

The Temple Artisan

August-Sept-Oct 2014

Behold, I give



unto thee a key.

THE LOVE THOU CRAVEST

SUCH love as thou cravest for thyself,
yield thou generously to all mankind,
and thou wilt find that the great ocean of

Divine Love into which thou
hast, as it were, but dipped a
finger, will rise and overflow
thine heart and leave behind
full measure of the precious
things which lie within that
ocean's depths.



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EDITORIAL MIRROR

As we gather together on the first Sunday of August each year, we create a magnetic matrix through which the Masters pour their force for the health and safety of the whole world. How we use this force, not only on this day but every day, determines the effectiveness of our work. It is our responsibility to carefully and consciously absorb the energies given to us at this time, and then, in turn, give that energy expression in our daily lives.

Every thought, word, and deed become charged with Divine Love just to the extent that we are a conscious part of this sacred process. By so doing, we in turn are nurtured. We give expression to these forces as we meet in spiritual groupings in the Temple, and in social groupings as we share food, ideas, and fun.

I often speak and write of Temple principles and of the history of the Temple work. But that so-called “Temple work” includes the human, physical plane side. The Temple, it is true, is a fact in Nature. The Temple is and always has been composed of people and how they consciously and unconsciously relate to each other. We have the opportunity to consciously work on these relationships during this week, bringing our very highest ideals to the process. Then we carry these aspirations into our daily lives year round. May we all be guided by Light, Love, Joy, and Peace.

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief



Temple Pillars Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

THE 115TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE

August 2 through August 10, 2014

Saturday, August 2

10am Temple, Lodge, and University Center cleanup

Noon Healing Service

2pm Gold Rush in Oceano? Readers Theatre presentation,
South County Historical Society, Arroyo Grande

7pm Convention Informal Opening, Hiawatha Lodge

Sunday, August 3

The Formal Opening of Convention and Feast of Fulfillment

THE INVOCATION

"In the name of the Great White Lodge and by the power vested in me as the Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People, I hereby open this 115th Annual Convention by invoking the guidance and blessings of the Powers that rule the destinies of worlds and races, the Brothers of the Fire Mist, the Dhyani Chohans and Dhyani Buddhas, and the Masters of Love and Wisdom, on all proceedings and all who participate in person or in spirit in the Convention for the benefit of all humanity, promoting the Brother/Sisterhood of all Creation."

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE TO THE 2014 CONVENTION

My Children:

I come to bring you the blessings from on high, charged with the forces of Love, Harmony, and Unity. With these forces you and I work together to bless humanity, thereby helping to uplift it out of the darkness, confusion, and discouragement which seem to prevail. Single-pointedly we must work together to encourage those who are ever devoted, loyal, and true to the eternal principles; and those serving in the cause of humanity who are working to apply those principles in daily living; and to all others seeking the Light and life's true meaning.

Many years ago I spoke to you of the need to come closer to the Light of the Christos in its radiant and dazzling splendor. My Children, come closer to the Holy Feast, and partake of its Spiritual food. Come closer and listen to the Great Message impinging on the aura of humanity, ringing out to all — clear, true, and powerful. I would have you see the deep need to come closer to those vibrant, pulsating, and uplifting forces endeavoring to help all to a higher plane of consciousness.

The higher forces move steadily on, even though it be amidst a world full of darkness, confusion, doubts, uncertainties, and frustration which continually try to destroy the constructive efforts of those guiding and ruling life on all planes. Come closer, my Children, to the Holy Presence. Come in reverence and gratitude for all the spiritual help given you in your hours of need.

I cannot, must not, do this for you. I cannot carry you. I can only stand and wait for you to turn and put your hand in mine. We must do this together. The help and succor is always there for anyone who asks. This sustenance has never deserted you. You have only to ask in good Faith and it will flow into you in measure beyond belief. Do not turn from the true purpose of The Temple and its work for the human race. Great is the inner accomplishment of even a few who work in Harmony, Love, and Unity.

You have been told by me countless times that Life is a continual battle between the pairs of opposites, the positive and negative poles, personality and principle, Love and hate, Light and darkness. The separative forces wave their wands of stupor, lethargy, and indolence over the unwary, attempting to destroy any and all higher qualities and ideals. You must know it is a constant battle every step of the way. However, you must also know that, ultimately, the opposing forces are powerless against the Eternal Principles. But you must prove this daily by holding fast.

As you are able to overcome these lower forces and align yourselves with the eternal principles, so are you able to become vehicles for higher forces and instruments for Lodge use and service which enables the Lodge to carry on its plans to raise humanity to a higher level of consciousness. In this way, you are working in close cooperation with Us on inner planes.

The unifying forces of the Lodge are constantly at work to bring to fruition this great ideal of conscious Unity with All That Is.

