

# The Temple Artisan

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July-August-September 2015

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*Behold, I give*



*unto thee a key.*

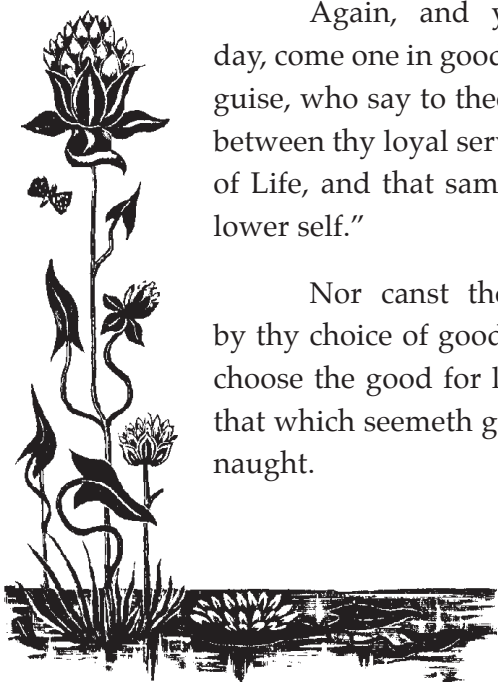
## THE CHOICE

The choice is thine, O Son of Man, to touch the topmost heights of Life and win the Crown of Immortality and Selfless Love, or sink into the depths of Hadean woe to mourn for aeons yet to come.

Again, and yet again each day, come one in good and one in evil guise, who say to thee, "Make choice between thy loyal service to the Gods of Life, and that same service to thy lower self."

Nor canst thou curry favor by thy choice of good, for thou must choose the good for love of good, or that which seemeth good will turn to naught.

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## EDITORIAL MIRROR

One hundred sixteen Conventions! What a wonderful opportunity to focus on our ideals of Unity. Each year the words of the Master bring clarity and love to the choices we are faced with every moment in this magnificent classroom we call the physical plane. We are indeed endeavoring to learn to do by doing. Truly there is no other way. We can talk of being kind but until we are kind such an idea is only an intellectual exercise.

Perhaps this is analogous to thinking about making bread: you study the recipe, and you dream and talk at length of the finished product. Until you gather and measure the ingredients, mix and knead the dough, let the yeast do the work, and then bake the loaves, bread is only an idea. Such ideas come into being on the physical plane by our choices, be it of bread or of kindness, of hatred or love, of a smile or frown. What do you choose?

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*  
*Guardian in Chief*



*Temple Bench.* Photo by A. R. Dunbar

## **THE 116TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE**

*August 1 through August 9, 2015*

Saturday, August 1

Noon    Healing Service

7 pm    Convention Informal Opening, Hiawatha Lodge

Sunday, August 2

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 116th 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."

### **MASTER'S MESSAGE TO THE 2015 CONVENTION**

My Children:

I have spoken of these matters many times before and in many ways. The Truth is changeless. Listen and put into action all that I say. I tell you again and yet again the Avatar has been present in your midst almost constantly, but how many among you will accept my statement? I often wonder why should I trouble to speak? Furthermore, if I say to you the Avatar is present with you now, at this very hour and moment, how many would credit my word or even give respect?

For the reason, however, that there are those among you who do hold faith, who wait for the words that may fall from my lips for guidance, comfort, and illumination, I say, "Yes, It has been; It now is." I tell you this only for corroboration, strength, and reassurance, for you who know it already for yourselves need no further assurance from me.

I say to you who do hold the faith, you will be made stronger by the High Powers and Principles emanating from the Great Companies now in Convention on inner planes. These masters are activating, energizing, leading, and directing humanity upward, inward, and onward to spiritual interdependence with all that lives. All of this is regardless of the evil, the ambition, the falsity, the uncleanness, the skepticism, and the treachery running rampant in the world today. These forces have been hurled upon all who labor for Truth and Unity, upon me and my work, as well as upon those of my Brothers of the Lodge who are faithfully endeavoring to lighten the darkness of the lower mental, astral spheres.

But the Law moves on. It cannot be stayed. The age-old struggle between principle and personality has been waging throughout the world and in your midst in increasing ferocity. You have been going through experiences that will develop your inner strength leading you to competence and skill in the struggle. You have been told that every phase of force and experience that exists in the world of affairs must first pass through the Temple aura in major or minor degree, if it is to be held as a vehicle or a transmitting instrument for cosmic forces of use to the Lodge. All that you have been through is but such an instance and illustration. As you develop strength you aid us in our work on inner planes.

