



# Orange County Scottish Rite

ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION

Volume 44, Issue 11

November 2024

## Welcome Our New Brothers Fresh From Our Fall Reunion!



### Ladies Night

Look inside for the **Blue Slipper Club** Solvang Weekend Getaway!

**LOOKING FOR FURTHER LIGHT?**

THE  
SCOTTISH RITE  
IS FOR **YOU!**



billy



*Join us for a  
heartwarming, homemade*  
**THANKSGIVING  
FEAST!**

at our November Stated Meeting on  
November 11! We'll be serving a comforting  
spread of holiday favorites to welcome the  
season. **RSVP TODAY!**

The table will feature two massive, carved turkeys roasted to perfection, accompanied by Lucille's famous fluffy biscuits served with sweet apple butter, creamy, indulgent mac and cheese, loaded mashed potatoes with all the fixings, sauteed seasonal vegetables, and smoked jalapeño cheddar cornbread. Enjoy generous helpings of warm peach cobbler and decadent chocolate cake for dessert!

<https://bit.ly/ThanksgivingFEAST>

**RSVP HERE**



**THANKSGIVING FEAST!**



## 11th Moon Cycle: Walks Tall & The Knight of the Royal Axe

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



*"Walks Tall – Shamanic Sacred Elder"*

In November, during the 11th Moon Cycle of our Shamanic journey, we focus on the teachings of "Walks Tall," the guardian of leadership and keeper of new pathways. This Clan Mother teaches us to lead by example, emphasizing the importance of aligning our actions with our words.

Her wisdom reminds us that true change comes from within—through our own efforts rather than waiting for others to act. We learn to take pride in our achievements through self-respect, not self-importance. The more we hone our skills, the more content we become with ourselves.

Walks Tall understands that actions speak louder than words. When we live according to our beliefs, we embody our personal truths. Walking in truth frees us from worrying about the opinions of others.

She emphasizes leading by being our best selves, exploring all possibilities, and embracing innovation. By refining our personal truths, we walk our Earth Walk with purpose.

The 11th Moon also gifts us with persistence and endurance, highlighting the importance of health. Walking tall in truth is reflected in how we carry ourselves with grace, maintaining balance in body, mind, and spirit. Grounded yet adaptable, we become flexible enough to allow others to follow their own unique paths.

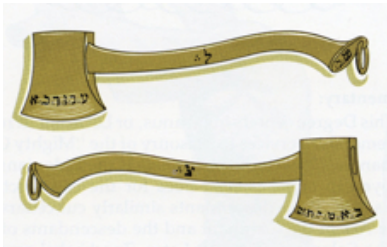
The wisdom of Walks Tall aligns beautifully with the 22nd Degree, Knight of the Royal Axe, or Prince Libanus, as both shed light on the nobility of "labor as a noble pursuit."

According to the literature of the Scottish Rite, "The 22nd degree is called Knight of the Axe, or Prince of Libanus, because it takes place in Libanus, or Lebanon. It commemorates the significant contributions of the mighty cedars of Lebanon to Masonry. The legend tells us that the Sidonians were employed in cutting these trees for the construction of Noah's Ark. Their descendants similarly harvested cedars for the Ark of the Covenant, and later generations cut cedars for King Solomon's Temple. Later, Zerubbabel employed them to help build the Second Temple. They established colleges on Mount Lebanon and, in their labors, revered the Great Architect of the Universe. A secret sect of Druses, or Theists, still resides there and conducts their mystic ceremonies."

This degree explores the concept of shedding titles and nobility and personally earning the rewards one seeks. "We are taught that labor is central to all Masonic instruction, that we are a craft of work, supervised by Masters who draw upon the trestle board, and whose designs enable us to construct edifices—whether mental or physical, spiritual or material."



Apron of the 22nd Degree,  
Knight of the Royal Axe



"We are fortunate that every member of the Scottish Rite has many opportunities to engage in our humanitarian efforts, elevating men to a higher consciousness, promoting a law-abiding, moral, and enlightened citizenry, and supporting the great principles of freedom, civil and religious liberty, free enterprise, and a government responsive to the people. This type of work transforms worry, self-pity, and idleness into avenues of dynamic action with noble and God-blessed rewards."

I ask that in the month of November, you meditate on how you can work towards Walking Tall, embracing the principles of leading by example, refining your personal truths, and honoring the noble pursuit of labor, as taught by both Walks Tall and Knight of the Royal Axe. Consider how your actions, grounded in truth and dedication, can contribute to the betterment of yourself and those around you.

