

participated in Teletherapy sessions. In June we conducted about 51 hours of individual Teletherapy. We are very grateful to Chapman University for their leadership, our friends at all the RiteCare centers for sharing their ideas and the California Scottish Rite Foundation for all the great support. We cannot forget the amazing families that believed in us and joined us on this new adventure.

Using a video conferencing tool like Microsoft Teams has forced us to learn new skills to provide effective therapy. It is all about engaging the children by using things like GIF's to teach new verbs, incorporating fun virtual backgrounds to

draw the children into the session. Virtual books from sites like "Epic Books" or "Vooks" are another great tool we use to inspire language development.

My favorite part are the stories we hear about the kids and the progress they are making through therapy. Here are a few of my favorites from the Teletherapy sessions.

One little boy asked, "I go people now?" once the session was over, he was requesting that he get to be rewarded by coming to the Center to see us all in person. His mother told us that he had been asking for us for weeks.

A child whose goal centered around putting words together now communicates in full sentences due to the new platform. He loves the computer so much that he just wants to talk to us the whole time!!

Through Teletherapy we have discovered so many things about the children and their families. It has been a true joy to be "in" their homes. The video sessions have allowed us to learn about the struggles the families have been dealing with

In-Person Stated Meetings Canceled; Valley Updates via Zoom

It is with an abundance of caution and concern for the health and welfare of our brethren and their families that we are canceling upcoming Stated Meetings until further notice.

Please join us Thursday, July 16th at 5:30pm to catch up with your brothers on Zoom. Stay tuned for an email invite with the link and password!

and has given the students clinicians the opportunities to counsel, train and help parents in new ways. For some children, this distance learning process has been the absolute best thing for them. The "protection" of the computer has allowed for some of our little ones to really come out of their shell and talk so much more. On the flip side we have families that struggle with the concept of Telehealth, but at the end of the day, every single family is thankful for what we are doing for them. This has truly been a learning experience for everyone.

When a child was promised a Captain America theme would be used at his last session, he arrived dressed as Captain America and his sister was Captain Marvel.





A family, who had missed a session due to tech problems, logged in an hour before the session to make sure it would work. When the student clinician logged in 20 minutes before the session to go over his plans with the Supervisor, they could see his empty living room! The family was outside.



And, a young lady could see herself so she started making silly faces at the camera. The interns suggested that if she stopped making faces in the camera and finish the task, they would have a silly faces contest for 10 seconds.

During these difficult times it is uplifting to know that your Language Center can still make a difference in a child's life. We are so very proud to help these children become great communicators! Please consider donating to support these efforts by visiting www.oclanguagecenter.org/donate.

Thank you for your support

David Frias, 32° KCCH

Chairman

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County

Please Donate!

Please consider donating to our Language Center during the new year. We are very thankful for all your support. To donate, visit:

https://oclanguagecenter.org/donate



A Community Program of the Scottish Rite Foundation for Children with Speech and Language Challenges

Speech Language Pathologists

Leslie Sierra-Guzman, MA CCC-SLP Laura Garcia-Maxey, MA CCC-SLP Chris Switzer, MA CCC-SLP Francine Wenhardt, CCC-SLP

www.oclanguagecenter.org

Please support your RiteCare Childhood Language Center by making an individual, group, or company donation. Support our Center by becoming a member:

President's Circle: A donation of \$500 or more each year supports one child at the center for a year

365 Club: A donation of \$365 each year **Center Club:** A donation of \$100 each year

Supporters of the RiteCare Childhood Language Center for 2020

President's Circle Members (\$500 or more)

Ted Segerstrom, 32° KCCH • Samuel Brandes, 32° • Ill. Donald Tapia, 33° • Mike Selix, 32° KCCH • Ill. Pete Jantz, 33° • Cynthia Olsen & Michele Bakkila • Il. Ray Godeke, 33° • Tom Olsen, 32° • Robert & Kathy Olsen • Ill. Art Salazar, 33° • Jim Andronaco, Sidepath • Nick Villasenor, 32° • Ill. James D. Nyfeler, 33° • Ill. David Kussman, 33° • Ill. Frankie Rosario, 33° • Cristi Shinn • Anne Hertz • Sylvia & Jim Garrett • David & Deni Frias • Dr. Judy Montgomery • Ted & Elaine Olsen • Joe Manning, Manning Law • Robert Pickell, 32° • Betty McMicken • Chase May, 32° • Dr. Mary Kennedy • Alfredo Molina, 32° KCCH • Daniel Dunn • Andrew and Palmera Todd • Karen Storaci • Jeff Tran • Ken Montgomery • Richard Dellar • Gil Estupian • Cathy & Jason Chrest • Frank Ciltadino • Raj Patel • Beth Bind

