

The Temple Artisan

July-August-September 2016

Behold, I give



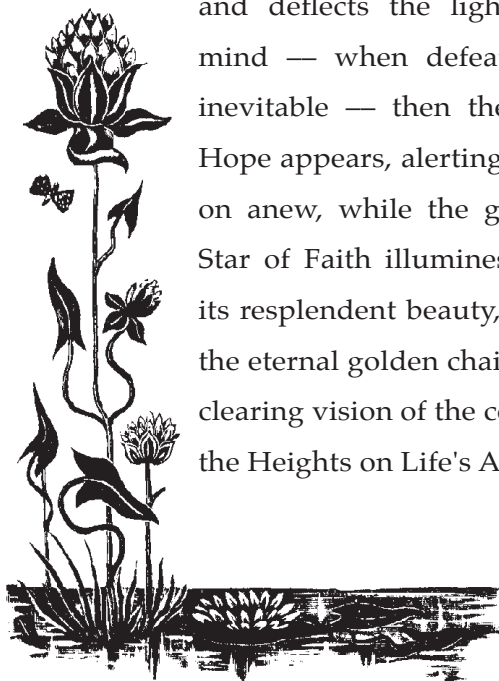
unto thee a key.

THE ASCENDING STAIRWAY

Faith is one glorious step beyond Hope, the measure by which fulfillment is drawn, and the whole sublime structure for both.

When darkness overwhelms the senses and deflects the light of the heart and mind — when defeat of purpose seems inevitable — then the sustaining step of Hope appears, alerting and urging the Soul on anew, while the glorious Light of the Star of Faith illumines the next step with its resplendent beauty, binding the links of the eternal golden chain of Principles to the clearing vision of the courageous climber to the Heights on Life's Ascending Stairway.

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EDITORIAL MIRROR

The theme of Convention this year is “I Have Kept the Faith.” There is no magic place at which we arrive that is the final goal of Faith. Our challenge is that we continually TRY to keep the faith as we see it right now. We don’t always remember that our ability to perceive and understand changes daily as we grow in insight and understanding. Of course we can all point to the defects of our neighbors because they are seemingly easier to see. We sometimes forget our neighbors are but the mirrors into which we look.

So how might we view the statement: “I Have Kept the Faith”? Look deeply within at who you truly are, without rationalization and justification, accepting the shine and the shadow of yourself with gentleness and love. What are the guideposts you have set up that keep you in alignment, to nurture and feed your real self? We cannot do this for another, or ask that anyone else live by our guidelines, but we can share such guidelines and help each other on our life-long journey. This journey is toward self-conscious awareness of our unity with all that is, and includes *every single bit of the manifested universe and beyond.*

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

I WILL ENDEAVOR
TO REALIZE
THE PRESENCE OF THE AVATAR
AS A LIVING POWER
IN MY LIFE.

THE 117TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE

August 6 through August 14, 2016

Saturday, August 6

- Noon Healing Service, Temple
- 2pm Convention Welcome Tea, Gardens of Barbara Norman
- 7pm Convention Informal Opening, Hiawatha Lodge
Presentation of South County Historical Society's
Voices from Halcyon

Sunday, August 7, Temple

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 117th 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 Dhyan Chohans and Dhyan 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 2016 CONVENTION

My Children:

I have given you this message in these same words before. In actual fact, I have given you these ideas, these ideals, these instructions in an unceasing stream since the beginning of the Temple work. Each new disciple must learn to live these

words with responsible, self-conscious focus, and also with love and joy. Each day there must be by each of you a conscious rededication, a conscious recommitment to the Holy Spirit.

So, once again I give you greetings. Once again another yearly cycle, with its record of human aspiration, struggle, gain and loss, lies behind the body of the Temple. Its Soul stands off, serene, unruffled and tireless, and watches its representatives, its constituent parts, its forms, as each of you in turn enters the arena of the great test, to stand or fall, to rise superior to every malefic influence, or to sink for the time being beneath the engulfing waves of the great sea of glass which is the deceptive, illusionary, double mirror of the purgatorial plane, to purge yourself in order that you may win your spurs of strength, courage and endurance.

