



THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP. THE ENCOMPASSER IS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP AT ALL CONVOCATIONS, ASSEMBLIES AND CONCLAVES OF THE YORK RITE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION

Herbert G. Gardiner, PGS, Grand Historian Grand Lodge of Hawaii

Freemasons find it extremely perplexing that in spite of our high ideals and moral standards, our belief in a Supreme Being and the Brotherhood of Man, and our religious and ethnic tolerance, we find ourselves under attack and unjustly criticized. Many of our new brethren are surprised to learn of the vicious accusations against Freemasonry largely in the name of religion, and also the alleged great Masonic conspiracy to achieve world-wide dominance. This paper will touch on the religious aspect.

Some attacks are mild and come from those who have little knowledge about the Craft. While other assaults are made by those who deliberately malign our fraternity and seek to outright destroy Freemasonry.

It is not too difficult to respond to critics who have little or no accurate knowledge about Freemasonry but have an open mind on the subject. Usually a cordial and constructive dialog will dismiss, or at least minimize, anti-Masonic attitudes.

Our real problem is with those who have a closed mind, a warped view of the Craft and who will use every means at their disposal to discredit Freemasonry. An example of some of the most vicious and virulent attacks on the Craft can be found on numerous Web sites.

Freemasonry has been attacked by various individuals and groups who have been hostile toward our Craft down

through the ages. Our fraternity has always been assaulted by those who want to control the hearts and minds of men in both the religious and political spheres.

We Freemasons are fundamentally at odds with those who would seal off the light of freedom and knowledge. As such we have always been, and continue to be, one of the primary targets for destruction by tyrants, extremists and repressive governments. Freemasons have historically resisted them, frequently at the cost of the lives of many of our brethren around the world.

When one considers the tenets and history of the Craft, it is not difficult to understand why Freemasonry has been anathema to Communist, Fascist, Nazi, and leaders of equally repressive forms of governments, and their followers. Given Freemasonry's belief in a Supreme Being and the Brotherhood of Man, its high moral standards and its ideals, its uncompromising rejection of atheism, its religious tolerance, and its diverse ethnic membership, Freemasons cannot find any justification for the attacks (some very vicious) by certain religious groups on our Craft.

We are accused of having a Masonic God, and a Masonic religion, of being anti-Christian and being incompatible with Christianity. We are also accused of being

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CHARACTERS OF THE ROYAL ARCH

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anti-religious, and often described as a satanic cult that worships the devil along with other equally absurd and offensive charges. All of which are totally false and deceiving.

Freemasonry's oldest document, the Regius Poem, also known as the Halliwell manuscript, circa 1340, is actually a poem of moral duties. It instructs Freemasons to "Pray we to God almighty . . ." This practice has been followed by Freemasons continuously up to the present time.

Freemasonry has without question repudiated atheism.

In its entire history Freemasonry as practiced in our Blue Lodges has never claimed or remotely suggested that it is a religion nor has it ever sought to compete with any religion. Every Freemason and unprejudiced student of our Craft knows there is no such thing as a Masonic religion. The alleged Masonic religion by some of our critics is in absolute conflict with our core beliefs as Freemasons.

No Master Mason who is a member of a regular Masonic Lodge can possibly conceive of Freemasonry being anti-Christian in particular, or anti-religious in general. All thinking Freemasons know that the Craft is not the enemy of any religion, but rather its ally. Also that Freemasonry is compatible with all the great faiths of the world, not the least of which is Christianity.

Any impartial, in-depth study will prove this to be true beyond a doubt. As an interesting aside, the seal of the Grand Lodge of Israel is composed of the Christian cross and the Muslim crescent overlaid on the Star of David.

To the extremists who would attempt to intimidate some of our brethren into leaving the Craft, or to discourage good men from seeking admission to our noble fraternity in the name of religion, your interpretations, your conclusions, and your assertions regarding Freemasonry, are not only contrary to simple straight forward justice, but thoroughly misleading.

