



Orange County Scottish Rite

Orient of California, Southern Jurisdiction



Commander of Kadosh

This year has definitely brought new meaning to service and family. Its been a long 4 weeks closed up with ones you love, I hope. We are not sure how long this will last or what our lives will look like after, but I've definitely found a silver lining in all this.

I've had my wife and son to take care of and spend quality time with that I haven't had in the past. I've slowed down to play board games and talk with my son. I've learned to cook some meals that both have enjoyed, much to my surprise. It's been a meaningful journey spending so much close time with family, but I can't wait to get to spend time with my extended family. Those not of blood, but of mutual respect and admiration for qualities of good. I've got many that fall into this category from military, riders and masonic my extended family is large.

It's the tough times that make you realize just how close you are to some more than others. Those of of us that can love that extended family no matter where



they fall on the scale find it hard to stay away from others. The stress of normal days make connecting and serving family helpful to us. As a family we can get thru this together and come out stronger on the other side.

I hope to see all of you again soon and get back to serving our families and communities. Be safe be well.

May this find you with strength and peace,

Bob White, 32°

Commander of Kadosh

General Secretary



Brethren: With stay at home orders still in effect, we want to reach out to our members who may be facing unusual hardship and distress in this unprecedented time. If the Valley of Orange County can be of help to a Brother, please let us know via email or phone.

At this time, we have decided to cancel our Stated Meeting on May 4, 2020. We look forward to resuming Valley business with our Stated Meeting of June 1, 2020. If this plan changes, we will let you know well ahead of time.

In the meantime, we wish good health for you and your families.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Jamie Hopkins 32°
General Secretary

Important News from the Valley

Your Health and Safety Is Our Top Priority!

Stated Meetings Canceled and OC Scottish Rite Closed

It is with an abundance of caution and concern for the health and welfare of our brethren that we are canceling the May Stated Meeting.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus situation in California, the Valley office for the Orange County Scottish Rite will be closing temporarily.

We will continue to monitor this situation and keep you all posted.

Language Center News



Greetings from the OC Childhood Language Center

Welcome to the RiteCare Language Center of Orange County! We sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during these difficult times. As you know the Language Center was closed in March to help prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus as recommended by County and State agencies. All of the RiteCare Language Centers in the State of California have also come to this same difficult decision.

This challenge of closing the center has inspired us to look for alternative methods of helping our children and families with their speech and language needs. Since we can not meet face to face, we are investigating other options to provide distance therapy. Just like schools are switching to online teaching tools we can make the switch to Teletherapy. Teletherapy means a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) will have an online session with a child and their parent and use various techniques to improve the child's communication skills. Teletherapy or Telepractice is supported by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the California Speech Language Hearing Association (CSHA). Both organizations provide professional learning opportunities to help SLP's improve their skills in using Teletherapy.

Each RiteCare Language Center must make this decision to transition to Teletherapy, but it doesn't mean we are all alone. All of the RiteCare Language Centers in California are collaborating and sharing resources on Teletherapy to help each other be successful. The California Scottish Rite Foundation is encouraging this activity by providing the RiteCare centers with valuable tools to help in the sharing process.

The RiteCare Language Center of Orange County is working with Chapman University to help transition our Language Center to Teletherapy. A Teletherapy session would include a SLP Supervisor, Student Clinician and a parent with their child. This team will safely and securely meet online using a smart phone, tablet or computer and engage the child in a productive therapy session. We are all very excited to see our families and children online very soon after May 5th.

David Frias 32° KCCH

Chairman

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County

Please Donate!

Please consider donating to our Language Center during the new year. We are very thankful for all your support. To donate, visit:

<https://oclanguagecenter.org/donate>



A Community Program of the Scottish Rite Foundation for Children with Speech and Language Challenges

Speech Language Pathologists

Leslie Sierra-Guzman, MA CCC-SLP

Laura Garcia-Maxey, MA CCC-SLP

Chris Switzer, MA CCC-SLP

Francine Wenhardt, CCC-SLP

www.oclanguagecenter.org

Please support your RiteCare Childhood Language Center by making an individual, group, or company donation. Support our Center by becoming a member:

President's Circle: A donation of \$500 or more each year supports one child at the center for a year

365 Club: A donation of \$365 each year

Center Club: A donation of \$100 each year

Supporters of the RiteCare Childhood Language Center for 2020

President's Circle Members (\$500 or more)

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For information please contact: Chairman David Frias, 32° (714) 600-8538, dfrias@oclanguagecenter.org

Senior Warden



Part 2

Point Within A Circle...Belongs to Nations of Antiquity

It must be noted that the Point Within a Circle, like many of our Masonic symbols, did not originate in 1717, ...with the creation of the Grand Lodge of England,... nor did it originate from the stone masons of the Middle Ages, from whence we have evidence of

their Old Charges, Old Constitutions and Old Charters.

