

## Union City York Rite Communication of October 2021

Bruce Rick, PHP, PC <BAR972@OUTLOOK.COM>

Tue 9/28/2021 6:00 AM

To: Bruce Rick <BAR972@OUTLOOK.COM>

Volume 02 Number 10 October 2021

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## UNION CITY YORK RITE *COMMUNICATION*



## Sharing What We're Doing

This newsletter is to keep the brothers, families and friends of Union City York Rite Bodies in Union City California, up to date on the interesting and informative events of our extended Masonic family. Contact us at the Union



**Our October cover is one to remind you of our continuing Masonic Family virtue of "Harmony".**

**As of this publication date all are still via Zoom until further notice. Check our website for the latest schedules [Union City York Rite](#) .**

**Read the decisions from the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California and the Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of California on virtual balloting. Both Siminoff Daylight Chapter No. 183 RA and Sword and Trowel Council No. 85 CM successfully balloted at their September 18th virtual meeting.**

**Included in this issue are articles contributed by Brothers we know.**

**Take note of the Fall 2021 York Rite Festival dates.**

**Note the Ritual Book on the calendar - the Fourth Monday of the month to remind you to review that ritual.**

**Fraternally,**

**Bruce Rick, Editor and Publisher**

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**Masonic Family Combined Calendar**

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OCTOBER COMBINED CALENDAR  
2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12	13 Cryptic Council Festival- San Bernardino YR - 6:00 pm 	14 KT Sword Maintenance 	15	16 National Dictionary Day 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25  	26	27	28	29	30
31 	1 *November*	2	3	4	5	6

2021

**SAT NOVEMBER 6 KNIGHT TEMPLAR COMMANDERY ORDERS -  
9:00 am - San Bernardino York Rite Masonic Temple**

**SAT DECEMBER 11 UNION CITY YORK RITE STATED MEETINGS -  
CHAPTER , COUNCIL, COMMANDERY - Chapter 9:00 am - Other**

**times and Location TBD**

**SUN DECEMBER 12 SIMINOFF COUNICL AMD No. 485 - 11:00 am**  
**- Location TBD**

**2022**

**SAT-THU MAY 14-18 2022 GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS**  
**- 9:00 am Visalia**

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# ***Fall 2021 York Rite Festival***

## ***Royal Arch Chapter Degrees***

***Mark, Past, Most Excellent & Royal Arch***

***Saturday, September 25th, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.***

## ***Cryptic Mason Council Degrees***

***Royal Master & Select Master***

***Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.***

## ***Knights Templar Commandery Orders***

***Red Cross, Malta & Order of the Temple***

***Saturday, November 6th, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.***

***Please Check-In Early!***

***Sharp Time Set - Conferral of Degrees & Orders***

***All at the***

***San Bernardino York Rite Masonic Temple***

***2888 Arrowhead Avenue***

***San Bernardino, California 92405-3805***

***[sbyrb@juno.com](mailto:sbyrb@juno.com)***

***Please be early to avoid delays / Prompt conferral times are set***

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## **Our "Grand" Brothers**

### **Grand Lodge of California**

**Jeff Wilkins Deputy Grand Master**

**Jordan Yelinek Assistant Grand Secretary**

### **Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of California**

**Phil Hardiman, Grand Secretary**

**Thomas Chavez, Grand Captain of the Host**

**Marty Cusing, Grand Orator**

### **Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of California**

**Phil Hardiman, Grand Recorder**

**Mark Harris, Grand Director of Ritual**

**Michael Ramos, Grand Chaplain (North)**

**Jonathan Prestage, Grand Orator**

**Chris Trueblood, Grand Marshal (North)**

### **Grand Commandery Knights Templar of California**

**Phil Hardiman, Grand Recorder**

**Jordan Yelinek, Grand Captain General**

**Efren Prado, Grand Sentinel**

**Jim Baum, Grand Inspector General**

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Luis	Lacayo	10/06
Johnathan	Prestage	10/25
Jose	Larin	10/27
Jim	Baum	10/28

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## Did You Know This...

Information for your continuing York Rite journey.

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"Harmony"  
By Bob Sachs

Harmony – a word we use so often in our Masonic meetings and conversations. It is often preceded by the word “peace.”

This implies that peace and harmony are distinct, but

interdependent. Furthermore, both have internal (i.e. personal) and external (i.e. inter-personal) dimensions.

External peace is inextricably linked to inner peace. It could be argued that if there is no inner peace on the part of those on opposing sides of an issue or conflict, the peace achieved is merely the absence of conflict or war. In some circumstances, where differences are seemingly intractable, perhaps this is as good as it gets. An example in the real time of today is when Israelis and Palestinians are not lobbing bombs at each other. In an interview I have had with a well-known promoter of meditation and mindfulness who teaches programs both for Israelis and Palestinians in their respective territories, peace is not even considered viable or realistic. In this situation, security is the closest opposing sides come to peace. Harmony? Seemingly inconceivable.