365 Club Members (\$365 each year)

Cliff Carpenter, 32°

Center Club Members (\$100 each year)

Thomas Mathisen ● Deanna K Zawistowski ● David W. Lockwood, 32° ● Frederick R. McCuistion, Jr ● Nathan Fay ● Richard Christy ● Muthurangam Balasubramaniam

For information please contact: Chairman David Frias, 32° (714) 600-8538, dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org

Senior Warden



Brethren, Greetings I hope you and your family are doing well during these unprecedented times. I can't wait for the day we can get back to some since of normal, and return to meeting on a regular basics and enjoy some fellowship with our brethren. The theme them month is Independence, and I came across the short little article I'd like to share. Author unknown.

Freemason and the Founding Fathers

Many Americans celebrate our founding father and all they did to help create our country. What few of them know is that many of the founding fathers were also freemasons. Some of the more notable founding fathers to also be masons are: George Washington, Ben Franklin led the Pennsylvania chapter, Paul Revere led a Massachusetts chapter, John Hancock, and Chief Justice John Marshall who greatly influenced the shaping of the Supreme Court. All together it is believed that about nine of the fifty-six men that

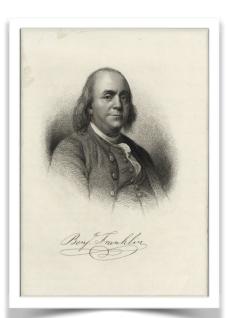


George Washington is one of the most famous Freemason from the founding fathers. In the picture you can see Washington wearing his mason apron which was very special to the organization.

signed the Declaration of Independence were masons, and about thirteen of the thirty-nine that signed the US Constitutions were also masons.

However what is not known about the Freemasons and the Founding Fathers is what there political agenda was. Over the years many scholars have tried to dig up files and letters in order to better understand what the mason were trying to accomplish when helping found the United States. Little have had any luck but most find nothing at all.

The masons took great pride in ensuring that their order stayed private and was not known to the outside world. Masons who were in the public eye like George Washington and Ben Franklin did not openly connect their political views to their masonic association. Without any concrete evidence of what the masons believed it has been left open to the speculation and interpretation of later masons and historians. A view that is shared by all is that mason during the revolutionary period were the ones pushing for America to break away from Great Britain and become its own nation.



Ben Franklin is believed by many to be the most important person from the revolutionary period that was not a president or vice president. His great influence and knowledge are what made him so important in the early formation of America.

James Brown wrote this about Ben Franklin "What influence Freemasonry may have had on the life and character of Benjamin Franklin can only be conjecture, but that it did influence him and his contemporaries in the great struggle for American independence seems beyond doubt".

Its seems that even if masonry did not have a set standard of political views and agenda all the men that chose to be a part of it shared some common values and

views. Like most of Founding Fathers the freemasons from this time period were men way ahead of their time. Sharing views that many others during this time would not have shared or even understood. The bottom line of being a mason is to create a better man and a better world. They did this in America by pushing to separate from Great Britain, which was the only way they thought they could truly create religious freedom for their country.

Masons are thought to also have viewed things like slavery and women's right differently than most. Often pushing for equality in both categories. Many believe that George Washington knew that slavery was wrong and that it had no place in a free nation like America but that he knew the US was not ready to undergo such a change.

All of this is speculation and some rooted in very shallow facts. To some extent however we can say that freemasons were men that strived for equality and making tomorrows America better than today.

Mike Selix, 32° KCCH Senior Warden Orange County Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master



Brethren: Happy July to you all! Good news first... we had a wonderful Zoom meeting on June 18th attended by a great group of Brothers to update everyone on where we are as a Valley. And the news, it's good! It's great to know that the business of our Valley and the Language Center are continuing on even in spite of the current situation we all face together. A special thanks to our General Secretary Bro. Jamie Hopkins and Ill. Lloyd Clayton who

have kept the Valley running at the office (taking all necessary precautions of course). Another shout out to Hon. David Frias for his work with the Language Center for ensuring that the kids we serve are getting the therapy they need and deserve despite the office being closed! I've already spoken with Ill. Rosario and we're planning to have another meeting on July 16th at 5:30PM using the same platform. We will be sending e-mails ahead of time with instructions on how to join and I look forward to seeing many more of you at these virtual meetings. Mark your calendars!