To you extremists who condemn us on religious grounds based on a superficial review of our tenets and some of our activities, you have failed to comprehend what Freemasonry is all about. As such you are not in the least qualified to evaluate our Craft.

To all those who state that Freemasonry is not compatible with this religion, or that religion, you should know

that down through the ages Freemasonry has been the handmaiden of religion and continues to be.

Some of the founders of our great nation as well as those who fought in our War of Independence such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and John Paul Jones to name a few were Freemasons. Are the extremists who criticize Freemasonry so vehemently telling Americans that these fine patriots of yester-year were misguided men because they were Freemasons?

Do we discard the memory and accomplishments of our WW II Presidents, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman, both of whom were Freemasons? Were Freemasons like John J. Pershing who led the AEF in WW I, Jimmy Doolittle who led the first bombing raid over Japan in WW II, Claire Lee Chennault of Flying Tiger fame, and Admiral Ernest King who led all the U.S. Naval forces in WW II misguided men or lacking in principles?

Here in the Hawaii Jurisdiction we have a multi-ethnic population which is reflected in the diverse membership of our Lodges. This ethnic mix consists of brethren of many different religious persuasions with roots that originate from almost every part of the globe. As a 47-year Hawaii Freemason I am proud and happy to be able to say that in spite of our many brethren coupled with their varied ethnic roots there is no religious or ethnic discord among them.

At no time have differences in religion and ethnicity disturbed the harmony of our meetings, our social affairs, or our public appearances.

Looking at the terrifying religious and ethnic strife in so many parts of the world at the present time, one cannot help but be reassured and gratified by the harmony we Freemasons enjoy within our great fraternity. This congenial environment which is cherished by all of our brethren is attributed to the practice of tolerance, a hallmark of Freemasonry . . . and we intend to keep it that way.

— *From the files of the
Northern California Research Lodge*

Masonic Myths about the Founding Fathers

by Allen E. Robert, FPS from the Northern California Reserach Lodge

Throughout the centuries Freemasonry has taught its valuable lessons through allegory and symbols. The man from Galilee used parables extensively and well. Many historians and better speakers constantly employ anecdotes to illustrate the points they want to make. These methods emphasize the search for truth in an interesting and factual manner.

Myths on the other hand, can be innocent or dangerous. They can be outright lies or the perpetuation of distortions handed down through the generations. Many of these were invented by Masonic writers and speakers to enhance the image of Freemasonry. Some of these corruptions have caused the Craft problems with creditable historians because they were outrageous lies.

At least one of these items concerns the “Masonic” membership of the founders of the United States. It is recirculated constantly in usually reliable Masonic periodicals. It not only should be, it must be destroyed.

In recent years other items have been circulated. These claim the Constitution of the United States comes from the Masonic Constitutions Anderson compiled in 1723. A “play” called “The Truth” is based on this. Many of the characters are called “Masons” who never received a Masonic degree. It’s the stuff on which the critics of Freemasonry feed.

What follows is the truth insofar as I have been able to find it. The facts herein come from reliable Masonic researchers, and include two late Fellows of The Philalethes Society, James R. Case and Ronald E. Heaton. They spent a lifetime researching the Masonic connections in the beginnings of the United States.

Freemasonry, actually, requires no exaggeration to magnify its greatness. The simple truth is all that is needed to tell its story. This is the reason for this column; to attempt to destroy the myths that have been prevalent, often for centuries, by telling the truth.

Here’s what occurred, Masonically, during the period the spurious item covers.

Myth: Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry were Freemasons.

Fact: Neither Thomas Jefferson or Patrick Henry were members of the Craft. An exhaustive search of Masonic records in Virginia, and elsewhere, offers no iota of evidence to make them Freemasons. Jefferson participated in the cornerstone laying of his University at Charlottesville, which was done Masonically. He praised Freemasonry and his own words proved he had never been a member of the

Craft.

