

THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATION VEHICLE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

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GRAND CHAPTER MESSAGE

There is Walk for Autism on April 20th in Pasadena. I have signed up a team to participate in it. Everyone can go to the Web site and sign up to join me in the walk or make a donation. Go to the Autism Speaks Web site: <http://www.autismspeaks.org>. Click on the "Attend a Walk" button in the upper right corner. Click on "Search for Team" on the left side of the screen. You may have to scroll down to find it. In the blank space preceded by "Team Name" enter the words "Royal Arch Masons of California." Click on the SUBMIT button, and you should get an entry for our team. Click on our Team Name, and then a list of all the Teams will show up. Scroll down to Royal Arch Masons. When you click on that, you will see near the top of the screen the phrase "**Join our Team**." Follow instructions, become a member of the Team, and make a donation! Please also take to heart the needs of those around the world who are benefited by the research that the General Grand Chapter RARA program supports. They include those with Central Auditory Processing Difficulties, Autism, and Hearing disorders. California has a new Chairman – my predecessor in office, MEC Bill Allen. See below his contact information, should your Chapter or your companions wish to contribute through him.

Please keep Pam and Eric Sandstrom in your prayers. We learned that on February 8th, Mark Sandstrom, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, took his own life, for reasons not known. Mark served as MIPGM in the 2009-10 Cryptic Year. See the descriptive article and Memorial to him below.

Remember to attend Grand Sessions in May. New High Priests and Past High Priests should attend and apply for conferral of the Order of High Priesthood in the afternoon of the 20th.

New Illustrious Masters and Illustrious Past Masters should attend and apply for conferral of the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree in the afternoon of the 21st. Commanders and Past Commanders should attend and apply for conferral of the Past Commanders Association Degree in the afternoon of the 22nd. See the Grand Sessions website for further information on all three Degrees: <http://www.ca-gyrs.org>.

As it is still early in the New Year, it is now time to practice your degree conferrals and build your classes of candidates. Some Chapters are working to become fully proficient in conferring all four Degrees. Most Chapters still use festivals for some or all of the Degrees. However your particular Chapter handles the Degrees, you must ever keep in mind that the growth of all three bodies depends upon the work done in Chapters to attract new members from our Blue Lodges. Consider the letter incorporated in the back of this edition, as a method to get your Blue Lodge brethren to consider petitioning your Chapter, at least, if not all three bodies. A version of this letter will be found in the Appendix of the revised Officer's Manual, recently revised by EC Steve Bass and soon to be released after editing.

Also included at the back of this edition is the first part of the Comptche Flyer. Put June 22nd on your calendar again for 2013. Many families came and camped at the Tunzi Ranch site – a class of 21 was exalted, and over two dozen ladies traveled into Mendocino while the conferrals occurred.

Fraternally,

Bob Wright, Grand High Priest

WHAT IS GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER?

We who are immersed in GGC activities may think this is a strange question, but in reality, I believe it is a question which suffers from ASSUMPTION! We all assume that everyone knows what General Grand Chapter is but, quite likely, few could actually offer a detailed explanation. This subject came up as we talked about the issues of disseminating information and what vehicle might we be in accomplishing that? The answer is, not a very good one (but that begs for another time). On the positive side, General Grand Chapter was instituted in 1797 as an organization to tie together the several Chapters operating in the North East. Soon, it was determined that having one Grand body for all these states was not feasible and so General Grand became the supervisory body for the several Grand Chapters that were then chartered by General Grand. The purpose of the General Grand body was to provide a web of continuity of information, regulation and to charter new Grand Chapters and chapters in new territories. General Grand Chapter was maintained by a per capita fee charged per member to each Grand Chapter. In the middle of the 19th century, two august Masonic luminaries who were General Grand officers, (Albert Mackey and Albert Pike –yes, that Pike!) allowed that the structure of General Grand Chapter should be revamped from being an authoritative body into a confederation of Grand Chapters who would all be members and would vote by way of the PGHP's and current council officers at each Triennial and that is the way that we operate today. General Grand Chapter is responsible for enforcing our Constitutions (which are very simple and are available to you on the website www.ramint.org/ under "Downloads") and maintaining the status of our ritual. Now many might say we fail in that area because few Grand Chapters use the actual General Grand Chapter ritual; however, all rituals in use by our members provide the same essence and

substance of material although there may be variations in how the story is told – but it is the same story that is told. We did have a recent case where a Grand Chapter took it upon themselves to write new rituals that did not correspond closely enough to our story and they were separated from General Grand Chapter until such time as a moderated solution was found.

