



**Orange County Valley of the Scottish Rite**

# Scottish Rite News

Volume 5 Issue No. 4

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## Wise Master



### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Human beings are built to take inventory. On the micro level we have first impressions of the people we meet on a daily basis. These first impressions are heavily influenced by a number of factors including general appearance, the sound and tone of one's voice, mood or emotional state of the party we are first meeting, even down to the smell of the person or environment. Once these first impressions are made, it can be very trying to change one's opinion, even if one is conscious for the need to change that opinion. On the macro level these first impressions are formed by us regarding groups or institutions we come into contact with as well. And I would argue at some level rightfully so, it is an important defense mechanism to size up these associations, companies, establishments, etc. before devoting our time, resources, and energies to them.

My brothers, our reunion classes held twice a year are our Valley's opportunity to shape these first impressions of our new brothers. Although not entirely up to us, we can, and in my opinion we must be accountable for these brothers' first impressions. We may not be in control of every variable but certainly we can choose whether or not these new brothers walk into a warm room filled with current members bristling with energy, or an awkwardly cold and quiet room with a hand full of men. The title of these two weekends is "Reunion", not "Make new brothers for the sake of numbers". As brother Cervantes pointed out in his previous article, reunion is an act of reuniting or the state of returning a person or persons after being separated.

The next crucial area of the weekend's first impressions is Ritual. At this current time in our Valley we have too few brothers filling in too many rolls in our ritual. Are we helping new brothers travel through time and experience, the trials and tribulations of the Masters who have come before us, or are we giving awkward power points with no energy or emotion? At the risk of sounding dramatic, the degrees in the Scottish Rite teach us what men have suffered historically to keep their integrity and also pass on a message so crucial to the society of mankind that it often cost them their lives. We are responsible for paying a respectful tribute to our Forefathers, as well as lighting a fire within the new brothers to become involved and carry that ancient message into their world.

*(continued on page 5)*

**Be sure to visit our new Scottish Rite web site at [OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG](http://OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG)!**  
**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!**

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**Orange County Valley Scottish Rite office: 801 N. French Street Santa Ana, CA 92701**

**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,**

**Office: 801 N. French Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701, publishes the Scottish Rite News monthly. No Subscription Price.**

**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,

Now that we have completed our successful Spring Reunion, it is time for every Brother to take advantage of the myriad of activities being offered in our Valley. If you are a newer member of the OCSR, we highly recommend you look into ritual work in the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite. Please see our Senior Warden, James Cervantes 32°, to take advantage of this rewarding endeavor. You can perform in an exemplification of a degree or work in another function at the Reunions. This is a time-proven method to receive more light.

With a new Masonic education program, increased emphasis is being placed on the Master Craftsmen courses. Since the Scottish Rite is considered to be the scholarly rite of Masonry, there is no better way to become more knowledgeable and well informed about Masonic concepts than these courses. Our new Director of Masonic Education, Br. Andrew Todd 32°, has also announced a new speaker program for the Valley which promises to be both revealing and instructive. All Brothers should attend these talks.

Finally, please talk to your Blue Lodge Brothers who are not Scottish Rite members about the rewards of membership in the Orange County Scottish Rite. Our Fall Reunion is in October and now is the perfect time to start submitting petitions to the General Secretary. Please see me if you want cards to present to prospective candidates for a free meal at our Stated Meeting dinner. We have too good of a Valley to keep it a secret from other Masons.

Fraternally,  
**Jamie Hopkins 32°**  
General Secretary

## Editor



Greetings Brothers,

My Brothers I ask for your prayers for my family. On Wednesday, March 20th my 91 year old mother passed away. If you have experienced the loss of your mother I need not have to explain the loss; if you haven't yet no amount of explanation will convey the loss and anguish. With this explanation I hope you forgive this late submission of our newsletter this month.

Please let me know if you or someone you know has an interesting article to include, we need new material. Remember the publication deadline each month is the 15th so let's hear from you authors out there.

Send all submissions to: [mshusaac@charter.net](mailto:mshusaac@charter.net).

Fraternally,  
**Mark Hoage, 32°**  
Editor

## Venerable Master



Fraternal Greetings,

Thank you to everyone who came to and participated in our Spring Reunion and our Spring Super Breakfast. It was quite a Masonic weekend. Welcome to our new members who have joined our ranks as new Masters of the Royal Secret. We hope you find your Scottish Rite journey rewarding and fulfilling.

April is a special time in our Scottish Rite. At our Stated Meeting we will be presenting our Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony. It is our duty as Knights Rose Croix to meet once a year and remember those who have departed our ranks in the past year. As we look back, we should also look forward and renew our commitments. Not just to Scottish Rite, but to our families and friends, our occupations and studies and our life's works.

There is a saying in business, that if you can measure it, you can improve it. I encourage you to take this time to measure so that you may improve, just like our ancient brethren used the twenty-four-inch gauge to measure and lay out their work.