Myth: All of George Washington’s generals during the War for American Independence were Masons.

Fact: Thirty-three of the generals serving under Washington were members of the Craft, a long way from “all.” The late James R. Case and Ronald E. Heaton made comprehensive studies of the Revolutionary period and debunked many of the claims considered here.

Myth: Washington insisted that the Marquis de Lafayette be made a Mason before he would promote him to general, and the same claim has been made about the Baron von Steuben.

Fact: Both Lafayette and von Steuben were Freemasons before they arrived to help fight the British. This was true of Lafayette even though he wasn’t 21 years of age when he arrived in America. It’s highly likely that Washington never did know they were Masons. The stories of both of these men are highly interesting, but space prohibits the telling of them here.

Myth: The governors of the thirteen original colonies when Washington was inaugurated President of the United States were Freemasons.

Fact: From Lexington until the inauguration thirty different men served as governors. Of these ten were Freemasons. That’s one-third! Wouldn’t it be wonderful for the country if we could claim the same percentage today?

Myth: The Boston Tea Party was organized in St. Andrew’s Lodge in Boston and its member participated in tossing the tea into Boston Harbor.

Fact: So well has the secrecy surrounding the Boston Tea Party been kept that to this day not a single participant can be truthfully named! It’s true that St. Andrew’s Lodge didn’t meet on the night of the “party.” This proves nothing. The “T” that has been claimed is part of the minutes of the Lodge is actually an indistinguishable scroll. By no stretch of the imagination can it be called a “T” or any other letter.

Myth: All, or almost all, Signers of the Articles of Confederation, Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Signers of the Constitution were Freemasons.

Fact: Ten of the signers of the Articles, nine signers of the Declaration, and thirteen signers of the Constitution — and only this number — were, or would become, Freemasons. Even so, this is an excellent percentage of the participants. It should be noted that Edmund Randolph, governor and Grand Master of Virginia, although an important participant in the Constitutional Convention, didn’t sign the

Masonic Myths about the Founding Fathers

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document. He did, however, fight for its ratification. It should also be noted that four Presidents of the Continental Congresses were Freemasons: Peyton Randolph of Virginia, John Hancock of Massachusetts, Henry Laurens of South Carolina, and Arthur St. Clair of Pennsylvania. (For further study see *Masonic Membership of the Founding Fathers*, The Masonic Service Association).

Myth: Washington was Grand Master in Virginia.

Fact: Washington never was a Grand Master. At the instigation of American Union Lodge he was suggested for the office of Grand Master of a National Grand Lodge — a non-existent body. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and some others agreed, but too many others disagreed with the concept of a National Grand Lodge. Washington was appointed Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 in Virginia by Grand Master Edmund Randolph when that Pennsylvania Lodge requested a charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia. The following year he was elected Master, but there is no record of his installation into this office, nor is there any record of him presiding over this Lodge.

George Washington has been the source of many Masonic myths and exaggerations for more than two centuries. This is unfortunate. Of all the Freemasons we can eulogize he requires no embellishment. From his childhood to his death his extraordinary wisdom, industry and patriotism predominated.

Let's try to set the record straight.

Myth. Washington acted as Grand Master when the cornerstone of the Federal Capitol was laid on September 18, 1793.

Fact. It was the Grand Lodge of Maryland that was called on to lay the cornerstone. Alexandria Lodge, of which Washington was a Past Master, held a place of honor. It was Joseph Clark, the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, who acted as Grand Master, pro tem. Clark placed the President between himself and the Master of Alexandria Lodge. The newspaper article reporting the event mentioned Clark as the Grand Master, pro tem. on several occasions. So did the Maryland historian in 1885. Washington didn't act as Grand Master, but without question he was the most honored and influential Freemason participating in the event.

Myth. George Washington never was interested in Freemasonry. He rarely, if ever, attended Lodge meetings.