Harmony is a deeper, more heart-felt matter that requires a sincere commitment to engender. Harmony is where various dimensions of thought, being, or expression blend to create a well-integrated, living peacefulness which – in turn – is reflected in our inner attitudes towards ourselves and others, as well as expression or responses externally.

Imagine, if you will, a number of circles, in which each of us is in our respective center. As Masons, this symbolizes how we strive to keep our passions within due bounds. These passions can be our desires, but also includes our more negative emotional states and reactions. Our Masonic lessons are intended to support and further this noble inner cause – a smoothing of the ashlar.

None of these efforts, however, happen within a vacuum. Imagine that while within our own circle, doing our inner work, we are moving around, doing things with or involve others. Our circles, thus, bump into each other and at times, overlap. As social beings, these interactions are important to our overall sense of belonging and community. Yet ever so often the noble ideals and intentions and how we should express them as envisioned in our own minds within our own circle, yet untested, bump into and interact with others who may have the same ideals, intentions, even moral



**perspectives, but different ideas on whatever it was you came together to do. Welcome to the age-old philosophical conundrums of ultimate or absolute reality versus conditioned or relative reality, where the devil is ALWAYS in the details. Thus, while we may agree in principle, we may bitterly disagree in practice. Our seemingly lightly touching circles then resemble a competitive clash of bumper cars!**

**To get passed this logjam, if we really want to engage in peace AND harmony, there are three principle steps which we as Masons and men should learn, two of which we find in the allegories our noble Fraternity offers and encourages. First, we need to take to heart and live according to an on-the-level perspective. In a framework where equality and equity are foundational, we then need to develop the skill of active listening; pay attention to the content and context in which another offers comment, etc.. Then, there is the practice and skill of civility.**

**In any harmonious interaction, civility is a key attribute – so much so that America’s most famous Mason, President George Washington, made a lifelong study and practice of civil discourse and applying civility to every decision, wherever he conceived it to be possible. Similarly, Brother Albert Pike, in studying Eastern as well as Western philosophy commented in his Morals and Dogma that the historical Buddha was one of our world’s first Masonic judges, despite him never being a Mason - that we know of! For the Buddha was more of a philosopher and psychologist who devoted many of his teachings to social, communal, and civil matters, offering all a path of civility as the best course for all to practice.**

**From my own studies of the Buddha’s teachings, I have extrapolated a model of civility that is very much in keeping with our Founding Father. What I present here is what I term Five Steps of Wise Action. I offer these here as a remedy to bring about peace and harmony within a Lodge or community venture or effort.**

**These are...**

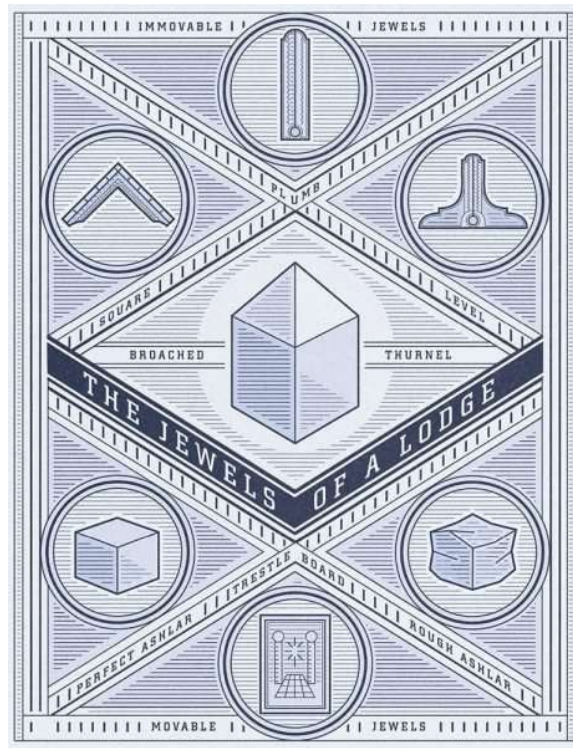
**1) Step back. If opportunity permits, one of the smartest steps forward after invoking the blessing of Deity for our forthcoming actions is to step back. Get some perspective on the situation.**

- 2) **Assess.** Use your critical thinking skills to see with clarity and surmise what needs to be done.
- 3) **Reflect.** What's your part in this situation? How does your way of thinking impact your response? What skills do you have to offer?
- 4) **Engage.** After all these steps which could be defined as internal – you as the dot within your own circle – it is time to reach out to others or join them in the venture or task to be done. Having circumscribed your desires and kept them within due bounds with the mindfulness of Steps One through Three, you engage others on-the-level and are more primed to be an active listener.
- 5) **Enact.** With Steps One through Four, accomplished and in the state of harmony these encourage, you are now more prepared to get on with the task, job, or action for which the force of a collective is needed for success.

