



THE RITE NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STOCKTON SCOTTISH RITE BODIES

Volume 60 / 2

Stockton, California

FEBURARY 2009

I'm "only" a Blue Lodge Mason! So am I! And I'm very proud of it!

The fourth to the thirty-second degrees of the Scottish Rite, beautiful and inspiring as they are, should not be, as they often are, called "Higher Degrees" connotating an elevation, a superiority, over the first three degrees.

"I'm only a Blue Lodge Mason - I never went any higher" -
how often is that semi-apologetic statement made!

The greatest authorities in the Scottish Rite are emphatic in the statement that neither that Rite nor any other can make a man more of a Mason than he becomes in the Blue Lodge. The degrees can, and frequently do, make him a better Mason, just as the labor required to earn a college degree can, and often does, make a man a better, but not more a citizen than he was before he passed through college. The Scottish Rite degrees are numerically greater than the first, second and third, but not "higher".

To quote the greatest authority on Scottish Rite Masonry who ever lived, Albert Pike: "It may be too late to change a common terminology. But, however we may refer to these ancillary or appendent degrees, let us not make the mistake of pretending that a 33 degree Mason is 'Higher' than a Master Mason, much less the Master of a Lodge. Let us, by our conduct and our speech, always acknowledge the Grand Master of Masons in his own Jurisdiction to be the highest officer the Masonic world has ever known or ever can know.

In the earlier degrees that "further light", which is hinted at in the Blue Lodge, is given and questions which many Master Masons ask after they are raised to the Sublime Degree are answered with solemnity and reverence.

Later, in The Scottish Rite Degrees, matters wholly new to Master Masons are taken up, and a wealth of philosophy, religion, and knowledge made available for the postulant.

Now that this has been said, I have to tell you that this is nothing new. These are excerpts from a 1937 Masonic short talk.

Jim Allen, 32° KCCH



From The Lodge of Perfection

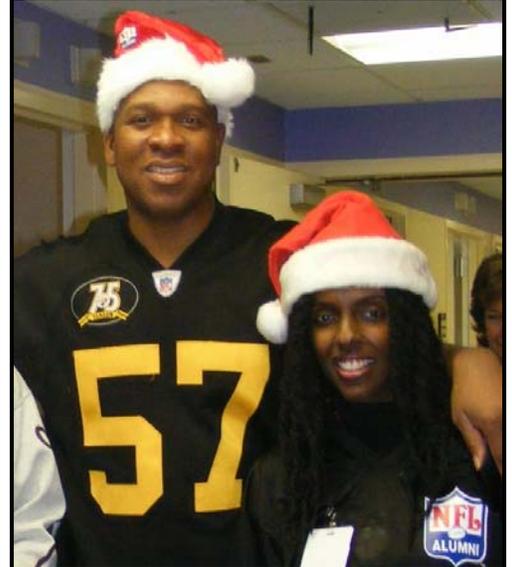
The New Year started out very successful with our installation and dinner. The officers have been duly installed and are ready to do their jobs, help them as much as you can. All of us thank the ladies for doing an outstanding job of feeding us and providing us with their support.

The turn out was good but it could have been better, so the ones that missed it show your support next time. The Stated Meetings are always on the first Wednesday of the month and the Cathedral and officers meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month and everyone is welcome.

Brother Del Davis still has a few tickets left for the trip to San Francisco so call him if you would like to go. Have you talked to the brothers in the Blue Lodge?

The time is now because our degrees are coming up fast. **Jake Van Holland.32°, Venerable Master**

NAUGHTY OR NICE?



Stockton Scottish Rite member Michael Merriweather, 32° and wife Sandra were spotted being nice over the holidays. As part of the NFL Alumni Assn. they visited Bay Area Hospitals for Children along with other former NFL players and wives. Michael, an Insurance and Investment Councilor in Stockton and a member of Morning Star #68 retired from the Pittsburg Steelers where he was All-Pro for several years. Returning to his hometown to live, Michael was raised in Masonry in 2007 and was in our Fall Class 2008.



The Rite News is the official publication of the **Stockton Bodies**, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. The Rite News is published monthly at:

**33 W. Alpine Ave.
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- Jim Allen, 32° KCCH Editor**
- Ken Luria, 32° Photographer**
- Lodge of Perfection**
- Jake Van Holland, 32°. Venerable Master**
- Chapter Rose Croix**
- Ed McClenton, 32° Wise Master**
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- Richard Timmins, 32° KCCH . . Organist**
- Scottish Rite Ladies Association**
- Marlene Von Berg President**

The views expressed in the Rite News are not necessarily those of the Scottish Rite Bodies. Submission of articles are welcome and due by the 15th of the month preceding the publication. All articles or ads will be placed in the Rite News at the discretion of the Editor or Pers. Rep. due to space limitations and/or content. Articles may be submitted by email, disk or CD (MS Word or compatible format), or typewritten. The Rite News accepts no responsibility for typos and, if accepted, articles will be published as received. Only articles of four or less columns will be considered and may be split into two publications. For more information contact the Editor or Gen. Secty. At (209) 466-3391

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**

Always there!

Mary Ellen Dunbar has been a fixture at the Scottish Rite for several years. Virtually all the table decorations you see at our stated meetings and special functions are her creations. Mary Ellen is the widow of Ill. Hank Dunbar (in whose name our dining room is dedicated). She has been a Member of the Eastern Star for 70 years. Congratulations Mary Ellen!



Mary Ellen Dunbar



From The Personal Representative

Our fraternity has lost two good friends. **Robert Monagan, 33°**, whose political career lifted him from student-body president at the College of the Pacific, to Mayor of Tracy and on to seven-term state legislator and speaker of the Assembly, then to Assistant Secretary of Transportation. Illustrious Bob passed away January 6th. He was 88.

