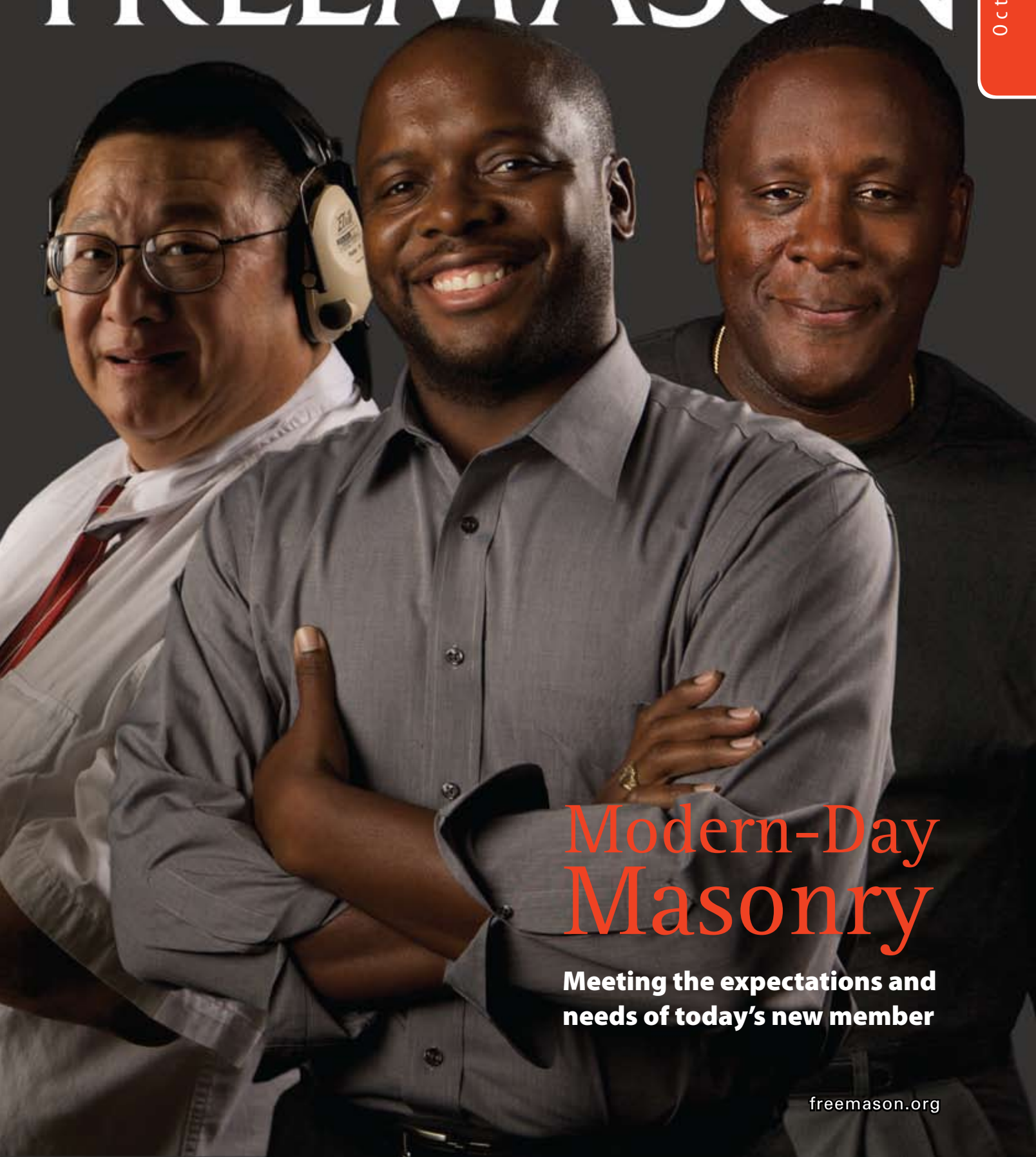


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FREEMASON

Oct/Nov 2008



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needs of today's new member

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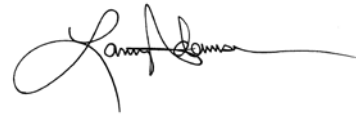
Masonic Homes Residents at Union City and Covina place high value on an active lifestyle, and the Homes offer a wide variety of choices.

FREEMASONRY...

The Next Generation

Larry L. Adamson

Grand Master



A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to kneel at the altar of Freemasonry once again and vow to God and all of my brethren my promise and unswerving allegiance to serve our craft as your 144th grand master. My brothers and friends, it was truly a surreal moment in my life and one of the greatest honors and privileges anyone could ever experience. Of the almost three million California Masons who came before me, to be one of only 144 to have this unique experience is, as I said, truly surreal. What an honor to join, in title, men who have left an indelible mark on our craft and our world. It is my hope and prayer that I can serve you with equal dedication. To all of my brothers, I say "thank you" for the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

As I take office, I do so with a renewed sense of excitement and pride in California Freemasonry and the prospect of exciting times ahead. I believe that we are now firmly in a resurgence of our craft. Take a close look at the article in this edition titled "On the Up and Up." You will clearly see that young men are seeking participation in our fraternity and are clearly interested in experiencing a growth in their lives that has meaning and affect.

After five decades of member apathy, declining membership, and a general attitude of complacency, Freemasonry is changing. Let me share some thoughts about the "State of the Craft" that make me so very optimistic about our future.

For the past seven years, we have seen an increase in the number of men seeking the light of Freemasonry. During the past two years, our lodges have conferred in excess of 8,500 degrees. During this same period, we saw more than 3,000 men petition for membership. In 2007, our California lodges made more Entered Apprentice Masons than in any year since 1988, and conferred more total degrees than any year since the beginning of the 1990s. These trends clearly highlight a new attitude among our brethren and confirm what I believe and have professed, that we are embarking upon an era of exciting progress and unparalleled opportunities in California Freemasonry.


