

SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF OAKLAND

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(510) 451-1903

SPRING

2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER

Dinesh Chhabra, 32°, Venerable Master, Oakland Lodge of Perfection



I am proud, honored, and humbled to be elected to serve you, my Brethren, and our Valley of Oakland as the 2023 Venerable master. God has blessed all of us during the past few years! I will do my best to serve until the time comes to pass this honor.

Our ancient brethren gave us a successful blueprint for the ongoing project of building the Masonic fraternity. They selected and hewed the stones from their spiritual quarries and laid them well with mortar. They were square, level, and plumb. They informed us that we should only accept the proper materials within the temple to practice and teach our moral science. That we should embrace the laws of nature by working with, not against, our creator and to emulate divine wisdom. We are to make good men great, not evil men good.

One of our functions is to be a bright and shining beacon for the lost so they may find refuge and safety. We are not a group of mediocre men who struggle to scrape what is needed to build a relatively well-kept storehouse of cots and soup pots to feed the self-destructive and dysfunctional. Instead, we are a guide to societies worldwide, hopeful that by following our example, they will be

more instructive, charitable, and forgiving.

In our temple, we have much to do. Our working tools must be used, lest they become rusted and pitted. A stonemason's tool should be used gently, just as our moral tools should be. If the oaths, laws, tenets, cardinal virtues, forms, and supports were well-followed, our need for new bylaws would be negated. Frustrations, offenses, and fears uncorrected will inevitably result in future trials, although it may not entirely be the offender's fault.

We were instructed in the Master Mason's degree that we should follow the five points of fellowship. Too often, we turn a blind eye to poor conduct and a deaf ear to offensive speech. However, as true masters of the noble Craft, we should inform the erring Brother of their offenses and aid in his reformation, remembering him in our devotion to Deity, and keeping his secrets as our own. Until we begin building as Master Masons, we may never erect the cathedral on earth or heaven. So, how important is it that we only accept the best materials for the temple?

From my perspective, it is hard enough to keep vice, gossip, and all other destructive influences away from good men, not to mention how nearly impossible it would be to do the same for those addicted to errant habits. Yes, I believe it is a sad truth that just as a man can be bonded to his

brothers in fraternal love and goodness, so too can a man be so bonded to vice that his pores and veins may never become unclogged. During life, we change many times. We are born, grow into adolescence, manhood, old age, and finally, death. Unfortunately, some men only learn the importance of a well-lived life at the threshold of death. They gain wealth, status, and earthly pleasures, finally witnessing the truth of how all these will die with them. They may have had a loving wife, eager children, and hopeful parents. All these blessings may have gone unnoticed, but when the end is imminent, they are the only thing he sees.

Our future temple is not of this earth. Its perfect ashlar is raised to Heaven. They are of the best quality, so the building of our invisible temple was, is, and always will be made up of the very best materials available from the common stock of humanity. Therefore, we call on every true craftsman to endeavor to build the spiritual building in perfect harmony with his fellow brethren. As we complete each level of our temple, we should hold fast to the square, plum, and level and spread the mortar of brotherly love liberally with all our associates, family, community, and true self.

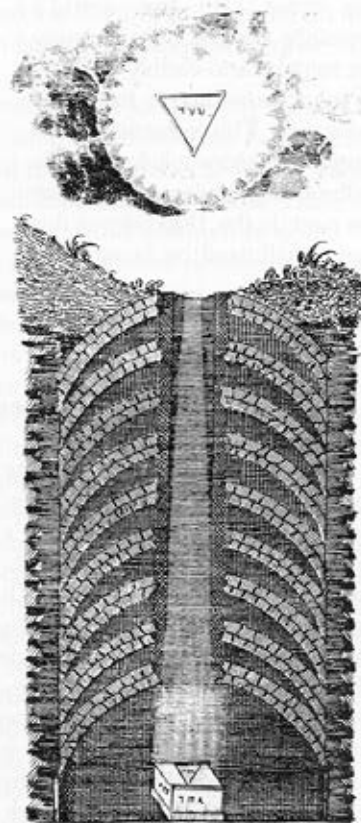
It is impossible to offer libations to companions without first having ample provisions for the self and not the ego, which starves the true self. Envious in its nature, it will jealously drain virtue from every being until, through frustration (or even starvation), it turns from its infatuation with a false reflection of the self and excavates the depths of the soul until the true self emerges. Or, it self-destructs through reckless or perverse usages of Masonic tools. Only the worthy, well-qualified, and properly vouched for may be admitted.

A brother's public and private life may be too intensive an inquiry to verify for many lodges. However, several lodges continue to carry the sacred torch. These bearers of light possess a deep obligation to bring the dross and inert back to life. At certain times the Craft has fallen victim to ruffians of every stripe. They have remained undiscovered in our midst, and even unknown to themselves due to self-ignorance.

In his essay, "Of Goodness and Goodness of Nature," Sir Francis Bacon wrote, "take goodness in this sense, the affecting of the weal of men, which is what the Grecians call philanthropia; and the word humanity, (as it is used) is a little too light to express it. Goodness, I call the habit, and goodness of nature, the inclination. This of all virtues, and dignities of the mind, is the greatest; being the character of the Deity: and without it, man is a busy, mischievous, wretched thing; no better than a kind of vermin. Goodness answers to the theological virtue, charity, and admits no excess, but error. The desire of power in excess caused the angels to fall; the desire of knowledge in excess, caused man to fall but in charity there is no excess; neither can angel, nor man, come in danger by it."

I look forward to input from all of our members as we face the new year's challenges. Everyone's contributions are significant as this is *our* valley.

Let us proceed forward, arm-in-arm, as builders and brothers. I wish you all a happy & blessed year!



FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Dear Brethren and Friends,
It is my distinct privilege to welcome and congratulate our newly installed 2023 Oakland Valley Officers! We are blessed to celebrate a new Masonic year with a strong class of up-and-coming Masonic leaders: Venerable Master, Dinesh Chhabra, 32°; Wise Master, Robert Strohmeyer, 32°; Commander of Kadosh, Samuel Maffei, 32°; and Master of Kadosh, Carl Brickner, 32°. On behalf of the Valley, thank you to our Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Ill. Frank Loui, 33°, for installing our officers this past Sunday.

Additional congratulations are due to our brethren for hosting a very successful “Masters’ Night at the Rite,” with over sixty Master Masons in attendance! This occasion brought together those East Bay lodge masters and Master Masons interested in learning more about the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. They were able to enjoy an evening in our beautiful temple, replete with a festive board, an orientation into the forms and traditions of our prolific Masonic rite, and a special performance by Hon. Mark Harris, 32° KCCH, and Bros. Dinesh Chhabra, 32°, and Carl Brickner, 32°, showcasing our stage and a brief sample of our Scottish Rite degree exemplifications.

As a new generation of Master Masons prepares to enter the halls of our Order, we are looking forward to our annual pilgrimage to Guthrie, Oklahoma, on April 13–16, 2023. There, our candidates and longtime members of the Oakland Valley will witness the exemplification of all twenty-nine Scottish Rite degrees. If you are interested in traveling with us to experience the firehose of Masonic education that is the Valley of Guthrie’s spring reunion, please let our front office know by emailing oakland@scottish-rite.org.

On February 6th, we are slated to enjoy filet mignon for dinner prior to our stated meeting. Please join us for the delicious meal and stay for the 8:00 pm special lecture and book signing by Dr. Christopher McIntosh, who will lecture on subjects related to his new publication, *Occult Russia: Pagan, Esoteric, and Mystical Traditions*. Please see the flyer for the event on [page 19](#) of this bulletin. Our Oakland Valley has maintained a long friendship with Dr. McIntosh, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to host his lecture for the first time since the pandemic paused all of our programs. Because Dr. McIntosh resides in Germany, this will be a rare opportunity to meet and hear from this brilliant author in person. *Don’t miss this event!*

We have two other events this quarter to mark on your calendars: the Feast of Kadosh and the Rose Croix Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. First, please join us on the evening of Monday, March 20th, for a traditional Scottish Rite festive board and the celebration of the Knights Templar and their sacrifices in defense of their noble order. Then, on Thursday, April 6th, we will attend the solemn ceremonies of the Knights Rose Croix as they usher in the new season of growth and renewal, and memorialize those brethren who passed to the Celestial Lodge Above over the prior year. Both events are traditional Scottish Rite customs each of our brethren should plan to attend.

I wish our members and their families a beautiful and healthy spring season, and look forward to sharing our fellowship with you soon in person.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jonathan H. Prestage, 33°
Personal Representative of the SGIG in California

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Christopher R. Boggess, 32° KCCH, General Secretary



My Brothers,
“When Chekhov saw the long winter, he saw a winter bleak and dark and bereft of hope. Yet we know that winter is just another step in the cycle of life. But standing here among the people of Punxsutawney and basking in the warmth of their hearths and hearts, I couldn’t imagine a better fate than a long and lustrous winter.”

—Phil Connors (Bill Murray), *Groundhog Day* (1993)



It is winter! During the cold months, people often lose hope as they await the dawn of spring. In his poem, “Work Without Hope,” Samuel Taylor Coleridge mused, “All Nature seems at work; slugs leave their lair, The bees are stirring; birds are on the wing, And winter, slumbering in the open air, Wears on his smiling face a dream of spring; And I, the while, the sole unbusy thing, Nor honey make, nor pair, nor build, nor sing.”

I am happy to say this is not the case for the Oakland Scottish Rite. The Valley has seen many projects, hopes, and dreams come to fruition during the past year. Some of them were even decades in the making! Everything from correcting the plumbing issues, general upkeep and maintenance, storage spaces, drapery and linen, websites, electrical and wiring corrections, Wi-Fi.... so many items have been accomplished that I am compelled to applaud our Temple Board and Personal Representative for their direction in getting them done.

On the fraternal side, we have seen membership rebound from the dark days of the Toilet Paper Shortages of 2020. When I look around the lodge room, I see a core group of dedicated gentlemen that I know can deliver us to a bright future. In addition, we have educational events for our members, volunteer and service opportunities, the OSR Historical Foundation, the theatrics of the degrees, and our scheduled reunions. It is one of the more exciting times I have participated in at the Rite in quite a few years.

As Phil Connors, whom I mentioned at the beginning, goes through the idea of Samsara in the Buddhist practice, our Temple has also gone through many stages of metaphorical death and rebirth. We are nearing our 100th anniversary at the Temple, and I, after many years, sincerely wish for you to be as filled with hope as I am.



VMAP & SCOTTISH RITE RECRUITMENT

Carlos Alvarez, 32°, VMAP Chairman

Greetings Brethren!

I would like to congratulate our newly installed 2023 Scottish Rite officers. May you serve the Valley with honor and dignity. I also want to thank the outgoing officers for a fantastic year. Our next festive board, co-hosted by the DeMolay Council of Kadosh and Oakland Knights of Saint Andrew, will be held in March. I hope everyone can attend and enjoy the fellowship.

Please remember that if you are an elected officer and can't attend a stated meeting, contact your proxy to represent you in the East. In order to receive your Scottish Rite Past Master's jewel at the end of the year, you will need to participate in three-quarters of the annual meetings.