Treachery, cowardice, ambition, jealousy, and lust are seething in the struggle for supremacy over the higher principles, but all of which they will never secure for more than a temporary period. Whatever apparent injustices may seem to occur, the Representatives of the Lodge are overshadowing, guiding and directing plans and events as never before, are putting their hands into the very teeth of the Beast, as it were, to save the innocent and

to deny the emissaries of evil their prey. Your unwavering faith and trust in this process is of vital necessity to us in our work.

You are now demanding more from the realm of Spirit in an effort to gain power over yourselves, but you lose sight of the multiplicity of lower personal qualities to be overcome and have not yet grasped that few of the higher qualities have yet been attained. This may seem to be uncomfortable strife of the worst kind. But as you struggle and gain victory within yourselves, you will see it also indicates victory in attainment far beyond the possibility of conception of even the advanced seers among you at present. You are called upon to have faith and trust that such achievement is coming to pass. The forces already set in motion have acquired such momentum and position in point of progress that nothing can now stay their action. They can only move from greater to greater revelation, though they must travel through areas of darkness and obstruction at intervals.

Keep your eyes therefore on the Light, your consciousness on the vastness and majesty of the work, and your heart and soul on the plan and purpose of the Lodge and its outcomes. Do not allow yourselves to be caught in the entanglement of details, the discouragement of limitations, the depression of opposition, fear, or defeat of any kind whatsoever. Hold yourselves above all uncertain turmoil, unrest, and illusion. Difficult? Yes, but absolutely possible.

So often have I told you that in your own hands you must carry the torch lit from the light of your Father's Life and Love to guide you on your way. He may light it for you, but He cannot carry it. You must do that for yourselves. And you must carry it so high, you must keep it burning with such steadiness, you must march together in such regularity, discipline, and unity with the whole that the lights from the individual torches shall merge, unite as one flame, one brilliant blazing sun and shield, which shall mount and sweep the skies in a Song of Glory that none can fail to see and hear.

The Song of the Avatar is Unity, and where Unity is manifest, there is the Avatar in evidence in one form, degree, or another. Unity

is the Eternal Truth that the Avatar has come to live with you. So why are you anxious and fearful? Do not imagine that your sacrifices pass unnoticed or that the days of miracles have gone by. Over each and every soul there stands a specially appointed Angel to watch the slightest thoughts, words and deeds; and not a single one passes unrecorded. All that is pure is borne to Heaven and transfigured into silvery forms of Light, to return to earth as blessings for all life.

Ah, children, children mine, I work that you might know the joy and wealth of Renunciation, which is Obedience, Unity, Centralization, and Realization of all you hold most dear. Dwell long and earnestly upon it; work hard upon your inmost selves and you shall surely find.

With love and joy unspeakable,  
— Your Father / Brother, Hilarian

Noon    Healing Service, Temple  
2-4pm   Thank You Tea at the Central Home  
7-8pm   Meditation, Temple



Monday, August 3

8-9am    Meditation, Temple  
10am    Dr. Paul Ivey: slide lectures  
          *"Radiance from Halcyon" Around the World*  
          *Music and Theosophy*, Hiawatha Lodge  
Noon    Healing Service, Temple  
7pm    Report of the Temple Officers, Temple

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

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.

In the deepest sense, each of us is a Temple treasurer, responsible for investing our thoughts, words, deeds, and connection to all life, with conscious attention to Temple principles. The spiritual treasures contained in that storehouse must surely include the example, dedication, and ideals of the elders who came before us.

Looking around this room, we see the Temple's historical and spiritual foundation as evidenced in the framed portraits of committed beings who initiated and maintained spiritual lines with the Masters, so the Temple of the People could manifest in this particular place called Halcyon. Our sanctuary is filled to overflowing with the energy of those who labored to establish the Temple organization, who built the Blue Star Memorial Temple, and who shaped the Temple way of life. The walls resonate with the essence of contemplative souls who listened, sang, and prayed, and the creative souls who invented, wrote, designed, and taught. We are seated on these marvelous old oak chairs that have supported generations of folks like you and me, whose hearts and minds continue to be called here to serve Humanity through the Temple work.

On Convention morning when the New Halcyon Men's Choir sang "Warriors of Light," I was awestruck — as I am each year. I wondered how many voices over the years have sung "God is in His Holy Temple" or "The Consecration Hymn" in this space. Each time someone recites the Mantrams, this great heart-shaped building amplifies the power of Love-Will-Wisdom through the dynamics of the sacred geometry and symbolism embedded in the Temple architecture, sending it out as a beacon to hearts everywhere. Decades of Temple voices, including ours, multiplied by innumerable gatherings under this roof, have nurtured the ideal of actively living the Teachings of the Temple.