This symbol is much older.

Links to the Past

These Masonic symbols such as the Sun, the Moon, the Blazing Star, the 47th Problem of Euclid and others are not specifically "Masonic" in nature, (meaning that they were not invented solely for use by the fraternity),... and yet, Freemasonry has embraced them, and rightfully so. They must not be forgotten. They link modern man to our ancestors.

These symbols originate from ancient civilizations, long before even King Solomon's day; brought forward generation by generation via inculcation (teaching) and by the ancient



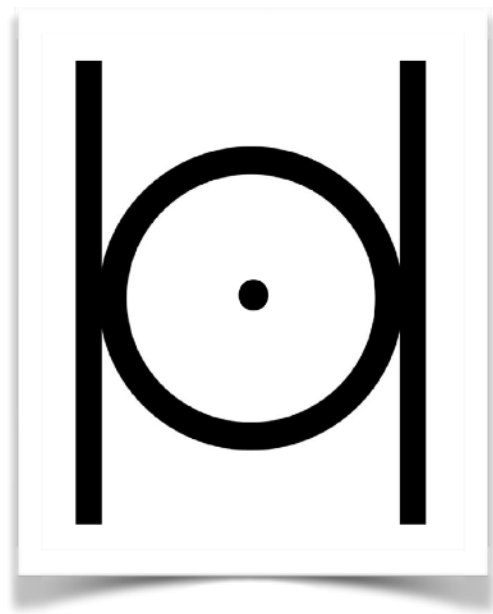
monuments found to be inscribed with these symbols which Egyptologists, geologists and other scholars study in their attempts to understand Man's history.

Their findings reveal pieces of antiquity which some may find too deep, too mysterious or too sexual to be openly displayed before members of our present day brethren, some of whom may shun the knowledge of such.

Mankind's shared history around the globe is fascinating, nonetheless.

Point Within A Circle in Egypt

The two vertical lines on either side of the Point Within a Circle symbol date back before Solomon. (who lived nearly 1,000 years before John the Baptist was born.) On early Egyptian monuments have been found the Alpha and Omega, (the symbol of God as the beginning and the end...or, therefore eternal), in the center of the circle bordered by 2 upright, perpendicular parallel serpents.



For some, the science and philosophy behind Masonic symbolism is viewed as Freemasonry's secrets, mysteries, or as a form of secret cultism known only to Freemason scholars. However, this is not true. For those who study attempting to find "Light", the science and philosophy behind Masonic symbolism can be

found in Man's history. Masonic ritual, too, imitates these proud and ancient religious traditions.

Exoteric versus Esoteric

Exoteric means external, outer knowledge or public knowledge. The above information is Exoteric, or commonly believed by the general populace.

Esoteric means mystical, metaphysical and more scholarly knowledge about a subject. Due to the nature of its subject matter,..the study of religions is Esoteric.

Masonic Light: Therefore, for those who seek more Masonic Light about the Point Within A Circle, below is Brother Albert Mackey's (noted Masonic scholar and historian) more in depth and Esoteric (scholarly) explanation of this ancient symbol, the Point Within a Circle.

Part three to be continued in June.

Mike Selix, 32°, KCCH

Senior Warden

Orange County Lodge of Perfection

Visit Your Valley Online

Be sure to visit our new Scottish Rite web site at **OCSCOTTISHRITE.ORG**.

We need your email address so we can electronically send you the Scottish Rite News. Call the office at (714) 543-7277 and give it to our Secretary or leave a message. Thanks!

Venerable Master



My Brothers: I pray this finds all of you well, healthy and happy as we all collectively go through our safer at home practices to ensure all of our health and happiness. Bro. Andrew Todd selected a great topic for this month; Family.