The Great White Lodge awaits your necessary awakening and your conscious transformations that are so vital. The Divine Adjusters, known to you as the Lords of Karma, exact an accounting of all discordant elements, and then patiently wait for the restoration of the broken spiritual lines, when harmony will be restored and all creatures reunited with the Divine Father/Mother.

The sorrow, suffering, and devastation of past years have been awakening a new state of consciousness and a deeper sense of spiritual truth, regardless of sect, creed, or dogma. You are charged with demonstrating in your daily lives your own unique view of this awakening, and how it transforms your life. Do not endlessly talk of your transformation; rather, be your transformation.

You must build in accordance with the divine plan. You must obey the laws of centralization and discipleship. You must vibrate with principle rather than personality. You must work for the good of all to defeat anything that blocks the true purpose of The Temple. This is work you were chosen to do many years ago, work demanding sincere desire and deep devotion to the eternal principles. All of this work requires pure aspiration and a deep reverence for the Master of Masters, the Christos.

I now ask you, as I have asked many times, to guard well the Spiritual treasures accumulated over the years. Guard well the work accomplished in each and every heart. Guard well the brotherly/sisterly relationships existing between you. Preserve harmony in your hearts, so that it may go out to all others for their inner help and strength.

—Your Father/Brother, Hilarion





Noon Healing Service, Temple

2-4pm Gratitude Gathering at the Central Home

The invitation to The Gratitude Gathering at the Central Home included this message from Eleanor L. Shumway:

"At this Convention time, the Temple New Year, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude. . . The foundation stones of such simple gratitude are made up of all of you, big and small, young and old, sunny natured or stormy as we gather together in this community to try to live our ideals under the guidance of the Master through The Temple. Every one of you is helping me learn about all the wonderful diversity through which the Divine is manifested. . . Thank you for this opportunity to learn and to love."

Each person at the Gathering jotted down some things they were grateful for and left those words in the Gratitude Bowl. In the next few issues of the Artisan more of these wonderful statements will be shared. Here are four:

*I am just grateful for being around.

*I am grateful for running water!

*I am grateful for everyone that has held me up during life's day-to-day experiences by surrounding me with love and light. I have learned inner peace and feel overwhelmed with peace and happiness.

*I am grateful for one thing of many – the opportunity to share Convention.

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief

7-8pm Meditation, Temple

Monday, August 4

10am	Social Science talks, Temple, Transformations
Noon	Healing Service, Temple
7pm	Report of the Temple Officers, Temple

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The theme for this Convention is Transformations, an apt topic in a Temple year that has significantly changed life for many in our ranks. Life is always changing, always in motion, calling on each of us in the Temple family to bring our principles and mindfulness to daily living. These spiritual gifts for inner growth are held for us in the treasury of Temple support and guidance, a storehouse of wisdom that the Masters have entrusted to us to bring out and use each moment, with everyone we meet. Moments slip past us if we aren't careful, until something wakes us and we bring our conscious attention to them once again.

We humans don't seem to be transformed so much by our strengths as by our weaknesses. Growing tests us, and the tests of life bring us to the indistinct edges of who we are and what we think we can do. Just as our cells and bodies are ever-changing, our lives reflect how we meet the pressures exerted by the great Creator/Destroyer/Regenerator forces that are at work, transforming us through growth, loss, tension, release, and acceptance. In some transformations everything comes falling down around us with the force of a tsunami, while the inevitable aging process transforms us more gradually — but transform we must.

Quick or slow, chosen or not, we are destined to lose valued parts of ourselves: health, relationships, sobriety, limbs, independence, beloved beings — perhaps even some essential quality that has given meaning to our lives. Then what? When we reach those edges, do we cave in, run away, give up? Sometimes the gift of help shines out through the eyes of another soul who has braved loss and change, and whose courage reminds us of our own.

At such times, we summon one last ounce of strength and

step into a new dimension which, though beyond the clouds of confusion, is still beyond the comfort of the known. In that place of not knowing, we hand our lives and our hearts to the Great Father/Mother, trusting that God waits for us and welcomes us, always.

Life polishes us. In times of trouble, challenge, and change, the hand of God touches our broken hearts most often in the guise of the sister or brother who believes in us when we ourselves may not be able to see. We are transformed as we realize the presence of the Avatar and use Temple principles to guide our actions.

Every time we step beyond fear into the new and present moment, our courageous hearts become One with all others, and we reconnect our essence and add our own precious light to the infinite source that is Temple Treasury.

— *Marti Fast*



Flannel Flower. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

REPORT OF THE SCRIBE

The position of Temple Scribe symbolizes the responsibility to the record of our aspirations, hopes, and faith, and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds. In general terms, I've been aware of the necessity for the Outer Guard, Inner Guard, Scribe, and Treasurer to be present for a study group and to celebrate the Feast of Fulfillment.

