

THE WORKMAN



Tony Yuson, GHP



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California

MARCH 2019

Vol. X No. 10

GHP MESSAGE	1	THE ENCOMPASSER	5
COMPTCHE 2019	2	GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR	6
GRAND LECTURER	3	CONTACT INFORMATION	6
GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER	3	SECRETARY ESSENTIALS	7 - 8
SECRETARY ESSENTIALS	4	GRAND SESSIONS 2019	9
GRAND SESSIONS 2019	4	GRAND SESSIONS REG FORM	10 - 11
ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD	4	GRAND SESSIONS AD FORM	12
GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS	5	COMPTCHE FLYER AND MAP	13 - 14
THE CLOTHES LINE	5	KEystone TO A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY	15

Grand High Priest's Message

Companions,

My hope is that when you are reading this message, you are in good health and in good spirits. Spring will soon be here. We've had a long winter in California and I am really looking forward to the new life that comes in Spring and spark in all of us new energy. In the Grand Chapter, Spring reminds us that it is time to plan for Grand Sessions and prepare for the new caputular year. I'm certain our Grand King is putting the final touches of his program for the upcoming year.

This year, the Grand Chapter has worked to improve the quality of what we cherish most, our ritual. This was an important part of my year's program and I'm seeing in the articles from High Priests of local chapters, that it is reaching you. How we present and deliver the Royal Arch opening and closing and the impression we give to our candidates when we share our degrees directly impacts the relevance of the Royal Arch. Our degrees are amazing, and the lessons contained in our ritual is what defines our Chapters.

Recently, I received a comment from one companion who helped our candidates during the Mark Master degree held at Grand Lodge Annual Communications. He mentioned working with the candidates before and after the degrees, explaining our institution and describing the degree they were about to experience, gave him a better understanding. He noted that in his

district, his chapter participated in a pilgrimage, but their chapter focused on a specific degree. Although this resulted in good understanding of the degree they were assigned, he did not have that same knowledge or understanding of the other degrees. Ideally, all our chapters should strive to deliver all four of our degrees, but I know we are not there yet but until we are, I suggest adding to your meeting agenda, time to talk about our degrees and the lessons contained in it.

In April, our Grand Lecturer will be setting up a ritual school in Northern California. The location and date will be announced in the coming weeks. More than likely, we will hold it in the Sacramento area. Also, many areas are hosting local festivals. Don't be surprised if you see me. I may not be able to stay for the entire event but if time permits, I'll drop in to meet our newly exalted Royal Arch Masons.

As I have always closed with every article I have written this year, for our chapters to be successful and grow, not only the officers of the chapter but also the members must take an active part. If all of us could attend at least 3 chapter meetings (25%) this year, our chapter will become stronger and grow. Remember that: *"without you, they can do little or nothing; with you, they can accomplish great things"*.

"Be safe and I hope I can see you in my travels".

Fraternally,

**Anthony "Tony" Yuson, KGYCH
Grand High Priest,
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California**

"You are the Steps to our Future"

COMPTCHE– 2019

In 2019 we will celebrate the 47th annual conferral of the Capitular Degrees. You well know that 47 is a significant number in Masonry. As explained in the Hieroglyphical Emblems of the Third Degree lecture, "The 47th Problem of Euclid" was an invention of our ancient friend and brother, the great Pythagoras, who, in his travels through Asia, Africa and Europe, was initiated into several orders of Priesthood, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason." **The**

Comptche Outdoor Degree Association has, therefore, decided to name next year's class in honor of Pythagoras, and establish a goal of 47 candidates! To achieve this laudable objective, it is crucial that all Companions begin now to identify prospective candidates, and continue to do so throughout the year, and be always ready to talk about the Royal Arch Degree. **Plan on making a Lodge or a Family vacation out of the event and stay a few days! The Fish Fry Friday night and the BBQ Saturday night**

are always events of great conviviality, to be enjoyed by friends, brothers and family alike!

Larry Tunzi, a Companion and owner of the Ranch, allows us to park RVs, or setup tents, on the property in order to enjoy the Festival without excess travel and boarding cost, if you choose to do so. In addition to the cook shack, there is a separate shack for dressing and showering, as well as men's and women's facilities. See picture below:



In the following picture, you can see some of the space that is available for parking RVs. Off to the right and left are areas under the trees for camping, enjoyed by many Companions each year.

