



THE LOS ANGELES SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN

VALLEY OF LOS ANGELES † ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA

February 2009

Volume LXXXXV

Number 2



CONGRATULATIONS

... to our 2009 Officers, who were installed on January 9. Pictured (left to right): Ernest Lara, 32°, KCCH, Master of Kadosh; Claude D. Klapp, 32°, KCCH, Commander; Shay Maghame, 32°, Wise Master; Donaldo Robinson, Sr., 32°, KCCH, Venerable Master; and Ill. Xavier "Sam" Pitassi, 33°, our Personal Representative. (Cont'd on page 6)

From The Venerable Master

BY S.K. DONALDO ROBINSON, SR., 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

Our Installation on January 9th was a terrific evening! I would like to express our thanks to Ill. Larry Adamson, 33°, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of California, and a Past Venerable Master of our Valley, for serving as our Installing Officer. M.W. Adamson noted that it was an honor for him to serve his home Valley in this capacity, especially as our Grand Master, and introduced our guests to the theme he chose for his year as Grand Master, "Applied Free-

masonry". As a token and symbol of this theme, he presented each of the newly installed presiding officers with a set of golden working tools. We very much appreciated this gesture, and the honor was ours to be installed by him. Thanks also to his lovely wife Lynn for attending, and for everything she does in support of Masonry in California.

I would also like to congratulate S.K. Harry Maslin, 32° KCCH, for a really stupendous job as Venerable Master during 2008. Harry continues to serve local Masonry in his new role as the Inspector of the ... (Cont'd on page 3)

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

—•—

III. RONALD A. SEALE, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

III. WILLIAM F. STOVALL, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California

III. XAVIER A. 'SAM' PITASSI, 33°

Personal Representative

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III. GORDON C. ALEXANDER, 33°

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S.K. DONALDO ROBINSON, Sr., 32° K.C.C.H.

Venerable Master

S.K. WESLEY G. PITTS, 32° K.C.C.H.

Director of Membership & Publications

FRED SHOOSHANI, 32°

Photographer

—•—

ALLEGIANCE

The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Los Angeles, Orient of California, acknowledge the authority and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon, of the Thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at the Grand Orient of Charleston, in the State of South Carolina, now sitting at Washington, D.C., of which Illustrious RONALD A. SEALE, 33°, is Sovereign Grand Commander.


Editor's Note

BY S.K. WESLEY G. PITTS, 32° KCCH

Our website has been completely rebuilt, and there are some improvements we want you to know about. We focused on making the information that members need most available on the home page. There you will find our latest news; a direct link to the current Bulletin; and a new calendar system with the entire year's events and a very handy "upcoming events" list. Dates colored orange are event dates, and you can click on them for event details. If you use iCal on a Mac, you can even subscribe to our calendar and receive automatic updates—click on the broadcast icon above the current month to use this feature.

Our reservation system has been improved for both ease of use and more accurate entrée selection. It will also confirm your reservation by e-mail.

On a related note, I would like to call your attention to a new membership publication from the Supreme Council, which is also available for download from our website. Entitled *Beyond The Third Degree*, this booklet is a perfect companion to our Valley's membership guide, offering a basic history of the Scottish Rite Degrees, and the origins of our Supreme Council, the 'Mother Council of the World'. Direct Master Masons in your Lodge to review this and other resources on our website.

Finally, preparations are in high gear for the Southwest Regional Reunion in June: www.srrr.org. 

IN MEMORIAM

Murray Barnett
Lloyd B. Skeels

Irving Windman
George Yacobian

CLC DONATIONS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Clinicians of our Language Center, we express our heartfelt thanks to those who help keep our center operating.

In Loving Memory of Ralph S. Dunn By Mr. & Mrs. Ralph M. Fellows

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In Loving Memory of Ralph S. Dunn By Mr. & Mrs. Xavier A. Pitassi

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TWENTY-FOURTH DEGREE

Prince of the Tabernacle

In the Twenty-Fourth Degree, Prince of the Tabernacle, we are taught the power of faith in the Deity and his promises; that the soul is immortal; and that there is one God, who is pure, absolute intellect and existence.