We stand with all who have committed themselves over

116 Conventions to unified endeavor in service to humanity, practicing the ideals of Brother/Sisterhood under the direction of the Masters. This expression of unity reaches across time and space to seekers everywhere, as well as to the Masters, who are able to elevate that momentum for the greater good.

The Temple Treasury is of little value for the group if we don't take what is held for our use and put it to work in our individual lives. We are advised to reflect each morning and evening on our motives and ideals, and to offer abundant gratitude for the gifts each day brings. Our creative energy, karmic challenges, ignorance, and missteps require examination and review. Each one of us affects every one of us in this organic, communal sphere of life. We grow spiritually through experience and trial, gradually comprehending that consciousness in action transmits our individual expression of the qualities and ideals set forth by the Lodge, thereby transmuting our human effort into unified motive force the Masters use for the benefit of all humanity.

Each Convention week the veil between the seen and the unseen lifts, as we care for and enhance the Temple ideals we have committed to. Our Temple elders gave everything to be here in Halcyon, and it is fitting that we invest this week in enhancing the Temple Treasury, honoring the hands and hearts of our spiritual ancestors, and wholeheartedly affirming our pledges to stand with all who endeavor to realize the presence of the Avatar as a living power in our lives.

— *Marti Fast*

## THE AVATARIC MANTRAM

I WILL ENDEAVOR

TO REALIZE THE PRESENCE OF THE AVATAR

AS A LIVING POWER IN MY LIFE.



## 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.

Since my first report as Temple Scribe, I have been noticing that while the aspirations, hopes and faith of some of us are being realized, those realizations are perceived with painful disappointment by others attached to a different set of ideals. So when you have the appearance of separate systems or groups with opposing aspirations, what happens to the flow of those aspirations, hopes and faith to and from all human hearts and minds?

It was twenty years ago, yesterday, that I sat in on my very first Noon Service. When I look around the Temple walls today, the only difference between then and now is the Green Star portrait which hangs on the wall today. Back then I knew nothing about the Temple and Theosophy, let alone the fact that I would hold the position of Temple Scribe. What still remains striking to me is that of the twelve frames hanging on the Temple walls, only one contains words. And I quote, "Great Unifier! Spirit of Universal Harmony. Love and Wisdom: Bind thou in bonds of Holy Brotherhood, All Temple children."

I'm highlighting the Great Unifier today in contrast to this year's Social Science Topic, "The Power of Love, Will and Wisdom in MY Life," while calling our attention to the very last line of the Noon Service, which we can hear every day, "And may the Holy Trinity of Love, Will and Wisdom be with us now and forevermore. Amen."

I cannot help but wonder why the word "Will" does not appear with the words hanging on the Temple wall. Perhaps there's nothing significant about it at all. On the other hand we're told that there are no accidents. Even more importantly, what does "Will" have to do with our aspirations, hopes and faith and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds? Curiously, the word "Aspiration" appears twice within "The Ten Rules of Discipleship of the 4th Degree of the Great White Lodge.

First in "Morning and evening thou shalt lift the eyes of thy soul toward the Throne of thy God with strong aspiration, gratitude, and devotion; for according to thy desires—thy demands upon the Center of all Being, desires expressed in purity, thanksgiving and unselfishness, shall the supply be vouchsafed thee," and then again in "Behold the Path before thee; a clean life, pure aspiration and unselfish service. Art thou prepared to tread that Path?"

The word "Will" appears three times within *The Rules of Discipleship*," but only in the context of what will happen if the rules are not followed, as in, "Thou shalt obey the laws of Life. The Higher Law will hold thee accountable for the breaking of every lesser law." So in *The Rules of Discipleship* we find the word "will" being utilized in reference to a consequence as opposed to its sacred link between Love and Wisdom, whereas the word "aspiration" seems to be associated with, what I would consider, some rather lofty desires.

While endeavoring to understand the relationship between will and aspiration, the following quote came to mind. "You must never lose sight of one fact. The higher purpose, the aim of all those who are true Templers, 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 other words, "I will endeavor to realize the Presence of the Avatar as a living Power in my life." We need to be intentionally mindful of this Mantram for it to be our highest Aspiration.