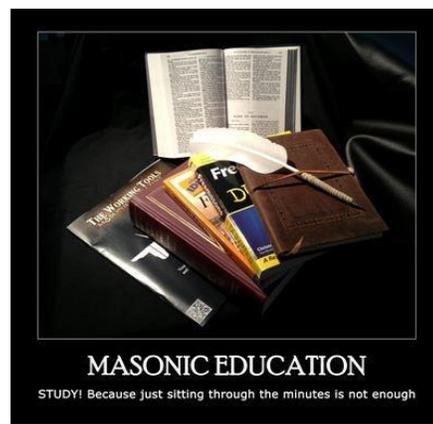


GRAND LECTURER

This month just a short message to Save the Date! We will be conducting a Chapter School of Instruction in the greater Sacramento (Sacramento or thereabouts) area on Saturday, 20 April, 2019 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm (yes, this is indeed Easter Saturday; but well after Spring Break for most of us in California). We plan to cover the Mark Master and Past Master Degrees during this school and all Royal Arch Masons in good standing are invited to attend! There will be a lunch provided at no cost to the attendees (Yes, a free lunch!!) and you do Not need to be an officer in your Chapter to attend. The exact location is still being determined and I will have that information to relay to you in the April Workman. Please plan to attend and learn why we do what we do in these degrees for the benefit of your Chapter and your new initiates!

Best Regards – Your most humble Grand Lecturer

GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER



Companions,

The semi-annual meeting of the Research Chapter was held in the California Room during Grand Lodge on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 12:15 PM. All Royal Arch Masons are encouraged to attend. Copies of the Grand Orations booklets, covering 2015-2017, and 2018, were available.

A talk on the importance of Ritual was presented by Grand Lecturer Steve Goad. Afterwards an excellent paper "Keystone of the Spiritual Journey Within" was presented by the Chapter High Priest, Jonathan Prestage. This paper was prepared by Robert G. Davis, of Oklahoma, and **a synopsis can be found at the end of this newsletter**. The next meeting will be at Grand Sessions on Tuesday, May 21st, at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert A Morrison, Secretary

SECRETARY ESSENTIALS

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

Another good source of information for the Secretary can be found in the Grand Chapter Forms and Documents folder, called Chapter Secretary Desktop Procedures, at:

<http://www.yorkriteusa.org/caqyr/forms/Chapter/>

If you are prompted for a username and/or password, call your Inspector, or anyone in the CONTACTS section below.

GRAND SESSIONS 2019

Dates for the 2019 California Grand York Rite

Monday, May 20, 2019 – Grand Chapter
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – Grand Council
Wednesday, May 22, 2019 – Grand
Commandery

A copy of the flyer announcing the change to the Wyndham Hotel in Visalia, and showing future years as well, is included at the back of this newsletter, as are the 2019 Reg form and the AD form. Start now to ask your Chapter to help fund these Session with an AD in the brochure.

The Registration and Ad forms are also available at www.ca-gyrs.org website. Please note the deadlines: April 5th to get a room at the hotel; May 8th to order meals during Grand Sessions. Suggestion: DO IT NOW!!

ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD

It is a requirement of the Constitution that all High Priests receive this Order. If you expect to be elected and/or installed High Priest in 2019, or are a Past High Priest who has not yet received the order, you should plan to do so at the Grand Chapter Convocation next year, May 20, 2019, at 2:00 pm in the afternoon. See the application below in the document labeled SECRETARY ESSENTIALS.

GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

For information about Royal Arch Scholarships for 2019, go to the following website:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>

The Masonic Family has a large number of scholarships available to our youth, but how many of those in need of assistance really “KNOW” they are available?

California Royal Arch \$1,000 Scholarship requirements:

A member of the Masonic Family
(ie: Rainbow, Jobs Daughter or Demolay)
A US Citizen
A California Resident
A 3.0 Grade Point Average
Enrolled or Accepted at an
Educational Institution

Deadline to apply for the 2019 Scholarship Program will be March 1, 2019. Scholarship requirements will remain the same. Early submissions can be forwarded to the Office of the Grand Chapter Secretary at

Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons
Attn: Grand Secretary
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (562) 924-6500 x 1123
E-mail: sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org.

Once chosen, the award of \$1,000 is renewable for a total of 4 years, as long as the requirements are maintained. Do you know a Rainbow Girl, Job's Daughter or DeMolay that could benefit by knowing

this information? What are you waiting for – make that call! Note above that no DeMolay received an award this year. If you know a qualified DeMolay, please bring this information to his attention.