Less than ideal news... July's stated meeting is canceled (and if things continue how they're going August's might be canceled too). But, in the spirit of the newsletter theme of the month, we will independently find ways to be of service to Masonry and our community. So I pose a question: how do you, as a Mason, work to exemplify the best virtues of the lessons you've learned from your time as a Mason? The way we portray ourselves in public, with our friends, with our

family outside the Lodge walls... that is the real definition of the lessons we've learned. Because in those moments, that is who we truly are. So food for thought. How do you live your Masonry outside the Lodge walls? It's one of the reasons I love working our reunions. In those moments I truly, sincerely hope that I am helping others to become the best versions of themselves. I try every day to live that example, I'm not always perfect, but I'm always trying and working at perfect. To me, that is the ideal of independence; without influence, without coercion, I make that choice for myself.

As with the last several months, I pray this message finds you happy and healthy. I truly miss our meetings, I miss the reunions. And I cannot wait until we can all safely meet again in the spirit of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. May the Great Architect bless you and keep you...

James Cervantes, 32° Venerable Master Director of The Work

OC Scottish Rite 2020 Upcoming Calendar		
Monday July 6th	Stated Meeting, CANCELED	
Thursday July 9th	Master Craftsman Study Zoom meeting 5pm	
Thursday July 16th	Catching up with the Valley Zoom meeting 5:30pm	
Monday August 3rd	Master Craftsman Study, Zoom meeting TBD Stated Meeting, CANCELED	

Wise Master • Masonic Education • Editor



From the Chapter Rose Croix

The theme presented in this month's newsletter is "Independence." Fitting, considering that the anniversary of our nation's declaration of its independence falls in the month of July.

While time-honored traditions are great, I thought I'd put a little different spin on the concept of independence this month and look

at the folks — many of them our brothers, family members, and friends — who are living with a little *too much* independence right now.

Coronavirus has people cooped up going on five months and for some who live by themselves, the independence they are experiencing is not productive nor healthy at all.

Recent studies show that loneliness is just as dangerous as heart disease, smoking, and lack of exercise, when it comes to a person's health; especially in older people.

According to an article on healthiertalk.com, "researchers from the Mayo Clinic interviewed 1700 senior volunteers with heart failure. They questioned participants about feeling socially isolated. And they asked if they felt like they had a strong social circle.

By the end of the study, the folks who reported feeling isolated were...

- 6 times more likely to need the emergency room
- 7 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital
- 7 times more likely to die

Other research has confirmed that chronic loneliness can harm our quality of life and drive us into an early grave. A study conducted at the University of California, for example, revealed just how vulnerable being isolated can make us.

Researchers found that 24.8 percent of the seniors who reported feeling isolated and lonely were having a difficult time performing activities of daily living such as maintaining personal hygiene, making meals and eating regularly.

And those same lonely folks were 45 percent more likely to die early."

So if you know a brother, a friend, a family member who is stuck in this COVID-19 nightmare without access to their normal network of friends and



acquaintances, give them a call — regularly. Check in and see how they're doing. Ask them questions and give them a chance to talk for awhile: Maybe about the state of current events, maybe about the old days and good times past... maybe about how they're feeling and how they're holding up. Listen. Express your gratitude for their friendship and brotherhood.

And if you're feeling lonely, don't hesitate to reach out to a brother. We're all here for each other.

It just might save a life.

References and further reading:

Study reveals loneliness KILLS – 5 ways to fight back! By Alice Jacon - https://healthiertalk.com/loneliness-kills-fight-back/

Loneliness and COVID-19 by J.W. Freiberg Ph.D.; J.D. - https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/are-you-lonely/202004/loneliness-and-covid-19

How to Avoid Loneliness When You Work Entirely from Home by Dorie Clark - https://hbr.org/2018/08/how-to-avoid-loneliness-when-you-work-entirely-from-home

Masonic Education

As you know, our **Master Craftsman Study Group** will not be meeting in person this month. That does not excuse us from scholarly study, however! On the contrary, with extra time on your hands at home, I strongly encourage you to continue your journey in Masonic education. Venerable brother **James Cervantes** and I are here to answer any questions and guide you. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us by e-mail:

