



Orange County Scottish Rite

Orient of California, Southern Jurisdiction

Director of the Work ◦ Venerable Master



Brethren,

Fall is upon us! And yes, while we are still all living in quarantine-land, there's actually a lot going on!

This last month our Brothers at the Valley of Sacramento hosted a virtual celebration marking their 125th anniversary! It was a very nice event featuring lectures from Ill. Brent Morris, 33° G.C. and Ill.

Arturo de Hoyos, 33° G.C. on the esoteric nature of Scottish Rite Masonry. But mostly, congratulations to our Brothers up north for the long run in our Orient!

One of the items of discussion I personally found most interesting was this... change. When we view the degrees of Freemasonry, whether it be in our Blue Lodges or at our Scottish Rite Reunions (even still at the York Rite or Shrine ceremonies), it's interesting how we find little things that might stand out to us that we haven't noticed before. I can speak to that on a personal level having been involved in the degree work since almost day one (I have Ill. Rosario and

Hon. Selix to blame for that). What I have found interesting is even in performing the degrees (the best way to learn... hint, hint), is that I'll read a line and notice something I haven't picked up on before.

The contents of all of our degrees, from the First Degree to the Thirty-Second are packed with truly life-changing meaning if we study them earnestly and diligently. It is important that we take the time to watch and read everything that we're given as Masons of any Rite of our degrees as often as we can. Only then can we live the promise we're given from our wonderful Fraternity. To become better men, fathers, brothers, sons, and citizens (but sadly, it won't help our surfing skills). So if you can, I encourage you to join us on our Zoom calls for the Master Craftsman course and our monthly virtual stated meetings.

Also remember, on the first weekend in November our entire Orient will be holding a joint reunion. Information will be e-mailed to all of you on how to join. All 29 degrees will be communicated, including the 5 mandatory degrees being communicated by Ill. Frank Loui. I hope to see many of you joining in as we welcome new members into all of the Valleys of the Orient of California!

I pray the Great Architect of the Universe keep you safe, healthy and blessed. And I cannot wait to see all of you face to face sooner rather than later!

James Cervantes, 32°
Venerable Master
Director of The Work

General Secretary



Brethren: Fall greetings to all the Brothers of our Valley. In September, we had another excellent virtual Valley meeting on Zoom. If you missed it, there will be another meeting on Monday, October 5th. You will receive zoom instructions a few days prior to the event. The biggest news in our Valley is the upcoming virtual Reunion on November 6th & 7th. This is a great opportunity for our candidates who have been waiting patiently for initiation since our last Spring Reunion was cancelled due to the covid shutdown. All candidates who complete the Reunion will become full Masters of the Royal Secret. Also, they will be required to attend the next physical Reunion.

If you know of any Master Masons who have an interest in joining the Scottish Rite, we can have them approved in time for their participation in the November Reunion. Please forward all applications and names of potential candidates to the General Secretary. Please join us at the Virtual Reunion and welcome our new Brothers. Remember that the benefits of your Scottish Rite membership are directly proportional to the level of your participation. Have an outstanding October.

Jamie Hopkins, 32°
General Secretary

Language Center News



Welcome to the RiteCare Language Center of Orange County! We sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. Fall is over and the RiteCare Language Center of Orange County is back in full operations with both in person therapy and teletherapy.