That is quite a statement from the Master. How might it be possible that we never lose sight of this one fact? And what about those of us who do not believe this to be a fact or are unable or unwilling to act as if it were? It makes sense to me that Love and Wisdom can bind us in Holy Brotherhood. But how do we experience that state of Love and

Wisdom and how do we get from the kind Love to the kind Wisdom that would sustain a world of Universal Brotherhood Sisterhood?

Every day in the Noon Service, "We pray that the Light of the Logos may shine into the hearts of people everywhere and, in ever increasing volume, may that Logos—the Higher Self—give wise and righteous impulse to the heart consciousness of those in exalted positions who guide the destiny of this planet for the good and welfare of all humanity."

I am praying for our leaders to realize, "There can be no true religion without its scientific basis, and there can be no right system of economics not based on a science that is religious and a religion that is scientific." I believe this to be one of our most important prayers. This prayer inspires me to aspire within my own sphere of influence.

Sound bites continue to have their influence too. Regrettably, the only thing that I've ever found consistent about the news, whether presented as good or as bad, is that it is controversial. I believe this to be just as true for me internally, as I interpret the words and deeds of our leaders; some with encouragement, others with concern. And yet I have the ongoing responsibility to care for my own lot in life and to be respectful of my neighbor's lot. Then there seems to be this ever accelerating blending of systems or groups going on, along with a weakening, yet increasingly more fearful, resistance to this change. Every system or group, be it a cell, a person, a family, a gender, an organization, a race, a religion, a state or a country, is subject to this blending, initiated by ourselves, over centuries of time and now being executed by the Divine Adjusters.

Most importantly is our reaction to this blending, if there is to be a shift towards any kind of healthy sustainable change. Intrastate systems (e.g. my heart, a Moslem or a Jew, Texas or Greece) are grappling with self-responsibility and selfishness as the interstate systems (e.g. my body, Islam or Judaism, the United States or the European Union) struggle for consensus and control. Instinct and the lower self; the physical plane of existence, tends to gravitate towards the intrastate focus of life. This of course would seem to make sense, when observing Mother Nature. Intrastate systems are hardwired to

fiercely defend their borders and to take care of themselves without necessarily any regard for others. In Nature this actually serves a Divine Purpose for those of our fellow creatures that are not conscious of consciousness. Mammon is of little concern to their Golden Rule.

The necessity for an Interstate way of life becomes more apparent as consciousness becomes aware of its existence. It develops the wherewithal to choose its way out of its intrastate position of origin. A change in social status or spiritual awareness may be driven by ambition, aspiration or the will to bring about an end to pain and suffering.

We need to be mindful about how Love and Wisdom are bound by Will. We need to consider where our “willpower to overcome” falls within the spectrum of my will versus Thy Will. If Will is to be thought of as a Universal Force, I would suggest that we think of Aspiration as the Higher Self of Will. As staying connected with one’s Higher Self tends to be a matter of choice, our Aspirations are likely to be a matter of choice. Holding on to our aspirations is what gives our Love and our Wisdom a chance to be bridged by the Law of Balance.

At this very movement who is thinking about blinking their eyes, to prevent them from drying out? Who is thinking about taking their next breath to bring oxygen to their blood? Who is worrying that their heart might stop beating? Hopefully no one. I believe that it is that same Force of Universal Will that keeps our planet rotating as it orbits our sun. It’s the kind of Will that’s a gift we generally take for granted. We may know joy just by being grateful for this.

Ever wonder why there are no little things? There are times when finding the patience to be kind or the motivation to do what’s nearest hand makes moving a mountain seem as easy as pie. Loving our way to Wisdom without diminishing our capacity to Love is our challenge. There will come a day, thanks to our aspirations, hopes and faith, that we will be bound together in the Universal Harmony of Brotherhood Sisterhood by Love and Wisdom and it will become as natural as is our blinking and our breathing.

— Rick London

## **REPORT OF THE INNER GUARD**

Happy Convention to each of you! We are gathered once again to renew our spiritual commitments to the Lodge, to each other and to ourselves. Wow! It's a big commitment.

Living our lives is what we do, moment to moment. What we have is in this very moment. What will we choose in the upcoming year to demonstrate our renewed commitment? Will we choose: Kindness? Thoughtfulness? Patience? Love? A smile? Encouragement? Courtesy? Contemplation? Truth? Hope? Service? Faith? Trust? Will we choose Mindfulness? The Golden Rule? What will we choose in this moment? Tomorrow? Next week? We all know what to do. With practice and loving mindfulness of our own selves, I know we can begin to choose to live with loving mindfulness in our every deed.