I've spent time reviewing the Square Diagram, attempting to understand the relationships between the four officer positions. I have an inkling of an idea to what degree their being warm, cold, dry, wet, positive, negative, male, female, active, passive, red, blue, green, and orange is influenced by their connections to Fire, Water, Earth, and Air and the forces of Father, Mother, Sister, and Brother.

My first thought is to acknowledge my gratitude to all of the Temple Scribes who have held this position before me. According to Merriam-Webster, a scribe was "a member of a learned class in ancient Israel through New Testament times, studying the Scriptures and serving as copyists, editors, teachers and jurists." I find this one definition interesting as it reconnects me to an aspect of my religious upbringing. Growing up, one of my least favorite Jewish holidays was Yom Kippur or "The Day of Atonement," which was never once pronounced "Day of At-One-Ment."

Once a year, from sundown to sundown, we would fast while spending many hours in our conservative synagogue praying in Hebrew and English. According to the Jewish religion, Yom Kippur is the "dead-line" for changing one's ways and for being forgiven for the pain we may have caused. In order to be inscribed in God's "Book of Life" (and be granted a happy new year), it is not enough to pray and be forgiven by God. A person must also take the initiative to make amends for the pain caused and the vow broken. At the end of Yom Kippur, God's "Book of Life" is closed and sealed until the next year. The essence of Yom Kippur now works for me. I'm still not wild about fasting for 24 hours nor inclined to sit in a synagogue all day, but I am grateful to be able

to find substantial common ground between this most sacred holiday and Theosophy; despite never once hearing the Rabbi use the word Karma to describe the purpose of this annual ritual. Perhaps Yom Kippur has correspondences with Convention as well.

It has been through my study of Theosophy that I have come to know the Book of Life as the Akashic Records. I equate the Akashic Records to what I imagine to be the Universe's super computer system, acting as the central storehouse containing every thought, word, deed, feeling, and intent that has ever occurred in the history of the world. Some describe it as an interactive super computer system that has a tremendous influence upon our everyday lives, our relationships, our feelings and belief systems, and the potential realities we draw toward us. In essence the Akashic Records and Karma are concepts that are nearly interchangeable. So how does Merriam-Webster's definition of scribe, the Book of Life and the Akashic Records help me understand the responsibility of Temple Scribe?

The more I thought about being "a member of a learned class in ancient Israel through New Testament times, studying the Scriptures and serving as copyist, editor, teacher and jurist," the more it reminded me of the Temple Treasurer's responsibility to our storehouse of spiritual treasures filled with the jewels we have been given to use, to care for and enhance. The more I thought about the Book of Life and the Akashic Records the more I thought about the Lords of Karma.

So Merriam-Webster's definition of scribe is more about the sharing and preservation of spiritual jewels. The Scriptures, the Book of Life and the Akashic Records is more about documenting every aspect of human behavior. Where does that leave the Temple Scribe? The more I thought about it the more I started to notice the distinction left up to the Temple Scribe. I've come to believe that it is a responsibility we all share, for within each and every one of us, whether we know it or not, are the Principles of the Outer Guard, Inner Guard, Treasurer and Scribe. By varying degrees our

aspirations, hopes and faith are based on our abilities to nurture, connect, protect, quest and find balance within ourselves, our relationships and all that is. The distinction is the responsibility we all have to aspire, to have hope, and to have faith. This means that we need to be walking the talk, if there is to be a flow of aspirations, hopes and faith between all humans.

So what are we aspiring to, what are we hoping for, and what do we have faith in? It begins with faith in myself, faith in you, and faith in the Temple. This means leaving room for other people's faiths that may not seem in alignment with mine. My hopes follow my faith in Universal Brotherhood/Sisterhood. My faith tells me that Unity is a key to Peace on Earth. My hopes that inspire my aspirations to be the *means* to live towards that end. What can we use to keep our aspirations, hopes, and faith on track? That seems to be the crux of the matter.

In Merriam-Webster, it is interesting to note the two most prominent meanings of aspiration are "a strong desire to achieve something high or great" and "the act of breathing," as in the flow of air, to and from our lungs. I believe that this double meaning underscores the importance of achieving something greater than ourselves as well as the flow of that achievement to and from all human hearts and minds.

It is very important to always remember that "we are asked to perform no great deed, nothing but our simple daily duty, one hour, one minute at a time, nothing more nor less." In essence we need to be doing what is nearest at hand.

When it comes to faith, I take comfort in the Words of Force. When it comes to hope, I find strength in the Healing Service Benediction. When it comes to aspirations I find direction in the Mantrams and the Avataric Mantram. In regard to Transformations, two quotes come to mind, one by Mahatma Gandhi and the other by Willy Gommel. "Be the change that you wish to see in the world" and "Motive is everything."

May we be tender with each other and may gratitude be our guide.

— Rick London

REPORT OF THE INNER GUARD

Good evening and greetings to all. Here is some food for thought: How are we doing? Are we doing what is at hand? Are we being mindful of ourselves? Are we respecting each other, honoring what is precious in each of us? Are we staying conscious of our pledges to The Temple? Are we working hard every day to gain greater understanding, to the best of our ability? Do we remember that we ARE responsible for our thoughts, words and deeds?

In the upcoming year, let us all try to do our sacred duty to the Masters of the Great white Lodge, as well as to The Temple of the People, and hold each other close in our hearts. Thank you.

— Margaret Thyrring

REPORT OF THE OUTER GUARD

The Outer Guard position includes the masculine, protecting, questing, balancing forces. I try to live these qualities in my position as the Outer Guard and also in my private life.

Transformations is the theme of this year's convention. Everything goes through the process. One of these processes is our human progression starting with sperm and an egg. They unite and transform into a unit. The unit grows, producing all kinds of parts and working functions into a body of parts – organized of course, forming into a baby. Then the baby grows into a small child, teenager, adult, and etc.

Transformation brings us to the questing force and self-examination. During all this growing and transforming, there are of course the highs and the lows, as many of us call them. The highs feel quite good, the lows are something else —ugh! They may be the best thing for us in the long run. Shadows for instance can be very powerful. Each of us can use and learn from them for our growth if we choose to.

— Ron Carlson

REPORT OF THE WEB MASTER

The position of Web Master was created in 2012 by the Guardian in Chief to perform the following function, "In this new age of instant communication I am adding the position of Web Master to facilitate the connections The Temple has around the world through the web and electronic communication. Members and groups in far flung parts of the world feel connected to all that is going on here, as we feel connected to them. The daily contacts with people around the world will go through the Web Master who, in turn, reports to me. Though we all know of the many abuses of cyberspace, nevertheless, it is a positive and exciting way to connect humanity on a world wide basis."

Other functions have been either added or expanded upon. For example, an on-going effort to respond to inquires about the Temple work from inmates incarcerated in the prison system across the country. Most inmates do not have access to the Internet, for obvious reasons, so they find out about the Temple work via the publication *The Temple Artisan*, or in some rare occasions word of mouth from prisoner to prisoner. They then write to the Temple seeking out more information about the Temple or just asking questions, sometimes regarding their own belief system and if it can be strengthened. There are many inquires from people reading about the Temple on the web site and Face Book. All these inquiries must be answered and given a high priority based on the Master Hilarion's directive to speak to all his children that he is sending forth to contact the Temple work and to speak to them in their own language that they will understand. We as Temple members are charged with duty to carry out his directives to the best of our ability and use whatever means we have at hand to answer their questions and treat them "as if they are of blood kin."

So where are we today in regards to the Temple web site? A goal was set, in the beginning, to begin the process of making a usable web site. Was that goal achieved? I believe it was, and the bar can now be raised to a higher level to make the web site even more user friendly and accessible to others. The web site is simple to navigate and it has many functions for search that are easy for

even a novice to use. Another step will be to add links to other Theosophical Groups or sites of interest, thus linking the Temple work with the rest of humanity in a more modern venue. Through the use of the Internet we are truly a global community.

What is your role in this collaborative process? Maybe you feel that you have no input in this process. Let me assure you that this is as much about one person as it is the next. The goal is to make it not only a way that strangers can communicate and learn, but also for those that are familiar with the web site. I am always seeking contributions from anyone for the Face Book page. You may be surprised to find out that each month a posting of a circular from Annegret Liebig, a German member, is put up there for everyone to read. She has, for a long time, written a monthly circular on some aspect or idea she has taken from the Temple Teachings. The Temple web site also has the addition of talks given in the Temple. Usually it contains a talk given by the Guardian in Chief.

Each quarter when a new *Temple Artisan* is published, it is soon added to the category of Temple Literature. In the future there are plans to add all Artisans ever published. This will be a monumental project and a call goes out to any computer savvy people that may want to assist to let us know if you can help on this project. Soon more volumes of Temple Literature are going to be added. There is a long list of completed translations facilitated by Temple Member Michel Mercier. He is currently translating Dr. Dower's LETTERS OF LIGHT into French. A project he has recently completed is translating the Books of the great Russian work, entitled *Two Lives*, into French.

In conclusion I quote the Guardian in Chief: "Those dark corners are indeed being cleansed as the Light penetrates deeper and deeper. We are learning more than we ever thought we wanted to know about those dark corners. This period of the seeming overload of electronic communication has a bright side as well as it carries the light of public scrutiny into the dark corners. Just think of the coverage of social sites such Facebook and Twitter to name only two, together with a camera in nearly every cell phone.

