

The Temple Artisan

April-May-June 2020 and July-August-September 2020

Behold, I give



unto thee a key.

LOVEST THOU ME

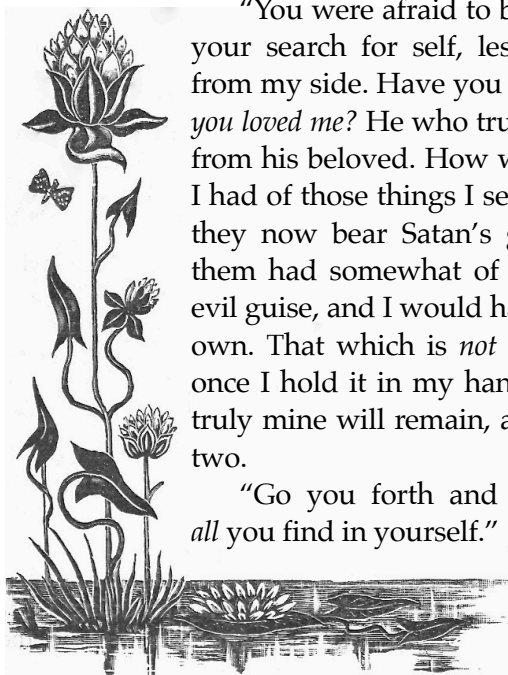
"Do you love me?" said the Christ. "Yes! I do love you," said the newly born. "Then you shall prove your love," said the Christ. "Go into the lanes and byways of yourself and bring to me what you find there. And the newly born went into the City of his Nature to seek that for which he had been sent.

When he returned, it was with empty hands and hanging head. No word had he, neither was there need for words. Sadly gazed the Christ at the newly born while He said:

"You were afraid to bring me what you found in your search for self, lest I should turn you away from my side. Have you forgotten that I asked you *if you loved me?* He who truly loves holds nothing back from his beloved. How would you know what need I had of those things I sent you forth to seek, even if they now bear Satan's guise to you? Each one of them had somewhat of my own, hidden 'neath its evil guise, and I would have all of that which is mine own. That which is *not* mine will fade away when once I hold it in my hand. Only that which is most truly mine will remain, and I alone can separate the two.

"Go you forth and seek again, and bring me *all you find in yourself.*"

H⌘



EDITORIAL MIRROR

The coronavirus pandemic has caused us to scramble in order to set up services and study classes online, so some routines have fallen by the wayside. Thus, this double issue of *The Temple Artisan* combines both the spring and summer issues, featuring the proceedings of our 121st Annual Temple Convention — what we in Halcyon called our *Unconventional* Convention.

As we continue to shelter at home, Temple study classes and services are being successfully conducted online. The one in-person gathering is the noon Healing Service, which is held daily in the Blue Star Memorial Temple. We encourage you to find the words to the service on the Temple website so you can join us in spirit as we work for the health and well-being of all humanity. We are being asked by the Divine to meet ourselves face to face and do the necessary work to eliminate dross from our lower natures.

Everyone is welcome to attend all classes and services. If you wish to invite someone to join with us online, please use the contact link on the Temple website, www.templeofthepeople.org.

This deeply rewarding Convention united hearts and minds around the world in significant ways as the pandemic brings new ways for us to touch each other's lives and hearts. International participation in study classes and services has been inspirational for all of us, contributing beautifully to the feeling of unity. We are experiencing something we have just talked about in the past. Whatever the new normal becomes, it must include a new level of consciousness about our individual relationships to each other, to the planet, and to every thing and creature upon it. This is the real message of the coronavirus.

Are we up to the challenge? The answer can only come from inside each one of us as we make our individual choices.

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

THE HOME OF THE SOUL

*God is in His Holy Temple.
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.*

For many centuries these words have opened the services of countless churches given to the Christian religion, and among all the priests by whom they were uttered, how many, think you, ever interpreted them correctly? They are supposed to call the attention of the worshippers to the fact that God is ready to listen to the service about to be performed in each individual church or Temple, which of course is true to a certain extent, but the words contain so much more truth than such a limited interpretation can give, and are so intimately concerned with the Temple, that I can voice no greater truth in striving to interpret the Temple to the understanding of man.

The Temple is the manifested universe, *a priori*, but its lesser differentiations include every atom of matter, force, and consciousness. Every living thing or creature is a lesser Temple for the indwelling Spirit of God.



It is only in the silence, in the innermost depths of each holy Temple, that it is possible for God to manifest Its Self, and it is only in the secret holy silences of the Temple that any member of the same may hope to gain the least concept of its majesty, power, and glory.

It is, or should be, the place, the home of the soul where the Higher Self, the God, comes face to face with Its self, Its lower self, and speaks and understands what is spoken. It should be a place into which can enter nothing that defiles, nothing that can be defiled. At the same time, it should be a place where all the burdens of the soul can be laid down; where the weary, outworn body can enter into rest, undisturbed by outer noise and clamor; a place where soul can meet soul on a common ground, regardless of all the trivialities of lower life such as position, exterior wealth, and power. It is the holiest of holy places, and until some appreciation of this fact dawns upon you, you will never find behind its limitless portals the Key to the Great Mysteries, the key that will unlock the mysteries of life and death, of being and non-being, to which your separated selves have looked forward in yearning since they darted from the Father/Mother Ray aeons and ages ago.

Enter that Temple door with me and see what we shall find, but first take the sandals from your feet and cover your head. Take the boundaries from your understanding and quiet the fluctuations of your mind and behold that which you shall see and hear and know!

