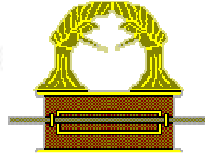




THE WORKMAN



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

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

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Please continue to develop Mark Master Teams – every Chapter should have one, and should confer the Mark at least once each year. Use the information provided below as abbreviated from material submitted by Nigel Gallimore to interest your Blue Lodge brethren in applying for this very important Degree – second in importance only to the Royal Arch Degree.

Finally, I want to continue to emphasize the Scholarship Program donations. Make your tax-deductible donation now, at the beginning of the year and help our youth orders kids take that important step to financial security.

Fraternally,

Bill Allen, Grand High Priest

GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

As we approach Grand Chapter on May 23rd, now is the time to make your reservations for the hotel and meals and so forth. Note that in the afternoon at 1:30 pm, after the Grand Chapter session, the Order of High Priesthood will be conferred. All High Priests, as well as Past High Priests, are eligible and can get the petition at <http://www.ca-gyrs.org/formsOHP.pdf>. Please send to the Grand Secretary's address as noted below. After the OHP conferral, the Golden State Chapter of Research will hold its annual meeting. Plan to attend, become a member if you're not already, and enjoy the demonstration of the new, improved website.

RAM INTERNATIONAL 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. Issue number 6 for April 2012 will soon be forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Under Grand Chapters on the left side of the Newsletter, check for California specific news.

FORTY FOR FORTY

Speaking of Festivals, each Chapter, especially those north of Fresno, should 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, bring them to Comptche. Camping on the Ranch is at no cost! And there is a shack with men's 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. See the latest edition of the Encompasser on the website for the registration flyer.

THE MARK MASTER

The Mark Degree is important because it is the connecting link between operative and speculative Freemasonry. It is well known that operative stone masons indented the stones they had prepared with special marks. These were of two types, those that indicated the orientation and position of the stone within the building together with a personal mark to identify the mason who prepared it. This is a very old degree, with some indication that it existed in Scotland as early as 1599. What this ceremony consisted of no one knows. There may have been some moral teachings connected with it. The records however, merely show the payment of a fee and the registering of a Mark. Early evidence really only starts with documentation in the Craft Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham in England showing that it was being worked in the 1750's. The first available mention of English Mark activity in surviving minutes is recorded for 1st September 1769, by the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship No. 3 meeting in Portsmouth, on the south coast of England. The next oldest minute referring directly to the Mark is in 1773 for the Marquis of Granby Craft Lodge No. 124, and then in 1777 for the St. Thomas' Lodge No. 142 in London. In Scotland the Dumfries Lodge (now Thistle Lodge No. 62) recorded in 1770 that the

Master elect was an Entered Apprentice, a Fellow Craft, a Master Mason and a Mark Master Mason. In Ireland there is a Mark Masons certificate dated 27th August 1775, issued by the Knights Templar of Kensale in County Cork.

The American Revolution, 1775 to 1783, historically proven to have had a strong Masonic influence, was to help lead American Masonry even further from the official English Modern's system. Of the 'Antient' type they diffused a liberal style of Masonry. By the end of the 18th century, for example, there was apparently no 'Modern' style of Masonry in North America. The early history of the Mark Degree in the United States is very similar to that in the other countries and is very meager. It was conferred in Lodges as part of the Lodge work as was the Most Excellent and the Royal Arch. Apparently Lodges worked the degrees as an inherent right and not under the authority of a charter. With the organization in 1797 of what eventually became known as the General Grand Chapter and with the forming of Grand Chapters, the degrees of Mark, Past, Most Excellent and Royal Arch came under the jurisdiction of Chapters operating independently of Symbolic Lodges.

The Mark Master Degree is based on the ceremony of registering a craftsman's mark in those years distinguished by operative craft masons and their temple building. Some scholars say it may be one of the earliest Masonic degrees. The Mark was and is directly associated with both Operative and Speculative Freemasonry and from time immemorial it has been the custom for the skilled craftsman to chisel his distinctive Mark on stones fashioned by him, so as to indicate his workmanship. The candidate for the Mark Master Degree represents a humble laborer in the quarries of King Solomon's Temple. Historically the degree illustrates the process by which the work on the temple accomplished by each craftsman was identified. ...

The Mark is a logical step from the Craft to the Royal Arch and enables the candidate to more fully appreciate the structure and beauty of Solomonic Masonry. Unlike all other degrees in Freemasonry, the Mark degree has only one emblem, the keystone, and the whole degree is woven around this symbol....

In England the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was formed on 25 June 1856, and has its very own delightful headquarters situated a few doors away from St. James' Palace in London. The present Grand Master of the GLMMM is HRH Prince Michael of Kent, he is the blood brother of HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, who is the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and also the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England (SGCE). Connections between the Royal Family and the English Royal Arch began in 1772 when, on 12 December, in the Grand Chapter acting as a private Chapter, HRH Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland (brother to King George III) was exalted. In 1774 he was elected Grand Patron of the Royal Arch.

Submitted by Nigel Gallimore

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 **April 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 will there find copies of the registration documents for Grand Sessions as well as for the 40th annual Royal Arch Festival at Comptche.

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 next meeting of the Research Chapter will be during the afternoon of Grand Chapter on May 23rd, at 3:00 p.m., location to be announced. 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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mar -12		
Friday Mar 9 - 11	Grand Officers Conference	Bakersfield
Mar 12	Consuelo Lodge	
Mar 13	San Diego Commandery	
Mar 14	Scottish Rite Practice	
Mar 18	Knight Masons	
Mar 27	OES PM/PP Meeting	
Apr -12		
Apr 3	OES	
Apr 4	San Diego Scottish Rite	
Apr 9	Consuelo Lodge	
May -12		
May 1	OES	
May 2	San Diego Scottish Rite	
May 3	Tyre RAM	Escondido
May 14	Consuelo Lodge	
May 17	Helix Council	
Saturday, May 19	Grand York Rite Sessions	Bakersfield
Sunday, May 20	Council	
Monday, May 21		
Tuesday, May 22	Commandery	
Wednesday, May 23	Chapter	

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**GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
 Website**

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG