



THE RITE NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STOCKTON SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

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Stockton, California

January 2009

Did You Miss Our Holiday Open House?



A large group of members and guest shared a Holiday visit to the Scottish Rite, December 17th. Our office "Ladies" put the food and drinks together. Our office "Guys" supervised, so, giving credit where credit is due, thank you "Julie and Marlene". Thanks to Al Pike, et. al. for the cake.



Message from the Venerable Master Elect

With the Holidays behind us, It's time to get back to work and work off all that good food we ate during those days. With the economy the way it is we have to work extra hard to keep the Rite going and that means all of us have to support as many functions as possible, come to the Stated Meetings, have a great dinner with friends and come up with some ideas to help the Rite.



Our new members are looking forward to the degrees and Brother John Bolt is our degree Director, let us all pitch in and give him the support he is asking for. Show up for the practice on time and everything will come out Rite.

While you are thinking about that, talk to the brothers in the Blue Lodge about the Rite and see if they would like to join our great organization. The Learning Center is doing a super job with the kids and that is what it is all about.

With the support of our ladies we will have a great year.

Jake Van Holland
Venerable Master Elect

Officers Joint Installation Wednesday, January 7th

**5PM - Rehearsal for
Incoming Officers**

Officers Dress Tuxedo

6PM - Social

6:30 PM - Dinner

7:30 PM - Program

Followed by Stated Meeting

Dinner Reservations 466-3391

Chinese Night

San Francisco Scottish Rite

February 25th

\$37 per person

One Bus only



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First Come - First Serve

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209.537-5643



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The Bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Stockton, Orient of California, acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspector General Knights of Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty Third Degree of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at the Grand Orient of Charleston, in the state of South Carolina.

**Ronald A. Seale, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander**

**William F. Stovall, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General**

**R. Tod Ruse, 33°
Personal Representative of the
S.G.I.G. in California**

FROM THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

I would like to take this opportunity to wish one and all a very happy holiday and New Year. On January 7th, at our stated meeting, we will be installing the 2009 slate of officers. At this point I would like to thank all the officers who served this last year. All of you have done a grand job, and we have made a great deal of progress in our degrees, in our stated meetings and in our rental business. It has become very clear that we have a leadership team in the lodges that have a "can do" attitude and this is what it takes to get things accomplished. It must also be noted that our Language Center, in partnership with U.O.P., continues to run an exemplary program second to none.



At this point in time we have several members who are about to complete the Master Craftsman program. Any member wishing to start the program of instruction or advance to the next level in the program can come in to the Rite on Thursday afternoons and we will be here to assist.

Also, we are assisting the blue lodges in the instruction of the first three degrees. We now have all the candidate guides for all three degrees as well as the testing materials issued by Grand Lodge. We are available to assist any blue lodge in the instruction of candidates as they go through their degrees.

**Tod Ruse, 33°
Personal Representative, SGIG**

FROM THE SCOTTISH RITE LADIES ASSOCIATION

Here we are with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. It is difficult to believe that we are approaching the end of 2008. A year that has had disasters, war, disgrace, financial crisis, foreclosures, and yet many accomplishments. Yes, we were here and have witnessed history in the making. Let's hope that 2009 does offer us change and the pendulum begins to swing in the upward direction.

The raffle of the beautiful quilt is complete. We were able to generate \$170.00 and the lucky winner was Nancy Pozar. Congratulations Nancy and thank you once again Rose Clark.

What happened at the meeting? First of all, your new officers for 2009 were elected. President, Marlene Von Berg; Vice President, Shirley Davis; Secretary, Shirley Smith; appointed Chaplain/Sunshine, Nancy Pozar. Installation of these officers will take place in January. Please join us when they take their oath of office.

The by-law and constitution committee has met and made suggested changes. These will be presented at the January meeting for ratification. We would also like to update our directory at this time. If you have moved or changed phone numbers, please give us a call so the information can be correct. It is not an easy job to put this together but with your help we can make it happen.



Thank you all for allowing me to be your president. It is an honor to serve and I look forward to another term. Through teamwork we can accomplish goals and make Scottish Rite "someplace special" for all our members. God bless and happy holidays.

Marlene Von Berg, President

Am I a rough or perfect ashler?

Every Masonic Lodge has a rough and perfect ashler present, at the left and right hand of the Master of the Lodge.

Every Mason has heard and sought to understand the word ashler. An ashler is a builder's stone brought from the quarry for the building to be built. A rough ashler is a rough, unpolished stone as it comes from the quarry. A perfect ashler is that stone after it has been hewn, squared and polished by the masons into perfect shape to be used in the construction of the building. You may remember, the Mason adds nothing to the rough ashler to make it perfect. He removes the rough and superfluous surfaces to make it perfect. Then, polishes and squares it as he does his own life and actions.