Our membership gains show that men are being drawn to Freemasonry. So it is time for us to stop the debate over whether Freemasonry is relevant in our fast-paced society and, instead, realize that the experiences we provide to those knocking at our doors must be

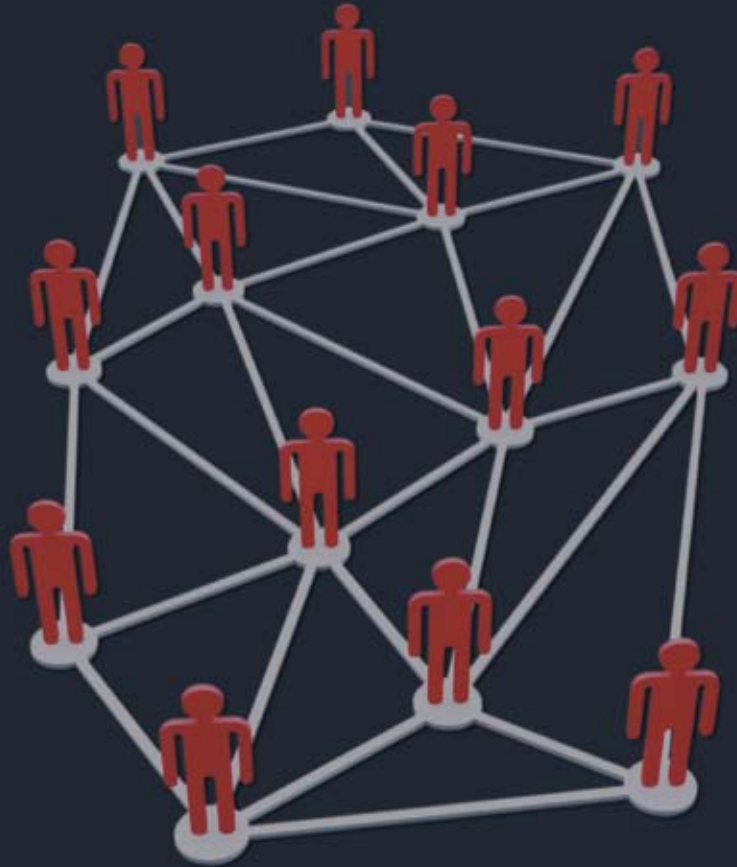
meaningful. We must fulfill our promise to help good men understand what our teachings mean and how they can, by their application, become better men.

Meeting the expectations of new members will be the true test of our generation of Masons and ultimately define our legacy. I would ask each of you to stop for a moment and ask yourself, "What distinguishes me as a Mason? How do I live and embrace the virtues and lessons of our craft? How do my behavior and everyday actions set me apart? Am I guided by brotherly love, relief, and truth in my every thought, act, and deed?"

Our newly received brethren are looking at us as the examples of how we should live Applied Freemasonry.

My brothers, this is a great time to be a Mason in California and for me, a glorious time to be your grand master. Believing that our future has never been brighter, we must be prepared to transform ourselves and our lodges into true temples of prosperity.

I hope that each of you will answer this call and commit to applying our principles in your every thought, act, and deed. Applied Freemasonry means living our virtues today and building for a better tomorrow. 



by Richard Berman

Lifelong Involvement

How two California lodges connect –
and reconnect – with members

From his initial application, a prospective Mason starts down a road that is a lifelong journey. Over the years, the landscape may change, but the expectation is that he will continue down that Masonic path. For this to happen, lodges must continually meet the diverse needs of their members.

With this in mind, two California lodges place high priority on programs that regularly involve brothers, and are reaching out to reconnect with those who may not have been involved for some time. In many cases, brothers who recommit to the craft are actually finding themselves more involved with their lodges and developing a deeper appreciation for Masonry than the first time around.

“One of the brothers called me and we just started talking about a lot of different things. Sure enough, I ended up getting drawn in again, and have actually gotten involved in lodge leadership. I am really committed to the lodge and am far more involved now than I have been in years.”

**HANFORD NO. 279:
REACHING OUT**

D.W. Venturella, junior warden of Hanford Lodge No. 279 in the San Joaquin Valley, is one brother who reconnected with Masonry after several years of estrangement. He now spearheads lodge efforts to reach out to inactive Masons. Venturella received his third degree in the early 1980s and was involved with his lodge for many years. “Seven or eight years ago, though, I just stopped being involved,” he says.

After several years of inactivity, what brought him back? A phone call. “I work as a contractor, the lodge building was being retrofitted, and they needed some help,” he says. “One of the brothers called me and we just started talking about a lot of different things. Sure enough, I ended up getting drawn in again, and have actually gotten involved in lodge leadership. I am really

committed to the lodge and am far more involved now than I have been in years.”

Because of his personal experience as a “returning Mason,” Venturella is acutely aware of how important it is to keep brothers involved, and he is helping Hanford Lodge to develop and promote programs that keep Masons – no matter how long they have been members or if they hold an office – in the fold.

One example of a program that’s successfully engaged Hanford brothers across the board is the Child ID Program.

“Child ID is one of our biggest activities, and we do several public events each month,” Venturella says. “It’s a very social activity, and we find that a lot of Masons who might not attend other kinds of events get very involved. One of the great benefits of this program is that we can get Masons who aren’t in the officer line to be a big part of what we’re doing in the community.”

Hanford Lodge also reaches out to the Masons stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore, the Navy’s largest jet base, which is located 15 miles from Hanford. “We have a lot of military folks in the area, and sometimes it can be hard for people who move around a lot to really form long-term relationships with one lodge,” Venturella says. “In particular, it can be difficult to get them involved as officers because they aren’t in the community for

very long. What we do is connect with them so that they are really integrated into Hanford Lodge, and when they move elsewhere we work to get them involved with a local lodge near where they’ll be stationed.”

**SADDLEBACK LAGUNA NO. 672:
AN OPEN DIALOGUE**

For Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 in Lake Forest (Orange County), one of the major strategies for strengthening ties to Masonry is by helping brothers build personal connections. Jim Graham, who became a lodge brother in late 2006, is heavily involved with their retention program.

“Our tiler, Richard Vogel, meets with all new candidates to really get to know them and figure out what they are looking for and what their interests are,” Graham says. “That not only gives people the bond of Masonry, but other aspects of their lives, too. It’s all about matching people in the lodge and trying to get people involved based on a personal connection,” he adds.

