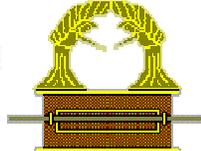




THE WORKMAN



James W. "Bill" Allen, Jr., Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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CONTENTS

GHP MESSAGE	1
CHRISTMAS IN BELLFLOWER	1
WEBSITES	2
A PILGRIM'S WAY by Kipling	3
PASSWORDS OF THE VEILS	3
GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS	4
THE CLOTHES LINE	4
ENCOMPASSER	4
GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER	5
GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY	5
CONTACT INFORMATION	5

GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

2011 has been a most gratifying year, serving as your Grand High Priest. I trust that the remainder of my term will be as interesting and fulfilling as have been these last few months. I am looking forward to the upcoming spate of Installations, and in participating in a few of them. If the new High Priests have not yet formulated a plan for 2012, they should do so quickly – planning first to establish a Team to confer the Mark Master. This puts your Chapter in a position to advance candidates throughout the year, if your Chapter does some or all of the 3 remaining degrees, or to send candidates to your local Festivals. Speaking of Festivals, let me again ask you to consider taking candidates to the beautiful outdoor setting near Mendocino, where Larry Tunzi allows

the use of his ranch and amphitheater for conferral of the Chapter degrees. This year is especially significant, as this Festival at the ranch in Comptche (9 miles inland from Mendocino) is celebrating its 40th year! The theme is Forty For 40!! So if you have candidates for any or all of the Chapter Degrees, please consider bringing them to Comptche. Camping on the Ranch is at no cost! And there is a shack with mens and ladies restrooms, and a co-ed shower. And of course a cook shack for preparation of the Friday night Fish Fry and the Saturday night Bar-be-Que. Nancy Hardiman will be planning a trip into Mendocino or Fort Bragg for shopping and lunch on Saturday, June 23rd, while we confer degrees.

A very inspiring story has been submitted by our Grand Secretary. As you enjoy its heart-warming effect, please consider how your Chapter can contribute to replicate this activity in your locale.

Best wishes to you all, again, for a Happy New Year, as well!

Fraternally,

Bill Allen, Grand High Priest

CHRISTMAS IN BELLFLOWER

Companions & Sir Knights:

As you (may) already know the York Rite in Bellflower on Christmas Eve at 2:00 PM cooked a

meal for the needy people in Bellflower. This is an update on what happened:

We fed about 185 people. Our Commander Jim Sunseri and Gerry Easton did the cooking. There were 35 of our members together with several wives and children who came to help set up tables, serve and also clean up. For this we are most grateful. It was a chance for many to meet each other for the first time, and more important for their wives to meet.

A Royal Arch Mason from Mexico, Alex Calderon who now lives in Los Angeles and wants to join our York Rite brought 200 toys for the kids. Each child was given a plastic candy cane filled with Hersey kisses and a toy of their own choice. You should have seen their faces light up when they were told they could pick any toy they wanted.... IT WAS PRICELESS !!!!!

Bob Kirklin was there with Christmas pins of trees, wreaths, santa claus, etc which he gave out to all who wanted one.... and just about everyone was wearing one of his pins. A wonderful and typical Bob Kirlin gesture.

The Master of Bellflower Lodge, John Lange (who will join the York Rite this year) was there, even though he was sick ! The High Priest Elect Manny Pagaduan was there (Our High Priest was in the Philippines); Our Illustrious Master Brett MacDonald was there and of course our Commander James Sunseri.

The Commander of Golden West Commandery No. 43 James Sunseri came up with this idea to feed the hungry at Christmas.... we thought it was a great idea and pitched in and did what was necessary to make this an outstanding success.

Companions & Sir Knights, this was a WIN - WIN event - the needy got fed, the kids got toys and we got together like Masons and did what we always claim to do - help others. All of us went home that afternoon with a warm glow within each of us knowing we did something good.... it is a good feeling. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all of you who could not make it. God bless.

Kenneth Hope
Secretary/Recorder

WEBSITES

Communications – vital to encouraging effective involvement by our members; vital to stimulating growth in our Chapters, Councils and Commanderies; vital to assist those seeking further light in Masonry. Hence, it is vital that you, as leaders in York Rite Masonry, get familiar with our communication vehicles and utilize them. This is pedantic and preachy, of course – but nonetheless true. 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

From the first site, www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org, can be obtained the official documents used by the several bodies. Also available on the Chapter page is a link to the monthly Newsletter from the Grand High Priest; to Grand Chapter Scholarship applications and policy statements; and links to local bulletins.

From the Research Chapter site, www.goldenstatechapter.org, information is available that can be used to make stated meetings more interesting; or can be included in Trestleboards to help inform our companions. See the article below on Passwords from the Veils, taken from the Library on this site. Also available are links to other Masonic sites that can enrich your Masonic journey.

