

The Temple Artisan

July-August-September 2017

Behold, I give



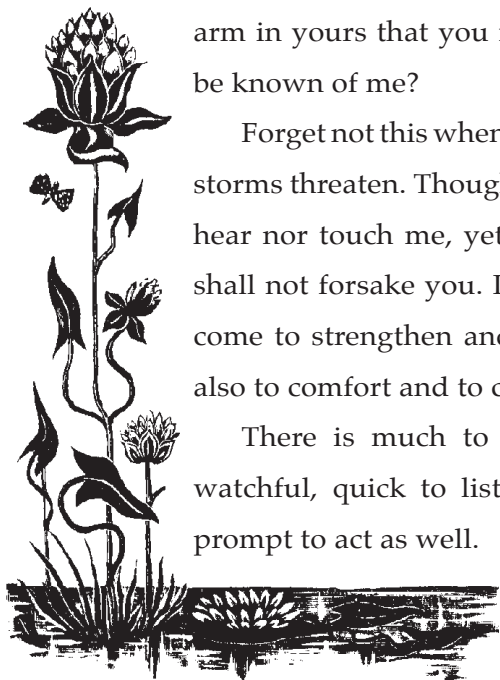
unto thee a key.

TRUST

I am here close beside you. Do you not recognize me? Doubt not my love. Do not question my fidelity. I have tried to prove them both to you. Do you not recall how I have linked my arm in yours that you might know me and be known of me?

Forget not this when clouds would settle, storms threaten. Though you see me not nor hear nor touch me, yet am I with you and shall not forsake you. Is not that enough? I come to strengthen and encourage. I come also to comfort and to counsel.

There is much to be inaugurated. Be watchful, quick to listen and to heed. Be prompt to act as well.



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EDITORIAL MIRROR

The forces of Faith, Trust, and Gratitude worked their “magic” as we met together in convention for the 118th time. From north and south in California, from Chicago, and from Canada came members and friends to join us in celebrations of the indwelling spirit of human beings everywhere. Friends new and old focused on ways to foster brother/sisterhood in everyday life, thereby spreading unity wherever we find ourselves. Inspiring talks, delicious food, and relaxed, spontaneous gatherings all demonstrated in a very real way the power of faith, trust, and gratitude.

Heartfelt greetings poured in from around the world, including Hannah Schmidt from Luneburg, Germany; the Moscow Temple group; Donna Blum from Gig Harbor, Washington; Nina Zaltzman speaking for the Society of Living Ethics in Israel; Gvido Trepsa from the Roerich Museum in New York City; Manfred Gronau from Hamburg, Germany; Patricia Grills from Kirkfield, Canada; the Temple group from St. Petersburg, Russia; Aleksei Bondorenko at the Roerich Museum-Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia; the Temple group in London, England; and the German Temple group gathering in Berlin, Germany.

As we meet together each August, we create a magnetic matrix through which the Masters pour their force for the health and safety of the whole world. How we use this force, not only during these days but every day in every way, determines the effectiveness of our work. It is the responsibility of each one of us to carefully and consciously absorb the energies given to us at this time, and then, in turn, give that energy conscious expression in our daily lives. Every thought, word, and deed becomes charged with Divine Love just to the extent that we are a conscious part of this sacred process. By so doing, we in turn are nurtured as well.

We have faith in our ability to share this power, trust in the Master’s guidance, and gratitude for the opportunity to practice the things we believe in so passionately.

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief

THE 118TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE

August 5 through August 13, 2017

Saturday, August 5

8-10am Continental Breakfast with Karen White,
Hiawatha Lodge Kitchen

10:30am Informal Opening of Convention, Temple

I warmly welcome everyone to this informal opening of the 118th Convention of the Temple of the People. Halcyon is a symbol of *home*, our spiritual home in the Temple, and at this time of year we focus on the act of coming home, be it physically or spiritually traveling to our center. Many of you have physically come to Halcyon to partake of the group gathering of Temple family members. Others about the world are focused interiorly and are with us now on the inner planes.

One of the earliest traditions of Temple Convention speaks of this gathering together, through the words of Hiawatha. We will open with the timeless message of harmony and peace entitled, *In the Lodge of the Red Star*:

In the Lodge of the Red Star we have met and renewed our allegiance to the Tribes, to the Warrior Forces of the Universal Chief of Life. His war lance is the flaming sun. His Peace Pipe is the silvery moon. His lance has points as many as the sands of the sea, and no one can escape them. When the Great Chief lights his pipe at night and passes it to his brothers, the Star Men, great rings and wreaths of light glow in the sky. This is the voiceless Chant of Peace that bears to the Great Spirit the message that all is well with his world children. And the Great Spirit lights another star with love; another soul glows with the fires of hope and faith in the Master Chief, whose songs of life and sweetness fill the cabins of the tribes.

