

Incredible Turnout For Our September Speaker!





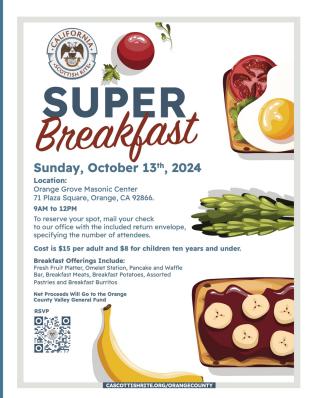
Ladies Night

Look inside for the Blue Slipper Club Solvang Weekend Getaway!

Special Blue Slipper Club Holiday Make-Up Tutorial This month!







Get ready for a frightfully fun night at the Halloween Costume Ball hosted by the Scottish Rite Valley of Orange County! Enjoy spooky entertainment, a haunted house, and a costume contest with thrilling prizes. There will be plenty of food, drinks, and Halloween surprises to keep the night exciting!

Date: October 11, 2024

Time: 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Location: Orange Grove Lodge, 71 Plaza Square, Orange, CA 92866

Ticket Price: \$80

Net proceeds will support the Orange County RiteCare Childhood Language Center.

Don't miss this spooktacular event—grab your tickets today!

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing this memorable evening with you. Together, we can make a significant impact!

Warm regards,
California Scottish Rite Foundation

P.S. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@casrf.org.

(714) 547-7325

OC COSTUME BALL $\ \ominus$





10th Moon Cycle: Weaving the Web & the Knight of the Sword

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



"Weaves the Web Shamanism"

In October, during the 10th Moon Cycle, we focus on the teachings of "Weaves the Web," the Keeper of the creative and destructive principle. It is here that we are taught to Walk the Truth by manifesting beauty and truth into physical form. When we use our hands, we demonstrate our willingness to serve all our relations and break through limitations, forging something new.

Weaves the Web guides us in utilizing the life force present in the four elements: air, earth, water, and fire. We learn to blend these elements with the creative essence bestowed upon us by the Great Mystery. This creative spark, known as the Eternal Flame of Love, resides within our spiritual essence.

While it is said that weaving the web of our life experience with love and truth, with the desire to share the abundance caught therein, will manifest balance and the fulfillment of dreams, weaving a web through vices such as greed or laziness will imprison us. Greed binds the strands too tightly to receive and is too restrictive for generosity and sharing. When woven too loosely, the strands of sloth lack the necessary strength and durability. A web woven from fear (cowardice) or anger (wrath) will only attract the challenges needed to overcome them. It seems that across many philosophies and schools of thought, the axiom "the Truth will set you free" prevails.

At first glance, one might consider the Chapter Rose Croix, with its four degrees, as contributing to a single general message rooted in Rosicrucianism. While there are numerous connections to nature and processes of alchemical transformation, the literature of these degrees groups them differently.

The 15th and 16th degrees are referred to as the Second Temple Degrees, marking the period when King Solomon's Temple underwent reconstruction. This was a challenging and dark time, but it taught us to persevere through adversity.

In the 15th Degree, Knight of the East, of the Sword, or of the Eagle, we are instructed in the duties of "Rebuilding the Masonic Temple of Liberty, equality, and fraternity in the souls of men and of nations" (A Bridge to Light). Here, we learn of King Solomon and the Israelites finding themselves abandoned by the Lord and cast into slavery in Babylon. Brother Zerubbabel endeavors to ask King Cyrus ("The Great") to free his people and permit them to resume the building of the temple. The trials and tribulations found in this degree are lessons in "fidelity to trust, honor, and duty" and "perseverance and constancy under difficulties and discouragements."

