



THE WORKMAN



Phil Hardiman, Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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MESSAGE TO HIGH PRIESTS OF 2009

Your year was a tremendous year – thanks to each one of you for your contributions to your Chapters growth. My hope is that you will each remain active in your Chapter by visiting Blue Lodges and “marketing” our superb Degrees. Final numbers are in now on growth for 2009: 279 new exaltations, compared to the average of 214 for 2006 – 2008! This is a 30+% increase – Keep up the good work, and urge your companions to keep visiting the local Blue Lodges with petitions in hand!

Now is the time to make your plans to attend Grand Chapter on April 26th. You can find the registration information in the January edition of the Encompasser (see below), or you can go directly to the Grand Sessions website at: www.ca-gvrs.org.

Plan also to attend the Order of High Priesthood at 2:00 pm on Monday, the 26th. As a Past High Priest, you are eligible for this important Degree. And so is your successor High Priest if he also attends Grand Chapter with you. And remember to collect proxies from any dais officers who might not be able to attend due to other commitments.

REGISTER FOR GRAND SESSIONS

You can find the registration information in the January edition of the Encompasser (see below), or you can go directly to the Grand Sessions website at: www.ca-gvrs.org.

THE INSTALLATION SEASON



California Chapter #1, with new High Priest Tom Chavez in the center front.



Doric Chapter #66, with new High Priest Kevin Keen on the right of yours truly.

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.

THE PALACE

This is my personal favorite of Kipling's Masonic poems so I run it again. I read it for the first time, as Worshipful Master in 1985, and have been entranced by it ever since. It speaks on many levels, all worthy of your consideration and contemplation, as you "build the Temple of *your* life." Brother Kipling also received the Mark Master Degree in a Lahore Mark Master Lodge.

When I was a King and a Mason,
a Master proven and skilled,
I cleared me ground for a Palace,
such as a King should build.
I decreed and dug down to my levels;
and presently, under the silt,
I came on the wreck of a Palace,
such as a King had built.

There was no worth in the fashion;
there was no wit in the plan;
Hither and thither, aimless,
the ruined footings ran.
Masonry, brute, mishandled;
but carven on every stone,
"After me cometh a Builder;
tell him I, too, have known."

Swift to my use in my trenches,
where my well-planned ground-works grew,
I tumbled his quoins and his ashlar's,

and cut and reset them anew.
Lime I milled of his marbles;
burned it, slacked it, and spread;
Taking and leaving at pleasure
the gifts of the humble dead.

Yet I despised not nor gloried;
yet, as we wrenched them apart,
I read in the razed foundation
the heart of that Builder's heart.
As he had risen and pleaded,
so did I understand
The form of the dream he had followed
in the face of the thing he had planned.

When I was a King and a Mason,
in the open noon of my pride,
They sent me a Word from the Darkness;
they whispered and called me aside.
They said, "The end is forbidden."
They said, "Thy use is fulfilled.
Thy Palace shall stand as that other's,
the spoil of a King who shall build."

I called my men from my trenches,
my quarries, my wharves, and my sheers;
All I had wrought I abandoned
to the faith of the faithless years.
Only I cut on the timber;
only I carved on the stone:
"After me cometh a Builder;
tell him I, too, have known."

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

The January 2010 edition of the Encompasser is now available on the website as follows: <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

Auburn	KYCH	27-Feb	Golden West
Los Altos	SRICF MSA	28-Feb	Golden State
Woodland	Presentation Re-	7-Mar	Woodland(46)
Vacaville	dedication SSYRA	13-Mar	Solano(43)
Woodland	Festival	27-Mar	Woodland(46)
Fresno	Symposium NorCal Research	28-Mar	Grand Lodge
Sacramento	Lodge	17-Apr	Sacramento

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