— *Francia A. LaDue*
First Guardian in Chief

*I will endeavor to realize the presence of the
Avatar as a living presence in my life.*

THE STILL SMALL VOICE

The still small voice, wherein alone may man hear the speech of God, can only be heard at the neutral center of sound. The positive pole of sound is loud and large; the negative is silence. As the positive decreases in volume as it nears the center, so the negative increases. When they meet at a given point one strives to overcome the other, and as a result of the struggle, there is manifested something infinitely higher in the realm of sound.

The stillness and smallness indicate equilibrium, peace. On the battleground of life is born the Androgyne. So it is in all aspects of life, spiritual and material. Love is the greatest thing in life because it comprises, compounds, and correlates all lesser things.

In the battle between love (passion) and hate in the mind of man, something higher than either love and hate of the physical plane is born: namely, Compassion, Understanding. In the struggle between sunlight and darkness is born the dawn and the twilight hours of Peace and Beauty. In the stress of battle between good and evil is born the power of Renunciation, the most difficult power to attain. In the battle between pleasure and pain is born Endurance. So through all the aspects, attributes, qualities, energies, in or out of manifested life on the planes of matter and force, it is in the neutral center, the plane of peace, the point of equilibrium — the Dawn, the point of Renunciation, that we shall find God; never at either end where noise, confusion, dissatisfaction or silence, non-being, disintegration, and disruption occur. So, while man may be a microcosm of God, he is an epitome of the ends of all the above-mentioned aspects, attributes, qualities, and forces — a battleground wherein is being fought out to a finish the battle of the ages. When he has established the neutral center of all these aspects, attributes, qualities, and forces in himself he enters the Macrocosm—where God alone dwells.

THE 121st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE

August 1 – 11, 2020

Saturday, August 1

**9:00 – 11:00am • Informal Opening of the Convention
Lecture and Reception**

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 as many points 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*

Dr. Paul Eli Ivey, Temple historian and author of *Radiance from Halcyon*, presented an illustrated lecture entitled *Theosophical Impulses in the Work of John Varian: Mystic, Poet, Inventor, Masseur*.

After an extended question-answer period, the morning concluded with a lively international meet-and-greet online reception.

12:00pm • Noon Healing Service in the Temple

Sunday, August 2

10:30am • Formal Opening & Feast • Live-stream Broadcast

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 121st Annual Convention by invoking the guidance and blessings of the Powers that rule the destinies of worlds and races, the Brothers of the Fire Mist, the Dhyani Chohans and Dhyani Buddhas, and the Masters of Love and Wisdom, on all proceedings and all who participate in person or in spirit in the Convention for the benefit of all humanity, promoting the Brother/Sisterhood of all Creation.”

THE MASTER’S MESSAGE TO THE 121ST CONVENTION

To My Beloved Children:

You are living through a fierce trial by fire. Your human family is being tested through the virus that is sweeping the world; through imbalances caused by selfishness, greed, waste, and contempt; through ages-old divisions that cannot stand as they are. The extremes being expressed through fiery, pent up energies are rending apart the dark veils of blindness, oppression, and lust for power in humanity’s darkest aspects.

In ages past you have experienced being the “other,” the one who is foreign or malformed, misunderstood or blamed. You have also experienced being the one who cannot or will not respect that other. Children mine, you so easily forget your ties to each other that you will be that other again in lifetimes to come, until you greet the many expressions of the human family as reflections of the One. Until you look your sisters and brothers in the eye and recognize that you are one human family, your divisions will overtake you.

Do you not see that only as you ennoble your brothers and

sisters from every country and culture, of every creed and caste, can you move humanity another step forward in this round of evolution? You are one human family, yet you treat each other as enemies. This sickness is not on the surface but is in the deepest parts of yourselves. You must have the courage to look behind the veils to the world of causes if you are to see what is back of your disunity, and honestly ask yourselves: What is my part in this? How am I enslaved by my own willful ignorance, by my own hardened heart?

You hear each other not, you listen not, you love not. The persecution of those you don't understand or accept as your brothers and sisters results from your own blindness. Stop looking for someone else to blame for persecution on the basis of creed or color, of country or culture. Open your eyes. Only you, *and I mean each and every one of you*, can turn such acts of persecution into kindness and acceptance by opening your hearts to the Rays of Infinite Love. Those Rays must flow through you into the world around you.

The impulse of the Red Ray underlies and impels your growth. This cycle is at a tipping point and change is upon you. You cannot remain as you were, and you have not earned the right to push forward, for you cannot yet see what lies ahead. You must hold fast as ancient cracks and divisions show themselves dark against light, as the precarious imbalances of the world you have known release and break apart. Hold fast to eternal truth. Hold fast to spiritual ideals. Hold fast to the bond of kinship with your brothers and sisters everywhere.

Humanity as a whole must step forward in consciousness. Our messengers have told you over and over that everything in the Universe, through *all* its kingdoms, is endowed with a consciousness of its own kind and on its own plane of perception. No plane of perception is better in any way than another, for the kingdoms of life together build the warp and weft of your world and consciousness. You may think you rule the natural world and its resources, but until you step into conscious alignment and

awareness of the sacred within all other units of Creation, you live out of balance with those kingdoms. Your selfishness closes the streams of help from the kingdoms of life around you.

Empty words will not restore the beauty and majesty of the kingdoms of Nature or heal the personal issues facing your planet. Who do you serve? Who will you serve? The urgency is in putting your energy into actions, not words.

You say that you are weary of this virus, overwhelmed with life as it is, that you are not qualified for this call to grow. We never ask you for something that is truly beyond you. We know that you *can* do it. We also know that you must grow, if you and your world are to survive.

Take in the true meaning of the watchwords of *Faith, Trust, and Courage* and trade this wearisome intellectualism for the upwelling of unified action from your hearts. For it is within the heart and soul of every single unit of humanity, as well as every other living thing in manifestation, that the Divine truly dwells.