General Grand also provides educational materials, recognition and awards for the outgoing GHP, distinguished service awards in bronze, silver and gold as well as recognition for ritualistic quality and the Sweetheart Award which is acknowledgement for service to the ladies. Further we publish the Royal Arch Mason magazine, the Newsletter, provide direction and assistance through a system of Regional Deputy General Grand High Priests and an Ambassador in each jurisdiction. These work together with respective officers in General Grand Council and Grand Encampment to provide annual regional conferences for all York Rite masons in each region. The cooperation and unity of these three national/international bodies has created the Emerging Leaders program offered at each conference to up and coming leadership personnel selected by the head of each of these three bodies in each jurisdiction. General Grand Chapter provides all these services through the office of the General Grand Secretary with only one assistant! We are also the organization that provides the Royal Arch Research Assistance charity specializing in Central Auditory Processing Disorder research with funding provided by contributions from you, the membership. We currently sponsor research in CAPD at the University of Connecticut under the direction of Dr. Frank Musiek; Hearing Health Foundation and the Toddlers Program at Autism_Speaks.

Further to this, General Grand is still involved

in one of the early missions of its constitution, to spread further light in masonry by advancing the American Royal Arch system throughout the world. This is done initially by Regional Deputies in Latin America, Europe/Africa and the Far East. Today we have Grand Chapters or subordinate chapters chartered and nurtured by us in Italy, Greece, France, Portugal, Romania, Croatia, Austria, Germany, Togo, Gabon, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Guam, Philippines, Taipei and Tokyo. We are currently working to develop Royal Arch Masonry in Eastern Europe, Mauritius, Madagascar and several other countries in Africa, and to strengthen our structure in Central America and Mexico.

All of this is accomplished by a per capita payment domestically of only \$1.00 per member annually and \$4.00 per year from foreign jurisdictions! Please see elsewhere on this website www.ramint.org under 'downloads' for the General Grand Chapter Mission Statement and Vision Statement to learn of the even greater services provided.

I hope the perusal of this information will give you a better understanding of the function of General Grand Chapter and please remember, we have been doing this continually since 1797! How many other organizations do you know that have been operating continuously for that length of time? I close with best wishes for a month full of good Royal Arch advancement and hope to see many of you on my travels.

With fervency and zeal,

Edmund D. Harrison
General Grand High Priest

ROYAL ARCH HISTORY

Of particular interest to all Companions and Sir Knights is the new addition to the History of the

Royal Arch – Volume 4 is now available, which takes the history through 1996. This is the supplement to the original 3 Volume set prepared by Everett R. Turnbull and Ray V. Denslow. The 4th Volume can be purchased for \$25. Volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the History of Royal Arch Masonry have been reprinted. These books are hardbound and approximately 500 pages each. The cost is \$ 100.00 for all 4 books plus \$ 15.00 shipping and handling in USA. Foreign shipping could cost more. Payment by check or credit card. Contact the General Grand Secretary to order books.

ramintl@sbcglobal.net

**New
RARA
Chairman
For the State!**

**Most Excellent
James W. "Bill" Allen**

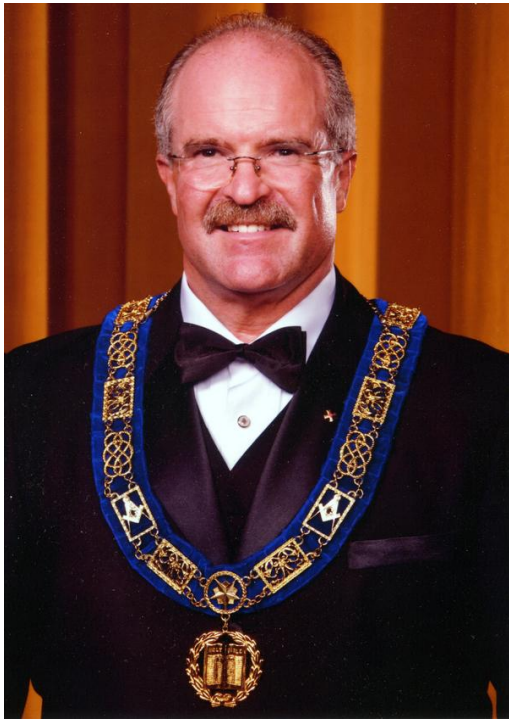
**Send Contributions to:
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Escondido 92029-5538**

Or contact for further information:

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(760) 716-2966**

**WHO PASTORS THE PASTOR?
Or WHY, MARK, WHY?
By Phil Hardiman, PGHP**

*Job 14: 5 Seeing his days are determined , the
number of his months are with thee, thou hast
appointed his bounds that he cannot pass ; 6 Turn
from him, that he may rest , till he shall
accomplish ... his day.*



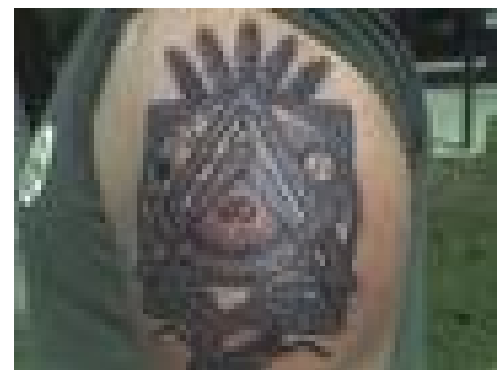
Or more specifically, who is available to give pastoral service and counseling to a Pastor who may be troubled or in need? We all get busy and wrapped up in the difficulties and troubles of our own lives that we easily lose sight of the troubles of others. Furthermore, we know that our Pastors and Priests are in that profession because they are called to serve others who are troubled and in need. And so we overlook the fact that sometimes they, too, are wounded by “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,” as Shakespeare put it.