Fact. To keep the record straight, there is much evidence of his respect and even love for Freemasonry. True, he seldom attended Masonic meetings. This is understandable when it is realized that from the day he was made a

Master Mason until shortly before his death he worked for his country. Did he love and respect the Craft. The ultimate proof — he was buried with Masonic rites! And this even before the Congress knew of his death. (For further study of George Washington and a complete account of his Masonic activities see *George Washington: Master Mason*, Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Co., Richmond, VA.)

Myth: There are many aprons owned or worn by George Washington floating around.

Fact: The only documented apron owned by Washington was one presented by the firm of Watson and Cassoul. It had been made by nuns at Nantes. It was the only apron listed in Washington's inventory that was released after his death. The "Lafayette" apron, purportedly made by the wife of the Marquis, may be a fact as many authorities claim (and I was one who did so claim in *G. Washington*).

Myth. George Washington renounced Freemasonry.

Fact. On the contrary he remained a member of the Craft from the moment he was Initiated into the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia (No. 4) until the day he died. Even then his wife, Martha, asked the Freemasons of Alexandria, Virginia, to hold and conduct his funeral (see above).

In 1837, at state expense, Joseph Ritner, Governor of Pennsylvania, endeavored to "save" the reputation of the first President. He had published a tract "proving" Washington had never participated in Masonic events. Earlier the Blanchards, father and son and heads of a so-called "Christian" anti-Masonic organization, were among the first "Christians" to "prove" Washington wasn't a Freemason. Much of the anti-Masonic diatribe they promulgated has been carried to the present day by crusading "saints" against "secret" societies.

Myth. Washington was uneducated.

Fact. Uneducated — no; unschooled — yes. As far as we can determine Washington never attended any school.

Through his father's vast library Washington learned the fundamentals of mathematics, surveying and many other subjects. At the age of 17 he earned a substantial wage as a surveyor. In 1749 he was appointed surveyor of Culpeper County, Virginia, having produced a certificate "from the President and Masters of William and Mary College, appointing him to be surveyor of this county." From the many military visitors to Mount Vernon he learned the principles of warfare. From the intellectuals he learned how to study and use his common sense. The history of his life proves he became one of the most knowledgeable men of his, or any, day. *Copyright 2002, 2003, 2004, The Philalethes Society. All Rights Reserved*

Abif

by George H. T. French (Texas)
Royal Arch Mason 1980

Three Masons spent a morning round a dining room table. One was Brother Harry Carr, the great Masonic scholar, on his recent visit to Houston, Texas. The conversation, almost a monologue, dealt with the Hebraic origin of some Masonic words. Herewith some enlightening information gleaned concerning the word Abif.

It is difficult for many Master Masons to understand that the Legend of Hiram Abif is not a historical event. Jesus taught lessons using parables in which the action wove round fictional or created characters. Aesop did his teaching with animals that spoke and acted. Freemasonry teaches its lessons by making historical characters, such as Hiram Abif, a real person, participate in activities that have no historical basis. Hiram Abif was a real person, and is mentioned several times in the Old Testament.

A Biblical Character

In II Chronicles 2:13 Hiram Abif is mentioned in a letter from Hiram King of Tyre to King Solomon: "I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's." In a list of tools described in II Chron. 4:16 it states "The pots also, and the shovels, and the fleshhooks, and all their instruments, did Hiram his father make to King Solomon for the house of the Lord." He is also mentioned in I Kings 7:13, 14 and 40.

Although written in a more outdated language, it is perhaps easier to understand the English Bible of Wyclif, published in 1388, than the corresponding passages in the King James Authorized version. John Wycliffe put it this way: "I sente to you a prudent man and most Kunnyng Hiram my fader" II Chron. 2:13, and "Hiram the fader of Salomon made to hym alle vessels in ye hous of ye Lord" II Chron. 4:16.

Hiram's Parents

These Biblical passages seem to say that Hiram was the father of Hiram King of Tyre and of King Solomon. Can that be so?

