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## From The East

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### My Brethren,

What is the role of Freemasonry, as an organization, and Masons, as individuals, in regards to Charity?

There is only so much that I, as an individual, can do. I only have so much energy, time, and money to donate. I do what I can, and give what I can. But I have taken to heart the lessons Freemasonry has given me: that time for work, time for rest, and time to help others are all equally important. I can only do so much before I start causing serious injury to myself, and family.

But the Lodge can do so much more than what its individual Brothers can. As a Lodge we can give more time, more energy, and certainly more money than the sum of our members can. A Lodge is much more than just the a collection of people. It has life and soul all of its own. A Lodge functions because of what individuals put into it, but what a Lodge can do is much greater still.

I am reminded of the saying: Give a man a fish, and it will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and it will feed him for a lifetime.

Ideally a person in need would receive both. A starving person needs to eat today. By itself this treats the symptom, but does nothing to fix the cause. Teaching them to fish does, but without something to eat today tomorrow will not matter.

There are many organizations out there whose sole mission it is to help those in need by treating both symptoms and causes. Our role is to support them in whatever way we can, be it with time, energy, or money. As both an organization and as individuals, we must enable them to do their good work.

This is one of the most amazing things to me about being a member of our Lodge. My ability to help others as an individual is fairly limited. But as members of the Lodge our reach is drastically extended. And when the individual members work together in concert with the Lodge truly amazing things can be accomplished.

Which brings me to the Grand Lodge's "Write The Future" campaign. Its goal is to raise money for two incredibly important needs. Raising a Reader puts books into the hands of young children who might not have had access to them otherwise, and trains their parents in how to engage with their children through the books. Masonic Homes provides a pleasant and safe place to live for our Brothers, their wives and widows as they age. It allows them to get the amount of care they need while retaining their independence. Masonic Homes always does its best to fulfil the needs of its residents, regardless of what those needs may be.

I encourage all of your reading this to find what you can give in time, energy, and money. And if you are able, I ask that you donate some of that money to "Let's Write a Future".

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*Continued on Page 2*

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## From The West

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### Gentlemen,

What follows is part one of a three part story recounting a journey of exploration that I took in order to understand where we came from as Masons and what we have to offer to the world. That journey, thus far, has taken me to lodges of Masons in Northern California including the Northern California Research Lodge [NCRL], not a regular lodge, but more of a brain trust interested in the discussion of Masonic ideas, ideals, and history. These three parts in this and the next two trestleboards are excerpts from a paper I delivered to NCRL and a talk I delivered to Yaunt lodge in Napa entitled "Masonic Tradition and Medieval Roots: A Resource for Future Civil Society." Herein is part 1 of 3.

The history of Masonry and its transition from medieval times has much to teach us in how the transmission of values from one man to another and from one generation to another can be a gift that is passed on as a legacy to citizens living centuries in the future. The values and lessons learned from Freemasonry, its roots, and historical development, can help solve problems in the 21st century. Freemasonry has its roots in ancient mystery schools. Most Masons don't understand how or why. There are many different opinions and theories from historians about where

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*Continued On Page 3 & 4*

## Hall Association



**Brethren,**

The Hall Association continues to both manage our income property and move forward with capital improvements. The most significant issue addressed by your Hall Association has been the adoption of a revised Building Use Policy that will apply to all users of our building. The impetus for this revision can be summed up as thus: Asset protection and wealth preservation.

The reasons are two-fold. First, we live in a litigious climate where frivolous lawsuits abound and defending against them can be costly. Second, we have received word that our insurance carriers have made very significant changes with regard to the amount of our premiums and deductibles.

We will be looking further into this last issue at our next meeting. In the meantime, the Brethren would not be remiss in exercising an abundance of normal care and caution as befits good Masons.

Fraternally,

Tim Giddings;  
President



## FROM THE EAST CONTINUED

You can find out more about the campaign here: <https://www.freemason.org/contribute/futureCampaign.htm>

If the Lodge and its members can work together on this we will be able to do great things.

At our upcoming Stated Meeting Dinner we are expecting two guests to come and talk to us about the campaign: Candler Gibson from the California Masonic Foundation and Past Grand Master Dave Perry. I hope you will all come to join us. If you have any questions about the campaign, please bring them with you.