And so trying to understand the suicide of Mark Sandstrom on February 8th is doubly difficult. How can we possibly understand such tragic and extreme action by such a marvelous exponent of Brotherly Love? In his message as Grand Chaplain in October of 2006 to those of us assembled at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge that year, he was explicit about his belief in that tenet as our *principal* tenet. You can read his entire message on page 121 of the published Proceedings for 2006. As a Pastor he provided grief counseling to families of some in his parsonage who took their own life. He, therefore, knew the intensity of the

grief suffered by those left behind. So he must have known how *we* would suffer – at the confusion, both fraternal and religious, by his action. So Why, Mark, Why?

I first met Mark when he was an officer in the progressive line for the Grand Council and I in the Grand Chapter. We served together in the East, finally, in 2009-10, and traveled occasionally, with Bill Robertson of the Grand Commandery, to speak at various functions around the State. At one such event he announced that his wife, Pam, told him “not to preach!” So he wouldn’t – he liked to talk most about his days as a DeMolay. But then Bill would get up and give a sermon – so we had a preacher who didn’t preach, and a lay person who did!

But then during the year he developed a case of cellulitis on his scalp – very painful in his case, though the regimen of anti-biotics he took seemed to cure him. But perhaps the staph infection remained and cut deeper into his system. Furthermore, “Persons who are at a higher risk for cellulitis are those who have a severe underlying disease ..., are taking steroid medications, In addition, ... skin wounds, and recent surgery can put a person at a higher risk for cellulitis.” (Source: thefreedictionary.com/cellulitis). In Mark’s case, he was proud of his tattoo – did that skin wound cause, or contribute to, the cellulitis?



Although I do not know this for a fact, it seems reasonable that, as a body-builder,

Mark used some over-the-counter supplements to increase his body mass. He was quite proud of his “powerlifting,” and, in fact, took first place in his age class (55-59) just 15 months ago at the International Powerlifting Federation competition. He ‘dead-lifted’ 621 pounds! Quite remarkable!



Perhaps he fell prey to, or was overcome by, bio-chemical forces related to the use of those supplements. Though it affects teenagers most frequently, suicide is a particular danger for those who use such supplements and then stop “cold turkey” because they do not like the side effects.

We will never know for sure what complications entered Mark’s life a few weeks ago. As for me, I am certain, knowing Mark as the sweet, gentle servant that he was, that there was no transgression by him against society or against the fraternity that would have led to depression or despondency and been a possible cause of the suicide. I am guessing, of course, sort of “reading the tea leaves,” but I suspect one or two causes of this tragedy: 1) either the infection and pain returned and obliterated his normal thought processes; or 2) the bio-chemistry of his body was so fouled up by continued use of supplements that the same result occurred. Or maybe it was caused by a combination of both. I am certain also, that I will warn my loved ones about the potential dangers associated with injuries, tattoos, and body-building supplements.

If I am correct in these suppositions, then there was nothing we, nor he, could do to prevent the tragedy. Mark knew he could ask for help from his brethren, but if his mind was compromised by bio-chemical confusion, he must have over-looked the options open to him. And so we can only take comfort from the knowledge that Mark is with his Maker, and that someday we will see him again, and he will answer for us then: Why, Mark, Why? “Until then, dear brother, until then ... farewell.”

The Golden Redwood Priory, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, has established a fund to be given to Mark’s family to help them through this time, and as a tribute of our affection for Mark and for them. Send any contributions you may wish to make to: Golden Redwood Priory No. 82, c/o David Sokol, Registrar, 7076 Riata Drive, Redding, CA 96002-9719.

Thank You in advance for your generosity, and for your remembrance of Mark and his many contributions over the decades to Freemasonry. In addition to his collegiate work as a Master of Divinity at Claremont, he served Covina Christian Church for 20 years. He served DeMolay as Master Councilor and was later awarded the Chevalier Degree and the Legion of Honor. He was raised in Hemet in 1980, served as Master in 1995 and was granted the Hiram Award in 1998. He presided over the remaining York Rite bodies from 1997 through 2001, was inducted into L. A. Priory in 2003, and elevated to the Knight York Grand Cross of Honor in 2009. He was a member of numerous other Masonic organizations, including the Scottish Rite, the Shrine, the Royal Order of Scotland, Allied Masonic Degrees, and the Red Cross of Constantine; and of several masonic research bodies. His Masonic Career reached its peak when he served as Most Illustrious Grand

Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California in 2009-10.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

CALENDARS OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

The itineraries can be found at the Grand York Rite website. Hold down the CTRL key and click on the line below. For M.E.C. Bob Wright go to:

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

For M.I.G.M Ray Godeke go to:
http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/council/council_2012/2012_calendar.html

For R.E.C. Bud Ramsey go to:
<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/itinerary.html>

COMPANION ADEPT OF THE TEMPLE

The York Rite Sovereign College has developed a new self-study educational program, similar in concept to the Scottish Rite's Master Craftsman Program, for the York Rite bodies. It is available to any York Rite Mason by enrollment through the Sovereign College Office. Cost is only \$30. Eight resources are made available, seven of them at no cost. Your editor purchased the other from Amazon for \$1.99! These resources include books by Mackey, Thomas Smith Webb, Jeremy Cross, Bernard Jones, Jackson Chase and George Cooper Connor. You will be happy to have these resources on your PC! Or your eBook reader. For information, contact the College Office at (313) 833-1385.