And yet our sole responsibility is to stay centered within ourselves, to remain as serene as possible in the Light, rather than

being consumed by the darkness. Our inner task is to embrace the darkness, accepting that this too is a part of the human condition. In that embrace we can bathe the particular aspect of darkness in which we are working with the Light of the Universal Consciousness, and see wholeness where now there are only dark corners. It is through our increasing focus and understanding that we are becoming instruments of transmutation."

This is the mission of the Temple web site: to bring Light and Truth to all those that seek. This web site is for all humanity.

— *Chris Thyrring*



Navajo Indian Weaving. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar



REPORT OF THE GUARDIAN IN CHIEF

This is year number twenty-five for presenting my report. This is the personal report from Eleanor who functions the point of Guardian in Chief. In filling this point, I find the gaining of faith and trust in the creative flow for me has been slow, and have come to realize this is as it must be, as true growth is slow growth. Like everyone else in the world, I have discovered over the years that it takes discipline, practice, and small, careful steps. It takes learning from one's mistakes; it takes the courage to make correlations, and then to make changes in one's own actions.

Why are we even here? What is Convention? The word itself means to come together in common purpose. In 1915 Blue Star called the Convention "a little window of the Great Temple, through which those who will do so may catch a glimpse of the Altar decked with the flowers of devotion and compassion culled by countless generations of those who have worshipped before that Altar." The form of Convention, indeed even the time, has changed over the years. The first Convention was held in October, and only later was the time changed to the first week in August during which the Master told us there is a convocation of Masters, and it was time to align ourselves with that particular flow of force.

The length of our Convention has varied from three days to nine, depending on strength, energy, and need. In Syracuse, the meetings were held in private rooms and public halls. In 1903, just after the move to Halcyon there appeared the following notice in the Artisan: "There will be no regular Convention of the Temple members this year, on account of the lack of facilities for entertaining any large number of people near Headquarters, and because of the press of work on those at the center, in preparing right conditions at this important transitional state of the work. There will be held, however, an informal conference at Headquarters on August 30th, to which all members are invited. Hotel and boarding accommodations may be secured at Oceano and at Arroyo Grande, distant one and two miles, respectively,

from Headquarters. Members can secure transportation to and from these places." Headquarters was the two-story house occupied by Blue Star on the four acres just south of the present Central Home garage. Beginning in 1904, and continuing until 1923, when the unfinished Temple building was first used, most gatherings for Convention were held in the Halcyon Parlors of the Sanitarium. One year, the Union Hall in Arroyo Grande was rented to make parts of the Convention even more accessible to the public. Over the years, the one thing constant has been Convention itself. Meetings, ceremonies, services, social gatherings, and excursions have changed to meet the needs of the times.

Imagine, if you will, the coming together in Syracuse, New York, of the 43 people pictured so solemnly in the photo we have on the office wall. They came from all parts of New York, as well as other parts of New England and as far away as Ohio and Illinois. They traveled by train, trolley, and horse and buggy. They found lodging in rooming houses, hotels, and with friends. They were impelled by a new vision, a new impulse that was so grand, so inspiring that they felt themselves lifted into new realms. Nothing would ever be the same in their lives again.

This first Convention met together en masse, and in committee, striving to articulate the tremendous forces that were being poured into this effort by the White Lodge to bring into being a new expression of the Father/Motherhood of God, the Brother/Sisterhood of all humanity. They had been called together to accept a simple assignment: that of deeply, richly living the injunction of "Thou shalt love the Lord, Thy God, with all thy heart and mind and thy neighbor as thyself." This is a simple assignment, but potent, powerful, and irrevocable.

When any of us, then or now, are caught up in these very high spiritual forces, we forget that in the act of reaching toward our ideals, we call into action the opposite, those testing forces which, in reality, help us develop our strength, our staying power, and our resolve. And so it was then, and ever has been. The high ideals and aspirations; and the ensuing tests which have always resulted in squabbles and personality conflicts. But the dream held and the

work of the Master moved forward.

What do we do to get ready for Convention nowadays? For Temple members who feel it is the beginning of a new year, there is a feeling of preparation for a new cycle. We pay our dues; we make new resolutions concerning our inner life. On the outer physical plane, most of us give extra attention to our homes and yards, making a special effort to clear out cupboards and flower beds to be ready for what is to come. We come together to give special, loving attention to the Temple, University Center, and Lodge. Most of us have that pleasant feeling of anticipation we get when, ready for a party, we await the arrival of our guests. Many make an equal effort on inner planes to align themselves with pledges made to the Higher Self, weeding out those things which clutter the inner homes and gardens of the soul. "All I am or hope to be, here and now I offer Thee," is heard by the Lords of Karma and accepted every time we sing it. Convention is a time particularly suited to bring that offer into clearer focus. Ready or not, Convention always comes, always bringing with it a tremendous sense of renewal, which for me, often feels like upheaval as I endeavor to bring these forces into my life in a meaningful way.