Fraternally,

**Mike Gowder, 32°, KCCH**  
Venerable Master



## Wise Master (cont. from front page)

To the members who are missing out on the opportunity to participate in reunion degrees I would ask, what is Freemasonry, if not more so Scottish Rite Freemasonry, without ritual? "As above so below". Even more importantly, "As within so without". Ambulation, resuscitation, music, and visualization. The Masons participating in the ritual are often receiving more light than the candidate being taken through the degree. I have experienced in my life as well as been told by many a teacher that often it is the teacher who learns more through the act of service than the student ever learns. I sincerely love our Valley and am honored and humbled at being a Scottish Rite Mason. This is my motivation for expressing the fact that we as a Valley can do better than cold dull weekends where brothers are awkwardly made members, most of whom I never see again. As the Valley's representative at my blue lodge I am always encouraging Master Masons to join us on our mission and journey. It has been my experience that a prospective member rarely has his interest peaked by the Valley's representative. They are more so intrigued by a fellow Mason with no motivation other than telling him how amazing his experience was at the Reunion he attended. Together, let us not just make new members, let us embrace this opportunity twice a year to create lasting first impressions on ourselves as well as the new members.

To arms, Brothers! Raise the Standard!

Fraternally Yours,

**Shawn McCuen 32°**

Wise Master

## Commander of Kadosh



Greetings Brothers!

Our Spring Super Breakfast is in the bag. It was well attended and at first calculation, made our Valley approx. \$1,300 net. A special thank you to all those Brothers who volunteered to help - Brothers Harp, White, Robinson, Frias, McCuen, Gowder, Fiorentino, Kimble, Hopkins, Kussman and Rosario. Our Super Breakfast was a BIG success with plenty of fellowship...and BACON !! See you all in 6 months for our Fall edition of the Super Breakfast.

**David Price 32° KCCH**

Commander

## Master of Kadosh



Greetings Brethren,

First, I would like to start by saying Happy Easter to every brother and their family. This is a special family time of the year, just like Thanksgiving or Christmas. April is known for its rain showers and is the middle month of spring time. As winter symbolizes death, spring symbolizes new life. Easter is celebrated in the middle of spring because it symbolizes new life. "A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew, A cloud, and a rainbow's warning, Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue-- An April day in the morning." - Harriet Prescott Spofford, "April".

I would like to also mention that our Cap and Ring Ceremony has been moved from the May stated meeting to the June stated meeting. This is due to the guest speaker that we will be hosting at the May meeting.

I would just like to touch on this topic of the Knights of St. Andrew (KSA). For those brothers who do not know what the KSA is or does. The KSA does the little things around the valley from cleaning up after stated meetings to helping at Reunion classes to just overall service to the Valley. Brother Frias was elected as our First Knight. I am the Secretary of the Knights, so I would just like to extend a warm welcome to those brothers who may be interested or would like to return. Please feel free to reach out to me or Brother Frias about how to become a member or how to get involved again and we can provide further details or answers to any questions, you may present to us. I will be mentioning this message on the KSA each month.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the door of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end of the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither knows victory nor defeat.” - Brother Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

**Jeff Kimble, 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      Francine Wenhardt, CCC-SLP

[www.OCLanguageCenter.org](http://www.OCLanguageCenter.org)

Please support your Orange County 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  
 365 Club:                  A donation of \$365 each year  
 Center Club:              A donation of \$100 each year

**Supporters of the OC Childhood Language Center for 2016**



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**For Information Please Contact - President  
 David Frias, 32°**

**Cell: 714-600-8538 - Email: [dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org](mailto:dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org)**

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## OC CLC Communications

**Please take a moment and  
 consider joining the President's  
 Circle for 2019.**

**Visit us at:  
[www.oclanguagecenter.org](http://www.oclanguagecenter.org)  
 For further details.**

**OC Childhood Language Center  
 Office: 714-972-2646  
 Email: [info@oclanguagecenter.org](mailto:info@oclanguagecenter.org)**

# Language Center News



## Hello from the OC Childhood Language Center.

The sun is shining, and the grass and trees are waking up with the warmer sunny weather. We have over 64 children registered to receive therapy. It is great to see so many children benefiting from our Language Center.

When the kids are asked the important question, "Now that you are a great communicator what will you do now?". The overwhelmingly response is "We are going to Disneyland"!



CLC has received another anonymous donation of some beautiful Disney Mickey and Minnie dolls for the children who attend the center.



Included are just a few pictures of the many happy faces we see every day at the Orange County Childhood Language Center. These children are very happy to improve their communication skills at the best Language Center in California and Mickie & Minnie help

to make the smile bigger and brighter.



So many great smiles!

At the CLC we are still looking for a few good men who know their way around a tool box like this guy. Please send me an email if you are interested in donating your handyman skills to help the CLC when needed. Many Thanks to Bob White for volunteering to help!



