



Los angeles scottish rite bulletin

Orient of California

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July/August 2006

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Childhood Language Report of Appreciation by a Parent

To: the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Center and to all the many individuals who make this wonderful program possible:

This is a letter of celebration and acknowledgment that your program does work. Helping one child at a time you do make a difference, in the future of a child and a difference in this world. It is my great pleasure to announce that on May 24, 2006 at the Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield, Ca., at 7:30 p.m. Andrew John Vlahos will be graduated from Garces Memorial High School (the top academic high school in Bakersfield, Ca). This milestone is only surpassed by Andrew's further interest of expanding his education in college.

This remarkable achievement could have only happen because of the help Andrew received from the Scottish Rite Foundation.

More than fifteen years have passed since Andrew John Vlahos walked through your doors. A beautiful child that was withdrawn and very unhappy. He had no way to communicate with his environment. Without words and no way of

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Laughlin Reunion Class

On April 23, 2006, eight of us piled onto a rented minivan to embark on a five hour journey to Laughlin Nevada and partake in the Western region five state re-union.

The Los Angeles valley had volunteered over a year and a half ago to perform the fourth degree. The team selection process had finally ended up with Illustrious Merrick Hamer 33° as the Venerable Master, Bro.

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York Rite Bodies to be Recognized at July Stated

By Ill. William Nemoy, 33°, Venerable Master

Masonic Unity will continue to be exemplified by the honoring of York Rite dignitaries at the July Stated Meeting under the guidance of Ill. Donald J. Spencer 33°, Past Venerable Master, and York Rite officer. The York and Scottish Rites have maintained a typical example of Masonic Brotherhood, and this event will further our mutual relationship.

Representing the Grand Commander S.K. Charles E. Waterman Jr. will be our own S.K. Paul E. McElwain, 32° K.C.C.H. The Grand Illustrious Master Robert G. Grauer will be represented by Ill. Joe Ryland 33°, Deputy Grand Master, a member of the Pasadena Scottish Rite. The Grand High Priest Russell D. Roberts will be represented by Ill. Sean N. Foran 33°, Grand Scribe.

Be sure to reserve your dinners at

the Scottish Rite Office early to participate in the planned programs.

Although the annual Table Lodge Stag Program regretfully does not include the ladies, it has been enjoyed by members and their Masonic guests as an evening of good natured fun. Wor. Richard K. Pierce 32°, will host this year's event, and knowing his outstanding wit, the attendees will be assured of much levity. The location will be the **Cathedral, 4357 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles.** See the announcement in this issue for details.

May I extend my best wishes for a very safe and sane Summer Season, and may I have the opportunity to greet you personally at all of our events.

Friday, July 14, 2006
Stated Meeting
and York Rite Knight
Dinner Reservations Required
1-323-937-2566

Friday, July 21, 2006
26°
Prince of Mercy
Dinner Reservations Required
1-323-937-2566

Tuesday, July 18, 2006
Advisory Conference
at Santa Monica
Dinner Reservations Required
1-323-937-2566

Friday, June 23, 2006
27°
Knight Commander
of the Temple
Dinner Reservations Required
1-323-937-2566

Friday, August 18, 2006
Summer Reunion Class
Dinner Reservations Required
1-323-937-2566

Friday, August 11, 2006
Table Lodge
At the Cathedral
4357 Wilshire Bl., LA.
Dinner Reservations Required
1-323-937-2566

**TWENTY-SIXTH DEGREE
Prince of Mercy or
Scottish Trinitarian
Friday, July 21, 2006**

In the Twenty-Sixth Degree, Prince of Mercy or Scottish Trinitarian, we are taught that the trinity of Deity belongs to no single religion. The truths of Masonry are contained within the religions of the world.



We do not undervalue the importance of any truth. We utter no word that can be deemed irreverent by any one of any faith.

To every Mason, there is a God; one, supreme, infinite in goodness, wisdom, foresight, justice, and benevolence; creator, disposer, and preserver of all things. How, or by what intermediates, He creates and acts and in what way He unfolds and manifests Himself, Masonry leaves to creeds and religions to inquire.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH DEGREE
Knight Commander of the Temple
Friday, July 28, 2006**

In the Twenty-Seventh Degree, Knight Commander of the Temple, we are taught that Masonry is practical and Fr requires its members to be actively involved in life; and that virtue and duty have been the same in all times.

This is the first of the really Chivalric Degrees. It occupies this

To every Mason, the soul of man is immortal. Whether it emanates from and will return to God, and what its continued mode of existence hereafter, each judges for himself. Masonry was not made to settle that.

To every Mason, wisdom or intelligence, force, or strength, and harmony, or fitness and beauty, are the trinity of the attributes of God.