My children, where the darkness is greatest there is also the Light to guide you. Remember, you are never beyond the reach of Our help, but you must make the first move by asking for that help. It benefits you not if you fail to put into action the impulse that you receive in return.

Those with ears to hear will hold fast to the purpose at hand. Set aside lower desires for immediate sensual gratifications and invest your actions with pure motive. Invest your actions with care for one another and for this planet that sustains you. The time for this action is now — not tomorrow, not some other time, but *now*. These are spiritual goals, every moment of which can be filled with true Joy, Equanimity, and Love.

As has ever been and shall be, my heart is connected to yours. My Brothers and I wait for your recognition of that unity.

Be With Us. The choice is yours, and choose you must.

Your Father-Brother,
— Hilarion

*The Noon Healing Service was held each day
of Convention in the Blue Star Memorial Temple.*

Tuesday, August 3

5:30 pm • Online Temple Study Class

*The Meaning and Application of the Square Matrix for Online Study
Classes*, an illustrated presentation by Temple Treasurer Marti Fast

Friday, August 7

5:30pm • Online Temple Study Class

Sacred Cycles: Spiritual Patterns in Temple Life,
a program presented by the Temple officers

Saturday, August 8

9:00am • Lecture and Reception

Nicholas Roerich and the Enchanted American West,
an illustrated lecture by Temple Historian Dr. Paul Eli Ivey

Question and answer period

International meet-and-greet online reception

Sunday, August 9

9:00–10:15am • Social Science Talks

Short presentations from people around the world on this year's
Convention theme: *Faith, Trust, and Courage*

10:30am • Benediction Service

Reading of the 2020 Master's Message

International meet-and-greet session

Tuesday, August 11

5:30pm • Officers' Reports

The Reports of the Temple Officers,
Guardian in Chief, and the Delegates-at-Large

Report of the Temple 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.

A treasury is defined as *a place or building where treasure is stored: a storehouse of valuable or delightful things*. How does one report on the “valuable or delightful things” held in the Temple Treasury in a year like this, when their value cannot be considered without including the word *pandemic*?

Like everyone else on the planet, in mid-March we in Halcyon witnessed the end of one era while being thrust into another, as the momentum of the old reality suddenly snapped in a full-stop whiplash. Not knowing when we might meet again in person for services and study classes, the question became how to effectively adapt to changing circumstances. Videoconferencing was barely on the radar until the pandemic forced the issue, yet within a week that doorway to online meetings was thrown open.

Major crossroads such as this cause most of us to seek deeper meaning, often by asking four fundamental questions of life: Who am I? Where did I come from? What is my purpose for being here? What am I going to do to fulfill that purpose? Our Temple family is stretched across the planet, and as a greater organic body we must go a step further and ask: Who are we *as a group*? Where did *we* come from? What is *our* purpose for being here? What are *we* going to do to fulfill that purpose? I’ve asked myself those questions both as an individual and as a Temple officer, and I believe the answer must be to step up and serve as creatively and consciously as we can. In this light, we must consider two vital treasures as we move forward: the Square Diagram and each other.

The Square Diagram used in study classes is a matrix for unity, creativity, and greater understanding. Far beyond a floor plan showing where to place chairs in a study class, the Square Diagram is a guide for our human journey to greater consciousness. In it we see four points where the arms of a cross touch the boundary of an oval.



A central fifth point represents the bridge between the spiritual and the material, the inner and the outer, the higher and the lower. That central point is called the *Quintessence*, and it is the sacred portal through which the Great Universal Force flows outward to harmonize and balance the many qualities that characterize us as individuals and as a group — most specifically as we endeavor to serve humanity. In this time of transformation, our conscious service to the human family is more valuable, more vital than ever.

The flow of energy from the Center Point to the four points and through the oval is like the heartbeat and breath of our human connection with the divine. We inhale that flow of energy and then, as we express service in our own unique ways, it flows back in a great exhale, through the group to the Center Point to return that energy to the Source. The breathing in and out of life and light *to* us and *from* us is the great circle of Life, nourishing, strengthening, and enlivening everyone.

The second treasure resides in one another. In these online study classes and services, we take in the faces, eyes, and hearts of

our sisters and brothers all over the world. Like never before in the history of the Temple, our computer screens serve as mini Center Points that allow us to contact the support and consciousness flowing from each individual through the group.

There is promise and possibility in every circumstance. This pandemic is our opportunity to create something new — and we have! In preparing for this 121st Convention, many stepped up to build a selfless team as Templars invested technical expertise for online classes and live-streaming the Master's Message from the Temple; translated talks, services, and lectures; made presentations or read for special programs; and showed up with delight and presence. In this group effort, we jumped together into the deep end of the pool, entering in to the spiritual energy flowing through the collective body of the Temple family.

The Center Point connects us — each and all, in person, on screen, and beyond — in everything we do, harmonizing and balancing as we work for conscious unity and kinship in this ever-changing world. What greater treasures could there be than these?

— *Marti Fast*

Report of the Temple Scribe

The position of Temple Scribe symbolizes the responsibility to the record of our aspirations, hopes, faith, and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds.

It was the aspiration for freedom that led many people to the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” It was primarily the need to be free from the fear of tyranny and injustice that lit the aspiration for “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Paradoxically, within that founding aspiration for freedom, freedom was taken away or made more elusive for those who were inconveniently in the way or who made more convenient the lives of those who appeased their own desires at the expense of others.

Today the structural impurities embedded within our thoughts, words, and deeds have reached another apogee in the cycle of

Balance. While many of us aspire responsibly to a life akin to the Golden Rule, there still remains enough of a malignant consciousness to knock Mother Nature off her axis.

