



THE LOS ANGELES SCOTTISH RITE BULLETIN

VALLEY OF LOS ANGELES † ORIENT OF CALIFORNIA

March 2010

Volume LXXXXVI

Number 3

SPRING REUNION: FRI + SAT, MARCH 26-27

Friday, March 26

4th and 14th Degrees

Check in ... 6:00 PM

Dinner ... 7:00 PM

Degrees ... 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 27

18th, 30th and 32nd Degrees

Check in ... 8:00 AM

Degrees ... 9:00 AM

(With lunch break)

PETITIONS DUE NOW • DEGREE SUMMARIES ON PAGES 3+6

From The Venerable Master ◊ BY S.K. FREDERICK J. VOTTO, 32° KCCH

February marked my first Stated Meeting and our celebration of Sweethearts' Night. We honored our members' wives with long stemmed red roses, and they were lovingly and beautifully serenaded by Brother Steve DeMuth. The musical selections included classic love ballads and operatic arias that celebrated love. All who were present enjoyed the evening's fellowship and entertainment. The members of the Advisory Council also met on the night of the Stated Meeting. We will continue to try this new format of combining the night of our Stated

Meeting with that of our Advisory Council Meeting to provide an opportunity for more of our Brethren to participate. Our Advisory Council Meetings concern our involvement with the Childhood Language Center and the business of Scottish Rite. I would like to encourage as many of the Brethren who are interested to attend. Increased participation will provide more ideas to enhance our Los Angeles Valley.

There are several upcoming Masonic events of interest. First, our Valley will hold it's annual

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CONTACTING THE LOS ANGELES SCOTTISH RITE

By Post

6310 San Vicente Blvd.
Suite 402
Los Angeles, CA 90048

By Phone

TEL (323) 937-2566
FAX (323) 937-3742
9:00-5:00, M-Thurs

Language Clinic

TEL (323) 936-2153
FAX (323) 937-3742
9:00-5:00, M-Fri

On the Web

<http://la-sr.org>
info@la-sr.org



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Official Publication of the Los Angeles Valley Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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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°
General Secretary

S.K. FREDERICK J. VOTTO, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master

S.K. WESLEY G. PITTS, 32° KCCH
Director of Membership & Publications

FRED SHOOSHANI, 32° KCCH
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*.

On Reunion

BY S.K. WESLEY PITTS, 32° KCCH

Our Scottish Rite calls its biannual presentation of the mandatory degrees a "reunion". It's an interesting choice of words. Practically, the preparation and execution of these initiatory ceremonies is only made possible by the members of our Valley coming together to rejoin the cause. Our Los Angeles Scottish Rite is very fortunate to have Ill. Ronald Hopkins, 33°, as our Director of the Work. He makes a tremendous amount of management seem effortless, but I assure you Brothers, it is not. We are grateful for the contributions of our Degree Masters and the cast that support this important undertaking, by which we bring Master Masons to further light in Masonry through our Scottish Rite Degrees. If you would like to participate in our upcoming Spring Reunion, please contact Ill. Hopkins at: hopkins@la-sr.org.

We also encourage you to reach out to Master Masons in your Blue Lodge. Think of those Brothers who have been Raised in the last year, and invite them to a participation in our Rite. Emphasize that there are only two occasions each year when a Brother can join our Valley. Bringing candidates to our Reunion is a sure way to make it a success. If you know a potential candidate, and would like to refer him to us for additional information, please have him contact: membership@la-sr.org. We can guide him through the petition process.

IN MEMORIAM

Allen Bershin
George A. Ingram
Curtis W. Mason

Jack Medove
Martin H. Webster

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 Henry A. Hauben

By Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Fellows

Raymond Alpert
Jeffrey L. Bear
Reynold M. Blight
Morris W. Brown
Sean R. Caster

Jimmie C. Durant
Robert L. Exline
A. Jeffrey Gordon
Sam N. Gordon
Floyd L. Merrell

A. Sherman Ostrom
Edward M. Parrott
Andrew T. Rothmund
Carl Spring, Jr.

ALMONER DONATIONS

In loving memory of Harold L. Palmer

By William J. Rogister Jr.