I hope to see you all soon,

Alex Saslow  
Master



## Happy Birthday

- Wallace Kelley June 5th
- Michael Hering II June 6th
- Robert Clarke June 9th
- Robert MacDonald Jr. June 11th
- Jacob Kaminker June 13th
- Mathew Epstein June 16th
- Robert Miller June 19th
- Russell Smart June 20th

## Grand Master's Proclamation:



Freemasonry: The Difference Is You

**Whereas**, since our fraternity's founding, Masons have pledged to support our brothers and their wives, widows, and children in their hour of need with food, shelter, a compassionate hand, an empathetic ear, and an open door; and

**Whereas**, for more than 100 years, our Masonic Homes has been a testament to fraternal devotion, providing compassionate, relevant, and critical service Masonic families; and

Whereas that support endures through residential campuses in Union City and Covina, community relief from Masonic Outreach Services, Pr and mental health services from the Masonic Center for Youth and Families; now,

### Stated Meeting Dinner Menu: Thursday, June 6, 2019 6.30pm

**Roasted Chicken, Oven Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Green Salad, Chocolate Eclairs**

Prepared by the adult volunteers of and served by the Rainbow Girls of Petaluma Assembly #6 I.O.R.G.

Please advise of any special dietary needs.  
707-762-4171

### Lodge Contact Info:

<http://freemason.org> (CA Grand Lodge) ~ <http://masons180.org> (Pet.-Ham.#180 website)  
Lodge Phone Number 707-762-6513, For Reservations call 707-762-4171  
Master, Alex Saslow, 707-303-0244 E-Mail: [saslow.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:saslow.alexander@gmail.com)  
Secretary, Guy Chalmers: 707-477-3046 E-Mail: [JMC329@aol.com](mailto:JMC329@aol.com)

**Therefore, as grand master, I proclaim June 2019 as Masonic Homes Month in California.** I ask all California Masons to contemplate how each of you can make a difference for our Masonic Homes and its residents. I call upon all lodges to recognize the Masonic Homes at the June stated meeting by celebrating our impact and ensuring brothers know how to access these critical resources. Please share the Masonic Assistance line [(888) 466-3642] and consider visiting the Masonic Homes campuses or sending greetings from your lodge to the brothers, wives, and widows who reside there. Most importantly, please make a gift to the California Masonic Foundation to ensure that our legacy of fraternal relief will endure.

Our Masonic Homes were built upon the efforts of our forefathers who, like us, recognized the supreme importance of caring for the most vulnerable among us. Let us join together today to make a difference within our Masonic family by continuing their legacy of dignity and compassion.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Stuart A. Wright  
Grand Master

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### *From the West Continued*

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Freemasonry came from before the foundation of the first Grand Lodge more than 300 years ago on June 24, 1717. Masonry existed as a secret society before the term Freemasonry came along. In the first half of the second millennium, 500 to 1,000 years ago, life and culture were greatly different. Western Europe was an area of retrograde civilization. Those living in England, France, or the Holy Roman Empire all ate food, understood nature, selected leaders in both government and religion, and viewed the point of their lives in ways that would be totally foreign to us today. For example, a few, in the distant past in far off places like the eastern Mediterranean knew the Earth wasn't flat, but this knowledge was obscured in the ebb and flow of history. Still valuable ancient wisdom was protected and passed on from one generation to the next by guilds, secret societies, mystery schools, convents, colleges, and monasteries often under strict obligations binding the members of each organization. The late middle ages can be said to end with the Renaissance (the 17th and 18th century) and begin with the investiture controversy of Pope Gregory VII (in the 11th century). Norman F. Cantor in *The Civilization of the Middle Ages* says that "the investiture controversy [the effort to stop kings or other laymen from appropriating the wealth of the Church and from appointing bishops and Popes]... constitutes the first of the great world revolutions of western history..."<sup>1</sup> But the resolution of that revolution was still occurring hundreds of years later. Freemasonry in the Middle Ages The lodges of Freemasons today have

many of the elements of typical medieval guilds. Professor Lynn Thorndike wrote in his 1928 book *The History of Medieval Europe*, "Medieval men were fond of all sorts of societies and founded them not only for business purposes, but for religious, philanthropic, and social reasons. These brotherhoods, as they were called, usually each had a patron saint whose day was celebrated both by religious services and by banquets and social gatherings. The members helped one another in case of need; attended the baptisms, marriages, and funerals in their associates' families; and paid for masses to be said for their souls after death."<sup>2</sup>

