



THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

SEPTEMBER 2009

Vol. I, No. 4

MARK MASTER AT GRAND LODGE

Planning for the Mark Master Degree conferral on Friday night, October 2nd, at Grand Lodge is essentially complete. Candidates should present themselves between 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm, near the entry to the auditorium on the First Floor. The Degree will begin at 7:30 pm. Ladies may gather and enjoy desserts and socializing in the California Room, which used to be the Library in the corner of the Temple at California and Taylor Streets. Candidates and other brethren and companions may assemble here after the Degree to gather up their ladies and enjoy what's left of the dessert, coffee, tea, and punch!

I will repeat my exhortation of last month: Now is the time for each High Priest, and his dais officers, to help make this event an historic success. You still have time to schedule a Special Convocation to ballot on petitions; and you still have time to visit Blue Lodges and speak to prospects! Since you need to give your membership adequate notice of a Special Convocation, you should go ahead and schedule it, if you think you might have petitions. Your Secretary will then simply apprise us of the names of the petitioners, upon whom you have balloted, and we will take it from there. Information and forms have been sent to Chapter High Priests and Secretaries to facilitate communications with the host Chapter – a newly created Chapter which will be operating Under Dispensation.

If all else fails, the new host Chapter will ballot on prospects who turn in petitions during the annual communication before 5:00 pm on October 2nd.

Examine the accompanying chart to see that there are many prospects in 33 Blue Lodges with over 200 members each for us to meet the terms of the obligation we take in the Most Excellent Master Degree -- to spread further light and knowledge to our Masonic brethren. Among the almost 10,000 members of these Lodges, there have been NO Exaltations since 2005! We simply MUST visit these Lodges and get the word out that we have the Lost Master's Word!!! This is a key task which should be organized by the incoming High Priest, to lay the foundation for a class of candidates for next year.

LARGE BLUE LODGES WITH NO EXALTATIONS SINCE 2005 THROUGH 2008

Blue Lodge	Lodge Location	Lodge Members
Columbia-Brotherhood No. 370	San Francisco	607
Bay Cities No. 337	Richmond	547
Ionic Composite No. 520	Los Angeles	468
South West No. 283	National City	436
Fresno No. 247	Fresno	429
Pacific-Starr King No. 136	San Francisco	426
Van Nuys No. 450	Van Nuys	412
Las Palmas-Ponderosa No. 366	Fresno	409
Orange Grove No. 293	Orange	335
Acacia No. 243	Hayward	333
Arcadia No. 278	Arcadia	298
Burlingame No. 400	Burlingame	290
Los Angeles No. 42	Santa Monica	281

ORATE FRATRES

Wisdom No. 202	Pasadena	269
Alhambra No. 322	Alhambra	267
Coronado No. 441	Coronado	259
Los Angeles Harbor No. 332	San Pedro	249
Angels Gate No. 198	Lomita	243
Nevada No. 13	Nevada City	231
Oroville No. 103	Oroville	230
Upland-Mt. Baldy No. 419	Upland	230
Cornerstone No. 659	La Habra	227
Oak Plains No. 789	Sacramento	226
Reseda No. 666	Van Nuys	218
Palm Springs No. 693	Palm Springs	217
Greenleaf Gardens No. 670	Whittier	216
Three Great Lights No. 651	Menlo Park	213
Pacific Rim No. 567	Long Beach	211
Salinas No. 204	Salinas	209
Provident Three Pillars No. 609	Elk Grove	209
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480	Lafayette	207
Tehama No. 3	Sacramento	203
Hemet No. 615	Hemet	200

By William B. Jefferies
Grand Orator

One can hardly listen to the beautiful prayers of Father Chuck Meier, the Grand Prelate of our Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, without recognizing his great admiration for Saint Francis of Assissi, the thirteenth century Italian saint who founded the religious Order responsible for building the twenty-one California Missions. There is a story told about this remarkable holy man (I am referring this time to Saint Francis, not Father Chuck) which continues the theme I introduced in my previous article of The Workman.

