

THE CROSS & CROWN



Roger S. Ross, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of California

SEPTEMBER 2023

Vol. III No. 4

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Grand Commander's Message

Fellow Sir Knights,

As I continue my journey up and down this fantastic State of California, I am greeted by many current Knights Templar who want to learn more about the origins of Templary and of Freemasonry and the connection between our ancient Crusader brethren and our historic Masonic roots. I have researched this history since I became an Apprentice in the mid-nineteen nineties and continue to pursue this journey of discovery today. I am indebted to many Brothers and numerous authors whose research pre-dates my own and I would like to introduce my readers to some of them today. One of the most prolific writers of Masonic/Templar fiction is, of course, Dan Brown. His "DaVinci Code" was published twenty years ago in 2003 and became a movie that introduced (or re-introduced) much of the general public's interest into the mysterious world of Freemasonry/Templarism. He continued his semi-historic and occasionally hysteric mixture of lore and imagination with "Angels & Demons" and other novels featuring Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon. His novels contained

just enough actual history into the Crusader's Knighthood to keep a true Templar reading to find some gems of truth woven into an exciting modern mystery story. Moving into the non-fiction category, three other authors loom large. Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh have combined their knowledge and talent to create some fantastic tomes that sparked my interest and I recommend them to any student of our Chivalric Order. I highly recommend both "Holy Blood and the Holy Grail" (joined by Henry Lincoln copyright 1982) and "The Temple and the Lodge" (copyright 1989) which is sub-titled "The Strange and Fascinating History of the Knights Templar and The Freemasons"). The latter book which contains a very convincing connection between Scottish Templars and the formation of modern freemasonry...

(quoting from the top of page 194: "It is not clear precisely when-within the privacy of lodges whose records, if they ever existed, have long been lost -- the connections between Freemasonry and the Templars were first made explicit. Very likely it was as early as 1689...")

The final author I would like to introduce you to today is John J. Robinson. I first read "Born in Blood" by Mr. Robinson around 1996 and was immediately hooked on the connection between the crusading Templars and the modern Masons. Part I of this book is 11 chapters about the Knights Templar and Part II (chapters 12 through 25) is entitled The Freemasons. I guarantee you that this is one fascinating read. The blurb on the inside of the cover reads : "Its mysterious symbols and rituals had been used in secret for centuries before Freemasonry revealed itself in London in 1717". Robinson has also penned "Dungeon Fire and Sword" and "A Pilgrim's Path" which I highly recommend to any scholar of Templary/Freemasonry or anyone simply curious about the history of either of these two organizations. Next month I'll introduce you to (or remind you of) further authors of Masonic/Chivalric tomes.

I'd like to remind all California Templars that the Colorado River Fall Festival is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity to get all of the York Rite Degrees for your candidates in a couple of days including the entire Knight Templar Orders on Tuesday, October 24th. You must submit your Request to Confer Courtesy Work before October 1, 2023!

ATTENTION GRAND OFFICERS:

This year, the Southwestern and Northwestern Department Conferences for Grand Encampment have been combined. We will meet October 20-21 in Salt Lake City at the Little America Hotel (same location as last year). Please register ASAP, all Grand Dais Officers must attend. Please contact me and let me know that you are registered.

Roger S. Ross, KCT
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar, California

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

CRFF

Sir Knights one and all -- From the world of Ritual

Well, here we are going into the end of summer. If we you're moving up in the officer corp, you've almost gotten our words down. I see that there are or have been receptions throughout the state. They ranged from the formal to the informal picnic style. This brings me to protocol on introductions and forming the lines. I know that this is usually setup by the inspectors and either carried out by them or the Department Officer. I wanted you to understand the working of this. Your secretary can go to the Grand York Rite web page and download the protocol for this. We are all about formal procedures in performing our ritual and visitations, and introductions are no different. We take pride in the performance of our actions at these functions. It is important to understand the history behind this.

This leads me to another subject: The History of our organization. Too often we do not have the answers for our new members. There is a wealth of information on the internet to bring to the meetings for discussion. If you have a video screen setup, you can download presentations acquired from youtube.com. We need to make our meetings interesting. Holding discussions with non-members present builds interest. Attend your blue lodge and invite the members (even Entered Apprentices).

Remember that to increase attendance, you must create an information time.

As always, I am at your service.

God bless

Sir Knight Jim Baum

Grand Inspector General

jamesgbaum@msn.com

760-885-0256 (leave a message and I will get back to you.)

What the hay is CRFF you ask??