RAM-I NEWSLETTER

As you know, our Grand Chapter is associated with the General Grand Chapter RAM

International. The General Grand Chapter is now publishing a newsletter with international scope. Issues numbered 15, 16 and 17 for 2013 have been forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Scroll down the email to see California specific news.

Prior editions from March 2012 can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website: www.goldenstatechapter.org

HISTORY OF THE CRYPTIC RITE

General Grand Council has recently re-published a two-volume History, first published in 1931 and again in 1977. This new edition has just arrived and looks to be very enlightening, especially as regards the relationship of the Cryptic Rite to the Scottish Rite and the Royal Arch. The authors (Eugene E. Hinman, Ray V. Denslow, and Charles C. Hunt) say in the Preface:

“It has been our purpose, therefore, to place within the compass of a single work all that is known about the Cryptic Rite. That the reader may have all possible information at his disposal we have prepared an appendix in which appear copies of the most important documents, and selections from the writings of noted students of the subject.

“While this work is essentially a history, that history has been largely influenced by jurisdictional and legal questions, and we have therefore prepared chapters on this phase of the subject. Chapters have also been inserted on the subjects of Legend, Tradition and Symbolism, all of which have had their influence on the history. It is this rich legacy of Legend and Symbolism that gave the Rite its popularity to the present time, for the degrees stand entirely upon their own merits and are not required for advancement to any other rite or degree.” (Vol. I, page 8)

Contact the General Grand Recorder to acquire your own copy of this valuable document. There are still copies of the original 80 available at \$100 for both volumes, so act now to get your own set. Contact:

David A. Grindle, General Grand Recorder,
PO Box 332, Meridian ID 83680-0332
Fax: 208-895-6612 e-mail: ggr@ggccmi.org

COMMUNICATIONS

As mentioned in previous editions of the Encompasser, communications are vital to assist those seeking further light in Masonry. So resolve now to ACT: 1) broadcast this publication far and wide, and encourage each of your York Rite bodies to buy a 2-year subscription; 2) broadcast the monthly Workman to the leaders of all your bodies; 3) access the following websites, and see that your Companions are aware of their existence and how to access them:

www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org
www.goldenstatechapter.org
www.yorkrite.org

And as you continue into this Capitular year, make every effort you can to continually remind your membership of the **Colorado River Fall Festival** next October. Confer the Mark Master as often as you can and build interest in our brethren of pursuing further light.

GRAND SESSIONS 2013

Your Executive Committee for the 2013 Grand York Rite Sessions are diligently at work on the plans for the Grand York Rite Sessions. Although the Sessions are not until May 18th through May 22nd, 2013 – planning occurs year round. The schedule and the registration form are expected to be on the website: www.ca-gyrs.org around November. The registration

form will also be in the January edition of the Encompasser.

This website now includes the Souvenir Program Ad request form – also, see page 17 below. Despite not meeting the goal last year in ad sales, your efforts were very significant in helping to offset the tremendous expense of our annual Sessions program. As a ‘Thank You’ from the Executive Committee, you enjoyed complimentary coffee during the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery meetings this past year. One of the challenges that we faced last year was receiving many of our ads after the deadline. There is a great deal of planning and associated revenue and expense projections involved. Mason volunteers, your Brothers and Companions, do all this work in their spare time. Please try to help them. This year lets beat that amount BEFORE the deadline of April 1st, 2013. If we exceed \$20,000 in ad revenue before the deadline, each person who has submitted their reservation form before April 1st will receive a free buffet breakfast good for either Saturday or Sunday morning!

We are reviewing the successes from the past and considering some fresh ideas. Grand Sessions is open to all York Rite Masons and their Ladies, not just the presiding officers who obligated their attendance at their installation. **Please encourage everyone in your Chapter, Council, and Commandery to attend this year. We want this to be the most successful year ever.**

In closing, I offer the following request of York Rite Masonry in general and the Grand York Rite in particular: Booking the hotel rooms on time, through the regular registration process, and at the GYRS rate by identifying yourself as a ‘Grand York Rite Sessions’ attendee, if you speak to the hotel directly, is much more important than you may realize. We are contractually obligated to

meet a certain number of room nights in exchange for thousands of dollars in “concessions” from the hotel. This includes the use of the many rooms and ballrooms that include our registration process, many side meetings, degree conferrals, KT drill team competitions, hospitality suites, the Grand Recorder’s office, and so much more. You are doing your part in making California’s Grand Sessions the premier program that it is. No other state can boast the quality and depth of program that we put together every year. Booking after the deadline or outside of our block could put us in a situation that, quite frankly, we can’t afford. Looking forward to seeing you there!