As Princes of Mercy we should practice mercy and forgiveness, be tolerant, and be devoted to the teaching of diffusion of the true principles of Masonry.

place between the 26th and the last of the philosophical degrees, in order, by breaking the continuity of these, to relieve what might otherwise become wearisome; and also to remind you that, while engaged with the



speculations and abstractions of philosophy and creeds, the Mason is also to continue to be engaged in the active duties of this great warfare of life. He is not only a moralist and philosopher, but a soldier, the successor of those knights of the Middle Age, who, while they wore the cross, also wielded the sword and were the soldiers of honor, loyalty, and duty.

Times change, and circumstances; but virtue and duty remain the same. The evils to be warred against but take another shape, and are developed in a different form. There is the same need now of truth and loyalty as in the days of Frederick Barbarossa.

As Knight Commanders of the Temple we should be devoted to truth, honor, loyalty, justice and humanity.



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bulletin**

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Commander

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Deputy in California

ILL. XAVIER A. "SAM" PITASSI 33°
Personal Representative of the Deputy

III. RONALD L. HART, 33°, General Secretary

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.

*The Los Angeles Valley, AASR
Invites you to a
Table Lodge & Festive Board*

*Friday, August 11, 2005
7:00 p.m.*

A Table Lodge is a traditional, tyled, formal dinner accompanied by 8 formal toasts, responses, and singing that goes back to the days when Lodges met above public houses or taverns.

All Scottish Rite Masons are Welcome
(Sorry Ladies, this is a Stag event)

Seating is limited so make your reservations now!!!
Cost is only \$25.00

Reservations (323) 937-2566

Questions? Please contact
Dick Pierce 32° Event Chairman (310) 837-3673

Think About It!

By Ron Koretz, 32° K.C..C.H.

Every May, 20,000 people attend a major meeting dealing with diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. This year the meeting was in Los Angeles. Having no desire to drive downtown each day, I made a reservation at a downtown hotel, the Hilton Checkers. Los Angeles only has about 5,000 hotel rooms downtown, and the majority of the registrants were housed as far away as Pasadena, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, and the airport.

A week before the meeting, I received a phone call from the Director of Sales at the Hilton Checkers, Eric Gasser. He informed me that the hotel had to cancel my reservation as well as those of 30 others because the hotel was overbooked; Mr. Gasser had made alternate reservations at the airport. At that time I explained to him that this was not a satisfactory solution, as I still had to make the ride in each day. He told me that he had only begun this job early this year, and that he had instituted changes so that such events would not happen again. I subsequently found out that overbooking is standard practice in all hotels, to deal with last-minute cancellations and no-shows. Unfortunately, this insight did not solve my problem.

Most of the downtown hotels were also overbooked; Mr. Gasser told me that he would try to find something more convenient. In fact, he did just that. By the end of the week, he had found nearby accommodations for all of the people whom he had originally had to cancel. (I do not know what the other hotels did for their customers.)

My reservation represented a promise that the hotel had made; while they were liable for a breach of contract lawsuit, my financial losses were fairly trivial (since the main issue was just the time of the commute). Nonetheless, Mr. Gasser understood the obligation his company had to its customers, and he saw to it that those promises were fulfilled. Since I had originally planned

Laughlin Reunion Class

(Continued from Page 1)

Poke Runyon 32° KCCH as Senior Deacon, Bro. Brigadier General Dick Pierce as the Senior Warden, Bro. John Dilley as Junior Warden, Bro. Fred Shooshani as Secretary, Bro. Dahlan Lane Netsch as the candidate and myself as the Orator. Aside from the fun ride to and from the Harrah's hotel and Casino by the mighty Colorado river, which was filled with entertainment and friendly side conversations, the trip yielded in lasting friendships beyond what we each could have worked towards in our lodges. Our many thanks and appreciation goes to General Pierce for his ever vigilance with words and keeping us on track and entertained throughout the trip. Even though we had met several Sundays prior to the trip and practiced our lines to perfection, the hour or so that we practiced in the van ensured that we all deliver the lines in a flawless performance. And lo and behold we did. We started out at 8:30 and arrived by 3:00 at Laughlin after a pit stop and a lunch break at Denys. We were greeted by the organizing committee and quickly moved to set the stage for our performance, as we were scheduled for a 4:30 start time. The stage was set, an overhead projector projected our transparencies, and a very elaborate audio system was used for our speaking parts. The General and I read the lecture which was a prelude to a perfect procession to music, provided by Poke. Once on stage we each took our place and started our degree which ended with a perfect score.

In the five or so years I had been at the Scottish Rite this was the first time I was witnessing such perfect harmony between the cast and the audience. Every member uttered their lines in perfect harmony, the movements were timed as they were supposed to and the steps and positions

to write this column to complain about the practice of overbooking, I believe that I now have an obligation to write about the practice of correcting one's mistakes. One of the lines in The King and I is "a promise is a promise." Eric Gasser understands what that means.

Think about it.

Calendar

VALLEY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Masonic Hall

unless indicated otherwise

926 Santa Monica Blvd.,

Santa Monica, Ca.