It has been an ongoing tradition to encourage the spring class to receive the Scottish Rite degrees at the Valley of Guthrie in the Orient of Oklahoma. Guthrie will confer all twenty-nine degrees with a full cast on April 14–16, 2023. If you are attending for the first time or inviting a candidate, you might be pleased that they offer dorms at \$15.00 per night. Please contact the front office to RSVP for these and other lodging details. I encourage all to attend so you can witness the beauty, wisdom, and strength of the Scottish Rite degrees and experience the buildup to the Thirty-second Degree in all its splendor. In addition, you will create lasting friendships and form strong bonds with your fellow brethren. Finally, it is hoped that you will participate in one of our newly-created degree teams of the Oakland Scottish Rite.

If you have the privilege to bring in JUST ONE candidate this year, you would be assuring a greater probability that our temple will thrive and continue to be a house of further light in masonry for future generations. We have hard-copy applications that we can mail straight to your Craft lodge. We also have PDFs that we can email to you. Additionally, we include one in every bulletin (see [page 26](#)). Please do not hesitate to contact the front office for assistance. Membership attrition has not been kind to our fraternity, and bringing in *just one* candidate can make a difference. As a bonus, any member who is a top-line signer for three or more applications during the year, will have his annual dues paid the following year by the Valley.





OAKLAND SCOTTISH RITE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

An Innovative Approach to Fraternal Culture and Preservation
Adam Kendall, 32° KCCH, Executive Director

We are excited to announce that the Harry Yetter Masonic Research Library is now inventorying our archival and library collection using the web-based collections management software CatalogIt (<https://www.catalogit.app>). This means no more spreadsheets that are easily corrupted, hard to read, and generally not recommended for the long-term management of cultural collections. CatalogIt allows us to include an object's historical information, location, its photograph, dimensions, who last altered the record, and a host of other features.

At the time of this writing, we are migrating the data from our current records into the new database. Once this has been accomplished, we will be able to link this information to our Foundation's website (<https://osrhistoricalfoundation.org>), thus making our records available to our membership and general public. As you know, the inventory is ongoing, so new items will appear frequently.

←

1947 Class or Honourmen of the Oakland Scottish Rite

Photograph

Harry Yetter Masonic Research Library—Objects and Archival Material

Object Access

Description
1947 Class or Honourmen of the Oakland Scottish Rite

Subject
1947 Class or Honourmen of the Oakland Scottish Rite

Subject Person or Organization
Oakland Scottish Rite

Subject Place
* Untyped Subject Place: Oakland, California

Collection
Oakland Scottish Rite

Category
Members of Oakland Scottish Rite

Acquisition
Accession
2022.10

Acquisition Method
Found

Location
* Untyped Location: Special Collections

Category
Storage

Date
Nov 23, 2022

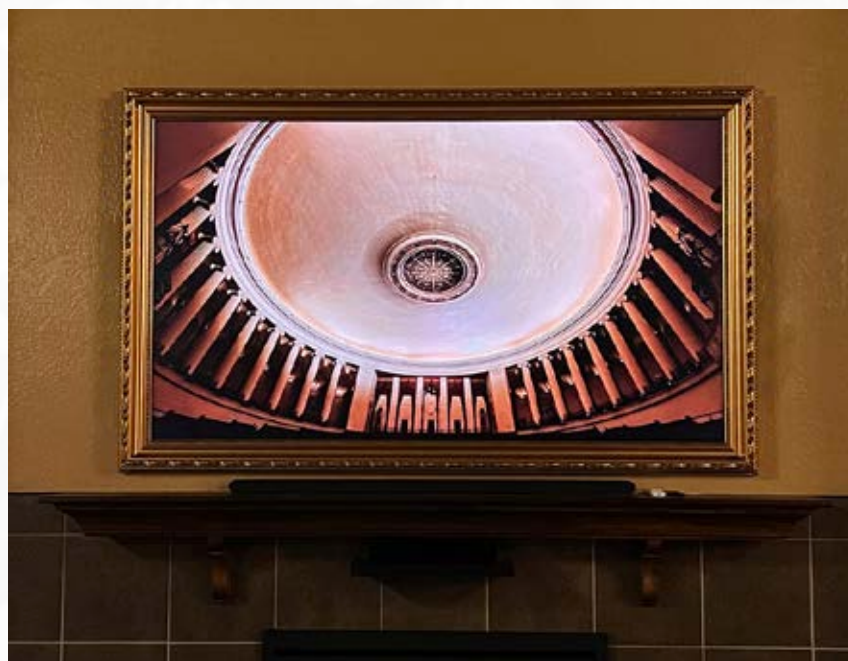
CatalogIt allows us to catalog, categorize, and attach the historical and physical data for each item. Above is an example of a typical record.

SMART ART

In the quest to enhance the beauty of our temple's several apartments while also remaining attentive to the pastimes of our brethren and guests, we have found the perfect balance of function and aesthetics: the Samsung Frame. Large screen display technology has grown by leaps and bounds—so much that we are able to enjoy broadcast entertainment *and* art displays!



The Samsung Frame features a database of wonderful works of art. Pictured here is a painting of Yosemite by Albert Bierstade (1865).



Photos from our collection can also be displayed. Featured here is a photograph by our rental manager, Leanne Carnegie.