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The website located at www.goldenstatechapter.org now contains a copy of the 2010 and 2011 Grand Orations booklets. Also included is a copy of “The Royal Arch Path,” by MEC Phil Hardiman, KYGCH. The latest publication contains the 2012 Grand Orations. It also contains the Vesper Service and West Coast Easter Observance messages given by Tom Boles, the out-going Grand Prelate.

The next meeting will be held in Bakersfield on Monday, May 20th at 3:30 pm, just after the Annual Grand Chapter Session has been adjourned. For information about membership, contact:

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M.:E.: Comp.: Philip A. Hardiman, Secretary
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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YORK RITE **ASSOCIATION** **(NCYRA)** **MARCH 2013**

Congratulations to all the incoming High Priests, Illustrious Masters, and Commanders for the 2013 year. All the installations are behind us and it is time to begin preparing for the festivals in August and November. The Northern California York Rite Association has set the dates for the Chapter and Council Degrees to again be the third weekend in August. The Mark and Past Master Degree will be on Friday, August 16, 2013 with the Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch Degrees on Saturday, August 17, 2013. The Royal and Select Master Degrees will also be done on the same Saturday. The Commandery Orders will be given Saturday, November 9, 2013. See below for the that gives details about the events.

Following last year’s festivals it has been decided to make a few changes to the support staff that assists putting the degrees and orders on. Many of the scene changes were done by the cast. It is felt that a more efficient way to conduct this process would be to have a group of Companion Knights trained in nothing but prop placement and scene changes. It would provide a more professional appearance to the degrees and orders and allow the cast to focus primarily on floor work and ritual. At this time we are seeking Companion Knights that may not wish to participate in a cast part but might like to be part of the staging crew. One way to accomplish this is to have each Chapter, Council, and Commandery provide their own crew for the degree or order they are conferring. Another way is to have a crew assembled from all available bodies that can function for all the degrees and orders. Over the next couple of months we explore the benefits and drawbacks of each of these ideas.

At the 2012 Commandery festival in November the Order of Malta was conferred in Short Form by Eureka Commandery #35. Eureka Commandery has agreed to give up doing the Order of Malta and allow its members to concentrate on doing the Council of Cryptic Masons degrees. Pacific Council confers the Royal and Select Master degrees and thinks it would be best to concentrate their efforts in that direction. Knowing this and wanting to upgrade the Commandery Orders, Butte Commandery #5 has agreed to learn and confer the Order of Malta in Long Form. Butte Commandery is starting from scratch and will require much assistance in acquiring the necessary paraphernalia to enable them to complete this task and be ready to confer the Order of Malta at the November festival. Any assistance from other Commanderies in procuring the necessary paraphernalia would be greatly appreciated.

Another addition to the festival will be a printed program listing all the cast members for the different degrees and orders. This was not available at the 2012 festival because not every Degree Team provided a cast list prior to the event. To avoid not having a program for this year's festival, a cast list will be required from all York Rite Bodies no later than July 15, 2013. The necessary forms will be distributed to all Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies. The inspectors have asked that dates for all practices be submitted to them so they are able to certify each degree team prior to the festival date. The officer's coach for each body will be responsible for informing the inspectors of these dates.

Richard Jolley President
Robert Morrison Secretary
Email dick_jolley@yahoo.com
Email bpmorrison@sbcglobal.net

CHAMPION INSTALLED

(Reprinted by permission: www.slojournal.com)

PETER GEORGE CHAMPION WAS INSTALLED AS *Master of the Masonic Center in San Luis Obispo following in the footsteps of a number of historic leaders of the city with R. E. Jack among them. Mr. Jack is memorialized by his fellow Masons for his leadership as Master in 1894 and 1895 at King David's Lodge #209. The cornerstone of the Free & Accepted Masons home was laid in 1913.*



Peter Champion, Master of the Masonic Center, SLO

Mr. Champion rose to Solomon's seat like all masons, by executing his duties and leading his life ever aware of the example that he is setting and by acknowledging in prayer and actions that he is an instrument of the Almighty, while developing his moral and ethical virtues.

Court is held in the Grand Lodge Room steeped in symbolism from top to bottom. Rich wood encompasses the room fit for a king. The Master sits in the east, a throne fit for King Solomon, while his court sits around him ever ready to step in where needed and symbolically guarding the north, west and south.

Working with the community is paramount, and among their efforts are their fiscal assistance to Hawthorne Elementary as well as their annual recognition of police and fire personnel in appreciation for their service.

Master Champion immediately follows Master Bettencourt, from whom I received my

invitation to attend the installation of officers for the Masons of the York Rite, Cryptic and Knights Templar.

