



# Orange County Scottish Rite

Orient of California, Southern Jurisdiction

## Senior Warden



### Freedom

Such a simple word but such a complex subject. Our country has been trying to figure out what freedom means since the beginning. I think I can define my version of freedom but am I willing to pay the price for this freedom? I'm not an expert in history and I'm not a legal expert but let me give you a couple examples of what I mean.

The Capitol building in Washington, DC has a statue at the top which is called the "Statue of Freedom". This statue and the dome were added to the Capitol building by the 4th Architect of the Capitol, Thomas U. Walter. Mr. Walter served as Architect of the Capitol from 1851 to 1865. Walter's design of the new Capitol dome included a 16-foot statue at the top. The statue was designed by American sculptor Thomas Crawford and was finally added to the dome in 1863. The original concept for this Statue of Freedom included a liberty cap that was awarded to a slave when they were given their freedom. The Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis objected to the liberty cap since this statue would only apply to people who were born free. The design for the statue was changed to include a Roman helmet. So clearly the people who designed and built the Statue of Freedom did not believe in freedom for all people. They were

willing to accept a definition of freedom that including denying freedom for some people. Today we do not accept the idea that only some people are free. My definition of freedom is much different from these people and of course we live in a much different time.

This idea of freedom can be tricky. Even legal scholars like Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes seems to struggle with his own interpretation of Freedom as it applies to speech. He established real limits on the freedom of speech, so much so that he agreed people should go to jail just for disagreeing with the



*The Statue of Freedom*

## OC Scottish Rite 2021 Upcoming Calendar

**Monday**  
**September 13th**      Catching up with the Valley  
Zoom meeting 5:30pm  
**In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED**

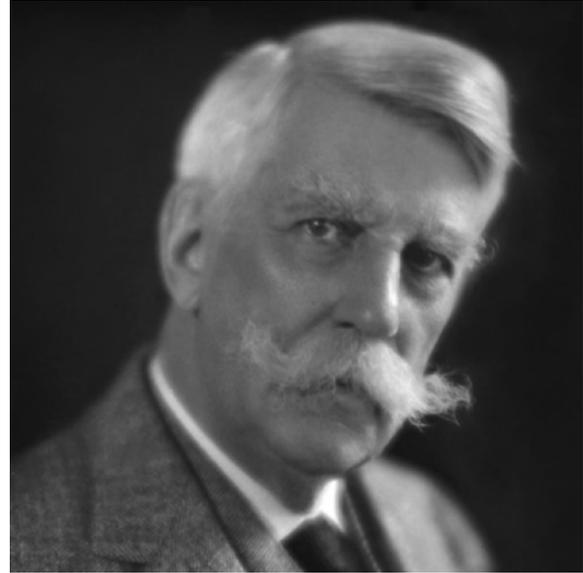
**Monday**  
**September 20th**      Master Craftsman Study  
Zoom meeting 5pm - 6pm

**Monday**  
**October 4th**            Catching up with the Valley  
Zoom meeting 5:30pm  
**In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED**

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



government. In 1919 Holmes wrote in his majority opinion " ...the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent." Holmes opinion for the clear and present danger test of free speech became the legal standard of that time and was applied to many cases. The defendants in this case expressed a viewpoint that they were against WW1 and were against the military draft. Today we commonly hear people express their viewpoints against a war, against the police or against a politician and we respect their freedom of speech. Provided that this expression is done in a lawful manner. In this same year Justice Holmes wrote a very famous dissent that seemed to dramatically change the very standard he established just a short time before.



*Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes*

For me the point is that we should be more tolerant of people who have different opinions of freedom. While we carry our own strongly held ideas and opinions, we should be ever vigilant to protect our neighbors right to do the same. Even if we hate the expression of their freedom. This is what I mean by paying the price for freedom because we may not always like how people test the limits of our definition.

**David Frias 32° KCCH**

Senior Warden

Orange County Lodge of Perfection

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## General Secretary



Brethren: In August, we had our first physical meeting at the DeMolay Center in 18 months. We thank the Brothers who attended as it was an excellent meeting. Due to new strains of covid, we will be having virtual meetings on Zoom for the next few months. Please make an effort to sign on to our meeting on September 6th. Links will be sent to all members.

On November 5th & 6th, we will be holding our first physical Reunion in 2 years. The tentative plan is to hold a joint Reunion with Long Beach at the Long Beach Temple. If that changes, we will have our own Reunion at the DeMolay Center. If you have any questions whatsoever about possible candidates, please contact the General Secretary at email and phone number listed below. The only way that our Valley can grow and prosper is to bring in new members. Thank you.

Dues payments for 2022 are coming in to our office at a steady clip. Your payments are appreciated. Any questions about your dues, please contact our office. Have an outstanding Fall.