The Bible clearly tells us who were Hiram's parents. His mother was a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, I Kings 7:14, also described her as a woman of the daughters of Dan, II Chron. 2:14. His father was a man of Tyre, I Kings 7:14; II Chron. 2:14. Therefore, he really could not have been the father of Hiram King of Tyre nor of King Solomon.

If such is the case, then "my father's" and "his father" must mean something other than carnal paternity. Yes, and such is the case.

"Ab"

Myles Coverdale, one of the leaders of the English

Reformation, published, with William Tyndale, a Bible in English in the middle 1530's. In it Hiram appears as Hiram, followed by Abif. This seems to be the only place, outside of the Masonic ritual, where the name appears printed in this way in English.

Going back to the original Hebrew, the name appears as "Hiram Abi" and Hiram Abif." Light begins to be shed on the mystery upon learning that "Ab" in Hebrew means father, "Abi" means my father, and "Abif" means his father.

Another relevant fact is that the Talmud uses "fathers" to mean distinguished teachers of the Law, and this in turn means that "father" was a title of honor and respect. It is used as such in the Old Testament in the following passages:

Genesis 45:8 says "He (the Lord) hath made me (Joseph) a father to Pharaoh." And Isaiah 22:21 says "I (the Lord) will call my servant Eliakim ... and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah." R. Tydeman, A.Q.C., 84,192.

The Bible in Today's English uses the word "master" instead of the word "father," for some translators believe that the Hebrew word "Ab" could possibly mean "author," or "originator," or "master." Hence, in II Chron. 2:13 Hiram King of Tyre writes to King Solomon saying "I am sending you a wise and skillful master craftsman named Hiram." And in II Chron. 4:16 it is stated that "Hiram the master craftsman made all these objects."

It would appear from all this that although the word "Abif" literally means "his father," it is used to convey a feeling of respect toward a leader or master.

Ritualistic Legend

From all this confusing mass of material, it appears that the name Hiram Abif appeared only once in an English Bible, and that was in a 1535 version that attained very limited popularity.

What is of still more importance is that the story of Hiram Abif's death and its consequences does not appear in the Bible.

Furthermore, there is no written evidence that we know of today that tells us of the Hiram Legend before the eighteenth century. Neither in the Bible, nor in any Masonic document, nor anywhere else.

The intriguing point is that this notwithstanding, Anderson introduced Hiram Abif in his Constitutions of 1723, and, of even more importance still, the Freemasons of 1723 seemed to have been so acquainted with the name that Anderson did not feel the need to explain it in any way. Anderson mentions in his 1723 Constitutions that "Hiram, or Hiram, was the most accomplished Mason on earth," and in the 1738 edition we are informed of the "sudden death of our dear Master Hiram Abif whom they decently

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“MASONRY’S POTENTIAL UNREALIZED”

Masonry possesses the manpower, augmented by affiliated organizations, to exert a beneficial influence throughout our society. The potential, however, is far from being realized. The teachings of Masonry lie dormant in too many of our members. I would encourage, yes plead, that every man who has knelt at a Masonic altar rise daily with a consciousness of tasks confronting him and those about him, and by precept and by example strive for that true Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God which we cherish so fervently. Then, and only then, may the millions and more millions of our young people gaze upon a vista portraying a world of the future in which Glory to God and on Earth peace, goodwill to men will be meaningful.

M.W. Herbert A. Huebner, Grand Master, 1970

Abif *(continued from Page 5)*

interred in the lodge near the Temple according to ancient usage.” But there is no hint of a tragedy.

One would be justified in believing that the name Hiram Abif was in regular use among Masons in the early 1700’s, and had been received by attentive ears from the instructive tongues over the years, without benefit of the written word.

Finally, one could understand how Hiram Abif was incorporated into the Masonic ritual which was undergoing such important growth in the early 1700’s. And how the tragedy appears printed in Samuel Prichard’s 1730 exposure called “Masonry Dissected.”

