

SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY OF OAKLAND

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(510) 451-1903

WINTER

2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF KADOSH

Carl J. Brickner, 32°, Master of Kadosh, Oakland Consistory No. 2



Greetings my Brothers! The year has passed by so quickly! Winter's imminent arrival feels like it's right around the corner, and, alas, my term as Master of Kadosh will soon draw to a close. Thank you for supporting our programs and taking part in our events—especially October's "Mini-Reunion"!

Our annual Feast of the Consistory is scheduled for Monday, November 13th, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Our catering staff has planned a sumptuous meal of chicken cordon bleu. We intend to share an evening filled with conviviality and fraternity and, as is part of our festive culture in Oakland, toasts galore. I'd like to see as many of you there as possible and look forward to our future celebrations together. Keep an eye out for the invitation, and please respond in the affirmative.

The 32nd Degree is the last of the Consistory and summarizes all the various lessons we have encountered during our progress in Freemasonry. It consolidates these teachings into one singular expression known as the Royal Secret. Genuinely hearing and understanding that expression, that word, makes us Masters of the Royal Secret. It enables us to integrate the entirety of Scottish Rite Freemasonry into our personal and spiritual lives such that it becomes to us as *Lux Inens nos agit*, loosely translated as “the Inner Light [that] leads us on.”

I encourage you for a moment to reflect upon the Valley of Guthrie's summary of the 32nd Degree:

This degree teaches many lessons, but the mystery concealed is that man is a creature of free will and capable of recreating himself. If he accomplishes this goal, he will attain a genuine power that can shake the limits of science, surpass the problems of this earth, decipher the secrets of space, surpass the limits of ceremony and catechism, and attain genuine enlightenment; a gnosis which is the foundation of all religions. He will also surpass the narrow views of interest in the area of morals, and will comprehend a genuine virtue that transcends his own interest. Thus, it will become his nature to help his fellow men, and, in so doing, he will discover the divine light within which brings true freedom of thought, freedom of conscience, and freedom of culture. (<https://www.guthriescottishrite.org/index.php/degrees/consistory-2/>)

Remember that we inform and create our reality through our thoughts, words, and deeds. Let our Masonic truths serve as a beacon and guide as you keep moving forward to bring *Ordo ab Chao* (Order from Chaos), as all honorable Scottish Rite Masons seek to do. In closing, I want you to know that I appreciate the honor you have bestowed upon me this year. May God bless you, your families, and our great country!



FROM THE VENERABLE MASTER

Dinesh Chhabra, 32° KCCH, Oakland Lodge of Perfection No. 2

Dear Brethren,
As I sit to pen this article, I find it hard to believe that 2023 has almost come to a close. What a long, strange trip it has been.

The learning and insight I have gained this year has prompted me to share with you some of my thoughts regarding the viability of our Valley of Oakland:

- Pride in Scottish Rite membership must be foremost in our minds in order to honor our legacy as the finest Scottish Rite Valley in California. Thus, inviting new members ranks high on our list of priorities.
- The inclusion of newer, younger members into all Valley committees.
- A revival of committee interest, including the degree teams.
- The dedication of each officer who has pledged his support to become a participatory, compatible, working member of the Rite.
- Member support of stated meetings, programs, and reunions. We need your attendance!

I hope you will heed the call and support our valley and its officers corps for 2024 and in the coming years.



I would like to share with you a heartfelt story:

I am blessed and highly favored. This is a gift to all of us from the Great Architect of the Universe. When asked how one is doing, the typical response is, “I’m good.” I once responded similarly to an intensely religious person and was met with a curt retort: “Only God is Good. You can only be well or some other variable to that statement, but not good.” Taking that to heart, I began to utilize other statements, such as “I woke up this morning,” or “I am as well as can be expected,” *et cetera*. You know the routine.

It was not until I went to work for the Coalition that I happened upon a veteran. By all appearances and demeanor, this man could have been a member of ZZ Top: slight build, with a beard and hair that extended past his waistline. He was always neatly dressed and wearing a wooden cross hand-carved by a fallen brother-in-arms.

His affliction was like many veterans and others who have experienced homelessness, trauma, and substance abuse. On every occasion we met, he continued to tell me he was blessed and highly favored. He considered his preferment as being blessed with another day and the amenities he was afforded — not because of his station in life.

His positive approach and happiness were shared only by those in his life. These quickly faded away with the daylight as the presence of others receded into the gloom. As the day yielded to the darkness of night, he — as many others have done — slipped into the depths of loneliness, solitude, and substances

that numbed him from the haunting traumas of his past in the war abroad and the war at home on the street.

I did not truly know every detail of this man's life, but I was acquainted with him until his past and present caught up with him. At that time, I reflected on his condition and began to utilize the phrase "blessed and highly favored" as it was a simple yet profound truth.

When I am questioned further on my statement, it is because I can only account for the moment at hand. Reading one of the prayers in the York Rite, "What have I purchased with a day of my life?" I do not look at the dates on my calendar, which seem to fill up quickly. Instead, I try to focus on the present. Still, I wonder about those we swore to remember — those who slip into the gaping darkness. I will continue to respond, "Blessed and highly favored," because I know I am and know that many more are not.

During this holiday season, we can choose the attitude of gratitude. Let us be grateful for our food, water, and the air we breathe. We can renew our appreciation for our family, friends, and neighbors. May we live our lives giving thanks with humility and grace. Help us reach out with generosity, care, and love to those in need. May we realize that not everyone is like us, agrees with us, or even thinks as we do. As Scottish Rite Masons, let us become shining lights in a world filled with darkness, discord, and pain. Help us to live our best life now, not trifle away our days, and always keep our faith. As we approach the holiday season, may we be men of light, and may that illumination help to make the world a better place.

Finally, it has been my privilege & honor to serve our Craft, and I would like to thank all of you. The progress we made this year is astounding, and I was happy to see us performing our beautiful degrees again at our recent Reunion! But, alas, the time has come to pass the honor of Venerable Master to the cheerful and capable Hon. Chris Boggess, 32° KCCH, who will lead the Valley of Oakland into an even brighter future.





FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Jonathan H. Prestage, 33°, Personal Representative

Dear Brethren and Friends,
Our members have recently enjoyed three special events in Oakland over the past two months. In September, the Valley of Santa Rosa joined us in hosting the Feast of Tishri (also known as the Feast of the Tabernacle), celebrating the children of Israel, having been led by Moses out of the land of Egypt. This festival also commemorates the dedication of the Temple of Solomon, a special motif found in the 14° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. The lamb dinner was outstanding, and the brethren were taught a more detailed history of this Scottish Rite tradition while partaking in the eight Toasts of Obligation. After the feast, we returned to the Oakland Members Lounge for continued fellowship.

On October 9th, the Gethsemane Chapter of Knights Rose Croix, led by Wise Master, Bro. Bob Strohmeyer, 32°, formally convened the chapter to hear his in-depth exploration of Rosicrucian history and how it relates to the Rose Croix tradition in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

Lastly, on October 21st, we held our largest event of the season, where two degrees were exemplified by the Valley of Santa Rosa, four by our Oakland Valley, with the remaining being communicated by Hon. Thomas Langford, 32° KCCH, and his team of instructors from our education committee. Our degree teams were organized and led by Hon. Mark Harris 32° KCCH, who directed the degree teams for the four exemplified degrees. Hon. Harris was supported by Bro. Carl Brickner, with the stage team managed by Ill. Jim Strehlow, 33°, Hon. Richard Anderson, 32° KCCH, and Ill. Gordon Emberton, 33°. Our audio and visual team was spearheaded by Bro. Sam Maffei, 32°, who joined our Temple staff as an understudy to our AV Supervisor, and the wardrobe was managed by Hon. Chris Boggess, 32° KCCH. He is a true and knowledgeable master of our beautiful early twentieth-century costumes.

After the successful conferral of these degrees, we had thirty-eight brethren, including six from Santa Rosa, join us for a Feast of St. Andrew, lively toasts, and fellowship in the Members' Lounge. I want to extend my gratitude for the extensive efforts of our degree team casts and each of the volunteers supporting the event behind the scenes. Please join me in sincere appreciation for our Director of the Work, Hon. Mark for his fine job completing his first Scottish Rite reunion while serving in his new position.

As we move into the winter months, we will host a Thanksgiving dinner for our members and guests on November 4th, prior to the Oakland Stated Meeting, and the Edwin Sherman Research Lodge will be meeting on November 20th, followed by a festive board. All Master Masons are invited to the research lodge meeting.