In all prospect investigations I have participated in, every man to the last expressed a desire to do something good for their community. This is the altruistic spirit I encountered when I first went to an “On-the-Level” open house at the Lodge of which I am now a proud member. At that time, I also witnessed men who had a similar pride along with their original desire to get things done for the benefit of their Lodge and community. What this means is that – and I venture to speculate here - all Lodges are populated with men of ideas and action. And thus, while we all go through the degrees to further us becoming better men, the peace and harmony we seek in our Lodges to do our inner and outer work, requires a commitment in thought, being, and expression which – I assert – is best served by taking to heart the five-step process I have outlined above.

Furthermore, if we do engage each other in such a manner – on-the-level, listening actively, applying the Five Steps of Wise Action, the civility these steps naturally engender will make our work go more smoothly and be more effective. In other words, we shall have created a spirit of harmony – which is contagious, in the best possible way.

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## **"THE BROACHED THURNEL"**

### **EARLY MASONIC RITUAL CONTAINS A MYSTERIOUS JEWEL**

**By John Cooper III**

Within Freemasonry, the term “jewel” – though it does not connote an item of great material value – commands special respect. Our Masonic jewels assume a variety of forms. The jewels of a Fellow Craft Mason include “... the attentive ear [which] receives the sound from the instructive tongue... [so that] the mysteries of Masonry are safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts.”

Within the lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the candidate is introduced to the jewels of the lodge. The Grand Lodge of California Monitor states:

The Jewels of a Lodge are six: three immovable, and three movable... The Immovable Jewels are the Square, the Level, and the Plumb; and they are termed immovable because they are the jewels of the three principal officers of the Lodge... The Square denotes morality, the Level equality, and the Plumb the rectitude of life.

The Movable Jewels are the Rough Ashlar, the Perfect Ashlar, and the Trestle Board. The Rough Ashlar is a stone as taken from the quarry in its rude and natural state. The Perfect Ashlar is a stone

made ready by the hands of the workman, to be adjusted by the working tools of the Fellow Craft. The Trestle Board is for the Master Workman to draw his designs upon.

The definitions above are familiar to most Masons, and reflect our understanding of these jewels and working tools today. But interestingly, the categories of immovable and movable jewels were originally reversed – and they remain so in Masonic ritual throughout many parts of the world.

#### **A CASUALTY OF THE TIMES**

In 1826, New York Masons were blamed for the disappearance and presumed death of William Morgan, a man who had posed as a Mason in an effort to write an exposé on Masonic ritual. Following this incident, dubbed “the Morgan Affair,” American grand lodges sought to defend themselves from other would-be imposters. One strategy was by reversing the categories of the immovable and movable jewels so that non-Masons would have a more difficult time posing as members based on knowledge gained from reading exposés. This original order is reflected in one of the earliest exposés, Samuel Prichard’s 1730 “Masonry Dissected”:

**Q. What are the Immoveable Jewels?**

**A. Trasel Board, Rough Ashlar, and Broach’d Thurnel.**

**Q. What are their Uses?**

**A. Trasel Board for the Master to draw his Designs upon, Rough Ashlar for the Fellow-Craft to try their Jewels upon, and the Broach’d Thurnel for the Enter’d ‘Prentice to learn to work upon.**

This definition of the rough ashlar is easy enough. It fits nicely with the perfect ashlar in our current ritual, which demonstrates one’s growth in Masonic knowledge, as well as shaping our lives in accordance with the principles of Freemasonry. The reference to the Trestleboard, although it is spelled a bit oddly, is also easy enough. But what is the “broached thurnel”?

#### **ANOTHER TYPE OF ASHLAR**

By referring to early lodge tracing boards, we find that the broached thurnel is a smooth stone with three equilateral sides and one

topped with a pyramid. In the 1730 ritual, this symbol was assigned to the Entered Apprentice and the rough ashlar was assigned to the Fellow Craft. But shouldn't this be reversed? According to the symbolism we follow today, the Entered Apprentice would begin with a rough ashlar, while the form of a perfect ashlar would be assigned to a more advanced Mason. This dichotomy has puzzled Masonic scholars for many years. But I believe that there is an answer, and it is based on how we should perceive these two important symbols.

Our current ritual defines the rough ashlar as a stone "taken from the quarry in its rude and natural state," presumably by the Entered Apprentice who is expected to perform simpler tasks as a beginner Mason. The perfect ashlar has been "adjusted by the working tools of the Fellow Craft," the square, level, and plumb. But, our ritual includes an assumption: that the Entered Apprentice Mason has a clear understanding of the perfect ashlar he is striving to create.

The original ritual does away with this assumption, proposing an interesting direction. If we begin a journey without a set destination, any path will lead us to its end – but perhaps this journey will not merit our time or efforts. Likewise, if, as Masons, we strive to shape our rough ashlar without a vision of the finished stone, any adjustments will seem like progress – even if they are actually setbacks. It is only by understanding the finished product that we can work to achieve it, rather than wasting time – or wasting stone.