From the Harry G. Yetter Masonic Research Library & Museum

Highlighting the Historical Treasures of the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple

Adam Kendall, 32° KCCH, Executive Director, Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation

LOCAL HERITAGE

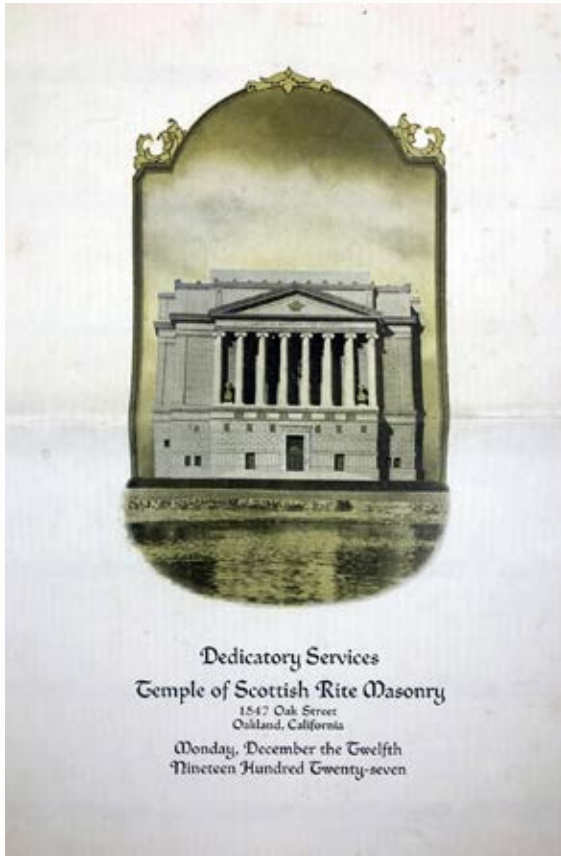
In 2022, we passed two significant milestones: the first was the ninety-seventh anniversary of the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple's groundbreaking ceremony on December 12, 1925. This was followed a few days later with the ninety-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Temple, whereby on December 5, 1927, the first stated meeting was conducted in the building. Seven days later, on December 12 (exactly one year after the groundbreaking), it was officially dedicated with much fanfare.



December 12, 1925: Crowds gather with officials from the grand lodge and the Valley of Oakland to perform the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Valley's new temple at 1547 Oak Street (renamed as Lakeside Drive).

The foundation as it looked on November 16, 1927. A year later, the temple would be completed. Amazing!





L to R: Oakland Scottish Rite Temple dedication program on Monday, December 12, 1927; glass slide circa 1927 depicting the new temple and the excitement surrounding its completion.



The Oakland Scottish Rite Auditorium, c. 1927. Note the original curtains and the built-in speaker integrated into the embroidered design at top.

TRADITIONS OF WISDOM

Freemasonry is not monolithic, so what exists in one region may not in another. However, there are a few consistencies, such as the Hiram legend. Another is the institution's penchant for evocative symbols from the distant past. Although there is no historical evidence of a *direct* lineage from the multitude of wisdom traditions in the ancient world, they have undoubtedly elicited genuine inspiration from the fraternity's early practitioners, as seen in its rich artistic heritage. Suppose it can be assumed that Freemasonry teaches the best of humanity's quest for knowledge. In that case, it is entirely appropriate to produce artistic praises to those mythological patrons of sublime wisdom such as Hermes, or symbols of the Deity! Below are two jewels that fit this description.

Left: A lodge breast jewel representing the caduceus of Hermes, the Greek god of wisdom, alchemy, travel, and other mystical arts. It is surmounted with a disk and delta, and is interlaced with a square and compasses. Unfortunately, its provenance is difficult to determine: the only markings on the obverse are so faint they are challenging to read, and we only know from the inscription on the envelope from which it was discovered that it originated in Karlstad, Sweden and was a longtime possession of "Alfred E. Dillings's son-in-law's father..."

Right: A jewel consisting of a pair of interlaced triangles. This symbol is employed in various rites and degrees of Freemasonry, such as the Scottish Rite. In the center are two hands clasped in friendship with an as-yet unidentified object (perhaps flames) arising from the grip. It is inlaid with diamonds, with rubies at each point. On the reverse is an inscription indicating that the jewel was struck to commemorate the founding of the Valley of Constancia and Concordia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Peru. It is dated November 16, 1862.



POETIC LICENSE

Throughout the centuries, Masons have maintained near-sacred traditions of conviviality. We love to gather together for meals after a long (or short) session of ritual. We feast... we toast... we regale each other with tall tales and heroic Masonic deeds. Most of all, we love commenting on our food. So commonplace is this tradition amongst American Masons, that the jokes about tri-tip and green beans are nearly ubiquitous. We all know of a lodge (sometimes it's our own) that possesses a culinary custom that stokes some manner of critique or praise — either for its rare gastronomic ingenuity, or for its uninspired thriftiness. In former days, these observations and frustrations were influenced by that great Masonic lesson of rhetoric. Not content with merely celebrating or roasting their fellows, brethren following the same tradition of Bro. Robert Burns's "Address to the Haggis," would sometimes compose prose and poetry to their food—often with the stinging barbs of humor and sarcasm.

Consider the following poem composed by Taliesin Evans, a member of Oakland No. 188 (one our Valley's constituent lodges). The brethren were frustrated by the constant presence of doughnuts provided by a Valley founder, Charles E. Gillett, despite their objections and appeals from the Master, George C. Pardee (another founding member, an Oakland mayor, and a California governor). According to the lodge's 75th anniversary yearbook, Pardee and the others pleaded to an unmoved Gillett, who was "always falling back on the doughnut as necessary from a standpoint of economy." The book's author claimed that the tradition was abolished with the reading of Evans's witty poem, which is narrated by the sad old doughnut (who mentions in passing the Masonic temple on 14th Street and Broadway). Thank you to Bro. Tigran Agadzhanian, 32°, for bringing this brilliant work to my attention.

A Doughnut's Lament

by Taliesin Evans

Dedicated to Oakland Lodge No. 188, F. & A. M. (1868–October 11–1893)

It is twenty-five years, or p'raps more, ago
Since the hour when first I saw daylight, you know,
In a dingy old cellar on lower Broadway—
The town was in petticoats clothed, then, they say—
My form was well rounded, my features were fair,
And, O, I was feted and courted—well—everwhere!
The "dad of the Lodge" was then handsome and young
And whispered sweet things that never were sung,
But, O, he was bashful, and so dreadfully shy—
He'd fondle me, then drop me, and never say why!
And after him came others in annual course—
Each one in his turn making matters much worse,
'Till now, my dear friends, I'm like Northey's white hat—
I'm faded and jaded and old and all that.