It seems that there was a young novice who was beginning the monastic life at Saint Francis' abbey in the Carceri Woods outside Assissi. One day, Francis approached the young man and said, "Lets go down to the town and preach." Flattered to be singled out to be the companion of the venerated abbot, the novice agreed with enthusiasm. The two men left the cave cells of the monastery set in the side of Mount Subario and began the abrupt descent to the city below. The downward slope became more gentle as they approached Assissi. The dusty road was bordered by a profusion of flowers – blood red poppies and masses of yellow broom. Here they met groups of hill farmers bringing their produce down to the market in Assissi.

They entered the walled city, already ancient in Francis' time, by the upper gate, the Porto Cappucini, and Francis stopped to greet the beggar who was always stationed there. The two friars passed through the streets of the city and ascended a flight of narrow stairs. Then they came upon the public laundry where the women of Assissi were doing the family wash in public baths that had been there since the time of the Caesars. They entered the back streets and alleys where the house-wives put out the left-over pasta for the pigeons who learn to twirl it around their beaks to gather it up from the pavement.

They emerged on the central square, the Piazza Minerva, where the ruins of an ancient temple stood and where the people of their bustling Umbrian city gathered. They paused to listen to the haggling at the market where sun-ripened tomatoes and yellow squash blossoms and other produce were being bartered. They passed the fragrant flowering lime trees which fronted the Convent of San Damino, a nunnery founded by Saint Francis' female counterpart, Saint Clair. Finally, they left the walled city by the lower gate, the Porto San Pietro, with its usual complement of beggars; and they emerged amidst the cypresses and umbrella pines of the Umbrian plain. Then, turning, they skirted the city walls and commenced the climb back up to the monastery.

As they approached it, the young man reminded Francis of his original intention: "You have forgotten, Father, that we went down to the town to preach." "My son," replied Saint Francis, "we have preached; we were preaching while we were walking. We have been seen by many; our behavior was closely watched; it was then that we preached our morning sermon. Remember, you may be the only Gospel your neighbor ever reads."

PERSONAL NOTES

It was a real pleasure recently to present the Meritorious Service Award to Randy Downey, who will serve as the Right Worshipful Master for the Mark Master conferral at Grand Lodge. Accompanying him in the photo below is yours truly on the left, along with the High Priest of Howard Chapter No. 14, David M. Kampschafer, on the right:



THE MOTHER-LODGE

Here is another poem by Brother Rudyard Kipling, who was both a Mark Master Mason and a Royal Ark Mariner Mason. He received the Mark Master Degree in Fidelity Mark Lodge No. 98 in Lahore on April 14th, 1887, and later that night the degree of Royal Ark Mariner in Mount Ararat Mariners Lodge No. 98.

There was Rundle, Station Master,
 An' Beazeley of the Rail,
 An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,
 An' Donkin' o' the Jail;
 An' Blake, Conductor-Sargent,
 Our Master twice was 'e,
 With 'im that kept the Europe-shop,
 Old Framjee Eduljee.

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
 Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
 We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
 An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
 An' Saul the Aden Jew,
 An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
 Of the Survey Office too;
 There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
 An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
 An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
 The Roman Catholic!

We 'adn't good regalia,
 An' our Lodge was old an' bare,
 But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,
 An' we kep' 'em to a hair;
 An' lookin' on it backwards
 It often strikes me thus,
 There ain't such things as infidels,
 Excep', per'aps, it's us.

For monthly, after Labour,
 We'd all sit down and smoke
 (We dursn't give no banquits,
 Lest a Brother's caste were broke),
 An' man on man got talkin'
 Religion an' the rest,
 An' every man comparin'
 Of the God 'e knew the best.