After one hundred fifteen Conventions, what have we learned from those stalwart souls who have gone before us? The squabbles and conflicts hopefully drop away as the dross is burned from our lower natures. What is left for us, and those yet to come, is the pure gold of our predecessors' sacrifices, aspirations, joys, ideals, sufferings, and transcendent love. Theirs were the hands that spread the message of hope, that assisted comrades to take the last step of passing into new realms, that ploughed and watered a thirsty land that others might have food, that gave the precious gift of music to gladden hearts, that ministered to the world's disinherited, that lightened the loneliness or fear of those in need; quiet hands that served the Master by reaching out to nearby tasks. They are the hands that have passed on the Temple banner to our hands.

As always, we have the power of choice as we stand with

that banner in hand. Every single day we must choose tolerance, understanding and love. We must choose daily to accept the idea of self responsibility for our own individual spiritual unfoldment. In the 1913 Master's message, the last line reads, "The last words I would leave with you are **Self Responsibility**." This includes choosing loving acceptance of ourselves and others. We only learn this process by doing, questioning, adjusting, and trying again, always trusting in our faith in the Master's guidance. We must do this with a heart full of gratitude for the privilege of doing it consciously.

No matter where we live in the physical world we must ask ourselves why is The Temple the focus of our spiritual questing? What is it about this symbolic building that leaps to our minds and hearts when we touch that inner questing for the Divine? Imagine if you will, standing on this site on January 19, 1923, at 8 p.m. There are no cars passing up and down Halcyon Road, no nearby electric lights, all is very dark, hushed, and quiet. In the distance one can even hear the surf breaking on the beach. Everyone is bundled against the cold. The night is clear and cloudless. The officers of the Temple, members, and many visitors from nearby towns are present. Three huge bonfires throw their rays on those gathered around the foundation in which the Center stone is placed.



Temple Convention Group 2014. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

In the words of John Varian, all were watching the coming into physical manifestation of THE HOUSE OF HOPE.

The word came to us while the night was dark:

"Be Builders in the twilight of the Dawn,
Prepare a place for Him who cometh high."

The order came from Hierophants of Light. Stones we were, rough hewn, battered, scarred, stupified by Pride and blinded by conceit.

Humbled we are, and bound by the years and the days of God.

Ready to build a place of Peace, if so we may,

The Temple we were to build of Mastership and Love,

White with the Light of the Sun,

Towering up to the stars. Lighting the world of Man.

Now, of our hopes, and our tears and our lives,

We are building a place of Peace for our souls;

We are raising a house where the Powers may speak,

Where the Christ may bless, and the Master come,

Birthered in pain, and storm and loss;

Founded in comradeship and love;

Built in Friendship square and true;

Facing the rising sun in the East,

May this House of Love illumine the Dawn.

May this stone of Hope, this Center Stone, be true in its place;

May every heart and every hand that helps in this work

Be the hand of a friend, and the heart of a friend.

Though the building be hard, and the trials deep,

May we win in the end.

Three walls we must raise to the span of the roof,

Of Love, and Faith, and Hope undimmed.

United we stand in the dawn of a day.

We are building now entwining Hearts,

Where Golden Love may strengthen the walls.

Here may the Masters speak.

Here may the Christos come.

Here may we kneel in Peace.

Here may we kneel in Love.

Although it took nearly two years, the construction of that physical building came to pass. This structure has functioned as our symbolic and physical worship place for ninety years. However “rough-hewn, battered, scarred” we may be, Temple members everywhere are still engaged in the construction of the inner Temple. “Though the building be hard, and the trials deep, may we win in the end. Three walls we must raise to the span of the roof, of Love, and Faith, and Hope undimmed. United we stand in the dawn of a day. We are building now entwining Hearts, where Golden Love may strengthen the walls.”

As the Guardian in Chief, my assignment is to keep us all focused on that Love, and Faith, and Hope undimmed, even in the face of pride, conceit, pain, loss, and all the other trials of daily life. Nothing really counts unless that daily, hourly life is based on our deep connection to its spiritual counterpart on the inner planes. As usual, I am appointing eight officers to serve the Temple for the coming year. The positions will be: Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Scribe, Treasurer, Web Master and three Delegates-at-Large.

Every year I pose the question: what do these positions symbolize and how will they function? Deeper answers come as we grow and evolve. This process never ceases. Primarily, the position of Inner Guard symbolizes the responsibility to the feminine aspect of manifestation, the nurturing, connected, indwelling spiritual force. The position of Outer Guard symbolizes the responsibility to the masculine aspect, the protecting, questing, balancing force. The position of Treasurer symbolizes the responsibility to our storehouse of spiritual treasure filled with the jewels we have been given to use, to care for and enhance. The position of Scribe symbolizes the responsibility to the record of our aspirations, hopes, and faith, and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds. The position of Web Master is to facilitate the connections The Temple has around the world through the web and electronic communication.

