



Orange County Scottish Rite

Orient of California, Southern Jurisdiction

Venerable Master



Brethren, I hope this message finds that you and your family are well, I would like to congratulate, and thank all the newly appointed and installed officers for this year. It was great to see everyone online for this year's installation, it looks like we are off to a great start.

2021 brings us new hope that we will soon be able to get back into a regular routine this year. I am honored for the opportunity to serve this year as Venerable Master, and looking forward to your participation and us working together.

I offer a heartfelt thank you to the installing officers. It was an honor to have your participation this year. You each are mentors and an inspiration to me:

- Installing officer: **Illustrious Frankie Rosario, 33°**
- Master of Ceremonies: **Illustrious Art Salazar, 33°**
- Chaplain: **Illustrious David Kussman, 33°**

The Orange County Scottish Rite needs your sweet support!

Since we have been limited in holding our usual fundraiser, we have set up a See's Candy fundraiser. Please share the link below and visit our online store. Invite your friends, family and co workers its easy, and your support is greatly appreciated.

We're selling yummy See's Candies for our latest fundraiser. Just in time for those Easter Bunny Treats:



https://www.yumraising.com/secure/scottishr_oc_valley_scottish_rite3/candy?h=mic_sel3145&c=fb8236

to pick and choose your favorites and buy your candy online. Your order will be shipped direct to you. It's that easy!

Hoppy shopping, and thanks for your support!

Mike Selix, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

Wise Master



The Golden Rule is a universal principle shared by most cultures and religions that recognizes the interconnectedness of humanity and reminds us that the world and its inhabitants are part of a fragile and beautiful ecosystem. In exercising brotherly love we take personal responsibility and go beyond the golden rule, we see ourselves and family in everyone we meet and we recognize the divinity in all living things. Never has there been a greater time or need for us to exercise brotherly love.

Warmest fraternal regards,

Anthony Arismendi, 32°

Wise Master, Chapter Rose Croix

OC Scottish Rite 2021 Upcoming Calendar

Monday February 1st	Catching up with the Valley Zoom meeting 5:30pm In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED
Monday February 8th	Master Craftsman Study Zoom meeting 5pm - 6pm
Monday March 1st	Catching up with the Valley Zoom meeting 5:30pm In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED
Monday March 8th	Master Craftsman Study Zoom meeting 5pm - 6pm
Saturday April 17th	Spring Reunion Zoom meeting, time to be announced



Master of Kadosh



Hello brethren! This month is all about Love and the “love” I desire to talk about is our love for one another. Our political climate has just changed with a new president in office and now is as great a time as any to remind ourselves that we should circumscribe our passions within due bounds and love one another, without expectation.

Whether you feel deeply for or against this president, makes the issue about you – yet as Masons, we desire to connect with the other person.

One of my best friends is not a Mason, though I would argue he would make a fine brother in our fraternity. He earns much more money than I do. Politically, we can’t agree. I have a wife and kids while he has never been married, nor has children. I’m extroverted and he’s introverted. Yet for over twenty years, we’ve maintained a strong friendship. Even through this pandemic, I’ve seen him every other Saturday. We’ve persevered not because of our similarities, but because of our differences and our willingness to listen and learn from the other person. Now, there are certainly things we agree on: baseball, ethics, financial outlook, and history – this isn’t some Hollywood drama friendship. The truth is, he didn’t like me all that much when we first met. To him, I was opinionated and adventurous. To me, he was nerdy and uptight. While there was an inflection point much later down the road where we went from being acquaintances to friends, we both always respected one another’s opinions and relished in a good debate. This set about a foundation for which our friendship had the opportunity to flourish.

I tell this story because I know how easy it is for us to continue the path of comfort; avoiding conversations with people we don't know. However, I've seen what several very small acts of kindness can create. The friend I'm discussing isn't a man that anyone would assume would be my best friend. It took work on both of our parts to become as close as we have over these decades. In fact, I feel like there may be many men within my home lodge or our Valley that I could be this close with, but I haven't gotten the chance to know. Some of you out there, I do know, and we are this close (or closer).

Brethren, it is up to us to be the bigger and better men; to face our fears of rejection or doubt to show love and compassion for one another. There are so many wonderful friendships out there that you haven't even explored yet.

An excerpt from A Bridge to Light found in the discussion of the 10° can aid in my topic this month:

Masonry is action, and not inertness. It requires its initiates to work, actively and earnestly, for the benefit of their brethren, their country, and mankind...

Toleration [holds] that every other man has the same right to his opinion and faith that we have to ours... toleration is one of the chief duties of every good Mason, a component part of that charity without which we are mere hollow images of true Masons, mere sounding brass and tinkling cymbals.

Be well my brothers,

Stephen Carney, 32°

Master of Kadosh, Consistory

Commander of Kadosh



Brotherly Love: It is spoken about in all of our degrees in one way or another. We see it usually draped upon our blue lodge pedestals. We even see it on the medallions on the back of some of our cars.

Brotherly love is one of the foundations on which this institution is built upon. We learn of it immediately in our first degree when we

are told that “We are to regard the whole human species as one family.” My Brethren, do we hold ourselves true to this?