—Hiawatha

The Temple has been the spiritual home for hundreds of people over the years since its founding in 1898. In the early days of limited transport, visitors traveled here physically at great expense of time and effort. The Temple family grew, primarily through correspondence by mail, newspaper articles, and *The Temple Artisan*. The Great Depression and World War II brought a period of quiescence and waiting, of holding still with inner strength until the time was right to grow again.

That holding energy was released in a round of publishing during the early 1980s, a major impulse that included two further hardcover volumes of *Teachings of the Temple*, and two of *From the Mountain Top*, *Theogenesis*, and *Temple Messages*. Access to Temple philosophy expanded as the internet allowed new presence through the Temple's website. The teachings have steadily gathered momentum in their reach around the world, and more visitors than ever before have made the journey here to this Temple home for Conventions, as well as other times through the year.

The Masters extend their touch in mysterious ways to unfold and expand this work. One of the most creative examples I can recall is the story about the beginning of the Temple group in London. In the early 1980s, a seeker and seer named Sid Lazarus had formed a group that met regularly to talk of spiritual matters. One day Sid's bookseller friend showed him a used Volume One of the *Teachings of the Temple* and suggested he might be interested. He took it back to the group, and they shifted their studies, requesting books along with membership papers. This one bookseller was the link that led to the formation of the first major Temple group established in Europe since the longstanding German section was started in the 1920s. The many ways our books have circled the globe is anyone's guess, but what I know to be true is that all is under the direct supervision of Master Hilarion. The advent of computers, email, and websites has brought the process to warp speed, and more people than ever are finding their way to the Temple Teachings.

In 1982, Ken Keyes, Jr., wrote about the process of ideas gaining ground, an idea parallel to the idea of Jung's collective unconscious: "When a certain critical number achieves an awareness, this new

awareness may be communicated from mind to mind. . . . When only a limited number of people know of a new way it may remain the consciousness property of these people. But there is a point at which if only one more person tunes into a new awareness, a field is strengthened so that this awareness reaches almost everyone. Individuals can communicate private information to each other even though located in different places. The strength of this extrasensory communication can be amplified to a powerfully effective level when the consciousness of the ‘hundredth person’ is added.” Perhaps this is a reflection of the unseen ways that interest in the Temple is expanding, perhaps beyond the imaginings of even the Temple founders.

I could say this has been an exciting year in terms of Temple growth on inner and outer planes, but it is more accurate for me to say that about *every single day*. I believe humanity is being asked to take steps forward on all planes, and what we are seeing out in the world in terms of turmoil, unrest, and stress are the testing forces in action, forcing us to take a deeper look at our own responsibilities. Krishnamurti observed: “In oneself lies the whole world, and if you know how to look and learn, then the door is there and the key is in your hand. Nobody on earth can give you either that key or the door to open, except yourself.” As we look around this room we see others who, like ourselves, have chosen to work consciously for Unity among all peoples. We are making these choices every minute of every day as we assume responsibility for ourselves. As we do this, we create a positive ripple effect around us, thereby affecting all others. In no other way can nurturing peace for all humanity be achieved.

This peace includes accepting differences of opinion, differences in the way we do things, differences in cultural backgrounds, while uniting together to work out those differences for mutual benefit. This takes recognition of the Divine in each other, regardless of our surface differences — not an easy task when so many people become frantic and disoriented in the face of change or new ways of thinking. Master Hilarion stated very clearly that our inability to see and accept there is more than one right way to do things stands in the way of our progress toward the goal of Unity.

Much of today's media is so focused on what is wrong with the people of the world that there is little attention spent covering the countless individuals and groups that quietly go about bringing light into their corners of the world. Put simply, each of us must choose to be the change we want to see in the world today. Do we focus on what is wrong with the other person's looks, actions, or perceived moods, OR do we smile as we look directly at them, do we say "hello" and mean it, do we give a helping hand and offer any of the countless small courtesies of everyday life? Here in the Temple, the Masters emphasize that there are no little things. We may smile whenever the phrase "there are no little things" comes up in class or conversation, but the test is in how we transfer that knowing smile into action as absolutely everything we do or say is important. The question is this: How do we transform our ideals into actions? However quiet, wordless, or small, there are as many ways of expressing Love and Unity as there are people on this planet . . . about 8 billion ways!

As we settle into our spiritual home this morning and begin another Convention, let us remember our connection to Templars all over the world who are with us in spirit, as we are with them. May we remember those who came before us who are with us on inner planes. May we use this time well, deepening our bonds, opening our hearts, and setting our sights on the work ahead.