The three Delegates-at-Large (chosen from those Temple members who do not live here in Halcyon) symbolize the many members worldwide whose dedication to the Truth expressed through the Temple Teachings is inspiring. They are meeting the challenge of putting these teachings into daily practice without

the outer group support and daily meetings that we enjoy here at the Center. The inner group support, of course, knows no boundaries of time and distance.

I will meet with these people throughout the coming year and together we will develop the best way in which to serve the inner and outer needs of the Temple. Serving for the 2014-2015 Temple year will be: Inner Guard, Margaret Thyrring; Outer Guard, Ron Carlson; Treasurer, Marti Fast; Scribe, Rick London; and Web Master, Chris Thyrring.

Delegates-at-Large will be: Sheila Samuels of London; Joe Brown of Atlanta, Georgia; and Jose Garcia of Puerto Rico and California.

The entity The Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People, A Corporation Sole, will continue to focus on the original purposes of the Articles of Incorporation, the "administration of the temporalities thereof, and the management of the estate and property thereof." Knowing how complex the world of corporations, tax reporting, and staying in line with changes in civil law are today, I asked the Temple lawyer if these articles needed any updating. He said no, that they had served us well for 106 years, and were brief and very clear. As I work with the various representatives of the local, state and federal agencies that we contact, I find a wonderful response as they realize that we are interested in cooperation and compliance rather than using the law for our own ends.

And so the inner and outer work of The Temple goes on. Although roofs need to be replaced, trees planted or taken down, the houses need constant repair, the open spaces we treasure need mowing, the water system needs our loving attention, the REAL work of The Temple and those of us who make up its body is the challenge of putting the Golden Rule into action, every minute, every day, in every thought, word, and deed. We are up to this challenge or we would not be here.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian-in-Chief

Tuesday, August 5

Noon Healing Service, Temple
1pm Garden Luncheon at Patte Nolen's
5pm Temple Study Class, Special Readings

Wednesday, August 6

Noon Healing Service, Temple

Thursday, August 7

Noon Healing Service, Temple
2-3pm Tea at the Dunbars

Friday, August 8

10am Sacred Cycles, Temple
Special Program presented by Temple Officers
Noon Healing Service, Temple
2pm Celebration of the Life of Willy Gommel
Temple Memorial service for Willy
5pm Temple Study Class, Special Readings

Saturday, August 9

Noon Healing Service, Temple
7pm Hiawatha Lodge, "Celtic Heart"
by the Halcyon Players

Sunday, August 10

10:30am Temple Builders Program, Temple
Noon Healing Service, Temple
7pm Convention Benediction Service, Temple



Calla Lily. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

GREETINGS TO THE CONVENTION FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Dear Members of the Temple, Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Song of Service embodies the loftiest note in the Music of the Spheres. It can be heard at every level of manifestation, in every sphere of our being. The singers of Service unite the music sounds of the Universe to sing the Song of Harmony. This Song of Harmony fills the Earth with Songs of Life and Love. Sing and listen closely to the sounds of music that you create yourself. Join together the Song of Harmony and the Song of Love, and they will sound as the music of universal Love.

With love,

Brothers and Sisters in St Petersburg

To our Friends and family in the Temple we send you our love and appreciation. May the 2014 Convention bind our hearts and minds across the world as we spread loving deeds and kind thoughts to all.

With our deepest thoughts to you from all in London.

A PRAYER

FATHER-MOTHER-SON,
FROM OUR INMOST HEARTS WE PLEAD
FOR POWER TO LOVE UNSELFISHLY;
FOR WISDOM TO PERCEIVE ARIGHT;
FOR PERCEPTION OF RIGHTEOUS COURSE;
FOR DETERMINATION OF PURPOSE;
FOR POWER OF ACTION
ACCORDING TO THY WILL.

Dear Guardian in Chief, dear Temple sisters and brothers in Halcyon, London, Moscow, St.Petersburg and anywhere:

With joy and gratitude we present to you our compliments of our convention here in Berlin. Perhaps the following wonderful quotation, taken out of the Temple Teachings, is expressing in the best way, what we, not only during this time, feel in our hearts and for what we together aspire after.

“Fragrant flowers of light bloom from the Heart of Being. Wreaths of sound mellowed in sorrow's depths vibrate in souls attuned to the great hymn of life and love. Mountain peaks of melody – sentinels of the soul's up-reaching aspiration to mix its life with God – arise from the praise of blended lives. The fingers of love and sacrifice alone may sweep the strings of the universal harp of faith and charity – arousing sweet incense of harmonies that ascend to the footstool of the Gods – to return as blessings for humanity.”