The years have sped onward in rapid array
And I have grown wrinkled and haggard and gray!
My form is now shriveled, my features are hard—
There's no one who'll touch me or say a kind word.
I've been kicked and been cuffed and been tossed all around,
I've been placed on the shelf and thrown on the ground,
Until I'm at last forced to sing my lament,
And say like the poet of old, "Let 'er went!"
For twenty-five years have passed o'er me, you see,
And now I'm dead as a doughnut can be;
So what is the use to cry or to fret—
I'll surrender the ghost without hindrance or let,
Saying good-bye to you, brethren, and ta ta to Gillett.



TREASURES OF THE OAKLAND SCOTTISH RITE TO SHINE IN THE ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

On April 8, the Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation's executive director, Adam Kendall, 32° KCCH, and several esteemed scholars such as Mark Dennis, Curator of the Museum of Freemasonry in London, Aimee Newel, Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of the American Revolution, and public history expert and author, Leigh Ann Gardner, will convene at UCLA with hosts, Drs. Margaret Jacob and Susan Mitchell Sommers, for the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of California's 11th Annual International Conference on Freemasonry.

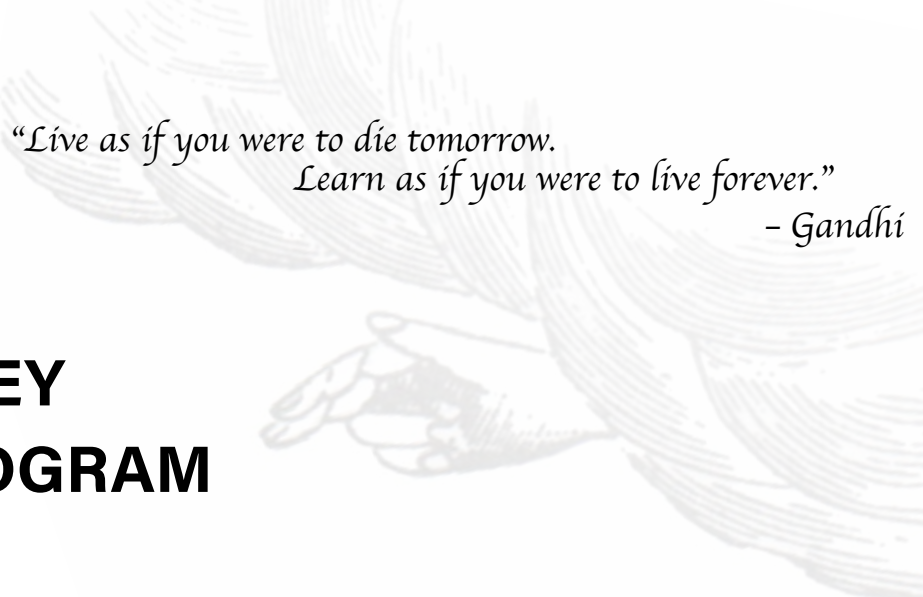
Titled, "From the Attic of the Grand Lodge," the conference "is an exploration of that vast collection of material culture—the technical term for all that 'stuff.' What should lodges do with it? How do we know what's valuable and what isn't? And how do these items, from bibles to regalia to aides de mémoire, help tell the larger story of Freemasonry? The academic study of material history and how it can deepen our understanding of historical events is an important part of the profession's most dynamic area of growth: public history."

Bro. Adam's presentation is titled "Listening to the Secret and Silent," and it will feature examples directly from our collection. The following is his topic summary:

The vexing problem for many professional and non-academic historians when confronted with Masonic artifacts, is how these often-overlooked sources might be examined and interpreted to break through the layers of hearsay, local legend, and the absence of provenance. How can they be used to reconstruct a historical record? Moreover, how can we translate that history, once recovered, into a useful narrative that will instruct and invigorate a genuine interest from the organization and the public? Drawing on examples found inside the 1927 Oakland Scottish Rite Temple, Kendall will demonstrate how the lessons of these forgotten treasures can assist the budding Masonic historian with their collection.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, CLICK HERE: <https://freemason.org/ucla/>





*“Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.”
- Gandhi*

OAKLAND VALLEY EDUCATION PROGRAM

V. Thomas Langford, 32°
Director of Education

THE DEGREE REVIEW PROGRAM

Unless otherwise noted, the Degree Review Program meets in person following our stated meeting at 8:10 pm.

We have spent the last two quarters looking at the degrees in the Council of Kadosh. The spring quarter will continue that focus with the four degrees associated with the ancient mystery tradition. These degrees are considered philosophical for two reasons. First, they examine theological questions related to the ancient mystery tradition. Second, they present a more in-depth evaluation of the system of moral philosophy known as virtue ethics.

In January, we reviewed the 23rd degree, Chief of the Tabernacle, and began exploring the mystery traditions. This series of degrees gives the Scottish Rite its reputation for being an introduction into comparative religious studies.

The 23rd degree used Judaism as the vehicle to explore the ceremonies and ideas associated with the lesser mysteries, which were said to be initiatory ceremonies employed in ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome. These were the religious mysteries open to all.

On February 6th, we will host guest lecturer Dr. Christopher McIntosh, who will present “Occult Russia: Pagan, Esoteric, and Mystical Traditions.”

In March, we will cover the 24th degree, Prince

of the Tabernacle. This degree again uses early Judaism to explore concepts associated with the greater mysteries. The thrust of the degree is to understand the meaning and purpose of symbolic instruction through initiation. I guarantee if you attend this meeting, you will never again think of the four classical elements in the same way.