I found an interesting parallel between the Shamanic Web and the Masonic Sword of the 15th degree, particularly in their shared philosophy of how they should be forged:



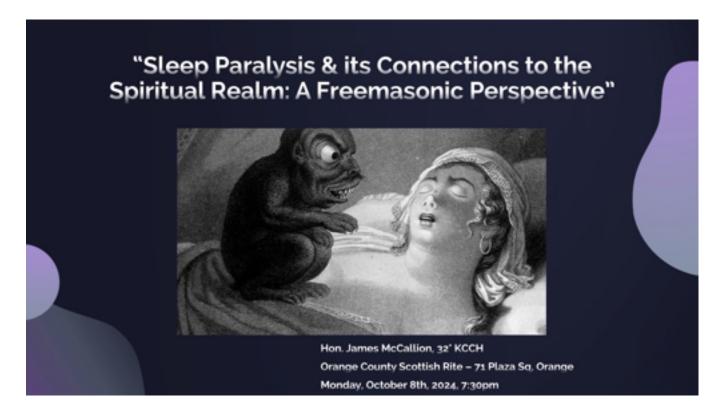
Jewel of the 15th Degree – Knight of the East, of the Sword, or of the Eagle

"Great swords are made by repeatedly plunging their blades into the extremes of hot and cold. By analogy, we here learn a lesson that foreshadows the reconciliation of opposites: we are taught to make advantage out of adversity (AASR RM&G)."

I ask that in the month of October, you meditate on how you can work towards Walking the Truth and demonstrating your willingness to serve the fraternity. I call you to defy limitations and forge something new. I invite you to attend and/or participate in our October 2024 Fall Reunion (Saturday, October 19th, and Sunday, October 20th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Aho,

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





A Lot of Great Things Happening!

Russ Hennings, 32° Wise Master

Lately, I've been feeling the incredible energy and excitement that our Valley has been creating. It's not just about how many of us show up to meetings or how smoothly our events run—it's about the sense of brotherhood, learning, and growth that each one of you brings to our gatherings.

We've seen a lot of great things happening lately. From our degree work to social events, the enthusiasm is clear. This isn't just a place to gather once a month; it's a place where we connect, support each other, and grow together. What really makes our Valley so special is the people—the connections we make, the support we give to the language center, and the positive energy we share. Every time someone takes part in a degree, helps prepare a meal, or just shows up ready to engage, they're adding to the vibrancy of our Valley. It's the brother who offers guidance to a newer member, the one who quietly makes sure everything runs smoothly, and those who bring new ideas and excitement. This collective effort is what makes our Valley so lively and welcoming.

We've been working hard to create a space where everyone feels valued and involved. Whether it's through our meetings, educational activities, or fundraising for the foundation, there's a sense of purpose driving us forward. And it's something we should all be proud of. This energy reminds us of what we can accomplish when we come together. It's about creating a place where we not only learn and grow but also enjoy the journey. That's what makes our Valley stand out and why it's a place we're all eager to be a part of.

I want to thank each of you for your dedication, energy, and passion. It's your willingness to get involved and contribute that makes our Valley a special place. Let's keep this positive energy going and carry it into everything we do. Together, there's so much we can achieve.

Here's to the journey ahead and the incredible path we're creating in the Valley of Orange County.

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





Scottish Rite Super Breakfast

Alejo Velarde, 32° Commander of Kadosh

The September stated meeting was truly remarkable. If you missed it, you missed an inspiring visit from one of our OCSR founders, Illustrious Donal Tapia. His story of dedication and commitment was both motivational and uplifting, reminding us of the power of community and the difference we can make together. Let's remain dedicated to supporting our Valley and the Child Language Center, making our collective efforts more impactful each day.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 13th, from 9 AM to 12 PM, for our Super Breakfast. This event is more than just a meal—it's a wonderful opportunity to come together, strengthen our bonds, and celebrate our shared achievements. It's a chance to reconnect, share stories, and reinforce the spirit of brotherhood that defines our Valley. We encourage you to bring your family and friends, making it the perfect occasion to share the warmth, camaraderie, and values of our community with those we care about.

The Super Breakfast promises to be a memorable morning filled with good food, great company, and the joy of being together. 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 day to remember, celebrating our unity and the bright future ahead for our Valley.



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



https://www.ocscottishrite.org



https://www.facebook.com/ocscottishrite



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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,

It was truly an honor to preside over our September meeting, and I'm pleased to say that we are officially two-thirds through the year. The turnout for the evening was impressive, with a number of distinguished guests joining us, making it a memorable night for our valley. It is always uplifting to see so many familiar and new faces come together in the spirit of brotherhood.

One of the highlights of the evening was the inspiring words from our guest speaker, His Excellency the Illustrious Donald Tapia. As one of the original founders of our valley, his reflections on its formation were both insightful and touching. His time serving as U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica was also a fascinating journey, and we were fortunate to hear his experiences firsthand. We extend our deepest gratitude to him for his continued support of our valley and the RiteCare Childhood Language Center.