Sincerely yours,  
**David Frias, 32°**  
President, OC CLC Board of Directors

# OCSR 2019 Calendar

## 2019

- April**      1st—**Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**  
Remembrance and Renewal  
Observance.
  
- May**        6th—**Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**  
Guest Speaker: **Arturo Sevilla**  
**Covarrubias**  
*“Exploring the Masonic  
History of Mexico”*
  
- June**        3rd—**Stated Meeting 6:30 pm**  
Cap and Ring Ceremony

**April Dinner Menu**

**Teriyaki Chicken**  
**Hawaiian Rice**  
**Steamed Vegetables**  
**Green Salad**  
**Dinner Rolls**  
**Desert**

**New Reduced Dinner Prices**

Have you noticed that the prices for Stated Meeting dinners have dropped? Well they have from \$14 to \$10. How many other things in your life can you say the same thing about? Please be sure to come out to our next Stated Meeting and enjoy something that has gone down in price for a change!

**RSVP NOW**  
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THE ORANGE COUNTY SCOTTISH RITE PRESENTS  
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## The Tenants *By Nelson King, FPS*

We have all heard our distinguished Junior Warden conclude the Entered Apprentice Lecture by stating that the tenets or fundamental principles of Ancient Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. What is a tenet? A tenet is a teaching that is so obviously true and so universally accepted, that we believe it without question.

Freemasonry considers Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth to be teachings of this kind, true in the sense that no man can question them; they are self providing, axiomatic. It is not uncommon for men to consider Brotherly Love, while highly desirable, as not practicable, and therefore but a vision to be dreamed of but never possessed. It is challenging for Freemasonry to call these "tenets," thus stating that they are both obviously and necessarily true. Unless you grasp this, and see that the principles of Freemasonry are self evident realities, not visionary ideals, you will never understand Masonic teachings.

For Freemasonry does not tell us that the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth ought to be true, that it would be better for us all if they were true--she tells that they are true. They are tremendous realities in human life, and it is as impossible to question their validity as to question the ground under our feet or sun over our heads. Our problem is not whether to believe them, but what are we going to do with them?

What is Brotherly Love? Manifestly, it means the we place on another man the highest possible valuation as a friend, a companion, an associate, a neighbor. By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family.

We do not ask that from our relationship we shall achieve selfish gain. Our relationship with a Brother is its own justification, its own reward. Brotherly Love is one of the supreme values without which life is lonesome, unhappy and unfulfilled. Brotherly Love is not a hope or a dream, but a fact. Freemasonry builds on that fact, provides opportunities for us to have such fellowship, encourages us to understand and to practice it and to make it one of the laws of our existence, one of the tenets or fundamental principles of our Beloved Craft.

Relief is one of the forms of charity. We often think of charity as relief from poverty. To care for the helpless or unemployed is deemed usually a responsibility resting on the general public. As a rule the public discharges that responsibility through some form of organized charity, financed by general subscriptions, or out of public funds.

Masonic conception of relief is broader and deeper than this. We fully recognize the emergency demands made by physical and economic distress; but we likewise understand that the cashing of a check is not necessarily a complete solution of the difficulty. There sometimes enters the problem or readjustment, of rehabilitation, of keeping a family together, of children's education, and various other matters vital to the spiritual comfort, for the assurance of a sincere and continuing interest and friendship, which is the real translation of our first Tenet: Brotherly Love.

Masonic Relief takes it for granted that any man, no matter how industrious and frugal he may be, through sudden misfortune or other conditions over which he has not control, may be in temporary need of a helping hand.

To extend it is not what is generally described as charity, but is one of the natural and inevitable acts of Brotherhood. Any conception of Brotherhood must include this willingness to give necessary aid. Therefore Relief, is Masonically speaking a tenet.

By Truth, the last of the fundamental principles or Tenets, is meant something more than the search for truths in the intellectual sense, though that is included. Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. In any permanent brotherhood, members must be truthful in character and habits, dependable, men of honor, on whom we can rely to be faithful fellows and loyal friends. Truth is a vital requirement if a brotherhood to endure and we therefore accept it as such.

Thus Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are the fundamental principles or Tenets of Ancient Freemasonry. There are other Tenets, also; teaching so obvious that argument is never necessary to sustain them. With this in mind I urge you to ponder the Tenets of this our Beloved Craft, study them well, not as abstract teachings, but as living applications in our daily lives. You may not find them novel, but novelty is unimportant in the light of the knowledge that the truths upon which Freemasonry is founded are eternal. The freshness of immortality is on them because they never die; in them is a ceaseless inspiration and an inexhaustible appeal. They are the tenets of Freemasonry because always and everywhere they have been the tenets of successful human life.

For ritual alone cannot make us a good Masons, it is the everyday applications of its teachings that will broaden our powers of understanding. Learn well the tenets of Freemasonry, and, above all, practice them constantly, both within the confines of the Lodge and in your daily life.

Author's Note: The Junior Warden Lecture is part of Emulation Ritual *(Extracted From Phoenix Masonry Website)*



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