As in the plagues of olden days, it is by no accident that we now find ourselves more globally mindful of disease, bigotry, and poverty. This imbalance is not only impacting human beings, some more severely than others, but tearing apart the very sacred fabric of Mother Nature herself.

Having the freedom to live a natural life remains a controversy within our political discourse, especially when coming to terms with the true necessity for a more natural way of living.

Getting to the bottom of competing beliefs as to what freedom was, what freedom is, and what freedom needs to be, will necessitate learning the lessons offered from the evolution of Matter, Force, and Consciousness. Some of these lessons may be more subtle than others, like this excerpt from the *Mountain Top* message entitled "Freedom:"

"In Freedom lies thy strength, and Freedom is the Law of Life; not liberty to hurt or crush another part of God's own life, but liberty to render service pure, and learn to find in strict obedience to law the goal of perfect life.

"Obedience to law through love of law and order gives highest freedom to the soul, but man has put the bond of fear upon his brother man and so enslaved him to Illusion, and fear breeds naught but most abject subjection, and freezes into nothingness the slave, as well as he who doth enslave.

"Obey implicitly the law of Love and thou shalt not be called upon to sacrifice aught save the thing thou needest not; but first be sure thou knowest Love, and hast not clothed it in the slimy garb of self-indulgence, thus paving wide the way for self-annihilation."

For the most part, today's dominant expression of freedom has evolved into a cornucopia of creeds. Nevertheless, and no matter one's origin, there is always the freedom for hearts to remain, especially for those who remain faithful, trustful, trustworthy, and courageous.

As God is Love and Love is the fundamental source of being, our aspirations, hopes, and faith, and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds are nurturing humanity's will to choose obedience to our highest law: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind and thy neighbor as thyself." Having the freedom to aspire to practice the Golden Rule with neighbors who are from origins beyond our own is our everlasting endeavor.

— 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.

The pandemic that the world continues to respond to has caused us to take a giant leap and a good look at ways of expanding the Temple presence in the world. When the doors to the Temple building were closed to classes and services, we needed another way to reach out. What to do? A concept emerged that we had never considered before.

With help from a good team, we have launched a video-conferencing platform that allows us to reach out in a way we never thought possible. We started taking baby steps and tried each possibility as we went, discarding things that did not fit and searching, always searching, for creative ways to send the Temple message into the world. When we started it was not with a goal in mind. It was a creative endeavor with ideas suggested, sometimes tried and accepted or discarded. The collaborative method worked well.

The result is what you see today if you join us for a study class session or a Sunday service. Response has been overwhelmingly positive. Gratitude for this way of meeting with Temple members and friends from around the world has been rewarding. Where are we headed? I am not sure. But you can rest assured that plans

are under way to go forward and be prepared for the next change or a different way to expand.

Our next big event will be the Temple Birthday on November 15. How will this gathering happen? We are looking at methods of producing an event that will encompass whatever media allows us to reach the greatest number of people. The future is only limited by ourselves. My vision is to use every means possible at our disposal to expand the Temple's presence around the world. I wish to express my gratitude to all the people who have worked on this project either physically or with ideas, with money contributions, and LOVE. This is really a project that was loved into being.

— 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.

I send love and greetings to everyone! What a year we have had! We have grown, loved, aspired, despaired, and grown, loved, and aspired all over again!

As we learn to listen more, we *will* hear more.

Listen to your breath. What do you hear?

Listen to your heartbeat. Do you realize your total connection to *All That Is*?

We are assured by the Master that all we have to do is reach out. He will grasp our hand. He is always there. We are also assured that every hand we reach out in service and charity to those around us also reaches the Master's hand.

This is a simple plan. This is a good plan.

What will we choose?

— Margaret Thyrring



Report of the Outer Guard

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

The Lord works in mysterious ways.

A few of our best-laid plans have gone up in smoke with the introduction of Covid-19. This year's convention theme of Faith, Trust, and Courage comes at a perfect time. We needed something to shake us out of the rut we may have fallen into. Each of us is starting a new way of life that affects us and others by our actions.

With the social changes happening, and many more to come, it is of upmost importance that we have the courage to trust in our faith and to have faith in our trust and courage. This will make us even stronger.

— Ron Carlson

Reports of the Delegates-at-Large

The Delegates-at-Large symbolize the many members worldwide whose dedication to the Truth expressed through the Temple Teachings is inspiring. They meet the challenge of putting these teachings into daily practice without the outer group support and daily meetings that we enjoy here at the Center.

Dear Temple Family,

As one of the delegates-at-large for 2019/2020, I dutifully turned my gaze to the outer world beyond our Halcyon Center. This year has been one of extreme exoteric change. The growth—and retrograde reactions to that growth—that humanity has been experiencing on inner planes for many years have suddenly manifested in outward conflicts of a kind not seen before in most of our current incarnations. Physical reminders of our basest impulses are on vivid display through rampant disease, violence, and dissension, resulting in catastrophic misunderstandings between ourselves as well as the natural world.

We are taught from the earliest stages of our physical life to observe and interpret what our five senses are telling us. What do we see, hear, feel, taste, or smell? What can we infer from these observations to guide our choices? Humans also have the seemingly unique ability to communicate with one another through abstract words, sharing and recording our own observations with others, now and into the future, in order to expand our collective knowledge and hopefully lead to wiser decisions for our communities and our nations.

If we simply take what is happening in the world right now at face value, based on the observations of our own five senses and what others tells us, the picture is grim indeed. We are stalked by death, or at least its specter, from every side. Hatreds we thought were long gone have risen again with new strength. Selfishness and greed threaten to overwhelm us. Humanity may as well surrender to the swirling, shadowy forces that seem to have us in their indelible grip.