The focus, meetings and events of Masonic lodges today have these same guild features that Thorndike describes. He says that "such brotherhoods often preceded the guilds [sic]" and their larger social and political organizations that were able to win concessions and liberty from local lords. "Sometimes the townspeople, forming a commune or union of the whole community, succeeded in throwing off the rule of the lord entirely..." However, Thorndike doubts that any guilds even in Germany or Italy "were survivals of the hereditary guilds of the declining Roman Empire."<sup>3</sup> Historians who focus directly on the antecedents of freemasonry tend to fall into at least two camps. I sample some of the thinking of two groups: those who see it only as an outgrowth of the western European stonemason guilds that built castles and cathedrals in the 16th and 17th century; and those who see connections to medieval guilds but also to ancient mystery schools as transmitted through migration, Muslim society, and the Knights Templar.



**Masonic Homes  
of California**

Need Help or Assistance ?  
Contact Masonic Assistance  
visit: [www.masonichome.org](http://www.masonichome.org)  
email: [intake@mhuc.org](mailto:intake@mhuc.org)  
or call: 888/466-3642.

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram**



<https://www.facebook.com/PetalumaMasonry/>

<https://www.instagram.com/petalumamasonry/?hl=en>

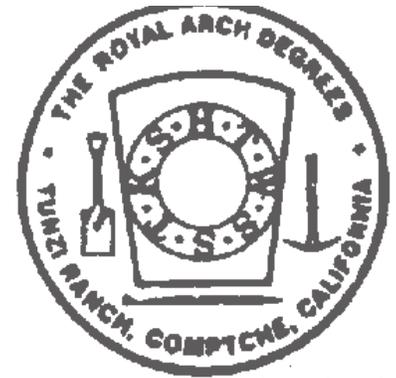


The Knights Templar was an order of warrior knight-monks at the height of its power in the 12th and 13th century. The Order of the Poor Knights of Christ of the Temple of Solomon [the Templars], was cofounded by Hughes de Payen, Andre de Montbard, and seven other knights in Jerusalem in 1118 with the mission of protecting the pilgrimage routes within the Holy Lands. They excavated under Temple Mount for nine years and some authors believe that they found documents, artifacts, relics, and a large amount of treasure.<sup>4</sup> A decade after the founding of the Order, they returned to Europe with their discoveries first visiting Provence, Normandy, England, and Scotland. <sup>5</sup> Even though the members had vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, the Order itself became quite wealthy through donations especially of income-producing land. The popular appeal of the Knights, engendered by their vows and their success in bringing back holy relics, aided them in their request for donations. While in the Middle East, they began to include Lebanese Christians and other non-European people in the order. The effect of pilgrimages and trade as well as

the incorporation of ideas and technology from the Middle East transformed them from simply a military group, into an international, agricultural, construction, and financial organization that became a banker to kings, popes, barons, and bishops.<sup>6</sup> At the height of their power, with their religious-military focus and extensive financial resources, the Knights Templar funded well over 70 large building projects including castles, cathedrals, churches and manors which were constructed throughout Europe and the Holy Land; many of these structures remain standing today.<sup>7</sup> The clerics had to have knowledge of masonry to specify and design these structures.

Map of Templar Properties circa 1300. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Knights\\_Templar\\_sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Knights_Templar_sites)

- 1 Norman F. Cantor, *The Civilization of the Middle Ages*, p. 244.
- 2 Lynn Thorndike, *The History of Medieval Europe*, p. 335.
- 3 *Ibid*, p. 331.
- 4 Tim Wallace-Murphy and Marilyn Hopkins, *Templars in America: From the Crusades to the New World*, p 15.
- 5 *Ibid*.
- 6 *Ibid*, p. 16.
- 7 Wikipedia, "List of Knights Templar sites," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Knights\\_Templar\\_sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Knights_Templar_sites).