Well, it's the acronym for the Colorado River Fall Festival. All York Rite degrees and orders are conferred over a two-day period. This year the conferral is planned for October 22-24. That's three days you say??!?!? Well, yes – the 22nd is a Sunday, when all candidates must arrive for orientation by 7:00 pm. Chapter Degrees start early on Monday morning, Council Degrees in the afternoon, with an excellent banquet provided Monday evening. Commandery Orders are conferred on Tuesday, the 24th.

If you have candidates waiting, consider CRFF – the conferrals are arranged at the Riverside Hotel, owned by the Don Laughlin family. Don was a Mason. The arrangements are very good, especially in this inflationary period – you will not be disappointed. Go to the following website to get the Registration Package:

<https://crff.org/index.php/new-register-now>

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND ORDERS

Several Festivals are upcoming for the Summer and Fall. See Flyers at the end. Of particular note are:

Inland Empire (San Bernardino)

August 19, 2023

September 13, 2023

October 7, 2023

Sutter Creek

September 9, Mark Master

East Bay (Alameda)

Sept 23, 2023 at 7:30am

Oct 7, 2023 at 8:00am

Oct 14, 2023 at 7:30am



GRAND SESSIONS 2024

Grand York Rite activities in 2024 will take place at the Marriott in Burbank. The Officers' Conference is set for March 1-3, and Grand Sessions for May 16-21.

TEMPLAR RITUALIST

How many of you think you know much about the rituals of the Orders? There's a NEW way you can test yourself. Grand Encampment has established a Learning Management System, which you can access at: <http://templared.org/moodle/>.

Give it a try. Several new modules have been added to the TEMPLAR RITUALIST module – HISTORY OF THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS TEMPLAR; and the COMMISSIONED TEMPLAR CHAPLAIN PROGRAM. You will have multiple choice quizzes to take in each Course and an opportunity to show off your excellence

by submitting essays for everyone's edification! The three modules available can all be found at the Grand Encampment site: www.knightstemplar.org.

The Editor

RECORDER ESSENTIALS

Recorders new and old: near the end of this newsletter you will find a two-page document that serves as guidelines for Secretaries and Recorders – especially new ones.

THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP. ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$115.00 plus shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and \$125.00 plus shipping for sizes 50 to 59, also in short, regular, and tall; and \$135.00 plus shipping, for sizes 60-69. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at (510) 502-3224; or at his website: www.mpenterprises.weebly.com; or directly to his email at maxluy@hotmail.com.

GRAND COMMANDER'S CALENDAR AUGUST 2023 – MAY 2024

Date	Event	Location
Sept 13, 2023	Cryptic Degrees	San Bernardino, 7:00 pm
Sept 24-30, 2023	Supreme Assembly	Marriott Waco, TX
Oct 1 – 10, 2023	Grand Conclave	Ohio
Oct 7, 2023	Templar Orders	San Bernardino, 9:00 am
Oct 14, 2023	3-Way Reception See Flyer	Santa Monica
Oct 19-23, 2023	SW Regional Conference	Salt Lake City, UT
Oct 27 - 29, 2023	Grand Lodge	San Francisco

GRAND COMMANDERY CONTACT INFORMATION

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WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
Website: WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES
Website: WWW.CA-GYRS.OR

Nov 29, 2023	Awards Ceremony	Foothill Commandery
Dec 18, 2023	Christmas Observance	Department 4
Feb 10, 2024	3-Way Reception	Auburn
Mar 1-3, 2024	Officers' Conference	Burbank Marriott
Mar 15-31, 2024	Hawaii Cruise	Pacific Ocean
April 6, 2024	3-Way Reception	San Diego
April 7, 2024	3-Way Reception	San Bernardino
May 16-21, 2024	Grand Sessions	Burbank Marriott

If you would like to attend any of these events and need to know particulars about where and when and cost, please call any of the contact numbers below, or go to the Grand York Rite website calendar at:

<http://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/commandery/itinerary.html>

TAX REPORTING

Robert Wellington of Orange County Chapter No. 73 is willing to assist Chapters with guidance to restore their tax exempt status, if needed. If you would rather speak to a brother, Companion and Sir Knight, than an IRS or FTB agent, feel free to contact Bob at rozekroy@gmail.com

SECRETARY and/or RECORDER ESSENTIALS -- REVISED

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org. The new website will require you to have a userid, and to have established a password. Once you LOGIN, you will see a long white line, above which you will see:

ROYAL ARCH FORMS CRYPTIC COUNCIL FORMS COMMANDERY FORMS

Then click on the appropriate FORMS. In ROYAL ARCH FORMS, scroll down to Officers Manual, which has information for the Secretary, and print that out. Many concepts in the Grand Chapter manual are relevant to Councils and Commanderies.

