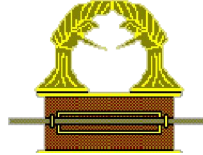


THE WORKMAN



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

Richard D. Baskin, GHP

November 2016

Vol. VIII No. 6

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Grand High Priest's Message

Companions,

Each year on the fourth Thursday in November we gather for a day of family, feasting, and football. While today's Thanksgiving celebrations would likely be unrecognizable to the attendees of the original 1621 harvest meal, it continues to be a day for Americans to come together around the table—albeit with some updates to the pilgrim's menu.

Remember that in September 1620 a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers. They were an assortment of religious separatists, seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith, and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the New World. After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they arrived in the new world.

Throughout that first brutal winter most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious diseases. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring.

Finally, in November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of their Native American allies to help celebrate the success of the colony. Now remembered as America's "first

Thanksgiving” it lasted for three days, and while no record exists of the historic banquet’s exact menu, we can be sure it was somewhat different than what we enjoy today. It is hard to realize the hardships these individuals went through to be able to practice their faith without persecution and to experience the rights that we take for granted. As you gather around the table this month take a moment to reflect on all the blessings we have.

October was a busy month, with receptions, the Colorado River Fall Festival and the Southwest Regional York Rite Conference. Barb and I have really enjoyed meeting and talking with the Companions and their Ladies during our travels and seeing the dedication and energy these folks bring to our Craft. The Colorado River Fall Festival was once again outstanding and as always the ritual was done well. The Southwest Regional was a time to meet and discuss issues related to the various Grand Chapters. The presentations were well done, but as in years past the most productive part, in my opinion, was the time spent discussing issues and learning how our Companions have worked through them. Although we come from different jurisdictions our goal is the same, to improve the Royal Arch Experience.

I’m pleased to report that we are making progress with the Officer Schools of Instruction I told you about in last month’s article. The first will be in Bellflower on 19 November. The remaining two are tentatively scheduled for March and April. More to follow as we finalize time and location.

We now move into the installation season, not only for Chapter, but Blue Lodge, Council and Commandery. I encourage you to attend as many as possible and support the Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights that will lead our organizations this next year. Remember, in our Chapter Installation Ceremony, in the address to the Chapter, it says the officers have the right to believe that “you too have assumed an obligation, no less real because it is unspoken. They have a right to believe that when you chose them to lead and serve you, you pledged them your strong and faithful support.” It goes on to say that without you they can do little; with you they can accomplish great things. With all of us working together, we can do extraordinary things.

Richard D. Baskin, KYGCH
162nd Grand High Priest

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GORDON ALEXANDER, RIP



Exalted in Signet Chapter No. 57 on May
18, 1992

Served as High Priest in 1997

Served as Grand High Priest in 2004-05

Greeted in Omega Council No. 11 on June
8, 1992

Served as Illustrious Master in 1993

Knighthood in Los Angeles Commandery No.
9 on November 23, 1992

Served as Commander in 1999

He also served as General Secretary of
the Los Angeles Scottish Rite for a few
years,

where he was coroneted a 33rd degree.

FROM THE GRAND LECTURER

Companions All,

As you should already be aware, we are planning three ritual Schools of Instruction (SOI) for this Capitular year. The first will be held at the Bellflower Masonic Temple on Saturday, 19 November, starting at 0900 after a social warm up from 0800 - 0859.