While his name was made in Sacramento, Monagan's lifelong public service began and ended at Pacific, where he served in student government in the early 1940s and returned as a regent from 1991 through 2007.

He returned to his roots at University of the Pacific as a Regent until his retirement. Illustrious Monagan was a member of Morning Star #68 in Stockton and a member of Stockton Scottish Rite since 1961. He was Coroneted, 33° IGH in 1995.

Brother **James A. MacDonald, 32°** passed away in June of 1998. My reason for mentioning him now, is because of his thoughtfulness.

Some of you may remember him as a Retired Stockton Police Lieutenant who spent a great deal of time at the Rite, mostly working in the wardrobe area. Jim and his lady, Dell, lived a few blocks away from the Rite and both attended most every function.



Other Guys Jim & Vicky Wright

Brother Jim was well aware of the expense involved in the maintenance of the Rite and without the building, there would be no place to continue our activities and charities.

At our January Stated meeting, Richard Wright, 32°, (Jim and Dell's nephew) and his wife Vicky asked for time and presented a donation to the building fund in remembrance of Jim and Dell MacDonald. *"Knowing the large cost and difficulty of maintaining this beautiful structure, it is our hope that this gift would help preserve the property for the enjoyment of future generations."*

Our thoughts will remain with these two genuine Masons.
R. Tod Ruse, 33°, Personal Representative



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.

Scottish Rite Ladies Association

First of all, I would like to wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR and congratulations to the newly installed officers for 2009. Special "Thank you" to Mary Ellen Dunbar for being the installing officers. She did an outstanding job and gave special recognition to the ladies. She included the history and also the projects that have been accomplished through the ladies fundraising efforts. Ladies, thank you for accepting your office and the responsibilities that goes with the office. Let's look forward to a successful year.

Special recognition is acknowledge to Mary Allen Dunbar. On January 15th, she was recognized as being a 70 year member of Eastern Star. What a great honor and distinction to bestow on such an accomplishment!

The Ladies' group by-laws and directory has been update by Elaine Van Holland and has been approved by the membership. Plan to receive you new copy at our next Meeting on February 4th. **Please call to verify your reservation.** It is critical so the proper amount of food can be purchased and having the proper set-up.

Our Easter Breakfast chairpersons, Ida Evans and Billie Beard, are beginning the plans for the Easter Breakfast. There will be one serving at 8:00 A.M. on Easter Morning, followed by the Relighting of the Lights. Once again, **RESERVATIONS ARE CRITICAL.** I even heard word that the Easter Bunny may hop our way.

So long for now and see you at the FEBRUARY STATED MEETING that will honor our sweethearts.

Marlene Von BergPresident of the Scottish Rite Ladies' Assoc.

IN MEMORIAM



**Robert Timothy Monagan, Jr, 33°
AASR Member since 1961**

**Edward Allan Pryor, 32°
AASR member since 1969**

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

Unpaid dues are now past due!

If you have not paid them, please do. If you have a problem, please call the General Secretary at 209 466-3391 and lets work it out. Don't lose touch because of temporary problems. After all, we are Brothers!

Chinese Night

San Francisco Scottish Rite

February 25th

\$37 per person

One Bus only

First Come

First Serve

Call Del Davis

209.537-5643



DONATIONS

LANGUAGE CENTER

- FRANK INDELICATO
- DONALD HALLBOURG
- RICHARD BRESHEARS
- JOE SCIABICA
- GENE TRIMBLE
- RAYMOND EARL JOHNSON
- VICTOR ARMSTRONG, JR.
- ALEX CHAIM

ALMONERS

- CONRAD MAR *IN MEMORY OF*
- ED AH TYE
- WESLEY RASH
- GENE TRIMBLE
- RAYMOND JOHNSON
- ALEX CHAIM
- NORMAN DORRIS
- ASHUR SHIBA

BUILDING FUND

- EDWIN & ALICE MASSEY
- MARCIA PRICE-LAIR
- GENE TRIMBLE
- ALEX CHAIM
- GULBRAND MIRANDA
- FRANK INDELICATO
- SEAN BLASY

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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

FEBRUARY - COUNCIL OF KADOSH - DARK SUITS

Feb. 4th – Stated Meeting/Valentine’s Day Dinner

Social 6 PM - Dinner 6:30 PM - Stated Meeting 7:30 PM

MENU
Baby Green Salad
Rotisserie Chicken & Stuffing
Spiced Pear
Strawberry Parfait

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.

2009 OFFICERS OF THE FOUR BODIES



Lodge of Perfection



**Jake Van Holland, 32°
 Venerable Master**



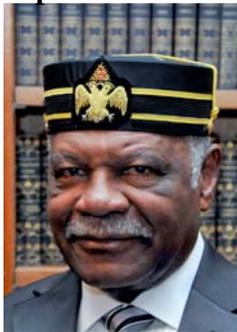
**John Bolt, 32° KCCH
 Senior Warden**



**Crispin Woelfer, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden**



Chapter Rose Croix



**Ed McClenton, 32°
 Wise Master**



**Ed Johnson, 32°
 Senior Warden**



**Ed Massey, 32° KCCH
 Junior Warden**



Council of Kadosh



**Bill DuBois, 33°
 Commander**



**Bill Hasenbuhler, 32°
 1st Lt. Commander**



**Jairo Gomez, 32°
 2nd Lt. Commander**



Consistory



**Stan Jacobs, 32° KCCH
 Master of Kadosh**



**Del Davis, 32° KCCH
 Prior**



**Richard Timmons, 32° KCCH
 Preceptor**