But our physical senses are not the full extent of our perception. And they can so easily be deceived, especially when we interpret them in fear. Stop. Take a breath. Close your eyes. Find a place to stand in the silence for a moment. Look for your faith. It may be small and frightened, weakened by the buffeting winds of bad news and illness and anger. Draw it to yourself and protect it like a struggling flame. Surround it with your silence.

Let it grow into a roaring fire.

This is not the moment to temper faith with reason. This is not the time to manage your expectations. It is not our lives or our communities that are at stake. That is all an illusion. It is our faith that is being threatened with extinction. This is the moment for blind, absolute, radical faith. Do not trust your senses. Do not trust the dire things you hear or see, no matter how true they seem to be right now.

Breathe your faith into life and let it be your only guide. Believe that what seems now to be black, is white. What seems to be a closed door, is an open path. Refuse to give up and descend into the shadows. Believe that humanity will endure and triumph, that illness and death and hatred and violence are merely the birth pangs of our new reality. Believe that morning will come. Believe in love.

I do not suggest you abandon caution or cease to heed the advice of our leaders. It is essential that we work together to overcome the ravages of the pandemic and the violence that has erupted across the globe. But I am asking you to join me in the practice of radical faith. Without evidence or justification, without even a shred of hope to offer, I am asking you to believe that things are not as they seem. All is not lost, or even broken, as long as we have our faith.

“Though clouds and darkness seem to be about me, yet dwell I, eternally in the light.”

With eternal light and love, your Temple Sister,

— Eva Fina

Gratitude

I thank Thee, God, for the power of high growth,
For the vitality of life
For the vision beyond.

*From the poem “God of the Future,” written by J. O. Varian
and repeated at the 1925 Temple Convention.*

Delegate-at-Large Report

The year that has passed since the last Convention was very different for me in many ways. It brought challenges that I have not experienced before and with them new opportunities to see who I am when everything is shaking around. Some rough situations at work or unprecedented changes that the pandemic brought to the world.

This year I thought a lot about internal balance when the world is changing around me and new challenges arise testing how I can continue to stay focused, not get overwhelmed, and carried away. The answer I see is in the inner strength of each, which grows and builds based on our trust to the Masters, that they give us lessons that we are ready for.

I experienced several long lasting pressing challenges at work this year. I understood that I could not avoid them and had to follow through. I decided to stay calm regardless of the pressure and focused only on providing a positive reaction to all. It helped me, and I started to feel more strength. I did not try to prove anything to the other person and instead just let the situation unfold as I kept doing my work of staying calm and being accessible.

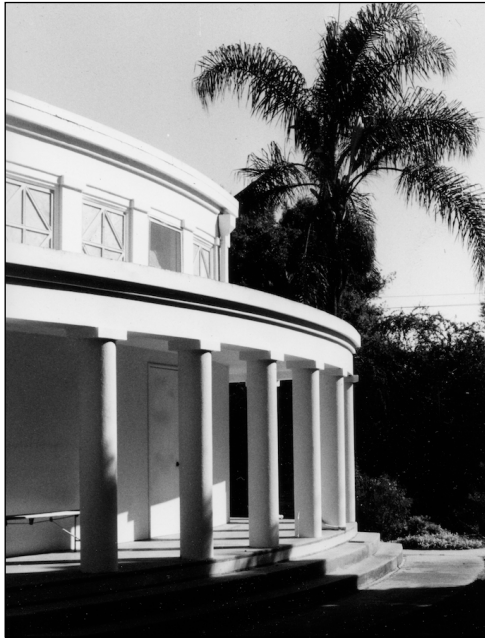
These experiences lead me to think about the limits we are pushed to while being tested, and what if the testing is stronger than the limits I have. And then I was thinking about failures. If someone falls under the pressure of the circumstances and does not pass the test at this moment, what is to be done next? Definitely, do not consider the fall at the moment as complete failure, but consider it as an attempt and then start getting ready for the next trial, since the testing will come again.

I was thinking about what it means to help others. They have their own testing they need to go through themselves, but if they are reaching out for help — it is time for helping. I witnessed a situation where people try to stay away from someone who is about to fall because there seems to be a fear of being associated with the fallen. If helping another person will lead to my falling

too, am I ready to offer my help still?

Everyone to my understanding has their own unique point of balance. I am happy for both, those who have found theirs and those who are still searching.

— *Aleksandr Alexander*



Report of the Guardian in Chief

My goodness! What an experience to be shaken out of an age-old routine, that of Convention, and asked to build a whole new one I call the Unconventional Convention! Divine Law has been insistent about repairs to our careless relationships with each other and repairs to our continued misuse of the planet which is our home. This Law has now sent us something guaranteed to catch and focus our attention. Its current name is the coronavirus, or Covid-19. We are being asked to put into action all the spiritual values we say we hold dear.

You and I both know that we are bound to the principles to which we have pledged ourselves, and we are trusted to have the self-responsibility to carry out those principles in our daily living. As Master Hilarion has said, “it is not dramatic deeds that count in time of crisis,” but rather “duty well-cared for, distress eased in seclusion, love administered in faith, and compassionate silence that conquers all.” One would think He was speaking directly to our part in the current pandemic.