In addition to discovering common interests and backgrounds, the lodge also tries to steer Masons into the kinds of lodge work that best suit their personalities. Graham notes that some Masons are really drawn to ritual work, others like to be behind the scenes, and others really like interacting with the community. “We try to match them to the kinds of



.....
"It's all about matching people in the lodge and trying to get people involved based on a personal connection."
.....

work that they will find most meaningful to them," Graham says. "We have a very dynamic approach that starts with our enthusiastic leadership and is really contagious throughout the lodge."

Another key component of

Saddleback Laguna Lodge's retention effort is its monthly education night, which is separate from its regularly scheduled meetings. Graham says that most of the work centers on keeping people involved by pairing Masons with mentors to help them learn more about the craft.

"This is a great way to connect Masons of all ages and keep everyone involved," he says. "Sometimes it can be hard to create that conduit between older and younger members of the lodge, so this lets us cross the generational gap."

There is no single best practice way to increase Masonic involvement, but the Hanford and Saddleback Laguna lodges are taking innovative approaches to keeping their brothers active throughout their lives. "We really want people to connect to Masonry in a way that will affect their lives," Graham says. "Masonry has made me a better man, and we want to keep that spirit alive for all brothers by making their experiences as meaningful as possible." ✧

by Cason Lane

On the Up and Up

Membership continues to grow in 2008

There are plenty of opportunities in life to use the idiom “we’re not getting any younger,” but California Masonry isn’t one of them. That’s because the average age of Masons in the Golden State is steadily going down.

Today, the average age of a new member is 37, down from 40 in recent years. And the average age of California membership in general is 64, compared with 68 a few years ago.

That trend – combined with a steady increase in the number of degrees conferred at California lodges – shows that California Masons are doing a great job of attracting new, younger members and integrating them into the fraternity. At the same time, the organization is successfully engaging established members in lodge activities.

Here’s how the membership stats break down for fiscal 2008.

Strong degree work

On the heels of a record number of degrees from July 2006 through June 2007, California lodges kept up the pace in fiscal 2008 (from July 2007 through June 2008). Of 4,148 total degrees,

1,737 were Entered Apprentices, 1,237 were Fellow Crafts, and 1,174 were Master Masons.

Of the 336 lodges in California, the average lodge conferred 12.3 degrees, consistent with recent years. And some lodges were especially successful with their degree work in the past year. The leaders:

APPRENTICES INITIATED

1. San Diego No. 35: 33
2. Amity No. 442 in San Diego: 24
3. Huntington Beach No. 380: 24

FELLOW CRAFTS PASSED

1. San Diego No. 35: 25
2. Huntington Beach No. 380: 20
3. Glendale No. 368: 19

MASTER MASON RAISED

1. Moreno Valley No. 804: 20
2. Artesia Sunrise No. 377: 17
3. Huntington Beach No. 380: 17

Manager James Banta says there’s a direct correlation between the number of Master Mason degrees and lodges’ use of the “Pass It On” membership development program.

“What we know is that the lodges using ‘Pass It On’ extensively will raise about 5.3 Master Masons per year,” he says. That compares to a typical 3.2 to 3.6 Master Masons raised in lodges that use the program less extensively.

California lodges are also reaping the membership benefits of the “On The Level” program, a guide to planning successful Masonic information events for the community. Those who’ve used the program say these events are valuable opportunities to dispel the myth of secrecy and correct other misconceptions about the fraternity, at the same time attracting potential new members and helping established members get more involved.

Engaging and retaining

When it comes to building membership, attracting new members is only half the equation. The other half is keeping them active.

To help lodges in this effort,

Membership development programs

Notably, 109 lodges in 2008 raised five or more Master Masons. Their success can be linked to a couple of best practices. For one, Program

Grand Lodge recently produced a booklet titled “Engage and Retain: Guide to Member Retention,” a how-to resource for involving members in the lodge. From welcoming candidates to developing activities that are relevant to different generations, this new guide for lodge officers is filled with best practices for membership development.

One, for example, is to hold a monthly new member orientation to integrate Entered Apprentices into the lodge. Regular orientations are not only great opportunities to explain lodge operations, California Masonry, and ways to get involved, but they’re also good ways to survey new members on their skills and pastimes. With this information, lodges can tailor community service programs and other activities to match their members’ interests. Banta adds that the new member orientation is an important lead-

in to the long degree process.

“Doing the new member orientation is really critical to make sure there is an understanding of the process – and for the member to connect with the lodge,” he says.

Other best practices in “Engage and Retain” include tactics for creating meaningful involvement. Among them: host a Masonic Formation night to discuss Masonic teachings, rotate committee assignments to give all members a chance to try something new, or develop a lodge history that features older members’ memories about the Masonic experience.

To acquire any of these membership development resources – “Pass It On,” “On The Level,” or “Engage and Retain” – contact the Grand Lodge Supply Room at 415/292-9131. The “Pass It On” packet includes a program guide, wallet brochures, informational

cards, applicant information packets, candidate orientation packets, and a CD with additional items such as template welcome letters and satisfaction surveys. The “On The Level” packet includes a program guide, presentation script, and CD with a PowerPoint presentation and templates for an invitation, flyer, ad, and press release.

The “Pass It On” program guide and complete “On The Level” materials are also available for download from the Membership Development page on freemason.org. (“Engage and Retain” is only available through the Grand Lodge Supply Room at this time.)

With steady momentum from 2008 and plenty of resources to keep membership numbers climbing, 2009 promises to be another banner year in California Masonry. ✦



By John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

It's **really** About Brotherhood

The theme of this issue is “Meeting the Expectations and Needs of Today’s New Member.” As a Mason from the “older generation,” I have often pondered what motivates a young man today to seek out Freemasonry. Many of us are conversant with “generational theory” – the idea that different generations of men seek different ways to fulfill their expectations of life – and have noted that organizations that do not change to meet those expectations are doomed to extinction. That certainly seemed to be the case in Freemasonry, before the recent surge of interest that is causing a minor flood of applicants in their 20s and 30s. And while many of us from the older generation are very glad that these young men have discovered the institution we treasure and revere, we also wonder whether these new Masons will find what they are looking for in Freemasonry as it exists today in most lodges. In earlier generations, if new Masons didn’t find what they wanted, it somehow didn’t seem to matter. The prestige of belonging to an organization with the reputation of Masonry was enough for them to keep paying the rather low dues year after year – with never a thought about actually showing up at lodge. We worry that this won’t be the case in the future unless Masonry offers them something in the lodge itself.

