



Orange County Scottish Rite

ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

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September 2024

III. Donald R. Tapia, 33° - OCSR Founding Member!



We are deeply honored to welcome His Excellency, the Illustrious Donald R. Tapia, 33°, Grand Cross, as our distinguished speaker for September. III. Tapia is one of our Valley's founding members and a former United States Ambassador to Jamaica. His unwavering support for our Language Center and dedication to the Scottish Rite are well known, and we are thrilled to have him return to the Valley.

This event presents a unique opportunity to engage with an esteemed Scottish Rite Mason, accomplished diplomat, and generous philanthropist whose portrait proudly graces the Pillars of Charity at the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C.

Mark your calendar for September 9, and be sure to bring your spouse or partner. This promises to be an evening filled with inspiration and fellowship—an event you won't want to miss.



Ladies Night

Make sure to bring your ladies this month! Look inside for the **Solvang Weekend Getaway** they're planning!

Dinner is included!





9th Moon Cycle: Setting Sun - The Promise of Tomorrow and the Grand Pontiff

Hon. James McCallion, 32° KCCH
 Venerable Master, Director of Education



“Setting Sun Shamanism”

In September, during the 9th Moon Cycle, we direct our attention to the teachings of Setting Sun, the Keeper of Tomorrow’s Dreams. This Clan Mother shows us how to Live the Truth. She begins by emphasizing the sacredness of using “every part of what we harvest—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—and never wasting anything that can be used (Sams)”. Represented by the color green, which symbolizes Will, Setting Sun teaches us how to harness our will effectively to ensure future abundance. She imparts the will to live, to survive, and to be diligent in preserving the Earth and its resources for our Earth Walk (life on this plane). Setting Sun allows us to meet our futures without fear because we have endeavored in preparation for generations to come.

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“Prophet” Runic inscription in Younger Futhark

In Norse Shamanism, there is a visionary ritual called seiðr (pronounced “SAY-der”), which is an ancient indigenous practice of meditation aimed at manifesting one’s future. This practice is akin to the vision quests found among the indigenous tribes of the Americas where drumming, plant medicines, Shamanic trances, and altered states of consciousness are ritualistically employed as a means to manifest change in one’s life. Both forms of shamanic practice rely heavily on the balance of nature and living a good life while traveling upon the “Red Road” of this lifetime. These rituals are conducted by a seiðr-man or seiðr-woman.

In the 19th Degree, Grand Pontiff, we are instructed in the duties of being “content to labor for the future, to serve the cause of truth with patience and industry, and to destroy error, falsehood, and intolerance with truth, honesty, honor, and charity (A Bridge to Light).”

While the 19th Degree, Grand Pontiff is the first degree in the Council of Kadosh, the third body within the Scottish Rite that is generally associated with the comparative philosophies of the mystery schools, it is deeply connected with the 17th & 18th degrees of the Chapter Rose Croix as a trilogy.

As the 17th degree introduces us to the Apocalypse of St. John, who the Norse Shamans would have called Spámaðr (“spow-modiv”) Icelandic for “he who prophesizes,” the 18th provides us with a new law (the Law of Love). The 19th Degree expands on the mystical teachings of the Book of Revelations, contrasting the ancient city of Babylon (symbolizing wickedness and intolerance) with the New Jerusalem (representing the perfection we strive for as Masons and the goal toward which humanity is moving).



In this degree, we come to understand "Peace as the Universal law for all Children of a common Father." As we share Masonry's wisdom, moral integrity, and mission, we do so with the belief in a future faith and the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. It is a remarkable opportunity for man to extend beyond his own time and influence the destiny (or “Wyrd”) of others.

I ask that in the month of September, you meditate on how you can work towards living the truth and honoring the promise of tomorrow. “Let us live, that our acts may endure to uplift a Brother yet to be born.”

Aho,

Hon. James McCallion, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master, Director of Education



The Power of Participation: Strengthening Our Brotherhood in the Orange County Valley

Russ Hennings, 32°
Wise Master

As we wander through our Masonic lives, the concept of leadership often comes to the forefront. It's easy to associate leadership with titles, positions, and the responsibilities that come with being an officer within our Valley. However, leadership in its truest form goes far beyond the badges we wear or the chairs we occupy during our meetings. It's about embodying the values and principles that define us as Masons, every single day, whether we hold a title or not.