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.

ENCOMPASSER

The January 2019 edition is now available on the website. If you must have hard-copy, please call the Grand Secretary's office at the contact numbers listed below.

http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/encompasser_issues.html

OR

Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org>

and click on The Encompasser on the left of the top toolbar.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CALENDAR

MARCH 2019 – MAY 2019

Date	Event	Location
Mar 2	Chapter Festival	San Diego
Mar 3	Masonic Service Bureau Breakfast	Los Angeles
Mar 8-10	Officers' Conference	Visalia
Apr 4-6	Grand Sessions	Oregon
Apr 7-10	Grand Assembly, IORG	Ontario
May 18-23	Grand Sessions	Visalia

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://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/ghpcalendar.html>

GRAND CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Grand High Priest:

Anthony T. "Tony" Yuson, KYGCH
(650) 740-9020 (C)
atyuson1@gmail.com

Grand Secretary:

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(562) 924-6500 (W) x 1123
(916) 712-4814(C)
sec-rec@yorkriteofcalifornia.org

Assistant Grand Secretary:

Tom Krummell, KYCH
1123 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(562) 924-6500(W) x 1001
(916) 844-8252(C)
Tom.Krummell@gmail.com

Editor:

Phil Hardiman, KYGCH
(916) 712-4814(C)
philipandnancy@aol.com

Website:

WWW.YORKRITEOFCALIFORNIA.ORG

GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER OF RESEARCH
Website:

WWW.GOLDENSTATECHAPTER.ORG

GRAND SESSIONS, FORMS & SCHEDULES
Website:

WWW.CA-GYRS.ORG

SECRETARY ESSENTIALS

Forms and Documents you will need are located at the Grand York Rite website, which is: www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org.

Scroll down and click on "York Rite Forms and Documents." Then click on Grand Chapter logo. A window opens where you enter the userid, which is "cagyr" and the password, which is "brio"

Scroll down to Officers Manual, which has info for the Secretary, and print that out. Priorities are as follows:

1. **Dues Collection** – You should send out dues notices in October, with payments from members by December 31st.
2. **Membership control** -- Especially important is the very last item, "Royal Arch Monthly Report." If you fill this out each month, whenever you encounter changes to the membership, you will find it much easier at the end of the year to produce the year-end report, which is used to compute the amount of per capita the Chapter needs to pay. That payment is due by Jan 15th each year. Important changes to your membership include new members, demits, remits and deaths. Maintain e-mail addresses for members and you can easily then forward the monthly newsletter, The WORKMAN, to them.
3. **Per Capita** -- The Per Capita payment, due each Jan 15th, does not require action by the Chapter to be paid. You will need good, up-to-date membership data in order to compute the end-of-year number of active members that is crucial to computing your per capita payment. Without good data you will most likely overpay your per capita requirement. It is sensible to wait until the first of the new year to begin your process. It is also sensible, if you have access to the Grand Lodge database, to check each member to see if they are still alive.
4. **Insurance** -- The Insurance payment, due each July 15th, does not require action by the Chapter to be paid. You will be billed for the payment by the Grand Secretary.
5. **Lodge Book of Marks** – Maintain this up-to-date, or perhaps arrange for a PHP to take on the responsibility of maintaining.
6. **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).

7. **Grand Chapter** – Before the May meeting, remind the Dais officers they are responsible to attend, and arrange a stipend if your Chapter can afford it. Remind members who expect to attend to be sure to take their dues cards. If Dais Officers cannot attend, they may issue a proxy, or the Chapter may elect a representative. The appropriate forms can be obtained on the Grand York Rite website: Scroll to "Elected Representative and Proxy Credentials."
8. **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 below with them and send to the Grand Secretary:

ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD PETITION

Chapter No. _____

High Priests and Past High Priests, who have not received the Order of High Priesthood, may complete the following petition for membership and submit it with the required fee of \$50.00 to the Chapter Recorder prior to February 15. - The Order will be conferred during Grand Sessions

Make check payable to: GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS

And note OHP in the Memo Field

Companion _____

First Middle Last _____

Address City State ZIP _____

Birth Date Office Tel # incl. area code Home Tel # incl. area code _____

I am a member of _____ Chapter No. _____

I (am the Elected)(am)(was) High Priest of _____ Chapter No. _____
 Located at _____ having served during _____