Andrew Todd, 32°:. <u>atodd@ocscottishrite.org</u>

James Cervantes, 32°: <u>jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org</u>

If you'd like to participate or are looking for information about the program, please prepare by visiting the website for information about the books and other information to get you started:

www.ocscottishrite.org/master-craftsman-program

The Master Craftsman Program

For those unaware, the Master Craftsman is a by-mail correspondence course. Each participant is required to do some scholarly reading in advance and complete a written quiz which is mailed to the Supreme Council for grading. As each quiz is completed, a new



one is sent and the program progresses. The course consists of 7 quizzes, after completion of which the successful participant will receive a certificate and a lapel pin.

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman: Symbolic Lodge course will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the "High Degrees" began to develop soon after formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike's book, Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry, along with Arturo de Hoyos' Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide (3d edition)

will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.

Study with us on Zoom

We will be meeting in the "virtual classroom" on Zoom this month. Join us on Thursday, July 9th at 5:00pm as we continue our progress through the Master Craftsman program. Stay tuned for an email invite, coming soon.



The month of July sees us continuing Quiz #3 of the Symbolic Lodge program. If you want to join us, please purchase the books and read the following in preparation for the quiz:

Albert Pike's Esoterika, pp. 385-484

If you're just getting started we can also help you with Quiz #1 and #2. You can also reach out to me directly for information and access to our Facebook group.

Thanks to all our brothers for your interest and participation. I'll see you in the classroom!

From the Editor

I'd like to express my thanks again to the heads of body for contributing their excellent and thoughtful articles this month and for doing so in a timely fashion.

Calling All Writers!

You don't have to be a head of body or a member of the line to contribute to this newsletter! If you have something to say from a masonic perspective — perhaps insights into your masonic ruminations, scholarly endeavors you'd like to share, or general news for the brethren — this newsletter is your conduit for those ideas. I encourage any and all brothers who'd like to contribute something to this newsletter to send their ideas to:

editor@ocscottishrite.org

I'll work with you on getting your article together for the next issue.

Fraternally,

Andrew Todd, 32°

Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix Editor, Director of Masonic Education

New to ZOOM?

All of this virtual meeting business may be the wave of the future, but it can also be a little intimidating to the uninitiated. If you've never "Zoomed" before, or are looking for ways to take better advantage of the platform (maybe you want to add your own fancy virtual background, or learn about "Zoom etiquette") the company offers a wide variety of online tutorials that are highly recommended. You can access them all on the Zoom website:

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials

Commander of Kadosh



It is in struggling times when the fortitude of man is tested. With all the strife facing our country and communities our Brotherly love should prevail and show a new independence to those in need.

If anyone hasn't noticed my articles are short and to the point. I am not a man of words, but deeds. I fully believe that brotherly love,

relief and truth abided by lead to a better man.

Love one another, find common ground where you thought there was not and let independence ring for all.

May this find you with peace, strength and love.

Bob White, 32° Commander of Kadosh

Visit Your Valley Online

Be sure to visit the Scottish Rite web site at <u>OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG</u>. We need your email address so we can electronically send you the Scottish Rite News. Call the office at (714) 543-7277 and give it to our Secretary or leave a message. Thanks!

General Secretary



Brethren: The theme of this month's newsletter is independence. What makes our Valley and our Fraternity independent? The determining factor is that we are completely self-governing. As in all Masonic organizations, we have a sovereign and independent body (Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J.) to ensure that all principles, standards and rituals are encouraged and maintained. Within our fraternal structure, we make the overwhelming

majority of all plans and decisions at the Valley level. This is both an opportunity and a duty of responsibility.

In June, we had an online meeting on the Zoom platform with around 17 Brothers participating. Although not a tiled meeting, this meeting was an event for Brothers to interact and reaffirm our fraternal commitment in this time of physical meeting restrictions. We thank our SGIG, Frank Loui 33°, for attending our meeting. We will likely have another online meeting this summer. You will be informed of the time and date by email. If you make an effort to join the next meeting, you will find it rewarding.

As always, please let the office know if you are aware of a Brother who is ill or in distress. Enjoy the summer.