Leadership is about stepping up when there's work to be done, lending a hand when help is needed, and being a guiding force for others, even in the smallest of ways. It's about being present, offering support, and leading by example. You don't need to be the Wise Master, Venerable Master, or any other officer to make a meaningful impact in our Valley. Your contributions, no matter how big or small, are vital to the success and harmony of our brotherhood.

One of the most powerful ways to lead is simply by being there... showing up to meetings, participating in degrees, and engaging with your fellow brethren. Your presence alone can inspire others to do the same, creating a ripple effect that strengthens the bonds of our Valley. When we all take ownership of our roles, regardless of our titles, we create a community where everyone feels valued and supported.

Helping when there is helping to be had is another crucial aspect of leadership. It's easy to wait for someone else to step forward, but true leaders recognize when their skills, time, or resources can make a difference and act without hesitation. Whether it's assisting with event planning, helping to prepare meals, or offering a kind word to a brother in need, these actions define the spirit of leadership that keeps our Valley thriving.

Remember, leadership is not confined to the walls of our lodges. It extends to our everyday lives, influencing how we interact with our families, our workplaces, and our communities. By living the values of Masonry, we become leaders in all aspects of our lives, setting an example for others to follow.

As we evolve together, I encourage each of you to embrace the role of a leader, no matter where you stand within our Valley. Take pride in the contributions you make, and know that every effort, every gesture of kindness, and every act of service is a testament to your leadership and commitment to the Craft.



Scottish Rite Super Breakfast

Alejo Velarde, 32°
Commander of Kadosh

As we approach the end of August, I am pleased to report that the Orange County Scottish Rite Valley is thriving. We are progressing in a positive direction, and I'm glad to see our focus remains on the most important matters. Our collective efforts are driving us forward, and it's inspiring to witness the dedication and commitment within our fraternity. Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future.

Please remember that Sunday, October 13th, from 9 AM to 12 PM, is our Super Breakfast. This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together, strengthen our bonds, and celebrate our shared achievements. It's more than just a meal—it's a chance to reconnect, share stories, and reinforce the spirit of brotherhood that defines our Valley. The Super Breakfast is open to all family and friends, making it a perfect occasion to share the warmth and camaraderie of our community with those we care about. Keep an eye on social media and your mail for additional information coming soon. We look forward to seeing everyone there and making it a memorable day for all.

Visit your valley online, and be sure to like and follow us on social media!



<https://www.ocscottishrite.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/ocscottishrite>



<https://www.instagram.com/ocscottishrite>



<https://twitter.com/ocscottishrite>

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.



Midpoints and Fellowship

**Barry McKinley, 32°
Master of Kadosh**

Dear Brothers of the Orange County Scottish Rite,

As we move into September, excitement is building for our upcoming Fall Reunion in October. This is a significant time for our valley as we prepare to welcome new members into the fold. The reunion is not just a ceremony, but a time to reaffirm our commitment to the principles that unite us as Scottish Rite Masons. I encourage all of you to participate and support our newest brothers as they embark on their Masonic journey.

This month, we have the distinct honor of hosting His Excellency, the Illustrious Donald Tapia as our guest speaker at the September meeting. His Excellency is a great supporter of our valley and the RiteCare Childhood Language Center, and we are privileged to have him with us. His dedication to our cause and his insightful perspectives makes this a must-attend event. I am certain that his words will inspire and resonate with us all, making it an evening to remember.

Additionally, I am looking forward to the Consistory taking charge of this month's meeting. It's always a pleasure to see the different bodies of our valley come together to lead and guide our activities. This collaborative spirit is what makes our valley strong and vibrant, and I am confident that the Consistory will run the meeting with the same dedication and excellence that they always do.

As we continue to move forward, let us remain committed to our shared goals and the ongoing growth of our valley. Your participation and enthusiasm are what make these events successful, and I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming gatherings.