Companion _____

Signature _____

For Grand Secretary's use only:

___ Life Membership - fee \$50.00. The below listed items were issued:

___ Bible

___ Honorary Membership - no fee. ___ Membership Card

___ By-laws

___/___/___ Date petition received. ___ History

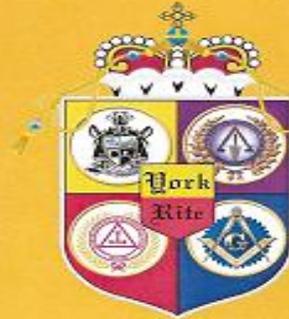
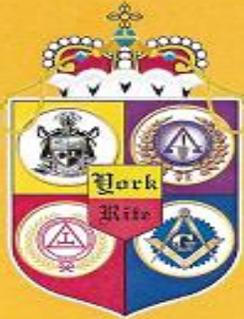
___ Lapel Pin

___/___/___ Date initiated. ___ Certificate

The completed petition with fee must be in the Grand Secretary's Office, 1123 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 no later than April 1. If not, the certificate may not be prepared for presentation during the next conferral of the Order.

Page 1 of 1 R.A. Form No. AP-7 (2004)

Grand Sessions 2018, 2019, and 2020
Come join us as we move up the road



Wyndham Visalia
9000 W Airport Drive,
Visalia, California 93277



May 19 thru 23, 2018

May 18 thru 22, 2019

May 16 thru 20, 2020



2019 Grand York Rite Sessions May 18th to May 22nd, 2019 – Visalia, CA

Each person attending must fill out a registration form. Please print your names and titles as you would like it printed on your badge.
Do you prefer your confirmation by: email (default) none phone call (latest time to call _____)

Name: _____ Lady / Guest: _____
 Title(s): _____
 Lady / Guest Title(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
 Arrival Date / Time: _____ Departure Date / Time: _____ J-12/2/18

I am a member of: **RAM #** _____ **CM #** _____ **KT #** _____

Please list the **Number(s)** that you are a member of

R.O. is Reservation Only. There is no charge for the event. However, if you plan to attend, please mark (o) your reservation form

Day/Date	Time	Please enter the number of Meals/Events you are requesting	Price	Total
Sat - 18 th	1:30 PM	Secretary / Recorder Workshop _____	R.O.*	
Sun - 19 th	8:00 AM	GYR CA Corporation Annual Meeting _____	R.O.*	
	11:00 AM	Battalion & Belles Brunch Executive Brunch Buffet _____	\$24.00	
	1:00 PM	Drill Team Participant _____	R.O.*	
	4:00 PM	Vespers Service (Memorial Service for all 3 Bodies) _____	R.O.*	
	6:30 PM	Grand York Rite Banquet: Steak Au Poivre _____ Pacific Salmon _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Special Dietary _____	\$43.00	
Mon - 20 th	7:00 AM	Grand Chapter Breakfast: (Open to all Registrants) Wyndham Buffet _____	\$17.00	
	12:15 PM	Combined RAM Ladies and Grand Chapter Luncheon: Charbroiled Beef Medallions _____ Grilled Salmon _____ Special Dietary _____	\$28.00	
	1:30 PM	Order of High Priesthood Degree _____ <i>Must include the OHP Petition</i>	\$50.00	
	1:30 PM	Secretary / Recorder Workshop _____	R.O.*	
Tue - 21 st	7:00 AM	Grand Council Breakfast: (Open to all Registrants) Wyndham Buffet _____	\$17.00	
	12:00 PM	CM Ladies Luncheon: Deli Style Buffet _____ Special Dietary _____	\$28.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Council Luncheon: Western Style BBQ _____ Special Dietary _____	\$34.00	
	1:30 PM	Thrice Illustrious Master Degree _____ <i>Must include the TIM Petition</i>	\$40.00	
	1:30 PM	Secretary / Recorder Workshop _____	R.O.*	
	2:30 PM	Golden State Research Chapter attendee _____	R.O.*	
Wed - 22 nd	7:00 AM	Grand Commandery Breakfast (Open to all Registrants) Wyndham Buffet _____	\$17.00	
	12:00 PM	KT Ladies Luncheon Grilled Salmon _____ Breast of Chicken Carbonara _____ Special Dietary _____	\$28.00	
	12:15 PM	Grand Commandery Luncheon Deli Style Buffet _____ Special Dietary _____	\$26.00	
	1:30 PM	Past Commander's Association _____ <i>Must include the PCA Application</i>	\$30.00	
	1:30 PM	Secretary / Recorder Workshop _____	R.O.*	

Special Dietary notation: We will try to accommodate those with special dietary needs and work with the hotel chefs. Please note your dietary concern: **Vegan** **Vegetarian** **Gluten Free** and mark the count in each meal line above. If we are unable to accommodate for that meal, you will be contacted ahead of time and refund issued.

