



# THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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## THE INSTALLATION SEASON

The holiday months were so busy and engrossing for me, as I'm sure they were for each of you, that it has taken some time for me to get back into the swing of things, managing and administering the affairs of Grand Chapter. But the Installation commitments have drawn me back, into an appreciation of the work that we do together. Our Chapter Installation ritual is truly marvelous, so I'm going to try to synopsize it for you here:

**High Priest:** The Mitre as a *symbol* of "Holiness to the Lord;" and the Breastplate to *remind* the High Priest to keep the interests of his Chapter near to his heart.

**King:** His Jewel, a Level surmounted by a Crown, reminds him to remain upon a level with his companions.

**Scribe:** His Purple Robe reminds him that harmony and unanimity among all the Degrees and Orders of Masonry should be his constant aim.

**Chaplain:** "Though Masonry be not Religion, it is emphatically Religion's handmaid; and ...the services you perform ... are practiced in that spirit of universal tolerance which distinguishes our institution."

**Masters of the Veils:** "Be industrious and faithful in practicing and disseminating a knowledge of that True and Perfect Work..."

Throughout the installation ritual the Officers are asked to "remember" certain things. The use of this word is itself a symbol, because *remembering* who we are as men and as Masons, and how we must be ever vigilant in performing our duties, is crucial in making our Institution successful. "Never let mere ambition induce you to envy...; but strive rather to excel one another in *improvement* and *discipline*." And the final paragraph is worth making a big "To-Do" every year of your Installation Ceremony, so your friends and family, as well as your Companions and Officers, may truly appreciate the sublime nature of our Work:

**"May your Chapter become as beautiful as the temple, as peaceful as the ark, and as sacred as its most holy place. May your oblations of piety and praise be as grateful as the incense, your love as warm as its flame, and your charity as diffusive as its fragrance and as constant as the returning wants of the distressed widow and helpless orphan. May your hearts be as pure as the altar and your conduct as acceptable as the offering. May each of you be endowed with every good and perfect gift, while traveling the rugged path of life, and finally be admitted within the veil of heaven, to the full enjoyment of life everlasting."**

I wish this for all of you in this New Year, as you plan now to offer the Mark Master Degree; visit Blue Lodges and handout petitions; schedule Conferrals and/or Festivals; and keep your Royal Arch experience ever present in your remembrance.



San Luis Chapter #62, with new High Priest Larry Rodriguez third from right.



Delta Chapter #27, with new High Priest Jim Bennett third from left.



Woodland Chapter #46, with continuing High Priest Jon Huffine third from left.



Sacramento Chapter #3, with continuing High Priest Rich Wilson second from left.



St. James Chapter #11, with new High Priest Geoff Risse third from left.

### IN MEMORIAM

Grand Chapter has lost two luminaries in January: Doug Young, Grand Chaplain of the North; and Al Miller, Jr., Past Grand High Priest. Doug's Masonic service will be Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Yolo Fair Grounds at 11:00 am. We will also hold an OHP service for him at the Woodland Stated convocation, which will be open, at 7:30 pm on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Al was a modest, unassuming Companion who did not want a service. We will remember him at the Order of High Priesthood conferral at Grand Sessions on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Excellent Companion Doug was my mentor. As our Deputy Grand Lecturer, he asked me to consider becoming a Royal Arch Inspector.

### COMING HOME

Our former Grand Council Grand Lecturer, now Most Worshipful, Ken Nagel has implemented a theme for his year as Grand Master – COMING HOME. Briefly, he has noted that only about 15% of Blue Lodge members attend their Lodges regularly, and he wants to re-engage them with their Lodge. This is a noble and worthy endeavor and I ask each of you, personally, to make an effort to attend your Blue Lodge's February Stated Meeting. Encourage your Companions to do so also, and take a fistful of petitions along with you! Ask the Master if you may address the brethren, either at dinner, refreshment, or during the meeting, and extol the virtues of our Mark Master program. Be ready to tell them when the Degree is scheduled to be conferred, and that they can attend at no cost. You know the terms of this program.