The beautiful broached thurnel was diagrammed on the master's Trestleboard so that the Entered Apprentice would understand his goal. When we work to shape our minds "as living stones for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," we must also follow an example of how to live. It all now makes sense. We changed this symbol in our ritual, and the metaphors of this updated ritual hold meaning for us. But it is interesting to contemplate how our Masonic experiences might have been different had we been given the broached thurnel as an example of a perfect ashlar before beginning our journeys within the craft.

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## Website - Facebook Page

# UNION CITY YORK RITE

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Siminoff Center  
Our Meeting Location in Union City California  
34400 Mission Blvd.  
Union City 94587-3604  
See the Map





The York Rite is the oldest and best known of all Masonic Rites and is a series of progressive Degrees or Orders conferred by various Masonic Organizations or Bodies, that a Master Mason can join to further his knowledge of Freemasonry.  
[Click here to go to the Grand York Rite of CA](#)

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# GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

GRAND YORK RITE OFFICE  
1123 J ST.  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2809  
(562) 924-6500

September 5, 2021

## Decision 2021 – 004

Various county and city health departments throughout California have issued directives for the wearing of masks due to a resurgence of new strains of the Covid virus. It is not unusual to have accompanying rules on proof of vaccination, requirement for personal ID, and the wearing of masks inside for meetings. Our at-risk companions are reluctant to attend meetings. Some chapters have even cancelled planned Festivals for all three York Rite bodies.

As if the virus was not bad enough, California is suffering through major fires that have destroyed homes and forced communities to evacuate. The smoke has made it near impossible to be outside, and traveling is avoided.

The Grand Line is not unmindful of the impact these calamities are having on our Chapters. Nor is it possible to predict when these disruptions will be reduced to a manageable level of concern.

After consulting with my officers and officers of several chapter, I am modifying Decision 2021 – 003 with the following directive.

- In-person meetings and festivals will be allowed as long as they are in compliance with local health directives and conform to our authorized ritual.
- Effective September 1, 2021, Chapters may resume Zoom meetings. These meeting will be coordinated with the Department Grand Officer.
- Department Grand Officers have the authority, in consultation with their Deputy Grand Lecturer, to designate Inspectors to conduct Ample Form openings and closings for Zoom meetings.
- Balloting on Applicants shall only be by Zoom Poll or private chat to the teller (Secretary or Host or as appointed by the HP). The teller reports the results of the ballot to the High Priest.



## GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

GRAND YORK RITE OFFICE  
1123 J ST.  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2809  
(562) 924-6500

- If the Chapter is not using Zoom, they must get approval of their video conferencing program from their Inspector to ensure it complies with the intent of this directive.
- Officer elections shall be conducted in the same manner as balloting on applicants with the following exception. The teller cannot be on the ballot himself if balloting is on a slate of officers. If balloting is by individual office, and the teller is a candidate for an office, the High Priest must designate a replacement teller for that ballot only.
- The Teller will report the results of elections to the High Priest who will then declare the results to the Companions present.
- The use of a blended or hybrid stated conclave, whereby members are attending the same meeting in person and other members via video conferencing, is not authorized at this time.
- This directive will be reviewed prior to December 31, 2021 for retention or modification as dictated by circumstance that exist at that time.

My directive has no force or effect after my term as Grand High Priest ends.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ray Broomfield  
Grand High Priest



**Most Illustrious Grand Council  
Cryptic Masons of California  
Most Illustrious Peter G. Champion, KYGCH  
161st Grand Master**

**GENERAL ORDER 2021-02  
ONGOING RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
BALLOTING**

As of September 17, 2021, California has recorded 4,397,469 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 67,358 confirmed deaths.<sup>i</sup> Individual counties and cities in the state have issued health orders and ordinances specific to their local jurisdictions.<sup>ii</sup> These orders can vary but may include one or more regulations addressing: use of face masks or facial coverings when indoors, physical distance, and proof of complete vaccination doses or negative COVID-19 test results within the past 72 hours.

Now that our Councils are beginning to meet in-person for their Stated Assemblies, conferral of degrees, and other activities, it is imperative that these health orders are observed by all constituent Councils within this Grand Council's jurisdiction.

For Cryptic Companions who are unable or unwilling to attend in-person meetings, General Order 2021-01 allows Virtual and Blended Stated Assemblies. However, balloting on petitions is prohibited under General Order 2021-01.

Multiple Councils have petitions awaiting ballots on Companion Royal Arch Masons who can attend upcoming Fall Council Festivals in the North and South.