This SOI is intended to serve All ritualistically involved Royal Arch Masons in the Southern Region of the state (notice that it is Not just intended for serving Chapter Officers) from Santa Barbara south to Mexican Border in San Diego! The plan is for the SOI to run from 0900 - 1500 (9 am to 3 pm) with a hosted lunch at noon! The Southern Region Deputy Grand Lecturer, EC David Rathgeber, and myself will be emphasizing the most important ritual aspects for a Chapter conferring our degrees (not intended to be a 'how to do a festival' class). We will start with the Royal Arch opening and closing and work through the Past Master and Mark Master conferrals as time allows. Our Grand High Priest will be in attendance in the morning to answer your burning questions about the Grand Chapter as well! Many of you may be conflicted about the historic 6-way York Rite reception being held on the same day in the Victorville area. EC David and I will endeavor to pace the day, so that you can have the best of both worlds, a piece of the ritual SOI in the morning, a social lunch at Bellflower and then depart and enjoy the 6-way in Victorville after lunch! A full day, I grant you; but one that will not soon be forgotten either! For those staying with us for the afternoon session, we will delve into those finer points of our degree conferrals that you have always wondered about but were afraid to ask! These SOIs are Not intended to be a test of your memory skills; but rather a way to relax and learn without stress (bring your ritual) and to ensure that your Chapter is in alignment with the rest of the state of California and the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons as well. Please mark your calendar, arrange a car pool, dress casually red (for the SOI at least) and join us in Bellflower on November the 19th for a day of learning, greeting new friends and companionship! If you happen to live in the Central Valley, i.e. Sonora, Stockton, Tracy

and points south to LA County, then expect to see a similar SOI in your area towards the latter part of March and for Northern California, Sacramento, the Bay area and north into the state of Jefferson an SOI is planned around the first part of April. The agenda will be the same for all three SOIs, so pick the date/area you like best and join the Grand High Priest, the Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Department Grand Officer and myself for a hosted day of fun improving your ritual knowledge! Stay tuned to the Workman for exact dates and places as the arrangements are finalized! All the Best - "Holiness to the Lord"!

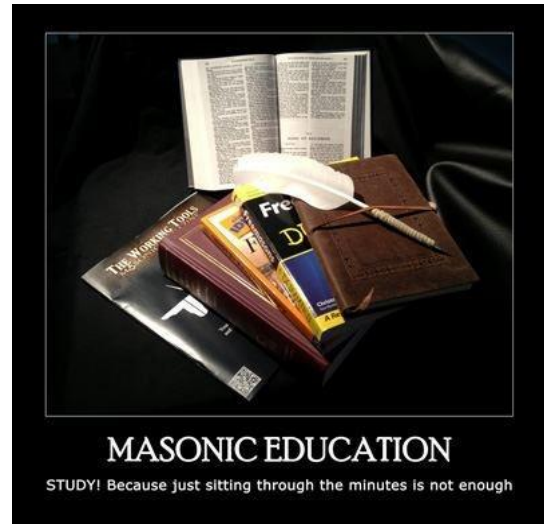
Steve Goad, Your most humble Grand Lecturer

NABUCCO

An Opera by Verdi about Nebuchadnezzar is being offered **Live in HD** by the Metropolitan Opera on January 7, 2017, at 9:55 am PST. Nebuchadnezzar is played by Placido Domingo. To view this performance, you need only go to your local theater. It is played in over a thousand theaters nationwide simultaneously. You will of course notice the connection to our Royal Arch Degree, and will enjoy the music immensely – especially the Chorus of Hebrew Slaves “Va Pensiero.” In fact, creative Chapters ought to consider playing this Chorus mid-way through the Royal Arch conferral! To listen to Va Pensiero, go to the following YouTube site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F4G5H_TTVU.

For a synopsis of the performance on January 7th, go to the following Met site: <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/SynopsisCast/Nabucco/>

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER



On Saturday, October 29, 2016, The Golden State Chapter of Research of the Holy Royal Arch convened for the biannual meeting held during Grand Lodge in San Francisco. The meeting was called to order by EC Joseph Dongo, acting as High Priest and opened in ample form by REC Steve Goad, Grand Lecturer.

One new member was voted in to membership in the Research Chapter, and another submitted his petition after the meeting was closed. A variety of topics were discussed at this meeting. In particular, a Mission Statement as follows was unanimously agreed upon: *The mission of the Golden State Research Chapter is to stimulate interest among Royal Arch Masons by expanding their knowledge of Royal Arch Masonry through research leading to the publication of educational materials that expand the understanding of Royal Arch Masons in their history, traditions, and symbolism*

In addition, MEC Phil Hardiman raised a discussion topic in the hope that Research Chapter members might engage in a digital

dialogue over the course of the next 6 months, dealing with the proposition that: In the context of modern Masonry, Speculative Masonry arose independently of Operative Lodges and/or medieval Guilds. His interest in this topic was kindled by a book called *The Genesis of Freemasonry*, by David Harrison, purchased the day before at the Southern California Research Lodge booth. Any Companion interested in commenting on this topic should do so by sending those comments to the editor at philipandnancy@aol.com.