For our April session, we will review the 25th degree: Knight of the Brazen Serpent. The degree is also known as the Sufi Master degree, employing the teachings of Sufism, an esoteric approach of Islam. While it presents some of the basic tenets of Islam, it also takes a deeper look at the challenges that confront a man on the path of symbolic instruction. Through the conversation of mystics, we are reminded that the purpose of initiation is change. It is meant to be transformative.

THE CAPSTONE GUILD

The Capstone Guild will hold its fourth quarterly meeting on May 1 to discuss the 4th degree, Secret Master—the first and mandatory degree from the Lodge of Perfection.

The degree continues the Hiram legend and introduces a brother to our Scottish Rite system, which includes the Kabbalah as a philosophical curriculum to assist in the contemplation on the nature of God.

At the May meeting, for the summer quarter study

topic the Guild will also select a degree from the Chapter Rose Croix.

The Capstone Guild is intended to be an in-depth examination of one of the higher degrees. As a group member, you study and compare the 1783 Franken Manuscript, the Magnus Opus of Albert Pike, and the actual Scottish Rite reunion degree scripts.

Please remember to return the signed-out degree scripts. I ask that these degree scripts not be duplicated in any way and that they be returned to me after the meeting that covers that particular degree. I am keeping track of attendance at the Guild meetings because after attending a certain number of sessions, a special jewel will be presented to qualifying members of the Capstone Guild.

While the Guild is a serious attempt to understand the history, purpose, and symbolism of the Scottish Rite degrees, you do not have to be a group member to attend the meetings. Everyone is invited to participate in the review discussion even if they have not formally signed up.



“Hiram Slain,” an interpretation by Midpoint AI. This is an artificial intelligence program designed to produce artworks and photography according to a user’s descriptive commands.

VALLEY EVENTS

OAKLAND CHAPTER NO. 2, HIGH TWELVE INTERNATIONAL

In December, Oakland Chapter No. 2, High Twelve International—one of the oldest continual chapters in the world—elected and installed its 2023 officers. (Photographs by Bro. Martin Aurelio, 32°)



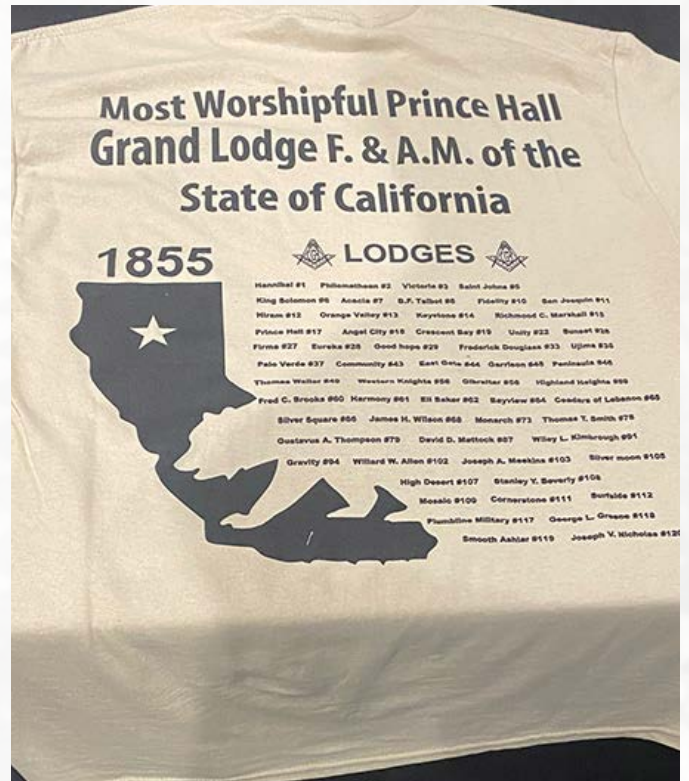
Hon. Chris Boggess, 32° KCCH, General Secretary of the Valley of Oakland, and Past President of Oakland Chapter No. 2, High Twelve Int'l, hands the gavel to the new president, Hon. James Westfall, 32° KCCH.

The 2023 Oakland Chapter No. 2 officers are sworn in! Left to Right: Hon. Chris Boggess, 32° KCCH, General Secretary, Hon. James Westfall, 32° KCCH (President), Hon. Bruce Rick, 32° KCCH (Vice President), and Ill. James Strehlow, 33° (Secretary).



PRINCE HALL MASTER MASON CONFERRAL

On November 18, several Prince Hall lodges from across the United States joined the the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of California, Prince Hall Affiliation, in our Oakland Scottish Rite Auditorium for a special conferral of the Master Mason degree. Over one hundred brethren were in attendance!



2023 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

On January 29, the Valley of Oakland, A & ASR, SJ, with Ill. Frank Loui, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California, presiding, installed its 2023 officers. The event was held in our beautiful auditorium, followed by a delicious dinner in the ballroom. Congratulations to all of our new officers!



Bro. Dinesh Chhabra, 32°, Venerable Master
Oakland Lodge of Perfection



Bro. Robert S. Strohmeyer, 32°, Wise Master
Gethsemane Chapter of Knights Rose Croix



Bro. Samuel A. Maffei, 32°, Commander
DeMolay Council of Kadosh



Bro. Carl J. Brickner, Jr., 32°, Master of Kadosh
Oakland Consistory

2023 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



Bottom Row, L to R: Ill. Frank Loui, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California; Ill. Jonathan H. Prestage, 33°, Personal Representative to the SGIG in California

Top Row, L to R: Bro. Dinesh Chhabra, 32°, Venerable Master; :Hon. Christopher R. Boggess, 32°, KCCH, General Secretary; Hon. Walter R. Crossley, 32°, KCCH, Junior Warden, Oakland Lodge of Perfection; Bro. Carlos I. Alvarez, 32°, Assistant Expert, Oakland Lodge of Perfection

Photographs on pages 17 and 18 by Leanne Carnegie

OCCULT RUSSIA

PAGAN, ESOTERIC, & MYSTICAL TRADITIONS



Dr. Christopher McIntosh

Please join us on February 6, 2023 for an exclusive lecture by Dr. McIntosh, who will discuss the currents of mysticism, myth, magic, and the spirituality to which the Russian soul has always been attuned. He will explain how the search for meaning in the post-Soviet era has given rise to a revival of ancient spiritual traditions and a plethora of new movements.