Therefore, I am issuing this General Order 2021-02 to augment General Order 2021-01 as this Grand Council's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. **COUNTY HEALTH ORDERS.** Companions of each constituent Council meeting in-person must strictly adhere to the Health Orders issued by the County Health Department or city health authority that oversees the area in which the Council is located.
2. **VIRTUAL STATED ASSEMBLY.** The terms stipulated in General Order 2021-01 on Virtual Stated Assemblies shall remain in place, with the following modifications:
  - a. **Balloting on Petitions**
    - i. Balloting on Petitions shall be allowed when a Council is meeting virtually using one of the following methods:

1. Secure polling feature within the electronic meeting software
2. Private message to appointed teller or meeting host
- ii. The host or teller will tally the votes and report the results directly to the Illustrious Master
- iii. The Illustrious Master will declare the results to the Companions

3. **Blended Stated Assembly.** The terms stipulated in General Order 2021-01 on Blended Stated Assembly will remain in place.

Until further directions from me, this order is to remain in effect until my term as Grand Master ends.



**Peter G. Champion**

Most Illustrious Grand Master, 2021-2022

Approved: September 17, 2021

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<sup>i</sup> [State of California COVID-19 California Case Statistics](#) (accessed September 17, 2021)

<sup>ii</sup> [California State Association of Counties](#) (accessed September)

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***From the Union City York Rite Secretary***



Union City York Rite Secretary Bob McCain  
Telephone at (510) 493-8805 or email  
"Bob McCain" [bjm262@gmail.com](mailto:bjm262@gmail.com)

### **Notes from the Secretary**

**We are still in a holding pattern regarding in person meetings. Nothing has changed and it is now possible to predict when it will change. With that in mind, continue to keep up to speed on your memory work and in due time we be back to whatever normal is going to be.**

**We do have some good news. Grand Chapter and Grand Council have both issued directives to allow Chapters and Councils to ballot on candidates via Zoom. The applications being held by the Secretary/Recorder office have now been balloted upon. To avoid any further delay, all our candidates awaiting degree work have been scheduled for the East Bay Fall Pilgrimage. Christopher Ray Boggess was exalted to the Degree of Royal Arch Mason September 25, 2021 and is our first new member since the beginning of the pandemic.**

**If you know of a Master Mason who could be interested in becoming a York Rite Mason, let the Secretary/Recorder know so that we can get them an application.**

**Bobby J. Mc Cain KYCH  
Secretary/Recorder  
Union City York Rite Bodies**

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**"The Absence of Harmony in a Royal Arch Chapter"**  
**by Bruce Rick PHP**

Companions we are obligated to maintain harmony in our Chapters and if we do not, there is a severe impact from our failure to keep harmony.

In our "Constitution of The Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California" it is clearly stated as to the dear payment required of now maintaining harmony in our Chapters.


**§126. Revocation of Charter.**

**The Charter of a Chapter may be revoked...**

**Regulations: (a) Where there is no hope for harmony,  
the Chapter should cease to exist.**

I encourage all Companions to heed this admonition and do strive to maintain harmony in our Chapters.


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**Siminoff Daylight Chapter No. 163**  
**Royal Arch Masons**  
**Union City, California**

**No Rite of Freemasonry covers the world  
so much as does Royal Arch Masonry**

**MEETINGS: 3rd Saturday of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec at 9:00 AM**



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**Siminoff Daylight Chapter No. 163**

**Officers**

**High Priest**  
**King**  
**Scribe**

**Lyman Penning**  
**Robert Pinkerton**  
**Michael Solomon**



<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Charles Grech KYCH</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bobby McCain KYCH</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Bruce Rick PHP</b>
<b>Captain of the Host</b>	<b>Dinesh Chhabra</b>
<b>Principal Sojourner</b>	<b>Marty Cusing PHP</b>
<b>Royal Arch Captain</b>	<b>Jonathan Prestage PHP</b>
<b>Master 3rd Veil</b>	<b>Chris Trueblood PHP</b>
<b>Master 2nd Veil</b>	<b>Richard Fiechtner PHP</b>
<b>Master 1st Veil</b>	<b>Michael Ramos PHP</b>
<b>Sentinel</b>	<b>Bill Stringfellow</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Michael Ramos, PHP</b>
<b>Department No. 1</b>	<b>Tom Chavez KYCH,</b>
<b>Grand Officer</b>	<b>Grand Captain of the Host</b>

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### **Contact Information**

**SIMINOFF DAYLIGHT CHAPTER NO. 163 ROYAL ARCH MASONS**  
**H. P.: Lyman Penning (510) 441-3901**      [lymanpenning@gmail.com](mailto:lymanpenning@gmail.com)  
**Sec.: Bob McCain (510) 493-8805**      [bjm262@gmail.com](mailto:bjm262@gmail.com)

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**High Priest Lyman Penning**

I would like to welcome Chris Boggess into Siminoff Daylight Chapter #163. Chris took the degrees in Royal Arch Chapter at the Alameda Masonic Center on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

There were a total of 32 candidates in the East Bay Class along with the presiding officers in the Grand York Rite. I even had an active part as Junior Deacon in the Most Excellent Master Degree. It was a long day (we finished around 4:30 PM), but it was very productive.