The building represents life - yours and mine. You and I come into life as rough and imperfect ashlers. The Great Architect soon begins to hew and saw upon us, trying to make or shape and polish us into perfect ashlers. He works upon us through the years to take out of us our imperfections. At last, when our roughness has been smoothed away, our imperfections hewn out and we have thus become, perfect ashlers. That is when the Great Builder uses us and gives us our place in this building of life which He is constructing.

In the building of life, you and I are big or small ashlers according to our capacity. We will have much or little capacity according to how we come from the quarry, and then used, according to our fitness for the building as perfect ashlers. There are large and small ashlers, but there is a place in the building for each. Our responsibility is large or small according to our size and fitness for the building. You and I are required to accomplish our design, whether our capacities are large or small. If you are designed for a large job, then you must accomplish large things. But we are not excused because our capacity is small. The temple cannot be built without the large, perfect ashlers, and it cannot be built without the small, perfect ashlers. It takes all sizes and shapes of perfect ashlers to build the temple, and it takes all types and conditions of men to make a world.

The mark of a perfect ashler or Mason is that he does all things required of him as a Mason and as a man, to promote and to actually live the morals, citizenship, neighborliness, worship, appreciation, justice, tolerance and the thousand other things required of him as a Mason.

Jim Allen, 32°, K.:C.:C.:H.:

IN MEMORIUM



James F. Bostwick, 32°
Reported 12/1/08
AASR member since 1949

Robert L. Bright, 33°
Reported 12/10/08
AASR member since 1957

Lester T. Calkins, 32°
Reported 12/12/08
AASR member since 1959

*“Father,
in thy Gracious keeping leave
we now thy servant sleeping,
Amen.”*

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Request to the family of the member whose name appears below:
Please notify us (address above) if our member is in a hospital or
nursing home, or is incapacitated in any way, or is deceased.

DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DO NOT HOLD

Scottish Rite Calendar

JANUARY - LODGE OF PERFECTION - TUXEDO

Jan. 1st & 2nd - CLOSED for New Year

Jan. 7th - Officers Assembly 5PM, Stated Meeting/**Joint Installation**

Jan. 15th - Master Craftsman Workshop - Library 4-6 pm

Jan. 19th - Office Closed - **Martin Luther King Day**

Jan. 28th - Cathedral Board Meeting 6 pm/ Officers Conference 7 pm

FEBRUARY - COUNCIL OF KADOSH - DARK

SUITS

Feb. 4th - Stated Meeting/Valentine's Day Dinner

Feb. 16th - Office Closed - **President's Day**

Feb. 19th - Master Craftsman Workshop - Library 4-6 pm

Feb 25th - Cathedral Board Meeting 6 pm/ Officers Conf. 7 pm

NOTE: Dates, times and events are subject to change during the year.

The Seafaring Man

Anonymous

I sailed my ship for many a day,
Across the stormy sea;
Many a ruffian I have carried
And never refused but three.
They met me on a summer day
And saw my gallant ship,
And sought a passage to the other side
Upon a hurried trip.
They offered all the dough they had,
Mixed with a little sass;
That made me kinda hesitate
And ask them for a pass.
They deemed a pass unnecessary
For men of their degree,
And insisted that I take my ship
And sail it out to sea.
An old man who was standing by
And noted what they said,

Saw them kick me in the ribs
And strike me on the head.
He heard them say they'd steal the boat
And put it out to sea,
And sail away to the other side
To some strange country.
But now the coward of the bunch
The one you'd think was brave
Suggested that they turn again
And hide in a mountain cave.
And as the day went slowly by,
I heard the truth in time,
I found that they were murderers
And guilty of a crime.
So, as I sail my sturdy ship
Until my life has ceased,
I know not whom my friends may be
Unless they've traveled East.

NOTICE!

Applications are now being
accepted for the
**Stockton Valley Scottish Rite
Baker and Stanley Funds.**

NO-INTEREST, STUDENT LOANS.

The qualifications are, above a 2.5
GPA, graduating from and going
to, a public funded school located
in the Valley of Stockton Scottish
Rite Area.

Application may be made
through the Bank of Stockton
Trust Department, 209 929-1500.

Any and all Masonic
connections are taken into
consideration by the Scottish Rite
Selection Committee, but all
students may apply. These loans
are for the school year beginning,
Fall 2009. There are no
restrictions on the applicants for
the use of the Funds.