We have a new website launched for the Oakland Valley (www.oaklandvalley.org), where our bulletin may be downloaded, and our Google calendar can be viewed or subscribed to through your mobile device or computer.

We have returned to collecting email addresses of Widows and friends of the valley so we may more widely distribute our quarterly bulletin and share the reports from our upcoming and past events. If you have someone who should join our list, please email us at oakland@scottish-rite.org.

I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving holiday and a merry Christmas. I hope you may stay warm and healthy over the next few months. We look forward to seeing you in our temple!





VMAP & SCOTTISH RITE RECRUITMENT

Carlos Alvarez, 32°, VMAP Chairman

Greetings Brethren! As winter descends upon us, we welcome the opportunity to embrace change and renewal. In October we came together with the Valley of Santa Rosa to confer the degrees of the Council of Kadosh. Now, with great anticipation and enthusiasm we prepare for 2024 and the Orient-wide Reunion that will take place within the hallowed walls of our Temple on April 26–28.

Although this date seems distant, it's *only* six months away and there is so much to accomplish. As was shown at our previous Reunion, the success of this event relies on the dedicated participation of our members. Therefore, we seek your active involvement in various essential roles, such as registration, degree cast, backstage assistance, costuming, ushering, and coordinating Lyft concierge services. Participating in this Reunion is not merely an obligation to your present brethren, but a noble endeavor for those who will receive their degrees on that day, and every year to follow. Our degrees play a vital role in shaping us into dedicated Scottish Rite Masons. This important date will enrich your Masonic journey and significantly contribute to the prosperity of our beloved Valley. Additionally, it grants us the privilege to showcase our cherished building to the entire Orient of California! *Please include it in your calendars now!*

I implore you to answer the call and seize this opportunity to become active in our Masonic pursuits. Moreover, I encourage you to attend our stated meetings to stay informed, relish delectable cuisine, partake in enlightening educational programs, and savor quality social interactions. Feel free to extend this invitation to fellow Master Masons; after all, a more extensive gathering only enhances our joy and camaraderie.

In this spirit of growth and progress, let us remember the privilege of sponsoring a candidate this year. By doing so, you contribute to the continued brilliance of our Temple, ensuring it remains a guiding light in Masonry for generations to come. If you require any assistance in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact our front office.

Furthermore, for those who successfully sponsor three applications within the calendar year, the Valley will express its gratitude by covering your dues for the following year. We also encourage those with shared interests to consider forming social clubs within our fraternity. Let us foster fellowship and brotherly love within our Masonic community.

May this season of change and renewal bring new opportunities for growth, camaraderie, and enlightenment as we move forward together.



“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° KCCH, Director of Education

THE DEGREE REVIEW PROGRAM

After our Valley's monthly meeting, the degree review program will continue to meet in the Harry Yetter Masonic Research Library.

We spent the fall quarter focusing on the degrees of the Council of Kadosh, beginning in November when we will complete that journey with the 30th Degree, Knight Kadosh. This degree is the summation of the two esoteric traditions that have comprised the main themes of the Council of Kadosh—the ancient mystery and chivalric traditions. Both are associated with a philosophical system that emphasizes the importance of personal integrity and character building.

We moved from the Lodge of Perfection's focus on the contemplation of the nature of deity through the Chapter of Rose Croix's consideration of humanity's relationship with the Creator to the Council of Kadosh's inspired conception of an individual's role in society. The 30th degree (a formal degree of instruction) summarizes this progress and prepares us for the unveiling of the Royal Secret.

In December, we will begin a review of the fourth and final body of degrees in the Scottish Rite System—The Consistory of Masters of the Royal Secret. While the Consistory has only two degrees, they are very compact and build on the previous assortment of esoteric traditions that have informed our progress through the Scottish Rite system.

The Consistory requires the aspirant to think beyond a mere acquisition of knowledge. Not surprisingly, these two degrees are deeply contemplative. Here, we must take the mental leap and reach beyond the surface narrative of symbols to their underlying significance. At this level of reflection, both reason and intuition are required to grasp the golden-threaded pattern woven into the traditions we have previously studied.

I will use the December meeting to examine the entirety of the Consistory. We will consider the 31st Degree's shift in perspective that takes us from a historical setting to a mythical one and from the historical to the symbolic in the 32nd degree.