Aho,

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

### SCOTTISH RITE NEWS - NOVEMBER 2024 - VOLUME 44, ISSUE 11

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



## A Legacy of Giving: Supporting the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County Lot of Great Things Happening!

**Russ Hennings, 32°  
Wise Master**

As Masons, we are called to embody the principles of charity, compassion, and community service. One of the ways we live these values in the Valley of Orange County is through our unwavering support of the RiteCare Childhood Language Center (CLC) of Orange County. This incredible organization, in partnership with Chapman University, has a long-standing history of providing life-changing speech and language therapy services to children in need—services that are made possible, in large part, through your generous donations.

The 19 RiteCare Childhood Language Centers across California, including our very own Orange County location, are dedicated to helping children overcome speech and language disorders that can impact their ability to communicate effectively. These services give children the tools they need to succeed academically and socially, empowering them to thrive in all aspects of life. The impact of these programs cannot be overstated; they give children a voice—literally and figuratively—and open doors to a brighter future.

What makes the Orange County CLC truly special is its collaboration with Chapman University. The partnership between our CLC and Chapman's Communication Sciences and Disorders Program provides tremendous benefits not only for the children who receive care but also for the graduate students training to become licensed speech-language pathologists (SLPs). This partnership creates a unique environment where education, service, and philanthropy converge to deliver the best possible outcomes for both the children and the students.

### **For the Children:**

Through our collective support, the children who come to the RiteCare CLC receive individualized and comprehensive speech and language therapy services at no cost to their families. These services are critical for children who struggle with communication delays or disorders, allowing them to participate fully in their education and social lives. Whether it's a child learning to express themselves for the first time, gaining confidence in their communication, or improving their academic performance, the work being done at the CLC is life changing.

Our donations help fund the resources necessary for these therapies, from state-of-the-art equipment to the best-trained professionals. Because of this support, families who might not otherwise have access to quality speech and language services are given hope—and their children, a brighter future.

### **For the Students:**

The partnership with Chapman University also provides invaluable benefits to the graduate students enrolled in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program. Under the guidance of licensed professionals, these students work hands-on with children at the CLC, applying the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom to real-world situations. This practical experience is essential in helping these future SLPs develop the expertise needed to work in a clinical setting.

In turn, these students bring a fresh perspective, innovative ideas, and the latest research to the table, ensuring that the children receiving care benefit from cutting-edge techniques and personalized approaches to therapy. By supporting the CLC, we are not only helping children in the present, but we are also investing in the next generation of speech-language pathologists who will continue to make a difference in the future.

**The Role of Our Valley:**

As a member of the Valley of Orange County, your contributions directly impact the lives of children and families in our community. The donations we provide to the RiteCare CLC ensure that these essential services remain available to those who need them most. But beyond the financial support, our Valley's involvement demonstrates our commitment to making a difference in the world around us—one child, one family, and one community at a time.

Through our ongoing efforts, we help these children find their voices, giving them the ability to express themselves and engage with the world in meaningful ways. It is a powerful reminder of the positive change we can make when we work together for the common good.

**Moving Forward Together:**

As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to continue supporting this vital cause, whether through financial contributions, volunteering, or simply spreading awareness of the incredible work being done at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County. Our partnership with Chapman University and our commitment to the children who rely on these services will remain a shining example of the good we can achieve as Masons.

Together, we can ensure that the RiteCare CLC continues to be a beacon of hope for children in need, and we can take pride in knowing that our Valley is part of this transformative work.

If you would like to donate to our CLC, please go to: <https://www.casrf.org/orangecounty>

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



## Welcome Our New 32° Masters of the Royal Secret!

Join us at our **November Stated Meeting** as we gather in celebration at our Fall Reunion Class Cap and Ring Ceremony, welcoming our new 32° Masters of the Royal Secret into our Valley. This time-honored tradition brings together our brethren in fellowship and recognition of those who have reached this esteemed degree. We look forward to an evening of unity, honor, and celebration with all of you.





## Thank You For a SUPER Scottish Rite Super Breakfast

**Alejo Velarde, 32°  
Commander of Kadosh**

Thank You to Our Scottish Rite Fellows for Supporting Last Month's Super Breakfast

We are truly grateful to our Scottish Rite Fellows for their incredible support during last month's Super Breakfast. Your presence and contributions were invaluable in making the event a tremendous success. Together, we celebrated not just a meal, but the strong bonds of brotherhood and our shared mission to uplift the community.