From the General Secretary

Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

Brethren:

Welcome to September. The summer was a busy time for the OCSR Valley office. We closed our office in Santa Ana and we now have a virtual office with Secretary performing his duties from home. This move should lead to increased efficiencies and savings for our Valley. Our new mailing address is: Orange County Scottish Rite, 5267 Warner Ave. #258, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.

This address is strictly our mailing address. All of our Valley meetings, functions and storage are at the Orange Grove Masonic Center in Orange. On the weekend of October 19th-20th, we will be holding our Fall Reunion. If you know of worthy Master Masons who have an interest in exploring the further light of the Scottish Rite, please direct them to our website to fill out the new online petition. This streamlined process allows the candidate to fill out his application and pay his fee at the same time. Be sure to supply your candidate with the names of his 2 member signers.

Notices for 2025 dues have been sent out. If you have not received your dues notice or have a question about your dues status, please email the Secretary at the email address below. Have an outstanding fall.

Fraternally,
Jamie Hopkins, 32nd KCCH
gensec@ocscottishrite.org

SCOTTISH RITE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2024 - VOLUME 44, ISSUE 09

Scottish Rite News is published monthly by the Valley of Orange County, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, 71 Plaza Square, Orange, CA 92866. There is no Subscription Price. Scottish Rite News is the official publication of the Valley of Orange County. This issue edited by Shawn Bell, 32°, editor@ocscottishrite.org.

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All articles for publication must be submitted prior to the 10th of the month.



September - Feast of Tishri!

Roasted Garlic Lemon Chicken and Veggie Kabobs with Gyros, Tzatziki sauce, Rice, and Pita!



Masonry in Action

Hon. James Olivier, 32° KCCH
Prelate, Director of The Work

On Saturday, August 10, 2024, a group of your Brothers headed out to the Valley of Pasadena to assist them in their ongoing reunion. They had set an ambitious goal of performing all twenty-nine degrees of the Scottish Rite for their class. Their Director of The Work and I worked together to devise a plan that would work, and once we landed on the 23rd Degree Chief of The Tabernacle, we started a few weeks of rapid-fire rehearsals to ensure we put on the best show possible. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Hon. Michael Gowder, 32° KCCH, Bro. Chris DeDios, Bro. David Gilman and Bro. Ryan Gonzales (in his first degree as a cast member, no less), and thank them for putting on an excellent degree for our Brothers in Pasadena.

This is the beauty of Masonry in action. When we all gather together for a common goal. Over the years we've all had opportunities like this. Whether we visit another Blue Lodge to help with a degree or in any of the appendant bodies that we might find ourselves as members. The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry provides many opportunities to connect and network with other Masons, not only locally, but on a national level. Ultimately, the work starts here at home. In October, we will be holding our Fall Reunion on the 19th and 20th of the month. We are starting rehearsals very soon and yes, we will need help. This is your opportunity to start down the road of service for your Brothers, and also to yourself. You will find yourself gaining a new and deeper understanding and appreciation of the degrees. Not only that, but we also have a lot of fun doing this. Please reach out to me via email at jolivier@ocscottishrite.org or at our Stated Meeting! We always have room for more, and with any luck, hopefully some time in the mid-term, we can find ourselves in a place to perform the 29 degrees of the Scottish Rite in our own Valley! All it takes is teamwork!

YOU'RE INVITED TO CHECK OUT OUR LITTLE CORNER OF THE INTERNET

Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal.

OCScottishRite.org



The Ivory Key - Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Online College & Leadership Academy

Shawn E Bell, 32°

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Online College and Leadership Academy stands as a beacon of education and enlightenment, offering Masons an unparalleled opportunity to deepen their understanding of the craft through a variety of well-crafted courses. Designed to enrich the intellectual and spiritual aspects of Masonry, these courses are available online, making it easier than ever for brethren to access the wealth of knowledge that the Scottish Rite offers.

One of the cornerstone courses, *The Master's Steps*, is an immersive journey through the Scottish Rite degrees, offering a detailed exploration of the symbolism, history, and philosophy that underpin each degree. This course provides a comprehensive guide for those seeking to walk the Master's path with greater understanding and purpose.