Almoner's Fund, Valley of San Diego, A & ASR

Reynold M. Blight
Morris W. Brown

Sam N. Gordon
Thomas R. Hall

A. Sherman Ostrom

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Reynold M. Blight
Sam N. Gordon

Thomas R. Hall
Andrew T. Rothmund

As Knights Rose Croix we should practice virtue that it may produce fruit; labor to eliminate vice, purifying humanity; and be tolerant of the beliefs of others.



THIRTIETH DEGREE

Knight Kadosh or Knight of the Black and White Eagle

Labor unceasingly for the good of mankind. Arm yourself with faith in God, love toward your fellow men and knowledge. Great examples are the noblest legacies of the past; enriching a nation more than wealth or power.

This is the last of the Chivalric Degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry. The lessons are derived from history. The historical figure associated with the legend is Jacques De Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, an order created during the Crusades. It was destroyed by Philip IV of France and Pope Clement V in the 14th Century. De Molay was put to death, having renounced his confession which had been extracted under torture. Before his death he accurately predicted the deaths of both Philip and Clement within a year.

The word Kadosh is Hebrew and it means holy, hence Knight Kadosh means Holy Knight or Knight of the Temple. The good and true Knight Kadosh is armed outwardly with steel but inwardly with faith in God, love toward his fellow man and Knowledge. the primary purpose of the degree is to make real in action the noblest sentiments of man. The Knight Kadosh has a mission to restore man to all his powers and the whole dignity of manhood and to make true again the ancient description of man that he was made in the image of the Deity.



THIRTY-SECOND DEGREE

Master of the Royal Secret

The degree of *Master of the Royal Secret* selects, clarifies and unifies into a single coherent doctrine all of the duties and lessons of the preceding degrees. In it we "continue our journey eastward in search of the Holy Doctrine of which the Royal Secret is the foundation. To unveil the symbolism of the ages is a journey backward in time to the basic truths known by the ancient sages. Once these truths are revealed, our special charge is to maintain them in their purity, passing them on to the future concealed in allegory and symbolism and revealing them only to worthy men. Here we learn of the ancient Aryan religious doctrine. Pike believed it was the earliest religion. It was his opinion that these teachings were completed and elaborated until the true meaning was lost. The name 'Aryan' derives from the Sanskrit word for 'noble.' They were a prehistoric tribe of central Asia which settled both Iran and northern India.

From their language has descended, not only ancient Persian and Sanskrit, as well as their derivatives, but also most of the languages of Europe, including English. One of Pike's major sources on these people was 19th century German orientalist Max Muller, the father of comparative linguistics. Muller believed that the religions and languages of Europe, Persia and India descended from these Asiatic tribes and that the key to this historical unity resided in the comparative study of languages. This is the reason for the detailed discussions on word origins to be found, especially in the Readings and Legenda for this degree. Cultural factors resulted in many errors which must be forgiven such an important pioneer in a largely untried field.

REUNION DECREES



FOURTH DEGREE

Secret Master

The teachings of Masonry are not to be taken lightly; learning far outlasts physical monuments; and that duties are not to be performed expecting reward but expecting personal satisfaction.

Masonry is a succession of allegories, the mere vehicles of great lessons in morality and philosophy. You will more fully appreciate its spirit, its object, its purposes, as you advance in the different Degrees, which you will find to constitute a great, complete and harmonious system.

You have taken the first step over its threshold, the first step toward the inner sanctuary and heart of the temple. You are in the path that leads up the slope of the mountain of Truth; and it depends upon your secrecy, obedience, and fidelity, whether you will advance or remain stationary. As Secret Masters, we should practice silence, obedience and fidelity.



FOURTEENTH DEGREE

Perfect Elu

In the Fourteenth Degree, *Perfect Elu*, we learn that Perfect Elus are both bound and free; bound by their obligation and free from prejudice, intolerance and envy. Masons meet on the level because in their lives authority and liberty are in equilibrium.

It is for each individual Mason to discover the secret of Masonry by reflection upon its symbols and a wise consideration and analysis of what is said and done in the work. Masonry does not inculcate her truths. She states them, once and briefly; or hints of them, perhaps darkly; or interposes

a cloud between them and eyes that would be dazzled by them.

The practical object of Masonry is the physical and moral amelioration and the intellectual and spiritual improvement of individuals and society. Neither can be effected, except by the dissemination of truth. As Perfect Elus, we should assist, encourage and defend the brethren; protect the oppressed and relieve want and distress; enlighten the people; and serve the common good and be fruitful of all good works.