A special thank you goes out to Brother Matias, who surprised us all with his incredible culinary skills, delivering a breakfast that was both delicious and memorable. His efforts added a personal touch to the event, making it even more meaningful.

In addition, As Scottish Rite Masons, our commitment to supporting the Children's Language Center is rooted in our core values of charity, community, and personal growth. By continuing to provide resources and support for this vital institution, we help children overcome speech and language challenges, giving them the tools they need to communicate effectively and thrive. Our involvement not only uplifts the lives of these children and their families but also strengthens our fraternity's legacy of compassion and service. Every contribution reinforces our shared mission of making a lasting, positive impact on the communities we serve.

Thank you once again to everyone. Let's continue to uphold our values of brotherhood and service, knowing that we are making a profound difference in the lives of those who need it most.



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



<https://www.ocscottishrite.org>



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



<https://www.facebook.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 step into November, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Masters of the Royal Secret, who recently joined us during our Fall Reunion. It was a pleasure to see their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the degrees, and we are proud to have them join our ranks. Their addition to our valley brings fresh energy, and I am excited to see how they will contribute to the strength and unity of our brotherhood.

The Fall Reunion was a testament to the dedication of all those involved—officers, degree teams, and the many brothers who came out to support the event. The hard work and effort put into each part of the reunion made it a truly special experience for our new members and a meaningful reminder for us all of the values that we uphold as Scottish Rite Masons. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a success.

As we look ahead, let us remember the importance of welcoming and guiding our new brothers. This time of transition is an opportunity for us to share our knowledge, experience, and the rich traditions of our valley. It's also a chance to deepen our bonds and to ensure that every member, new and old, feels connected and valued within our community.

With the holiday season just around the corner, we also have many opportunities to come together in fellowship. Let's continue to support each other, both within the lodge and in our wider community. Your presence and participation are what make our valley a place of warmth, learning, and brotherhood.

Thank you for your continued dedication, and I look forward to the meaningful moments yet to come as we approach the end of this Masonic year.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

Sliced honey ham, meatloaf w/gravy, scalloped potatoes, candied roasted brussels sprouts with rosemary, dinner rolls, and pumpkin pie

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/ThanksgivingFEAST>



## 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](http://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.





## From the General Secretary

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

Congratulations to our newest Masters of the Royal Secret. In late October, we held our Fall Reunion and welcomed 6 new 32° Masons in to the Valley of Orange County. The Valley performed the 5 mandatory degrees along with 2 additional degrees. The classroom instruction for the remaining 22 degrees was superb. We also held our Fall Super Breakfast on the Sunday before Reunion weekend. The food was very good and a great time was had by all. We thank all the Brothers and their families and friends who attended the breakfast. We also thank the Brothers who kindly sent in donations and were unable to make it. All ticket sales go directly to support our Valley. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Payments for 2025 dues are coming in steadily. Another dues mailing will go out from our Supreme Council in early November for dues not received by early October. If you have any questions whatsoever about your dues status, please contact the Secretary at the email below.

Our November Stated Meeting is on Monday, November 11th at 6:30 pm at the Orange Grove Lodge in Orange. We will be holding our Cap & Ring Ceremony for our newest members. Please come by and welcome these Brothers. Have an outstanding Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,  
 Jamie Hopkins, 32nd KCCH  
 General Secretary  
[gensec@ocscottishrite.org](mailto:gensec@ocscottishrite.org)

## LOOKING FOR FURTHER LIGHT IN MASONRY?

If you are a Master Mason and would like to learn more about Freemasonry, then consider the "College of Freemasonry" - The Orange County Scottish Rite! Come by our Stated Meeting night and enjoy a meal, meet local Brothers you already know, to start a personal journey to further light in Masonry.

<https://bit.ly/ApplicationForDegrees>





## Celebrating Brotherhood: October Reunion Success and Future Opportunities

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

Another reunion is down, done, dusted, and in the books. Your brethren put on a great reunion for our new Scottish Rite brothers on October 19th and 20th, where we exemplified the 4th, 14th, 18th, 23rd, 30th, 31st, and 32nd Degrees. I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of everyone involved. Through moves and schedule changes, everyone came together to the best of their abilities to pull this one off, and I could not be more grateful.

We have had a busy year in ritual with two reunions and assisting our Brothers at Pasadena, participating in the state-wide reunion in Oakland, and even as far away as Washington, D.C., where our own Hon. David Soliven is a member of their 18th Degree team. Over the years it's been an absolute privilege and pleasure to help our Scottish Rite Brethren all over the Southern Jurisdiction as they work on their own degrees, and I know it doesn't stop there! Our most important work is right here in our home Valley. I'm happy to report that we're already seeing more interest from Brothers in getting involved with our reunions moving forward!