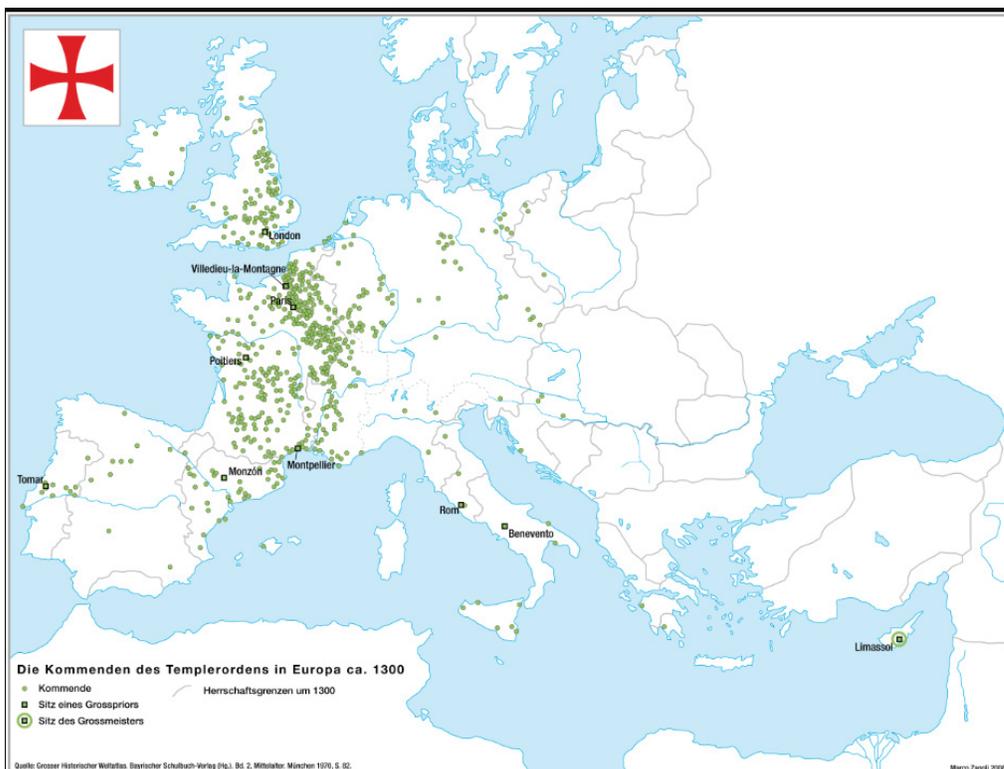


Have you ever thought about joining the York Rite? If so i encourage you to attend Comptche on the weekend of June 22nd, 2019.

Located in the beautiful coast-al mountains of Mendocino County, Comptche is a yearly event where the York Rite performs and bestow all four degrees of the Royal Arch to any inter-ested Master Masons in good standing.

The rituals take place in the great outdoors within the natural beauty of redwoods and evergreens. It is a weekend of ritual, comradery, camping and best of all.... good food at reasonable prices.

IF you are interested in attending, please contact Brother Guy Chalmers at 707-477-3046 or by email at JMC329@aol.com



## Masonic Quotes of Wisdom

*"Work and live to serve others, to leave the world a little better than you found it, and garner for yourself as much peace of mind as you can, this is happiness"*

~David Sarnoff





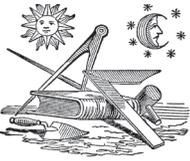
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## June 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Royal Arch	4 Rainbow #6	5 Hall Association	6 Family Dinner & Stated Meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Fraternity Night & Proficiency Practice (all degrees)	14	15 Council #46  K.T. # 14
16 Father's Day	17	18 Rainbow #6	19	20 Fraternity Night & Proficiency Practice (all degrees)	21	22  Comptche
23 Comptche  30	24	25	26	27 Fraternity Night & Proficiency Practice (all degrees)	28	29 Shrimp Feed Fundraiser @ Scottish Rite Center