Sadly, the current state of affairs has many of us contemplating on this.

Everywhere we turn, negativity is thrust upon us. By our supposed leaders, our neighbors, and most sadly at times our own family or even brethren. It is so easy to be swept away by the tides of jealousy, greed, and selfishness. This is when we need to contemplate on what “brotherly love” truly means. It is that genuine respect that although our opinions, beliefs, and even religions may differ, we are still those children of the same Grand Architect. It is extending the length of our cable tow to go up and out of our way to help a brother. It is sharing our knowledge with each other.

I’m personally all about challenges. I feel most alive when I’m accomplishing something that even I perhaps didn’t think I could complete. Masonry has laid

down a challenge to me. The challenge of being the best version of myself I could possibly be. For my family, my friend, my spouse, for this world. Have you accepted that challenge? Are you doing all that you can or have you found that cable tow getting rather short? Maybe it has...and that's ok my brother. I am here to help. It shortens and lengthens for all of us and because of Brotherly Love, one of us is here to help.

Diego Verduzco, 32°

Commander, Council of Kadosh

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, February 1st at 5:30pm to catch up with your brothers on Zoom. Stay tuned for an email invite with the link and password!

General Secretary



Brethren: February is here and our new Valley officers for 2021 are installed. The virtual Installation ceremony went smoothly and we thank the Brothers who who planned and presented the event. We have our Spring Reunion coming up in late April. Please let your Blue Lodge Brothers who have not yet joined Scottish Rite know about the benefits of OCSR membership. While on Zoom Lodge meetings, make an announcement about the upcoming initiation of new members. You can refer them to our Valley office for more information.

The Master Craftsman class is now included with initiation. Many newer Masons are yearning for a more detailed study of the Masonic degrees and the Scottish Rite is the best place for it. We appreciate all of the Brothers who have paid their 2021 dues. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please call or email the office.

Remember that your enjoyment and appreciation of your Scottish Rite membership is directly related to your level of participation.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Jamie Hopkins, 32°

General Secretary

gensec@ocscottishrite.org

(714) 543-7277

Language Center News



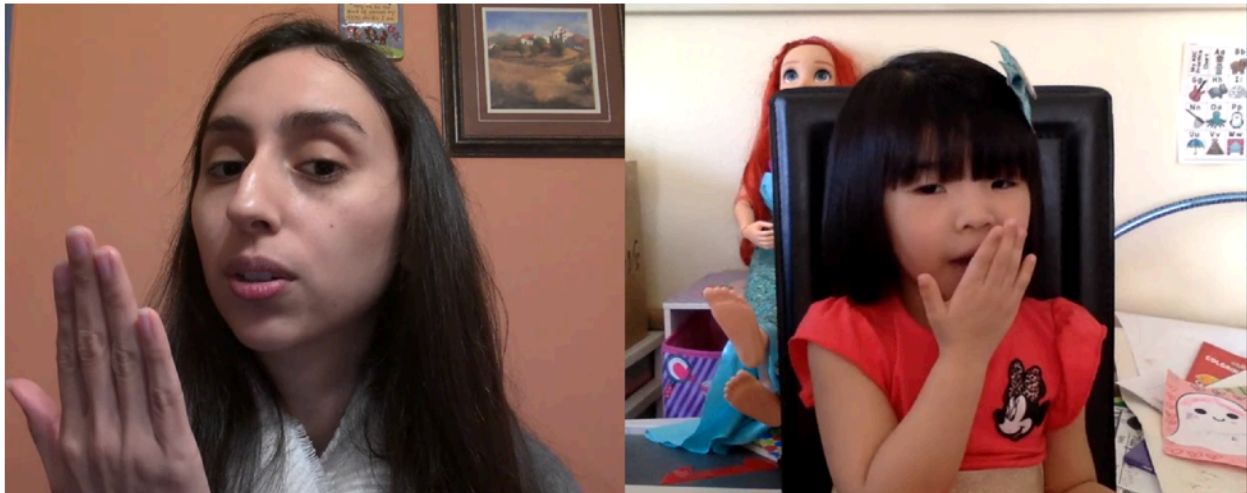
Telehealth Leads to Confident Children

Welcome back to the RiteCare Language Center of Orange County! We are very thankful that we can continue to provide our children with speech and language services both in person and online via Telehealth.

Telehealth has certainly been a helpful platform for students who learn best in their home environment and for the children who are working on their articulation skills. The online platform allows the student clinicians and the children the opportunity to see each others' mouths for the purpose of demonstrating and learning new skills. Students who are engaging in speech/articulation therapy are not only making gains in their speech skills, they have also shown an increase in their overall confidence. Parents report that their children who often felt frustrated because they were not



easily understood are communicating and engaging with others more easily. School age children who previously did not participate at school have been eager to share that they now answer questions and engage in classroom discussions. This increase in confidence has been amazing to see and families have expressed their gratitude. “He is so happy now. Thank you for helping him” and “We’re so thankful we found you” are only a few of the comments that we have heard.