So man on man got talkin',
 An' not a Brother stirred
 Till mornin' waked the parrots
 An' that dam' brain-fever-bird;
 We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,
 An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,
 With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva
 Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

Full oft on Guv'ment service
 This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,
 An' bore fraternal greetin's
 To the Lodges east an' west,
 Accordin' as commanded
 From Kohat to Singapore,
 But I wish that I might see them
 In my Mother-Lodge once more!

I wish that I might see them,
 My Brethren black an' brown,
 With the trichies smellin' pleasant
 An' the hog-darn passin' down;
 An' the old khansamah snorin'
 On the bottle-khana floor,

Like a Master in good standing
With my Mother-Lodge once more!

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!

THE CLOTHES LINE

We now have access to a new line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies. I have seen the red and blue, and have purchased a new red one. I believe purple will also be available. The price is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$86.25 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Contact Patsy Baker Luy at her office: 1(510) 527-5728, or cell: 1(510) 502-3224.

THE CALIFORNIA YORK RITE CRUISE

Fifteen have signed up for the Cruise already! Though this is not a large number, at this point in time it represents a good response. I know many others are thinking about and intending to go, but are putting off arrangements to the last minute – **DON'T WE ALL DO THAT???** Well, knock it off!! If you're going to sail with your York Rite friends and family -- **CALL NOW!**

This 4 Day Baja Mexico fund-raiser cruise benefits the Royal Arch Philanthropies, the Cryptic Council CMMRF, and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Fifty dollars will be donated to them for each cabin that sails! Friends and family are also invited. The cruise sails December 7 – 11, 2009, and includes a one hour open bar, Hospitality Suite access, and a Mark Master Degree conferral. A \$100 deposit reserves you a slot, with cabins ranging in price from \$250 to \$740, per person double occupancy. Final payment is due October 7th. For more info, call Mark at 415-922-2916, or register online at www.songmastertravel.com.

DO IT NOW !!!!!

GOLDEN GATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

Companions, we were not able to hold the planned convocation of the Research Chapter for lack of a quorum. There happened to be so many competing activities going on in the Central Valley and Bay Area that we were not able to draw enough attendees from these higher priority events!

Until we are able to plan another convocation, please visit the excellent website at:

<http://www.goldenstatechapter.org/>

For information about membership, contact
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COLORADO RIVER FALL FESTIVAL

The multi-State York Rite Festival will be celebrated this year on October 18, 19 and 20. If you wish to take advantage of the CRFF arrangements, then your hotel reservations at the Riverside must be made through the CRFF by October 1st – it is not too soon to act now, especially if you intend to bring candidates. Cost for the room for 3 nights is \$106, total. Requests for Courtesy Work must also be received by October 1st. All information is now posted at www.crff.org.

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

Although the final filing date has passed for this year, keep in mind for next year the eligibility of Masonic youth. Final filing will be in mid-March, next year. The new application will be posted soon on our website, and will be available at Grand Lodge October 2, 3 and 4. Remember, also, that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues

ENCOMPASSER

For access to the latest edition, June 2009, go to the basic website: <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar.

PETITIONS

New petitions and brochures about the Chapter are available on the website at:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/royalarch.htm>

Simply scroll down to the lower half of the page.

CONTACT INFORMATION

GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY

Oakland	Visit, Brigadoon	13-Sep	Oakland(36)
Visalia	Chapter Visit	8-Sep	Visalia(44)
Tulare	Chapter Visit	9-Sep	Tulare(71)
Salinas Santa Monica	Reception - 3	20-Sep	Salinas(59) Santa Monica
Bay	Reception - 3	26-Sep	Bay(97)
Auburn	Reception - ?	28-Sep	Delta(27)
San Francisco	Grand Lodge	Oct 2 thru Oct 4 Oct 30 thru Oct 31	
Phoenix	SW Regional S/R		Phoenix, AZ
Pasadena	Reception - ?	6-Nov	?????
San Diego	Cruise	Dec 7 thru Dec 11	ALL
San Luis Obispo	Installation	9-Jan	San Luis (62)

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