— *Eleanor L. Shumway*
Guardian in Chief



- Noon Healing Service, Temple
- 12:45pm Luncheon, University Center
- 2:30pm Keynote Presentation, Marti Fast, *"Sacred Geometry and the Square Diagram,"* University Center
- 7:30pm Campfire with the Dunbars, Central Home

Sunday, August 6

- 8-10am Continental Breakfast with Karen White, Hiawatha Lodge Kitchen
- 10:30am The Formal Opening of Convention and Feast of Fulfillment, Temple

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 118th 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 Dhyanis 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 2017 CONVENTION

To my Beloved Children:

We meet again in Convention, as we have met for one hundred eighteen years as you count time on the physical plane. I have given you a special Convention message for the past one hundred six years. What have you done with these messages? How have you used them?

The love and power of the Great White Lodge surrounds you now as always. We cannot force it upon you. It is there for you to use. All you must do is simply ask, and ask each and every day for the Guidance and Love needed for that day. The choice is yours.

As you labor to manifest all the guidance We have given you since the work began, I would encourage and strengthen your efforts. The completed plan of the now rising Temple of Humanity is graven within the heart of every mason and apprentice. Every stone, or disciple of that Temple, must be laid according to that Divine plan or the whole edifice will be out of alignment. Each of you must be fashioned by the chisel of the Spiritual Will and must be placed with precision in the structure. As Master Mason, it is my duty to observe what manner of work enters into the construction of the Temple, what the character of the building material, what the consistency of the mortar. Each of you has your own individual part in both the material and the mortar of the Divine Edifice. You must choose purity and careful alignment with the plan.

I am asking yet again that each of you make a careful self-examination of your own personality, searching for flaws in the stone of your being, and verifying your choice of material. Then, using Divine Principles based on your intuitional insight, you must strive to overcome all matters inside yourselves needing adjustment.

I have told you since the beginning that your Higher Selves demand honest clear-eyed answers to these questions:

Just what is the nature of the material you have built into the Temple of the People and the Temple of Humanity throughout each and every day? Does it partake of the nature of Wisdom, Justice, Generosity, Charity, or of Ignorance, Injustice, Niggardliness and Hypocrisy?

I now require that you ask yourselves these questions today and every day, and to unflinching answer them today and every day. Then, with growing Faith, Trust, and Gratitude begin to fill

in the missing pieces in yourselves that will ensure the building of a strong edifice. Will it be Wisdom, Justice, Generosity, and Charity, or Ignorance, Injustice, Niggardliness and Hypocrisy? The choice is yours.

In closing, remember that you are a part of me, and with my blessing I give myself to you and we are drawn thus closer and closer together in the Great Work for humanity.

In tender gentleness,
Your Father-Brother, Hilarion

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| Noon | Healing Service, Temple |
| 12:45pm | Luncheon, University Center |
| 2:30pm | Social Science talks, Temple, theme <i>"How Faith and Trust lead to Gratitude"</i> |
| 6-7pm | Meditation Service, Temple |

Monday, August 7

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| Noon | Healing Service, Temple |
| 7pm | Reports of the Temple Officers and Guardian in Chief, Temple |

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

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.

The Temple treasury is a symbolic storehouse for the ideals that guide us, the purpose for being here, and tools for the journey. The majority of Temple work is *invisible*, yet everyday actions and words are physical plane evidence of our alignment with the higher purpose to which we have committed our hearts.

Early this summer, the Guardian in Chief asked me to freshen up the explanation of the Square Diagram for use in Temple study groups. It seemed like a straightforward project: some edits, a small diagram, clean page design, and done! It soon dawned on me that this simple “project” was more like a Master’s thesis (pun intended). As I dove into the elements of sacred geometry and archetypal themes, gems of meaning and connection to the Temple work showed themselves, in a fitting correspondence to the light and promise held within the Temple treasury.

Like any representation of spiritual truth, the energy in the Square Diagram extends far beyond the lines and colors on the two-dimensional printed page. It illustrates the intentional creation of sacred space: an empty womb or vessel ready to give birth to light, consciousness, and awareness — an opening that can be created in the wake of a destructive winter, in illness and loss, in the restructuring of old foundations, perhaps in a new form for our traditional Convention gathering.

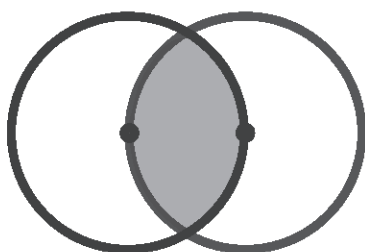
In sacred geometry, the representation of sacred space comes about by using a compass to draw two overlapping circles. After the first is drawn, a second of the same radius is made with its center point on the circumference of the first. Their overlap creates the almond shape of the *Vesica Piscis*, the symbolic womb which cradles the template for the Square Diagram used in study classes.