The new generation of Masons may be different from previous generations in more ways than one. We know that younger Masons are interested in the philosophy,

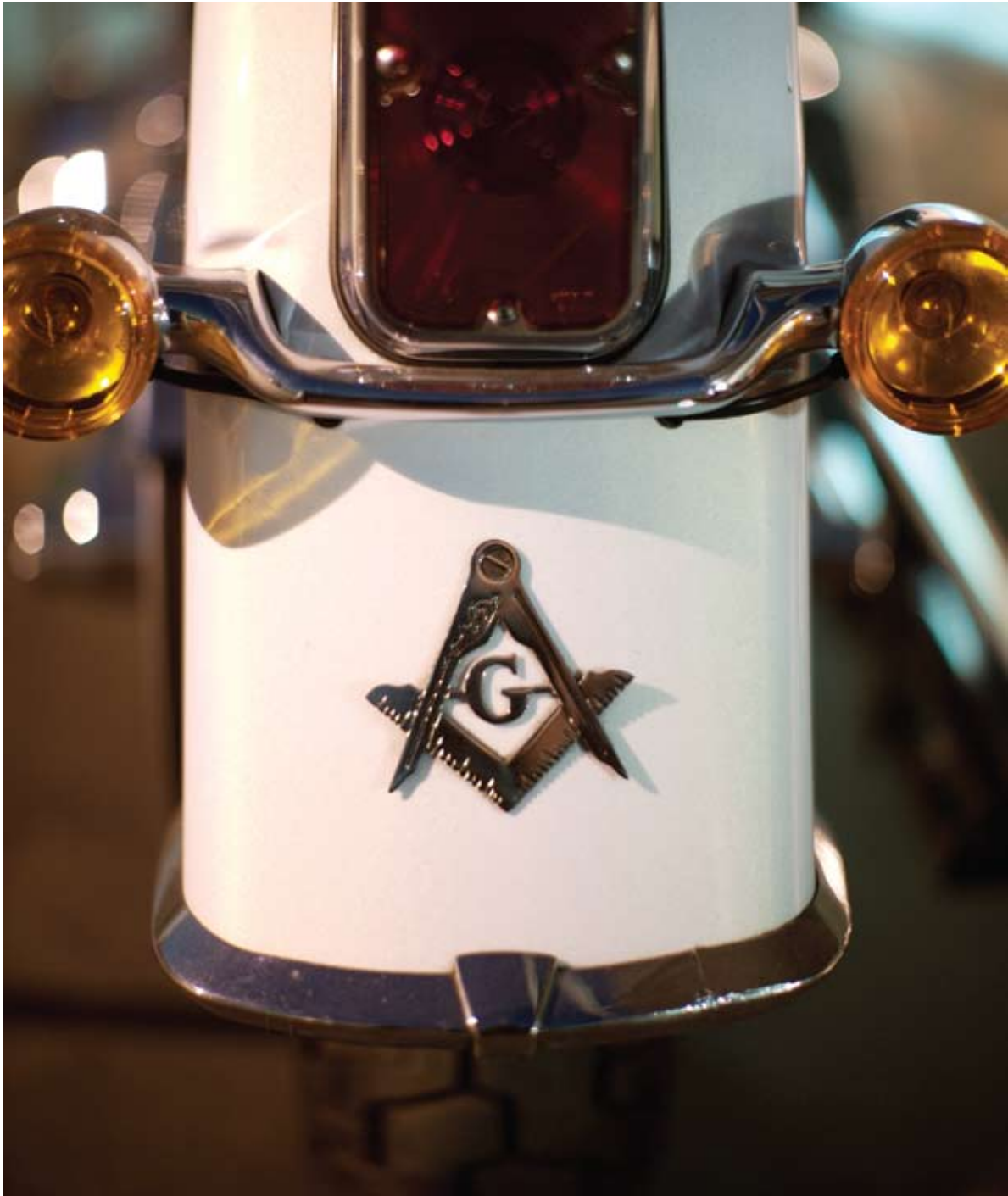
history, ritual, and traditions of Freemasonry. We also know that they care about how they spend their time, and are willing to pay higher dues to enjoy a first-rate fraternal experience. And we know that they have not

“It takes another brother to show you the way and take you down the path to get to the enlightenment that we offer.”

abandoned a concern for outreach and community service, because lodges that are successful in attracting these younger Masons are also usually at the top of the list for community service as a lodge and for individual giving through organized charities. In addition, we know that they care about taking Masonry out into the world and living it daily. But is there more? I think so. And the words of a young Mason from Washington, D.C., say it better than I can.

In an interview on May 5, 2007 with National Public Radio, David Johnson, the 36-year old junior warden of Naval Lodge No. 4 under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, was asked what was so attractive about Freemasonry to a young man of his generation. Here is an excerpt reflecting his answer:

“...But for many new, younger members, Masonry’s attraction lies less in historical icons and artifacts than in its sense of fraternity. Johnson, the junior warden of Naval Lodge 4, says what bonds Masons together is



oral tradition: passing knowledge, experience and wisdom from generation to generation. 'It takes another brother to show you the way and take you down the path to get to the enlightenment that we offer,' he says."

I think Brother Johnson has it right. There is a tremendous attraction to Freemasonry for its mysterious past, its ancient symbols, and the heroic

men associated with it. But that isn't enough. It's really about brotherhood. That's why this generation of Masons is interested in being in lodge and with other Masons. You can't get it from books, and you can't get it from television. You can only get it from another Mason. As Johnson puts it so well, "It takes another brother to show you the way." ✧





Exceeding expectations

Upholding time-honored Masonic values is key expectation of today's Mason

It's been four centuries since the first Masons gathered, but their fundamental values are exactly what inspire Victor Li today. "They put their hearts and souls into the enlightened perspective of mankind," he says. "There was a dignity and a nobility to them." Li was raised to Master Mason just over a year ago. Born in China, he moved to the United States at age two. It wasn't until age 61 that he discovered Masonry, and when he did, he went through all three degrees in only three months.