The next few years will provide you all with great opportunities to be more involved both here and around Southern California! First, I actively need to solicit help for Degree Masters and Cast Members for the degrees we perform here. This gives us a good starting point in 2025 to expand how many degrees we are able to perform not only for our new Brothers but also for ourselves. Remember, we learn by doing! Next comes 2026, when the next state-wide reunion will take place at the Pasadena Scottish Rite Temple. There will be plenty of opportunities for us to participate there as well. So, let's get to work and have fun in the process!



## California Scottish Rite Foundation

The Orange County Valley of the Scottish Rite supports the California Scottish Rite Foundation, which is committed to transforming the lives of children across the state through its vital speech-language and literacy programs. By offering individualized RiteCare Childhood Language Programs, the Foundation empowers children to build essential communication skills, enhancing their self-confidence and independence. These best-in-class services are crafted to meet the unique needs of developing children and their families, providing a pathway to academic success without any financial burden to the families involved.

Dedicated Speech-Language Pathologists are equipped with the resources needed to create positive, lasting change, thanks to the generous support of donors and granting foundations. The Orange County Valley takes pride in knowing our support plays a crucial role in fulfilling the Foundation's mission. Together, we are building a brighter future—one child at a time. [www.casrf.org](http://www.casrf.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](mailto:jackie-shelton@outlook.com) by 9/21/2024.



## Hello and happy Fall!

Laurie Lennon Thompson, M.S., CCC-SLP, Supervisor

We are midway through the trimester, and we are having fun with autumn themes such as apple picking, playing with colored leaves, and a favorite of so many, Halloween. Our wonderful Chapman graduate assistants have created fall decorations that delight and capture the attention of our young clients. Our interns are learning to incorporate fall themes in therapy to help their clients learn novel vocabulary that they can use to communicate and engage with friends, family members, and others in their communities. This week, our friend Sam had success with his "R" sound when he learned to use it in the phrase, "Trick or Treat." He is excited to go trick or treating with his cousin and practice his new skill!





## Personal Representative of the SGIG Orient of California

III. Ralph C. Shelton II, 33°

We are nearing year-end, and it has been quite an exciting year. The Valley has experienced a net positive growth in membership and, more importantly, a dramatic increase in engagement over the past year. Our Blue Slipper club has grown and flourished from just a couple of ladies to a much larger group who have planned a trip of their own - and by the publication of this newsletter, they will have enjoyed a weekend together in Solvang.

Your Valley leadership has really stepped up this year, and I believe they have built momentum that will carry forward. At our Fall Reunion we theatrically presented not just the required five, but an additional two, for a total of seven degrees. This has not happened in Orange County Valley for many years, and we can thank Director of the Work James Olivier for his hard work and that of his team and cast.

Our programs have been great, and remember that December is our annual Christmas Party for the Language Center staff and families. Circle December 9 boldly - you won't want to miss this event.

I could go on - and on - about the successes of your Valley, but the best way to learn about it is to join us at our monthly meeting. And for those of you who cannot, we are diligently working to include you, whether you are homebound or out of state. We have gradually returned our committee and event reports to the dining room, outside the tiled meeting, which will ultimately allow you to engage remotely.

We have listened to your suggestions, and we know you sought to join the Scottish Rite for information, education, and further light. So we have gradually worked to narrow the tiled meeting to opening, approving bills, balloting and closing, with Valley activities, committee reports and our quality programs reserved to the non-tiled portion of the evening. That means that those who cannot physically attend will be able to engage remotely. It's not an ideal solution, of course, as the in-person experience is much preferred, but those who really can't get there will be able to submit their request for approval and "attend" to the extent possible.

You may have additional thoughts about how the Valley can be responsive to you, and I encourage you to reach out and let us know those thoughts. The Valley and its leadership are here to serve you and all of Orange County Freemasonry.

One other big development is the newly established relationship with the City of Orange. I was fortunate to meet with the Orange City Mayor and representatives of the Old Town Preservation Association who were in attendance at our Halloween Costume Ball, and they were very excited to get to know us and our host lodge, Orange Grove #293. They learned of our partnership with Chapman University and our educational programs as well as a bit of our history, and we are moving forward to develop a partnership with the City and the other organizations in the area as a first step toward a wider vision of establishing our place in the Orange County community.

As always, thank you all for your continued support of the Valley, and I look forward to seeing you at every opportunity.

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