EIGHTEENTH DEGREE

Knight of the Rose Croix

In the Eighteenth Degree, *Knight of the Rose Croix*, we learn that we should have faith in God, mankind and ourselves; that we should hope in the victory over evil, the advancement of humanity, and a hereafter; and that charity is relieving the wants and tolerating the errors and faults of others.

Each of us makes such applications to his own faith and creed, of the symbols and ceremonies of this Degree, as seems to him proper. With these special interpretations we have here nothing to do.

Like the legend of the Master Hiram, in which some see figured the condemnation and sufferings of Christ; others those of the unfortunate Grand Master of the Templars; others those of the first Charles, King of England; and others still the annual descent of the sun at the winter Solstice to the regions of darkness, the basis of many an ancient legend; so the ceremonies of this Degree receive different explanations; each interpreting them for himself, and not being offended at the interpretation of others.

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MARCH CALENDAR

ALL MEETINGS AT THE
Santa Monica Masonic Center
 926 Santa Monica Boulevard
 Santa Monica, California

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>KSA</i>	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Stated Meeting & Advisory</i>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Master Craftsman</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Reunion 4th & 14th</i>	27 <i>Reunion 18th, 30th & 32nd</i>
28	29	30	31	Calendar and reservations on our website: www.la-sr.org		

DETAILS

Friday, March 5
Knights of St. Andrew ... 7:00 PM

Friday, March 12
Stated Meeting & Community Service
 Stated Meeting ... 7:00 PM
NEW! Advisory Council ... 5:00 PM
 Dinner & Program ... 7:30 PM

Friday, March 19
Master Craftsman ... 7:00 PM
NEW DATE!

Friday and Saturday,
 March 26 and 27
Spring Reunion
See details on page 1

PLEASE NOTE:

**Automatic reservations are for
 Dinner Club Members only**

RSVP by noon the
 day prior to event

By Phone: (323) 937-2566
Online: www.la-sr.org

*Web reservations must be made
 at least 48 hours in advance*

Master Craftsman
Note 2010 Schedule Changes
Meetings in the Riviera Room

Secretary's Desk ◊ FROM ILL. GORDON ALEXANDER, 33°

Next month we will have our Spring Reunion. Now is the time to get in petitions for our New Members. Remember you may download a petition from our website, la-sr.org. You may also see our Bulletins and our Calendar for the year on the site.

Last month I asked to hear from anyone with experience in fund raising activities. As I haven't heard from anyone, I am making the request again. Please, if you have had any involvement with this type of activity, give me a call. We have a constant and ongoing need for funds to keep our Childhood Language Center viable.

Ill. Sam Pitassi, 33°, has signed a letter of intent with a possible purchaser of the Wilshire building. We are waiting to hear back from the hopefully with a written offer. As soon as we have an offer in writing, we will let you know.

I made an alarming discovery the other day. We have come across four Members who joined the Los Angeles Scottish Rite in 2006 but were never entered in our database. This unfortunate situation has now been corrected. Please ask around and help us check if we have any other missing Members. ☺☺

FROM THE VM » CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Spring Reunion in March. Complete details are included in this Bulletin. I urge you to encourage potential candidates to submit their petitions now. Next, on April 11, the Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau's Annual Breakfast with the Grand Master. The breakfast will be held this year at the LAX Hilton Hotel. Tickets are \$10 a person, and are usually coordinated through your Blue Lodge. Since seating is limited, inquire about reservations early! Also of interest is our Valley's Master Craftsman workshops. I have found these sessions to be most informative and recommend them to all Brethren interested in a more in-depth study of the Scottish Rite.

It is with great sadness that I report

the passing of S.K. Allen Bershin, 32° KCCH, on Friday, February 12. Brother Bershin's Memorial Gathering was held on Wednesday, February 17, at Hillside Memorial Cemetery. A Masonic service was provided by Allen's Blue Lodge, Van Nuys Home Lodge #721. They honored Allen's memory with a beautiful ritual that spoke movingly to all who had gathered to honor him. I was pleased to see so many of our Brethren there. I will remember Allen from our post-degree discussions that were led by Ill. Joe Bullock, 33°. Allen could always be counted on to ask the most interesting questions to provoke our discussions. There is no question that Allen's presence and his convivial manner will be missed from our Scottish Rite. ☺☺