From www.yorkrite.org can be found connections to the General Grand bodies and to York Rite Masonry in other States.

This is just a thumbnail sketch of the websites at your fingertips. Familiarize yourself with them, and your task of helping to inform our Companions and Sir Knights will be much enhanced.

A PILGRIM'S WAY

The following poem is by Bro. Rudyard Kipling, also a Royal Ark Mariner, as pointed out in earlier editions. It was written during his trip to Egypt in 1913.

I do not look for holy saints to guide me on my way,
Or male and female devilkings 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 honour 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 labour 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 labour 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!"

PASSWORDS OF THE VEILS

Dennis Dyer, DGL for Department 4, has developed access to a number of information materials related to Royal Arch Masonry. Here's a sample, drawn from "Passwords of the Veils."

"...Why does the Royal Arch degree portray our three candidates as returning members of the Jewish race from captivity in Babylon? Why do they need to know and hold in veneration these men portrayed in this degree? How do these patriarchs, prophets, and servants contribute to combined history of the modern-day Jewish and Christian Faiths? Just who are we referring to?"

This list includes: Shem, Ham, and Japheth; Moses, Oholia, and Bezalel; Joshua, Zerubabel, and Haggai. All these men were to be found faithful by our Supreme Father in Heaven. They obeyed His commandments, edicts, and promises even in the greatest test of adversity which they all endured as told in the Old Testament ...

....
But how do figures from some distant Biblical account impact our Masonic faith and practice?

Each trusted in God for life itself, each used their God given talents to the benefit of those who lived around them. Each expressed, stood for, and implemented the Great Law Giver's Wisdom and Divine Truth. And for this, their Creator found them worthy of faith. They were chosen, gifted, and strengthened by God to do his work on Earth in their generation. Not all were the Presiding elder or Ruler of Men such as Moses, Joshua, or Zerubbabel. Some, such as Shem, Ham, Japheth, Oholiab, and Bezalel, used their skills as craftsmen or artisans to make physical objects that help complete God's mission.

So the answer to the question, why were these men used as models of faith in our ritual? It is to show each of us that God has a plan to use us by our talents if we will only make ourselves faithful and available for the work He has planned for each of us in our generation. Furthermore, it shows us that every companion of our Royal Arch chapters can make great and memorable contributions by working in our ritual, taking part in leadership, or just being active and faithful in attendance.

Finally, on a level where our symbolism reinforces our faith, we find examples for the Jewish as well as the Christian companions. For those of the Jewish faith, these heroes have shaped your worship and practice thereof. They brought a blind world, the true Law of the One True God. They have established a way to approach Him and commune with Him.

For Christians, not only are the aforementioned attributes to be added as examples of overcoming faithfulness, partners in God's plans, and being standard bearers of His Truth, each can directly tie into Jesus' ministry and/or genealogy as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew as well as outlined by the writer of Hebrews.

Our goal as Royal Arch Masons should be to grow in knowledge of the excellent models of faith given to us in the beauty of our Royal Art. Shem, Ham, Japheth, Moses, Oholiab, Bezalel, Joshua, Zerubbabel, and Haggai are men that all Royal Arch

Masons should become more learned of to better understand the deep riches that could impact each companion's life by implementing these practical examples of men who overcame trials in life by Faith in God."

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

For info about 2012 Scholarships, go to the following website:

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

If you have the resources, please consider making a significant donation on behalf of our Masonic Youth. Send any excess cash (!) to the Grand Chapter Scholarship Program at 11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13, Artesia, CA 90701-3872

Remember 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.

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) 527-5728, or cell: (510) 502-3224; or email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

ENCOMPASSER

The **January 2012** edition of the Encompasser is now available on the website. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar. **You can help us control cost by letting us know you are willing to take the Encompasser by email only.**

Check out the new format available – you can now read the Encompasser online! No need to even print it out. Many thanks to our web-master,

Excellent Companion Richard Thornton, for his efforts in applying this technology to our needs!

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The Golden State Chapter of Research of the Holy Royal Arch is pleased to announce the release of an updated website, just in time for the new year.

The website located at www.goldenstatechapter.org features an all new look to better capture the academic and esoteric work that the Golden State Chapter is dedicated to pursue and share with fellows and members. With an updated backend system, the website will be scalable to meet the ever expanding technology available on the web. Many more features and updates will be released in the near future and the Golden State Research Chapter invites members and those looking for further light in the Royal Arch to visit the website today.

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GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY

Jan-11		
Monday, January 09	Orange County RAM installation	
Thursday, January 12	IV RAM installation	
Wednesday, January 18	Riverside RAM installation	
May-12		
Saturday, May 19	Grand York Rite Sessions	Bakersfield

Sunday, May 20		
Monday, May 21	Council	
Tuesday, May 22	Commandery	
Wednesday, May 23	Chapter	

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