If we take this process a step further and scribe a third circle with its center point at one of the intersections of the *Vesica Piscis*, a trinity of interlocking disks creates four new shapes within, for a total of seven shapes. At the center is a rounded equilateral triangle, whose convex sides make up the underlying structure suggested by Dr. Dower to architect Theodore J. Eisen, for the plan of the Blue Star Memorial Temple. Referred to as a Reuleaux (pronounce roo-low) triangle it is through this trinity that the heart of the Temple sanctuary is revealed.

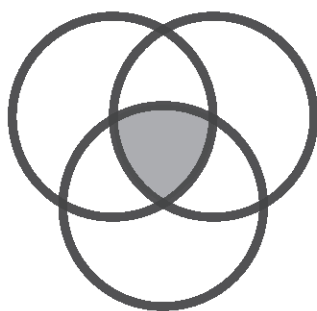
On both the physical and the spiritual planes, correspondences act as portals into other realms that are visible to our hearts and minds when we seek them. Symbolically, this sacred space in which we gather is the container of the divine that corresponds to the center point, or heart, in all things and creatures: the center that connects *all* life to itself.

Spiritual treasure is a gift revealed through conscious recognition of deeper patterns, achieved through understanding the underlying order of the universe. Wherever we are planted in the world, when we create the conditions for the birth of consciousness, this treasury of wisdom manifests within our hearts.

— Marti Fast



Vesica Piscis



Reuleaux Triangle

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.

Symbolically or not, to me this responsibility seems a little daunting. By various estimates there are some 360,000 babies being brought into our world each day, while simultaneously some 152,000 loved ones are passing on. This coming and going continues to expand as our world population has nearly octupled since the formation of the Theosophical Society. Plainly speaking, we're talking about the responsibility to the record of humanity's aspirations, hopes, and faith, and the flow of these to and from some eight billion individual human hearts and minds.

With an aim towards enhancing my own understanding, perhaps a parsing to some extent may prove useful. According to *A Guide to Buddhism A to Z*, "Aspiration is a form of desire tempered by thoughtfulness, integrity, and a self-interest that takes into account the interests of others too. While ambition is focused totally on the goal, aspiration never loses sight of either the goal or the means used to attain it. Aspiration allows us to 'breathe freely' after we have achieved our goal, because we know we have done it without compromising our values or disadvantaging others. Aspiration also understands that, while mundane goals may be useful in this life, spiritual goals benefit us in both this and the next life and will eventually lead to the state of complete fulfillment where we no longer strive for any goal, i.e., nirvana. The Buddha said one should 'put forth his whole desire, exert himself, make a strong effort, apply his mind and resolve' to attain such goals. And when he said that one practicing Dharma should be 'moderate in his desires,' he meant we should aspire towards worthwhile goals without allowing our aspiration to degenerate into ambition."

According to Wikipedia, "Hope is an optimistic attitude of

mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes related to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large." And according to the Oxford dictionaries, "Faith is a complete trust or confidence in someone or something or a strong belief in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof."

These definitions strike me as being rather lofty and that any one human being with aspirations, hopes, and faith along these lines will have them flowing to and from their hearts in harmony with their minds, rather than having mere intellect leading their way.

As in times past, 2017 finds humanity experiencing a cycle of uncertainty and trying times, only to be exacerbated by the exponentially increasing numbers of our kind.

Mounting controversies and polarizations revolve around strategies for stabilizing theological differences, immigration and refugee struggles, health care inequities, climate change disputes, trade and budget imbalances, crumbling infrastructures, and more; all tend to attract our attention. As such, our aspirations, hopes, and faith focus more on the treatment of the effects of these challenges, rather than curing what causes them to exist in the first place.

While this may come across as a little depressing, the fact is that humanity has created an opportunity for learning. No matter one's capacity to evolve consciousness, most creatures have the ability to adapt and learn from their mistakes.

Humanity is slowly coming to grips with the Temple Foundation Stones: that a true religion needs a scientific basis, and a right economic system needs a foundation in a science that is religious and a religion that is scientific. All of life's testing forces and initiations are about finding our way to this realization and owning it.

Those whose ambitions of being great may believe that the

ends justify the means, while those whose aspirations are to be their best may know that the means justify the ends. When it comes to our aspirations, hopes, and faith, we need to trust that ultimately the means will always justify the ends. In the end, it is our trust that is pivotal; it is trust that is the linchpin between our faith and gratitude.

The faith we have in what we trust to be true seems to be a reflection of the group where we enjoy the most affinity and kinship. The group where there is safety, comfort, validation, and the means to maintaining the perceptions and worldview feed our sense of gratitude.

We live in a cycle when winning, even at the expense of the truth, is okay. This isn't anything new, but what is new is the evolving technological means to communicate on a global scale, which seems to give the adversaries of Truth an advantage. The commercial success of negative aspects of life seems responsible for duping the positive.