As we move forward, we look with great anticipation toward the Fall Reunion on October 19th and 20th. This is a special time to welcome new members and to reaffirm the values that bind us as Scottish Rite Masons. I encourage everyone to join us for what promises to be a remarkable and meaningful event.

Additionally, mark your calendars for the Halloween fundraiser for the Childhood Language Center on October 13th. This will be a fun and festive opportunity to support a cause close to our hearts, and your participation will help make a positive impact on the lives of the children we serve.

Let's keep this momentum going as we head into the final months of the year. I am proud of the progress we've made together and look forward to the exciting events ahead.

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

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



From the General Secretary
Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH
General Secretary

Brethren:

Autumn Greetings to all of the Brothers of our Valley. Our September Stated Meeting was one of the best Stated Meetings that I have personally attended in over 12 years of Valley membership. Our SGIG and his wife, Illustrious Frank Loui 33rd and Mrs. Jeanie Loui came down from Northern California to visit us. It was great having them in attendance. Next, the founding member of our Valley and our Childhood Language Center, Illustrious Don Tapia 33rd, came to visit. After our excellent dinner, Illustrious Tapia gave an enlightening talk about the history of our Valley our, our Childhood Language Center, and his term as the U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica.

The Valley will be holding our Fall Reunion on Saturday & Sunday, October 19th & 20th. The Reunion will begin in the morning and end in the afternoon on both days. Come by for an hour and watch the exemplification of one of our degrees. On Sunday October 13th, the Valley will be holding our Fall Super Breakfast at the Orange Grove Masonic Lodge. The event will take place between 9 am and noon. The food is always exceptional with the custom omelets and breakfast burritos being very popular. If you missed the mailing and you want to buy tickets, you can send a check along with your name to the mailing address below. The cost for the Super Breakfast is \$15 per adult and \$8 per child ten years old and under. Also, you can show up and pay at the door. Our new mailing address is: OCSR, 5267 Warner Ave. #258, Huntington Beach, CA. 92649.

The Valley office wants to thank the Brethren for the many 2025 dues payments that we have received. If you prefer to pay your dues online with a credit card, you can do so on the Supreme Council website (scottishrite.org) or hit the tab on our Valley website (ocscottishrite.org) which also takes you to the payment portal. We have a strong Valley and look forward to initiating new members at the October Reunion. Enjoy October.

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



Jalapeno's Taco Bar!
Chef's Special: Grilled chicken,
el pastor, carne asada with tortillas
beans and rice!





We're Doing Great!Hon. James Olivier, 32° KCCH Prelate, Director of The Work

I'll take a moment to pop my head out from under the rock of rehearsals, coordinating schedules and people... and all the other fun that we go through to bring the reunion to life and let everyone know how things are progressing.

We're doing great! I'd like to thank the Brethren who have stepped up to take roles in the degrees including a few Brothers from the Valley of Long Beach who have helped with some last minute substitutions due to scheduling conflicts. Which goes to show that we are all stronger and better together!

Remember that our reunion will be taking place on October 19 and 20. Both days will have the first degrees starting at 9AM and we'll try to have things wrapped up by 2-3PM each day. The degrees being performed in their full form will be the 4th, 14th and 18th on October 19. And the 23rd, 30th, 31st, and 32nd on October 20! So remember to come out and support our casts and most importantly, your new Scottish Rite Brothers (at the time of writing, we have 7 in our class). It's very important to see the degrees, but also it's a great chance to come out and show our new members what the Valley of Orange County is all about!



Blue Slipper Club - Holiday Makeup Tutorial!

Erin McKinley

Join us at the October meeting for a holiday makeup tutorial. We are excited to have Kara Fredrickson join us for the Blue Slipper Club's program. Kara is a professional makeup artist and fellow Mason's lady. She will be giving us some makeup tips and tricks for all those upcoming holiday parties as well as your everyday makeup wear. Not only do we have the pleasure of the tutorial, we will be doing this all while enjoying some fabulous wine!