I would like to close with a quote from one of my favorite authors, Kahlil Gibran. "I have learned silence from the talkative, tolerance from the intolerant and kindness from the unkind. I should not be ungrateful to those teachers."

Thank you — *Margaret Thyrring*

## **REPORT OF THE OUTER GUARD**

This year the convention theme is "THE POWER OF LOVE, WILL AND WISDOM IN MY LIFE". Wisdom is a good topic for the Outer Guard. Wisdom covers the masculine aspect of the protecting, questing and balancing forces which are the qualities for the position of the Outer Guard. Maybe these features make up Wisdom? Upon researching, I found some very interesting features of Wisdom. Wisdom is the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge and good judgment. Wisdom is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight.

Wisdom is the ability to discriminate between right and wrong and the ability to turn greed into generosity, anger into kindness and ignorance into wisdom. Implementing these qualities may be easy or hard. I feel this is also helpful in trying to live the ten rules of discipleship. I think Wisdom is one of the greatest gifts we can enjoy.

— *Ron Carlson*

## REPORT OF THE WEB MASTER

### Status of the Temple Web Site and Communication

This past year has brought changes in the way I currently view the Temple Web Site. I have watched it from different perspectives and accepted input from outsiders. I have listened to suggestions that would make it more streamlined and bring it up to the standards of the ever-changing electronic world. Change happens and all change is not necessarily good. But in order to stay relevant and keep up with the speed of change going on in the world today, the Temple Web Site must be continually looked at in the perspective of current times and conditions. The web site cannot remain viable if we do nothing to modernize it, a task that I clearly will need more help with. It must be critically viewed and changes made in a timely manner. If this is not done, we run the risk of people lose interest.

This one question I continually ask myself, "Is it filling its purpose and meeting its goals?" When I took on this obligation of being the officer managing the Temple Web Site, I followed the directives of the Guardian in Chief. 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 of 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."(*The Temple Artisan*, August-September-October, 2014).

These directives are a mission statement and were necessary for creating a usable framework by which the success or failure of the project can be measured. Are we meeting the needs of our international audience? And when times of confusion abound and it seems that a project is apt to fall apart, having a mission statement in place is a great tool to bring the project back on course. At this time I do not believe that the mission statement is being met. There are

many things that need to be done that were enthusiastically started but have become dormant. There are a number of ideas that remain as yet unexplored. It is in need of an update and redesign informed by a review of how it is serving the community that it is supposed to reach. The overall look of the web site is good, but could be better. With a redesign it could reach many more people worldwide.

The web site presents an opportunity for people around the world to read about the Temple and contact us with questions and inquiries. People with troubles or hard decisions to make send requests for help from the Temple Center, often facilitated by the web site. We frequently get requests from people globally to have their name placed in the Healing Bowl and to have prayers sent out for their aid and assistance. With the current conditions this is a very vital service to provide for all humanity. More could be done in this direction, but with the amount of work and technical expertise it takes to manage a web site, I believe it will be necessary to have more outside assistance.

One possibility I have explored is to have the Temple Web Site managed by a professional company with the Temple directing the content. This would keep the site modern looking, make use of the latest innovations in technology, make changes at a more rapid pace and provide greater control over content and design. To illustrate, the last Temple Artisan to be put on the web site was April, May, and June of 2013. A long-range project is to have Temple Artisans put on the web site and be searchable for any word or subject. Can you even begin to imagine the value of this as a tool for scholars that need access to information contained within the Artisan?

I cannot predict the future of the web site's use or its value to students in search of truth. I can only stand ready to try and guide and manage the best way that I know how to. I have to trust that the "Master's" hand is in this project and will guide the future of the web site by increasing our commitment and inspiration for the project.

— *Chris Thyrring*



## REPORT OF THE GUARDIAN IN CHIEF

As Guardian in Chief of The Temple of the People my primary assignment is keeping us focused on Love, and Faith and Hope undimmed. When I say "The Temple" I include all members, here at the Center as well as in many other places around the world. Everyone, everywhere has a slightly different view of The Temple and how it operates in their own daily life. No matter where we are geographically, The Temple and the Master's love is the golden cord that binds us together, not to constrict us, but to fill us with assurance and security as we fulfill our side of the partnership.

We are bound to the principles to which we have pledged ourselves, and we are trusted to have the self-responsibility to carry out those principles in our daily living. As Master Hilarion has said, "it is not dramatic deeds that count in time of crisis," but rather "duty well-cared for, distress eased in seclusion, love administered in faith, and compassionate silence that conquers all."