And that Soul cries out to you, its shadows, again today, as it has in days of yore: "Warriors of Light! Warriors of Truth! I salute you in the name of the Great White Brotherhood! Go forth to battle with the Powers of Darkness, armed with the Sword of the Spirit, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Helmet of Eternal Truth."

Has it ever yet dawned on your outer consciousness, what an inconceivably great honor and privilege the receipt of that salutation bestows upon you, and how much is demanded of you in return for it? Just think for a moment. Honor, Faith, Loyalty, Service, Compassion: all these and infinitely more, for all that may be embraced in the word "Brother/Sisterhood" in its highest sense but feebly indicates the debt of the created to the Creator and Preserver, by Whom and for Whom the Great White Brotherhood of Souls triumphantly voices that salutation through some high Initiate, to every soldier of the Cross of Christ, every enlightened soul nailed to the body of desire, every acknowledged disciple of the Great Master-Soul.

When the responsibility incurred by even the hearing of this salutation comes home to you, and with it the realization of your own present faithlessness, your own cowardice, your own weakness, your own disloyalty to the Higher Self, it would be more than you

could bear, but for the all-embracing pity and compassion bestowed upon you by those who remember that you are still of the dust, and that you must redeem that dust through travail of soul, as they have redeemed the dust of which they were created. For that purpose are you here in bondage to Self. We, who stand and watch with Love, know that you do have the strength to choose redemption.

Has it yet dawned on your mind that you are here, at this point in space, at this or that location on the earth's surface, because nowhere else in the wide universe could you learn the one lesson for the learning of which you entered upon this incarnation? Right here is the answer to every aspiring prayer you have ever uttered, and nowhere else in the universe could those prayers be answered, nowhere else during this cycle could be gathered together the other fragments of yourselves who are essential to the answering of those prayers.

Yet, at times, like the child who cries out when the thorns of the beautiful rose it has seized sink into its hands, you wearily lament when the thorns of life's rosebush press deep into the flesh, and feel that the rose is not worthwhile at such a cost; or that which is still more to be regretted, find yourselves madly declaring that there is no rose, has never been or will be a rose on the bush which the Lord God planted in the midst of your individual garden of life and covered with sharp and poisonous thorns.

Poor tried and tortured fragments of the Temple self! How little have you known of yourselves; yet there is so much to learn, so much that you must steep into your consciousness over the fires of purification ere you can rise superior to the limitations which hold you in duress. Yet, for your comfort be it known that the power to so rise lies within yourselves. We who stand and wait hold wide open the gate of enlightenment as we see you running the great life race. Let me repeat, with emphasis and Love... *for your comfort be it known that the power to so rise lies within yourselves. We who stand and wait hold wide open the gate of enlightenment as we see you running the great life race.*

Lay hold of that power within you, and use it to study yourselves with never-ceasing effort. Never mind about studying the other man, the other woman, for within yourselves are all the secrets of life, and not until you understand the mysteries of your own paradoxical and contradictory qualities can you possibly understand your neighbor or know your God.

With Love, sympathy, encouragement, and never-ending hope. In true devotion, your Father,

— H

Noon Healing Service, Temple

1 pm Salad Bar Luncheon, Hiawatha Lodge

3 pm The Challenge of Discipleship, special readings and discussion, Temple

6-7pm Meditation Service, Temple

7:30pm Campfire and Fellowship, Central Home

Monday, August 8

10am Social Science talks, Temple, The theme for this Convention was inspired by the following message:

I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH

Beats there a heart so callous, so unresponsive as to feel no thrill of courage, no feeling of gratitude that it belongs to the same grade of substance, beats to the same measure as that which enveloped the man and prompted the words of the dying Paul: "I have kept the faith?"