Quick Quotes

The ego is the ugly little troll that lives underneath the bridge between your mind and your heart — *Dennis Miller*

Again and again, the impossible problem is solved when we see that the problem is only a tough decision waiting to be made.—*Dr. Robert Schuller*

From the rocking horse to the rocking chair, friendship keeps teaching us about being human — *Letty Cottin Pogrebin*

A Short Lesson in Masonic Emblems

*By Rudy Olano, Lincoln Lodge No. 34 (Phil)
Hanford Lodge No. 279 (CA)*

“Masonry is a progressive moral science, veiled in allegories and illustrated in symbols.”

The Lessons of Freemasonry are often presented through the use of representation of something close to the subjects. What the students see or hear are not to be taken literally. The system is designed to challenge the student’s “corporeal and mental faculties to their fullest energy.” And just like a good teacher, the Order will make the serious student to — Think. Often times, we hear voices of concern regarding this method of instruction and that the Craft as a whole needs to change and adapt to the present time. In my own myopic view, we should return to the basic or more traditional way in place of the contemporary system. Quality rather than quantity. A simple question of the reasons behind the indirect way of conveying the message through the use of symbols or allegories sounds reasonable. However, the other or direct way might take away the one feature which makes the study of Freemasonry unique. Resembling an attempt to define beauty, the meaning of symbols and allegories will depend on the eye of the beholder.

Almost everybody recognizes the Square and Compass as the popular symbol of the Fraternity. Along with the All-Seeing Eye, beehive and other emblems mentioned in our lectures, the hourglass is also a symbol of the Order. To non-members, the hourglass is always a primitive watch used to approximate time. And as the modern era advances from mechanical to digital age, the hourglass is relegated as a museum artifact. For Masons, the hourglass does not represent time; rather, it is a symbol of life. It reminds us that we, as mortals have only a limited amount of sand within the glass. As each particle passes through the portal that determines the speed of passage, one has to reflect that, in spite of the accomplishments, accolades and future hopes, those sands will continue to pour regardless. And when the last grain falls out, then life as we know it in this world will be over. The hourglass represents man’s limitations of his mortal existence. It is an emblem of Life not of Time since the former is finite while the latter will always outlive and consistently be beyond the reach of our mortal life.

In this short Lesson of Freemasonry I hope to convey that in the study of our Craft in which you are so interested, one should be really careful on what you read or see for they could mean something else. Veiled in allegories and illustrated in symbols. If I am to be allowed to whisper a soft counsel to a brother’s ears — don’t be frustrated since a number of our own brethren who joined the Craft for their own personal ambitions do not even ask half of your own questions. For further reading of Masonic Symbols, I humbly offer the following link:

<http://www.calodges.org/no279/5junesymb1.htm>



2006 Grand York Rite Sessions April 22nd to 26th, 2006 – Bakersfield, CA

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PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MARK THE AMOUNT IN THE ENTRÉE CHOICES

Day	Date	Time	Event	Quan.	Cost	Total
Sat	April 22 nd	8:30 AM	Golf Tournament <input type="checkbox"/> Please fill out the foursome for me Others in your foursome: _____	___	\$45.00	___
			Open to all attendees	___	\$30.00	___
		6:30 PM	Welcoming BBQ "Santa Fe" __ Vegetarian __	___	\$23.00	___
Sun	April 23 rd	11:30 AM	Battalion & Belles Luncheon San Joaquin Buffet __ Vegetarian __	___	N/C	___
		1:00 PM	Drill Team Participant	___	\$35.00	___
		6:30 PM	Grand York Rite Banquet Entree Choice: Pork Loin __ Salmon __ Vegetarian __	___	\$14.50	___
Mon	April 24 th	7:00 AM	Grand Council Breakfast: "The Select Breakfast" Open to the Companions <u>and</u> the Ladies	___	\$17.00	___
		12:00 PM	Ladies Luncheon Teriyaki Chicken __ Vegetarian __	___	\$17.50	___
		12:15 PM	Grand Council Luncheon Traditional Lasagna __ Vegetarian __	___	\$14.50	___
Tue	April 25 th	7:00 AM	Grand Commandery Breakfast "Metropolitan Breakfast" Open to the Sir Knights <u>and</u> the Ladies	___	\$17.50	___
		12:00 PM	Ladies Luncheon Roasted Pork Loin __ Vegetarian __	___	\$17.50	___
		12:15 PM	Grand Commandery Luncheon Grilled Flank Steak __ Vegetarian __	___	\$14.50	___
Wed	April 26 th	7:00 AM	Grand Chapter Breakfast "Traditional Breakfast" Open to the Companions <u>and</u> the Ladies	___	\$17.00	___
		12:00 PM	Ladies Luncheon Penne Pasta __ Vegetarian __	___	\$17.50	___
		12:15 PM	Grand Chapter Luncheon Swiss Steak __ Vegetarian __	___	TOTALS:	___

