



Orange County Valley of the Scottish Rite

Scottish Rite News

Volume 4 Issue No. 12

Newsletter Date December 2018

Venerable Master's Message



With December the year comes to a close and January will bring a new beginning. As we head into a new year, it is also time to reflect on the past; what is your first memory of masonry? As many of you know mine is sitting on Santa Clause's lap in the East and being handed a Christmas present, I couldn't be more than 4 or 5. This is one of the enduring memories that brought me to join a lodge.

I want to thank everyone of you for the opportunity to serve a Venerable Master this year. I want to take the time to thank a few brothers who especially helped me out this year. Illustrious Rick Wood and Honorable David Price thank you for their help this year... it was a blast gentlemen. Brother Mark Hoage thank you for all you do and for putting up with my habitually late articles... To the other heads of bodies Brother Philip Liu, Brother David Frias, and Brother Brandon Cook, and to the rest of the 2018 officers, it's been fantastic serving with you, thank you for all you have done and will continue to for the Valley. We have a great group of officers coming in next year, I couldn't be leaving the Valley in more capable hands!

Here is your Masonic tidbit for the Month of December. As you know most lodges are either dark or pull light duty in the month of December, therefore I could find no famous Masons raised in the month of December. However, on December 26, 1972 the Most Worshipful Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri and 33rd President of the United States, passed to the celestial lodge above. He had requested a Masonic Funeral, but instead the government, which handled the details, permitted a short Masonic ceremony during the funeral service. On December 22, 1753 the Royal Arch degree was conferred in Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia; this is the first unquestioned evidence of the conferral of this degree.

Fraternally,

Scott Davis 32° KCCH

2018 Venerable Master

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at OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG!

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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!

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Hours: Monday 10-2, Wednesday 10-2, Friday 10-2, Closed Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday
Voice (714) 543-7277, Fax (714) 543-9754

Stated Meetings First Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, dinner follows @ 7:15 pm (reservations requested)
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,
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Bro. Mark Hoage, 32°, Editor. (951) 743-3742, email: mhoage@ocscottishrite.org
All articles must be submitted prior to the 15th of the month.

General Secretary



Brethren:

The Holiday Season is upon us and our Valley is busy. Our stated meeting for December is on Monday, Dec. 3rd at 6:30 pm. If you haven't been to a meeting recently, I highly recommend attending one to reacquaint yourself with all of the positive activities in which our Valley participates. Please stick around for the good dinner and camaraderie that follows our meeting. Fellowship is the glue that holds our fraternity together.

Our Installation ceremony for Valley officers will be on Sunday, January 13th at 2 pm. Your attendance at this event demonstrates your support and encouragement for Brothers accepting new responsibilities in positions to serve our Valley. Once again, dues notices were sent out from Supreme last month. If you have any questions about your dues paid membership status, please don't hesitate to call us at the OCSR office. The office exists to serve the Brethren.

May your holiday be full of happiness and joy for you and your families.

Fraternally,
Jamie Hopkins 32°
General Secretary

Editor



Greetings Brothers,

I would like wish all of the Brothers and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Remember that the deadline each month is the 15th so let's hear from you authors out there. Send all submissions to: mshusaac@charter.net.

Fraternally,
Mark Hoage, 32°
Editor

Masonic Enlightenment

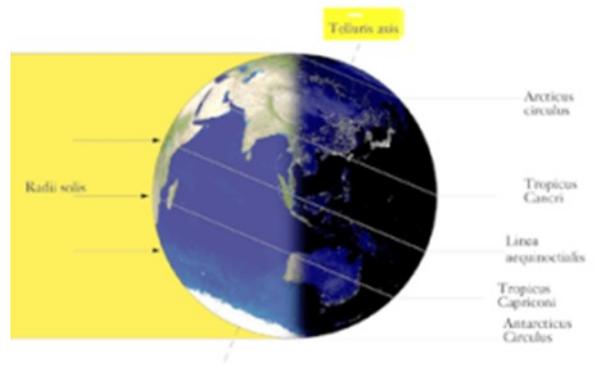


The Holy Saints John

At its surface, the Christmas holiday has no intrinsic connection to the fraternity of Freemasonry. What I mean by that is no where in the degrees does it link itself to any particular holiday in its practice, in particular the Christmas holiday season.