What would be the result if the Higher Self of each one called upon us to make a similar assertion in the hearing of a waiting multitude, after years of such trial as Paul endured for his "faith's sake?"

And what is this faith which Paul once defined as "the substance of things hoped for?"

The answer comes from the heart of all things and wells up

from our own hearts to our lips: "It is the life of our life — the one attribute — the basic principle of all our hopes, fears, longings and possibilities. Without it we were the most forlorn, helpless and hopeless creatures in the wide universe."

When all we have loved, trusted, worked for, prayed for, endured for, leaves us some day in the midst of one of the fiercest storms of trial; when it seems as though the very foundations of the world were giving away and we were plunging into the depth of Hades; out from some inner shrine, some holy place, where God is dwelling in fullness for the time being, there comes a soft whisper to our inner ear, bringing in its wake a wave of hope and courage which stirs some stagnant, long-neglected deep of our nature and sets it into rapidly pulsating motion; and then into our hearts and heads is wafted the message: "Be of good cheer, I have overcome."

Overcome what? and by what? questions the lower mind.

Clear cut and sharp comes the answer: "Overcome the world and all that is in it that is antagonistic to the highest good and overcome it by the power of Faith." Faith sees the first step of the long ladder we must climb, and then glances along the other steps and says to us: "Take that first step and the rest will be easy;" faith that looks into the heavens of a starlit night and says: "Even as the hand of Infinity holds those worlds in equilibrium, as century after century they traverse unending spaces, so will that same hand hold this little world which constitutes my individual self, so I have no occasion to fear. All I need is power to will and work, the Infinite Father will do the rest.

Faith walks by one's side, even if its face be veiled, as we stumble down the dark valley of death and through hells beneath those hells that have quenched the fires of hope, of love, of mercy, of even desire for existence—and says: "Look up, beloved, this is not all of life; take me, use me as a shield against the darts of the devils that haunt this place, and fight thy way out." And, listening to that plea and obeying it, we find the way opening before us; we

find the devils were either powerless to injure us or that they were unsubstantial, transitory, dream figures which melt away before our eyes, as step by step we advance, covered by that shield of Faith.

Aye, Faith is indeed the life of our life, the impulse to every worthy action; the basis of every invention, every scientific discovery, every advance in all fields of life; and more than all else to the longing, soul-starved human being hopeless of ever being understood by or ever gaining a place in the hearts of those it loves and serves, and overcome with a horrible fear of death, and even worse fear of continued life.

What words can picture the return of a lost faith to such an one? Dwelling on all these truths, can we not imagine with what wholesome pride came the words: "I have kept the faith," from the lips of that old, worn-out, dying man; worn out in the service of his fellowmen and the Christ he loved?

Who would not reverently repeat the same words to himself and pray that he too might be able to utter them in a like hour of supreme trial, in the same spirit and with the same power?

The greatest Initiate, the humblest slave may have a right to utter them; and in the utterance the two would be made one in the heart of Infinite Love.

— *From the Mountaintop*, Vol. I

Noon Healing Service, Temple

7pm Report of the Temple Officers, Temple



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

One of the riches in the Temple Treasury that has come into sharper focus since our last Convention is the Temple's history. It is a living history, a legacy of motive and spirit that infuses everything we do, reminding us that we truly are "living stones in the Temple wall." Living stones. Far from being a static flash in the pan, we are integrated into the web of life, ever and always part of the call to be One with God and All Good.

When Francia LaDue was first guided to Halcyon, she was made aware of two great magnetic lines of force that intersect here, and though unseen, many can feel that energy presence—or at least, something unusual that makes this place hum with life. The existence of this intangible force was vital enough for the Master to mention when he directed Blue Star here in 1902 to establish the Temple of the People. I'll bet she felt that hum, too.

We were all visitors here once, and probably sensed the quality of something unique. Magnetic lines of force that intersect all over the planet at important places of worship and meaning are called ley lines. The Master didn't call them that, *per se*, but by whatever name, I can imagine the ones that cross through Halcyon pulsing from this great triangular Temple building. Most of us respond to that pulse every time we set foot into this room.