Check# _____ enclosed payable to Grand York Rite of CA or Invoice me via PayPal

Comments:

Events are subject to change based on reservation responses or other factors.

More information on the other (or back) page.

More forms (including the Order of High Priesthood, Thrice Illustrious Master & Past Commanders Association), menus and schedule are available from www.ca-gyrs.org.

2019 Grand York Rite Sessions May 18th to May 22nd, 2019 – Visalia, CA

Please send page 1 of this form and payment to:
CA-GYRS 1123 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814-2883

Meal reservations are locked & will not be accepted after 05/08/19 (don't even ask)

*Onsite registration is available to the Companions and Sir Knights attending sessions without ordering meals.
Please be aware that Name Tags will not be printed for late registrants, so please register before the deadline.*

Contact the **Wyndham Hotel** 9000 W Airport Dr Visalia, California 93277 +1-559-651-5000
Tell the agent that you are in the **Grand York Rite Group** or register online via www.ca-gyrs.org
Room rate: \$95.00 +taxes.

Hotel reservation deadline is **04/05/19** Pending room block availability – best to register early

Questions, contact the following below:

- **Executive Officer: Randy Downey**, executiveofficer@ca-gyrs.org or call +1 408 674 8341
 - **Meal/Event reservations: Dave Glass** reservations@ca-gyrs.org or call +1 916 616 3283
- No refunds after May 09th, 2019 unless approved by the Grand York Rite Sessions Executive Committee.

A few words about Reservation Only ("R.O.") events:

Although there is no charge for these events, please enter in a numerical value for the events you want to attend. This provides a headcount for the preparation of the event. Also, if the event is cancelled or changed you can be notified.

Secretary / Recorder Workshop. Our Grand Secretary / Recorder will be going over forms, processes and the online membership database (MMS). This is intended for all Secretary / Recorders and Dais Officers that want to understand the duties. Attendance is required to obtain access to MMS. The same material is covered on each session (Sat. Mon. Tue & Wed). Please mark on the day you will attend.

Sunday:

Grand York Rite California (GYR CA) Corporation Annual Meeting. Event starts at 8:00 am to completion of business. All members of the GYR CA Corporation are cordially invited to attend. Agenda for this annual business meeting will be published separately.

Vesper services. Vespers is our gathering to honor our departed Companions and Sir Knights. All are encouraged to attend

Tuesday:

Golden State Royal Arch Research Chapter. All Royal Arch Masons are invited to attend. For a small fee of \$20, you can submit your petition at the meeting to become a lifetime member of the Golden State Research Chapter.

For your convenience, we are allowing you to register and pay for the Order of High Priesthood, Thrice Illustrious Master and Past Commanders Association with your other meals and events. You must also include those respective forms with this one. We will forward the information and funds to the appropriate persons.

Events are subject to change based on reservation responses or other factors.

47th ANNUAL COMPTCHE OUTDOOR ROYAL ARCH DEGREES



Tunzi Ranch - Comptche, CA
Saturday - June 22nd, 2019

All four degrees will be conferred on Saturday. The Prologue begins at 8:30 a.m.

Reservations: Deadline is Mon., JUNE 17th. The remote location, price of gasoline, and the cost of food require us to charge 20% more after that date. Mail your Reservation form (below) and check to: Guy Chalmers, 50 Lohrman Lane, Petaluma, CA 94952. For more information, call Guy at 707-477-3046.

Climate & Misc.: The coastal climate is either foggy and cold, or hot; Think layers. Dress attire is always casual. There's plenty to do so come a couple of days early. This is a cattle ranch so watch your step. No dogs allowed. In the town of Mendocino, 10 miles away, you can visit historical landmarks, go salmon fishing, or just enjoy the scenic coastline. Ft. Bragg, 8 miles north of Mendocino, is also historical and a great place to visit.