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

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

The founding of the Temple was 122 years ago. We tend to view those early days as the “perfect” days, with the early

members filled with idealism and love, coming here to Halcyon to build a new community closely attuned to the high force of the Masters. However, this is not so, as careful reading of the early Artisans tell us. Twenty years after the Temple came into being, John Varian, having been present from the beginning, wrote that he remembered the first Convention where he said, "ignorant we were of each other and very dimly knowing why we came...great dreams were there of harmony and light, with deep misunderstandings latent behind." He continued by adding that people came and went, a few were constant to the dreams, but the testing forces searched their powers, and misunderstandings and discord were always there. However, comradeship and love were growing into life, even though the opposing forces of hate, suspicion, and bitter words were always there, ever testing, testing. Do I need to say they *still* are? Paradox, ever paradox. There come brief moments when a silent Peace comes into the group, when we know again our brothers and sisters by our side, and we are filled with words of love, friendship, and respect. And then, we are tested again on our strengths, not by some magic bolt of lightning, but by each other and our reactions to each other.

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

In any month of any year of the past 122 years, our Teachings have presented the tools to build the bridge between ourselves and others, but we must *choose* to pick up those tools and use them. The Ten Rules of Discipleship are the foundation, strong and permanent, and they tell it like it is. There is no room for negotiation. The many Temple books, pamphlets, and study courses build on the foundation of the Ten Rules, all continually emphasize our responsibility to make choices, then, as we live out the results of those choices, to more and more consciously learn

the necessary lessons from them as we go. These important choices are not the big ones which seem to fall into place when they come up; rather they are the small daily choices of thought, word, and deed as we go about our daily living. How many times and in how many ways throughout the Temple Teachings have we been told there are no little things? The responsibility of that statement is often times overwhelming, and yet by simply meeting this responsibility minute by minute, there comes a flow of love and nurturing from the Master that honors our choices and helps us develop the strength for the next choice.

One fact that becomes increasingly clear to me is that we are not often told specifically *what* to do, or *how* and *when* to do it. Within certain broad parameters, Templars everywhere are asked to do what is right; that “right” is determined by active inner participation with the Higher Law. Our lower selves often want no part of that Higher Stuff. The coronavirus is insisting that we pay attention to that old adage: *Better the familiar darkness than the unfamiliar Light*. We must remember that in our journey toward that unfamiliar Light, we are asked to bring an adherence to



principle, a sense of participating in something larger than ourselves to everything we do, be it weeding the garden, hammering a nail, talking to our neighbor, or attending a class or meeting when we would rather be somewhere else. Years ago, when we complained that we didn't get anything out of a meeting or class, several of us remember Harold Forgostein, then GinC saying, "It isn't what you get out of it that matters; what matters is *what you bring to it.*"

I don't know about you, but the more I delve into our wealth of instruction, the more treasure I am finding. Of course it would be easier if someone handed us the treasure; then when things go wrong we can blame whoever is doing the handing. This is the pivotal point of the Temple Teachings: self-responsibility, coupled with responsibility to our families, to the group, to the Lodge Agent, to the Master, and to God.

As Guardian in Chief, I cannot impose this *self-responsibility* upon anyone. I have told you this many times. However, as I work with the increasing clarity of purpose within my own consciousness, I can articulate what I am learning and perhaps you, in turn, can glean tools to use in your own process. As I look back over the past seventy-eight and a half years of being connected to and/or living in Halcyon, I see a lot of soul-satisfying living and of wonderful, instructive — but not always comfortable — interaction with the many diverse people in my Temple and Halcyon family. I see some things I might have done differently, including my own very human need to fix everything for everybody to ensure a fail-safe, beautiful, comfortable environment where we all live happily ever after!

I want you to know that although I've may have done "it" for you in the past, whatever "it" may be, I acknowledge that you, Temple members and friends everywhere, are self-responsible, fully functioning human beings whom I cherish deeply enough to allow you to bring your talents, your strengths, *and* your weaknesses to the altar of our common brother/sisterhood. The important point is that we are in this together.

The living paradox for me is that I am the Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People, a Corporation Sole, and as such there are decisions for which I alone am responsible. I am accountable to the State and Federal governments in physical plane matters, but much more to the point is my accountability to Master Hilarion and my growing awareness of His presence in my life, a growing trust in our connection. With trust and awareness comes the sureness that there is only one way. As He tells us, "Either I am the Truth and my words are true, or I and my words are a living lie. If my words have the ring of truth when I say to you that you are my children and your higher evolution on certain lines rest on your solidarity of purpose, your unity, your staunchness, your willingness and ability to forward the plans of the Lodge, then it is evident your duty as well as inclination would be to act upon my words in all respects. If my words have the ring of untruth, of falsity, the quicker you are disbanded the better." There is no wiggle room, but there is a world of Love and protection.

I annually 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 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.

For the ensuing year the officers of the Religious Society of the Temple of the People will be Margaret Thyrring, Inner Guard; Ron Carlson, Outer Guard; Marti Fast, Treasurer; Rick London, Scribe; Chris Thyrring, Web Manager. Serving as Delegates-at-Large will be Vladimir Meskov in St. Petersburg, Russia; Ellis Turhim in London, England, and Mindee T. Dziuba in Placerville, California.

I would like to close with a quote from English writer G.K. Chesterton (1874–1936), who was a philosopher, theologian, and literary and art critic. Referred to as the “prince of paradox,” who made his points with popular sayings, proverbs, allegories — by, as *Time* magazine said, “...first carefully turning them inside out.” He tells us: “We make our friends, we make our enemies, but God makes our next-door neighbor. Hence he comes to us clad in all the careless terrors of nature, he is as strange as the stars, as reckless and indifferent as the rain. He is Man, the most terrible of the beasts. That is why the old religions and the old scriptural language showed so sharp a wisdom when they spoke not of one’s duty towards humanity but one’s duty towards one’s neighbor...we have to love our neighbor because he is *there* — a much more alarming reason for a much more serious operation.

“He is the sample of humanity which is actually given us. Precisely because he may be anybody he is everybody.”