*Guardians.* Photo by Anne R. Dunbar



Yearn as we may to live in isolated, peaceful seclusion, apart from the stress of the physical plane, deep down we know such seclusion is no test of our spiritual strength, and no way to develop new strength which will move us forward. We may try, but we cannot fool ourselves that somehow we have safety and protection from life's trials through our membership in this organization. We are presented with the tools for safety and protection in the Temple Teachings, but we must take them into our spiritual and physical hands and hearts and use them actively. This is called self-responsibility.

Yet we live on the physical plane and are learning to accept gracefully and gratefully the paradoxes of this plane even in the face of pride, conceit, pain, loss, and all the other trials of daily life. Nothing really counts unless our daily, hourly life is based on that deep connection to its spiritual counterpart on the inner planes. The physical plane is the most real classroom designed with all of us in mind. This classroom is where we are learning to live the totality of the Truth in very concrete ways. Such living is not all sweetness and light. It must include both the shine and the shadow, the ups and downs, and all the other polarities one could mention until such time as we have all mastered them together.

We have the constant, complex challenge of living these wonderful teachings, taking these high ideals and transmitting them into our daily lives, and then transmuting our reactions into Light. How can we reconcile the ideals of "Brother/Sisterhood" and "Love Thy Neighbor" with a neighbor who has a noisy dog, or doesn't keep the yard as neat and tidy as we think they should? How can we honor the privilege of living at this radiant Center? How can we reconcile living at this Center with plumbing that doesn't always work, with doors that stick and roofs that leak? How can we help each other if we cling so fiercely to being absolutely independent? Are there any easy answers? There's that Paradox again!

Often I am asked, "How are The Temple and Halcyon getting along?" I am sometimes tempted to answer with, "Well, there's half of a house that needs to be torn down and replaced, there's a water system crawling along through the drought, some people who don't and/or won't even speak to each other, we might spend several

thousand dollars taking care of very old trees, some services in The Temple are very lightly attended, and I often wonder if anyone pays much attention to anything besides this being a great place to live."

Such an answer would be, from one perspective, very true. And yet, from a broader, longer-in-time, much more inclusive view, this answer is not really an adequate answer at all. Being specific, Life here might be best viewed as a very intricately choreographed ballet, each dancer moving in perfect harmony back and forth, in and out of the spotlight, the music sometimes very discordant, sometimes quite melodic, but always fitting the story. Such a story contains periods of rest and activity, of dark and light, of love and hate, of help and hindrance. Each dancer may improvise within a narrow framework, never leaving the plan of the choreographer completely, although the dancer may feel as if he or she has complete freedom.

So passionately do I believe in this pattern of the dance of Life, that when I am asked how are The Temple and Halcyon getting along, I actually say, "We are doing fine! Things seem to be changeless, but are always changing. We all have challenges in our lives, and we are all meeting them to the very best of our abilities." And I know with certainty that the old house will be reincarnated, the water system will serve us yet another day, each tree that needs care will eventually get it, just enough people come to Temple services and classes, and each person is paying all possible attention to their own as well as their neighbor's needs. The physical plane is where we are learning-to-do-by-doing, ever more consciously, however slowly, using the magnificent inner tools we have been given.

Since the founding of The Temple 117 years ago we tend to view those early days as "the" perfect days, with the early members filled with idealism and love, coming here to build a new community closely attuned to the high force of the Masters. However, this is not so, as careful reading of the early Artisans tell us. Twenty years after The Temple came into being, John Varian, having been present from the beginning, wrote that he remembered the first Convention where, "ignorant we were of each other and very dimly knowing why we came. . . great dreams were there of harmony and light, with deep misunderstandings latent behind." He continued by adding

that people came and went, a few were constant to the dreams, but the testing forces searched their powers, and misunderstandings and discord were always there. However, comradeship and love were growing into life, even though the opposing forces of hate, suspicion, and bitter words were always there, ever testing, testing. Paradox, ever paradox. There come brief moments when a silent Peace comes into the group, when we know again our brothers and sisters by our side, and we are filled with words of love, friendship and respect. And then, we are tested again on our strengths, not by some magic bolt of lightning, but by each other and our reactions to each other.