Dr. Christopher McIntosh is a British-born writer and historian, specializing in the esoteric traditions of the West. He has a doctorate in history from Oxford University, a degree in German from London University, and a diploma in Russian from the United Nations Language School. He resides in Germany.

Occult Russia: Pagan, Esoteric, and Mystical Traditions is available on Amazon.com: <https://a.co/d/fiUJly>

Monday, February 6, 2023

7:00 pm: Social + 8:00pm: Lecture + 3rd Floor Library
Oakland Scottish Rite Temple 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
Non-Members: \$20.00 + Members: No Cost + Casual Attire
RSVP by February 2nd: Oakland@scottish-rite.org

IN MEMORIAM



JIMMY LAY WOLFENBARGER, 32^o
JANUARY 1, 1935 – NOVEMBER 26, 2019

DEWINTON VERNON CALLAHAN, 32^o
AUGUST 7, 1953 – APRIL 29, 2022



“Be not sad, my Brethren, but let us rejoice that these men lived, that we knew them, and that they were one with us in the Mystic Bond of Freemasonry. Let us celebrate their lives by making the best of their examples.” –Albert Pike

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For online events, we will send the **Zoom** connection details each week to all members via email.

FEBRUARY

- Feb 6 Stated Meeting: 3rd floor. 6:00 pm Dinner (Filet Mignon); Meeting, 7:00 pm (Coat & Tie)
- Feb 6 7:00 pm Social (Guests); 8:00 pm: Special Presentation by Dr. Christopher McIntosh (open to members and guests). See flyer on page 17 for more information
- Feb 10 KSA Meeting and Social. Members' Lounge, 7:00 pm
- Feb 20 Presidents' Day (OSR Building Closed)
- Feb 27 High 12 Luncheon (Beef Stew). 3rd floor, 12:00 pm
- Feb 27 General Robert F. Travis Chapter, No. 490, National Sojourners. 3rd floor, 1:00 pm
- Feb 27 Scottish Rite Temple Association Board meeting. *ZOOM*, 6:00 pm

MARCH

- March 6 Stated Meeting: 3rd floor. 6:00 pm Dinner (Cottage Pie); Meeting, 7:00pm (Coat and Tie).
- March 10 KSA Meeting and Social. Members' Lounge, 7:00 pm
- March 12 Daylight Savings Time Change
- March 15 Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation Meeting. Zoom, 6:00 PM
- March 20 Feast of Kadosh (Scottish Rite Day of Obligation) — Hosted by the Oakland Consistory. 6:00 pm Dinner (Lamb). Attire: Coat & Tie.
- March 27 High 12 Luncheon(Chicken Parmesan). 3rd floor, 12:00 pm
- March 27 General Robert F. Travis Chapter, No. 490, National Sojourners: 3rd floor, 1:00 pm
- March 27 Scottish Rite Temple Board Meeting. Zoom, 6:00 pm

APRIL

- April 3 Stated Meeting: 3rd floor. 6:00 pm Dinner (Tri-Tip) Meeting at 7:00 pm (Coat & Tie)
- April 6 Rose Croix Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal (Passover and Scottish Rite Day of Obligation). 6:00 pm Dinner (BBQ Lamb Chops); 7:00 pm Ceremony (Coat & Tie)
- April 14 KSA Meeting and Social: Members' Lounge, 7:00 pm
- April 24 High 12 Luncheon: 3rd floor, 12:00 pm
- April 24 General Robert F. Travis Chapter, No. 490, National Sojourners: 3rd floor, 1:00 pm
- April 24 Scottish Rite Temple Association Board meeting, *In Person*, 6:00 pm. (Taco Bar)

If you are aware of any brother who is ill or in distress, please contact
Hon. Bro. Walter Crossley, 32° KCCH at walt777cross@hotmail.com or (510) 334-4394

2023 Officers

The Supreme Council, 33° S.J.

Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Orient of California Frank Loui, 33°

Officers of All Oakland Bodies

Personal Representative of the SGIG in California Jonathan H. Prestage, 33°
Treasurer Michael Stetka, 32°
General Secretary Christopher R. Boggess, 32° KCCH
Almoner Martin J. Aurelio, 32°
Prelate Cary L. Carlson, 32° KCCH
Orator Adam Kendall, 32° KCCH
Tiler Gordon H. Emberton, 33°

Oakland Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Dinesh Chhabra, 32°
Senior Warden Christopher R. Boggess, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden Walter G. Crossley, 32° KCCH
Expert John L. McPartland, 32° KCCH
Assistant Expert Carlos I. Alvarez, 32°
Captain of the Host George F. McQuary, 32°

Gethsemane Chapter of Knights Rose Croix

Wise Master Robert S. Strohmeier, 32°
Senior Warden Cary L. Carlson, 32° KCCH
Junior Warden Tigran Agadzhanyan, 32°
Expert Ben Brookshire, 32°
Assistant Expert Randy Tolerton, 32°
Guardian of the Temple David Kreutzinger, 32°

DeMolay Council of Kadosh

Commander Samuel A. Maffei, 32°
1st Lt. Commander Adam J. Hanin, 32°
2nd Lt. Commander John Minagro, 32°
First Deacon Ernesto Moyer, 32°
Second Deacon Lackshaye Aggarawal, 32°
Chancellor Robert Anderson, 32°