There are, however, certain celebrations that have become a part of the fraternity which are linked to one of the interesting symbols that resides at the heart of the practice. Without any specific reference, Masons are said to come from a Lodge of the **Holy Saints John**, the specific why and how of this connection is lost in the sands of metaphorical time, but some connection infers a balance to the celestial equinox (from summer to winter and back again).

Through this link, winter is said to be represented by the **Saint John the Evangelist**, whose feast day falls on December 27th. This Holy Saint John has an interesting symbolic significance, in that, as John the Baptist (who represents the other Holy Saint John) was the precursor to the coming Christ, John the Evangelist is said to be the first disciple at the Lake of Genesareth who recognized the Christ and believe that he had risen. Of the Saint it is also said that he was the only disciple of Christ to not to forsake him in the hour of His Passion at the foot of the cross. John the Evangelist is also called the Apostle of Charity, which may be in part, his connection to Freemasonry in addition to his unwavering resolve and purity of his love of the divine.



In creating the original construct of the two Johns, the conclusion that I came to was that they struck a balance between zeal and knowledge, the Baptist who was the precursor of the Christ living in his zeal for the coming son of God and the Evangelist as the representation of knowing that the Christ was the son of God. Only in piecing the component of knowing did it become clear to me that it was not about the degree of knowledge gained, but the degree to which the Evangelist trusted his intuition, to know what was before him. An interesting parallel comes in the book of Matthew where this very lesson is communicated to Peter from the Christ who says in *Matthew 16:15-17*

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”

Continued on page 9

Senior Warden



Fraternal Greetings from the West,

It is now officially the Holiday season. You would think from the advertising and the displays in the retail stores, it has been Christmas season for a couple of months already. I guess you could say that I am a bit of a traditionalist. For me, the Holidays don't really start until the day after Thanksgiving. This year will be a little bittersweet for me because it will be the last Christmas with my youngest still living at home full time. He will be off to college next fall and our house will be a little quieter.

I want to thank all of you for the confidence you have reposed in me to serve as your Senior Warden this year. I tried to serve you and the Valley well. I am excited to serve you again next year as Venerable Master should you choose to elect me at the December Meeting.

If elected, I will have some plans to share with you at the December Meeting. I hope you will all be there.

The Installation of Officers will be held on January 13th at 2:00 pm at the DeMolay Center with a meal to follow.

Fraternally,

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

Wise Master



Happy December, my Brethren,

As we move towards the end of the year, I want to again thank you for all your support during my tenure as Wise Master. Thank you for your participation in our meetings, our reunion classes, super breakfasts, and our many other events. Thank you for constantly sharing your opinions and ideas to improve our Valley. You have helped make our Valley stronger this year. You have truly shown me the masonic ornaments of – Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

My brothers, I wish you and you families a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Fraternally,

Yungfan "Philip" Liu, 32°
Wise Master

Commander



Hello my Brothers,

This past weekend I travelled up to Burlingame to represent our Valley and Language Center at the Scottish Rite Foundation Annual Meeting. I learned a lot about the size and strength of the Scottish Rite in California and came home very impressed by the quality of the Scottish Rite Leadership we have in our state.

The California Scottish Rite Foundation, through the RiteCare organization, works very hard to support all the Language Centers in California. They have assembled an impressive team of experts who are genuinely interested in helping all the Language Centers thrive and prosper. Now that I know them better, I'm very excited to work with the Team at the Foundation to hear more about their ideas in hopes that this will help our OC Language Center have an even bigger impact on the children we serve.

Besides supporting the RiteCare Language Centers, the Foundation provides an impressive number of scholarships to worthy students to help them succeed with their education. All scholarship applications are reviewed by a committee and scored to ensure the most deserving students receive this financial support. The Foundation needs our help to spread the word throughout Masonry so our college bound students know to apply. The deadline to apply is the end of February 2019. More information can be found using the link below. Please spread the word.

www.casr-foundation.org/scholarships/ruppert-scholarship/

David Frias, 32°
Commander

Master of Kadosh



Greetings Brethren,

From my family to yours, we'd like to wish everybody a merry Christmas and a warm holiday season. This has been an incredible year for not only our Valley but Freemasonry in general and I look forward to supporting our new officers for the ensuing Scottish Rite year.

It has been an honor serving the Orient of California and I look forward to new and interesting ways to continue contributing to our membership and great philanthropic causes.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Brandon Cook, 32°
Master of Kadosh

Language Center News



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

Executive Director:

Dr. Judy Montgomery, Chapman University

Speech Language Pathologies:

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

www.OCLanguageCenter.org

Please support your Orange County Childhood Language Center by making an individual, group, or company donation.