— Eleanor L. Shumway
Guardian in Chief

**Dear Eleanor,
dear Temple sisters and brothers in
Haleyon, London, and Russia –**

It is our task to be light in the darkness;
and that's why we've gathered back here in Berlin –
to rekindle the torches of faith, trust and courage
and pass them on to all people

who have realized that the conditions in the world must change.

The pressure of the avataric forces has become so strong that the elementals are being turned into rage. The confusion is great in the world and the spirit of unity should be sought once again. But we also see the light and the love in the hearts of the people growing stronger and breaking through everywhere in various gestures of brotherly cooperation and mutual support.

From separation, isolation, and restricted movement
the forces of unity, solidarity, and understanding are revived.

We see more and more the light emerging from the darkness that calls us to change. The Great Dissolver wants to block everything constructive – we know that. Therefore we are willing to forge our unity more firmly and to base our lives entirely on the principles of the Temple.

Carrying the unshakable faithfulness in our hearts,
we send you all, in unison,
our living love for humanity
and to each and every one of you!

United in light we are,
Your German Temple Brothers and Sisters



*Dear Temple Brothers, Sisters, and Friends
of all countries and peoples
of our great Family — Humanity!*

*At this special time, we greet you
from the depths of our hearts.*

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

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

Please accept our Love!

Saint Petersburg Group, August 2020

Dear Eleanor!

*We express our gratitude from our group for the
huge spiritual fulfillment that you and other Templars gave us.
We will remember and feel our wonderful unity and great love
for everything in the world for a long time to come.
Strength to you, joy of being, and wonderful events.
We are always with you in heart and soul.*

Your Moscow Sisters and Brothers

—

THE TEMPLE OF THE PEOPLE HOLISTIC CENTRE LONDON



2020

With great love, with the humility from our hearts and the wish to bring forward every good and beautiful thought — we offer to you, our Sisters and Brothers, our light to merge with All Light this Convention time and forever more.

Much love,
All of us in the United Kingdom

WHAT IS FAITH

If we have "faith as a grain of mustard seed... ."

We talk of faith quite glibly every day. Priest, minister, spiritualist, theosophist, etc. use the word mostly in a very loose manner, interchangeably with "belief" — if you believe, if you have faith — are used by very many in the same sense.

Now, did the grain of mustard seed believe? No, for it could not reason. But it had faith — faith in one way purer than any human being is capable of — a faith unswayed by any process of mind, such as reason. How does the mustard seed grow? Does it construct mental concepts and patterns to grow into? Does it say "I will accept this warm ray of the sun and reject this cold wind?" Does it coop itself up away from Nature, or does it simply expand in the warm sun and bow to the cold wind, depending, in all emergencies, at all times, upon its soul strength and its mother nature? Its ideal is safely enshrined in its innermost germ — its monad. Toward this it ever grows by the natural drawing force or love within. It cannot comprehend its ultimate development; it does not seek to shape it. It simply grows in size and beauty in the sun and warmth, in hardiness and endurance, in cold and storm. How plain is the lesson to us. We also can in nowise understand our ultimate development as yet with our poor shallow materialized brain. We try one and all to take the warmth and sunshine of life and to hide away from the storms and cold winds. And were it not that our Mother Nature seeks out our hiding places, and in the end doles out our necessary cold winds and storms, what a hopeless wreck the human race would become.

Even as it is, we, the highly civilized twentieth century babies, are half dead from our outer cuticle; hidden, as it were, under clothes, in the dark, to the poor little darkened, half-starved soul within. And all because we have ceased to have faith in the Monad, the Innermost Germ — the Divinity within. We do not accept the direction of the Eternal Mother. We have not faith as the mustard seed; so we ourselves, shut our selves, our souls, off in

little temporary mental chambers from our brothers and the Great Mother, and starve as a result. We try to subsist upon a few mental straws and husks, until the soul cries again in its agony for the realities of life, and rejects the little mental husks and straws, and turns again to its underlying faith in its Divine Germ within. And the dear World-Mother takes the little wanderer once again under her wings, feeds it upon her own vital forces, gives it the wind and cold and sorrow and death and joy of life. And so the Prodigal returns to Nature, its Father's house — and the little soul with unconquerable faith grows forever on, resting in its Mother's love and its Father's care.

— John O. Varian
The Temple Artisan
 January 1903

Peace

is in our hearts, deep Peace;

Nothing is speaking there but the voice of Love;

Spirit doors are opening inwardly,

Spirit Powers are coming in, and coming out.

The Gods

are using us to transmit Growth;

They are moulding us in Their Mighty Hands;

They are modeling us for Their Own Purposes.

From the poem "The Convention, 1927"

Written by J. O. Varian

and repeated at the 1927 Convention

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Rudolf Otto Sanft was born in 1930 in Grosse-Blumberg an der Oder, now part of Poland. His spirit and courage were evident as a young man, when he fell gravely ill and said, "Lord, if You will save me, I will praise You for the rest of my life." He kept this promise each and every day through joyful commitment to others.

Otto trained as a barber, opening his first salon in West Berlin in 1958. He taught his craft to others and received professional honors for his mentorship in 1990. Investing heart and soul into his profession, he was more interested in serving others than in profit. When he had money he would quickly find someone he could help, so sometimes the till was empty.

The greatest joy in his life was the birth of his daughter Renate, with whom he experienced a professional connection as a hairdresser. She has continued the family business.

Otto found his spiritual home with the Temple of the People at the end of 1972. He served with joy for the benefit of all, on whatever level or office, most recently at Eleanor's request that he serve as Chief Priest in Germany. He also found new love in this circle, in Annegret Liebig, the Inner Guard of the German Section. Otto and Annegret married and built a beautiful life together.