I'm always reminded that we all have two families. The ones we're born into and the ones we choose. For our chosen family, it's often the closest of friends and (at least for me) my Masonic Brethren. So speaking of Masonry, I am always reminded that from the first time we stepped foot into a Lodge as we all received our Entered Apprentice Degree, to the time that we were made Masters of The Royal Secret at our Scottish Rite Valley, there has been a shared experience. We are now in another (less awesome) shared experience. In times like this, where we are all huddled up at home, missing our

OC Scottish Rite 2020 Upcoming Calendar

Monday Master Craftsman Study, CANCELED
May 4th Stated Meeting, CANCELED

Monday Master Craftsman Study, TBD
June 1st Stated Meeting TBD

We will notify you of updates as we get them!





stated meetings, Blue Lodge and Reunion Classes... perhaps now is a time to connect in other ways? Call your friends from Lodge and Scottish Rite. Check in, see how everyone's doing. Let's make an effort to lift each other up when we can't go out for dinner or drinks with our friends! So make that phone call, send that e-mail... you never know how much it might mean to your brother on the other side!

This too shall pass, my brothers. But let's not forget to do the little things to keep each other's spirits bright. I pray for each of you. May the Great Architect of The Universe keep you healthy, happy, and blessed.

James Cervantes, 32°
Venerable Master
Director of The Work

Wise Master ◦ Masonic Education ◦ Editor



From the Chapter Rose Croix

Greetings, brothers. I hope this message finds you living safely and sanely in these unparalleled times.

With Spring in full bloom and the rains finally behind us (what a year, weather-wise!), we arrive at the month of May -- two full months into the COVID19 quarantine. We also see one of the more interesting historical days of the year: traditionally "May Day".

May Day

May Day is an ancient Spring festival celebrated in many countries around the world; particularly in Europe. Dancing, singing, a big decorated pole in the middle of town, and cake are key components of the celebration.

Just as with last month's exploration of the equinox and the astronomical implications of Spring, May Day's origins come from ancient celebrations of the Spring season. The Celts were among the earliest to celebrate this time of year, with agricultural and spiritual celebration called Beltane that lasted a week. Additionally, the ancient Romans observed Floralia -- the festival of Flora -- during this time, a once-every-three-years celebration of Dionysus and Aphrodite featuring theatrical performances. The Romans also had a festival going back as far as 2 AD that involved debaucherous nighttime revels known as The Orgies, or, the Mysteries of Dionysus and Aphrodite.



It is an important date on many European calendars, and is an official holiday in England, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and 60 other countries in and around Europe and the Baltic States.

The Maypole

One of May Day's most prominent features is the May Pole: A large wooden staff harvested from a local grove or forest, erected in the middle of the town or neighborhood, and decorated with ribbons, flowers, and other adornments. Festive dancing and song are orders of the day, a tradition often referred to as the Maypole Dance.

Historians believe the first maypole dance originated as part of a fertility ritual, where the pole symbolized male fertility and baskets and wreaths symbolized female fertility.^[1]

Tradition also dictates that a young girl be selected as May Queen; the personification of the May Day holiday and Springtime. Maypole cakes are popular treats enjoyed this time of year as well.



May Day in the U.S.

Interestingly, May Day isn't thought of much in the United States anymore, for two primary reasons: Politics and Puritanism.

Labor, The Haymarket Affair, and The Pullman Strike

Until the mid-nineteenth century, May Day had some traction in the United States, despite initial views from Puritans arriving in America that it was paganistic and immoral. But May Day ultimately became associated with labor and workers, state-side.

The connection between May Day and labor rights began in the United States. During the 19th century, at the height of the Industrial Revolution, thousands of men, women and children were dying every year from poor working conditions and long hours.^[1]

On May 1, 1886, more than 300,000 workers went on strike. The city of Chicago devolved into chaos as someone threw a bomb into the middle of a rally, sparking a massive riot that became known as the Haymarket Affair.

After a railroad strike by Pullman workers in 1894, President Grover Cleveland officially moved Labor Day from May 1st to the first Monday in September to distance the relationship between May 1st and labor strife. May 1st is now more commonly associated with International Workers Day, a day originally implemented in 1889 by the Marxist International Socialist Congress. It was also the date chosen by unions in the United States to celebrate workers in the mid-nineteenth century that eventually got Americans the eight-hour workday.

"Mayday!"