The Council Degrees will be held in Alameda on Saturday, October 2, 2021 and the Commandery Orders on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Both events will start at 8:30 AM.

The next Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 9:00 AM. One of our business issues for this meeting is to get our officers for 2022 elected . Another matter that members will need to take care of is to get our 2022 Dues paid. Bob McCain, our Secretary, will give us more details on our dues.

Again, we are still waiting for word as to when we can resume in-person meetings. All I can say is "Stand By For The Latest And Greatest".

Finally, October is the month for Harmony as our theme. We hear the word Harmony in our ritual and to me, this means that we want to be able to get along and work together in order to have results that everyone can be proud of.

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Kind regards,

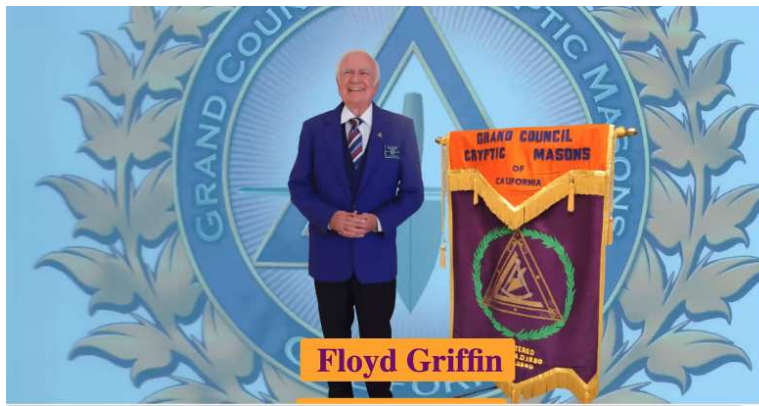
Lyman C. Penning  
High Priest  
Siminoff Daylight Chapter #163  
lymanpenning@gmail.com  
510-441-3901



**Click on the Grand Council Emblem  
to Go to the Grand Council of California Website**

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## "Harmony in our Councils"

By Bruce Rick

Rob McClure, of the Harmony Helper, defines musical harmony as “the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect”.

So musical harmony doesn't mean that every musician is sounding the same note at the same time. But harmony means that different musicians play different notes and yet produce a pleasing end result when all the notes are played together. In effect, each musician must understand what the other musicians are doing if the group is to play in harmony.

In our Councils, harmony isn't the state of full agreement by all parties on every detail. As Freemasons, we are taught to strive for harmony in all things. We are to work together to produce a pleasing end result.

But harmony doesn't mean we are to stay silent about important issues for fear of offending someone, nor does it mean that maintaining harmony requires us to stay silent when someone says or does something we believe is detrimental to the Council, to another Companion, or to the speaker himself. In fact, as Freemasons we are required to speak up in those situations.

With deference to our great Grand Soloists (read Right Illustrious Companion Floyd Griffin) and Organists, harmony is the ability to speak, to listen, and to disagree without being disagreeable.

When we speak, let's try to temper our words as much as possible. Let's be clear in our speech, avoiding inflammatory language. When we listen let's pay attention to the content of the speech, and do our best to ignore harsh words. It is better to ask for clarification

than to assume ill intent.

Companions, let us stop and think, and measure the situation and the intent before we stop and think, and then measure our response.

This way, like the musicians, we can speak and act in harmony in our Councils in our lives.



## Sword and Trowel No. 65

### Officers

Illustrious Master	Michael Ramos
Deputy Master	Dinesh Chhabra
Principal Conductor of the Work	Marty Cusing
Treasurer	Charles Grech KYCH
Recorder	Bobby McCain KYCH
Chaplain	Christopher Trueblood IPM
Captain of the Guard	Bruce Rick
Conductor of the Council	Robert Pinkerton
Steward	Michael Solomon
Sentinel	Jonathan Prestage
Inspector	Marion Rogers KYCH

### Contact Information

**SWORD AND TROWEL CHAPTER NO. 65 CRYPTIC MASONS**



**Illustrious Master  
Michael Ramos**

**Companions and Friends,**

**I hope I hope with the passing of last month's presentation that all who had the opportunity to attend enjoyed our year's speaker series. I wish to thank Adam Kendall, Jonathan Prestage, and Ben Williams for their contributions, and especially Bobby McCain and Bruce Rick for their aid in promoting the series.**

**I am very proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of masonic units who were capable of creatively collaborating to aid our membership during the down time of the past year.**

**And on a note of education, I cannot promote enough the annual publication of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, it's Ars Quatuor Coronatorum, of which you can become a member of the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle and subscribe to receive said publication at the following link:**

**<https://www.mymagazinesub.co.uk/qccc/>**

**Be well and stay safe!**

**Warmest Fraternal Regards,**

**Mike Ramos  
Illustrious Master  
Sword and Trowel R&SM Council No. 65**



## **Morris Siminoff Commandery No. 80**

**Knights Templar  
Union City, California**



**This body exhibits a paramilitary  
structure and outlook on Masonry, being the only  
branch of Masonry in the world that is a uniformed body.**