Finally, urge your members to attend their Blue Lodge at least once every quarter. By doing so, we broadcast to our brethren and prospective candidates that we as York Rite Masons are committed to Masonry and its strength, durability and growth.

## A PILGRIM'S WAY

Here is another poem by Brother Rudyard Kipling, who was both a Mark Master Mason and a Royal Ark Mariner Mason. Although this poem is not always included among Kipling's Masonic works, it clearly is Masonic.

I do not look for holy saints to guide me on my way,  
Or male and female devilkins to lead my feet astray.  
If these are added, I rejoice---if not, I shall not mind,  
So long as I have leave and choice to meet my  
fellow-kind.

For as we come and as we go (and deadly-soon go  
we!)  
The people, Lord, Thy people, are good enough for  
me!

Thus I will honor pious men whose virtue shines so  
bright  
(Though none are more amazed than I when I by  
chance do right),  
And I will pity foolish men for woe their sins have  
bred  
(Though ninety-nine per cent. of mine I brought on  
my own head).  
And, Amorite or Eremite, or General Averagee,  
The people, Lord, Thy people, are good enough for  
me!

And when they bore me overmuch, I will not shake  
mine ears,  
Recalling many thousand such whom I have bored to  
tears.  
And when they labor to impress, I will not doubt nor  
scoff;  
Since I myself have done no less and---sometimes  
pulled it off.  
Yea, as we are and we are not, and we pretend to be,  
The people, Lord, Thy people, are good enough for  
me!

And when they work me random wrong, as  
oftentimes hath been,  
I will not cherish hate too long (my hands are none  
too clean).  
And when they do me random good I will not feign  
surprise.  
No more than those whom I have cheered with  
wayside charities.  
But, as we give and as we take---whate'er our takings

be---

The people, Lord, Thy people, are good enough for  
me!

But when I meet with frantic folk who sinfully  
declare  
There is no pardon for their sin, the same I will not  
spare  
Till I have proved that Heaven and Hell which in our  
hearts we have  
Show nothing irredeemable on either side of the  
grave.  
For as we live and as we die---if utter Death there be-  
The people, Lord, Thy people, are good enough for  
me!

Deliver me from every pride---the Middle, High, and  
Low---  
That bars me from a brother's side, whatever pride he  
show.  
And purge me from all heresies of thought and  
speech and pen  
That bid me judge him otherwise than I am judged.  
Amen!  
That I may sing of Crowd or King or road-borne  
company,  
That I may labor in my day, vocation and degree,  
To prove the same in deed and name, and hold  
unshakenly  
(Where'er I go, whate'er I know, whoe'er my  
neighbor be)  
This single faith in Life and Death and to Eternity:  
``The people, Lord, Thy people, are good enough for  
me!"

## 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.

## GOLDEN GATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

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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### **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 March 14, 2010. The new application is posted now on our website. 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**

By the time you read this, the latest edition of the Encompasser should be available on the website: go to <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.

### **GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITINERARY**

Roseville	Installation	21-Jan	Roseville(46)
Fair	Doug Young		
Grounds	Service	23-Jan	Yolo County
Modesto	Installation	25-Jan	Roseville(49)
Chico	Mark Master	1-Feb	Chico(42)
Woodland	Official Visit	3-Feb	Woodland(46)
San			
Francisco	Installation	30-Jan	California(1)
	Officers'	5-Feb to 7-	
Bakersfield	Conference	Feb	Bakersfield
Sonora	Official Visit	11-Feb	Sonora(2)
Pleasanton	Installation	18-Feb	Doric(66)
Auburn	KYCH	27-Feb	Golden West
Los Altos	SRICF	28-Feb	Golden State
	MSA		
Woodland	Presentation	7-Mar	Woodland(46)
	Re-		
Vacaville	dedication	13-Mar	Solano(43)
	SSYRA		
Woodland	Festival	27-Mar	Woodland(46)
Fresno	Symposium	28-Mar	Grand Lodge
	NorCal		
	Research		
Sacramento	Lodge	17-Apr	Sacramento

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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