What does May Day have to do with the international distress call, "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday"? Nothing, as it turns out. The code was invented in 1923 by an airport radio officer in London. Challenged to come up with a word that would be easily understood by pilots and ground staff in case of an emergency, Frederick Mockford coined the word "mayday" because it sounded like "m'aider", a shortened version of the French term for "come and help me." [1]

Sources:

[1] <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-may-day>

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_Day

[3] <https://www.almanac.com/content/what-may-day>

Masonic Education

As you know, our **Master Craftsman Study Group** will not be meeting in person this month. That does not excuse us from scholarly study, however! On the contrary, with extra time on your hands at home, I strongly encourage you to continue your journey in Masonic education. Venerable brother **James Cervantes** and I are here to answer any questions and guide you. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us by e-mail:

Andrew Todd, 32° : atodd@ocscottishrite.org

James Cervantes, 32° : jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org

If you'd like to participate or are looking for information about the program, please prepare by visiting the website for information about the books and other information to get you started:

www.ocscottishrite.org/master-craftsman-program

The Master Craftsman Program

For those unaware, the Master Craftsman is a by-mail correspondence course. Each participant is required to do some scholarly reading in advance and complete a written quiz which is mailed to the Supreme Council for grading. As each quiz is completed, a new one is sent and the program progresses. The course consists of 7 quizzes, after completion of which the successful participant will receive a certificate and a lapel pin.



SCOTTISH+RITE
MASTER+CRAFTSMAN:
SYMBOLIC+LODGE

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman: Symbolic Lodge course will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the “High Degrees” began to develop soon after formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike’s book, **Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry**, along with Arturo de Hoyos’ **Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide (3d edition)** will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.

Quiz #3

The month of May sees us continuing Quiz #3 of the Symbolic Lodge program. If you want to join us, please purchase the books and read the following in preparation for the quiz:

Albert Pike’s Esoterika, pp. 385–484

If you’re just getting started we can also help you with Quiz #1. You can also reach out to me directly for information and access to our Facebook group.

Thanks to all our brothers for your interest and participation. I’ll see you in the classroom!

Speaking of Facebook

Did you know that your Valley has a Facebook page? Be sure to stop by and like us next time you’re online!

<https://www.facebook.com/ocscottishrite>



From the Editor

I'd like to express my thanks again to the heads of body for contributing their excellent and thoughtful articles this month and for doing so in a timely fashion.

Calling All Writers!

You don't have to be a head of body or a member of the line to contribute to this newsletter! If you have something to say from a masonic perspective — perhaps insights into your masonic ruminations, scholarly endeavors you'd like to share, or general news for the brethren — this newsletter is your conduit for those ideas. I encourage any and all brothers who'd like to contribute something to this newsletter to send their ideas to:

editor@ocscottishrite.org

I'll work with you on getting your article together for the next issue.

Fraternally,

Andrew Todd, 32°

Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix
Editor, Director of Masonic Education

Master of Kadosh



Brethren: We are living in a challenging time. However, the world has always been challenging, since the beginning of civilization, and certainly since the beginning of Freemasonry. In fact, it is the very purpose of Masonry to address these challenges, whether they be physical or mental. Especially now, with our founding in science as well as spirituality, we are equipped more than most people, to help assist persons of all types and persuasions with whatever challenges they may be facing during this trying time.

Freemasonry has always had, as its core purpose, to enlighten its members with ever-increasing knowledge. In trying times, it is this very knowledge that pushes us not to question the hardship and obstacles we face in life and in society, but in fact to take actions, based on our absolute belief in the power of the Grand Architect of the Universe, that are consistent with the principles of Freemasonry that guide us to help others.

Therefore, in all times, but particularly this worldwide crisis the likes of which has been rarely seen, we should remind ourselves that the Great Architect has always anticipated these challenges, and given us a 'fixed and steady purpose' – that is, to help ourselves and others to overcome whatever comes our way, and to do all that is in our power, short of causing harm to ourselves, to assist all others, in whatever way possible.

Fraternally,

Rob Rappaport, 32°
Master of Kadosh

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2001 East 4th Street, Suite 202, Santa Ana, CA 92701 • Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-2pm
Phone (714) 972-2646 • Fax (714) 543-9754

Stated Meetings on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 pm; dinner follows at 7:15 pm (reservations requested) at the Anaheim DeMolay Center, 303 W. Lincoln Ave. Anaheim, CA 92805

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