Each of the groups is lead by a dozen officers that take care of such things as their treasury, record keeping and offering of prayers.

Masons of the State of California follow the York Rite. Sir Knight Marshall from southern California installed the 2013 board. Members of the York Rite are called Companions. Companion Marshall proclaimed the officers duly installed and bestowed on Master Bettencourt the title of Past President in recognition of his leadership.



Freemasons Installed

Officers of the body of Cryptic Masons were installed, each being addressed as Illustrious. Members of the York Rite can be a Cryptic Mason. Council 38 of San Luis Obispo installed Peter G. Champion as their Illustrious Master.

Christian Masons can join still another group called the Knights Templar. The Knights carry a sword and wear a hat with plumes as part of their garb while moving with some precision and cadence like soldiers do. In the tradition of Mr. Jack and others, each knight bonded himself ceremoniously as a battle buddy to another.



Knights Templar SLO Installation

As Lodge #209 maintains its fraternal traditions, they are mindful of social changes that have taken place over time. In an effort to share the richness of their traditions and recognize the importance of family and women, they extend invitations and plan activities to include them. Families and spouses were recognized for their generous support of the masons.

A spirit of welcome and openness was shown from the moment I stepped off the elevator when Robert (Bettencourt) introduced me to those standing near, including Jan Champion, whose husband was to be installed as the new Master. We quickly became bosom buddies and felt the significance of our attendance.

I admit I witnessed the prevalent shadow of secrecy felt towards masons first hand when I made mention of my invitation to others. So, I am delighted to report here in word and photo the warm and open reception I received. What is true is that to be a Mason is to be a member of a fraternity, and like all fraternities they possess aspects unique to the membership.

In 2009 the membership decided to commit to their historic downtown location and make necessary and meaningful changes to beautify and make practical additions, such as the elevator. It is the preservation of historic buildings such as this and the Jack House that enrich our community. Although the Masons own the entire building, their center is on the 2nd story and tenants occupy the street level.

The Masonic Center is reached by private elevator or by the beautifully handcrafted wooden staircase that will soon be adorned with new carpet as a part of the remodeling and beautification befitting this edifice.

Their library sits adjacent to the stairs where the history of the lodge dwells in volumes and photographs. Robert Edgar Jack's photograph is among the lineage of leadership gracing the walls, and the history of his membership is assembled within its space.

The dining room is embellished by the commissioned work of Carol & Richard Manuputy, which is a series of 4 murals brought together as one uniting the elements of masonry and its symbolism. Masonry is steeped in pageantry, regalia, ritual and symbolism through color, actions and accessories which are all depicted in this unique and fine work.

Masons come from all walks of life and Peter Champion has combined his writing talents with knighthood by having authored *Masonic Trivia and Curiosities*, while his 2nd book about the history of the Masons in our area is due out in October.

Speaking of October, the 20th is the date to save for the 100th anniversary, Master Champion announced in his opening remarks. In the meantime, it's down to business with lots of planning and organizing. His fellow Masons can rest assured it will be a celebration for the annals, as Companion and Knight Champion has proven his abilities by now accepting the role as Master of King David's Lodge No. 209 of San Luis Obispo.

GRAND YORK RITE **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Editor:

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www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org

If you need access to the confidential features of the website, contact one of the officers above for userid and password.

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

41st ANNUAL COMPTCHE OUTDOOR ROYAL ARCH DEGREES



Tunzi Ranch - Comptche, CA
Saturday - June 22nd, 2013



All four degrees will be conferred on Saturday. The Prologue begins at 8:30 a.m.

Reservations: Deadline is Sat., JUNE 15th. The remote location, price of gasoline, and the cost of food require us to charge 20% more after that date. Mail your Reservation form (below) and check to: Guy Chalmers, 50 Lohrman Lane, Petaluma, CA 94952. For more information, call Guy at 707-763-0741.

Climate & Misc.: The coastal climate is either foggy and cold, or hot; Think layers. Dress attire is always casual. There's plenty to do so come a couple of days early. This is a cattle ranch so watch your step and your dogs must be leashed at times. In the town of Mendocino, 10 miles away, you can visit historical landmarks, go salmon fishing, or just enjoy the scenic coastline. Ft. Bragg, 8 miles north of Mendocino, is also historical and a great place to visit.

Accommodations: You could make a vacation around this event. Self-contained RVs and tent campers are welcome to set up from 6/19 - 6/25. There are no 120v hookups but there are chemical toilets in the meadow. Restrooms at the degree site have a hot water shower in the men's. Motels are available at the coast, 30 minutes on a winding road from the RAM site. Call as soon as possible for your reservations, it's a popular tourist area.

TRADEWINDS LODGE (707) 964-4761
SURREY SUPER 8 (800) 206-9833
HARBOR LITE LODGE (707) 964-0221

SURF MOTEL (707) 964-5361
FOOLS RUSH INN (707) 937-5339
SEA FOAM LODGE (707) 937-1827



RV's and Tent Campers Welcome



Comptche Cook Shack

Letter to Master Masons

Dear Brother _____

Your application to the Masonic Lodge was undoubtedly one of the most important steps of your life, and was evidence of your desire to learn why Masonry is the largest as well as the most respected Fraternal Organization in the world. Your acceptance by the Lodge was proof of the good opinion of your Brethren and the community.