We will review the 31st Degree Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander in January. Its more esoteric name is "Initiate of the Egyptian Mysteries," although it is commonly called the "Inspector Inquisitor of the Egyptian Mysteries." While this degree begins with Crusaders, it quickly transforms into a dramatic reenactment of the ancient Egyptians' conception of a person's spiritual challenges following death. Inspired by the *Am Duat* (or *The Book of Coming Forth by Day*, which is popularly known in contemporary

history as the *Egyptian Book of the Dead*), the drama depicts the scene of judgment in the underworld kingdom of Osiris.

This unusual setting provides a vehicle for comparing human justice with that of the divine. Please join us for this mystical journey into the mythic form of consciousness that inspired the ancient Egyptians.

THE CAPSTONE GUILD

The Capstone Guild will hold its sixth quarterly meeting in February to discuss the 30th degree, Knight Kadosh.

Even though we will cover this degree in November as a part of the review program, the Guild will closely investigate how the ceremony has evolved. We will consider the influence of Albert Pike and the demands of a dramatic stage production.

At the February meeting, the Guild will also select the study topic from the Lodge of Perfection for the spring quarter.

The Capstone Guild is intended to be an in-depth examination of the higher degrees of the Scottish Rite. As a group member, you study and compare the 1783 Franklen Manuscript, the *Magnum Opus* of Albert Pike, and the degree scripts used by the Oakland degree teams for our reunions.

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, there is no group membership requirement to attend the meetings. Everyone is invited to participate in the review discussion even if they have not formally signed up.

Salve Frater!



New Free-Mason's Monitor; or, Masonic Guide, James Hardie, A. M., 1818 (Detail).



OAKLAND SCOTTISH RITE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

An Innovative Approach to Fraternal Culture and Preservation

Adam Kendall, 33°, Executive Director

SUPPORTING A LEGACY

The Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation was designed to help us realize our historical and future potential. As its executive director, I want to strongly encourage you to take your place as a benefactor when planning your annual or long-term giving plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at akendall@scottish-rite.org. Please also visit <https://osrhistoricalfoundation.org/donate/> where you can become an annual or monthly donor and choose a giving level that is unique to each plan.

Recurring Donation
Friend – \$10/mo
Steward – \$25/mo
Benefactor – \$50/mo
Patron – \$100/mo
Oak – \$200/mo

One-Time Donation
Donor – \$20
Supporter – \$50
Friend – \$120
Steward – \$300
Benefactor – \$600
Patron – \$1200
Oak – \$2400

At the time of publication, the Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation wishes to thank the following brethren and members of the community for their kind donations! Spread the word and donate today!

Tigran Agadzanyan, 32°

Cary Carlson, 32° KCCH

Dinesh Chhabra, 32° KCCH

Energy Recovery

Gordon Emberton, 33°

Rolf Haas, 33°

Mark Harris, 32° KCCH

Jack Jay, 32°, Valley of Los Angeles

Sandy Kahn, 33° (In memory of Cal Gitsham, 33°)

Adam Kendall, 33° & Tannalee Kendall

David Kreutzinger, 32°

Samuel Maffei, 32°

Anthony Mazy, 32°

John McPartland, 32° KCCH

Mario Palestini, 32°

Donald Parker, 33°

David Parsons, 32°

Madeline Russell and Family

Ariyeh Schmeder, 32°

James H. Strehlow, 33°

Robert Strohmeyer, 32°

James Westfall, 32° KCCH

(In memory of Al Donnici, 33° & Bill Stanley, 33°)



From the Harry G. Yetter Masonic Research Library & Museum

Adam Kendall, 33°, Executive Director
Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation

A NEW DISPLAY!

In the spirit of our recent reunion, I'm very excited to show off our new display of early 20th century Scottish Rite costumes that are rarely seen or used. These are complemented by a photographic gallery featuring our degree scenery that was painted by Thomas G. Moses, ca. 1926–27. Please visit Wendy Waszut-Barrett's excellent blog for more information about this most interesting fellow: <https://drypigment.net/?s=Thomas+Moses>

The costumes were produced by several different supply companies, such as M. C. Lilley and Co., who supplied the nation's galaxy of fraternal orders with regalia, furniture, books, and other essential equipment (and even items for the fantastically popular “fun”, yet unauthorized, side degrees; there's a wonderful book on that subject of interest to every student of fraternalism: <https://www.goodreads.com/videos/28174-catalog-no-439-burlesque-paraphernalia-and-side-degree-specialties-an>)

We would like to fill this space with display cases with your help! If you are interested in being a part of history by saving history, consider donating to the Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation! See <https://osrhistoricalfoundation.org/donate/> for more information.



Behold! The line-up of our degree characters!



5th Degree, Perfect Master



18th Degree, Knight Rose Croix



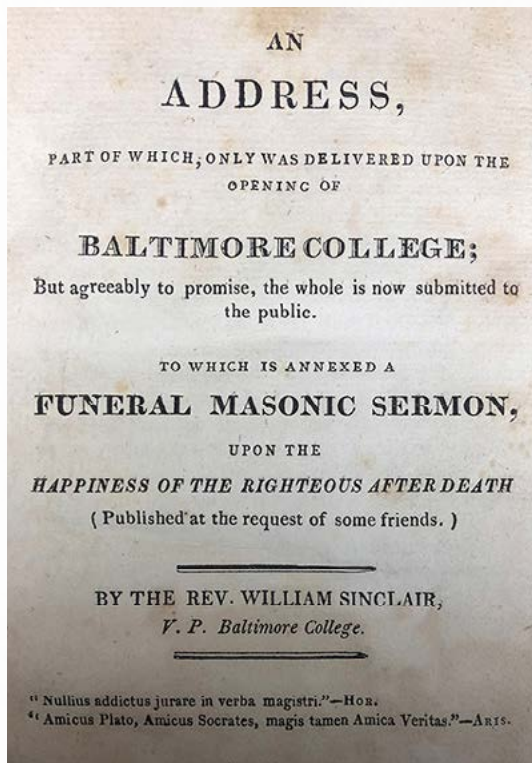
28th Degree, Knight of the Sun or Prince Adept



31st Degree, Inspector Inquisitor

REVEREND WILLIAM SINCLAIR: AN AMERICAN STORY

Rev. William Sinclair's 1812 Address to Baltimore College with a Funeral Masonic Sermon



William Sinclair (d. 1830) was an Irish Presbyterian minister and a founding member of the Society of United Irishmen (est. 1791). For his participation in the rebellion of 1798, he was exiled to the United States, but discovered that even there his political activities were problematic. Instead he established the Baltimore Academy, which later merged with Baltimore College (founded by fellow United Irishman Dr. John Campbell White). He served as its vice president and also a professor of rhetoric and logic.

His dedication to General Bradley (see photograph and transcription) mentions the exile from Ireland. Was this the same (Colonel) Edward Bradley who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and was a personal friend of Andrew Jackson?

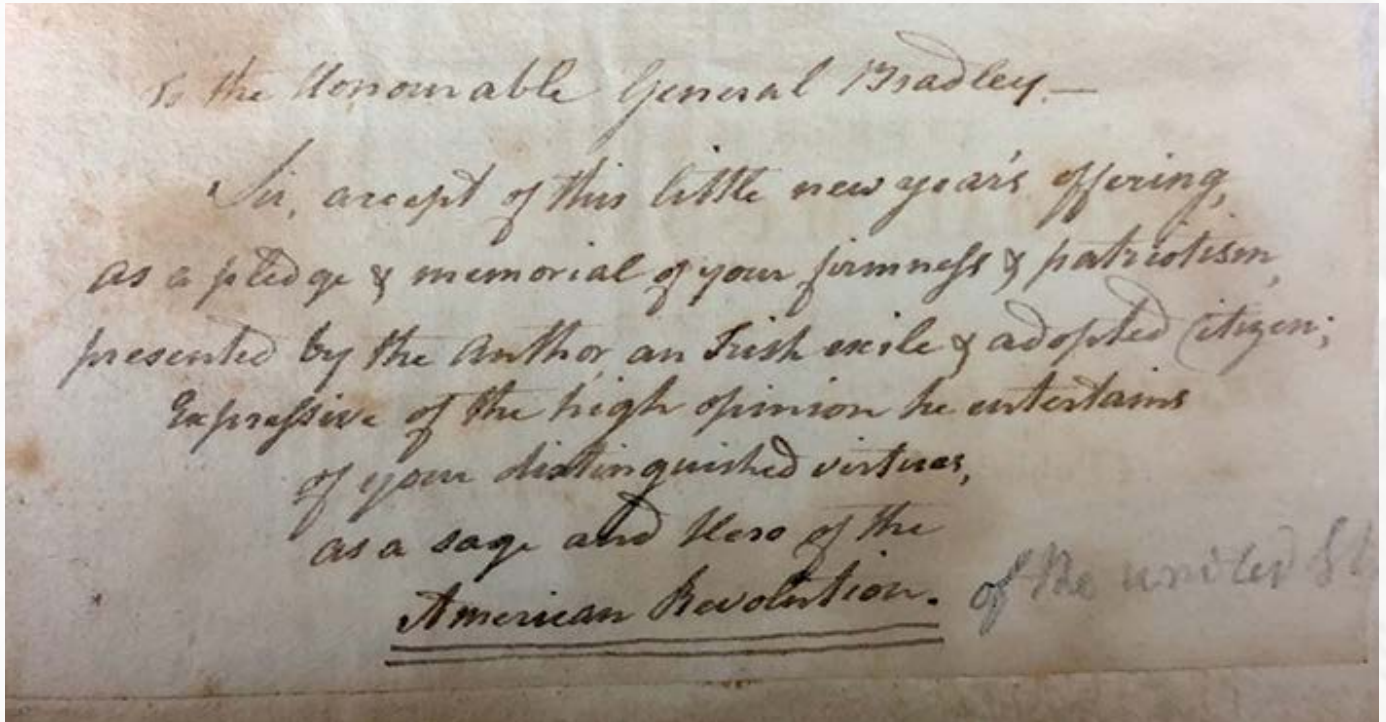
The dedication reads:

To the Honorable General Bradley—

Sir, accept of this little new year's offering, as a pledge and memorial of your firmness & patriotism presented by the author, an Irish exile and adopted

[The latter portion "of the United States" was tacked on at a later date. It is unknown if it was by the author, or the book's subsequent owners.]

How many of these memories are hiding in your lodge libraries just waiting to be rediscovered?



VALLEY EVENTS

2023 SCOTTISH RITE HONOURS: WASHINGTON DC

On August 17–22, the Valley's leaders and their partners traveled to our nation's capital to attend the biennial session of the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction (held at the Washington Hilton), and the conferral of the Thirty-Third Degree, Inspector General Honorary, upon our brother, Adam Kendall. Every two years, the sessions attract a wide variety of brethren from around the world. We had the opportunity to see familiar faces, greet new ones, and spread the cement of brotherly love!



Washington Enthroned: Horatio Greenough's twelve-ton marble statue was commissioned by the United States Congress on July 14, 1832 for the centennial of Washington's birth. It is now on display at the Smithsonian Museum..



From top: Members of the Supreme Council process into the ballroom, commencing the proceedings of the 2023 Biennial Session; Ill. Johnathan Prestage, 33° and his lady, Hanna; Hon. Chris, 32°, KCCH, and our S.G.I.G., Ill. Frank Loui, 33°; Ill. Adam Kendall, 33° lining up with his classmates to enter into the Temple Room at the House of the Temple.

Ill. Adam was one of two representatives selected to take part in an introduction ceremony that preceded the conferral of the Thirty-Third Degree.



2023 SCOTTISH RITE HONOURS: LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

On September 9, the Orient of California held its biennial Scottish Rite Honours at the Long Beach Scottish Rite Temple where our dear brothers, V. Thomas Langford and Dinesh Chhabra, were invested with the Knight Commander of the Court of Honour! Congratulations brethren!



Our Personal Representative, Ill. Jonathan Prestage, 33°, Hon. Chris Boggess, 32°, KCCH, and our Valley of Oakland Honourmen pose with Ill. Frank Loui, 33°, S. G. I. G.

Honorable Brothers Thomas and Dinesh pose with Ill. Frank Loui, 33°, S. G. I. G.



2023 VALLEY OF OAKLAND MINI-REUNION

On October 21, the Valley of Oakland hosted a "mini-Reunion where the the 19th through the 29th degrees of the Council of Kadosh were conferred. Special appreciation is due to the Valley of Santa Rosa for assisting us during this exciting day of fraternity and Scottish Rite ritual. Following the Reunion, we enjoyed a traditional festive board dedicated to Saint Andrew!



Bro. Michael Stetka, 32°, prepares to address the audience.



Oakland and Santa Rosa brethren meet at breakfast to discuss the degree production.

Top: Following the degrees, the brethren assembled in the banquet hall for a traditional Feast of Saint Andrew. Bottom left: The Director of Work, Hon. Mark Harris, 32° KCCH, addresses the banquet attendees. Bottom right: Bro. Donald McCue, 32°, glows with fraternal joy.