Ural Parks, 41, was raised this past July. After years in the military experiencing what he describes as "the true meaning of camaraderie," he approaches Masonry with high hopes that it will live up to its tenet of brotherhood. "Since I got out of the U.S. Marine Corps in 1990, I hadn't been able to locate that same fellowship," Parks says.

Mark Lewis, 33, was raised in April 2007. He's on active duty with the Navy, based in San Diego. Like Parks, Lewis cites brotherhood

as a motivation for joining Masonry. The final draw for him, though, was self-improvement. "Because of Freemasonry, I'm a better person," he says.

As three of their lodge's newest Master Masons, Li, Parks, and Lewis offer a snapshot of today's new membership. Across the globe and here in California, men of diverse backgrounds, ages, and walks of life continue to gravitate to Masonry. While their individual experiences with the fraternity may differ, their key expectations have a common thread: they center on Masonry's most basic tenets of truth, brotherhood, and self-improvement. To meet those expectations, today's lodges must honor the fraternity's time-honored traditions while adjusting to modern-day challenges and demands.

Fitting in fraternity, family, and work

Li, Parks, and Lewis belong to Joseph Shell Daylight Lodge No. 837 in San Diego. Li and Parks both run their own businesses, and

Cross-Cultural Connections

Part of meeting the expectations of today's prospective Mason is celebrating the cultural diversity of California. Three Masonic organizations are doing just that by incorporating different languages and cultures in their activities – and attracting new members as a result.

One is Panamericana Lodge No. 849 in Granada Hills. With Spanish as its primary language, this new lodge – chartered in 2005 – promotes kindness, compassion, and brotherly love while helping members transition from Spanish to English. The lodge includes a committee of new members who experienced Masonry in Central America and South America before moving to California. These members discuss the Masonic experience across their different countries and continents.

Meanwhile, in Sierra Madre, Ararat Lodge No. 848 incorporates Armenian language, culture, fun, and fellowship in its Masonic activities. In San Francisco, La Parfaite Union Lodge No. 17 has represented the French language and culture in California Masonry since 1852, and the Chinese Acacia Club has provided an additional way for Masons in the local Chinese-American community to gather and honor their heritage since 1946.

Lewis' days are planned around his Navy shifts. Parks has school-aged children. With families, work, and fraternity, their daily schedules reflect the increasingly common juggling act of modern America. They all needed a lodge that would understand that.

And Joseph Shell Lodge does. The lodge focuses on traditional values with a modern-day awareness of hectic lifestyles. Its namesake daylight hours are convenient for those who work night shifts or swing shifts, as well as older Masons who don't drive after dark. Thanks to the alternative meeting times, Lewis is able to balance his Navy shifts with frequent attendance at lodge.

Carving out time for family is another challenge for today's new members, and one that can make or break a member's ability to attend lodge. "Family's first," says Parks, who has been balancing the start of his children's school year with his new membership. This is another way Joseph Shell Lodge tries to meet its members halfway: The daylight hours befit a family atmosphere, and wives, children, and significant others are welcome at stated meetings. Li's wife, a teacher in China during the school year, joins him for stated meetings, dinners, and lodge events when she returns to California during her school breaks.

Effectively using technology

Lodges are finding ways to accommodate the fast-paced lives of new members outside of meetings. To stay relevant and keep brothers connected, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge No. 480 in Lafayette has turned to technology. Gary Sparks, raised to

Fellow Craft last August, found his way to the lodge through a series of e-mails.

Sparks, 42, had been deeply involved in DeMolay throughout his youth. Several years ago, he was compelled to return to the fraternity, seeking fellowship, dedication to God, and self-improvement.

"My challenge was to find a lodge that would be convenient, and where I would feel welcomed and supported as a new Mason," Sparks says. As an attorney, he uses a computer every day for work and personal life, and his first step was an Internet search. That search turned up the Web sites of the Grand Lodge of California and Acalanes Lodge.

The online information, calendar, announcements, and Trestleboard at Acalanes Lodge's site prompted Sparks to send an e-mail. "The rest is history," he says.

Sparks happens to live within driving distance of Acalanes Lodge, but the lodge's Web site and e-communications accommodate a remarkably far-flung membership. About 40 percent live outside the Bay Area, many of them far outside – in places like Texas, Arizona, Washington, Maine, Europe, China, and the Middle East.

The lodge's treasurer and Web administrator, Stephen Galop III, lives in Georgia, where he's been performing his leadership duties remotely for six years. His Web design keeps members connected even when they can't attend meetings regularly, and is a draw for prospective candidates.

"Since Stephen took on the task of managing our Web site, interest in our lodge has grown significantly," says Gary Charland, master. The Web site, acalanes.org, started out

simply as a place to post the lodge calendar. Since then, it has grown to more than 50 pages, including an online Trestleboard, online collection of dues by credit card, photos of lodge officers, upcoming events, a collection of Masonic information, and other features.

In addition to the public Web site, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge has an administrative Web site serving as a how-to for lodge management, and the officers use voice mail and conference calls to conduct lodge business.

Galop and Charland say these communication efforts are one way the lodge strives to meet the needs of members, who have

varying schedules, locations, family responsibilities, and work commitments – like Sparks.

“I rely more and more on technology to manage the constant demands on my time and energy,” Sparks says. “Being able to access information and interact with the lodge through technology is critically important.”

Honoring brotherhood, past and present

Meeting new members’ expectations means access to forward-looking technology. But just as important, it means access to the fraternity’s history.

Jordan Du Bois, 21, was initiated to

Joseph Shell Daylight Lodge last August. In his words, “I was really motivated by the opportunity to attach myself to something so much greater, something that’s been working for 400 years.”

To keep members like Du Bois feeling invested in the fraternity’s history, Joseph Shell Lodge has a roundtable-type discussion every meeting about such topics as history, policy, ritual, and famous Masons.

These discussions have a valuable side-effect – they promote brotherly relationships.