Check# _____ payable to **Grand York Rite of CA**

The Golf Tournament and the Breakfasts are open to the Companions / Sir Knights and their Ladies.
 More forms are available from www.ca-gyrs.org along with menus and further details.

Please send this form and the accompanying payment by **March 25th, 2006** to:
Dave Glass 6431 Valley Hi Drive Sacramento, CA 95823-4838

No refunds after April 1st, 2006 unless approved by the 2006 Grand York Rite Sessions General Chairman
If there are any questions, please contact Russell Roberts at rjrob@earthlink.net or (559) 686-6379

Contact the **Holiday Inn Select** for your hotel reservation **before March 25th, 2006**
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Do you prefer your Sessions reservation confirmation via email or phone call (latest time to call _____)

California Grand York Rite Sessions Souvenir Program

The California 2006 Grand York Rite Sessions Committee is now soliciting advertisements or congratulatory comments for its 2006 Grand Sessions Souvenir Program.

This Souvenir Program will cover pertinent information and scheduled activities of its 2006 California Grand York Rite Sessions that are to take place at the Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield, California, commencing on April 22, and concluding on April 26, 2006. All Companions, Sir Knights and their Ladies are cordially invited to attend these sessions. For information send a self addressed stamped envelope to: Daniel C. Kaffka, Jr., CoChairman, 754 N. Brently Ave; Camarillo 93010. California York Rite Masons will receive Grand Sessions information and reservation forms by mail.

The Grand Lodge of California has granted permission to allow advertisements in its Masonic publications as long as they are in good taste and do not include advertisements for: gambling, liquor, politics or religion. Publishing of Souvenir Programs by Masonic organizations in other states has been very successful way to keep down the cost of their grand sessions and, at the same time, very beneficial to the Souvenir Program Advertisers. With the same goal in mind, we respectfully solicit your advertisements for our Souvenir Program. Why not get your Masonic organizations, local merchants and members who own or operate a business to participate. Complete the Advertisement Request form (make extra copies if needed) and return prior to March 15, 2006. The form is self explanatory and contains the cost for each Ad size.

Please Note: No Ad can be accepted for inclusion in the Souvenir Program after March 15,2006.

Each Advertiser will receive a courtesy copy of the Souvenir Program. All Grand Sessions attendees will receive a copy of the Souvenir Program as part of their registration packet. Any other individual desiring to purchase a copy can do so by sending \$7.00, payable to "2006 Grand Sessions Committee," to Souvenir Program, Caper Card, 220 Baseline, San Bernardino, CA 92410, Attn: Dennis Ward. **Please Note: The Souvenir Program will be available after April 22, 2006.**

Please direct any question you may have regarding the Souvenir Program to the: Grand Sessions 2006 Souvenir Program Committee

Thanks for your kind consideration and timely response to this matter.