Jamie Hopkins, 32° General Secretary

Orange County Scottish Rite Officers



Ill. James D. Cole, 33° Sovereign Grand Commander



Ill. Frank Loui, 33° Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California



Ill. Francisco Rosario, 33°
Personal Representative of the SGIG,
Orient of California
frosario@ocscottishrite.org



Jamie Hopkins, 32° General Secretary gensec@ocscottishrite.org



III. David Kussman, 33° Assistant to the Personal Rep dkussman@ocscottishrite.org



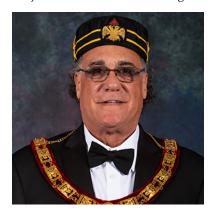
James Cervantes, 32° Venerable Master jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org



Andrew Todd, 32° Wise Master atodd@ocscottishrite.org



Bob White, 32° Commander bwhite@ocscottishrite.org



Rob Rappaport, 32° Master of Kadosh rrappaport@ocscottishrite.org

Orange County Scottish Rite Officers (cont.)

Shawn Smith, 32° KCCH

Treasurer

David Kussman, 33° IGH

Chaplain

Lloyd Clayton, 33° IGH

Almoner

Shawn McCuen, 32° KSA

First Knight

Andrew Todd, 32°

Director of Masonic Education

David Frias, 32° KCCH

Chairman of the Board, Ritecare Childhood Language Center of Orange County/Junior Warden

James Cervantes, 32°

Director of the Work

Vacant

Director of Ritual

Vacant

Director of Props and Costumes

Larry Griffin, 32°

Photographer

Hon. Jack Alastuey, 32° KCCH

Tiler

The Orange County Scottish Rite Valley

2001 East 4th Street, Suite 202, Santa Ana, CA 92701 • Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-2pm Phone (714) 972-2646 • Fax (714) 543-9754

Stated Meetings on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 pm; dinner follows at 7:15 pm (reservations requested) at the Anaheim DeMolay Center, 303 W. Lincoln Ave. Anaheim, CA 92805

The Valley of Orange County, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America publishes the Scottish Rite News monthly. No Subscription Price.

Edited by Bro. Andrew Todd, 32° (949) 288-3739, editor@ocscottishrite.org. All articles must be submitted prior to the 15th of the month.

Please Support Our Sponsors



Generate income for you and your family and help the charity of your choice through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA).

When you make a donation of \$5,000 or more to our CGA program, you will receive quarterly income based on your age and the corresponding rate as set by the American Council on Gift Annuities.



• Carpet • Ceramic Tile • Hardwood • Laminate • Vinyl • Shower Wall • Kitchen Cabinets • Kitchen Countertop • Marble • Window Coverings

John Kahvedjian

533 N. Azusa Ave. West Covina, CA 91791

Tel. 626.966.3811 Cell. 626-252.4025 Fax. 626.966.3911

BENEFITS OF A CGA*

- Fixed income for life
- Significant tax deduction
- Competitive rate of return
- Capital gains tax advantage

CHOOSE YOUR CHARITY

- Rebuilding the Temple Campaign
- Scholarships
- California Scottish Rite Foundation

\$10,000 GIFT ANNUITY AGE 50 4.0% AGE 60 4.7% AGE 70 5.6% AGE 80 7.3% AGE 90 9.5%

rn more about the CGA Program, please contact Major Donor Officer Do W. Heath, 33°, CFP at 1-858-335-2070 or dheath@scottishrite.org.



O: 800.465.1404 x1000 M: 714.746.8801 F: 949.861.6565 E: david@thehecmgroup.com s





PO BOX 17638 Anaheim Hills, CA 92817-7638 310-614-5205 Larry@GriffinPhotography.net www.GriffinPhotography.net



Larry Griffin



Please Support Our Sponsors



Edwin M. Hilden, CFP®, AAMS

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Practitioner Accerdited Asset Management Specialist CA Insurance #0273775

333 City Boulevard West, Suite 2050 Orange, California 92868-2944 www.barthfinancialadvisorslle.com Cell (714) 349-9760 Telephone (714) 704-6616 Facsimile (714) 704-1513 ed@barthfinancialadvisorsllc.com





Arthur L Salazar, CPA, MBT

arthur@salazar-accountancy.com www.salazar-accountancy.com (949) 829-1626 main (949) 315-3388 fax



Advertising Space Available

Advertising space is available in this publication to all interested Masons. Grand Lodge guidelines apply.

 Business card:
 \$20/month
 \$200/year

 1/4 page:
 \$40/month
 \$400/year

 1/2 page:
 \$80/month
 \$800/year

 Full page:
 \$160/month
 \$1600/year