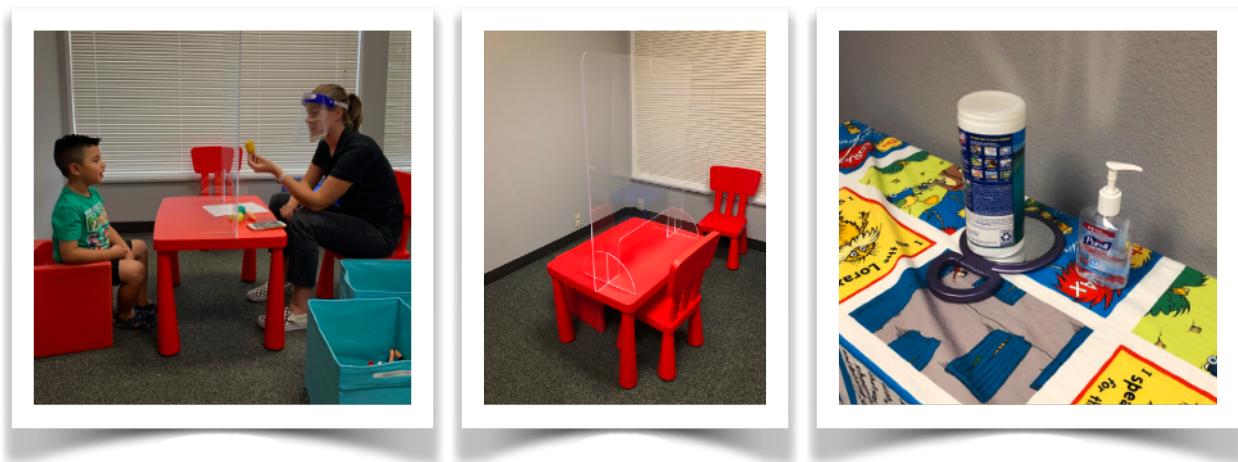
Based on our very detailed Site-Specific plan we are approved to open for one day a week at our Santa Ana center. Prior to opening the Center received a thorough and deep cleaning to ensure we started germ free. Cleaning has become a very regular part of our activities at the Center and will continue as long as needed. All the therapy rooms are equipped with protective plexiglass screens. Full face screens and face masks are also used to help keep every safe. Additionally, the Supervisors and Student Clinicians have received training to ensure that all procedures outlined in the site-specific plan are followed.

Along with the 15 children enrolled for in person therapy we also have 29 children enrolled to receive Teletherapy. When the COVID outbreak started Teletherapy was quickly adopted so we could continue helping children overcome their communication challenges. Teletherapy is a great tool that allows our Student Clinicians to maintain a



strong connection with our families and children.

Every year about this time the Board of Directors for the Language Center puts on a fundraising event but the COVID virus is changing our plans. This isn't the time to gather everyone together for a Gala dinner, but your support is still needed. We will soon announce a Virtual Online Auction where you can bid on some great donated items. Stay tuned for more information.



David Frias, 32° KCCH

Chairman

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County

Please Donate!

If you have the ability to give, 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

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

Wise Master ◦ Masonic Education ◦ Editor



Contemplation

Greetings, brothers. I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming what I hope will be a mild and pleasant Autumn.

In keeping with the harvest, and the seasonal winding down of things, this month's theme is "Contemplation." And boy do we have a lot to contemplate in 2020.

Synonymous with the term "contemplation" is the word "reflection," which — as many of us know — is a central theme of Scottish Rite Freemasonry.

Contemplation, reflection, meditation: These are key tenets of the 4°-14° degrees that comprise the Lodge of Perfection.

We also have the concept of the **Chamber of Reflection**: A small, darkened room of considerably somber atmosphere adjoining the Lodge. It's a place where candidates and masons alike are encouraged to sit and contemplate the universal truths of their existence. Time, impermanence, and duty.

The concept of the Chamber of Reflection likely started in France in the mid-18th century and is considered a Rosicrucian influence on Masonry. It has remained virtually unchanged in the two-and-a-half centuries that have ensued.

A traditional Chamber is appointed with a variety of implements intended to aid the occupant in their meditations. Borrowing from an article written by Brother Bryan Godwin of Culver City Foshay No. 467 F. & A.M., they are:

The Mirror

Literally a reflection of yourself, and traditionally a trigger for a meditative state. Representing duality, and the “twilight” of the moment that the candidate is in between his life before Freemasonry, and the transformation in which he is about to partake.

The Hourglass

A Memento Mori in many traditions, the hourglass overtly represents the finite amount of time that we are given in our Earthly life. On a more esoteric level it can be seen to represent the upper and lower, showing the cycle of life and death and the separation of Heaven and Earth. The possibility of turning the glass, symbolizes our need at times, to reverse our attitudes and actions for continuity, or we shall always be drawn to one end; the base.