What drew us here? Maybe we listened for the Temple heartbeat, that intangible yet distinct call Homeward that drew each of us to become Templars. We all have a story about our journeys inward. Aside from the fact that this spot is quiet and beautiful, there is a greater investment that makes the energy so special, and that is vested in the decades of committed souls who gave their everything to be here. Longtime Halcyonites are privileged to have known some of the second and third waves of characters who invested themselves in building "the Temple strong and right."

In terms of living history, Paul Ivey's 2014 book, *Radiance from Halcyon*, gave most of us the first clear look at key characters and obscure threads from early Artisans and other sources that artfully depicted the story of the genesis of the Temple of the People. This Temple year brought three other historical views that reveal more about the soul of this place, reminding us of the faces, words, and work of the Temple ancestors on whose shoulders we stand.

Last month, the Guardian in Chief guided to completion Halcyon's application to become a National Historic District. This complex project describes our community in terms of the founding principles of the Temple, states our reason for being, and tells of the unique care for the land and our buildings. It is the equivalent of an encyclopedia of Halcyon's physical plane history.

A second view was a July presentation by Donald Scott that presented a who's-who list of remarkable innovators whose life's work was affected by the energy of Halcyon. The Varian Brothers, Henry Cowell, Edward Weston, and many others either lived or worked here, and their inventions and artistry changed the course of history or contributed to it culturally. I include in that group the brilliance of our Fourth Guardian in Chief, Harold Forgostein, who was a world class painter. A premise is that those magnetic lines relay higher building forces, amplifying creativity for all.

The third gift of living history came through the reader's theatre presentation of "Voices from Halcyon" that Temple member Jan Scott researched, wrote, and directed, about the founding of the Temple. After each performance at the IOOF Hall, visitors were invited to visit the Temple to experience the geometry of the Temple building, see the pictures of our founders, and learn a little about the philosophy. Information brings understanding, and not only was the public reception warm, but for me as one of the readers, each reading enhanced my appreciation for the constancy of effort that has been invested here.

Our history is indeed rich, deep, and wide, and it holds treasures that enrich our inner lives. What strikes me about

Halcyon's living history is the notion that we can touch it each day. Our homes sit on the very land Blue Star first described in her letters back to Syracuse. We can hike much of the same dirt track that led from here to the Old Halcyon Hotel and Sanitorium and the pottery building. We can step through the doorway of the Open Gate onto the same floors Dr. Dower walked as he conducted rounds. Every time I walk to or from the Temple, I hear Gertrude Tedford's words of the thirties, describing joyful treks up the hill to the "beautiful Blue Star Memorial Temple," and the quiet returns home in the twilight following wintertime Tuesday and Friday study classes.

One of the greatest riches of the Temple Treasury is that our footsteps of today fall into the footsteps of our founders, and that on inner planes, generations of Templars have fallen into step together.

The Temple work is ours to do 365 days a year. May we be as living stones and keep the faith. May we look to our Temple ideals and our vibrant history for strength. May we give thanks for the building forces that flow through this magnetic crossing. May we stand as One with the White Lodge of Masters, living heart to heart with one another. Happy Convention, everyone.

— *Marti Fast*



Voices From Halcyon. 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. Within our individual Higher Selves we all contain, in ever evolving degrees, the Principles of the Outer Guard, the Inner Guard, the Treasurer and the Scribe.

As Temple Scribe, I would suggest that we are all responsible for our aspirations, hopes and faith, and the flow of those to and from all of our neighbor's hearts and minds. So with that in our hearts and minds, how do we go about aspiring to be Warriors of Light and Warriors of Truth?

"Warriors of Light, Warriors of Truth, I salute you In the name of the Great White Brotherhood. Go forth to battle with the Powers of Darkness, Armed with the sword of the Spirit of God, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of Eternal Truth! See to it then that no stain rest on that Armor, No rust on that sword, that ye may become One with Us. On that Great Day, be with Us, be with Us." Again, how does one go about aspiring to be a Warrior of Light, a Warrior of Truth and how can we even know, let alone hope, that we are being faithful to that endeavor?