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**For Information Please Contact - President
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Cell: 714-600-8538 - Email: dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org

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Language Center News



Hello from the OC Childhood Language Center.

Fall is definitely in the air at the Rite Care Orange County Childhood Language Center! Our student clinicians from Chapman University are busy with their young clients helping them continue to improve their communication skills.

Thank you to Scottish Rite and in particular to Frankie Rosario and David Frias for the new room cameras and monitors as well as oral hygiene kits! As speech and language specialists, we know how important a healthy mouth is to successful communication! Here is Riley with his student clinician Jenna proudly showing off his new toothbrush and goodie bag!



The end of October also brought out some of our clients in their favorite Halloween costumes! It's always fun to see our youngsters dress up and talk about their plans for trick-or-treating using their target sounds like

the "p" sound for pirate and the "r" sound in Wonder Woman!

Speaking of Wonder Woman, here is Alexandria and one of our intrepid supervisors, Chris!



And here are two more of our children in their Halloween costumes. Mason is "Catman" and Julie is a pirate, "aarrh"!



These children as well as all our clients are well on their way to becoming successful communicators which will help them for many Halloween's to come when they yell out with confidence "Trick or Treat"!

David Frias, 32°

Chairman, President of the Board of Directors
Orange County Childhood Language Center

OCSR 2018 - 2019 Calendar

2018

December 3rd—Stated Meeting 6:30 pm
 2019 Officer Candidates 2nd read
 Balloting on 2019 Officers
 Valley Christmas Party

2019

January 7th—Stated Meeting 6:30 pm
 13th—Installation of 2019 Officers
 2:00pm

February 4th—Stated Meeting 6:30 pm

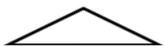
December Dinner Menu

Christmas Ham
 Scalloped Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Salad and Rolls
 Desert

Masonic Enlightenment *continued from page 4*

This is somewhat out of original context, but illustrative of revealed knowledge based on experience, on learning.

John the Evangelist came to that knowledge by his experience with the Christ. Another way of looking at this experience is coming from darkness to light, an awakening, and if you take it further, the dawning of awareness. This awareness sits squarely with the idea of **Sol Invictus**, or the conquering sun which overcomes its captivity of night from the summer solstice and again begins to vanquish the night in its ever increasing minutes of daylight.



Looking at some of the other symbolic connections, the Evangelist is said to relate to the alchemical symbol of the up pointed triangle which represents fire, where again we can see a link to light and knowledge. When we combine the alchemical sign of the Baptist with that of the Evangelist, we create the star of solomon, and the duality of fire and water, further, the duality of light and dark and summer and winter.

Continued on page 10

Masonic Enlightenment *(continued from page 9)*

Further work attributed to John the Evangelist are the Epistles of John, and the book of Revelation, though his connection to them in later centuries has been contentious, as much of his life from 2000 years ago is lost to time. Within the church his feast day is first mentioned in the Sacramentary of Pope Adrian I near 772 A.D.



Pope Adrian I

The message of the church, and something each of us can take away from John the Evangelist is to *“Apply thyself, therefore, to purity of heart, and thou shalt be like Saint John, a beloved disciple of Jesus, and shalt be filled with heavenly wisdom.”*

The feast of the Evangelist is little remembered today, except within Masonry where it is celebrated by a few lodges that still practice the Table Lodge ritual where brothers gather together to celebrate it with toasts to those brothers present and absent. In the past, it was considered a feast day of high importance for Freemasonry because of its proximity to the holidays and the presence of lodge members being close to home. Because of this, it gave those brothers a festival to meet under to punctuate the closing of the year. Meeting like this though is something less convenient in this modern day as most with families travel abroad to celebrate the holiday.

Because it is celebrated less does not diminish the importance of the day, nor the symbol itself, as in the modern ritual we are reminded that we come from the Holy Saint John's in Jerusalem, and as such we should pause and reflect on just what that means. John the Evangelist gives us an important lesson to pursue knowledge and wake from the darkness and renew our commitment to the awakening light of the Victorious Sun. Even taken out the Christian metaphor, we can salute with Sol Invictus, as knowledge is re-awakened from its cold wintry defeat.

Through the lens of symbolism, John the Evangelist gives us a means to find resonance with the holiday of giving and compassion to the fraternity of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Happy Holidays!

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