

Sword & Trowel



October 2023

From the Most Illustrious Grand Master



'FALLING INTO AUTUMN"

A special "Hello" as Fall Season has now fallen upon us in full swing. Fortunately, Fall also brought forth the calm before the next wave of adventures in our travels. Cathy and I got a little bit of a breather during the month of September from airplane flights across the US and car rides across the State. A respite we both needed from the rigors of our schedule over the last three months.

Events attended this past month took place mostly in the Southern part of the State, starting off with attendance at the Southern Jurisdiction DeMolay Conclave that took place on September 3rd in Riverside. Seeing the leaders of the three Youth Groups make their presentations before those in attendance gave us insight into those that could very well be leading our Masonic organizations in the future. How refreshing to see these young adults demonstrate their leadership skills they have already gleaned through their membership in these organizations. We should bring more recognition to their feats and support these Orders more fervently as they ARE our future.



I was then privileged to participate in the Scottish Rite KCCH Honors that took place in Long Beach the weekend of September 8th – 9th. I was able to be a part of the degree that was held. The event was well attended.

As we approach October, Cathy and I are getting ready for another 3-way Reception in Santa Monica (flyer is included herein) on October 14th.

We are also preparing for our trip to the Philippines for their GYR Sessions (Oct 17th thru the 26th). I had the pleasure to meet several Companions from the Philippines over the past couple of years and truly look forward to visiting them and seeing how the country has changed over the past 48 years since I was there while in the service many years ago. In addition to attending the Session, I am going to attempt to visit Bagong Buhay Lodge # 17 where my father was raised when he was a Captain in the Army Corp of Engineers. I have communicated a great deal with MIGM Manuel Liam Chiew Garcia, the current GM of Cryptic Masons as well as Nesty V. Tampol who will be going in as the Grand Commander of Knights Templar this year. This will be Cathy's first time there and I'm sure she'll find some interesting things to do there to take up some of the down time, along with the Philippine cuisine. We are both very excited and hope to bring back some great pictures to share. When we return, we will be heading straight to San Francisco to attend the Grand Lodge 174th Communication on Oct 27th & 28th. As a result we will spend more than half of October out of town on travel.

I want to take this opportunity to let members know that we now have a new Grand York Rite website for everyone to enjoy. Please visit: yorkriteca.org and go to the Members tab to sign in. If you had a password from the old website, it won't work. You will need to create a new password to access the new portal. We have Web Masters for each of the York Rite bodies. They are: Marty Cusing (martycusing@gmail.com) for Grand Chapter, Andy Pippin (pippin@yorkriteca.org) for Grand Council, and Scott McNair (scottmcnair74@gmail.com) for Grand Commandery. If you are having any problems signing in, please contact your respective representative. Also on board is Mark Nielsen to assist with website development and maintaining our servers as we go forward. This is a huge savings going forward for all three Grand York Rite bodies and to the Corporation Board. If you don't see something in particular, or you would like something added, please don't hesitate to contact your respective Web Master for your Grand Body. Most important, I would like to thank MIPGM Guy Chalmers and Michael McKeown in getting this process started last year in order to bring the Grand York Rite communications out of the dark ages and into the future. As we progress forward, please let us know how we are doing and what you'd like to see more often on the website.

Degree work is being done around the State which is great to see. On September 13th San Bernardino Valley put on a festival and we greeted 21 new Cryptic members from Orange County, San Diego, Alhambra, Adoniram-Whittier, Helix, and H. Edward Barr's Oasis Councils. On Oct 7th in San Bernardino, they will be putting on the Commandery Orders. To those that would like to continue their York Rite journey, now is the time to do so.

In the north, EBYRA will be putting on the degrees in their area and are as follows: -

- Royal Arch Degrees, September 23, 2023, 7:30 am check-in
- Council Degrees, October 7, 2023, 8:00 am check-in
- Commandery Orders, October 14, 2023, 7:30 am check-in
- Location: Alameda Masonic Hall, 2312 Alameda Avenue, Alameda, CA

Please contact the following members if you so desire: President- Bill Bermudez (bill_bermudez@yahoo.com), 1st VP-Marion Rogers (marion.rogers@comcast.net),

2nd VP-Teddy Gardner, Jr. (elcoman2000@yahoo.com), Recorder/Treas.-F. Baclig (eastbayyorkriteassn@aol.com). When you receive these members, please make sure you enter them into MMS. Also, please present them with the book "The York Rite of Freemasonry" from your Grand Secretary/Recorders. This is a very useful book for the new members and hopefully they will share with other potential members.