For those whose bottom line is winning at any cost, propaganda or spinning can be more effective than honesty. No matter one's affiliation, there is enough hoodwinking for distrust to abound. When a desire for winning overshadows the truth, we are back in the jungle where our various creeds battle for dominance, if not for survival; thus the use of herding the multitudes with doubt and fear.

The good news is that the bliss of ignorance seems to be waning. The use of mesmerizing tactics by the creeds of selfishness and greed are losing their grip on the aspirations, hopes and faith of humanity. The pulse of the Cosmic Heart is rising. More of us aspire to the bonds of holy Brother-Sisterhood. In the end, it will be many a creed that will disappear, while the means of the Heart will always remain.

— Rick London

REPORT OF THE WEB MANAGER

The position of Web Manager is to facilitate the connections the Temple has around the world through the web and electronic communication.

In preparation for this year's Officer Report, I read last year's report and am amazed by their striking similarity. It is natural to want to say something earthshaking or at least something that will leave an impression with those reading this report, but not much has changed. One problem is taking advantage of the latest technology to make the Temple website more accessible to those who are searching for the material and instruction that the Temple has to offer, and a second is to finish the website as initially planned. This is a daunting task, given the quantity of material out there in the electronic world.

During this past year several attempts were made to revamp the Temple website. Experts advised me that it is necessary to bring our website up to a higher industry standard so that (1) any search engine will produce more effective results, and (2) the site is easier to navigate so Temple publications are searchable. We are carefully editing the scanning errors in all three volumes of *The Teachings of The Temple* so we may post them on the website. Our goal is to do this during the next year. We are still working on *The Artisan* magazines to get them ready to be posted and made searchable. This project is moving slowly, but I hope this will be achieved in the near future.

I met with the Guardian in Chief and two outside vendors on separate occasions to discuss the possibility of having them create a new website and then manage it. The discussions were beneficial, and I learned many things. However, the cost of doing business this way is not justified at this time.

When a Google search is made of either Temple of The People, Halcyon, CA or Temple of the People, the resulting search seems to be adequate. I hope for help on this aspect of the website and with our social media. Want to help? As we move into the future,

it is necessary to examine the main purpose of the Temple website and whether it serves its objectives.

In other communication, we receive many letters each year from prison inmates. At the request of the Guardian in Chief, I answer each and every one, and often have an ongoing dialogue with them. They all write seeking information regarding the Temple work and in some cases, have studied Theosophical teachings. Some are just trying to make a corrective move in their life to fix the problem that put them where they are today.

Some contacts come through the website from people doing scholarly research, and I answer their questions and help address their needs. Many others have found out about the Temple work and visit the website seeking information.

Could more be done? Yes, I strongly believe so. We will continue to do what is needed, continue to learn more about the ever-changing electronic world, and do what is right in front of us each and every day. I invite anyone with a suggestion or question to contact me through the Temple website. I will be glad to discuss any thoughts you may have. Thank you.

— Chris Thyrring

REPORT OF THE INNER GUARD

The position of Inner Guard symbolizes the responsibility to the feminine aspect of manifestation, the nurturing, connected, indwelling spiritual force.

Greetings and love to each of you! Here we are, once again, finishing one Temple year while we are beginning a new Temple year. I find it interesting that “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.” (Song, “Closing Time,” composed by Dan Wilson, released 1998)

In our world today, we have such a profusion of words, papers, books lectures, opinions and much verbiage! We KNOW what to do, if we genuinely desire to be on our path to redemp-

tion. Here are a few possible aspirations to once again welcome into our consciousness. Be kind, gracious, grateful, thoughtful of others, humble, selfless, yet care for self, mindful, patient, just, honest, truthful, faithful, accepting, as well as obey your higher self. It is the Golden Rule.

We can become more aware of our obligations to our God, our country, those around us, whoever they may be, as well as ourselves. We can remember to ask daily for help. We can be mindful of our own thoughts, words, and deeds. Endeavor to put into motion WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW. Fewer words from us and MORE ACTION! Have a blessed Temple year. Thank you.

— Margaret Thyrring

REPORT OF THE OUTER GUARD

The position of Outer Guard symbolizes the responsibility to the masculine aspect, the protecting, questing and balancing forces.

I would like to offer a way we can use the balancing force. With our very busy everyday lives we probably have a challenge to take time to devote to our spiritual growth. Setting aside a little time may help. It came to me, there are lots of words spoken here in the Temple, such as: Master, Christ, Christos, The Teachings, temple, obey, love, if's and's and but's, and a whole bunch more. All these words which have been said or heard or will be said or heard and many more words are used over and over. These arrangements of words result in hundreds of different messages used here in the Temple.