Let me paraphrase John Varian's poem on Balance:

*We who stand between the light and dark,  
And, undismayed, transmit the Light, transmute the dark;  
We who stand in life, who stand in death, in love and tranquil peace;  
Who, meeting sin and pain and purity, light all with love and  
wisdom's sympathy;  
Who, through the horrors in the house of man, are not dismayed, but  
loveth on---  
We are God men and women coming to our own,  
We are a pathway for the Peace,  
We are a roadway for the feet of Christ,  
We are a jewel in the heart of God.*

John ended his talk with: "Years have passed onward full of difference, and Misconception still must have its chair. But each year as we come to Convention, we come more closely, the Peace is deeper and the Love unfolds; and we pass onward stronger in the day and we pass onward deeper in the night. I am remembering back the first meeting; ignorant we were of each other, and very dimly knowing why we came."

Ninety-seven years after this was written, I see that everything is still the same, only the faces are different; the outer circumstances may have changed, but we still stand between the forces of Love and Comradeship, as well as those of Misconception and Misunderstanding, as we endeavor to become "God people coming to our own, pathways for the Peace, roadways for the feet of Christ, jewels in the heart of God."

I see my assignment as Guardian in Chief to always keep these banners before our eyes, mine as well as yours. But I am not telling you what to do. I may only touch, not clutch; lead, not compel you to choose to follow these banners. And if you won't, or don't I still must tend to the banners, tend to The Temple and my appointed task.

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 2015-2016 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 Amber Kastros, Mary Workman, and Heather Herrera.

The entity known as 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 have become, I asked the Temple lawyer if these articles needed any updating. He said no, that they had served us well for 107 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 and houses will need to be replaced, trees will be planted or taken down, the houses will need constant repair, the open spaces we treasure will need mowing, the water system will need our loving attention, the REAL work of The Temple and those of us who make up its body is the challenge of always 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*



*Orchid Blossom.* Photo by A. R. Dunbar

## Tuesday, August 4

- 8-9 am Meditation, Temple  
 10:30 am Social Science Talks, Temple,  
*The Power of Love, Will, and Wisdom in My Life*  
 Noon Healing Service, Temple  
 5:30 pm Temple Study Class, Special Readings, Temple

## Wednesday, August 5

- 8-9 am Meditation, Temple  
 Noon Healing Service, Temple  
 7 pm Bingo Fund Raiser, Hiawatha Lodge

## Thursday, August 6

- 8-9 am Meditation, Temple  
 Noon Healing Service, Temple  
 1 pm Luncheon, Patte Nolen's Garden

## Friday, August 7

- 8-9 am Meditation, Temple  
 10:30 am *A Set of Principles, A Way of Life*, Temple, Special Program  
 presented by Temple Officers  
 Noon Healing Service, Temple  
 5:30 pm Study Class, Temple, Special Readings

## Saturday, August 8

- Noon Healing Service, Temple  
 7 pm Hiawatha Lodge, "Folks Singin' Folk" by the Halcyon  
 Players

## Sunday, August 9

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

**GREETINGS TO THE CONVENTION  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD:  
BERLIN GROUP**

The Temple of the People  
Halcyon California 93421  
USA

*Love must not be called love. Can also be loyalty and duty,*

*Not tear under load. No, that is not love.*

*Love must not be called love. Do not praise moon and stars.*

*Love often goes quietly around. Love only and no longer put questions.*

*Love also may be called suffer. And forgiveness and sacrifice.*

*Have you never experienced all this? No, then it was never love.*

— Luise Fuhrmann

Dear Eleanor,

Dear Temple sisters and brothers, dear friends,

We, your Temple brothers and sisters, send greeting from this  
year's Convention in Berlin.

And out of the heart of our common efforts  
we also want, like our Father, to share with you  
our love, our labor, our sorrows, the cross our human woe and the  
crown of our spiritual joy.

May we together be guided to the one reality,  
to the light and to eternal life.

In joy and gratitude we are full of love.

Your comrades on the path.



## FROM TATIANA MESHKOVA IN ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA:

Dear Temple Brothers, Sisters and Friends from Halcyon, The United States, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Venezuela and all the countries and nations of our Extended Family – Humanity! At this special time, Convention 2015, we greet you from the depths of our hearts.

Each and every one of us, and each in their own way, has been building our Temple of Love, Harmony, Light and Wisdom – a Spiritual Temple with our own individual efforts, not just from beautiful and right words, but rather by our everyday way of life and living.

As Temple Brothers and Sisters we are united by Spirit. No matter how far the distance is between us, and irrespective of the nation or religion to which we may belong, nothing has the power to divide us. Please accept our Love!