**MEETINGS: 3rd Saturday of Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec at 10:30 am**



## **Morris Siminoff Commandery No. 80**

### **Officers**

<b>Eminent Commander</b>	<b>Austin Ashmore</b>
<b>Generalissimo</b>	<b>Jonathan Prestage</b>
<b>Captain General</b>	<b>Michael Ramos</b>
<b>Sr. Warden</b>	<b>Robert Pinkerton</b>
<b>Jr. Warden</b>	<b>Michael Solomon</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Chris Trueblood PC</b>
<b>Recorder</b>	<b>Bobby McCain KYCH</b>
<b>Prelate</b>	<b>Charles Grech KYCH</b>
<b>Standard Bearer</b>	<b>Bruce Rick PC</b>
<b>Sword Bearer</b>	<b>Dinesh Chhabra</b>
<b>Warder</b>	<b>Marty Cusing PC</b>
<b>Sentinel</b>	

<b>Dept. Commander</b>	<b>Jordan Yelinek KYCH</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Marty Cusing PC</b>
<b>Inspector</b>	<b>Bill Bermudez PC</b>

### **Contact Information**

## **MORRIS SIMINOFF COMANDERY NO. 80 KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

**EC.: Austin Ashmore (925) 997-3880**

**aashmore@comcast.net**

**Sec.: Bob McCain (510) 493-8805**

**bjm262@gmail.com**



**Eminent Commander  
W. Austin Ashmore**

---

**Sir Knights:**

The theme of this month's newsletter is Harmony. Besides musical chords, harmony also means forming a pleasing or consistent whole, or agreement and concord. These last two definitions are applicable to Masonry. In opening the three Blue Lodge degrees the Sr. Warden explains that that harmony is essential in all societies, but it is especially important in Masonry.

When the Master explains the working tools in the Second Degree, he says that we are united into "one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble contention, or rather emulation of who best can work and best agree." That is the definition of Masonic harmony.

Harmony is no less important is our York Rite bodies. Harmony is a kind of gestalt state where together the unified whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We are Brothers first, then Companions and Sir Knights. In every instance we need to work harmoniously with all members of our great fraternity, thereby making it even greater.

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I would like to remind everyone of the East Bay York Rite Pilgrimage. The Commandery Orders will be conferred on October 23rd in Alameda. There will be many candidates. If you do not have a part in the festival, show your support by being in attendance.

**IN HOC SIGNO VINCES**



### **Knights Templar - Two Edged Blade**

**Sir Knights,**

**All Knights Templar swords have a two edged blade.**

**The two edged blade represents the dualistic principles of the positive and negative sides of life or the good and the bad. It stands for the balance arrived at through continual study where a Sir Knight searches out harmony by cutting forward and backward with his sword thus negating the swings of the pendulum of life.**

**He is then one living in harmony and holding the material universe in check.**

**IN HOC SIGNO VINCES**

**Sir Knight Bruce A. Rick, PC**





A Templar Ritualist is one who has successfully completed the Templar Education and Development as the Templar education course. See the course information [HERE](#).

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## ***East Bay York Rite MASON***

Published By

**EAST BAY YORK RITE ASSOCIATION**

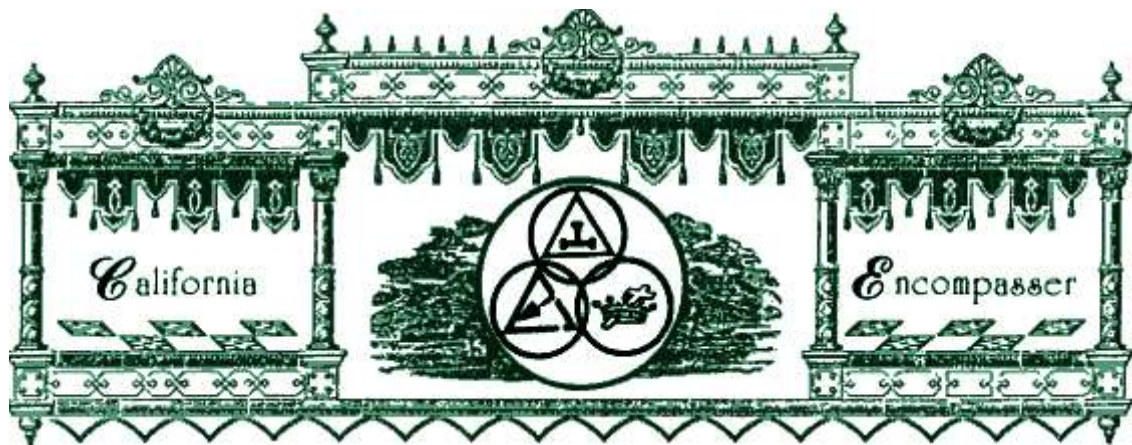
**Meets 2nd Monday at 7:30 pm**

**925 Moraga Road, Lafayette CA 94589**

**Ted Wisse, 2021 President**

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Click on this button to select an issue of the East Bay York  
Rite MASON also called the East Bay Bulletin



**Click on the Picture to Select an Encompasser**

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## Sword & Trowel

We are providing an easy way to have a York Rite petition available at all times just click on the picture.