Priorities are as follows:

1. **Dues Collection** – You should send out dues notices no later than October, with payments from members due by December 31st.
2. **Membership control** – Membership information is now managed in the MMS system – Masonic Membership Solutions. Important changes to your membership include new members, suspensions, demits, and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, The WORKMAN, to them.
3. Do not cavalierly suspend members for non-payment of dues. There is a Constitutional process that should be followed rigorously in order that members, who may have moved and not received your dues notice, are treated fairly. See the following sections of the relevant Constitution in order to learn about this process:

Chapter: See Section 201 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/documents/royal-arch/ROYAL_ARCH_Constitution_2022_final.pdf

Council: See Section 30-10 in the Constitution at

https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/cryptic-council/pdf/Grand_Council_Constitution_2022.pdf

Commandery: See Section 347 in the Constitution at

<https://yorkriteofcalifornia.org/files/york-rite-forms-documents/commandery/GRAND%20COMMANDERY%20Constitution%202022.pdf>

4. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th for Chapter and Councils (and April 1st for Commanderies) does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date end-of-year numbers of active members in MMS. This is the source of your Per Capita bill. Without good data on your membership in MMS you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to begin your process near the end of the CY, as soon as possible. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive. Do so before the end of the year. **But most important is getting a userid to utilize MMS so you can enter deceased and suspended data.**
5. **Insurance** -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter, Council or Commandery to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder.
6. **Lodge Book of Marks** – Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.
7. **Minutes** – Take good minutes, but don't over-do it by trying to capture everything that is said. Focus on having a clear representation of motions made and the vote count by which they passed or failed. In addition to keeping petitions in a separate file, it is good practice to replicate the basic petitioner information in the minutes. It is also a good practice to keep the names of attendees at each meeting in the minutes. If conferring a degree, keep a copy of the cast members and the candidate(s). **Also, please send the candidate class names to the Grand Secretary or Grand Recorder.**
8. **Grand Sessions** – Before the May meeting, remind the Dais officers they are responsible to attend; and arrange a stipend if your Chapter, Council or Commandery can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers of the Chapter and Council cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or they may elect a representative. This is true also for Commanderies, whose members, however, cannot issue proxies. The appropriate Chapter forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials." Or, alternatively, the forms for all three bodies can be found at www.ca-gyrs.org.
9. **Order of High Priesthood** – Be sure the current HP and PHPs know they are eligible to receive this Order. In fact, it is a Constitutional requirement! Share the petition with them and send to the Grand Secretary. This requirement does not appear to be true for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree or the Past Commander's Association. Petitions for all three bodies are available at the www.ca-gyrs.org.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Ways to Give Financial Support

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

Name of donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

If donor is a Sir Knight give location:

State: _____ Commandery Name: _____ No. _____

Please apply my donation as follows: (Place an X in the appropriate box)

- \$30.00 **Life Sponsor** (For Sir Knights only)
 \$50.00 **Associate Patron** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals)
 \$100.00 **Patron** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals)
 \$100.00 **Grand Commander's Club** *
 \$1,000.00 **Grand Master's Club** *
 \$10,000.00 **Golden Chalice** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) **
 \$25,000.00 **Grand Master's Sword of Merit** (Available to Foundations, Corporations, or Individuals) **
 \$ _____ **General Contribution**

Check or money order enclosed (Payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.)

Please charge to my credit card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Memorial or In Honor Contributions please fill out the following:

In Remembrance In Honor

Name of Person: _____

Please Notify: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If a Commandery is to receive Remembrance or Honor credit please supply:

State: _____ Commandery Name: _____ No. _____

** Grand Master's Club and Grand Commander's Club may not be purchased in the name of any organization, only individuals. Members of the Grand Commander's Club may add to their donations until they reach a total of \$1,000 to receive membership in the Grand Master's Club. (As of 2/1/2015 once 25 Grand Master's Clubs are reached, a Sword of Merit will be awarded.)*

*** If requested at the time of the initial gift, the donations may be applied to the Permanent Donor Fund.*

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. welcomes gifts and Bequests as well as Gifts of Securities and Life Insurance. If you desire in planning your estate to make a gift to be used by The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. for its charitable programs, regardless of the form which your gift may take, the proper words to be used on any gift or check is "The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc."