As master, Howard Freelove has observed that camaraderie is one of the most important expectations of today’s new member, and he makes it a priority. “At the beginning of a practice or a degree, I have everybody show up a half-hour early, and we just stand around and kibitz,” Freelove says. “We socialize and get to know each other and talk about things so we can build relationships. I think that’s the real meeting. It’s the meeting before the meeting and the meeting after the meeting.”

Lewis points out that this type of brotherhood helps his goal of self-improvement, as well. “We all teach each other,” Lewis says. “The way we each grew up, our lives and our travels – that’s how we all learn from each other.”

For a fraternity that’s dedicated to personal growth, that’s the point. And for new members like Lewis, Li, and Parks, it’s essential.

“Has Freemasonry met my expectations?” says Lewis, now just over a year into his third degree. “So far, it’s off the scale. It’s the best decision I’ve ever made.” ♦



From left to right: Ural Parks, Mark Lewis, and Victor Li. Li wears his customary corrective headphones, which have helped him overcome a congenital hearing disorder.

Affinity lodges provide brotherhood for common interests

BROTHERS

TWICE OVER

by Richard Berman

The requirements to become a Mason are fairly straightforward: Only men of at least 18 years of age who believe in a Supreme Being are eligible. A number of specialized lodges around the world, however, also require that their members be dedicated to a specific cause or belong to an affiliated organization.

These so-called “affinity lodges” were formed to provide brotherhood for men with common interests and help them develop deeper connections with each other and with the craft. For these members, having a space to share their distinct set of interests is a vital expectation of the Masonic experience.

As is the case with all lodges, affinity lodges must receive a charter from a grand lodge. The United Grand Lodge of England has recognized several of these organizations, including Pioneer Lodge No. 9065 (affiliated with the scouting movement), Kindred Lodges Association (for Masons involved with youth work), Isthmian Lodge No. 4566 (for Masons who are passionate about sports), Old Cliftonian Lodge No. 3340 (for former pupils and teachers at Clifton College), and the Lodge of Brothers In Arms (for military veterans only). There’s even Internet Lodge, which is open to Freemasons who have Internet access: The lodge boasts members in more than two dozen countries, including Andorra, Lebanon, Turkey, and Slovenia.

“Masonry and Kappa Alpha Order are equally important to all of us, and we are lifelong brothers in both.”

Here in the United States, affinity lodges are far less common. However, two prime examples are based in Washington, D.C.: Magnolia Lodge No. 53 and Fraternity Lodge No. 54.

Magnolia Lodge was founded in 1996, and reserves membership to brothers of the Kappa Alpha Order, a college fraternity that promotes the virtues of courtly Southern culture. Confederate General Robert E. Lee, known for his gentlemanly behavior, is viewed by the Order as its spiritual founder. Fraternity Lodge was chartered in 2001, and is comprised of Masons who share membership in any Greek letter society.

“We consider ourselves ‘brothers twice over,’” says Jordan Yelinek, master of Magnolia Lodge. “We have Masons who share the common bond not only of Masonry, but also of Kappa Alpha Order.” Yelinek, 28, moved to San Francisco earlier this year after completing his doctorate in cell biology at Yale, but says that the geographical distance is not a problem. “Magnolia Lodge has more than 60 members, who live all over the country, and our officers live in places such as Florida, Mississippi, and Washington. We all fly to D.C. four times a year for our meetings.”

Yelinek says that his involvement with Masonry actually goes back to his days as an undergraduate at Yale. “I was part of the Council of Honor

of Kappa Alpha Order, which is focused on learning about our laws and customs, and in the course of my research I found out that many of our founders were Masons,” he recalls. “After attending some Kappa Alpha Order meetings in D.C., I met several men who were brothers in Magnolia Lodge, and I petitioned to join.”

Although the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia allows its lodges to use a number of rituals, Magnolia Lodge opts for the standard ritual. Nevertheless, the central role that Kappa Alpha Order plays in the lodge is evident at every turn, from the portrait of Robert E. Lee to the Confederate battle flags to the

“We have members of many Greek organizations as brothers, and we find that they are very involved.”

Magnolia Lodge flag, which is based on the Order’s colors. In addition, members wear Kappa Alpha Order pins and ties as part of their standard attire. “Masonry and Kappa Alpha Order are equally important to all of us, and we are lifelong brothers in both,” Yelinek says.

Because of the added eligibility requirement of the lodge, the brothers found that they couldn’t share their experiences with friends,

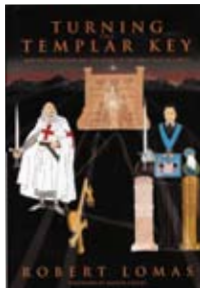
even if they were already Masons. As a result, Magnolia Lodge petitioned the formation of Fraternity Lodge, for Masons who are members of any Greek letter society. A number of Magnolia Lodge brothers now have membership in both lodges. “We have members of many Greek organizations as brothers, and we find that they are very involved,” says Walter Hoenes, assistant to the grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, who currently serves as secretary of Fraternity Lodge. “All of us had great experiences in fraternities when we were in school, and this is allowing us to carry that love forward within the structure of Freemasonry.”

Like its parent lodge, Fraternity meets four times a year to dispense business and celebrate Festive Board (a traditional feast), which allows it to draw members from all over the country. “This is a great

way for Masons to connect with each other and have a common experience,” says Hoenes. “Our brothers already had a strong commitment to fraternal organizations even before they became Masons, and our lodge gives them a way to maintain that involvement throughout their lives.” ✨

Book Reviews

Turning the Templar Key



Robert Lomas
 Lewis Masonic / Ian Allan
 Publishing Ltd.
 Copyright 2007
 ISBN-10: 0853182868
 ISBN-13: 978-085318-286-3
 (Hardcover, 388 pages)

Reviewed by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

For those of you who are romantics at heart, the idea that Freemasonry is the modern incarnation of the mysterious Knights Templar is a genuine attraction. The late John Robinson started the most recent Masonic interest in this story when he published "Born in Blood: The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry" in 1990. It was spurred on by other books and even a popular film, "National Treasure." However, until Robert Lomas published "Turning the Templar Key," most of what was written about the Templar theory of origin and Freemasonry was largely rubbish. Not so now.