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

# Venerable Master



Greetings Brethren, I hope this message finds that you and your family are doing well.

## This month's theme is "Freedom"

In the pantheon of great men in American history, George Washington occupies a level all his own. There is little of his public life that is not common knowledge to all citizens of the United States, and he is indeed revered as the "Father of Our Country". Freemasons are also proudly able to refer to our first president as Brother Washington. Although many of our founding fathers were indeed Freemasons, as have been many other great men down through the ages,

**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 he continues to fight his recents health issues.

Washington stands alone – not only to Freemasons, but to all freedom-loving people in the world.

Washington's Masonic life began in 1752 when he was initiated at the Fredericksburg, Virginia Lodge at just twenty years old. He became a Master Mason the following year. Throughout his very public life, Washington remained active within the Fraternity. In 1788 he was elected to serve as the first Master of the Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia. The



following year, he was elected as the first president of the United States, thus becoming the first of many Freemasons to hold that office.

As President, he laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol building in a Masonic ceremony while attired in his embroidered Masonic apron. The apron, incidentally, had been a gift from General Lafayette, another hero of the American Revolution and also a Freemason.

George Washington passed away in 1799, not quite sixty-eight years old, however his legacy is eternal. The ideals of liberty, justice and freedom which he constantly upheld have become a major ethos of the American experience.

We have returned to meeting via Zoom. I would like to personally invite you to attend our monthly "Keeping Up" with the valley meeting held each month.

**Please join us on the first Monday of each month at 5:30pm.**

Join the Zoom Meetings using the link below:

<https://scottishrite.zoom.us/j/9531283942?pwd=aVhXc1ZPcGU5RGVZdnJmZCtvU3JCQT09>

The Meeting ID is: **953 128 3942**

The password for entry is: **Mason32**

Sincerely and fraternally,

**Mike Selix, 32° KCCH**

Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection

## Visit Your Valley Online

Be sure to visit our Scottish Rite web site at [OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG](http://OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG). You'll find the official calendar of events and an archive of all our newsletters.

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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## Personal Representative



Brothers: It is my sincere pleasure to share very exciting news!

In August, our brother Ill. Donald Tapia received a very important call from our Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Illustrious Frank Loui, announcing to our brother, that he was voted to receive the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor. As many of you know, the Grand Cross of the Court of Honor is the highest individual honor that the Supreme Council bestows. It is voted very rarely to Thirty-third Degree Masons only for the most exceptional and extraordinary services.

Here is some information about the hat our brother is about to receive. The Grand Cross cap is white with a blue band. On the front is a replica of the Grand



Cross jewel, which is composed of a Teutonic Cross, with an embroidered crimson rose with green leaves at its center.

Illustrious Tapia will be invested with this honor during the 2021 Biennial Honors Ceremonies taking place on Saturday, September 11, 2020, at the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple, in Oakland, California.



*Ill. Donald Tapia, 33° GC*

Once again, congratulations Ill. Tapia for being voted to be invested with this distinguished honor. This is the first time one of our Valley members has been voted for this honor!

Ill. Tapia, we are very proud of all your accomplishments in life, and for all that you have done for our Valley, our Language Center, and for humanity in general. I look forward to seeing you in Oakland and being part of this very special investiture.

If you would like to read more about our brother's life journey, please check out his bio on the OC Scottish Rite website.

Fraternally yours,

**Ill. Frankie Rosario, 33°**

Personal Representative of the  
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California  
Orange County Scottish Rite Valley

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## Language Center News



Welcome back to the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County. We are Back!

Our summer break is over, so we are back in action performing therapy and helping children with a new group of Chapman University graduate student clinicians. The Center is open three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The best news is we are open for in person therapy all three days. Previously we had one day for in person therapy and two days of Teletherapy. To help keep everybody safe all Supervisors and student clinicians have been fully vaccinated.

The Language Center has 45 children enrolled for therapy with 18 children on the wait list. As we return to the Center we will maintain our current safety practices like checking everyone's temperatures, staggering the arrival/ appointment times to maintain separation, rigorous cleaning between sessions and wearing of masks just to name a few. Our families are all excited to return to in person therapy.

**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:

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<https://oclanguagecenter.org/donate>

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*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. But, due to the Labor Day holiday, this is a special month! As such, **we'll be meeting on the third Monday, September 20th at 5pm.** 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, The Orange County Scottish Rite News  
Director of Masonic Education

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## Orange County Scottish Rite Officers



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frosario@ocscottishrite.org



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General Secretary  
gensec@ocscottishrite.org



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rshelton@ocscottishrite.org



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mselix@ocscottishrite.org



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aarismendi@ocscottishrite.org



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Master of Kadosh  
scarney@ocscottishrite.org



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dverduzco@ocscottishrite.org

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## Orange County Scottish Rite Officers (cont.)

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**Vacant**  
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**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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