Some of our younger clients who are most comfortable learning new communication skills in their home environment and in the presence of their caregivers have also benefited greatly from Telehealth services. They are learning not only by engaging in online activities with their student clinicians but also through the use of parent coaching that the student clinicians provide. This collaborative approach allows parents to learn new strategies that they can use when they play with their children and engage in daily activities such as

mealtime, bath time, and bedtime routines. The carryover allows our clients to practice new skills everyday Their continued growth has been wonderful to see.



If you have the ability to give, please consider making a donation to this great charity. All donations are used to help children who need us most. Please visit our website at www.oclanguagecenter.org/donate/ to make a donation.

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>

Senior Warden



What is Brotherly Love? I know that it is one of the three great tenets of Masonry, but do I really understand what it means? I certainly understand Relief and Truth but now am I worried that I am not getting the Brotherly Love part right. If I can't explain it how am I to know how to provide it.

Maybe I'm doubting myself because we haven't really been together in so long. One of my favorite parts of our lodge meetings was the opportunity to greet everyone with a handshake before the meeting. I saw Brother Selix recently and I did not shake his hand. COVID-19 has taught us to avoid handshakes. I hope Mike does not think that I do not have love for him as a brother because I did not offer my hand for him to shake. That would be horrible because I have a great fondness for Mike and all my Brothers at the lodge.

When our Zoom meetings start, I always feel happy and hopefully I am smiling. It makes me happy to see everyone and especially when we get to see someone who is attending the Zoom meeting for the first time. Could all these Zoom meetings be killing my ability to understand Brotherly Love? Maybe for me the first part of Brother Love is a good handshake which sometimes turns into a hug. There are no handshakes or hugs on Zoom. There are no handshakes or hugs with COVID-19.

I went on the Internet and found a lot of deep and interesting explanations for the term “Brother Love”. For me, the full Brotherly Love will return when we can all safely meet again in the lodge and share a meal after the meeting. Our Zoom meetings are important because we need to stay connected. If you are reading this and you have not joined please consider clicking on that email. You will make at least one brother happy to see your smiling face. Until then, to all of my brothers please take care of yourself and stay healthy so we can meet again.

Best wishes,

David Frias 32° KCCH

Senior Warden

Orange County Lodge of Perfection

The Celestial Lodge

Please join our Valley in remembering the brothers we've lost in the past year. Though their presence will be missed, their legacies will never be forgotten.

Samuel Wyatt Hollinger, 32°	1/30/2020
Donald Wesley Dale, 32°	3/1/2020
Charles Edward Malchow, 32°	3/9/2020
Robert Samuel Wright, 32°	3/12/2020
Charles Russell Ash, 33°	3/23/2020
Duane Everett Whaley, 32°	3/29/2020
Billy Mack Baker, 32°	6/14/2020
Justus William Gromme, Jr., 32°	6/15/2020
Kenneth Arlen Burkindine, 32°	6/15/2020
Russell Alexander Albright, 32°	8/24/2020
William Joseph Culligan, 32°	8/29/2020
Nels Allan Anderson, 32°	10/5/2020
III. Robert David Hjorth, 33°	11/19/2020

Please also keep brother **Rob Rappaport, 32°** in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to fight their recents health issues.



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

Speech Language Pathologists

Leah Beekman, PhD CCC-SLP

Chris Switzer, MA CCC-SLP

Laurie Lennon-Thompson, MS CCC-SLP

Francine Wenhardt, MS 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

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Cliff Carpenter, 32°

Center Club Members (\$100 each year)

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

Masonic Education ◦ Editor

Master Craftsman Program



SCOTTISH+RITE
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New Study Session Format

Starting in February, we're going to change the format of the Master Craftsman Study group a bit. Instead of meeting for ½ hour prior to the monthly "Keeping up" Zoom call, we're dedicating an entire hour the following week. **Master**

Craftsman Study sessions will now be held on the second

Monday of the month, from 5-6pm. As in the past, these sessions will take place via Zoom.

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:

<https://scottishrite.org/scottish-rite-master-craftsman-program/>

The Master Craftsman Program

For those unaware, the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman (SRMC) program is an exciting, correspondence course designed and administered by staff at the House of the Temple in Washington, DC, under the guidance and leadership of the Supreme Council, 33°, of the A&A Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, USA. All three courses are available as mail-in courses or online.

Starting in February, we will begin covering the quizzes from both the **Symbolic Logic** and the **Scottish Rite History and Ritual** programs, alternating each month. This will allow you to get through both programs in a timely fashion, and help ensure that all bases are covered.

Study with us on Zoom

We will be meeting in the “virtual classroom” on Zoom this month. **Join us on Monday, February 8th at 5:00pm** as we continue our progress through the Master Craftsman program. Stay tuned for an email invite, coming soon.



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°

Editor, Director of Masonic Education

Orange County Scottish Rite Officers



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



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



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David Frias, 32° KCCH
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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 92705 • Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-2pm
Phone (714) 972-2646 • Fax (714) 543-9754 • www.ocscottishrite.org

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 20th of the month.

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