Why 33? is another intriguing course that delves into the significance of the number 33 within the Scottish Rite. It explores the historical and esoteric reasons behind the establishment of the 33° as the highest honor within the Rite, making it a must-study for those interested in the deeper meanings behind Masonic traditions.

For those looking to uncover the hidden treasures of the Scottish Rite, *The Ivory Key* offers a detailed study of the origins and development of the Rite, with a particular focus on its structural evolution. This course is ideal for history enthusiasts and those who wish to gain a broader perspective on the Rite's global influence and growth.

The *Symbolic Lodge* course provides an in-depth look at the foundation of Masonry as practiced in the Blue Lodge. Covering the essential tools, symbols, and teachings of the first three degrees, this course bridges the gap between the Symbolic Lodge and the higher degrees, offering valuable insights for all Masons.

Beyond these highlighted courses, the Master Craftsman Online College offers other programs that cater to various interests and experience levels within the craft. Whether you're seeking to enhance your knowledge of Masonic symbolism, delve into the rich history of the Scottish Rite, or develop your leadership skills within the fraternity, there is a course tailored for you.

The Leadership Academy stands as a crucial component of the Master Craftsman Online College, focusing on the development of leadership skills within the Masonic framework. This academy equips Masons with the tools necessary to take on leadership roles within their Lodges and beyond, fostering a spirit of service, integrity, and excellence.

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Online College and Leadership Academy is more than just an educational platform; it is a gateway to a lifelong journey of personal and Masonic growth. The knowledge and wisdom imparted through these courses enhance your understanding of the craft and empower you to contribute more meaningfully to your Lodge and community.

Whether you are a Scottish Rite Mason fresh from a Reunion who is eager to learn more or a seasoned brother looking to deepen your knowledge, the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Online College and Leadership Academy

offers many courses to support your Masonic journey. Take the next step in your Masonic education today and explore the many offerings available—each course is a key to unlocking the more profound mysteries of the craft.

Enroll today and join a community of dedicated Scottish Rite Masons - your brothers on this journey - who have committed to lifelong learning and the pursuit of Masonic excellence. The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Online College and Leadership Academy is here to guide you every step of the way.

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



Blue Slipper Club - Solvang Weekend Getaway!

Jackie Shelton

The Orange County Valley's Blue Slipper Club is planning a weekend getaway to Solvang 11/1 – 11/3/2024.

All partners of Valley members are invited to join us. This is a trip for just us gals, we'll leave the guys at home!

The price will include accommodation, transportation, dinner Saturday, lunch Sunday, and a surprise gift. Complementary breakfast is provided by the hotel.

Price will be approximately \$425 per person, dependent upon total number of RSVPs. Any ladies interested in joining the fun, please RSVP to jackie-shelton@outlook.com by 9/21/2024.





Personal Representative of the SGIG Orient of California

Ill. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°

Our Valley continues to thrive, and I am proud of our Valley Leadership for the work they're doing. This month, a shout out to Matt Schrader, currently Second Knight of the Knights of St. Andrew. While our First Knight, Bro. Segerstrom, prepares for his year as the Potentate of El Bekal Shrine, Bro. Schrader has stepped up to assume the functions of that office and is leading the way handily. The KSA program has come together well, and under Matt's leadership, we will see great things from this group.

Our September meeting (9/9) is very special. We will celebrate the Feast of Tishri, and are honored to have with us as a special guest one of our Valley founders, Ill. Donald Tapia, Grand Cross. Ill. Tapia chaired the formation committee and was the driving force behind the club that became our Valley, and we welcome him home warmly. We will have a few other members that we don't often see, so you won't want to miss this.

Other Valley events are covered elsewhere in this newsletter, but I am particularly excited that the Blue Slipper Club, our wives, ladies and partners group, has planned a trip for their members. In November, they'll travel to Solvang for a weekend. It's great to see them socializing; it bodes well for the future of our Valley.

We Masons so often plant the seeds of trees whose shade we will never enjoy, satisfied that our work today will benefit our fellows in the future. Once in a while, though, we get to see sprouts sooner than expected, and the Valley development of this past year has been such a time. I'd sure like to see more of you at a meeting, of course, and hope to see you soon. It is a joy to experience our members, new and old, see how much the Valley has to offer.