Oakland Consistory

Master of Kadosh Carl J. Brickner, Jr., 32°
Prior Lambert Yim, 32°
Preceptor Lyman Penning, 32°
Expert Lukas Szymanski, 32°
Assitant Expert Mark Harris, 32° KCCH
Captain of the Guards Tim May, 32°
Chancellor Robert Anderson, 32°
Minister of State V. Thomas Langford, 32°

Knights of St. Andrew

Lord of the Clan Carlos I. Alvarez, 32°

CONTACT

OAKLAND VALLEY OAKLAND SCOTTISH RITE CENTER & OAKLAND RITECARE



SR Valley of Oakland

Ancient & Accepted Scottish
Rite of Freemasonry
(510) 451-1903
oakland@scottish-rite.org

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General Secretary
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OSRC Rental Office

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rentals@scottish-rite.org

John L. McPartland, 32° KCCH

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Board of Directors
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Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation

Adam Kendall, 32° KCCH

Executive Director
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akendall@scottish-rite.org

Oakland RiteCare, CLC

Oakland RiteCare
Childhood Language Center
admin@oaklandspeech.org



RELIEF



Masonic Family and Senior Outreach Services

Brought to you by the California Masonic Grand Lodge, the Masonic Family Outreach Services (MFOS) exists so that no fraternal family has to go through tough times alone.

With one phone call, it becomes our mission to help you and your loved ones.

MFOS offers compassionate, individualized support to California Masons under age 60 and their loved ones. No matter what life challenge you are facing, from job loss to identifying resources for a special needs child, we are here to offer knowledge and support.

Additionally, through our home and community-based services under the Masonic Senior Outreach Services, we assist fraternal family members age 60+ with aging at home or in a retirement community in their local area.

We offer case management services and financial assistance to elder fraternal family throughout the United States; and expertise, guidance, and support to seniors. We connect clients with the resources they need to stay safe and independent.

To request assistance from either of the California Grand Lodge Masonic Family Outreach Services or the Masonic Senior Outreach Services

Phone: (888) 466-3642

For more information visit online:

<https://masonichome.org/in-your-community/family-outreach-services/>

<https://masonichome.org/in-your-community/senior-outreach-services/>

Oakland RiteCare® Childhood Language Center Contribution Form

Your generous gift will help our community of children with speech and language disorders.

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	
PHONE*		EMAIL*	
STREET ADDRESS		CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
MASONIC AFFILIATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me information about planned giving opportunities			
Gift Information			
AMOUNT OF GIFT		DATE OF GIFT	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN HONOR OF: OR <input type="checkbox"/> IN MEMORY OF: (Please fill in the Person's Name)			
PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED OF GIFT		YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE TRIBUTE	
STREET ADDRESS		CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
Payment Information			
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK ENCLOSED (Please make checks payable to: California Scottish Rite Foundation memo – Oakland CLC)			
<input type="checkbox"/> MY COMPANY HAS A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM (Please attach company form)			
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE-TIME DONATION <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Club <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership		A Sustaining Membership is a monthly, quarterly, or annual gift that you can pay in a convenient, ongoing way. Your Sustaining Membership will automatically renew each month, quarter, or year unless you choose to cancel or change it. <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP \$14.00 per month <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP \$42.00 per quarter <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP \$167.00 per year	
<input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN EXPRESS <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER CARD <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> VISA			
CREDIT CARD NUMBER		EXPIRATION DATE	CVV NUMBER*
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD			
BILLING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)			
AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE			

* The CVV is a 3 or 4 digit number on the back of most credit cards (on the front if American Express).

MAIL TO:
Oakland RiteCare CLC
1547 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, CA 94612

Donate online: www.oaklandspeech.org/donate

Thank you for giving the gift of speech!

*Contributions are deductible on Federal and Income Tax under our Fed ID #94-6078728.
Consult your Attorney or Tax Advisor.*



ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY,
SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

Petition for Degrees

(Full) Name: _____
FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME DATE

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Month, Day, and Year of Birth: _____ Wife/Partner's Name: _____

City, State, Country of Birth: _____

Are you a US Citizen? YES NO If "No", where are you a citizen? _____

Years as M.M.: ____ Blue Lodge Name _____ No. _____

Lodge City and State: _____

Date and Place Raised: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer Name: _____

Have you ever previously petitioned for Scottish Rite Degrees? YES NO

If you answered "YES", to which Valley did you petition, and why were you unable to become a member?

Ring Size: ____ Cap Size: ____ (example: "7 1/8")

"I, the above named and below signed, confirm a belief in a Supreme Being, the inculcation of patriotism, respect for law and order, and an undying loyalty to the principles of civil and religious liberty, as well as the entire separation of church and state as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America. I respectfully petition to receive the 4th through 32nd Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. I am currently a Master Mason in good standing."

Candidate's Signature

1st Sponsor PRINTED NAME

1st Sponsor Signature

2nd Sponsor PRINTED NAME

2nd Sponsor Signature

Application Fees

Fall Initiation Fee:	\$200
2023 Dues:	\$120
Total:	\$320

Payable by Mailed Check or Call for Credit Card

Please Return Petition with Payment to:

oakland@scottish-rite.org or the General Secretary's Office at 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612

Valley of Oakland

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J., U.S.A.



**Official Bulletin for the Scottish Rite Valley
of Oakland in the Orient of California, of the
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
of Freemasonry,**

**Officers of the Supreme Council, 33° Ancient
and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America**

Oakland Scottish Rite Center
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland CA 94612-4520

Office Hours: 10am – 4pm, Monday – Thursday

Phone: (510) 451-1903

Email: oakland@scottish-rite.org

James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Frank Loui, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in California

Jonathan H. Prestage, 33°
Personal Representative of the
S.G.I.G. in the Valley of Oakland

The Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Oakland, Orient of California, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspectors General, Knight Commanders of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction in the United States of America