Do you recall what you wanted to be when you grew up? Do you remember any recommendations from those nurturing your upbringing? Some of us may have thought about becoming a nurse, a teacher, a firefighter, a homemaker, a butcher, a baker or even a candle stick maker. We may have thought about growing up within the context of becoming a good person, a kind person, a caring person and a courageous person.

I confess to you today, that it never crossed my mind, not even once, that when I grew up I wanted to be meek. How about you? Ever cross your mind? For the most part, I've always associated meekness with weakness and if not weakness, perhaps with one's childlike innocence.

In reality we may find a hint about what it means to be a Warrior of Light, a Warrior of Truth from within the Sermon on the Mount. There we may find the essence of "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Being meek may have something to do with the political discourse penetrating most aspects of our lives over the last year or so. Politics is about the multitude of exchanges taking place throughout the human experience that are necessary for humanity to one day realize that there can be no true religion without its scientific basis, and that there can be no right economic system not based on a science that is religious and on a religion that is scientific.

Perhaps what I have been noticing over the recent months is the escalating popularity of incivility, through blaming, name calling and demonizing; as we supposedly debate the various aspects of religion, science and economics, now in contention. It appears to me that those of us in positions of conducting public affairs and who are doing so for private advantage, seem well versed in the kinds of tactics that can breed hate, while preying on the fears of an uncertain future.

It isn't difficult for me to imagine that many of our politicians and their supporters believe themselves to be akin to Warriors of Light and to Warriors of Truth and not akin to being meek. In principle, the original meaning of the meek and by way of example, the swastika, have little resemblance to our perceptions of them today.

Being aware of that and within the context of Sermon on the Mount, I believe, that the meek were those of us who were willing to submit to the will of God, as in, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

By today's standards it is not very difficult to see how one who submits to an authority we're not in agreement with could be thought of as weak or even a fool. That may be because, obedience to an Authority believed to be Sacred, is truly in the Eyes of the

beholder. Back in the day of Moses, I can imagine those of us who lived by the Ten Commandments were thought of as meek. In my mind, they were submitting to an Authority many others didn't understand. They were submitting to a strategy for living in civility. They were akin to Warriors of Light and to Warriors of Truth. They were being Meek.

Today, in the minds of most people there is much controversy over the kind of Authority that is worthy of one's submission. Authority comes in all colors, shapes and sizes. Some help a few, while others help many. My life experiences have led me to become partial to the "Ten Rules of Discipleship of the 4th Degree of the Great White Lodge." I hold them as an Authority worthy of my aspirations to learn and practice as a way of life. Submit to them if you will:

GOD is LOVE, and LOVE is the fundamental source of being. Therefore if thou sin against LOVE, that sin is against GOD.

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind, and thy neighbor as thyself. This is the highest law.

2. Thou shalt obey the laws of Life. The Higher Law will hold thee accountable for the breaking of every lesser law.

You know, I think I'll stop here. For when we realize that in merely breaking the 1st Rule of Discipleship we may no longer be a Warrior of Light nor a Warrior of Truth nor even Meek, we may gain a better understanding of what it truly means to be "Armed with the sword of the Spirit of God, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of Eternal Truth!"

From Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya, Oh Lord, Kumbaya to "Kept the Faith" my Lord, "Kept the Faith," Oh Lord, "Kept the Faith," may we all grow up to be Warriors of Light, Warriors of Truth.

— *Rick London*

REPORT OF THE INNER GUARD

Warm greetings and a heartfelt welcome to all. We have asked for and been given a task for this lifetime. On the surface, it appears very simple: to follow the Golden Rule. That is, to do unto others as we would have done unto us. The following thoughts could be a few guidelines to consider. We will consider both the macrocosm and the microcosm.