One of the first lessons taught you was that “Masonry is a progressive moral science, taught by degrees only.” As you advanced through the work to that proud moment when you were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, many great Truths were unfolded to you, and many merely hinted at. Every thinking Mason must become increasingly aware that the beautiful ritual of the Blue Lodge, while it lays the basic foundation for Masonic study, does not reveal all of the Light of Masonry, but leaves many unanswered questions.

YORK RITE MASONRY PROVIDES THE ANSWERS. York Rite Masonry is the true descendant of English Masonry, and the Blue Lodge is an actual part of the cycle of Masonic instruction which is carried forward through the Royal Arch Chapter, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and into the Orders of the Commandery. The Chapter consists of four Degrees, the Council consists of three; all teaching in striking lessons based on The Book of the Law, the Old Testament, the broadening meaning of Masonry. They answer many questions and reveal much that was hidden, and in them is recovered that which was lost.

The Commandery of Knights Templar represents three Orders; in the first, The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the importance of TRUTH is taught in a dramatic fashion, which bridges the step from the Masonry of the Old Law into the Masonry of Christian Knighthood. Here Masonry for the first time, leaves the dominion of the Old Testament, and builds upon the teachings of the Christian Religion, completing the circle of Perfect Truth, revealing the glory of the Perfect Light.

The Order of the Temple, which completes the teachings of the York Rite, brings to the Candidate some of the most impressive and beautiful ritual in all of Masonry. In scenes never to be forgotten, the story of the sublime sacrifice for the remission of sin, and the regards that await the faithful Christian Knight at the hands of Him who is the Great Captain of our Salvation, are imprinted upon the minds and hearts of all who enter our Commandery. Freemasonry is a course of study in Morality, and he who enters with a true desire for knowledge, will find in its unfolding beauties an inspiration and a guide to all that is good in life.

It is my pleasure to inform you that your name has been suggested as an acceptable prospect for York Rite Masonry. I sincerely hope that you will avail yourself of the opportunity to further your Masonic education through the York Rite. Please allow me, at your convenience, to visit you to answer your questions, and explain more about our Rite. Please know that it is not necessary for you to commit to memory any portion of the Degrees and Orders.

Sincerely and Fraternally,



2013 Grand York Rite Sessions May 18th to May 22nd, 2013 – Bakersfield, CA

Each person attending must fill out a registration form Please print your names and titles as you would like it printed on your badge

Do you prefer your confirmation by: ☐ email (default) ☐ none ☐ phone call (latest time to call _____)

Name: _____ Lady / Guest: _____
 Title(s): _____
 Lady / Guest Title(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Arrival Date / Time: _____ Departure Date / Time: _____ Shuttle Requested? ☐ No ☐ Yes
 (Enter travel details in comments section)

I am a member of: **RAM #** _____ **CM #** _____ **KT #** _____ ☐ Drill Team Participant

Day/Date	Time	Event / Meal please enter the number of Meals/Events or <input type="checkbox"/> No Events/Meals	Price	Total
Sat - 18 th	10:30 AM	AMD In-Gathering Registration Fee _____ - Your AMD Council Number _____	\$2.00	
	11:00 AM	• AMD Lunch _____	\$5.00	
	12:15 PM	• Order of Secret Monitor – Second Degree _____	\$15.00	
		• Grand Tilters of Solomon Degree _____	\$15.00	
		• Supreme Master Degree (Sovereign or Past Sovereign Masters only) _____	\$15.00	
	6:00 PM	• Festive Board Table Lodge Dinner (Open to all Master Masons) _____	\$50.00	
	8:00 PM	York Rite College Meet and Greet _____	*R.O.*	
Sun - 19 th	11:30 AM	Battalion & Belles Brunch Oriental Chicken Salad _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	
	8:30 PM	Grand York Rite Banquet Flank Steak _____ Chicken Marsala _____ Veg _____	\$35.00	
Mon - 20 th	7:00 AM	Grand Chapter Breakfast (Open to all Registrants) Southwestern Breakfast _____	\$20.00	
	12:00 PM	RAM Ladies Luncheon Cobb Salad _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Chapter Luncheon Beef Tostada Salad _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	
	1:30 PM	School of Ritual for Council and Commandery _____	*R.O.*	
Tue - 21 st	7:00 AM	Grand Council Breakfast: (Open to all Registrants) French Connection _____	\$20.00	
	12:00 PM	CM Ladies Luncheon Chicken Tostada Salad _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Council Luncheon Chicken Tostada Salad _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	
	1:30 PM	School of Ritual for Chapter _____	*R.O.*	
Wed - 22 nd	7:00 AM	Grand Commandery Breakfast: (Open to all Registrants) American Breakfast _____	\$20.00	
	12:00 PM	KT Ladies Luncheon: Harvest Chicken Salad _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Commandery Luncheon: Deli Sandwiches _____ Veg _____	\$24.00	

Check# _____ payable to Grand York Rite of CA or ☐ invoice me via PayPal

*R.O. is Reservation Only. There is no charge for the event. However, if you plan to attend, please make your reservation.