As Annegret wrote for his memorial, "Otto made this world lighter throughout his life. We know that light does not die and does not lose itself from our world, for light is nourished by God. Let us remember this light when clouds seek to darken it. Otto's radiant being now continues to work on higher levels."

Maria Therese Heukamp, a devoted member of the German Section of the Temple, passed away on April 16 at the age of 82. Therese joined the Temple in 1987. She was active in the Munich group and attended the annual Convention gatherings held in Berlin. Therese was an artist, mother, and friend who will be deeply missed. We bless you on your way.

Basil W.R. Jenkins, a dear friend and Temple member, was born in 1945 in Fairbanks, Alaska. He moved to the Central Coast in his early life, and loved to tell the story of walking the Oceano dunes as a young boy and coming upon Ella Young surrounded by her devotees. Basil lived much of his adult life in Los Angeles before moving back to Grover Beach. He was a committed esoteric thinker, and contributed his insightful poetry and prose to *The Temple Artisan*. He was a gifted linguist, storyteller, artist, editor, and a brilliant historian of the art and religion of the Byzantine world.

Basil was a one-time doctoral student at UCLA, former curator of the Francis E. Fowler, Jr. Foundation Museum, and author of *The Greek Ethos: Folk Art of the Hellenic World* (1979). He also co-authored several books on Serbian religion, culture, and politics. Basil was a longtime associate of Manly P. Hall at his Philosophical Research Society (PRS) in Los Angeles, where he was a popular lecturer, served as the curator of the PRS collection, and was associate editor of the *PRS Journal*. Basil was also a knowledgeable collector of beautiful things, and an enthusiastic steward of the many cultural stories about them.

Basil Jenkins was a uniquely warm and empathetic person, a passionate conversationalist, and recently shared his historical insights as a professor at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. One of his students declared that he was “one of the wisest, well-read, intelligent thinkers on our campus. Reading his poetry was like taking a step into a world where history and mythology meet. He was a pious man.... I admired his faith.” And another, upon receiving a statewide academic award, remembered him: “Basil Jenkins inspired me more than any other person I have ever met.”

We lost Basil a few days before Convention. His penetrating intelligence, infectious wit, and quiet wisdom will be sorely missed, and his unique life of love and service will endure in our hearts.

NOTES ABOUT TOWN

As the pandemic goes on, we are being careful about sheltering in place, wearing masks and other protective gear as needed. Everyone is healthy and keeping an eye out for services needed by neighbors, whether offering a friendly greeting, bringing things from the market, or taking in a meal.

Barbara Norman retired after 41 years of service as Temple secretary. She was devoting time and energy in her garden, but just after Convention she tripped on a hose and broke her right femur and cracked a bone in her elbow. Following surgery and physical therapy, she is smiling and recovering well.

Anne Dunbar has stepped into those shoes, and is now staffing the front office. She brings many skills and her bright smile to daily operations for the Temple.

The lull in visitors due to the pandemic allowed a long-overdue project to be completed when the main guest bath in the Open Gate was remodeled in June. This safety improvement replaced an old clawfoot bathtub with a handicapped-accessible shower enclosure, making more space and a safer environment for future guests.

The California fires are a sobering reminder of the need to keep our yards cleared of debris and overgrowth. Our thanks go to Aureliano and Steven for keeping us safe through their skillful efforts mowing and grooming Temple open spaces.

Our good friend and farmer Jerry Rutiz has adapted to the pandemic and continues to provide his nourishing fresh produce to the community. His care of the 28 acres of Temple farmland bordering the Pike and Elm is evident in the colors, textures, and variety of food and flowers he cultivates in the fields.

Numerous Halcyonites have reported the benefits of shelter-in-place as cupboards, drawers, and closets in town have been carefully trimmed of any out of date, unnecessary, or unused items. Has it affected yours? Stay safe and be well, dear family!

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES AND NOTICES

Temple services and study classes are now held online. Join us by using the contact link on the Temple website.

For the duration of shelter-at-home measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, community buildings such as the William Quan Judge Library, Hiawatha Lodge, and University Center are closed to normal use. The Open Gate and apartment guest quarters are also closed until further notice.

The Temple Healing Service is held daily at noon in the Temple. This 15-minute service offers prayers and meditations for the health and safety of the world, every day of the year. The words to the service can be found on the Temple website.

Sunday Services are held online at 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time

First Sunday of the month: The Feast of Fulfillment is the Temple Communion service. All are welcome.

Last Sunday of the month: Enter the Silence features inspirational readings and short meditation, followed by the Temple Healing Service.

Other Sundays: Speaker Sundays feature talks by the Guardian in Chief or others on Temple-related topics.

Tuesday and Friday Study Classes are held online at 5:30 p.m.

Group study and discussion of the Teachings and selected Temple materials are held weekly for an hour.

The speakers in the Sunday services were:

April 19, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Power of Words*; May 10, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Potpourri*; May 17, Luke Ironside: *Theosophy Moving Forward*; May 24, Marti Fast: *There are No Little Things*; June 14, Eleanor L. Shumway: *The Central Point*; June 21, Chris Thyrring: *God is All There Is*; July 12, Eleanor L. Shumway: *Convention Preamble*; July 19, Jeff Clark: *Fohat Hors d'oeuvres*; August 16, Marti Fast: *Sacred Geometry in the Square Diagram and Temple Architecture*; August 23, Eleanor L. Shumway: *We Belong to the World*.

The Temple of the People

P. O. Box 7100 • Halcyon, California 93421-7100 • U. S. A.

Tel (805) 489-2822 • Fax (805) 481-9446 • ginc@templeofthepeople.org
www.templeofthepeople.org