With a Ph.D. in physics, it is no surprise that Robert Lomas is capable of writing a scholarly work on the Templars. But he hasn't lost the ability to tell a good story. You will still find "vintage Lomas" in the book – enough to keep you up all night wondering how the story comes out. If you want a good read, get it!

Freemasonry and the Birth of Modern Science




Robert Lomas
 Fair Winds Press
 Copyright 2003
 ISBN-10: 1592330118
 ISBN-13: 978-159233-011-9
 (Hardcover, 384 pages)

Reviewed by Laura Normand

A fine example of "vintage" Lomas, "Freemasonry and the Birth of Modern Science" transforms extensive research into a 17th century detective story. Lomas uses historical fiction to piece together an intriguing and largely fact-driven tale of how Freemasonry and the origins of modern science may have been linked through the efforts of one of the first documented Masons.

The Royal Society of the United Kingdom is generally regarded as the oldest and most respected scientific society in the world. It was formed by 12 civil war refugees who put aside religious and political conflicts to gather in secret in London in 1660. Their collaboration developed the tools of modern science. Lomas' research suggests that Sir Robert Moray – Mason, ex-spy, and soldier – masterminded the group's formation by playing on the monarchy's support of Freemasonry.

This book is an entertaining twist on another piece of Masonic history – its possible influence on the birth of modern science itself.



Ray Rosson, restoring his 1943 Jeep

by Laura Normand

Staying

active

in the Homes

From high school extra-curriculars through adulthood hobbies, a healthy lifestyle places a high premium on being active and well-rounded – and our fraternal family at the Masonic Homes does, too. In the Masonic Homes at Union City and Covina, the only limit to how active residents remain may be the hours in a day.

When asked about the activities and clubs available to residents, Michaeline

Roach, activities coordinator for the Home at Covina, is emphatic. “It is a really long list,” she says. “We are always adding to it.”

Roach isn’t exaggerating. She runs down a list that includes tai chi and water aerobics, card games, shuffleboard, photography, and needlework, then bowling and ping pong – and that’s just for starters.

Extra-curriculars like these take on a few different forms at the Homes. There are resident-driven clubs, like wood-working, gardening, and even a ham radio club, which have facilities onsite for residents to use at their convenience. Then there are scheduled activities and classes, like ceramics, watercolor painting, and computers, which are run by outside teachers and volunteer instructors. Finally, residents can participate in a busy monthly calendar of excursions – everything from theater or restaurant outings to an outside lodge meeting.



CLUBS AND CLASSES

Jack McClellan, a resident at the Masonic Home at Union City and junior warden of Siminoff Daylight Lodge No. 850 on the campus, is heavily involved in a few different activities. One of them is woodworking.

“I was a carpenter,” McClellan says, “so woodworking was a natural. When I moved to the Home, I wanted to participate in the woodshop.”

“That’s what makes the Masonic Homes a special place, in my mind,” Combs says. “The residents are also volunteers. It gives them a sense of ownership.”

At any given time, five or six residents have ongoing projects in the shop, which is in the process of moving to a larger space. McClellan works year-round on crafting Christmas gifts for his family. Another resident uses the shop to keep up his model railroad hobby, and often uses the materials and space for making repairs. Yet another resident has an adjacent space for his lapidary projects.

When he’s not in the woodshop, McClellan spends a good deal of his time in the quarter-acre garden, where residents at Union City work at least nine months of the year.

“It starts in February with the planting of the seeds, and we’ll end up in October or November,” he says. “That takes a real lot of work.”

Barry Combs, a volunteer at Union City since 1992, praises the numerous opportunities, like the garden, for residents to stay active while also contributing to the Homes.

“That’s what makes the Masonic Homes a special place, in my mind,” Combs says. “The residents are also volunteers. It gives them a sense of ownership.”

As a community volunteer, Combs has spent much of his time in the ceramics studio in the Home at Union City.

There are 10 stations in the

ceramics room. “It’s a beautiful facility,” says Combs, who picked up ceramics as a hobby while stationed at an Air Force base in Iceland. “They have all the equipment in it. It’s just wonderful.” Like the woodshop, the ceramics studio is open every day for residents, and Combs estimates that about 30 use it regularly. In addition, the Home has hired a certified instructor to come in four days a week and provide classes.

COMMUNITY AND LODGE

Homes residents at Covina and Union City have plenty of opportunities to be active outside their campuses, too.

“In the last three months they’ve seen ‘Cirque du Soleil,’ they’ve been to the symphony, they saw the musical ‘Cabaret,’” lists Rosalie Gazzola, director of recreation at Union City. “Last week, 36 people went to see the Chihuly exhibit at the de Young [Museum, in San Francisco], they’re cruising on the bay today, and we’re going apple-picking in a few weeks!”

“We try to support a lot of things locally,” Gazzola adds.

Residents have a monthly planning meeting in order to decide their trips: one to two theater excursions, five or six shopping trips, and about five