Our Temple offers 10:30am Sunday services, noon healing service daily, classes every Tuesday and Friday and an evening meditation the first Sunday of each month. These services, classes, and meditations offer an accelerated effect that can help in our balancing.

— Ron Carlson



Convention 118 Temple Family. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

REPORTS FROM DELEGATES AT LARGE

The three Delegates at Large (chosen from among 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.

Dearest Temple Brothers and Sisters,

I have been asked to make a report on the London section of the Temple of the People. Having been a member of the group since 1984, I am pleased to be able to give you this report as the Temple studies have truly been a healing process for me to think on the good and noble in others and the universe, and my heart has been opened with so much gratitude and joy.

Although our London section officially came into being in the mid-1980s, it was actually in existence a number of years before that as Sid Lazarus, who became our first Custodian, had been holding philosophical discussion group meetings in his home since the early 1970s.

During the latter part of the 1970s, Sid was given a copy of the Temple Teachings by a second hand bookstore owner who thought the book might be of interest to him and to our group. What a gift that man unknowingly gave us. Some of us in the group became so interested in the Temple studies that we wanted to establish an official group of The Temple of the People in London. We persisted in our efforts to establish a relationship with the Temple, and our London section became official in 1986.

We meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at one of three homes for approximately one and a half hours. The meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Although we rarely have had more than 15 members, we have even fewer now as

some of our dear ones from the original group having passed on to inner planes.

We usually read the Temple book chapter by chapter which we have agreed to go through for the year. Although I at times find the Temple material quite difficult, when the discussion is opened up and guided by our dear custodian, I feel a universal harmony and often feel my consciousness is being transformed.

I am beginning to see how all the events in my life are a mirror of my own consciousness and that this ebb and flow is there to instruct me. In any situation or conflict my first instinct may still be to react, but as much as I would like to fool myself, I know the experience is a present for me.

This year I have had the privilege to participate in the Feast Service, and at the end read the beautiful words, "You have been permitted to see and realize the splendor of the Great White Throne; carry out what you have heard in gentleness and Love for all creatures, and infinite spirit will be with you every step of the way." With a spring in my step and a song in my heart, I will endeavor to seek the beautiful and the point of connection we all share with everything and hopefully have a better understanding of what that interaction is teaching me.

— *Janine Wingate, London*

Dear Friends:

Around a month ago I received a message from Eleanor and Chris asking me to write a report on how I consciously try to demonstrate in daily life the principles of the Temple teachings. My first reaction was: Oh my, do I? But then I noticed the word "try" and it immediately felt so much better.

It's been two years or so since I've left Halcyon but it seems like it was yesterday. Honestly speaking it actually seems like I have never left it at all. Those two years clearly showed me that time and distance are merely an illusion, the side-product of our

limited condition here on the Earth. And it's the first and one of the most important lessons that I try to remember and apply in everyday situations (just in case — the magic word “try” is going to be the key one throughout these reflections of mine). I do know that no matter what's going on in the outer life, I am always supported to the highest degree even if I don't notice it. If something starts bothering me or some weird thoughts attempt to sneak in, I think of Halcyon — and immediately I'm there — at Home, surrounded by the healing energies of the Temple and all of you who are the Temple. How can anything go wrong when you have such a support behind your back? And with thoughts and feelings like these I keep going, trying to share the Light of Halcyon and the Temple with others.

And people need this Light badly, especially in huge cities like Moscow. Of course, in order to help somebody to see the light, you need to be able to maintain it in yourself first, by being centered and grounded. It is such a tricky task! You're surrounded by people all the time and looking for the higher path in dealing with day-to-day situations might seem weird and old-fashioned but it's a matter of upmost priority, not to get lost in the midst of illusionary advertisement slogans and false ideals. Being able not to lose awareness and conquer waves of irritation in the subway during the rush hour is already a success. What to say about communicating with people at work and at home! It takes so much effort sometimes not to say something useless or offensive, getting beyond your personal feelings of made-up importance. Comparing those routine situations with the Infinity you can totally see how ridiculous they are, and how ridiculous you are trying to defend your own “baby self.” It's all about choices we make — to follow the Golden Rule or not, say some ugly word of criticism out loud or focus on something good instead. There is always something good in everyone if we only take conscious time to stop for a second and notice. And “there are no little thing things” indeed.