Comments:

Please send this form and payment to: CA-GYRS 6431 Valley Hi Dr. Sacramento, CA 95823-4838
 Reservation forms postmarked after 04/17/13 are subject to a 25% late fee - Forms submitted onsite will be charged a \$10 onsite processing fee

Contact the Bakersfield Doubletree Hotel 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct Bakersfield, 93308 @ (800) 222-TREE(8733) tell the agent that you are in the Grand York Rite Group for your hotel reservation before 04/16/13
 Room rate: \$93.00 +tax for balcony rooms (\$10 more per night if you requested a courtyard/pool facing room)

Questions, please contact: General Chairman: Bob Whitfield (925) 963-0933 chairmen@ca-gyrs.org
 Executive Officer: James Baum, (760) 843-9258 executiveofficer@ca-gyrs.org
 Meal/Event reservations: Dave Glass (916) 454-5335 reservations@ca-gyrs.org
 No refunds after May 05th, 2013 unless approved by the Grand York Rite Sessions Executive Committee. More forms (including the Order of High Priesthood, Thrice Illustrious Master & Past Commanders Association), menus and schedule are available from www.ca-gyrs.org.



2013 GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS

Souvenir Ad Program Order Form

Company Name or Organization _____

Contact Name _____ Contact Phone _____ Contact E-mail _____

Mailing Address City, State Zip _____

What do You Want Your Ad to Say?

Camera ready ad material is preferred (Black and White or Gray scale only). We can assist you in creating your ad. Provide on a separate page, the exact wording of your ad. Submit logos, pictures (original B&W or Gray scale only—no color or “scanned pics”) or business cards that are to be used in the ad on an accompanying sheet. Payment must accompany Ad request, payable to “Grand York Rite of CA” or we will invoice you via PayPal to use your credit card.

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING AD REQUESTS: 4/01/13

Send Ad and Payment to Casey Latham
7123 Coriander Trail, Oak Hills, CA 92344.

Phone (760) 646-1882 email: ads@ca-ovrs.org

Please enter quantity:

_____ Full Page @ \$160.00 each

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_____ Name on Name Page (list below)
@ \$5.00 each

Total Amount _____

Check # _____ or ☐ Invoice me via PayPal

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For Committee Use Only: Date Postmarked: _____ Ad Tracking number: A13-_____

WEST COAST EASTER OBSERVANCE 2013

c/o 23015 Ashwood
Lake Forest, CA 92630-5409
Tel: (949) 829-6802 - lderbyhawk@aol.com

REGISTRATION

Easter Package is available at \$100.00 per person

(Includes: Meals, Parking Fees, Registration Fees and Tour
of the Endeavor Space Shuttle)

PLEASE PRINT NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING

_____ @ \$100.00

_____ @ \$100.00

_____ @ \$100.00

Please include your Name, Address, Telephone and Email

Total \$ _____

Please send enclosed form with your check payable to: **“Grand
Commandery Easter Observance”**
(Mail to address provided above)

**YOUR TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL ON FRIDAY MORNING
in the HOSPITALITY ROOM**

Room Rates: \$95.00 + tax

When making room reservations, inform them you are with: “Grand Encampment
Knights Templar”

For Hotel Reservations: **Radisson Hotel at USC**

3540 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90007

(800) 395-7046 - or online at:

<http://www.radisson-midtown.com>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YORK RITE ASSOCIATION

Grand York Rite Reception **HONORING**

Robert Wright, GHP, Raymond Godeke, MIGM, "Bud" Ramsey, GC

Date: ***Saturday, April 13, 2013***

Location: ***Milton and Naomi Abbott's Garden Yard***
Address: ***2974 Eagle Lane***
McKinleyville, CA 95519-8055

Time: ***Social 1:00 pm***
Dinner 3:00 pm - Dinner Cost \$20.00
Salmon - Tri-tip - BBQ Oysters

Attendees ***Companions, Knights, Ladies and Guests***

Reception Reservations: ***Milton Abbott, PGC***
2974 Eagle Lane
McKinleyville, Ca 95519-8055
Phone: 707-839-4102

Contact Person: ***Myron Tisdell***
Phone: 530-474-4669

Hotel: ***Quality Inn***
1209 Fourth Street
Eureka 95501
Phone: 707 443 1601

Dress: ***Dressy Casual***

~ ~ ~ Chico ~ ~ Eureka ~ ~ Oroville ~ ~ Quincy ~ ~ Red Bluff ~ ~ Redding ~ ~ ~

GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CALIFORNIA
11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13, Artesia, CA 90701-3872

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The California Encompasser

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of California
WEB SITE

<http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org>

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*California Freemasons
The Family of Freemasonry
"Masonry on the Rise"*