Marshall F. Parker Chairman (951) 656-3017

2006 Grand York Rite Sessions

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 4/25 Grand Commandery of California Bakersfield
 4/26 Grand Chapter of California Bakersfield

Jose A. Fiss MIGM Itinerary 2005-06

- 3/9 Arkansas Grand York Rite- Little Rock
 4/23 York Rite Sessions Holiday Inn Select Bakersfield

Robert G. Grauer MIGM Itinerary 2006-07

- 5/13 Reception King Solomon's Council Vallejo
 6/10 3-Way Reception Oxnard York rite Bodies
 6/21 Reception Redwood Empire Council#29, Sebastapol

Milton M. Abbott, Jr. Grand Commander's Itinerary 2005-06

- 3/1 Amaramth, Culver City Grand Court
 3/4 Merced #69 Merced Visitation
 3/9 Pacific #3 Sonors Visitation
 3/15 So. Ca. #37 Pomonma Visitation
 3/18 KYCH Merced Meeting
 3/20 Bakersfield #39 Bakersfield Visitation
 4/9 Rainbow Fresno Grand Assembly

Charles R. Waterman Jr. Grand Commander's Itinerary 2006-07

- 4/29 Marysville (3 way) Reception
 5/2 Blue lodge Meeting
 5/3 RAM Meeting
 5/13 Oroville Parade
 5/16 San Diego #25 Reception
 5/17 San Bernardino #23 Reception
 5/18 Golden West #43 Reception
 5/19 Riverside (3 way) Reception
 5/20 Orange County #36 Reception
 5/31 Long Beach #40 Reception
 6/1 Dept #2 Reception
 6/2 Los Angles #9 Reception
 6/6 Naval #19 Reception
 6/8 Pacific #3 Visit
 6/9 Vacaville #38 Meeting
 6/10 Channel Islands (3 way) Reception
 6/16 Red Bluff #17 Reception
 6/17 Hrakt Meeting
 6/26 El dorado #4 Visit

Leadership

Thomas W. Jackson, Grand Secretary, Pennsylvania, in remarks given at a leadership conference in Virginia, abridged in Winter 1997 *The Voice of Freemasonry* (District of Columbia) said:

There is a simple old adage that leaders are born not made. My brethren, I don't buy that. Certainly, there are some men who are born with a superior leadership potential; that is a fact of life. But I've watched many men of limited talent go through the chairs of many Masonic Bodies, and I've noted that they came out of those chairs far better than they were when they went in. Yes, leaders can be made. Know it now, my brethren, you can be good, but you must make yourself good. Don't lay back and expect to absorb ability.

I know Tom, have talked with Tom, and I consider him one of our top Freemasons even without giving him a category therein. But I don't think Tom knows me well enough to know that he, in the above, describes me to a T.

I have mentioned before that when I was initiated and was told that I had to memorize something I literally told them they might as well give me my money back, that I could not do it. Of course, they did not agree and told me I could and you know very well that I did - with help.

I ended up serving as Master of my lodge doing what I believe was a credible job, at least in the eyes of one of our members, a city councilman, as he had me appointed to the city planning commission. That put me in the lime-light and I was elected to the board of the local chamber of commerce, ending up with being elected president. I could not have done this without my training in Freemasonry, my lodge and Southern California Research Lodge.

In my first position I was satisfied to be a desk salesman, even asked that I not be sent out to call on customers, being uncomfortable talking with people face to face. Long before I became Master (I learned quick) I changed this policy and took over calling on governmental purchasing agencies, and, according to the company, doing an exceptional job. Now I really enjoyed my work. When the policies of the company changed with a take over, not as ethical as mine, I left.

My second and last position, for 27 years, was as a purchasing agent and actually I had more fun than a picnic, as they say, primarily as they gave me great latitude, a policy I highly recommend.

Now do you see the picture? I personify Brother Jackson's: "But I've watched many men of limited talent go through the chairs of many Masonic Bodies, and I've noted that they came out of those chairs far better than they were when they went in." My only comment would be that I became far better long before I came out of the chair.

Try it. If you end up with only half the benefits I received you will still be far ahead.— *Ralph Herbold*

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