IN MEMORIAM



— 3 — 3 —
HARLAN THOMAS HALLER, 32°
MARCH 12, 1924 – OCTOBER 27, 2022

DALLAS G. CASON, 32°
FEBRUARY 2, 1938 – APRIL 28, 2023

WILLIAM A. LOHSEN, SR, 32°
SEPTEMBER 22, 1945 – JUNE 30, 2023

CHARLES J. VAUGHN, JR, 32°
JUNE 21, 1929 – JULY 7, 2023

THOMAS A. FLETCHER, 32°
FEBRUARY 13, 1930 – AUGUST 16, 2023

BRUCE L. WEISSENBERGER, 32°, KCCH
AUGUST 26, 1961 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2023



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To view and subscribe to the online Google calendar, visit www.valleyofoakland.org

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 6 Stated Meeting: 3rd floor. 6:00 pm Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner; Meeting, 7:00 pm (suit and tie). Valley Education, 8:00 pm; Social, 8:00–10:00 pm.
Nov. 11 KSA Meeting, 7:00 pm. *Knights only*.
Nov. 20 Edwin Sherman Lodge of Research Stated Meeting. 3rd Floor, 6:00 pm.
Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 28 Scottish Rite Temple Association Board meeting via Zoom, 6:00 pm

DECEMBER

- Dec. 4 Stated Meeting: 3rd floor. 6:00 pm, Holiday Dinner: Beef Stew; Meeting, 7:00 pm (suit and tie). Valley Education, 8:00 pm; Social, 8:00–10:00 pm.
Dec. 8 KSA Meeting, 7:00 pm. *Knights only*.
Dec. 8 First Day of Hanukkah
Dec. 11 Scottish Rite Temple Association Board meeting via Zoom, 6:00 pm
Dec. 11 Oakland High 12 Luncheon. 3rd floor, 12:00 pm.
Dec. 11 General Robert F. Travis Chapter, No. 490, National Sojourners: 3rd floor, 1:00 pm
Dec. 20 Oakland Scottish Rite Historical Foundation Meeting. *Zoom*, 6:00–7:00 pm
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY

- Jan. 8 Stated Meeting: 3rd floor. 6:00 pm Dinner: Beef Stroganoff; Meeting at 7:00 pm (Suit and tie; Degree presentation, 8:00 pm; Social, 8:00–10:00 pm
Jan. 12 KSA Meeting, 7:00 pm. *Knights only*.
Jan. 13 Feast of Kadosh, 3rd Floor. 6:00–7:00 pm. Dinner: Braised Short Ribs
Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Day (Building Closed)
Jan. 22 Oakland High 12 Luncheon: (Tri-Tip); 3rd floor, 12:00 pm
Jan. 22 General Robert F. Travis Chapter, No. 490, National Sojourners: 3rd floor, 1:00 pm
Jan. 22 Scottish Rite Temple Association Board meeting. *In-Person*, 6:00 pm
Jan. 28 Valley of Oakland Installation of Officers, 4:00–7:00 pm. Officers: tuxedo; guests: business formal.

APRIL 26–28 ORIENT-WIDE REUNION IN OAKLAND

More Details to Come!

If you are aware of any brother who is ill or in distress, please contact our Valley offices directly at oakland@scottish-rite.org or (510) 451-1903

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°
Assistant General Secretary Christopher R. Boggess, 32° KCCH
Almoner Martin J. Aurelio, 32°
Prelate Cary L. Carlson, 32° KCCH
Orator Adam Kendall, 33°
Tiler Gordon H. Emberton, 33°

Oakland Lodge of Perfection

Venerable Master Dinesh Chhabra, 32° KCCH
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. Strohmeyer, 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 Moya, 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° KCCH

Directors of the Work

Director Mark Harris, 32° KCCH
Assistant Director Carl J. Brickner, Jr., 32°

Knights of St. Andrew

Lord of the Clan Carlos I. Alvarez, 32°

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John L. McPartland, 32° KCCH

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Board of Directors
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johnmcp911@gmail.com

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Executive Director
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Oakland RiteCare, CLC

Oakland RiteCare
Childhood Language Center
<https://www.casrf.org/oakland>



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

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:

<https://www.casrf.org/oakland>

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