Accommodations: You could make a vacation around this event. Self-contained RVs and tent campers are welcome to set up from 6/20 - 6/24. Campfires only in designated areas. There are no 120v hookups. There is a chemical blue room in the meadow. Restrooms at the degree site have hot water and a shower in the men's is available to women. Motels are available at the coast, 30 minutes on a dark and winding road from the RAM site. Call as soon as possible for your reservations, it's a popular tourist area.



RV's and Tent Campers Welcome



Comptche Cook Shack

TRADEWINDS LODGE (707) 964-4761 SURF MOTEL (707) 964-5361
SURREY SUPER 8 (800) 206-9833 FOOLS RUSH INN (707) 937-5339
HARBOR LITE LODGE (707) 964-0221 SEA FOAM LODGE (707) 937-1827

RESERVE EARLY!!

<i>Reservations for the BBQ are requested</i>	<i>(under 12 kids price)</i>	<i>For Association Membership and Communication</i>		
Friday, June 21 nd	Comp.	Lady	Child	
6:00 p.m. Fish Fry	\$15.50	___	___	Name and Address _____ _____
*Saturday, June 22nd				
7:00-8:30 Breakfast	\$10.00	___	___	Lady's Name _____
Comps. Association Expense	\$12.00	\$ 12	___	Telephone Number () _____
Noon Companions Lunch	\$12.50	___	___	Royal Arch Chapter Number _____
5:30 p.m. Barbeque	\$20.00	___	___	Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> RV <input type="checkbox"/> Tent <input type="checkbox"/> Motel
Sunday, June 23th				
8:00 a.m. Breakfast	\$10.00	___	___	RV Arrival date _____
<i>Association meeting after Sunday's breakfast and leftover site</i>				
Total - Check enclosed	\$ _____			Are you a Candidate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input type="checkbox"/> No

Make payable to: **Comptche Outdoor Degree Association**

**The degree site and shower restroom are men only on Saturday from 9am - 5pm*

**Need Chapter pennies, ask the Secretary*
Please send by **JUNE 17th** - Thank you!
Add 20% to your total after that date

THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH KEYSTONE OF THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY WITHIN

**Abstract from a paper
By Robert G. Davis, Education Committee**

There is an image in Masonry that is as powerful in its symbolic meaning as any encountered in the whole of the Masonic journey. It is the image of two pillars supporting an arch centered by a keystone, behind which is situated a sacred vault. Enclosed within this vault is the Ark of the Covenant. And within this set of symbols is found the great secret of the Royal Arch, and the central thought of Masonry.

And then there is the question of the “incomplete” nature of the Master Mason degree, lending credence to an argument that it was never intended to be the last of the Craft degrees. Certainly, it seems unlikely that a Masonic degree which provides a legend in which something is lost (and another substituted in its place until it can later be found) would represent the pinnacle, or end, of a progressive system of degrees.

When the Grand Lodge of the Ancients established its Constitution in 1751, it made the Royal Arch an essential degree to the Craft system of degrees, thus launching what would eventually become the “ne plus ultra” of Capitular Masonry across the globe. In this degree, we find three candidates in waiting to be “exalted to the august degree of Royal Arch.” The ceremony of exaltation transfers them from the region of symbolic Masonry, wherein lessons in morals and ethics are taught by allegory; into the domain of religion, wherein the nature of God in man is revealed through the discovery of the WORD. ... (Thus) by being joined together, they symbolically ceased to be separate individuals - they now represent the “Complete Man,” comprised of Body, Soul, and Spirit. From this point forward, the three candidates are motivated by a single desire - to be “exalted” to the spiritual plane of being ...

In the final section of the degree, the candidate is presented with a remarkable allegory, the same which can be found in the Master Mason Degree, and the same which exists in all of the ancient mysteries - the great lesson represented by the resurrection of the body and the immortality of the soul. Symbolically, all of these allegorical forms are commenced in sorrow and terminated in joy. The building of the sacred temple out of the ruins of the first represents the rebirth of the human race in a new dispensation to be later revealed – and our own rebirth into a higher consciousness with God. ...

Such is the task of the Royal Arch Mason – to build the spiritual temple of his second life upon the shattered ruins of the old. ... As Royal Arch Masons, we are to be constantly engaged in the noble labor of consciously rebuilding ourselves from the shattered temples of our own passions, intolerance and ignorance; discovering beneath the rubbish the lost treasure of Light and Truth.