Symbols were the almost universal language of ancient theology. They were the most obvious method of instruction; for, like nature herself, they addressed the understanding through the eye; and the most ancient expressions denoting communication of religious knowledge, signify ocular exhibition. The first teachers of mankind borrowed this method of instruction; and it comprised an endless store of

pregnant hieroglyphics. These lessons of the olden time were the riddles of the Sphynx, tempting the curious by their quaintness; but involving the personal risk of the adventurous interpreter. "The Gods themselves,' it was said, 'disclose their intentions to the wise, but to fools their teaching is unintelligible;' and the King of the Delphic Oracle was said not to declare, nor on the other hand to conceal; but emphatically "to intimate or signify."

The Ancient Sages, both barbarian and Greek, involved their meaning in similar indirections and enigmas; their lessons were sayings of old, which the Israelites considered it a sacred duty to hand down unchanged to successive generations.

As Princes of the Tabernacle we should labor incessantly for the glory of God, the honor of our country and the happiness of our brethren. ❖❖

FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER

(Cont'd from page 1)

701st Masonic District. Thank you Worshipful Brother Harry, for all that you do!

One of the most exciting events of 2009 will be the Southwest Scottish Rite River Reunion in June. Scottish Rite Masons from several western states will be gathering in Long Beach for four days to confer all twenty-nine Scottish Rite Degrees. I would like to encourage everyone to support S.K. Mahmoud Ghaffari, 32° KCCH, who has taken the leadership for our Valley's participation in this event. There are many ways you can be involved with this event. Please help us publicize the event in your Lodges, as well. This is the only Reunion planned for the year, so let prospective candidates know about it well in advance!

All members are also urged to attend and participate in our Degree work. If you are a new member who joined in 2008, there's much more to the Scottish Rite Degrees than you saw at the Reunion when you became a member. It's up to you to complete your Masonic education by attending the remaining Degrees as we confer them over a three year period. We'd also welcome you to take part. Please contact Ill. Ronald Hopkins, 33°, our Director of the Work, if you would like to get involved. You are also encouraged to attend the upcoming 2009 Degree Workshop on February 20, as cast assignments will be made.

Our Personal Representative Ill.

Sam Pitassi, 33°, has been guiding and supporting us firmly. He has also been keeping us abreast of the situation of our temple on Wilshire Boulevard. He has also made it possible for us to have an excellent chef. I encourage all our members to come out to our monthly meetings and enjoy our companionship and a tasty meal.

My goal for this year is to focus on membership and Masonic education. I hope all of our members will take advantage of the many resources available on our website for sharing the light of the Scottish Rite. Many new Master Masons aren't sure who to ask for more information about the Rite. Make yourself known in your Lodge as the "Rite" guy!

Finally, congratulations to our new Presiding Officers. I look forward to serving alongside you as we have another terrific year at the Los Angeles Scottish Rite. ❖❖

2009 Installation of Officers

(Cont'd from page 1)



M.W. Larry L. Adamson

We had over 100 people in attendance. Most Worshipful Larry L. Adamson, Grand Master of Masons in California and a Past Venerable Master of our Valley, honored us by serving as our Installing Officer. Ill. Sam Pitassi, 33°, our Personal Representative, was the Master of Ceremonies. Adding to the beauties of the installation ceremony was the musical accompaniment of our Valley Organist, Ill. Merrick Hamer, 33°. Thanks to all of

the officers and members for contributing to a memorable evening. Thanks also to S.K. Brian Bezner, 32° KCCH, who took the photograph of our new presiding officers featured on this Bulletin's cover. ❖❖

**2009 Degree Workshop
Friday, February 20th, 7 PM**

All Degree Masters, Cast Members, as well as brothers interested in taking part in the Degrees this year should attend this preparatory session. The entire year's Degree schedule will be reviewed, cast assignments will be made and other details decided upon.