Speaking to the macrocosm we can ask:

Where has the Golden Rule led us in the previous year?

Where will it lead us in the year to come?

Did we treat all we met with loving compassion?

Are we willing to do the same in the coming year?

Did we sweep hateful thoughts, words and deeds out of our minds, hearts and mouths?

Will we strive to banish mean and hateful thoughts, words and deeds from our minds, hearts and mouths in the coming year?

What have we done in the previous year to improve the physical environment around us, be it our own houses and yards or outside our immediate world?

What will we do in the coming year?

What did we do, during the previous year, to improve the lives of our family, neighbors, Temple brothers and sisters, and all those we have encountered?

Did we take time AND heart force to listen and HEAR those around us?

Will we take the time or make the effort to use our heart force to assist those around us?

Continuing this line of thinking with the microcosm, right here in our Town of Halcyon:

Did we attend meetings, study classes and services?

Did we arrive in a timely manner to not disturb those already in attendance?

Will we attend meetings, study classes and services in the coming year?

Is it not a part of our task to participate in the Building of the Temple?

Will we make the effort in the coming year to be more conscious of others around us?

Will we continue (or begin to) focus on our task: pledges, promises and aspirations?

Will these pledges, promises and aspirations take precedence over everything else that fills so much of our lives?

If we take the time and heart force to assimilate the meaning in our own lives, could these questions be the beginning of a path for each of us to continue Keeping the Faith?

— *Margaret Thyrring*

REPORT OF THE OUTER GUARD

The Outer Guard represents the masculine, protecting, questing, and balancing forces. Questing and maybe a little protecting will be my subject.

Faith is the theme of this convention. The Temple teaches that Faith is one of the twelve principles that govern the universe, and that we are to abide by the Golden Rule. Each thought, word, and deed — as guided by the Golden Rule — helps us to expand consciousness on all planes of existence.

Besides the three volumes of the Teachings of the Temple, the Temple brochures are a good source for our inquisitive minds to easily locate key elements in our philosophy. For me, the pamphlet called “Reincarnation” is one of the most helpful. It explains the purpose of reincarnation, which is a balancing force that gives us the opportunity to change negative actions and effects back to their original positive and sacred purpose.

Living the Golden Rule helps our spiritual questing and growth, and offers its own kind of protection by helping us to live in harmony with all creation. We do this with Faith.

— *Ron Carlson*

REPORT OF THE TEMPLE WEB MANAGER

This position, when initiated, by the Guardian in Chief (GinC) was called a position of Webmaster. In those days the title had relevance because the person that created a website was the one that did the creative endeavors and maintained its integrity. As the Internet grew at unbelievable speeds and the producing of website material greatly changed so did the meaning of the person that designed and maintained the site. Usually a designer creates and maintains many sites for different people and companies.

After last year's convention in 2015 I discussed the changing roles of this position with the GinC. We talked about the Temple website as it presently stands and talked about the possibilities of changing it to meet the needs of today's demands. From that discussion I reached out to other people that are more current in the designing of websites for individuals and businesses. I discovered that although the Temple website was doing a pretty good job, it was, by today's standards considered out dated and would serve our needs better if it were updated. Not to change its content but to make it easier to access by anyone searching on the Internet.

It was recommended to do layouts differently to allow people to move freely within the website. Those searching want to be able to find things in an extremely short time otherwise they go on to other things, ideas and links. So we talked about how if we should change the layout and if we did how would we go about making the change. It was decided that we would just leave the current set up as is and just wait. Nothing more has been done and the website remains as it has for several years.

As well as the website needing a change, the title of Webmaster also needed to be changed. The GinC left me to make a change and I came up with a descriptive title that aligns more with what I do in relation to the site and the other tasks that go along with this

position. I settled on Web Manager, because I manage the site, correspond with people around the country, answer questions posed through the website and pass on requests to come to Halcyon to visit or do research in our library. I also arrange for book orders to be processed that come in via the website as well as meet with scholars and writers along with the GinC.