Scottish Rite Caps: A Detailed Look at Symbols of Rank and Service

Shawn E Bell, 32°

Scottish Rite caps are powerful symbols of progression and honor within the fraternity. Each cap's intricate design reflects a degree or position of service, marking the wearer's journey through the Rite. What follows is a simple break down the details of each cap.

32°, Master of the Royal Secret

The cap for a Master of the Royal Secret is circular and crafted from heavy black grosgrain silk, symbolizing wisdom and discretion. It features a band of black silk braid, edged with gold on both the top and bottom. Centered on the front is a double-headed eagle emblem with a rayed equilateral triangle and the number "32" above it, a key symbol in the Scottish Rite. The cap is further distinguished by a regulation gilt bullion double overcord fastened at the lower edge with gold-plated buttons, each embossed with a double-headed eagle.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

Fifty-Year Member

This light blue cap, designed for members who have served the Rite for fifty years, is also circular in style. Made from light blue grosgrain silk, the cap features a band of the same material, edged with gold. At the center is the number "50," encircled by an embroidered green laurel wreath, symbolizing achievement and longevity. Like other caps, it includes a gilt bullion double overcord fastened with gold-plated buttons, embossed with the double-headed eagle emblem.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

32°, Knight Commander of the Court of Honour

The red grosgrain silk cap for the Knight Commander is both elegant and richly symbolic. The band of red silk is edged with gold, and at its center is a jewel representing the Knight Commander's rank: a Passion Cross with ornate arms resting on a laurel wreath. Surrounding the cross is a double circle of white grosgrain silk inscribed with "KT.: COMM.: COURT OF HONOUR" in gold. The trefoil, embroidered in green silk, lies at the heart of the inner circle, representing the high honor of the degree. The cap includes the gilt bullion double overcord fastened with gold-plated buttons, embossed with the double-headed eagle emblem present on all other Scottish Rite caps.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

33°, Inspector General Honorary

Reserved for Inspectors General Honorary, this white grosgrain silk cap reflects the pinnacle of achievement in the Scottish Rite. A white silk velour band edged in gold enhances the cap's elegant design. At its center is a slanted Patriarchal Cross without crosslets, symbolizing the wearer's distinguished status. A gilt bullion overcord and gold-plated double-headed eagle buttons complete the cap, marking the wearer's exemplary service. This cap also sports the gilt bullion double overcord fastened with gold-plated buttons, embossed with the double-headed eagle.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

33°, Grand Cross of the Court of Honour

The Grand Cross of the Court of Honour cap is circular and crafted from heavy white grosgrain silk, featuring a luxurious band of blue silk velvet. The Grand Cross jewel adorns the front—a Teutonic Cross resting on a wreath of oak leaves. A crimson rose with green leaves and stem is embroidered in the middle of the cross on white silk, encircled by blue silk inscribed with "GR... CROSS COURT OF HONOUR." The intricate design symbolizes the highest form of recognition within the Scottish Rite. It is completed with a gilt bullion double overcord fastened with gold-plated buttons, embossed with the double-headed eagle.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

Deputy of the Supreme Council, 33°

The Deputy of the Supreme Council cap is crafted from white grosgrain silk and features a striking scarlet velvet band, representing governance within the Rite. The Patriarchal Cross without crosslets is centered on the front of the cap, symbolizing the Deputy's authority. This cap also includes the traditional gilt bullion overcord and gold-plated buttons, marked with the double-headed eagle.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Supreme Council, 33°

This purple grosgrain silk cap, with a band of purple silk velvet embroidered in a laurel vine, leaf, and berry pattern, is reserved for Active Members of the Supreme Council. The front is adorned with a slanted Patriarchal Cross with crosslets, a mark of leadership and distinction. The intricate laurel embroidery emphasizes the wearer's high position and responsibility within the fraternity. The gilt bullion overcord and gold-plated buttons embossed with the double-headed eagle also adorn this cap.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°

The Sovereign Grand Commander's cap is made of violet grosgrain silk with a darker violet velvet band embroidered with laurel vine patterns. The centerpiece is a slanting Cross of Salem with crosslets, symbolizing the ultimate authority in the Scottish Rite. Like the other caps, it includes the traditional gilt bullion overcord and gold-plated buttons embossed with the double-headed eagle, signifying the Commander's unparalleled leadership.