Phone 1-323-937-2566

CALENDAR OF EVENTS July/August 2006

Friday, July 14, 2006 Stated Meeting
Stated Meeting and York Rite Night
Stated Meeting: 7 p.m. — Dinner: 7:30 p.m.
(Reservations Required, cost \$12.50)
Menu: TBA

Tuesday, June 18, 2006
LASR Advisory Conference
Santa Monica Masonic Center
"Riviera Room" — 7 p.m.

Friday, July 21, 2006
26° — Prince of Mercy
Supper 7 p.m.
(Reservations Required, cost \$7.00)

Friday, July 28, 2006
27° — Knight Commander of the Temple
Supper 7 p.m.
(Reservations Required, cost \$7.00)

Friday, August 11, 2006
Stated Meeting and Table Lodge
Stated Meeting: 7 p.m. — Dinner: 7:30 p.m.
(Reservations Required, cost \$12.50)
Menu: TBA

Friday, August 18, 2006
Summer Reunion Class

Friday, September 8, 2006
Stated Meeting and Youth Night
Stated Meeting: 7 p.m. — Dinner: 7:30 p.m.
(Reservations Required, cost \$12.50)
Menu: TBA

**Knights Of St. Andrew
Stated Meetings
First Friday of the Month
7 p.m. — Riviera Room
Contact Jim Meyer —1-310-420-4320**

were executed flawlessly. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Ill. Merick for his guidance and constructive suggestions throughout, and his extensive memory to which we all tried to emulate. I am the sure the valley is proud of the work this team of magnificent seven did, to do us proud. Our special thanks goes to Illustrious Stephen Doan for his guidance and oversight and Ill. Xavier Pitassi for his support of the trip and enthusiasm for our work. We can all be counted on to perform the fourth degree by heart from now on. Come visit us in August and once again in October as this awesome team puts up a good show.

Childhood Language Report of Appreciation by a Parent

(Continued from page 1)

expressing his feelings, his thoughts and his desires; Andrew withdrew from the world.

It was the Scottish Rite Foundation that worked hard, to give Andrew the power of words and the power to communicate. The Scottish Rite foundation gave Andrew more than language, they gave him a future, and the power to succeed.

Many experts stated that because of Andrew's delay in gaining language, he would not be able to graduate with his age group. That he would have delays in reading, writing, and in fact he would be delayed in all of his academic achievements.

CLDC CONTRIBUTORS

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

Mel and Alice Nahin honoring Michael Newfield's Birthday
Don and Gwen Spencer
Jack Jay

Museum Donations

Jack Jay Xavier A. Pitassi

Almoner's Fund

Jack Jay Ed Parrot

KNIGHTS OF ST. ANDREWS

By James Meyer

On May 5th, the Knights of St. Andrew had an initiation of new member Johnny Jet, followed by a traditional Scottish meal, which was graciously prepared by Bro. Knight Richard Pierce, Knight Keeper of the Realm. The meal, which consisted of cock-a-leeky soup, specially seasoned mashed potatoes, and haggis, were all prepared from old family recipes. The food was fantastic, and good fellowship was had by all. If

Well, they were wrong. And it is all because of the help at the most critical time in his language development that made the difference. It was the many people that gave their time, money, and love that makes this program so possible. And to each and everyone of you, I send you my thanks.

Andrew and all of his family will always remember the important role the Scottish Rite language center played in our lives. We thank you for the great Christmas Parties, the fishing and boating trips, they will stay in our dearest of memories. But, my dearest memory is the knowledge that you believed in my son when no one else would.

With loving gratitude forever,
Mary Vlahos

Furthermore, it is my hope that you share this letter with everyone that makes this program possible.

you missed it, you truly missed out.

The following week at the stated meeting was the Installation of the new officers for the ensuing Masonic year. They are as follows:

- First Knight of the Council of Twelve: James Blumenthal (KCCH)
- Knight Councilor: Rodney Laderas (KCCH)
- Knight Keeper of the Realm: Richard Pierce
- Knight Orator: George Black
- Knight Chaplain: Sam Pirnazar
- Knight of the Watch: Michael Bear
- Knight Historian: George Machalani
- Knight of Heraldry and Regalia: John Jett
- Knight of Merriment: David Ferreria
- Knight Quartermaster: Anthony Valdez
- Knight Director of Entertainment: Omar Maloof
- Knight Sentinel: Emilio Reyes

The Knight of St. Andrew are a service organization on behalf of all members of the Los Angeles Valley of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and are primarily 32nd degree members. (Black hats) We help out wherever we are needed, and it is a great way to learn more about the Scottish rite, and meet the members. If you are a black hat and not yet a member of the knights, why not? At the next function of the Scottish rite, ask any of the Knights for more information about the order, and an application to join. I hope to see you in the next initiation of new knights.



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