In this sense we wish you a gathering which is fulfilled with love, light and peace. Every one of us here in Berlin is greeting you from the bottom of our hearts. With love,

Your German Temple sisters and brothers



Bird of Paradise. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

THE TRUE PURPOSE

YOU MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF ONE FACT.

THE HIGHER PURPOSE,
THE AIM OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE TRUE TEMPLARS,
WAS AND STILL IS THE PREPARATION OF A PLACE
WHERE IT MIGHT BECOME POSSIBLE
FOR THE OVERSHADOWING CHRIST TO ENTER AND
SEND FORTH THE MESSAGE WHICH
THE WORLD HAS WAITED FOR SO LONG.

IT WOULD BE TRULY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH AN
OVERSHADOWING OF THE SPIRITUAL FORCES
TO ENTER AND DWELL WITH A NUMBER OF
DISAFFECTED, TREACHEROUS, INHUMAN ELEMENTS.

IT COULD NOT DO THE WORK FOR WHICH IT CAME,
EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO COME.

SUCH A PLACE REQUIRES QUIET, CONCENTRATION,
ASPIRATION, UNIFIED ENDEAVOR, AND
FAITH IN EACH OTHER
AND IN THE COMMON PURPOSE.

THESE ARE ESSENTIALS;
ALL ELSE IS NON-ESSENTIAL.



IN MEMORIUM

Beloved friend, Temple Priest and wordsmith Ernest William Gommel III, passed from this plane on July 23, 2014. We knew him as Willy! Willy was born to Barbara and Ernest Gommel, Jr. in Berkeley, CA, on September 22, 1943. After high school Willy, went to college, drove Greyhound buses, found a variety of things to occupy his time, and worked with computers. By the time he was thirty-four, he found Halcyon and The Temple.

In his writings he once had this to say, “I would like to declare my extreme gratitude to Halcyon and its Temple for the rare privilege of living here all these years, and to the members of both Temple and community for all sorts of support. Here I have at last found God in No Uncertain Terms, ready, able and willing to co-create my life and, indeed, subtly but noticeably active in that role all through my earlier years.”

When asked, “Who are you,” Willy said, “I am God, you are God too. This means that I am you, and you are I. As an individual, I am delegated to express one, or several, points of God-ness, and this is what our bodies are for.

“For some years now I have inhabited a failing body. It has been failing to obey my commands to speak, to reach out to you with my physical hands, and to do much of anything else related to its needs of interaction with its world. Yet how many are there here who have felt any less loved on that account? I feel that my ability to spread love, to stand for it, to live it and breathe it and exude it from my every pore, has been significantly enhanced by my physical difficulties. Now that my body has shut down altogether, I see no reason why this trend should not continue. I am offering you a rare and precious insight into What I AM — and What YOU ARE too! If you can accept it, then a piece of my peace will go right on living within you. And you will never have to do without again. “

Dear Willy, Go in peace!



TEMPLE ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Temple Groups: There are Temple groups in New York City; London, England; and in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia; as well as several locations in Germany. Anyone wishing more information about these groups can call the Temple office in Halcyon.

The William Quan Judge Library serves Temple members, residents of Halcyon, and friends with an interest in Theosophy or who are doing research involving some of our special collections. Our library is staffed by volunteers. Hours are Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am. Other hours are by appointment through the Temple office.

The University Center Gallery is now showing *Vignettes from the Past*, featuring art and furniture from our community's rich history. Call the Temple office at 805.489.2822 for information.

The Temple Healing Service is held at Noon each day in the Temple. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday Services are held at 10:30am in the Temple. The *Feast of Fulfillment*, the Communion Service of the Temple, is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. *Enter the Silence*, a prayer and meditation meeting, is held the last Sunday of the month. Speakers present programs on other Sundays. The public is cordially invited to all services.

Study Classes under the auspices of Temple Officers and various Temple Orders are held regularly at 5:30pm in the University Center on Tuesdays and Fridays. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Speakers in the Sunday Services were:

July 13, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Undying Love*; July 20, Zelma Colendich: *Priesthood in Action*; August 17, Eleanor L. Shumway reading *Upon my Word* by Willy Gommel; August 24, Sherry Seehof: *Theosophy in Action*; September 14, Eleanor L. Shumway: *The Power of Words*; September 21, Rick London: *Recalibrating Compassionately*.

Information about the Temple, past issues of *The Temple Artisan*, recent talks, and other resources can be found on the Temple web site:

www.templeofthepeople.org

The Temple of the People

PO Box 7100 • Halcyon, California 93421-7100

Tel: 805.489.2822 • Fax: 805.481.9446 • ginc@templeofthepeople.org