This year I'm also proud to say that we have, or will have, presented 39 members with their 50 year anniversary certificates, 32 members with their 25 year anniversary certificates and 5 Master of Ish Sodi awards. Please check with your Recorders to make sure these Companions are receiving their certificates and awards. The Ish Sodi, to me, is like the Hiram Award for Blue Lodge. I believe we should be handing out more of these awards each year. Truly a banner year and I'm honored to be able to sign them.

Below is picture of those that participated in the Cryptic Degrees that were conferred on September 13th. What a fantastic sight to behold as our Council continues to grow across the State!



MIGM Michael T. Sherman, KYGCH, OSV





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

Thank you all for your support and assistance. Take care and God Bless you and your families

MIGM Michael T. Sherman KYGCH, OSV

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation



Companions,

Please use this form to make your donations, either personally or as a group. All donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated and will help advance the use of stem cells to help cure several problems of your vascular system, including diabetes and many heart conditions.

New situations that will benefit from the use of stem cells are discovered regularly and the research that CMMRF is performing is among the foremost in the industry to apply the stem cells to the recovery of normal function. These discoveries continue to evolve to solve many more cures than originally thought and may possibly be the “magic bullet” sought to treat most diseases, but that may be well into the future.

Remember that your donations are helping the medical industry to keep you alive and healthy. Your donation today may help find the cure for your disease tomorrow. Thank you for your contributions.

Guy Chalmers, Chairman

CMMRF Committee



Cryptic Masons
Medical Research Foundation
C.M.M.R.F.
PO Box 210
Brownsburg IN 46112-0210

This donation is from (please check the appropriate box below):

a California Council of Cryptic Masons

Name of Council

Council number

an individual

Name

Address.....

City

State

ZIP Code

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Donation Amount ..

Type of Donation

..... Normal donation

..... Memorial

..... Honorarium

Frequency of Donation

..... One time

..... Monthly

Additional Message or Comment

A Past Illustrious Grand Master Speaks



Order of the Secret Vault (OSV)
General Grand Council International

Our MW John L Cooper, PGM of California received his plaque and pin on September 9th, 2023 during a Sacramento YR visitation to the Historic Lodge in Sutter Creek, California.
MW John is member of the College of Preservation, the Honors College of The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International.

This was an overdue completion of his presentation and Acknowledgement due to conflicting schedules
Robert A.L. Whitfield, MIPGM
Head Dean, College of Preservation, California







Grand Director of Ritual

SOI



Grand Director of Ritual Schools of Instruction

Saturday September 30, 2023 - **Whittier, CA**
Sunday November 19, 2023 - **Escondido, CA**
Saturday December 2, 2023 - **Union City, CA**
Time 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Inspectors, ADR's, & DGO's please make it a top priority to attend. Officers coaches and council officers are encouraged to attend.

[Click here to let us know you are coming](#)

Mark Harris
415-505-2916
songmaster1@mac.com

Please use QR code to make reservations

Mark Harris 415-505-2916 songmaster1@mac.com



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

East Bay York Rite Association
*Presents the 54th Annual
Pilgrimage into the York Rite*

2023 David M. Shull Memorial Honoree: Marion Rogers

**Location: Alameda Masonic Hall
2312 Alameda Avenue
Alameda, California**

Chapter Degrees, Saturday, September 23, 2023

Registration 7:30 a.m. Degrees to begin 8:30 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by sponsoring Chapter

Council Degrees, Saturday, October 7, 2023

Registration 8:00 a.m. Degrees to begin 9:00 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by sponsoring Council

Commandery Orders, Saturday, October 14, 2023

Registration 7:30 a.m. Orders to begin 8:30 a.m.

Cost per Candidate \$30 - To be paid by sponsoring Commandery

Lunch @ \$10

(Lunch: No charge for Candidates - \$10 for all others)

All candidates must be preregistered

For more information contact

Fred Baclig – 925 216 1174 Eastbayyorkriteassn@aol.com

Mail Reservation and check payable to EBYRA

To: Fred Baclig – Registrar

5021 Vesteny Ct.

Antioch, CA 94531-7812

From the Editor

GRAND SESSIONS 2024

Grand York Rite activities in 2024 will take place at the Marriott in Burbank on May 16-21. Dont forget to look at our website: <https://yorkriteca.org/cryptic/>



If you would like to submit an artical please contact me at the below email address.

Douglas J. Smith KYCH Editor Sword & Trowel

caswordntrowelmag@gmail.com