Photo Credit: Scottish Rite, SJ

Each of these caps serves as a visual symbol of the wearer's journey, rank, and commitment to the Scottish Rite. From the black cap of the 32° Master of the Royal Secret to the violet cap of the Sovereign Grand Commander.



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.



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.



School Is Back In Session!

Leora Shaffer, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinic Manager/Supervisor

School is back in session and CLC has opened its doors to welcome 12 new interns and 4 new graduate assistants from Chapman University as well as new and returning clients! We have also welcomed two new supervisors: Hagar Madnick, M.A., CCC-SLP and Danielle Pulliam, M.S., CCC-SLP. This trimester we are providing in-person services Tuesdays-Fridays.

It has been wonderful to see the excited and smiling faces of our returning children as they bounce through the door awaiting their new clinicians. Therapy sessions started this week and evaluations for new clients will begin next week. This year we are hoping to reach out to more referral sources to provide services to more families in our community.







Personal Representative of the SGIG Orient of California

III. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°

As we enter the third quarter, I am pleased with the progress of our Valley to date. As I've mentioned before, we have had gradual continuing growth in engagement, evidenced by our last meeting where our head count was over 50. Ten of those were the Blue Slipper Club, our wives and partners group, who enjoyed their time of fellowship while we took care of our business meeting. The program was engaging and appreciated, and I am proud of our Valley Leadership for their hard work, and we especially thank our special guests for their contribution, notably III. Donald Tapia, G.C., our speaker. His presentation, along with the presentation of a 50 year cap to Bro. Rob Scott, were certainly highlights of our Feast of Tishri observance.

In the near future, you will see a few additional initiatives implemented. Our recent member survey disclosed that we have members who wish to engage but who are prevented from attending due to health, distance, or family obligations such as caring for a loved one. To address this, we are preparing to offer those members who are prevented from being with us personally the opportunity to attend virtually via a remote feed. This has been reviewed with the SGIG and Supreme, and the appropriate safeguards will be in place, of course. I am excited to offer this opportunity to those who are unable to attend our meetings and programs.

As always, I'd like to hear more from you, the Masters of the Royal Secret of our Valley. I'll be at the upcoming Reunion and, of course the Super Breakfast, and I'm always just a phone call away - so reach out and let's talk.

Sincerely and fraternally,

INSPECTOR GENERAL HONORARY III. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°

Personal Representative of the

Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California

In the Valley of Orange County

71 Plaza Square Orange, CA 92866

T: 714.543.7277 | M: 714.269.8359

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	Wise Master	Commander	Master of Kadosh
Hon. James McCallion, 32° KCCH	Russ Hennings, 32°	Alejo Velarde, 32°	Barry McKinley, 32°
Senior Warden	Senior Warden	1st Lieutenant Commander	Prior
Larry Griffin, 32°	Diego Verduzco, 32°	Adam Provence, 32°	Hon. David Solivan, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden	Junior Warden	2nd Lieutenant Commander	Preceptor
James Segerstrom, 32°	Erik Harbour, 32°	Paxton Dickerson, 32°	Ross Hernandez, 32° KSA
		Chancellor Brandon Cook, 32°	Chancellor Jonathon Dilley
Orator	Orator	Orator	Minister of State
Christian DeDios, 32°	Christian DeDios, 32°	Christian DeDios, 32°	Christian DeDios, 32°
Almoner	Almoner	Almoner	Almoner
David Harrington, 32°	David Harrington, 32°	David Harrington, 32°	David Harrington, 32°
Secretary	Secretary	Recorder	Registrar
Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH	Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH	Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH	Hon. Jamie Hopkins, 32° KCCH
Treasurer	Treasurer	Treasurer	Treasurer
Bro. David Gilman, 32°	Bro. David Gilman, 32°	Bro. David Gilman, 32°	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	Master of Cermonies	Marshall of Ceremonies	Marshall of Ceremonies
David Lockwood, 32°	David Lockwood, 32°	David Lockwood, 32°	David Lockwood, 32°
Expert	Expert	First Deacon	Expert Justin DaSilva, 32°
Justin DaSilva, 32°	Justin DaSilva, 32°	Justin DaSilva, 32°	
Assistant Expert	Assistant Expert	Second Deacon	Assistant Expert
Keith Jones, 32°	Keith Jones, 32°	Keith Jones, 32°	Keith Jones, 32°