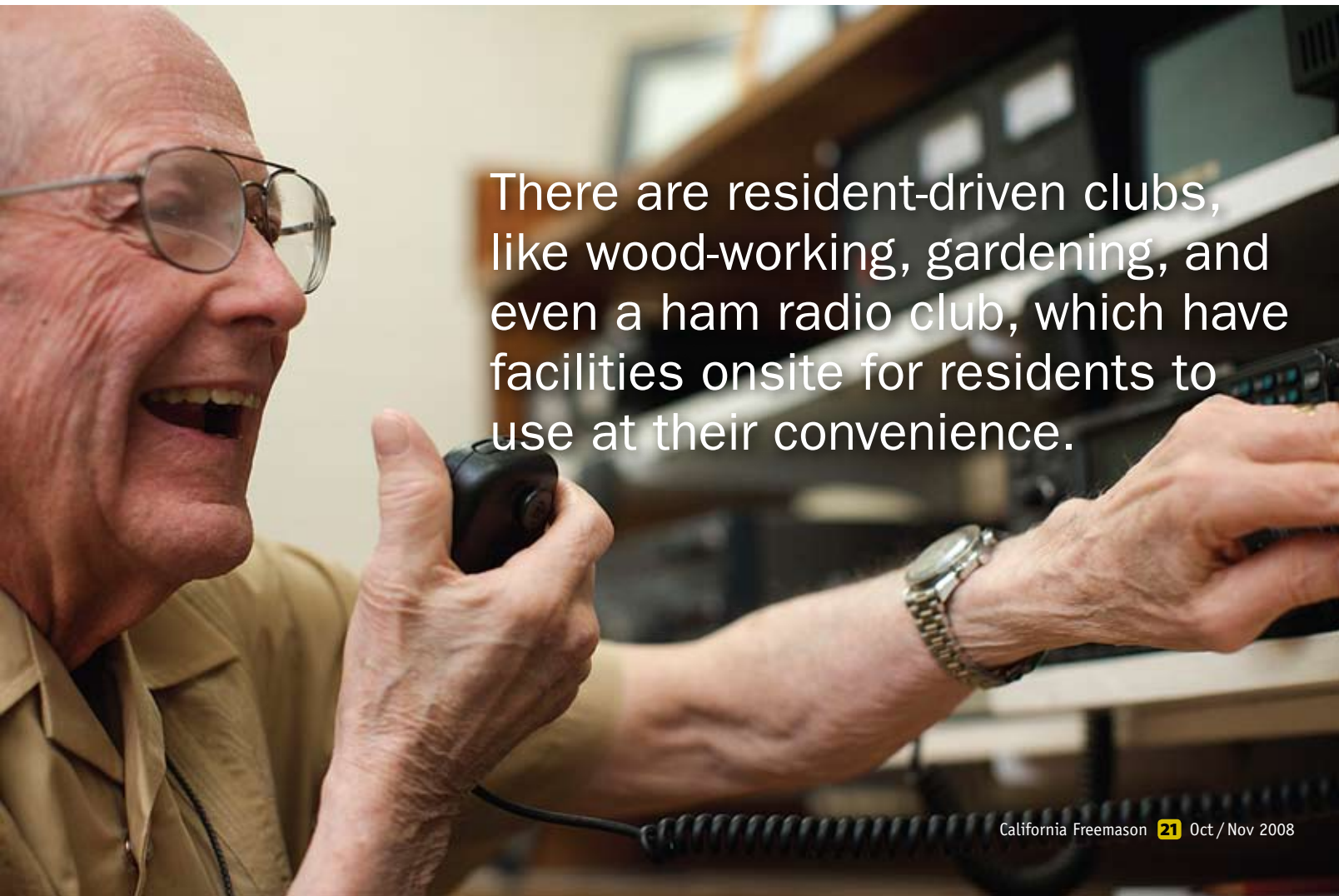
lodge outings monthly.

The lodge outings are more than just an opportunity for residents to remain physically active – they help brothers stay active in their home lodges. At Covina, for example, Arcadia Lodge, Yucaipa Lodge, and Huntington Beach Lodge are just a few of the Home's regular destinations. A number of the residents are longtime members of these lodges, and are invited back for special occasions as well as regular monthly meetings. At the Home at Union City, the

outings calendar often includes trips to residents' home lodges as far away as Sebastopol, a two hour drive. Visits like these ensure that members stay in the loop and active in lodge developments.

The full docket of activities is just one way that the Masonic Homes continue to meet resident expectations. With daily opportunities to learn new skills, share favorite hobbies, and stay connected with Masonry, life as usual at the Homes is certainly well-rounded. ✨

Below: Ruby Caton, enjoying the indoor pool
Bottom: Roger Gurley, member of the ham radio club



There are resident-driven clubs, like wood-working, gardening, and even a ham radio club, which have facilities onsite for residents to use at their convenience.

News you can use

FRATERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES ▶

888/466-3642 or communications@mhcuc.org

MASONIC HOMES WEB SITE ▶

Visit masonichome.org to read about the latest developments concerning the Homes, initiate an application, download recent mailings, and learn all about the programs and services we provide.

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS) ▶

We know that many of our constituents prefer to live out their lives in their own homes or home communities. Yet many need help coping with the challenges and issues associated with aging. In response, the Masonic Homes of California has expanded the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) program to better meet the needs of our elderly constituents who wish to remain in their own home or community.

Our goal is to provide our fraternal family members access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their own homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

Our services include:

- Ongoing financial and care support for those with demonstrated need
- Interim financial and care support for those on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California
- Information and referrals to community-based senior services providers across California

For more information on MOS, please contact us at: **888/466-3642** or intake@mhcuc.org

ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITIES ▶

For those interested in learning more about the Acacia Creek communities, please visit our Web site at acaciacreek.org or contact our offices:

Acacia Creek at Covina

626/646-2962 or 800/801-9958

Acacia Creek at Union City

510/429-6479 or 888/553-7555

Or e-mail us at seniorhousing@mhcuc.org

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY SERVICES ▶

For information on our children's program or to find out how to sponsor a child in need, please contact:

Masonic Home for Children

1650 Old Badillo Street

Covina, CA 91722

626/251-2227

hramirez@mhcucov.org

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE ▶

The Masonic Homes has speakers available to come to your lodge or function to speak about the services available through the Homes and other issues related to aging. For more information, please contact the communications office at **888/466-3642** or communications@mhcuc.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



Meet Christopher Shamoon
Restaurant manager
Mason since 2004

Faces of Masonry

At age 22, Christopher Shamoon is already master of Point Loma Lodge No. 620 in San Diego. He's also the manager of two Giant Pizza King restaurants, a family business that he took over after his father passed away in 2000. And he finds time for computers, cars, and a busy social life. Next, he has his sights set on law school.

Shamoon knows firsthand about the needs of new, younger Masons. "We have a thirst for information," he says. And for camaraderie. "We need to teach each other, have fun, and create friendships where we can socialize in and out of the lodge."

Another key expectation he points out is guidance. "It's important that every new member has a mentor," he stresses.

Shamoon's father, uncle, and grandfather were Masons, and he's proud to carry on the legacy. "I have a place to go where I can get advice that I can trust," he says. "It's made me truly understand the value of integrity."



Masons of California




2008-2009 Grand Lodge Officers

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