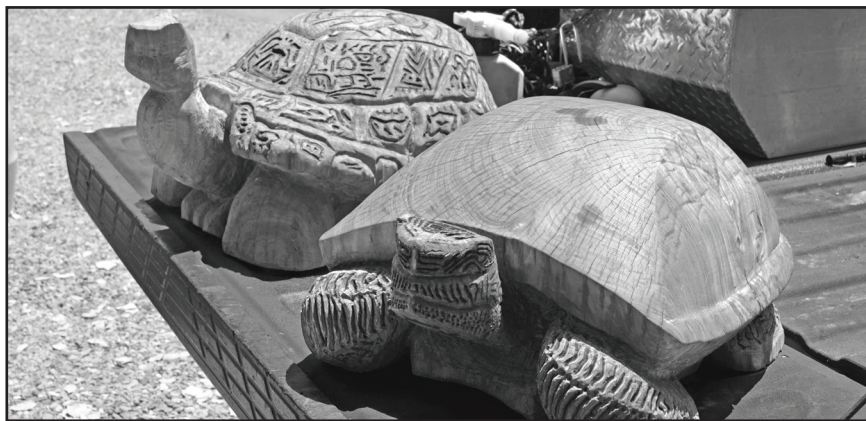
What really helps me regain consciousness is asking for the

Higher Powers to guide me and do whatever is needed. I'm still on this ongoing pop-up quiz of discerning between wants and needs, but when I take a tiny little step away from my restless personality and ask for the best outcome for everybody involved — energy shifts in an instant and I feel like I'm only a tool in the hands of something much bigger and wiser than myself. Be it during the theatre performance for little ones or tutoring older students or talking to my Mom. The thing is to remember about it in the right time. Practice makes perfect, as they say, 24/7 practice I guess.

Saint Seraphim of Sarov used to say: “Acquire a peaceful spirit, and thousands around you will be saved.” To my mind this is a perfect illustration of how we can apply the Teachings in our daily lives. So easy and so hard. We fall and we rise, we learn and we try to use the knowledge we are given, as the Master said that there is no word in the English language of so much importance as the one little word “use”.

To wrap it up, I must admit I'm not the perfect demonstrator of Temple principles at all but I'm trying. And yes, the image of eating an elephant one piece at a time definitely helps a lot on this journey of thousand miles. Thank you!

— *Elena Solobova, Moscow, Russia*



Turtles from Halcyon Cyprus. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All of us voluntarily try to help Masters in their great work, participating in Temple life. Each of us try to do his or her part the best he or she can, and it is so important to remember not only about my part, but about the whole big beautiful work we do together.

As delegate at Large, I understood my task of applying the principles of the Temple Teachings and Agni Yoga in everyday life as developing of cooperation, trust, and Love to each other. I think that it is very important for all of us, Temple members, Agni Yoga followers to learn the art of relationship, not just the groups, who are studying the Teachings, but to build harmonic relationship and friendship, which will help to harmonize the society we all live.

This year our group from San Jose, which has 8 members has been meeting twice a month for the last 8 years. We were meeting monthly on Skype for lectures and studying with a Temple group from Saint Petersburg and AI group of Chicago, continue our friendship with the AI groups of Chicago and New York, participated in the Roerich conference in Roerich museum in New York, where met more friends from England, Russia, America and Israel. We were happy to help to organize the trip of Israel AI group and representatives of Saint Petersburg Roerich museum to Halcyon in May.

During this year we tried to bring Temple Teachings and Agni Yoga Teachings closer to each other by creating more connections between people who are following these Teachings and live in different parts of the world.

We do this work because we believe that friendship between people following the same path may bring peace and harmony to Earth.

— *Antonina Alexander, California*

REPORT OF THE GUARDIAN IN CHIEF

Before I begin to write the report of the Guardian in Chief, I usually read over prior reports. As I went through last year's report I laughed. I could simply change numbers and names and give it to you again, verbatim. For instance: "... 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."

Well, I am still clinging and I am still striving.

Even more at this moment do I understand that, if I am still clinging to important ideals and striving to put them into practice, then so are all of you. We may have similar sets of ideals based on Temple teachings, but each of us is working on the ones that fire our souls. I worked for years as a classroom teacher with lesson plans, grade books, forms to be filled out on each student, and pupil attendance to be tracked. I still struggle with those old parameters after thirty-four years of *not* teaching. As the Guardian in Chief, I must not put that old pattern down on you or anyone else. I must embody at the cellular level *faith* and *trust* in everyone's ability to guide their own spiritual unfoldment. Then I must accept each person I meet as a unique expression of divinity, with all the highs and lows that we as human beings are capable of embodying.

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 the Guardian in Chief, I must administer The Temple of the People in matters both temporal and spiritual. I must be the things I believe in. Helen Keller once said, "Life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing." I choose a daring adventure. Truth is everywhere we look. But we must have the eyes to discern it that are connected with our hearts and minds.