## FROM THE LONDON GROUP:

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

We send you our love and our heart offering for this Convention 2015. We will endeavour to be the kindest we can through our interactions in daily life. We will endeavour to learn each and every moment and give of that learning to others. We will endeavour to touch the hearts and minds of everyone we meet with a loving heart. We will endeavour to shed a smile and happiness through ourselves to everything we touch.

In love we join you at Convention time and every moment in life.

Jan Col/Adp  
Shale x  
Helen

SHEILA TARR  
Janine Nigate x x x  
Helen Binions  
Ellie x

James



## CONTENTMENT

Contentment is the approval of the Gods, the mark and sign of Their Presence within him who possesses it; the Torch that lights to heights of Greatness.

Self satisfied is he who would construct his plan without recognition of divine radiance. Brief is the hour of his satisfaction, short is his day. Night closes in, darkness encompasses him, he is seen no longer, not even to himself.

Stagnation comes alike to both if ear be not ever set to catch faintest cry of brother; if hand be not held outstretched to raise that brother out of his distress, to lift him into the light of his own inner life and consciousness. Thus only are the waters of life kept pure, running, active.

Which would ye? Contentment—inauspicious, inconspicuous—or satisfied self in accord with your own choosing and liking?

Well may you ask yourselves, “Are the waters still or moving?” The answer will determine your status, both to yourselves and to the Lodge.

— *From The Mountain Top*, Vol 2, 49



*Central Altar.* Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

## MY SEARCH

I sought throughout the heavens for God, in light of suns and moons, in all the waters of the earth and fires beneath; till spent with toil and search, despairingly I lay me down to rest. I gathered and devoured the knowledge other men in search of God had culled and booked, then turned away distraught.

Everywhere were Witnesses of God, but nowhere could I find that God for whom my soul had sought so long in vain.

The years sped by, my youth was spent, and old and weak and worn I reached the brink of that great mystery which man termed "Death's stream."

Patiently at last, I lay with fast closed eyes awaiting what might come, when lo! my sight was quickened, and I knew that I was seeing God.

Not the God whom I had vainly sought, and even feared; not a lonely figure seated on a throne to judge and sentence erring man; but as the Universe Itself with not a missing star, a blade of grass, a gnat or human form.

And strange and stranger still, I saw as in a glass within my failing human heart, that single Universe unfold, and from its depths another and another without end arose, and then I knew, and marveled that I knew, that I was God, in God, of God. All things, all creatures, were in me and I in them.

— *From The Mountain Top*, Vol. 2, 143



*Windows Four.* Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

## LEARN TO FORGET WISELY

While memory is an inestimable blessing in some respects, it is a curse past telling in others. If forgiveness is one of the essentials of a Godlike life, that quality is impossible of attainment while memory persists in pointing the finger of indebtedness at the one to be forgiven. You have not fully forgiven an offense as long as you willingly retain memory of that offense; if it be against you personally, for every time memory brings a picture of it before your mental eyes—consciously or unconsciously—you begin to draw comparisons, forget your own liability to the same or a like offense and bring the offender before the judgment bar of your own lower nature. Over and over the details of the offense trail through your own mind, adding mental energy to the same, giving more and more life to the mental picture first formed, making it more and more possible for that picture of wrong doing to impress itself on other minds in the same vibration, and so tempt others to the commission of a like offense.

— B.S.

## TEMPLE ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

About Town: Residents are making heroic efforts to conserve water in the face of prolonged drought. It is interesting to see some new (to us) species of plants coming up in the face of such dryness. Mother Nature is always equipped with surprises.

Joyous celebrations have included two weddings: June 20 Sam Nimri married Jerry Williams; and July 8 Bruce Norman married Barbara Ricardo; Congratulations to the happy brides and grooms.

August 22, the community celebrated the first birthday of our youngest resident, Sirena, with a potluck lunch in Hiawatha Lodge.

**Temple Groups** can be found 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 presently showing the inspiring American Indian paintings of Harold Forgostein. 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 Temple on Tuesdays and Fridays. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Speakers in the Sunday Services** were: May 24, Yulia Moiseyeva: *Increasing my Capacity to Love*; June 14, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Spirals, Cycles, and Paradox*; June 21, Barbara Ricardo: *Messages of Inspiration from Joyce Hedin*; July 12, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Bob Stenquist, Memories of Growing up in Halcyon*; July 19, Rick London: *The Role of Conflict in Religion* by Peter Roberts; August 16, Eleanor L. Shumway: *There are Temple Hands*; August 23, Damian Rollison: *Linda Rollison, Forgiveness*.

**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](http://www.templeofthepeople.org)**

***The Temple of the People***

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