Every question, comment, and request gets forwarded to the GinC, and we discuss how and who best can handle them. Often requests come directly to the Temple office either by phone or mail and the GinC asks me to contact the people and find out exactly what their request is. Some requests are quite simple and others are more complex.

Through the website another service is provided, especially for people who live a distance from the center. For the Friday study classes Andrew Smirnoff sends out a current Friday study class lesson, with several suggested questions. These questions are only for the recipients to align with the class and are not sent to the Center for review as we ask that no answers be sent back. This was started because several Temple members living away from the Center were asking for a way to connect in an inner way with those members here studying each week. It is harder to keep up with the lessons when someone lives alone and far away. Response has been very good and many people have expressed gratitude to receive lessons this way.

Yesterday I received a memory stick from Alexi Alexander with PDFs of the Temple Artisan from 1902 to 1912. He has individually scanned each and every page and put them in a "searchable" PDF format. We hope to soon have these added to the Temple website. This is a project Alexi took on voluntarily and has worked steadily and diligently in this endeavor. I am very grateful for his hard work. This is an ongoing project and anyone with the ability to make a searchable PDF and would like to help is welcome to contact me.

The Temple website meets many needs of the Temple work.

Could it do more? Yes. However, until the correct direction is made clear, we will continue to do what is needed: that is, what is right in front of us each and every day with an eye to the future and always trying to be aware of current changes in communication methods.

I invite anyone that has a suggestion or question to contact me through the Temple website. I will be glad to discuss any thoughts you may have.

— *Chris R. Thyrring*

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.

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REPORT OF THE GUARDIAN IN CHIEF

As impossible as it seems, this is the twenty-seventh time I have stood here reporting to you as Guardian in Chief. Using some of the words from past reports, I can assure you that this is a personal report from Eleanor who functions the point of Guardian in Chief. Gaining faith and trust in that creative flow has been for me a slow process. I often hear the voice of my mother who frequently said, "True growth is slow growth." She usually said that at a time when I wanted to power ahead. Yet, over the years I have discovered it takes discipline, practice, and small, careful steps to gain that true growth. It has taken learning from my mistakes; it has taken courage to make the correlations, and then courage to make changes in my own actions. Yes, it's easy enough to say, "Let go and let God," but this can be difficult to do. William Quan Judge once said "Let time and patience do their perfect work," and I have clung to those words as I strive to put them into practice.

Too often we glibly say, "Have faith in the Master's guidance." Of course, we know His guidance never ceases, and never falters as we on occasion cease and falter. Perhaps the ability to put faith into action in the inner recesses of one's heart is easier in the stillness, but I have found the real test of faith in His guidance comes in the heat of anger, hatred, disillusionment, jealousy, passion, discouragement, and sorrow. (Oh yes, I have experienced ALL of these!) These qualities are the testing side of love, compassion, hope, tolerance, aspiration, tranquility, and joy. I am finding that the process of building the bridge between the human and the divine is slow and daunting, largely because I am apt to leap ahead with my mind, oftentimes leaving emotion and spirit behind.

Learning to surrender, little by little to the Master's guidance is necessary for gaining the strength and acceptance needed to meet life's daily challenges. The Master's letter to Blue Star in the early days of the work continues to guide me over many a rough

spot. To paraphrase his words: Dear One, this seven-fold world is far too heavy for you to hold all by yourself. It isn't going to disintegrate into nothingness if you sit quietly for a moment. Besides, my dear, you cannot carry the thing by yourself even if you wanted to. Everyone in turn has to help assume the burden.

So, rest awhile and if you look quietly, you will see the Father's hand reaching out to help you. "God's great completeness flows around our uncompleted parts as flows the deep wide ocean round the rocks scattered in wild profusion in its wondrous depths, silent save for Nature's undertone. And so my Child, sit thee still and let the waters pass o'er thee and bring thee Patience, Faith and Power with which this whole wide world to bless. For one is truly wondrous wise, a Master midst all My sons and daughters, who knoweth how and when to wait." This is a wonderful expression of comfort, of understanding and of love. It is our responsibility to listen and then put what we hear into daily, hourly practice.