We are charged with building a place, not only here but anywhere we find ourselves, that *"requires quiet, concentration, aspiration, unified endeavor, and faith in each other and in the common purpose. These are essentials; all else is non-essential."* Quiet, concentration, aspiration, unified endeavor, and faith in each other and in the common purpose: these things are coming into manifestation in our lives as we internalize the concept of *Acceptance*. Acceptance carries with it the charge to totally accept ourselves and each other, without any responsibility to change each other. I sometimes think we are programmed from birth to want to change the other person to "better," "different," "more," "less," and/or "best." We are Divinely charged with re-programming ourselves, not the other guy, to simply accept each other as we are, without any negative emotional reactions. If we can see each other with loving eyes as parts of ourselves, each part struggling to make sense out of all we are handed to do, then and only then have we begun to get a glimpse of "The Temple Work" we have been brought together to work out.

We are all a part of the Master's plan for the Temple work, whether or not we recognize it. Not one of us came to the Temple by chance. We are here to work out our relationships with each other, with our neighbors, with our so-called enemies. No matter where in the world we live — at the Center in Halcyon, in Europe, Timbuktu, San Francisco or Peru — the bottom line remains that we are responsible for quiet, concentration, aspiration, unified

endeavor, and faith in each other and in the common purpose. Since every member of the human race is a part of the grand Temple of Humanity we cannot limit our interactions to a few who have signed membership applications for The Temple of the People. We cannot withdraw into ourselves or into our homes in an effort to avoid the stupidity or violence of the world about us. We are forgetting that wisdom and peace also exist in equal parts. It is up to us to find wisdom and peace. It is up to us to be wisdom and peace as far as we are able. As we work on achieving this state, we are developing the strength and insight to enter fully into that place. But we must choose to do it. I will ... will you?

Annually, I appoint eight officers to serve the Temple for the coming year. The positions are Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Scribe, Treasurer, Web Manager, and three Delegates at Large.

Every year I ask: What do these positions symbolize and how will they function? Answers deepen as we grow and evolve, and that 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 among 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 to attend to the inner and outer needs of the Temple. Serving for the 2017-18 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 Joe Brown, Patricia Grills, and Mary Workman.

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.” As I work with 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.

The inner and outer work of the Temple continues with clear shining direction. We are learning to become more attuned to the guidance of our Higher Selves. At the same time we are learning to love ourselves and each other with all of our human foibles and divine possibilities. God Bless us all.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

Tuesday, August 8

- 9am Coffee with the Dunbars, Central Home
- Noon Healing Service, Temple
- 5:30pm Study Class, Temple, “*Temple Voices Seldom Heard*,”
special readings

Wednesday, August 9

- Noon Healing Service, Temple
- 1:30pm An afternoon at See Canyon, Temple Carpool

Thursday, August 10

- 5am Sunrise Hike at the Dunes, meet at the Bologh's
 Noon Healing Service, Temple

Friday, August 11

- 8-9am Breakfast of Champions presented by Marla Lowman and Karen White, Hiawatha Lodge Kitchen
 Noon Healing Service, Temple
 5:30pm Study Class, Temple, *"Temple Voices Seldom Heard,"* special readings

Saturday, August 12

- 1:15pm *"Dune Child,"* Readers Theatre of South County Historical Society, Arroyo Grande, Temple Carpool
 7pm Photo Essay of Australia presented by Don Forth, University Center

Sunday, August 13

- 10:30am Builders Sunday, Temple
 Noon Healing Service, Temple
 2:30pm Ice Cream Social, the White's Home
 7pm Convention Benediction Service, Temple



Luncheon. Photo by Karen White



Grove Work Continues. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

Lack of faith in the eternal fitness of things,
and in Divine Justice,
desire to escape the results of action,
and above all,
impatience with what seems
the slow processes of time,
plunge man back over and over again
into the whirlpool of rebellion and discontent
from which he is feebly endeavoring to escape.

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Lily's Gift. Photo by Karen White



Temple Door. Photo by Anne R. Dunbar

THE TEMPLE MANTRAMS

I BELIEVE THAT IN ME DWELLETH
EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT SPIRIT.

BELIEVING THIS, I WILL SHOW FORTH
THIS DAY,
BY THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED,
ALL THAT PERFECTION THAT DWELLETH
IN ME.

I AM ONE WITH GOD AND ALL GOOD.
EVIL HATH NO POWER OVER ME.

THOUGH CLOUDS AND DARKNESS
SEEM TO BE ABOUT ME,
YET DWELL I ETERNALLY IN THE LIGHT.

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 *paintings of Alfredo Arciniaga*. 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 21, Debra Rowlands reading: *Teenagers* by Harold Forgostein; June 11, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Spirals, Cycles, Paradoxes*; June 18, Richard Berg: *Science and Reality*; July 9, Eleanor L. Shumway: *The Challenge of Convention*; July 16, Richard Berg: *Science and the Mind*; July 23, Margaret Thyrring reading: *Becoming a True Occultist* by Pearl Dower.

The Temple of the People

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