Information describing why this Chapter was formed is available at WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG.

The next meeting for our Research Chapter will be held in Bakersfield during the York Rite Grand Sessions in May. All Companions are invited and encouraged to attend.

I encourage all Royal Arch Companions to join the Golden State Chapter of Research in order to receive further light in our beautiful Capitular Degrees. Our website address is www.goldenstatechapter.org, where we post many papers and newsletters. This is also where you will find an application of affiliation to the Chapter. To become a member of the Research Chapter candidates must submit an application form and a \$10.00 fee. There are no annual dues in the Research Chapter. Our flagship publication is publishing the Grand Orations of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and the Vespers Service of the Grand Commandery.

GRAND CHAPTER **SCHOLARSHIPS**

For info about Scholarships, go to the following website:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>

The Masonic Family has a large number of scholarships available to our youth, but how many of those in need of assistance really "KNOW" they are available?

California Royal Arch \$1,000 Scholarship requirements:

- A member of the Masonic Family (ie: Rainbow, Jobs Daughter or Demolay)
- A US Citizen
- A California Resident
- A 3.0 Grade Point Average
- Enrolled or Accepted at an Educational Institution

Deadline to apply for the 2017 Scholarship Program will be published in Jan 2017. Scholarship requirements will remain the same. Early submissions can be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Chapter Secretary at

Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons
Attn: Grand Secretary
11428 East Artesia Blvd. – Suite 13
Artesia, CA 90701-3872
Telephone: (562) 924-6500
E-mail: FDB.Scholarship@gmail.com

Once chosen, the award of \$1,000 is renewable for a total of 4 years, as long as the requirements are maintained.

Do you know a Rainbow Girl, Job's Daughter or DeMolay that could benefit by knowing this information? What are you waiting for - make that call!

Recipients have been chosen and five scholarships will be issued by the end of 2016!



THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP. ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$87.00 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Purple Jackets are little more expensive at \$95.00 for the smaller and \$107.00 for the larger. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at **(510) 502-3224**; or at his website: www.mpenterprises.weebly.com; or directly to his email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

ENCOMPASSER

The **October 2016** edition of the Encompasser has now been published. It can be found at http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/encompasser_issues.html OR. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left of the top toolbar.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR **NOV 2016 – MAY 2017**

Date	Event	Location
Nov 2	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Nov 3	Red Cross	San Diego
Nov 4	Scottish Rite Honors Dinner	San Diego
Nov 7	3-Way Reception	Petaluma
Nov 12	SRICF California College	San Diego
Nov 17	Tyre Chapter Installation	Escondido
Nov 19	Chapter SOI	Bellflower
Nov 19	3-Way Reception	Victorville
Nov 24	THANKSGIVING	U. S. A.
Nov 26	Beyond Blue Lodge	San Diego
Nov 30	Scottish Rite Meetings	San Diego
Dec 1	Red Cross	San Diego
Dec 4	AMD Ikopah	San Diego
Dec 6	Stated Mtg # 626	Chula Vista
Dec 7	Scottish RiteApr 6	San Diego
Dec 8	Triangle Chapter Installation	Escondido
Dec 13	Commandery Installation	San Diego
Dec 17	Al Bahr Motorcycle Club	San Diego
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS	Everywhere
Dec 28	Scottish Rite Board	San Diego
Dec 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE	U. S. A.
Jan 1	NEW YEAR's Day	U. S. A.
Jan 3	Chula Vista #626	Chula Vista
Jan 4	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Jan 5	Red Cross	San Diego
Jan 8	YR College Degree	San Diego
Jan 9	Lux Lodge Installation	San Diego
Jan 11	Scottish Rite Installation	San Diego
Jan 12	Signet Chapter Installatiion	Van Nuys
Jan 16	MLK Birthday	U.S.A.

Jan 23	Grand York Rite Investment Conference Call	San Diego
Jan 26	San Diego #61 Chapter Meeting	San Diego
Feb 1	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Feb 2	Red Cross	San Diego
Feb 7	Chula Vista #626	Chula Vista
Feb 11	3-Way Reception	San Diego
Feb 14	Commandery Meeting	San Diego
Feb 20	Presidents' Day	U.S.A.
Feb 25	Chapter #61	San Diego
Mar 1	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Mar 2	Red Cross	San Diego
Mar 4	KYCH	San Diego
Mar 7	Lodge #626	Chula Vista
Mar 10-12	Grand York Rite Officers Conference	Bakersfield
Mar 14	Commandeery	San Diego
Mar 23	Chapter #61	San Diego
Apr 1	Lodge #626	Chula Vista
Apr 1	Scottish Rite Extinguishing Lights Practice	San Diego
Apr 5	Scottish Rite	San Diego
Apr 6	Red Cross	San Diego
Apr 6-9	New Mexico Grand York Rite	New Mexico
Apr 10	Scottish Rite Extinguishing Lights Practice	San Diego
Apr 12	Scottish Rite Extinguishing the Lights Ceremony	San Diego
Apr 14	Scottish Rite Relighting the Lights Practice	San Diego
Apr 16	EASTER: Relighting the Lights Ceremony	San Diego
Apr 26	Masonic Information Night, Scottish Rite	San Diego
Apr 27	Chapter #61	San Diego
Apr 29	SRICF	San Diego
May 2	Lodge #626	Chula Vista
May 3	Scottish Rite	San Diego
May 4	Red Cross	San Diego

May 9	Commandery	San Diego
May 19-24	Grand York Rite Sessions	Bakersfield
May 19-20	Scottish Rite Spring Re-union	San Diego
May 25	Chapter #61	San Diego

If you would like to attend any of these events and need to know particulars about where and when and cost, please call any of the contact numbers below

GRAND CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand High Priest:

Richard D. Baskin, KYGCH
(619) 990-6465 (C)
rbkasin@cox.net

Grand Secretary:

Ken Hope
11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13
Artesia, CA 90701-3872
(562) 924-6500 (W)
(562) 484-1611(C)
sec-rec@californiavorkrite.org

Editor:

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH
2713 Hoffman Woods Lane
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 712-4814(C)
philipandnancy@aol.com

Website:

WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH

Website:

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES

Website:

WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG

Attention Royal Arch Masons in California!

HELP YOUR BROTHER “MAKE HIS MARK”!!!



To introduce Master Masons to the Degrees of the Chapter, our Grand Chapter has authorized the conferral of the Mark Master Degree to interested Brethren without fee.

A petition to the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is still required, to take advantage of this opportunity.

“Keystone Classes” are being planned for this program now, for group conferrals of the Mark Master Degree throughout the state in the Fall of 2015.

This is where **YOU** come in. Please talk with that Brother you would like to recommend to your Chapter, and tell him of this opportunity to “sample” the further degrees of the York Rite. To help you explain this opportunity to your Lodge Brethren, the following new materials are available to you:

- A new Petition for this introductory Mark Master Degree.
- A brochure inviting a Brother to explore the Chapter Degrees.

You can print these new materials from the Grand Chapter website, at <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/royalarch.htm> Or you can ask any Chapter Secretary, District Inspector, or Grand Chapter Officer for copies of these new materials.

Be sure to explain the advantages of this opportunity to your Lodge Brothers:

- The Mark Master Degree expands and extends the Craft Degrees, shedding further Light on what it means to be a Mason.
- Further Degrees in the Chapter are entirely optional.
- This is an opportunity to share Masonic fellowship with members of other Lodges in the local community.
- No proof of proficiency is required to advance in Degrees.

-- Companions, please talk with your Blue Lodge Brethren today!! --