The Orange County Scottish Rite Valley

Orange Masonic Center, 71 Plaza Square, Orange, CA 92866 • Phone (714) 543-7277
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-2pm • www.ocscottishrite.org

Stated Meetings on the second Monday of the month, 6:30 pm; dinner follows at 7:15 pm (reservations requested) at the Orange Grove Masonic Center, 71 Plaza Square, Orange, California.

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction



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



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



III. Ralph Shelton, 33°
Personal Representative of the
Sovereign Grand Inspector
General, Orient of California



Jack C. Hennings Jr., 32°
Assistant to the Personal
Representative

Orange County Valley Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Lodge of Perfection	Chapter Rose Croix	Council of Kadosh	Consistory
Venerable Master Hon. James McCallion, 32° KCCH	Wise Master Russ Hennings, 32°	Commander Alejo Velarde, 32°	Master of Kadosh Barry McKinley, 32°
Senior Warden Larry Griffin, 32°	Senior Warden Diego Verduzco, 32°	1st Lieutenant Commander Adam Provence, 32°	Prior Hon. David Solivan, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden James Segerstrom, 32°	Junior Warden Erik Harbour, 32°	2nd Lieutenant Commander Paxton Dickerson, 32°	Preceptor Ross Hernandez, 32° KSA
		Chancellor Brandon Cook, 32°	Chancellor Jonathon Dilley
Orator Christian DeDios, 32°	Orator Christian DeDios, 32°	Orator Christian DeDios, 32°	Minister of State Christian DeDios, 32°
Almoner David Kussman, 33°	Almoner David Kussman, 33°	Almoner David Kussman, 33°	Almoner David Kussman, 33°
Secretary Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH	Secretary Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH	Recorder Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH	Registrar Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH
Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32°	Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32°	Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32°	Treasurer Bro. David Gilman, 32°
Prelate Hon. James Cervantes, 32° KCCH	Prelate Hon. James Cervantes, 32° KCCH	Prelate Hon. James Cervantes, 32° KCCH	Prelate Hon. James Cervantes, 32° KCCH
Master of Cermonies David Lockwood, 32°	Master of Cermonies David Lockwood, 32°	Marshall of Ceremonies David Lockwood, 32°	Marshall of Ceremonies David Lockwood, 32°
Expert Justin DaSilva, 32°	Expert Justin DaSilva, 32°	First Deacon Justin DaSilva, 32°	Expert Justin DaSilva, 32°
Assistant Expert Keith Jones, 32°	Assistant Expert Keith Jones, 32°	Second Deacon Keith Jones, 32°	Assistant Expert Keith Jones, 32°
Standard Bearer	Bearer of Beauseant	Bearer of White Standard	Bearer of Black Standard
Captain of the Host	Guardian of the Temple	Lieutenant of the Guard	Captains of the Guard
Tiler	Tiler	Sentinel	Tiler



SUPER *Breakfast*

Sunday, October 13th, 2024

Location:

Orange Grove Masonic Center
71 Plaza Square, Orange, CA 92866.

9AM to 12PM

To reserve your spot, mail your check to our office with the included return envelope, specifying the number of attendees.



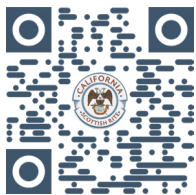
Cost is \$15 per adult and \$8 for children ten years and under.

Breakfast Offerings Include:

Fresh Fruit Platter, Omelet Station, Pancake and Waffle Bar, Breakfast Meats, Breakfast Potatoes, Assorted Pastries and Breakfast Burritos

Net Proceeds Will Go to the Orange County Valley General Fund

RSVP





SAVE THE DATE

OC HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL

HOSTED BY THE SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY
OF ORANGE COUNTY

ORANGE GROVE LODGE

October 11, 2024

Look forward to

A Haunted House, Costume Contest, Spooky
Entertainment and Much More.

Net Proceeds Benefit the RiteCare Childhood
Language Center of Orange County