If you would like to become a Cast Member or Degree Master, please try to attend this meeting or contact the Director of the Work, Ill. Ron Hopkins, 33°, at hopkins@la-sr.org.

CALENDAR

ALL MEETINGS AT THE
Santa Monica Masonic Center
926 Santa Monica Boulevard
Santa Monica, California
LASR OFFICE (323) 937-2566

FEBRUARY

Friday, 13th ... 7:00 PM

Stated Meeting

Ladies' Night

Reservations required for dinner.

Dinner at 7:30 PM

DINNER WILL INCLUDE A SPECIAL

"LADIES' NIGHT" PROGRAM.

Tuesday, 17th ... 6:00 PM

Advisory Council

Riviera Room

Friday, 20th ... 7:00 PM

2009 Degree Workshop

For Degree Master & Cast Members

Friday, 27th ... 8:00 PM

24th Degree

Prince of the Tabernacle

Reservations required.

Dinner at 7:00 PM

Get the latest calendar updates:

www.la-sr.org

MARCH

Friday, 13th ... 7:00 PM

Stated Meeting

Public Service Night

Reservations required for dinner.

Dinner at 7:30 PM

Tuesday, 17th ... 6:00 PM

Advisory Council

Riviera Room

Friday, 27th ... 8:00 PM

25th Degree

Knight of the Brazen Serpent

Reservations required.

Dinner at 7:00 PM

Knights of St. Andrew

Stated Meetings

First Friday of the Month ... 7:00 PM

Craft Room, Third Floor

PLEASE NOTE:

Automatic reservations are for Dinner Club Members only.

RSVP by noon the day prior to event.

Call (323) 937-2566, or make your reservations online at: www.la-sr.org.

Web reservations should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

Secretary's Desk

FROM ILL. GORDON ALEXANDER, 33°

Greetings and all the best in the brand new year! Our Personal Representative has planned a great year with some exciting proceedings. He will be telling you about these events in the months to come.

Now, for more mundane matters. I have concluded that most Masons don't understand how in-house meals work. When you go to a restaurant, they have all kinds of different foods in the kitchen and they are prepared for whoever shows up and they charge according to your selection. Masonic kitchens are different. We prepare a certain menu for a pre-arranged number of people. The food is paid for by the meal for a set price.

The number of people who have made reservations is counted. All caterers require at least a day's lead time so they can go and purchase the food required for the number of people who have made reservations because we pay the caterer by the meal. That is why we at the Los Angeles Scottish Rite count the number of people who have made reservations by noon on the day before an event and then we give this number to the caterer.

One of the great mysteries of Masonry is why Brethren can't make reservations. All will now be revealed! There are those who simply forget; there are those who don't know how to work a calendar; there are those who think, "I don't need to call, they know I'm coming,"; and, as it turns out, I can't

reveal all, because the list is endless.

So, I am offering two solutions: 1. Join the 'Dinner Club'. For \$100, you are fed for the year and you have a standing reservation. Or, 2. Call by **noon** the day before an event (not 12:15, 20, 30, 1:00, etc.) and make a reservation.

The current system in all Masonic bodies is to get the count and then *try to guess* how many extra meals to order to cover the people who did not make a reservation. This creates a loss of money because the caterer is paid by the number of meals ordered. Our profit margin on each meal is one buck. So, you are throwing away your own money by not making a reservation.

Why don't you take care of this right now? Call Yani at: 323-937-2566 and make a reservation for the next event you plan on attending. Or, join the Dinner Club by sending in your check or by calling the office and putting the fee on your credit card. You may use your credit card for any purchase at the Scottish Rite including dues, CLC donations, dinners, etc.

Now I know many of you are thinking, "Gordon! Get a grip!" but, this is an ongoing pain in the, uh, neck, for every Masonic Body. Let us at the Scottish Rite lead the 'Make A Reservation Revolution!' ☸

Did we mention RESERVATIONS? You can make them quickly on our website, www.la-sr.org.

It's easy: choose an event & specify entrée selection(s). You'll receive an instant e-mail confirmation.