In reading over my report from last year, I have thought how so little seems to have changed and yet interiorly how so very much has changed. The basic principles are still here, still needing our constant attention. Yearn as we may to live in isolated, peaceful seclusion, apart from the stress of the physical plane, deep down inside we know such seclusion will in no way test our spiritual strength, and will in no way help us to develop new strength that will move us forward. We may often try, but we cannot really fool ourselves into believing 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. We keep having our noses rubbed in that word self-responsibility.

Yet we are living 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 a very real classroom beautifully 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 always 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 mastered them together. This way and only in this way will we truly know the Unity of All Life. This was true last year. It is true this year, and it will be true in the years to come!!

During this past year, Karen and I have continued to refine our application to be designated a National Historic District. A helpful California State Historian has been working closely with us to craft our application into its best form. Paul Ivey from Tucson came for a weekend to help write the narrative statement of significance that is required. Then Patte edited the application again and Marti put it into final form on the computer with all the maps, drawings, footnotes, photographs, and histories of all the buildings. It was submitted on July 26, 2016. Not only do such unique places as Halcyon need to be included in national, state and local history, but such designation will help to protect our uniqueness. This is not a matter of preoccupation with our history, but a focus on where we have come from thereby shaping where we are going. It is an exciting time to be crafting such an application.

I still see my assignment as Guardian in Chief to always keep the Temple teachings 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 teachings. And if you won't, or don't, I still must tend to the teachings, 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 Manager 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 Manager 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 2016-17 Temple year will be Inner Guard Margaret Thyrring; Outer Guard Ron Carlson; Treasurer Marti Fast; Scribe Rick London; and Web Manager Chris Thyrring; Delegates at Large will be Antonina Alexander, Janine Wingate, and Elena Solopova.

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 have served us well for over one hundred years, and are 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 continues. Although roofs and houses still need to be replaced, trees still need to be planted or taken down, the houses still need constant repair, the open spaces we treasure still need mowing, the water system still needs 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 practice, every minute, every day, in every thought, word, and deed. We are up to this challenge like it or not, or we would not be here.

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief



Century Plant. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

Tuesday, August 9

- Noon Healing Service, Temple
5:30pm Temple Study Class, Special Readings

Wednesday, August 10

- 9am Field Trip to Avila Barn
Noon Healing Service, Temple
2-4 pm *These Leo Days Tea Party*,
 1656 Dower, hosted by Patte and Marti

Thursday, August 11

- 6:30-9am Breakfast of Champions, Hiawatha Lodge,
 Marla and crew
Noon Healing Service, Temple

Friday, August 12

- Noon Healing Service, Temple
5:30pm Temple Study Class, Special Readings

Saturday, August 13

- Noon Healing Service, Temple
1pm Picnic Lunch, Hiawatha Lodge
2pm (CPR)², Hiawatha Lodge
 Presentation by Rick London

Sunday, August 10

- 10:30am *About the Children of the Temple*, Temple
Noon Healing Service, Temple
2:30pm Sundae Surprise Party, Hiawatha Lodge, hosted by
 Karen and Will White
7pm Convention Benediction Service, Temple

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.



Concentration 117 Temple Family. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

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 9:30-11:30am on Tuesdays. Other hours are by appointment through the Temple office.

The University Center Gallery is now 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: July 10, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Convention 2016*; July 17, Donald Scott: *God Bless the Grass That Grows Through The Cracks, The Halcyon-Oceano Enlightenment: Its Forgotten Story, Its causes, and Its role in Mars Exploration*; July 24, Yulyia Moiseyeva: reading Jean Doty's *Halcyon Children*; August 21, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Voice of the Silence*.

The Temple of the People

PO Box 7100 • Halcyon, California 93421-7100

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

www.templeofthepeople.org