The Scythe

It is another reminder of our Earthly mortality and the thought that a man may be cut down from this existence at any moment. It may also be interpreted as an emblem of universal justice, that “as we sow, so shall we reap.”

Salt

Salt represents base matter, or body, rough and impure. It can be seen as representing the Earthly self ready to be purified. It is one of the three essential alchemical elements, also known as the “Tria Prima.”



Sulphur

Sulphur represents the soul, and essence above. It also also representative of fire, and sometimes referred to as the “Red King” in practical alchemy. Sulphur is the second essential alchemical element.

The Cockerel

The Cockerel, or rooster, symbolizes the alchemical principle of mercury which creates a fluid connection between the salt below and the sulphur above. It represents the human spirit, which in this case can be differentiated from the “soul,” and represents a fluidity of spirit between the essence above and the firmament below. When partnered with salt and sulphur, the resulting mixture can be thought to symbolise faith, hope and charity.

Bread and Water

Two items connected to the simplest method of sustaining life. This simplicity is a reminder of how the candidate should proceed in all his dealings through life. They are also a reminder that “Man does not live by bread alone – but by the Word of the Living God”.

V.I.T.R.I.O.L.

Vitriol is another name for sulphuric acid, which at first glance seems to bring a negative connotation. This acid was used in alchemical experiments as a way to break down or purify other matter. In this case, V.I.T.R.I.O.L. is also an acronym, for “visita interiora terrae, rectificando, invenies occultum lapidem”, or “Visit the interior of the earth, and purifying it, you will find the hidden stone.” This is another way of saying “Look within yourself for the truth.” Both meanings

OC Scottish Rite 2020 Upcoming Calendar

Monday October 5th	Master Craftsman Study Zoom meeting 5pm
Monday October 5th	Catching up with the Valley Zoom meeting 5:30pm In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED
Friday November 6th	OSCR Fall Reunion Zoom meeting 7:00-9:00pm 4-14°, Bro. James Cervantes will be communicating the 12th degree
Saturday November 7th	OCSR Fall Reunion Zoom meeting 9:00-11:00am, 1:00-3:00pm 15-32°
November 2020	OCSR Distinguished Speaker Series presents Hon. Ralph Shelton (date and topic TBD)



encourage the candidate to breakdown the ego and himself to find purity and truth within.

Human skull and crossed thighbones

The history of the skull and crossbones is murky, and worthy of its own discussion. In the case of the Chamber, it is a bleak reminder of what we will all eventually become. It represents the alchemical concept of “Caput Mortuum,” signifying a useless substance left over from a chemical operation, such as sublimation and the epitome of decline and decay; alchemists represented this residue with a stylized human skull, a literal death’s head.

It is possible that a contemplative mason might create a Chamber of Reflection of their own. A room in your house or apartment for the purposes of meditation on the great mysteries and duties of masonic life, appropriately appointed. Maybe skip the human skull and thigh bones, though; go with something more... synthetic.

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° :. atodd@ocscottishrite.org

James Cervantes, 32° :. jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org

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



SCOTTISH+RITE
MASTER+CRAFTSMAN:
SYMBOLIC+LODGE

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 Monday, October 5th at 5:30pm to catch up with your brothers on Zoom. Stay tuned for an email invite with the link and password!

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, September 17th at 5:00pm** as we continue our progress through the Master Craftsman program. Stay tuned for an email invite, coming soon.



The month of August sees us continuing Quiz #4 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 Quizzes #1 - 3. 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

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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

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

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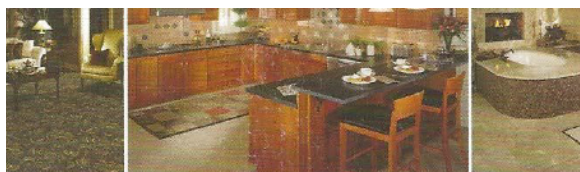
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