[illegible]

**Click anywhere on the picture to download the petition, then print double-sided for one piece of paper.**





**Siminoff Council No. 485**  
**Allied Masonic Degrees Masons**  
**Union City, California**



**An Honorary and Invitational Body Dedicated to  
Masonic Research and Requires Membership in the Royal Arch**

**MEETINGS: Second Sunday of March, June, September  
and December at 12:00 pm**

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**Contact Information**

**SIMINOFF COUNCIL NO. 465**

**Sec.: Michael Ramos (510) 287-6366    mjr.pm863@gmail.com**

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**Clanna Ruid Ruide No. 58**  
**Knight Masons**  
**Union City, California**



**The Order of Knight Masons is an Invitational and  
Honorary Body**

**MEETINGS: As called by the Excellent Chief**

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**Contact Information**

**CLANNA RUID RUIDE COUNCIL NO. 58**

**Sec.: Bruce Rick (510) 476-6355    bruce.rickmh@gmail.com**

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***Columbus Day!***  
***October 11th***

***Did you know...***

**We have been celebrating Columbus Day since**

**1792. That year, New York City held the first Columbus Day celebration commemorating the 500th anniversary of Columbus landing in 1492. Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1937.**



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***Dictionary Day!***  
***October 16th***

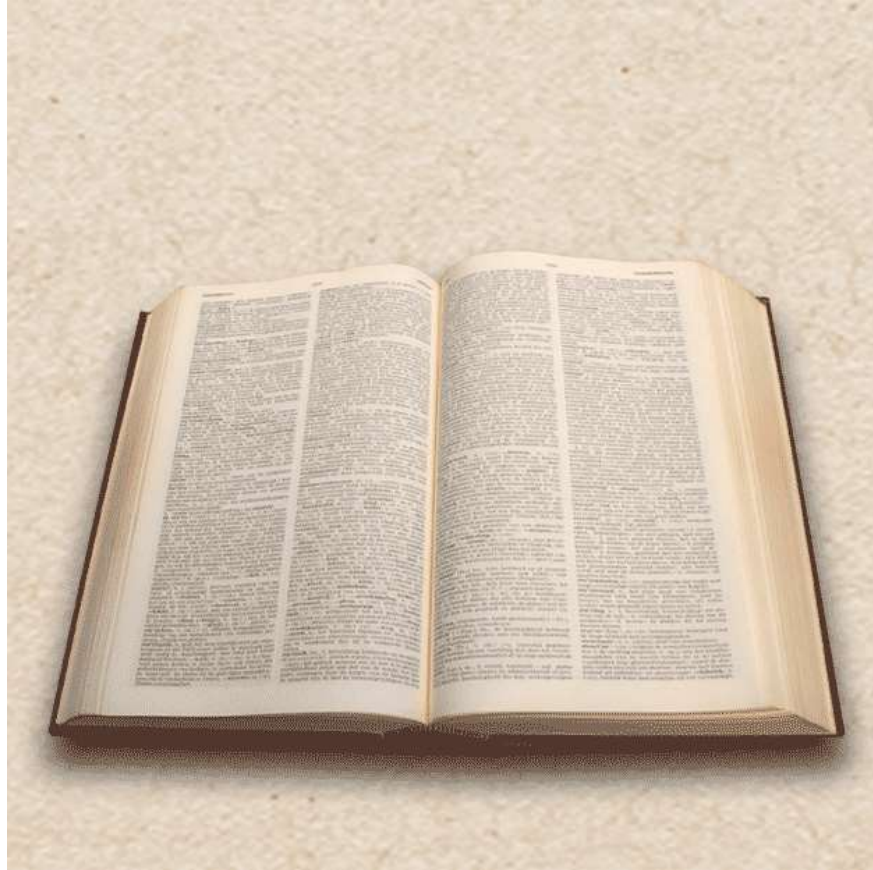
**Did you know...**

**This day is named in honor of Noah Webster,  
considered the Father of the American  
Dictionary.**

**Noah Webster was born on October 16, 1758.  
The objective of this day is to emphasize the  
importance of dictionary skills, and seeks to  
improve vocabulary.**

**Webster began to write his dictionary at the age  
of 43. It took him 27 years to finish it!**

**In addition to traditional English vocabulary, it  
contained uniquely American words.  
Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Spanish-English)  
is the current the best seller in the USA.**



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***Halloween!***  
***October 31st***

**Did you know...**  
**About 9 out of 10 parents admit to sneaking a  
treat from their kids treat bag.**



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**to go to the General Grand Sites**

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