



# Orange County Scottish Rite

## Orient of California, Southern Jurisdiction

### Senior Warden



#### Independence

For me this word, independence, often reminds me of the Declaration of Independence written mostly by Thomas Jefferson with contributions from other members of the Continental Congress. The preamble of this document contains some very complex ideas that people love to study and discuss. Should we interpret the meaning of this document as it applies to the very specific circumstance it was addressing at the time or is this intended to shape our broader expectations for our country and our own individual independence. I think the answer is both. While I am not a scholar, I do find this part of history very interesting.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” This is probably the most well-known part of the Declaration of Independence that we all learned in school. Most of us would believe that this applies to all people, not just our fellow

American citizens. For me this is a statement that I strongly believe in and strive to practice with everyone that I meet. I do not want my pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness to be at someone else's expense.

The Independence of our country came at a great cost to our early Americans. They could no longer accept the tyranny and corruption from the King of England. These new Americans were willing to lay down their life for the independence of our country. "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," I never served in the Armed Forces so I cannot really speak of the bravery these people demonstrate to preserve the continued independence of our



country. I certainly have great respect for their service and sacrifices. To me voting is the way I give my consent to our government and attempt to control my independence as an American.

I hope everyone enjoys Independence Day on the 4th of July. We should all remember the great cost of our independence and cherish being an American citizen.

**David Frias 32° KCCH**  
 Senior Warden  
 Orange County Lodge of Perfection

## OC Scottish Rite 2021 Upcoming Calendar

**Monday  
 July 12th**      Catching up with the Valley  
 Zoom meeting 5:30pm  
 In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED

**Monday  
 July 19th**      Master Craftsman Study  
 Zoom meeting 5pm - 6pm

**Monday  
 August 2nd**      In-person Stated Meeting  
 Demolay Center, Anaheim 5:30pm



**Special Guest Speaker**  
**Hon. Ralph Shelton**  
 Will be speaking on the topic of  
*The Lodge of Affinity and the European Model*  
 Dinner \$10, reservations required;  
 please contact Bro Jamie Hopkins (714) 543-7277

**Monday  
 August 11th**      Master Craftsman Study  
 Zoom meeting 5pm - 6pm

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## General Secretary



Brethren: We hope you are having an excellent summer. It looks like we will be back to having Stated Meetings in person at the DeMolay Center with our August meeting. We will let you know via an email with all details when confirmed. Our July Stated Meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday July 12th at 5:30 pm. A link to the meeting will be sent to all Members. Please make an effort to attend this month's virtual meeting. We know that a

number of Brothers prefer to pay their annual dues online rather than mailing in a check. Supreme has an excellent payment portal on their site at [scottishrite.org](http://scottishrite.org) (click on the member log-in). Also, our OCSR website will now direct you to the Supreme portal for online payments. Payments for 2022 dues are now being accepted.

With Blue Lodges starting to meet in person again, please ask worthy Brothers if they have an interest in joining the Scottish Rite. Brothers who have an interest in further Masonic education and participation in degree work and Valley events should be encouraged to join and take advantage of our programs. Newer Master Masons are looking for more Masonic knowledge (both esoteric and historical). The future of our Valley depends on us informing newer Masons about the advantages of Scottish Rite membership. Our Reunion is coming up soon in November.

Lastly, our first Super Breakfast in 18 months is coming up on Sunday, September 19th. Tickets will be mailed out in the next month. We always have excellent support from the Brethren on these events. This is the only function that we hold that raises money that goes entirely to our Valley for operating costs. Have an outstanding Independence Day!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

**Jamie Hopkins, 32°**  
 General Secretary  
[gensec@ocscottishrite.org](mailto:gensec@ocscottishrite.org)  
 (714) 543-7277

## The Celestial Lodge

Please join our Valley in remembering the brothers we've lost this year. Though their presence will be missed, their legacies will not be forgotten.

<b>Illustrious Peter Henry Jantz, 33°</b> .....	February 15, 2021
<b>Jack Gordon Beers, 32°</b> .....	February 25, 2021
<b>Kermit E. Rosenthal 32°</b> .....	March 4, 2021
<b>Dennis William Morris, 32°</b> .....	March 14, 2021

Please also keep brother **Rob Rappaport, 32°** in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to fight their recent's health issues.

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## Venerable Master



Greetings Brethren, I hope this message finds that you and your family are doing well. It was great seeing so many of you at our June keeping up with the Valley meeting. What a pleasure it was to have three honored guests all at the same time. **The Sovereign Grand Commander Ill. James Cole, 33°, Grand Master of Masons in California, Most Worshipful Brother Arthur H. Weiss, and our Sovereign Grand Inspector General, of the Southern Jurisdiction, Orient of California, Ill. Frank Loui, 33°.**

I would like to personally thank **Brother James Cervantes** for his hard work behind the scene to make this event happen, this was truly his vision, along with Honorable Shelton, 32°, KCCH and Illustrious Frankie Rosario, 33°,

I again would like to invite you to our July Keeping up with the valley meeting. On Monday July 12th, at 5:30pm, Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

Join the Zoom Meetings using the link below:

<https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/9531283942?pwd=aVhXc1ZPcGU5RGVZdnJMZCtvU3JCOT09>

The Meeting ID is: 953 128 3942

The password for entry is: Mason32

This month's theme is Independence:

## Feemasonry and the Founding Fathers

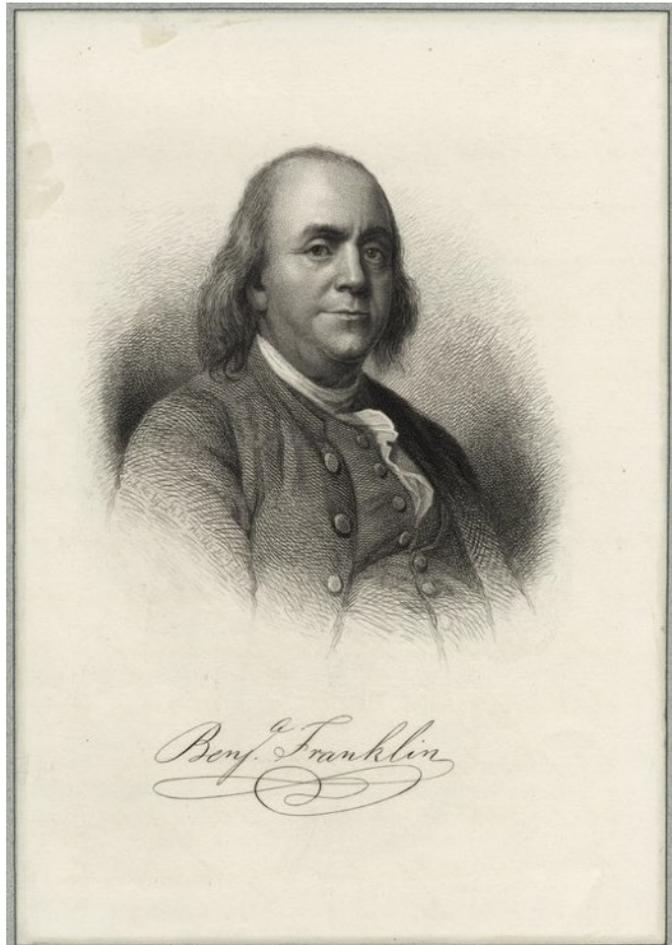
*Many Americans celebrate our founding fathers and all they did to help create our country. What few of them know is that many of the founding fathers were also freemasons. Some of the more notable founding fathers to also be masons are George Washington, Ben Franklin lead the Pennsylvania chapter, Paul Revere lead 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 signed the Declaration of Independence were masons, and about thirteen of the thirty-nine that signed the US Constitutions were also masons.*



*Ben Franklin by many is believed 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.*

*However, what is not known about the Freemasons and the Founding Fathers is what their political agenda was. Over the years many scholars have tried to dig up files and letters 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. 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". It 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 were men way before 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.*

Until next month, my brothers.

Sincerely and fraternally,

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

## Wise Master



Greetings and salutations brethren, I hope this message finds you and your families in good spirits.

On July 4th the United States of America turns 244 years old, as we gather with our families and friends to celebrate, take a moment to reflect how our country came to be, the blueprints that were laid, sacrifices that were made, the freedoms we enjoy and our rights for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

## God Bless The USA

By: Lee Greenwood

*If tomorrow all the things were gone I'd worked for all my life  
And I had to start again with just my children and my wife  
I'd thank my lucky stars to be livin' here today  
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom and they can't take that away*

*And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free  
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me  
And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today  
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land  
God bless the USA*

*From the lakes of Minnesota, to the hills of Tennessee  
Across the plains of Texas, from sea to shining sea  
From Detroit down to Houston and New York to LA  
Well, there's pride in every American heart  
And it's time we stand and say*

*That I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free  
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me  
And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today  
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land  
God bless the USA*

*And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free  
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me  
And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today  
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land*

God bless the USA Warmest fraternal regards,

**Anthony Arismendi, 32°**  
Wise Master, Chapter Rose Croix

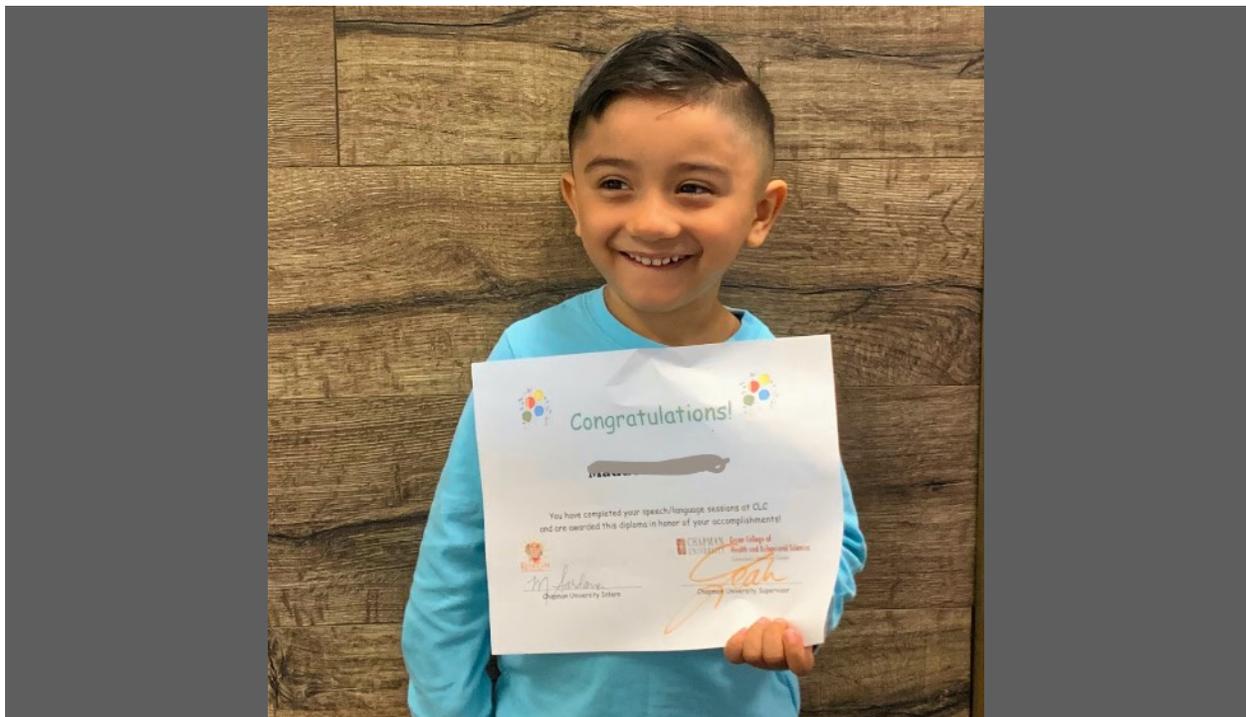


## Language Center News



Welcome back to the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County. Your support allows us to help so many children achieve the Gift of Voice.

Meet our proud graduate Maddox, age 3 years. He has completed our program and will continue with speech and language therapy in the public schools. The family is very grateful with his early intervention as he now has the necessary skills to attend a preschool program and maximize his potential by communicating with his peers and teachers.



Jasmine and Jordan both enjoy the therapy sessions together so very much as you can tell from the photo.



Jordan is 3 years and 8 months old and when he came to us, he was using single words no one could understand. Now he is working on sentences, answering "wh" questions - eg. who, where, what and working on improving his intelligibility on multisyllabic words. We will happily see Jordan again in the fall.

This is Frankie, age 2 1/2 years:



When she started in the fall of 2020, she was a non-verbal child and very frustrated. Although she continues to need treatment, she is now using words to label things she wants which has decreased her frustration.

Meagan is providing Frankie with play based, functional therapy and Frankie's Mom can continue with this fun therapy at home.

As our academic year comes to a close, we look back with pride at all that we have accomplished. Covid through us some curve balls at the beginning but we adjusted our approach and started hitting home runs again for our children and families. The important part is that we could have a positive impact in our community by providing the Gift of Voice to so many children who needed our help.

Thank you for all your support!

**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

**Leah Beekman**, PhD CCC-SLP

**Chris Switzer**, MA CCC-SLP

**Laurie Lennon-Thompson**, MS CCC-SLP

**Francine Wenhardt**, MS CCC-SLP

[www.oclanguagecenter.org](http://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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**For information please contact: Chairman David Frias, 32° (714) 600-8538, [dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org](mailto:dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org)**

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## Masonic Education ◦ Editor

### Master Craftsman Program



SCOTTISH+RITE  
MASTER+CRAFTSMAN:  
SYMBOLIC+LODGE

As a reminder, **Master Craftsman Study sessions are now being 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](mailto:atodd@ocscottishrite.org)

James Cervantes, 32° :. [jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org](mailto: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:

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[editor@ocscottishrite.org](mailto:editor@ocscottishrite.org)

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

Fraternally,

**Andrew Todd, 32°**

Editor, Director of Masonic Education

### Visit Your Valley Online

Be sure to visit our new Scottish Rite web site at **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 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,  
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**Jamie Hopkins, 32°**  
General Secretary  
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**Hon. Ralph Shelton, 32°**  
Assistant to the Personal Rep  
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**Hon. Mike Selix, 32°**  
Venerable Master  
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**Anthony Arismendi, 32°**  
Wise Master  
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**Stephen Carney, 32°**  
Master of Kadosh  
scarney@ocscottishrite.org



**Diego Verduzco, 32°**  
Commander of Kadosh  
dverduzco@ocscottishrite.org

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## Orange County Scottish Rite Officers (cont.)

**Mark Pressey, 32°**  
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**James Cervantes, 32°**  
Chaplain

**Lloyd Clayton, 33° IGH**  
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**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 92705 • Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-2pm  
Phone (714) 972-2646 • Fax (714) 543-9754 • [www.ocscottishrite.org](http://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](mailto:editor@ocscottishrite.org). All articles must be submitted prior to the 20th of the month.

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**Larry Griffin**

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