The Foundation is a tax-exempt Charitable Organization under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please mail this form with your contribution to the address below.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 271118
Flower Mound TX 75027-1118
Phone: 214-888-0220 Fax: 214-888-0230
E-Mail: Manager@ktef.us
www.ktef.org

Fillable Form is at:

<https://www.ktef.org/donation-selection>

Fall 2023

York Rite Festival

Royal Arch Chapter Degrees
Mark, Past, Most Excellent & Royal Arch
Saturday, August 19th, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Cryptic Mason Council Degrees
Royal Master & Select Master
Wednesday, September 13th, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Knights Templar Commandery Orders
Red Cross, Malta & Order of the Temple
Saturday, October 7th, 2023 @ 9:00 A.M.

Please Check-In Early!
Sharp Time Set - Conferral of Degrees & Orders

All at the

San Bernardino York Rite Masonic Temple
2888 Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92405-3805
sbyrb@juno.com

Please be early to avoid delays / Prompt conferral times are set

Sutter Creek Weekend



Mark Master Degree
At Historic Sutter Creek Masonic Temple
Saturday, September 9, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled weekend on September 9 at historic Sutter Creek! Gold Country Royal Arch Chapter No. 11 will confer the Mark Master Degree in the Sutter Creek Masonic Temple beginning at 1:00 p.m. While we are conferring the degree, our non-Masonic guests can enjoy the boutique shopping district on Main Street. We will then have dinner together that evening at a nearby restaurant. For those who would like to stay overnight, there are three historic hotels in town.



Hotel Sutter



Hanford House



Sutter Creek Inn

For More Information:
John L. Cooper III, PHP
(650) 224-9189 or jlcooper@freemason.org

Reach out to all the Master Masons in your area to invite them to this event. There is no degree fee to receive the Mark Master, however, they do need to be voted into Gold Country Chapter or their local York Rite Chapter to receive the degree. Petitions for the Auburn York Rite Bodies can be emailed by sending a request to news@aburnyorkrite.org

A special meeting will be held that day to vote for candidates if need be.

Santa Monica Bay York Rite Presents

Santa Monica Bay Royal Arch № 97
Alpha Council № 39 Cryptic Masons
Santa Monica Bay Commandery of
Knights Templar № 61



Grand York Rite Brunch

**Saturday,
October 14th**

NOON until 4pm

\$20



California Yacht Club

4469 ADMIRALTY WAY, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292

Dress Code: Suit or York Rite Jackets!

Send RSVP to mj@mj.org

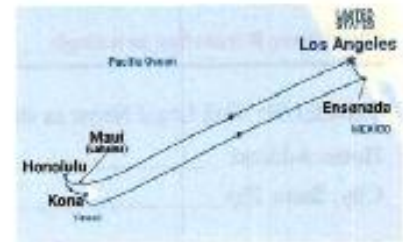


CALIFORNIA COMMANDERY HAWAII CRUISE

March 16-31, 2024

15-DAY HAWAII CRUISE
ROUND TRIP LOS ANGELES

Prices starting at only \$1,399 per person



Join Roger and Lynn Ross on this fantastic, fun-filled journey to our 50th state. Cruise with your sisters and brothers of the California Commandery, as we sail the blue waters of the Pacific, and visit the beautiful islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. You will have more fun than you can imagine, and make life-long memories. You don't want to miss this cruise. Sign up today! This cruise is open to everyone.

Here's our Itinerary:

3/16	Los Angeles	3:00 pm sailing
3/17-20	at sea	
3/21	Honolulu	9:00 am arrival
3/22	Honolulu	10:00 pm sailing
3/23	Lahaina, Maui	7:00 am - 6:00 pm
3/24	Kona, Hawaii	7:00 am - 6:00 pm
3/25-29	at sea	
3/30	Ensenada, Mexico	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
3/31	Los Angeles	6:15 am arrival

Here's Our Discounted Group Pricing:

Inside Stateroom	Category IB	\$1,399
Balcony Stateroom	Category BD	\$2,759
	Category BC	\$2,839
	Category DB	\$3,269
Mini-Suite	Category MC	\$3,859

Prices shown are per person, double occupancy. Additional costs include \$161 per person taxes and port fees. Air fare, transfers, tours, and gratuities are not included. Fares may be upgraded to Princess Plus or Princess Premier for an additional charge. **Travel insurance is an additional cost and is highly recommended.**



Aboard the beautiful Discovery Princess

Discovery Princess®, launched in 2022 is the third vessel designed from the ground up with Princess MedallionClass® and the final Royal-class ship. Enjoy 270-degree sweeping views from our largest balconies at sea, unwind in ultimate comfort at The Sanctuary, and indulge your senses with world-class dining options from Michelin-star and renowned chefs. Plus, Princess live entertainment presents spectacular new productions that can only be seen in our state-of-the-art Princess Theater. With our effortless, personalized service of the MedallionClass® experience, your real vacation has just begun!